DHAKA SUNDAY JANUARY 17, 2010

OF TAGORE Bangladesh, India to celebrate

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New

together

India and Bangladesh would celebrate the 150th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore together in a befitting manner in the year 2011, said Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh vesterday.

It was agreed between Manmohan and Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina during her recent visit, he said at a programme at the Science City in

The most fitting commemoration would be the revival of the Bishwa Bharati University, he said adding that the Indian government has already sanctioned Rs 95 crore for its upgradation.

"We are working on preserving Shantiniketan's cultural properties. Over the next four years, we expect to restore many of its priceless paintings, sculptures and murals and the handwritten manuscripts of the poet laureate," he said.

Manmohan, who is also the Chancellor of the Bishwa Bharati, said Rabindra Bhaban and Kala Bhaban of the university would also be modernised.

He said he had been told that there was a possibility of displaying Tagore's paintings, which were last exhibited in Paris and other important cities in the 1930s. "We are also assisting in

fulfilling two long-standing needs - the publication of a Rabindra Chitravali depicting the genius of Tagore's paintings and comprehensive edition of Tagore's literary works," he added.

Contribution of Imtiyaz recalled

METRO DESK

Children of Kalyani Inclusive School, staffs of Bangladesh Protibondhi Foundation (BPF) and members of its board of trustees condoled the premature death of Imtiyaz Husain in Afghanistan. Imtiyaz Husain was a trustee

member of BPF since its inception in 1984. Bangladesh Protibondhi

Foundation (BPF) held a condolence meeting in memory of Imtiyaz Husain in the city yesterday, says a press release.

Prof Naila Zaman Khan, general secretary of BPF, spoke about his quiet support for disabled children of the country and towards the development and expansion of BPF for over two decades.

She also reflected upon his achievements as a businessman and expert in securities exchanges and his contribution as a regular contributor to the business page of the weekly Holiday under the pen name of Share Shah for over two decades.

Shaheen Anam, a trustee member, reminisced about the transparency in policy matters and functioning of the organisation, which he consistently stressed upon.

Rubina Karim, another trustee member, spoke about his kindness and empathy towards disabled children.

Another trustee member Shahiduallah Khan, who chaired the meeting, announced the naming of the auditorium of BPF at Mirpur after Imtiyaz Husain.

Dr Shamim Ferdouse, executive director of BPF, concluded the meeting by thanking Sharmin Husain, wife of the deceased, who has expressed her wish to continue her husband's work by supporting feeding programmes for Kalyani school children.

Later, she inaugurated the newly named auditorium.

Imtiyaz Husain's two sons Shabbir Husain and Tawquir Husain and their wives were also present at the meeting.

MAHBUBA ZANNAT

Unavailability of morphine tablets, the gold standard drug used to relieve pain, has increased the patients' suffering.

Morphine is used by cancer patients as a pain reliever. The patients who undergo surgery also need this drug. But as it is a narcotic drug, its manufacturing and marketing is too troublesome in the country, resulting in unavailability of this key drug often.

"I went from one market to another to buy

morphine tablets as per doctors' advice for my son who is suffering from tremendous pain in his lower abdomen, but to no avail. Finally, I had to buy morphine injection paying five times more than the price of tablet," said the mother of Motalib, a 13-year-old boy who is suffering from rectum cancer.

Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital with rectum carcinoma and after seven months, the boy could get to sleep after receiving morphine injection," said Prof Nezamuddin, project

Libya keen to recruit

docs, nurses, workers

coordinator of Palliative Care Unit of the uni-

He also said that morphine is not addictive for the cancer patients with severe pain. Rather, it is one of the most effective drugs to relive their pain without much side-effects. The duration of action of the oral morphine is three times more than that of the injection. So, the physicians prefer oral morphine for the patients.

