### 6 PERMANENT GPS STATIONS BY MAY NEXT YEAR

# Digitalised map by 2016

## Say survey officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is going to set up six permanent Global Positioning System (GPS) stations in six districts by May next year, said officials of Survey of Bangladesh (SOB), the national surveying and mapping agency, at a seminar yesterday.

Using the technology, all maps in the country would be converted into a digital format with creation of a geo-database by 2016 under a project in collaboration with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), they said.

Talking to The Daily Star after the seminar, Project Officer of SOB Major Nurul Amin Chowdhury said the SOB has invited tenders for permanent GPS stations and hoped that the stations would be installed by May next year.

The GPS uses a global network of satellites to provide accurate navigational information for surveyors, sailors, hill trekkers, and even motorists.

The stations would function as GPS receivers that would track all satellites in their range and collect data of the satellite signals, said Nurul Amin Chowdhury, adding that this data would be used to collect geographical information to create a comprehensive geo-database.

This would, in turn, help SOB produce precise, highly detailed multi-

dimensional maps that would be helpful for everyone from research and development organisations and government agencies to citizens, said Colonel Mahmudun Nabi of SOB in his keynote speech.

"The technology can be used for tracking criminals, studying water bodies, planning infrastructure development worksthe possibilities are limitless," he

Discussants at the seminar explained the use and advantages of using digital maps and geo-spatial data over conventional mapping systems. They said digital maps are more reliable and precise and it can be instantly updated and used for countless activities.

They can be used in the field of infrastructure development, enforcement of law and order, defence, engineering and of Digital Mapping System (IDMS) promany other things, said Defence Secretary Khondaker M Asaduzzaman.

organisations to approach SOB for topographic or geographic data required to plan and implement their projects, rather than spending time and money on doing the same things.

many," he said.

Speaking as the chief guest, defence advisor to the Prime Minister Major

General (Retd) Tarique Ahmed Siddique urged the private and public agencies to maintain communication with the SOB to be updated with new information and contemporary mapping technologies.

"Moving from analogue to digital is a challenge. But we Bangladeshis love challenges," he said, "if we face this challenge in the correct way, it would bring only good things for the country."

SOB Surveyor General of Bangladesh Mominul Haque chaired the programme. Assistant Surveyor General Md Zulfikar Haider, Japanese Ambassador to Bangladesh Tamotsu Shinotsuka, JAICA Chief Representative Takao Toda and Geographical Survey Institute (GSI) Director Hidenori Yoshikane, among others, spoke at the programme.

The SOB launched the Improvement ject in 2009 to produce medium and large-scale digital topographical maps He called upon all private and public and digital geo-database for Bangladesh.

The agency would produce 1:25,000 scale digital topographic maps and geodatabase for the whole country, and 1:5,000 scale maps for the divisional cities.

JICA have initiated a project titled "This would save a lot of resources for Bangladesh Digital Mapping Assistance Project (BDMAP) to give technical and logistic support to SOB to implement digitalised mapping system.



A mobile court yesterday, during a drive against warehouses of combustible chemicals in the city's residential areas, fined this warehouse of Abdul Gaffar Company at Hosne Dalan, used for storing plastic, for not keeping fire extinguishers there. (Story on Page 1)

# 35 BNP notices for JS discussion rejected

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As many as 35 notices submitted by BNP lawmakers for holding discussions in parliament on various national issues were rejected yesterday.

BNP lawmaker Zafrul Islam Chowdhury and AM Mahbub Uddin Khokon submitted the notices to the parliament secretariat for holding discussions, adjourning the scheduled business of the House.

The two lawmakers submitted the notices although they are boycotting the current session of parliament in line with their party's decision.

Asharf, who was presiding over the meeting during disposal of the opposition lawmak- Force (BSF).

ers' notices, rejected their demands.

In defence, Ashraf said content of some notices are not clear, some are based on assumption and it is possible to get remedy about the issues raised in some other notices under the existing laws.

"Therefore, it is not possible to accept any of the notices for holding discussion in parliament," he added.

