City

# NEWS IN BRIEF

### Hillary felicitates Bangalees

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has greeted the people of Bangladesh on the occasion of Pahela Baishakh, the first day of the Bangla New Year 1417.

In a message yesterday, Hillary, on behalf of President Barack Obama and the American people, said: "I congratulate all Bangalees as you celebrate Pahela Baishakh and welcome a new year of promise and possibility."

"This holiday, which unites people of common heritage across religious and national lines, is an opportunity to honour Bangalee culture with music, drama and traditional foods."

### Danish minister calls on FM

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Visiting Danish Minister for Development Cooperation Soren Pind has assured that Denmark would continue to be Bangladesh's development partner.

The assurance came when the Danish minister called on Foreign Minister Dipu Moni at the state guesthouse Padma yesterday.

Dipu Moni stated that Bangladesh attaches great importance to the relations with Denmark and considers Denmark as a dependable friend and development partner.

The Danish minister underscored the need for more highlevel bilateral visits between the two countries.

## Workshop on climate change

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Youths at a workshop yesterday urged the government and other development partners to include the young generation in the decision-making process regarding climate change.

The British Council's International Climate Champion Sareka Jahan organised the workshop titled 'Learn to live with climate change' at the National Press Club.

State Minister for Environment and Forests Hasan Mahmud was present as the chief guest while British High Commissioner Stephen Evans, Chairman of Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies Saleemul Huq and Director of British Council Charles Nuttall also spoke.

### S Korean envoy meets FM

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Newly appointed South Korean Ambassador ChoYoung Tai called on Foreign Minister Dipu Moni yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed various issues like development and cooperation, trade, investment, human resources development, and infrastructure building.

### 16 HSC examinees expelled

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sixteen examinees were expelled for adopting unfair means on the sixth day of the Higher Secondary Certificate and its equivalent examinations under 10 education boards yesterday. Meanwhile, 2142 candidates were absent yesterday.

Among the expelled students, 12 were under Technical Board, 2 under Madrasa Board and one each from Jessore and Dinajpur boards, according to Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Board.

### Lane for cycling demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a rally yesterday demanded a separate lane on all the roads for cycling.

They also demanded stand for cycles be constructed and cycles be provided to students in a low price with a view to

keeping the city clean.

Bangladesh Paribesh Andolan (Bapa) and Dhaka Cycling Club jointly organised the rally that started from the Central Shaheed Minar and ended at the National Press Club.

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A foreign visitor admires pictures at New Way-Ruposi Bangla Photography Competition and Exhibition organised by Bangladesh Photojournalists' Association at its auditorium in the city yesterday on the occasion of Bangla New Year 1417.

# Bhutan ready to hold Saarc Summit

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bhutanese Ambassador in Dhaka Dasho Bap Kesang yesterday said his country has taken all-out preparations to hold the upcoming 16th Saarc Summit in Thimphu scheduled for April 28-29.

Talking to Foreign Minister Dipu Moni at her office, the envoy briefed her about the preparations and said that climate change issue will be high on the agenda in the summit.

This is for the first time Bhutan is going to host the Saarc Summit since the regional body was mooted in Dhaka in 1985.

Dipu said Bangladesh attaches high importance to the regional cooperation in South Asia and considers Saarc as a catalyst for regional cooperation and sustainable development and social progress in the region. She hoped that under

Bhutan's chair, new dynamism would be added and momentum be generated in the Saarc process. Dipu stressed the need for

enhancing people-to-people contact and highlighted land connectivity between the two countries to promote intraregional trade and travel.

The minister expressed her satisfaction over the ongoing preparations in Thimphu.

# Efforts on to solve power crisis: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday she said her government is making all out efforts to solve the power crisis in the country although the situation was created by the BNP led 4-party alliance govern-

She said this when outgoing UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Bangladesh Renata Lok Dessallien paid a farewell call on her at the Prime Minister's Office

The prime minister said the government has plans to introduce an electronic voting system with a view to making the election process more transparent and credible.

Hasina said a strong opposition is very much important to make the democracy fruitful and her government wants to see a strong opposition in parliament for the sake of vibrant parliamentary democ-

Renata hoped that the UNDP's support to the country's development endeavors would continue in future.

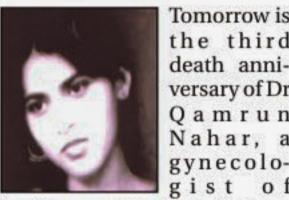
# Domestic help tortured to

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An 11-year-old domestic help was allegedly tortured to death by a couple in their house at East Badda in the city early hours of Monday.

Police arrested husband Solaiman Mandal, who is also a final year student of City Dental College at Malibagh, and his wife Rita Begum, a housewife, on charges of killing domestic help Boby Akhter of Rangpur.

### Death anniversary DU CORRESPONDENT



gynecologist o Chittagong Medical College and Hospital (CMCH), says a

press release. On the occasion, a milad and doa mahfil will be held tomorrow (April 15) to pray for

#### Syed Mohammad Sajjad STAFF CORRESPONDENT

salvation of the departed soul.



