



Littérateurs, artists and distinguished personalities of the country attend the 12th anniversary of the Prothom Alo at the 'Mukta Mancha' (open stage) of Rabindra Sarobar in the city's Dhanmondi yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## PM for safe buildings

Asks developers to make them quake-resistant

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the real estate developers to design and construct multi-storied buildings that can withstand the risk of earthquake and ensure all modern amenities.

She asked the developers while addressing the inaugural function of Real Estate and Housing Association of Bangladesh (REHAB) Vision Fair-2010 at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre.

"Already many places have been identified as the earthquake-prone areas. Before finalising any project, you have to ensure arrangement of earthquake-resistant technologies," she said.

She asked the developers to make sure modern and smooth services of gas, water and power and sewerage systems in and around the new apartment buildings.

The Detailed Area Plan (DAP) will be finalised through discussion with the local people and their representatives, she told the REHAB members.

Private sector authorities will also be made involved in the process of finalising the DAP, she said.

The government will arrange accommodation for more than 50,000 people under the "Asrayan Project" at cost of Tk 1,200 crore by 2014, she announced.

Awami League government during last tenure provided accommodation facility for 50,000 people, but the subsequent four-party alliance government closed the additional, Hasina said.

Besides, she said additional two lakh people will be given houses in four satellite towns planned to reduce pressure on the capital.

The satellite towns will be set up in the areas close to the capital, she said.

"We will ensure smooth and fast road communications between the capital and the satellite towns. Besides, the planned elevated express way can also be used for the communication," she added.

She expressed her concern over filling up water bodies in the city and elsewhere of the country.

"Water level is gradually going down increasing the risk of earthquake. So, we have to increase the use of surface water to reduce pressure on the underground water," she said.

The PM said the water bodies must be preserved at any cost. "We cannot control the nature. During the rainy season we have to face flooding. But, we can ensure proper flood management by preserving the water bodies," she said.

On shortage of lands, Hasina said instead of constructing one or two-storey building, multi-storied buildings need to be built. "There is no alternative to ensuring maximum use of minimum lands," she said.

Hasina is worried about losing the agricultural lands. "We have to ensure accommodation for all and at the same time agricultural lands must be preserved," she said.

She put emphasis on protecting the high-yielding fertile lands. "Food production needs to be increased significantly as food security is the top most priority of the government," she said.

The PM was critical of the developing companies for implementing the housing projects without keeping any space for children's games and sports.

REHAB President Nasrul Hamid MP presided over the function while State Minister for Housing and Public Works Abdul Mannan Khan and REHAB Fair 2010's Chairman Sultana Shaheda Islam, among others, addressed.

## National Internet Exchange to be launched Dec 31

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Telecommunication Company Limited (BTCL) is planning to kick off National Internet Exchange (NIX), the country's first ever state-run initiative, on December 31.

NIX, a non-profit venture is currently being set up at the Moghbazar telephone exchange officials of BTCL announced yesterday, at a meeting of the parliamentary standing committee on post and telecommunications ministry.

The main purpose of NIX is to facilitate handling domestic data traffic among local internet service providers (ISP) at a lower cost instead of using international servers in USA, UK, Hong Kong and Singapore, they said.

The contents of official e-mails exchanged will also remain secure, officials informed the committee at the meeting held at Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

The NIX will also provide better services for its customers in terms of connectivity and speed by avoiding globe-trotting, the officials added.

Currently, there is a privately-run lone internet exchange in the country but its services are neither cost effective nor satisfactory, the officials said.

Emerging from the meeting, Hasanul Haq Inu, chief of the parliamentary body and also a leader of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) said NIX will enable a more efficient use of international bandwidth and save foreign exchange.

The government has also taken initiatives to rent out the unused facilities of optical fibre cables for three years which will earn around Tk 22 to 25 crore, said the committee chief.

The Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) Chairman Maj Gen (ret) Zia Ahmed told reporters that a draft policy for setting up NIX has already been prepared and is available at the website of BTRC.

Suggestions are welcome from November 6 onwards, said the chairman.