Although there are more than 250 pharmaceutical companies in the country, only Gonoshasthya Pharmaceuticals manufacture morphine tablets, as manufacturing and mar-Narcotics Control.

needs a licence to import raw materials, then it needs to take permission every time it imports the raw materials and it also has to collect no objection certificate from the directorate for customs clearance.

verification before using the raw materials for production, inform the directorate before and after production, send the drugs to the chemical laboratories for quality testing and then have to collect permission for sale after getting the chemical reports, said narcotics directorate

The pharmacies that sell these drugs also have to go through such troublesome process that often discourage them to sell these drugs, they added.

tive substance, the government has imposed strict control over manufacturing, marketing and use of the drugs," said Abu Taleb, additional director of the Directorate of Narcotics Control.

spondent found that most of the pharmacies have licences to sell morphine injection, not tablets. One morphine tablet costs Tk 10 and the injection costs Tk 20, but the patients have to pay Tk 30 to 50 for the injection.

"The company has not been supplying the

tablet for the last six months. So, the patients are returning without tablets," said Shamsul Haque, a salesman of Messrs Oushadhalaya at Aziz Supar Market, Shahbagh.

When contacted, Kazi Mansur Rahman, assistant manager, marketing of Gonoshasthya Pharmaceuticals, said there is no reason for not supplying morphine tablets as they still have a stock of 1,25,000 tablets.

"We can't supply the drugs if the pharmacies with licences does not come again with a permission from the Directorate of Narcotics Control for a new supply," he said, adding that they have urged the government several times to provide licences to more pharmacies to sell morphine tablet, but to no avail.

Although global consumption of morphine had begun to increase significantly in the mid 1980s, especially in the developed countries, the developing countries use small amounts of morphine or none at all, experts said, adding that the World Health Organisation also recommended the governments to ensure availability of low cost morphine for oral administration.

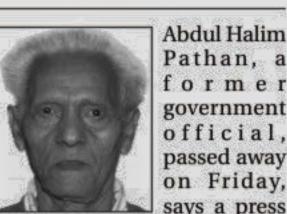
Obituary

DU CORRESPONDENT

Prof Kaminee Mohon Saha, former head of the Department of Physics at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, passed away early yesterday, says a press release.

All the teachers, students and staffs of the department have expressed deep shock at the death of Prof Kaminee.

Abdul Halim Pathan METRO DESK



former government official, passed away on Friday, says a press

release.

He left behind three sons and five daughters to mourn his death.

He is the father of journalists Shahed Zaedi and Ashraf Kaiser, also managing director and CEO of Benchmark Limited. His qulkhwani will be held

at his residence at 236/2 Jafrabad at Rayer Bazar in the city after Asr prayers on Monday.

Rafiqul Islam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Md Rafigul Islam, a high official at Planning Commissio n, passed away on late Friday night at his Uttara residence in the city at the age

He was suffering from complications in his spinal cord and

had a breathing problem. Rafiqul left behind his mother, wife, two sons, many

relatives and a host of wellwishers to mourn his death. The namaz-e-janaza of the

deceased will be held at 11:00am today at Planning Commission at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar.

He will be buried at his family graveyard in Gaibandha. Planning Minister AK Khandaker expressed his deep

condolence at his death. Ataul Haque Khan

METRO DESK

Ataul Haque Khan, a retired captain of Bangladesh Biman and resident of Uttara Model Town, died at United Hospital yesterday after suffering a massive heart attack at the age of 70, says a

He left behind his wife, a son and a daughter to mourn his death. He was buried at taker government rule. Another Uttara graveyard.

press release.

Death anniversary of Comrade Amal Sen today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 7th death anniversary of Comrade Amal Sen, former president of the Workers Party of Bangladesh and a pioneer of communist movement in the subcontinent.

He was also one of the veterans of Tebhaga (Movement for twothirds share of crops for farmers), said a press release yesterday.

Workers Party has chalked out a four-day programme to mark the day. The programmes include discussion, cultural function and a

The partyleaders placed wreaths at the portrait of Amal Sen at

Shaheed Asadauditorium in the city. Different politico-cultural

organisations will also place wreaths at his memorial at Narail. A three-day commemorative fair will be held there.

Golam Quader

METRO DESK Today is the

4th death anniversary of AKM Golam Quader, a freedom fighter and former

officer of Bangladesh Biman.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at 10:00am at his village home GM Hat under Fulgazi in Feni.

