

NEWS IN brief

Swaraswati Puja celebrated

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Hindu community celebrated the Swaraswati Puja, one of the main religious festivals of them amid festivity in the temples, educational institutions and homes across the country yesterday.

Most of the educational institutions in the city were in a festive mood as colourfully decorated and illuminated Puja Mandaps attracted thousands of people irrespective of their religion.

Students of Jagannath Hall of Dhaka University celebrated the festival. Students of different departments and institutions set up nearly 50 Puja Mandaps on the dormitory premises.

Hundreds of Muslims and believers of other religions also thronged the Puja Mandaps in the capital and other places in the country.

14-day Ekushey festival begins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sammilito Sanskritik Jote yesterday began a 14-day Amar Ekushey Festival at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city commemorating the language movement martyrs.

Language veteran Dr Rafiquallah Khan inaugurated the programme attended by noted cultural personalities.

About 2,000 performers of over 100 organisations will participate in the festival to be continued till February 19 at the Shaheed Minar.

Remaining programmes of the festival will be held at Rabindra Sharobar Mancha in Dhanmondi.

7th camporee begins today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The weeklong seventh national cub camporee, the biggest gathering for cub scouts, begins today at Jatiya Scout Proshikkhon Kendra in Mouchak, Gazipur.

Around 9,000 cubs are likely to attend the camporee in 12 sub-camps, says a press release.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to inaugurate the camporee.

BSTI to be decentralised

UNB, Dhaka

Industries Minister Dilip Barua yesterday said the government has decentralised the authorisation of the Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institute (BSTI) in issuing certificates for chemical and corrosive products to remove sufferings of traders.

"Now the local offices of Chittagong, Khulna and Rajshahi are providing BSTI certificates by testing the chemical and corrosive products," he said at a meeting with the BSTI officials at the Industries Ministry in the afternoon.

CRP, Safety and Rights ink MoU

METRO DESK

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between CRP-Bangladesh and Safety and Rights Society at CRP Headquarters in Savar yesterday.

CRP Executive Director Md Emdad Moslem and Programme Director of rights based NGO Safety and Rights Society Sekender Ali Mina inked the MoU to conduct joint researches, said a press release.

Officials concerned from the organisations, including CRP Research Associate Reshma Parvin, were present during the signing ceremony.

Pitha festival held

METRO DESK

A three-day Pitha festival was held at Dhaka Regency Hotel recently, said a press release.

A good number of people enjoyed the opportunity of having piping hot winter cakes every evening of the event from February 3 to 5 organised by the hotel. As always, the 5-star hotel promises to lay out an array to delight and satisfy its every patron.

WEATHER TODAY

Change in night temperature unlikely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country in next 24 hours till 6:00pm today.

Light to moderate fog may occur over the river basins of the country during midnight till morning, Met Office said.

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:50pm and rises tomorrow at 6:35am.

Country's highest temperature 32.7 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Mongla and lowest 12.5 degrees at Ishwardi.

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	31.0	16.7	67	47
Chittagong	28.0	15.6	75	69
Rajshahi	31.8	13.0	94	—
Rangpur	27.2	15.3	90	81
Khulna	32.5	15.5	90	—
Barisal	31.5	14.5	86	64
Sylhet	27.1	16.3	75	62



An idol of the goddess Swaraswati is seen afloat on the pond of Jagannath Hall at Dhaka University as worshipping of the Hindu deity was going on yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Tk 2,246cr projects approved

UNB, Dhaka

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecne) approved 11 development schemes worth Tk 2,246 crore on Tuesday, including one to supply water for the Chittagong city dwellers.

With Ecne Chairperson and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair, the approval was given at its meeting at the NEC conference room in city's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar.