The two BNP lawmakers in their notices demanded, among others, for discussions on unrest in educational institutions, anomalies in recruitment in the government services, price spiral of different essential items, unbridled extor-A member of the panel chairmen, Ali tion and killing of Bangladeshi citizens in border area by India's Border Security



Institute of Hazrat Mohammad (SAW) organised a seminar on vulnerability of women and children in squatters in the city October 2. Participants from left are Margarita Clark of Save the Children, Habiba Tasneem, chief coordinator of the institute, Dr Salil Panakadan of UNAIDS, Dr Kamaluddin Ahmed, joint secretary of home ministry and Lt General (retd) M Nooruddin Khan, president of the institute.

# Security measures taken for Durga Puja

UNB, Dhaka

Obituary

says a press release.

two sons.

Tuesday.

October 9.

death.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Md Aminul Alam, Brac gov-

erning body member and

executive director of Brac

International, passed away

due to a cardiac arrest on

Saturday night at the age of 61,

He left behind his wife and

His namaz-e-janaza will be

held at the Gausul Azam

mosque at Mohakhali in the

city after Zohr prayers on

at Brac Centre on October 8

and doa mahfil will be held at

Brac offices throughout the

country and abroad on

Hasan Abed condoled his

Brac's programmes across

Bangladesh and subsequently

into ten countries in Asia,

Africa and the Caribbean.

Brac Chairperson Sir Fazle

He led the expansion of

His qulkhwani will be held

Home Minister Sahara Khatun yesterday said all security preparations are in place to ensure peaceful observation of Durga Puja, the biggest religious festival of the Hindu Community. "No unpleasant incident will take place. All

kinds of preparations have been taken," she told reporters after an inter-ministerial meeting at her ministry on security arrangements for Durga Puja.

Responding to BNP leader SQ Chowdhury's apprehension about disruption of harmony during the Durga Puja, Sahara said whatever apprehension he makes would not come true.

In the past 21 months under the present government, all religious festivals-Eid, Puja, Buddha Purnima and Christmas were observed peacefully, she said, adding that Durga Puja this year will also be celebrated peacefully.

Sahara said three control rooms will be opened at the home ministry, police headquarters and Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP headquarters to monitor the situation and instantly tackle any unpleasant incident, if such take place.

### Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at one or two places over Sylhet, Rajshahi, Barsial and Chittagong divisions in next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today. Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky

elsewhere over the country, Met Office said.

Day temperature may rise slightly over the country said. The sun sets in the capital at 5:43pm today and rises at

5:52am tomorrow. Country's highest temperature 36.4 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chuadanga and lowest 23.7 degrees Celsius at Srimongal.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town Temperature in **Humidity** in Celsius percentage Evening Morning Max Min 35.3 Dhaka 26.5 63 27.0 Chittagong 34.5 69 77 76 Rajshahi 35.5 26.1 35.5 Khulna 26.8 73 70 35.6 26.5 74 91 Barisal Sylhet 35.8 25.9 71 68 Cox's Bazar 27.5 70 86 35.0

### CJ unhappy over absence of some dist judges at offices STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Justice ABM Khairul Haque yesterday expressed annoyance over absence of some district judges at their offices during the office time.

Supreme Court (SC) registrar's office sources said the chief justice telephoned at least 10 district judges between 9:00am and 9:15am yesterday, but got response from only two of them.

He asked the registrar's office to issue notice to eight district judges to show cause why they were not present at their offices in the morning.

The chief justice also directed the registrar's office to issue a circular asking all the judges and staffs of the subordinate courts to make maximum use of the office times so that more cases are disposed of quickly at those courts.

SC Registrar Ashraful Islam told The Daily Star that his office will take steps as per the chief justice's directions.

### Safayet gets bail in acid throwing

case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday granted bail to Safayet Ahmed Chowdhury, son of a High Court Judge Salma Masud Chowdhury, in connection with an acid throwing case.

First Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate AHM Habibur Rahman Bhuiyan passed the order upon a bond of Tk 1 lakh with two guarantors after Safayet's lawyer Abdul Matin Khasru submitted a petition seeking bail.