Today is the 1st death anniversary of Syed Mohammad Sajjad, son of Khan

Syed Moshfekus Saleheen,

# 8 projects involving Tk 1,251cr okayed UNB, Dhaka

The Executive Committee on National Economic Council (Ecnec) at a meeting yesterday approved eight development projects involving Tk 1,251 crore giving priority to riverbank protection with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

The approved projects include irrigation area extension and development project under the Agriculture Ministry involving Tk 51 crore, poverty reduction and livelihood security for the people of economically depressed areas project under the Fisheries and Livestock Ministry of Tk 83 crore and river bank protection project of River Jamuna from Bahadurbad Ghat to Futanirbazar under Jamalpur district, Pingna Bazar area of Sarishabari upazila and Harindhara to Hargila of

Islampur upazila under the Water Resources Ministry of Tk 366 crore. Other projects include river

bank protection project of Jamuna in Chouhali upazila of Sirajganj under the Water Resources Ministry of Tk 36 crore, Chandpur irrigation protection project from the erosion of River Meghna at Ibrahimpur-Shakhua area under the Water Resources Ministry of Tk 156 crore, construction of seven RAB complexes under the Home Ministry of Tk 436 crore, procurement of one cutter suction dredger, pilot and dispatch boats for Mongla Port under the Shipping Ministry of Tk 83 crore and upgrading Begumganj Textile Institute to Begumganj Textile Engineering College under the Jute and Textile Ministry of Tk 40 crore.

# Programmes to celebrate Pahela Baishakh today

**DU CORRESPONDENT** 

Different socio-political and cultural organisations as well as educational institutions have chalked out elaborate programmes to celebrate the biggest carnival of Bangalees --Pahela Baishakh, the first day of the Bangla New Year 1417, today.

President Zillur Rahman, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia in separate messages vesterday greeted the nation on the occasion.

To mark the biggest festival of the country, the government has taken a series of programmes across the country to celebrate the occasion. It will honour the noted citizens, who achieved Swadhinata Puraskar (awards) and Ekushey Padak (medals), at Bangabhaban.

It will also arrange folk fair, discussions and cultural events at five divisional headquarters as well as at the district and upazila headquarters. Entry to all museums run by the government will be free today. Awami League will bring out

capital and arrange cultural events and Baishakhi fairs across the country to welcome the carnival. The students of Dhaka

a colourful procession in the

University will welcome the festival amid huge festivities and gaiety on the campus. Nazrul Institute will organise

a discussion, prize giving ceremony and cultural session at Kabi Bhaban in Dhanmondi in the morning. National Children's Park at Shahbagh will remain open for all from 10:00am to 8:00pm.

Transcom Foods Limited (Pizza Hut and KFC) will welcome the carnival through brate the day.

various cultural events, including folk songs, a folk fair and a procession, at its respective offices and showrooms. Bangladesh Small and

Cottage Industries Corporation

(BSCIC) and Bangla Academy

will jointly arrange a 10-day

Baishakhi Mela (fair) on the academy premises. Industries Minister Dilip Barua will inaugurate the fair at

4:00pm. National Museum will arrange a folk festival on its premises in the morning while it will remain open for all from

entryfee. Students and cultural activists will sing folk songs, recite poems and perform dance numbers on the Liberation War Museum premises in the morning to mark the day.

10:30am to 5:30pm without any

Mobile phone maker Nokia will organise a mega concert at Banani Society Ground in the afternoon to celebrate the biggest festival of the Bangalees. Gulshan Youth Club will

organise a fair for unprivileged children in the morning while Nazrul Academy will hold a cultural session in the evening. Dhaka Radisson Water

Garden Hotel will serve special Bangalee food items on the day.

National Press Club, Jahangirnagar University, Stamford University Bangladesh, Law Association, Kendriya Khelaghar Asar, Ghasphul Shishu Kishore Sangathan, Bangladesh Nagorik Samaj, IFIC Bank, Sargam Lalitakala Academy, Sahitya Sangskriti Kendra, Shinning Stars International School, Jasim Uddin Institute, Sangskriti Kendra and Glamour World will also cele-

### **Prof Nasir Chy** passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Prof ATM Nasir Chowdhury, younger brother of National Professor

Chowdhury and martyred intellectual Munier Chowdhury, passed away due to old age complications at her daughter's residence at Gulshan in the city yesterday at the age of 80, says a press release.

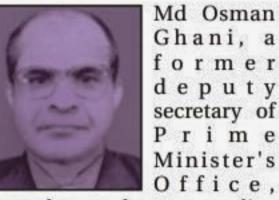
He left behind his two daughters Tayyeba Nasir and Tahziba Nasir and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

Prof Nasir, son of Khan Bahadur Abdul Halim Chowdhury, was a teacher of Faujdarhat Cadet College, Mirzapur Cadet College, Barisal Cadet College and Mymensingh Girls' Cadet College. On the occasion, doa mahfil

will be held at his elder daughter's residence in the city after Maghrib prayers on Friday. Relatives and admirers are

requested to attend the doa mahfil and pray for salvation of the departed soul.