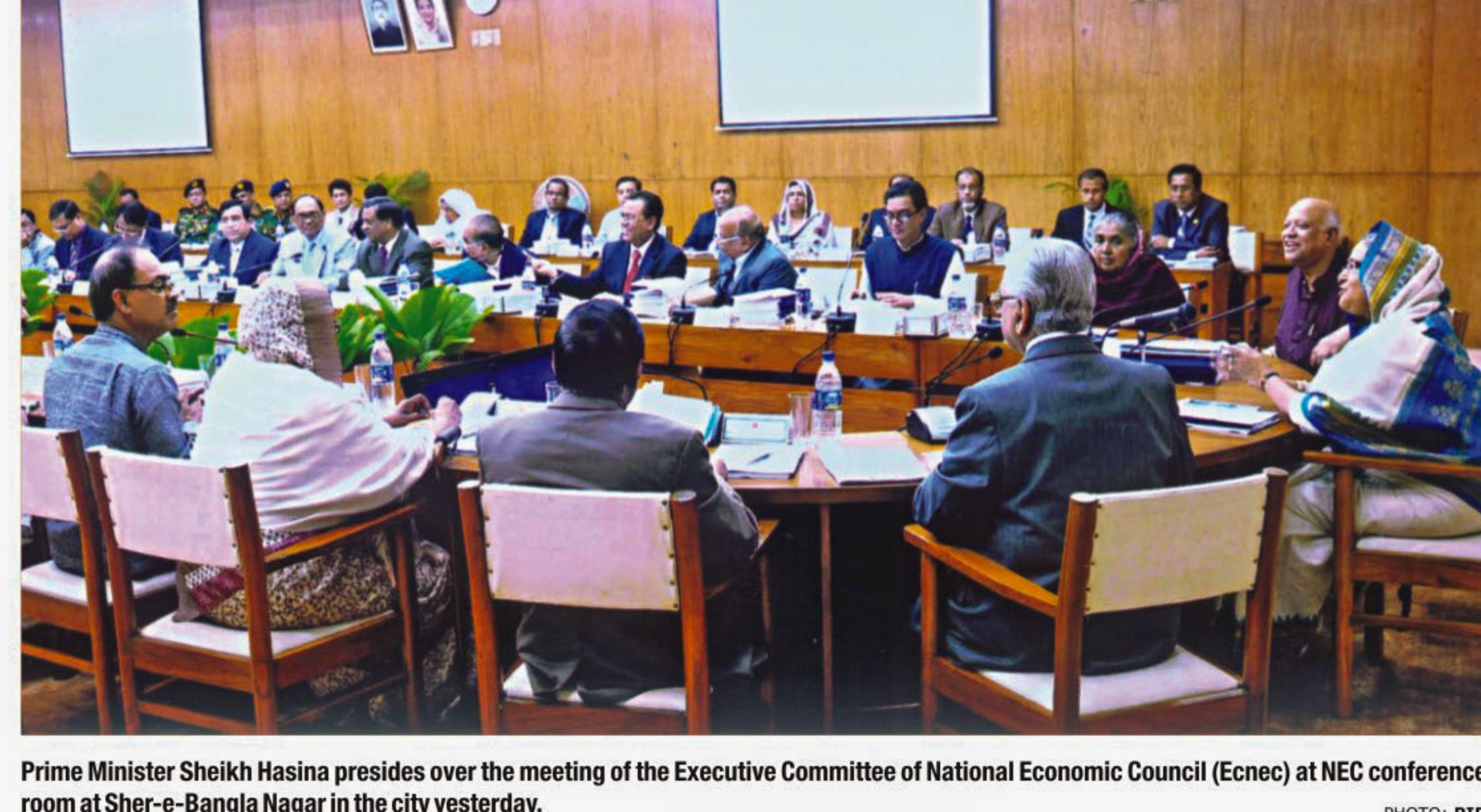
"Of the total project cost of Tk 2,246 crore, Tk 1,155 crore will come from the national exchequer while Tk 1,091 crore will come in the form of project assistance," said Planning Minister AK Khandker while briefing reporters after the meeting.

The Karnaphuli Water Supply project is expected to meet the acute water crisis of Chittagong city dwellers with a cost of Tk 1,510 crore through purifying the River Karnaphuli's waters. The project will be set up by 2012 with a treatment capacity of 1,360 million liters of water per day through one unit.