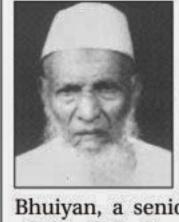
On September 29, Gulshan police arrested Safayet, 25, after his car driver Shaheen and Zahid Hasan, a hired goon, arrested earlier made a confessional statement that they had thrown acid on Sabri-E-Zaman, 24, executive (IT) of Ericksson Bangladesh, on Safayet's instruction.

Safayet was produced before a Dhaka court that placed him on remand for a day. Later, he was sent to jail.

Police said Shaheen and Zahid threw acid on Sabri on August 5 at around 2:00pm when Sabri was coming out of his Gulshan office.

Sabri's father Asaduzzaman, a retired wing commander, filed a case with Gulshan Police Station in this regard the same day.

### Death anniversary STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the second death anniversary of Journalist Muhamma d Habibur Rahman

Bhuiyan, a senior sub-editor of the daily Inquilab, says a press release.

Habibur Rahman died on this day in 2008 in Dhaka at the age of 86. On the occasion, a doa

"Therefore, applicants are advised to use their personal e-mail mahfil will be held at his house at New Circular Road of North Kamalapur in the city. conference.

# War crimes trial to remove stigma: Priyabhasini

BSS, Dhaka

With a fervent call for speedy trial of war criminals, liberation war veteran Ferdousi Priyabhasini said millions of women and martyrs' families, who faced brutal torture during the 1971 war, would have peace in their hearts if the perpetrators of the crimes against humanity were punished.

And only then the stigma of failure to punish the human rights violators would be removed, she said.

"We cannot call ourselves a really independent country unless we complete the trial of those who unleashed torture and atrocities on the freedom-loving people of this country," Ferdousi said.

Her heart still bleeds recalling the horrifying memories of the Pakistani army torturing her.

In a voice choked with emotion, she said, "I still remember that I was not even allowed to take shelter in a temporary refugee camp in Khulna after I managed to flee from indescribable oppression in the hands of the Pakistani army."

She was in tears when she said even Bangalees at the refugee camp avoided her as she was considered by the society as "characterless".

Tears rolled down her cheeks, as she talked of the atrocities in an exclusive interview with the news agency.

In April 1971, Priyabhasini was trapped inside her office following a conspiracy of Pakistani officers at Crescent Jute Mills Quarter of Khalishpur in Khulna. After her confinement, the Pakistani army officers started torturing her.

Priyabhasini said it was very difficult,

on her part, to get rid of the horrific memories even for a moment. She had to delve deep into playing

music or concentrating on her favorite writing. She often concentrates deeply on creating sculptures, bringing out her natural talents of creativity. She said from April to December of

1971 she passed every moment in tears and mental suffering.



Ferdousi Priyabhasini

Priyabhasini said, "I was always under mental pressure thinking of what would be their new fake reason for unleashing torture on me. One day, I came to know that I was linked with the killing of a Razakar professor in the first week of November."

"I was taken to Jessore cantonment for

quizzing relating to the murder case. They tortured me for 28 hours there. But I did not tell the name of any freedom fighter,' she said.

"They forced me to confess that I am a

cers, who tortured me earlier, were being killed," she said. Priyabhasini said she was sent to a

member of Nakshal as many army offi-

concentration camp. The torture was more severe there. Whoever went there could not return without permanent

"I was taken back to Khulna after I gave an undertaking," she said.

"The Pakistani army used to talk with Golam Azam and Nizami from the office room where I was confined. But they always threatened me not to tell anybody about their conversations," said Priyabhasini.

Ferdausi said, "On December 7, I fled after I received a phone call from freedom fighter Ahsanullah Ahmed telling me that the army was going to kill me."

"When I was about to get out of the quarter, one of my colleagues, Anwar, was shot dead when he was entering the quarter. In fact, they wanted to shoot and kill me," she said.

Priyabhasini married freedom fighter Ahsanullah Ahmed.