D A

Bangla Academy organises a

workshop for promising young writers beginning today. Venue: Academy seminar room. Time: 12:00noon.

Operation Smile organises a health

Unavailability of morphine tablets increases patients' suffering

"Motalib was admitted to Bangabandhu

Says minister

Libya has expressed its keen-

ness to recruit a large number

of doctors, nurses and workers

and Expatriate Welfare and

Overseas Employment

Minister Mosharraf Hossain

said this while talking to jour-

nalists on his return from

Libya at Zia International

will set up five vocational

training centres in their coun-

try for making skilled man-

power and trainers from

Bangladesh will be appointed

for imparting training in the

signed a Memorandum of

Understanding (MoU) in this

Bangladesh and Libya have

centres, said the minister.

connection, he added.

The Libyan government

Labour and Employment

UNB, Dhaka

from Bangladesh.

Airport yesterday.

keting of this drug is quite troublesome due to excessive control by the Directorate of To manufacture narcotic drugs, a company

The company also needs to go through

"As the narcotic drugs can be used as addic-

While visiting some drug stores, this corre-

PHOTO: COURTESY Dhaka city BNP brings out a procession in the city yesterday hailing Khaleda Zia, Tarique Rahman and Khandaker Delwar Hossain on

49 essential drugs

problem, pain relieving, dysentery, amebic liver abscess,

infection etc. The price of the antibiotic Amoxycillin injection vial (500 mg) is proposed Tk 65 (excluding VAT) while its production cost is less than Tk 29.65 (excluding VAT). The price of Benzathine Benzylpenicillin injection is proposed Tk 70 against its pro-

duction cost of Tk 28.74. The Price Fixation Committee normally approves the decision of the technical sub committee, said the Drug Administration sources adding that apart from the finished products the markup (limit of profit making) of raw materials of four imported drug items will also go up.

If the pharmaceutical companies cannot make minimum profit, they will not be interested in manufacturing essential drugs, said Drug Administration

They arrested Abul Kalam of

Jhalakathi, Faridul Islam Khokon

and Mohammad Zobaer of

Barisal in Navatola and Zahid of

Jhenidah in Mirpur on charge of

rifle, five bullets, a machete and a

arrestees are accused in six

criminal cases including two for

murder and robbery in

Moklesur Rahman, who leads

DB Assistant Commissioner

knife were recovered.

One US-made 9mm pistol, a

The detectives said the

FROM PAGE 1

cartheft.

Jhalakathi.

this regard.

They also said prices of raw materials at the international market have increased a lot but the prices of these essential drugs have not been hiked or revised since 1994.

Mosharraf said that Libya

also relaxed their conditions

for recruiting workers from

Bangladesh, which further

simplified the recruitment

will send a demand letter for

recruitment of workers and

the recruitment will be made

went to Libya and 10,000 more

are waiting to go there, he said.

talks with labour, agriculture

and health ministers and

deputy foreign minister of

led by Mosharraf Hossain,

visited Libya from January 11

for expansion of labour mar-

ket and solving problems in

An 11-member delegation,

Libya during his visit.

Already 30,000 workers

The minister held separate

on the basis of this letter.

The Libyan government

process of workers.

While talking to The Daily Star Abdul Muktadir, managing director of Incepta Pharmaceuticals said the government is supposed to revise the prices of these essential drugs every year in line with the inflation and dollar rates.

"As the government has not taken any step in this regard for long 15 years, the local companies have almost stopped manufacturing these drugs. That is why the drug market has been flooded with smuggled drugs and helpless people buy them at an exorbitant price," he said.

Hiking prices of these drugs will drive local pharmaceuticals to manufacture more essential

the Car Theft Prevention Team,

said the arrestees are vet to give

them any vital information

and their godfathers of 13

underground parties and

crime rackets were mentioned

on a list prepared by law

enforcers in September-

southwest and northwest dis-

tricts including Barisal,

names of 80 kingpins and 150

specialised treatment facilities

3,200 opinions on the policy by

email. Now, we want to sit with

"We have received about

in other parts of the country.

Jhalakathi and Jhenidah.