#### Md Osman Ghani METRO DESK



Ghani, a former deputy secretary of Prime Minister's Office, passed away due to a cardiac

at the age of 67. He left behind two daughters, one son and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

arrest at Lab Aid Cardiac

Hospital in the city on Monday

A doa mahfil will be held at his Dhanmondi residence (House # 65, Road # 12A, Flat # A-2) after Asr prayers on Friday.

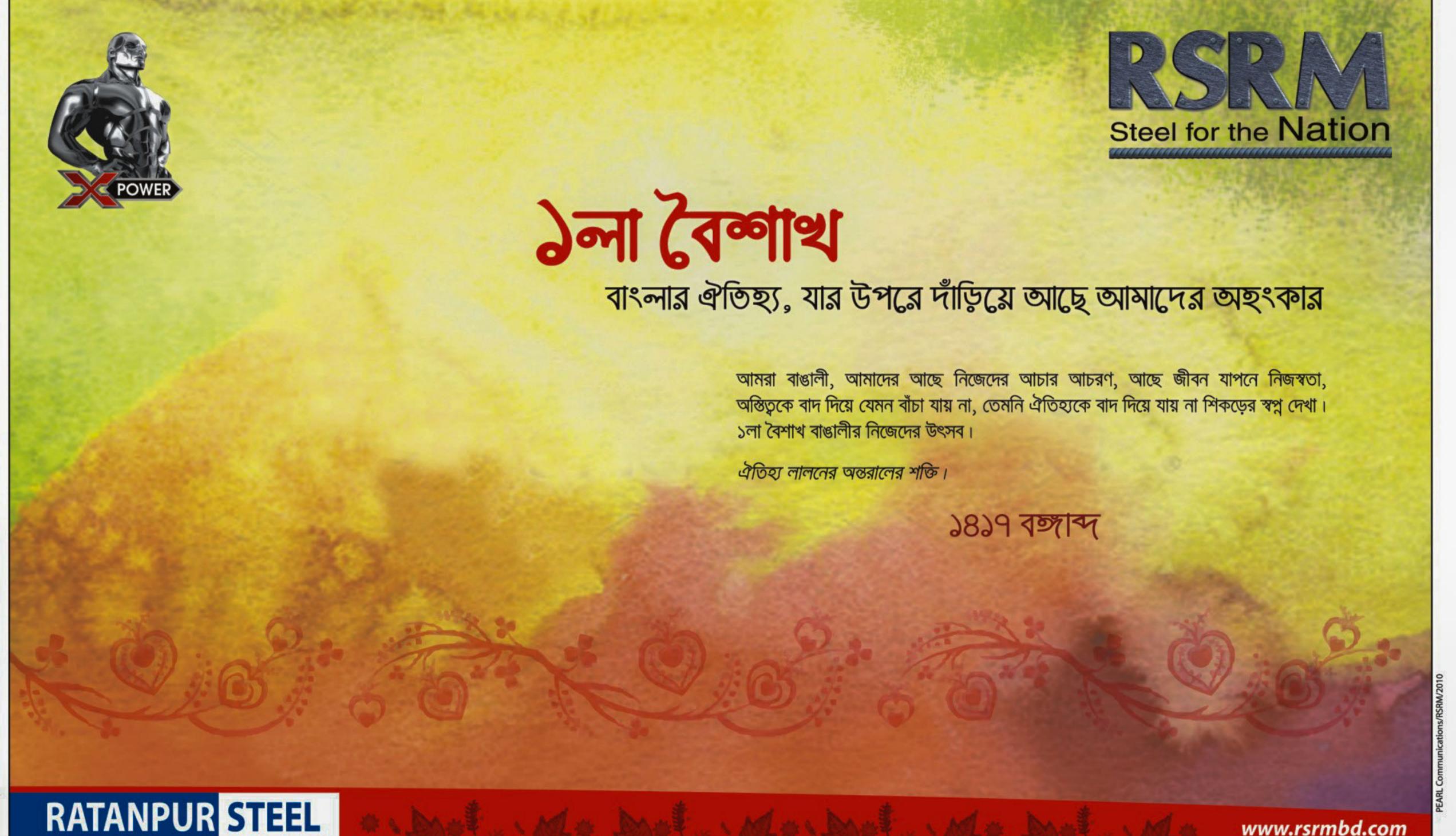
### 'No foreign state to interfere in war crimes trial

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

State Minister for Law Advocate Quamrul Islam yesterday said no foreign country would interfere in the process of war crimes trial because it is an internal issue of Bangladesh.

Quamrul said this as the chief guest at a rally organised by Bangladesh Awami Olama League at Institute of Diploma Engineers in the city demanding a ban on the Jamaat poli-

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176 Baizid Bostami Industrial Area, Baizid Bostami Road, Chittagong. Phone: +880 31 2580380-4