The other approved projects are river bank protection project at Fukra on the left bank of

River Modhumati under Gopalganj district and also in Manikdaha and Kaligram areas on Bilroute channel in Madaripur district (Tk 32 crore); water supply and sanitation project in cyclone-prone and Sidr-affected coastal areas in Bangladesh (Tk 120 crore); infrastructure construction of 3 district prisons and completion of uncompleted works of 2 district prisons (Tk 172 crore); construction of Mukti Joddha Complex Bhaban (1st phase) in all districts (Tk 119 crore); Hathazari road extension and development project (Tk 57 crore); road construction project from Sujanagar to Lalanshah Bridge (Tk 48 crore); Mirzapore (Gorai)-Sakhipur road development project (Tk 27 crore);

Kishoreganj-Karimganj-Chamraghat-Mathamain road development (Chamraghat-Mithamain part) Tk 44 crore; Ujanchar-Bajitpur-Astagram road development (Bajitpur-Astagram part) project Tk 79 crore; construction of 3 PC Guarder Bridge on Sirajganj-Kazipur-Dhunat road and construction of super structure of 3 existing Bailey bridges (Tk 38 crore).



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina presides over the meeting of the Executive Committee of National Economic Council (Ecne) at NEC conference room at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the city yesterday.



KNOWLEDGE CORNER

CHAMPS21

THE ACADEMY AWARDS

The academy awards, widely known as 'The Oscar', are the most prestigious annual awards given away by the "American Academy of Motion Pictures & Sciences". The foundation of this academy was laid by the world famous producer Louis B Mayer.

You may wonder why this award is called 'Oscar'. The answer is still an unsolved mystery. King Oscar 2, uncle of an executive secretary of the academy, husband of actress Bette Davis- all these peculiar sources are the most popular candidates for such nomenclature of academy awards. Prizes are distributed in several categories each year, among which best picture, director, actor and actress in a leading role attract most attraction. The winners are not selected via SMS or any media of people's choice rather by the voting members of the academy, who are around 6000 in number. The Oscar was purely a marker for quality English films till the year 1957, when 'The award for the best foreign language film' was introduced. The Oscar statuette is made of gold plated britannium, resembling a knight holding a crusader sword.

From its beginning in 1929 the award ceremony has been held 82 times so far and has produced hundreds of winners. Titanic, Ben-Hur, and Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King lead the chart of Oscar winning movies with 11 awards each. Katharine Hepburn and Jack Nicholson are two of the most valuable acting marvels, according to the Academy, as they held the knight 4 & 3 times respectively. Though the Academy Awards are the most valuable possession of a media personality, this award is sometimes highly criticized for showing favoritism in a few cases and ignoring true talent. However, it must be remembered that even heaven has its snakes!!

TRANSPORTATION-WHEELS IN MOTION

Man felt the need of transportation

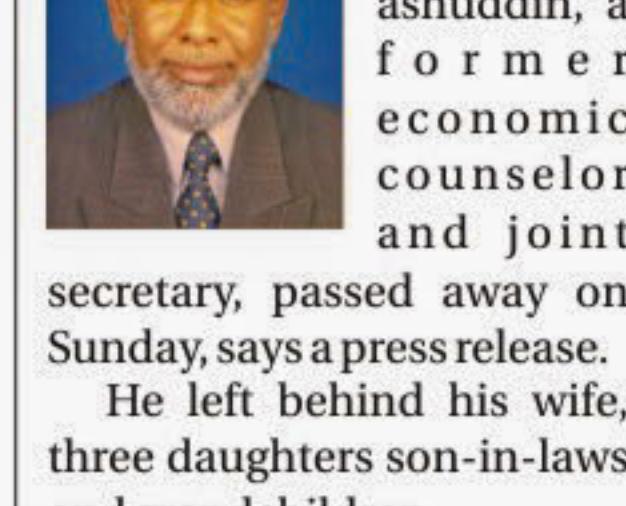
Log on to www.champs21.com now to participate in

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Obituary

METRO DESK



He left behind his wife, three daughters son-in-laws and grandchildren.

On the occasion, a doa mahfil will be held at his Paribagh residence after Asr prayers on Friday.