Most of them are from 23

The list also mentioned the

The names of 2,847 cadres

about their activities.

November in 2008.

FROM PAGE 1

said quality of essential drugs must be ensured and they should be available and affordable to the poor people. President of Chemist and Druggist Association Sadekur

Rahman said price hike of essential drugs would encourage drug smuggling from the neighbouring countries as they are cheaper and at the same time adulterated

drugs will flood the market. "The prices of raw materials fluctuate at the international market, which is a normal phenomenon but if prices of drugs increases once at the local mar-

The government should think about the people and the prices should be increased rationally and in phases," he added.

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their becoming party chairperson, senior vice chairman and secretary general respectively.

He said Basu, who was put on Slow Low Efficiency Daily Dialysis (SLEDD) had taken it well. "It will continue for eight hours if there is no problem."

When a patient is unable

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh wished Basu quick recovery.

of India. Our thoughts and prayers are with him," the prime minister said while addressing the valedictory function of the 150th anniversary celebrations of St. Xaviers College in Kolkata.

The prime minister had visited the veteran CPM leader in hospital on January 7 and assured if any specialist was required from anywhere in the country for consultations on Basu, he would make arrangements for it.

Following his assurance the medical board constituted at the private AMRI Hospital, where Basu is admitted, has been consulting specialists of AIIMS, New Delhi.

Home ministry charge sheet accusing the same

FROM PAGE 1

superintendent of police, told The Daily Star they will interrogate former officials involved with the

mer home secretary Omar Faruque, who received a copy of the report from the probe committee, and AKM Mahfuzul Haque, former deputy inspector general of Sylhet range, who led the nine-member probe committee and handed over the

He added they will speak to the officials who were involved with the probe report after setting a date in consultation with the authori-

Kibria was assassinated on January 27, 2005 in a grisly grenade attack on his rally in Baddyer Bazar

The then BNP-Jamaat-led alliance government formed a high-powered probe committee to investigate the attack which left four others killed and many injured. Besides, the home ministry assigned CID investigator Munshi Atiqur Rahman as the IO of the two cases filed in connection with the killing.

some local BNP leaders and grassroots activists.

The IO also submitted the

ten and the "separate" investigation reports were identical. But the plaintiff of the cases

and Kibria family repeatedly expressed their no confidence over the investigation and asked forfurtherinvestigation. Further investigation was started following a court order during the immediate past care-

found the previous investigation wrong. The new IO also found banned militant organisation Harkatul Jihadal Islami behind the attack.

IO from CID was assigned who

But still no supplementary charge sheet has been submitted and the detained charge-sheeted accused got release during the caretakerrule.

The CID is still investigating the

BSS reports: Home Minister Sahara Khatun yesterday said the murder case of former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria would be reinvestigated to find out the real culprits and godfathers of the sensational killing.

"The persons or quarters involved in suppressing the inquiry report on the killing of Kibria would be found out and exemplary punishment ensured so that none would dare to do such misdeed," she said while talking to the journalists after distributing winter clothes among the destitute at Khilkhet in the city.

Massive graft in crackdown cians. The government is yet to

FROM PAGE 1

He said the government should seek to legalise the use of VoIP immediately. This would take the country a step forward, creating job opportunities for thousands of people. On other government

initiatives to pave the way for digital Bangladesh, Inu said post offices across the country would be transformed into mobile banking centres by Around 8,500 postmen are currently being trained in

mobile bankings, he said, adding that this would significantly increase the number of bank customers from 13 percent and make direct eremittance possible in remote needs to change. areas of the country. He also said discussions are

being held with LGRD ministry to convert around 5,000 union parishad offices into telecentres. Other speakers at the roundtable claimed that the concept of "Digital

Bangladesh" is still vague to

the people and even to politi-

give a comprehensive explanation of the concept despite a year in office. "What the Awami Leagueled government has done over

the last one year are things they would have done anyway without announcing a Digital Bangladesh," said Mustafa Jabbar, president of Bangladesh Computer Samity. "Besides, there have been no plans or initiatives to bring

functioning the same way as ever," he said. Habibullah N Karim said politics grabs more attention than technology and that this

changes in bureaucracy level

and everything has been

"The fact that some of the good initiatives introduced by the last government have not been discarded by the present

government is a good sign," he disappointment over the lack of coordination among differ-

The speakers expressed ent initiatives taken by various

public and private organisa-

They also pointed out that while the government has decided to make computer science mandatory in the high

school curriculum, there is a serious lack of teachers in the The government should create extensive awareness on the concept of Digital Bangladesh and let people know how they can play their

part in realising the dream,

said the speakers.