## Nizami, Subhan, their men killed innocent people

Witnesses tell Int'l Crimes Tribunal's probe team in Pabna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Jamaat leaders Motiur Rahman Nizami, Abdus Subhan, Ishhaque, 50 to 60 of their men and some Naxalites worked as the collaborators of the Pakistan occupation army and killed innocent people of the district during the War of Liberation.

Local people, including war victims of the district, told this to the investigation team of The International Crimes Tribunal here yesterday.

An 11-member investigation team led by Sayed Rezaur Rahman, prosecutor of the tribunal, started its investigation in the district yesterday.

The team reached the district headquarters in the afternoon and visited Power Development Board's (PDB) Power House at Nurpur village and then went to Pabna Aliya Madrasa at Radhanagar village in the evening.

The powerhouse building was used as a camp of Pakistan occupation army and Pabna Aliya Madrasa was used as a torture camp by the collaborators during the War of Liberation, said the freedom fighters, eyewitnesses and local people to the investigation team.

Md Habibur Rahman Habib, commander of Pabna Muktiyodhha Sangsad, said, "Maulana Muhammad Abdus Subhan was the head of the collaborators' camp of Pabna Aliya Madrasa.

"Over 50 of his followers were engaged in this camp. They caught people from different areas of the district and tortured them here.

"The collaborators sent people (who were caught) to Nurpur Wapda and the Pakistan army killed them here with the help of the collaborators."

Rezaur Rahim Lal, an eyewitness and also an AL leader, told the investigating team that over one thousand people, including the freedom fighters and people from the Hindu community, were killed in Wapda army camp.

The Pakistani army then dumped the bodies in the Padma and Jamuna

Rivers, he added.

The freedom fighters, locals and the war victims claimed that some identified Naxalites were the collaborators too.

Tipu Biswas, the central leader of Gono Front, and Khandaker Masud, a Naxalite during that time, killed freedom fighters, said Habib to the investigation team.

Meanwhile, the International Crimes Tribunal team took the testimony of over 50 victims, during the War of Liberation, from different areas of Pabna Sadar Upazila.

The victims, both male and female, described the tragic memories before the investigation team.

Panna Begum, a 55-year-old woman of Najirganje village, said, "Maulana Subhan and his followers caught my husband Seken Prang along with other villagers on December 1. My husband was also martyred along with other villagers on the day."

The collaborators also burnt

houses in the villages, said 70-year-old Tarizan Begum while narrating the tragic memories.

Freedom fighter Nilu of Najirganje village said, "We have fought against the Pakistan occupation army and against the Naxalites, who tortured people."

Rezaur said they found in the primary investigation that Maulana Motiur Rahman Nizami, Subhan, Maulana Ishhaque and 50 to 60 of their fellow men were directly involved in the 1971 mass killings in Pabna.

"We will take the statement of the witnesses and visit more places where the collaborators did the crimes during the War of Liberation," he said.

During the investigation, it became clear to the team that the collaborators caught freedom fighters and innocent people in Aliya madrasa camp and sent them to the Pakistan army camp in Wapda, he said.

He added that after the killing, the bodies were dumped into the rivers.



## Qulkhwani of Kalim Sharafi today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Qulkhwani of Kalim Sharafi, renowned Tagore exponent and cultural personality, will be held at his city residence at Diraj Garden in Pragati Sarani at 5:30pm today, said a press release.

The cultural legend breathed his last on Tuesday at the age of 86. He was laid to rest at Mirpur Martyred Intellectuals' Graveyard.



## Qulkhwani of Anwarul Aziz tomorrow

METRO DESK

Qulkhwani of Anwarul Aziz, son of late Alhaj Azizur Rahman, will be held at House No # 9, Road No # 10, Sector # 3 at Uttara in the city after Asr prayers tomorrow (November 6), says a press release.

Anwarul Aziz passed away due to a cardiac arrest in Dhaka at 11:06am on October 31 at the age of 64.

He left behind his wife and four sons to mourn his death.

He was buried in his hometown Mymensingh.

Well-wishers have been requested to pray for salvation of his departed soul.