After a long struggle with pains of her horrific memories, Piryabhasini became a sculptor.

She called for opening a department on War of Liberation in every university to preserve and project the real history of the freedom struggle through research.

It is needed to make posterity know the real history of the war of liberation, she said.

## Online registration of US DV lottery starts tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The online registration of US Diversity Visa (DV) 2012 lottery starts at 10:00pm tomorrow and will continue until November 3.

A maximum of 6,000 Bangladeshis, on winning the lottery, can get the chance to become permanent US residents, said US Embassy officials in Dhaka at a press conference at the city's Journalism Training and Research Initiative (Jatri) office. The officials also requested the applicants to register online on

their own and not through any agent, who might manipulate their information and extort them, as there have been instances of similarincidents in the past. The DV programme makes 50,000 permanent resident visas available each year to nationals of countries with historically low

rates of immigration to the US. Until 2009, nearly 39,000 Bangladeshis went to the US under the programme. To be eligible for the DV lottery, entrants have to pass Higher Secondary Certificate examinations, which is equivalent to high

school level education in the US. A minimum of two-year technical board certificate or a first-year pass from a nationally accredited university will also meet the educational requirement, said Sandra Ingram, chief of the

embassy's consular section. However, those who do not qualify educationally may also qualify based on their work experience, she said.

"To qualify on work experience or occupationally, entrants have to show they have at least two years of work experience within the past five years in an occupation requiring at least two years of training or experience," the official noted.

To register online for the lottery, each entrant has to provide accurate biographic information, Sandra said, adding that mistakes in it may cause disqualification of an entrant. In the online entry, entrants must use photographs that meet a

certain standard, she said. Sandra added that all photos, in colour, must be taken within the last six months and taken against a light background. The entrant must be facing forward with no obstruction to the view of their full face, she said. Detailed instructions for DV 2012 are available in English at

www.dhaka.usembassy.gov, she told journalists. Sandra said there will be no winner notifications via post or email for DV 2012 lottery, but those winning it will receive e-mail notifications directing them online to the entry status check of the State Department's website.

www.dvlottery.state.gov and in both English and Bangla at

addresses," she said. Other officials of the US Embassy were also present at the press

Development (IED) and Jatiya Adivasi Chhatra Sangram Parishad will jointly organise a convention.

## Touchstone statue recovered from ex-minister's house

A CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday recovered an 87-kg statue of Lord Vishnu made of touchstone from a house in Sukhbashpur area of the district and arrested two people in

this connection. Former information minister and also member of BNP Standing Committee M Shamsul Islam is owner of the house. The arrestees are Jahangir Alam, 42, and Monjur Alam, 55,

caretakers of the house. Munshiganj Rab camp commander Milon said a detective member of Rab, in the guise of an antique buyer, contacted the

caretakers and fixed the statue's price at Tk 20 crore. Later, Rab members went to the house in the guise of buyers and arrested them with the statue.

Acting on their confessions, Rab recovered another touchstone statue from the house of Monir Hossain of the same area at about 6:45pm.

But Monir managed to flee the spot.



### Seminar

Roundtable Forum Brigade will organise a Department of Real Estate of Daffodil roundtable. Venue: National Press International University, United

### Workshop

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy and Shanto-Mariam University of Creative Technology will jointly organise a

Club, Time: 3:00pm.

dancing workshop. Venue: House No -1, Road No 14, Sector No 13, Uttara Time: 10:00pm. Convention

Venue: Oparajeyo Bangla, Dhaka

University, Time: 10:00am.

### Institute of Environment and

Rally

will organise a rally. Venue: Bangladesh Shishu Academy, Time: Launching ceremony

Nations Information Centre and

Rupantar will jointly organise a

seminar on the occasion of World

Habitat Day. Venue: Prince Plaza,

Bangladesh Shishu Kalyan Parishad

Dhanmondi, Time: 11:00am.

Save the Children (Sweden-Denmark) will hold a launching ceremony. Venue: Cirdap auditorium, Time: 9:00am.