Lawmaker Akram Hossain Chowdhury, President of Internet Service Provider Association of Bangladesh Akhtaruzzaman Manju, Dhaka University teacher Prof M Lutfar Rahman, CEO of Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio and Communication AHM Bazlur Rahman, Bangladesh

Computer Council senior

systems analyst Tarek M

Barkatullah, Fibre@Home's

Moinul Haque, CEO of

BDJobs.com Fahim Masud

among others, participated at

the roundtable.

Workshop

Health camp

screening session. Venue: Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) Hospital. Time: 9:30am.

NGO boss FROM PAGE 16

A large number employee of the NGO alleged that the executive director is destroying the organisation by indulging in nepotism and providing his

relatives with vital positions

without considering their

qualifications.

These people are highly paid and enjoying office vehicles. They are buying lands with the NGOs fund, they said. Muhammad Ibrahim, deputy director of NGO Affairs

Bureau (NGOAB), a regulatory body of the donor-funded NGOs, told The Daily Star yesterday: "Allegations of corruption and nepotism against the executive director of HEED Bangladesh are now under investigation." A trustee board runs the

organisation without any approval from the NGOAB. Relatives of the executive direc-

tors were made trustee board members to conceal financial irregularities, he said.

probe-committee was formed following the instruction of Prime Minister's Office to investigate the allegations against found his involvement in corruption in purchasing lands. Some other irregularities were also uncovered.

NGOAB issued letters to all managing board members and asked Elgin to quit his position but he didn't pay heed, sources However, Elgin Saha claimed

to be honest and hardworking. He said he had been serving the NGO sector for the last 30 years. He said a vested quarter whom he terminated for corruption are whipping propaganda against him to destroy his image.

Earlier, a three members

experts to evaluate and finalise the draft policy," he said. This is the second time the Elgin Saha. The committee health minister made such an announcement. He had earlier announced finalising the policy within three months after assuming office in January last On November 23 last, the The government will also

form National Health Council headed by the prime minister for implementation of the policy. The minister said the government initiated formulating the policy to enhance people's

access to health service and build up a sustainable service system. Ruhal Haque also pointed out some obstacles to providing

drugs. At the same time, people can afford to buy them at a lower prices and it will also help reduce adulterated drugs considerably.

The rights activists, however,

ket it never ever comes down.

Outlaws now involved patrons of those outfits, who are involved in mainstream politics. Following deterioration in law and order, law enforcement agencies launched a crackdown

on outlaws on August 22 last year

in south-western districts. About

67 suspected outlaws have been

killed in crossfire between their cohorts and law enforcers since Sources said these outfits possess a huge quantity of firearms including sophisticated M16 and AK47 rifles but the amount of weapons could not be

ascertained.

Nat'l health policy health service to all. The barriers include shortage of manpower in health sector, increase in child and maternal mortality rate and spread of arsenicrelated diseases.

The health minister said the

government is appointing

doctors, nurses and other pro-

fessionals to overcome the

barriers. He said the draft policy highlights ensuring standard medical education, control and improvement of private clinics and hospitals, providing pure drinking water and producing safe and standard drug.

Syed Mudasser Ali, Director General of the Directorate General of Health Services Shah Monir, and Vice Chancellor of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Prof Pran Gopal, among others, were present at the press briefing.

Premier's Health Adviser

Jyoti Basu

to withstand normal dialysis, SLEDD is resorted to.

"Jyoti Basu is a great son

reportastheydidnotfindit. Rafiqul hinted that they want to quiz former state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar, for-

copies to Faruque.

in Habiganj.

The probe body submitted its report in April 2005 accusing 10 people of Habiganj including