



Square Consumer Products Ltd organises a cultural show at Government Edward College in Pabna on April 14 to celebrate Pahela Baishakh.

### Ruchi Baishakhi Utsab held in Pabna

**METRO DESK**  
Music, grand rally and beautiful colours of festivity marked the Ruchi Baishakhi Utsab in Pabna on the first day of Baishakh on April 14, says a press release. The daylong event, thronged by countless many, was organised by Square Consumer Products Limited at Government Edward College. The first phase of the event began with a colourful procession at 8:00am from Bir Muktiyoddha Rafiqul Islam Bokul Muktamancha while the second one was for a lively concert.

The concert began at 9:00am at the same venue. Under the banner of 'Ruchi', the show brought together favourite musical band Nagarbaul and James, recent craze Nancy and SITutul. Anjan Chowdhury, managing director of Square Consumer Products Limited, was present at the event.

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### Number of diarrhoea patients has reduced

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The number of diarrhoea patients seeking treatment at the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh has reduced slightly in the last few days. The number which crossed 1,000 two weeks back, yesterday stood at below 600.

A total of 936 patients sought treatment at the ICDDR,B on Thursday, which came to 852 on Friday, hospital authorities said. Around 590 patients visited the hospital as of 5:00 pm yesterday.

Normally, the hospital experiences about 350 to 400 patients, but during the summer and post-monsoon season, it receives even double or even more than double patients than its capacity. "However, we have found out ways to manage the pressure of the patients by setting up tents and recruiting manpower temporarily," said senior scientist and head of the Longer Stay Unit Dr Shahadat Hossain.

Every year from April to June, the ICDDR,B experiences a huge crowd of patients. But this year the outbreak of diarrhoea took place early due to polluted water supplied by the WASA and excessive heat, he said. The number of patients also increases in post-monsoon season as the water in many areas gets contaminated due to flood, he added.

## REHABILITATION OF WAR CRIMINALS IN POLITICS Khaleda should be put on trial: Sajeda

**UNB, Dhaka**  
Deputy Leader of the House Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury has said that opposition leader Khaleda Zia should be put on trial for rehabilitating the war criminals, Razakars and killers of Bangabandhu in politics. "The entire nation stands united for trial of war of the criminals," she told a discussion at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre marking the Mujibnagar Day yesterday.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who was scheduled to attend the discussion as the chief guest, did not turn up due to indisposition. AL senior leaders including Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury, Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim MP, Suranjit

Sengupta MP and Mohammad Nasim taking part in the discussion criticised BNP's opposition to the trial of war criminals who committed crimes against humanity during the War of Liberation in 1971. Selim said Khaleda-Nizami-Mojaheed trio are conspiring to foil the war crimes trial by questioning the International War Crimes (Tribunal) Act.

## 'People's rising demands have bad impacts on ecology'

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

University Grants Commission (UGC) Chairman Prof Nazrul Islam yesterday said people's demands are on the increase with the growth of the country's economy and are having negative impacts on environment.

Global and local leaders are worried over the extreme weather events and climate change, he said, adding that Bangladesh has also been facing adverse impacts of the global climate change.

The UGC chairman said this at an international conference on 'Climate change: Problems and solutions' organised by Bangladesh National Geography Association at Jahangirnagar University (JU) auditorium. JU Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Sharif Enamul Kabir was present at the programme as the special guest with Prof Mirza Mofizuddin, president of the association, in the chair.

With the increase of population, forest lands were being destroyed and rivers, water bodies as well as ponds being filled up for building dwelling houses, Prof Nazrul said. He further said that effectiveness of environment policy and environmental courts have to be increased to get rid of this situation.

Dr Sharif Enamul Kabir said the papers presented in the conference would play an important role in preventing climate change and disaster.

Secretary General of the association Prof Dr Khandaker Shariful Huda gave an address of welcome.

Prof AHM Abdul Baqui of Dhaka University Geography and Environment Department presented a keynote paper while Prof Atia Habib Kidwai of India's Jawaharlal Nehru University also presented a paper.

A total of 60 papers were presented in the daylong conference where some 250 geographers and environmentalists from home and abroad took part.

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