Comrade Dilip Sarker

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Comrade Dilip Sarker, a communist leader and member of Biplobi Workers Party Central Committee, died of cardiac arrest yesterday at the age of 66, says a press release.

Comrade Dilip played a vital role in the Liberation War under 'Mukti Sangram Samannay Committee'. He also played a pioneer role in the communist movement in greater Mymensingh.

His body was donated to Anatomy Department of Mymensingh Medical College.

Md Azmol Kabir

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

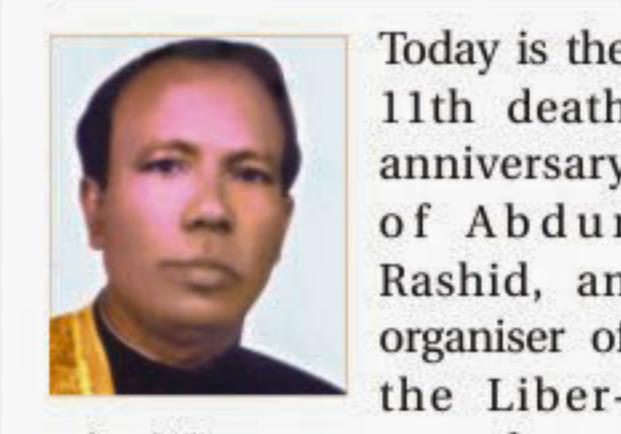
Md Azmol Kabir, a taxation commissioner, passed away in a hospital in Singapore on Monday at the age of 50, says a press release.

He was also a joint secretary of Dhaka Officers' Club and executive member of BCS taxation cadre.

His first namaz-e-janaza will be held on the premises of second Barotala Bhaban in Shegunbagicha at 10:00am while second janaza will be held on the premises of Officers' Club at Baily Road at 11:00am today.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 11th death anniversary of Abdur Rashid, an organiser of the Liberation War, says a press release.

He was a member of constitution formulation committee and former lawmaker.

Qulhwani

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Qulhwani and milad mahfil for Captain Md Iftekhar Alam will be held at House No-14, Road No-19, Sector No-11 at Uttara in the city at about 4:15pm on February 11, says a ISPR press release.

He was killed in a road accident in Sudan on January 30.

Two workers die in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mason, Mohammad Hamidullah, 25, of Kurigram, was killed after falling from a scaffold of an under construction building at the city's East Kazipara yesterday.

He fell from the scaffold while putting plasters on outer wall of the third floor of the six-storey building. Contractor Monir Hossain said the victim died on the spot.

In another incident, a worker died yesterday as an iron bar fell on him at a factory at the city's Shyampur.

The deceased was identified as Mohammad Sagar, 25, an employee of Kamal Steel Mill at Shyampur industrial area.

Police said Sagar got injured as a steel bar fell on his head when workers were lifting the iron bars with a crane in the factory at about 11:00am.

Fellow workers rushed him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where on-duty doctors declared him dead.

Police sent the body to Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsy.

One held over trader murder

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A joint team of Rab and police arrested the mastermind of Tantibazar jewelry trader Kalam murder at city's Kotwali yesterday.

They arrested Imran Hossain Ujjal following information of Sultan Ahmed alias Ima, Mohammad Sultan Kha, 25, and Iqbal Hossain Habu, 40, who were arrested on January 24 with four fire-arms and 33 bullets.

Trader Abul Kalam Azad alias Kalam was shot dead at China Market at city's Islampur on December 29.

The arrestees admitted that Ujjal and absconding Kalo Manik demanded Tk 5 lakh from Kalam as extortion but Kalam denied.



Seminar

Brac University will organise a seminar. Time: 10:00am, Venue: Brac Centre auditorium.

Roundtable

Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) will hold a roundtable. Time: 1:00pm, Venue: DRU.

PeaceTalk

World Peace Organisation will hold a peace talk. Time: 4:00pm, Venue: Dhaka Aijibal Smity auditorium.

Roundtable

Bangladesh National Awami Party (NAP-Bhasani) will organise a roundtable. Time: 10:30am, Venue: Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU).

Discussion

Itihas o Oityha Parishad will hold a