## Death anniversary DU CORRESPONDENT



Today is the first death anniversary of Kazi M A H B U L L a h, father of Awami League

Presidium Member Kazi Zafar Ullah and National University's Vice Chancellor Dr Kazi Sahidullah.

On the occasion, special prayers will be offered at his residence of Kaulibera in Bhanga apazila, Faridpur after Asr prayers, says a press release.

He founded Begum Jebunnesa and Kazi Mahub Ullah Welfare Trust in 1978 to give scholarship to the poor meritorious students.

He also founded a research centre named "Bangabandhu Chair" in Dhaka University's history department.

## Kali Puja tonight

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Hindus will celebrate the Dipabali and Shyma Puja (Kali Puja) tonight across the country with festivities and traditional rituals.

The devotees will offer flowers and food and special prayers, sing hymns, and lit candles for the eternal peace of the departed souls. Houses will be decorated with lights, and greetings will be exchanged.

The puja will be celebrated at over 200 venues in the city, said Nirmol Chatterjee, joint secretary of Mohanagar Sarbojonin Puja Committee.

## Contracts signed for 2 more rental plants

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday initialled two more rental power contracts with two local companies for generation of around 130 megawatts of electricity.

Cambridge Power would install a barge-mounted plant with the capacity to produce 90-megawatt electricity in Barisal or Chandpur. And EQ Partners, another barge-mounted gas-run plant in Ashuganj, will generate 48 MW.

Both the deals have been forged through unsolicited negotiations. The Awami League government has signed contracts for rental power of more than 1,500 MW since it came to power.

Rental power plants get three to five years contract as opposed to 22-year contract for conventional power plants.

Rental plants are considered temporary means for addressing power crisis with its faster installation and higher costs.



## No change in temperature

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at one or two places over Chittagong division in next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Weather will remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, Met office said.

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:17pm today and rises at 6:08am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 33.8 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sitakunda and lowest 18.5 degrees Celsius at Chuandnga.

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

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	31.2	21.8	64	67
Chittagong	31.5	22.2	87	71
Rajshahi	30.5	19.5	74	77
Rangpur	30.5	20.4	70	76
Khulna	30.7	21.0	75	77
Barisal	31.1	21.5	75	90
Sylhet	33.4	21.4	64	71
Cox's Bazar	33.0	23.2	80	83



Students of class eight sit for Junior School Certificate examinations, first of its kind in the country beginning yesterday, at Motijheel Government Boys High School in the city. (Story on Page 1)

PHOTO: STAR

## Chehlum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Chehlum of Mohsen Ferdousi, former additional secretary of the ministry of health, will be held at her College Road house in Ishwardi after Juma prayers today, says a press release.

On the occasion, a doa mahfil and qurankhwani will be held. Foods will also be distributed among the destitute.

## Call to restore '72 constitution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday categorically demanded restoration of the '72 constitution to establish a non-communal democratic and repression-free country and to protect human rights.

The discussion styled "Characteristics of '72 constitution and necessary and unnecessary amendments" was organised by the Ekattorer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee at Bilia auditorium in the city yesterday.

Law Minister Barrister Shaifque Ahmed, the chief guest, said the Supreme Court (SC) verdict has widened the path of returning to the '72 constitution.

Referring to a BNP leader's comment that the SC does not have the authority to amend the constitution, the parliament alone can do it, the ministers said the SC

is the guardian of the constitution. So, it is not necessary to go to parliament in this regard after the verdict.

Presiding over the programme, Justice Ghulam Rabbani, president of the Nirmul Committee, demanded necessary amendments to the constitution to recognise the indigenous people.

The committee coordinator Shahriar Kabir viewed that the fundamentalist groups will be surely wiped out if the '72 constitution restored.

He demanded state declaration of November 4 as the National Constitution Day and laid emphasis on preserving rights of franchise of eunuchs in the construction.

Committee Vice President Shamoli Nasreen moderated the function while Barrister Amir-ul-Islam, Prof Ajoy Roy, Dr Shahdeen Malik and Tureen Afroz of the Law Department of Brac University also spoke.