# NEWS IN brief

## Suranjit warns against chaos

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will be forced to take action if the BNP creates anarchy in the name of rally on March 12, warned Railways Minister Suranjit Sengupta yesterday.

Referring to the violence of December 18 last year, he said, "As long as your (BNP) March 12 rally remains democratic, you will get all kinds of cooperation from the government. If you try to misuse your democratic right and create anarchy, the government will be forced to act."

Suranjit was addressing a discussion on "Government's Three Years: People's Expectations and Achievements" organised by Bangabandhu Peshajibi Parishad at the Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU).

## DFID gives 8 vehicles to CRP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Department For International Development (DFID) yesterday donated eight second-hand vehicles to Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralysed (CRP).

British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Robart Gibson handed over the keys of the vehicles to CRP Executive Director Shafiq-ul Islam while visiting CRP in Savar yesterday, said a press release. Gibson said DFID wants to work and support

CRP's activities for the people with disabilities in future. Valerie A Taylor, founder and coordinator of CRP, expressed her gratitude to DFID for their continu-

ous support. Daniel Device, senior programme manager of DFID and officials of CRP were present.



## Jatiya Garments Sramik Federation will

form a human chain; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 11:30am.

### View exchange meet

Pally Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) will hold a view exchange meeting; Venue: PKSF Bhaban auditorium; Time: 10:00am.

#### Workshop

Plan Bangladesh will organise a workshop; Venue: Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel; Time: 10:00am.

Bangladesh Patkal Sramik League and Patkal CBA Samannaya Parishad will arrange a rally; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 3:00pm.

### WAR CRIMES TRIAL Govt under int'l obligation

Says Shahriar Kabir ANSAR AHMED ULLAH, from

Policymakers of the UK and Europe support the war crimes trial and opined that the government was under international obligation to hold the trial, said Ekatturer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee Executive President Shahriar Kabir.

Shahriar, currently touring Europe, was addressing a rally organised by the UK unit of the committee in East London's Waterlily Centre on the early hours of Friday.

The policymakers met him in Paris, the Hague, Brussels and London and told him that the trial could set a standard for the world, especially South Asia.

As Bangladesh failed to hold the war criminals accountable for the crimes, a culture of impunity flourished in Bangladesh, he said, adding that these criminals were the source of today's religion-based terrorism.

These criminals built networks spanning across the globe and engaged international lobbyists to undermine the trial, he added.

Columnist Abdul Gaffar Chowdhury chaired the rally. The committee's UK unit Secretary Syed Anas Pasha, Barrister Tureen Afroz and representatives of the UK units of different political parties were also present.

## Qulkhwani

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Qulkhwani of Sadik Ahmed Rumu senion marketing manager of

Eastland Insurance Company, will be held tomorrow at 66/B in Malibagh Chowdhury Para after the Maghrib prayers.

Rumu passed away on February 4 at a city hospital.



## Victim women more prone to suicide

Experts tell seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Suicidal tendency is higher among women victimised by different forms of domestic violence than non-victims, experts said at a seminar yesterday. The tendency rises with the increasing

degree of violence, they said, referring to some studies conducted in and outside the country.

The experts also stressed the need for educating guardians to prevent suicide among the teens, especially girls, the most vulnerable section of the population.

It is unfortunate that in most families, girl children feel isolated and suffer the need of affection when a family already has one or more daughters. Isolation may drive the girls into suicide, Dr Mehtab Khanoa, a psychology professor at Dhaka University (DU),

To prevent the loss, family members should emphasise company and create an environment of sharing joys and sorrows so that no member can feel isolated, she added.

She also requested parents not to squab-

ble before children.

Shamima Begum, deputy commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said police have been coordinating with 10 nongovernment organisations (NGOs) to prevent suicides.

The law enforcement agency is also thinking of launching helpline service at 41 DMP stations to help girls with counselling, she added.

The seminar, "Suicide among women: Context and prevention", was organised jointly by Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF), the Society for Voluntary Activities (SOVA), and the clinical psychology department of DU at Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban.

MJF executive director Shaheen Anam chaired the programme.

Torikul Islam, secretary to the women and children affairs ministry; Moazzem Hossain, director of the social services department; Dr Mahbuba Nasrin, a social science professor at DU; and Jahidul Islam, executive director of the SOVA; also spoke.

## MARCH 12 RALLY BNP to force

govt to step

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

down

BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday said the government would be forced to step down from power through the party's March 12 grand rally. He was addressing a

protest rally, organised by the city unit of BNP, before the party's Nayapaltan central office. There was no alternative

to movement to protect the country's sovereignty and independence, he said. He also claimed that the

nation wanted to know whether the money which would be invested by a Malaysian company for the Padma Bridge project was actually the money plundered from the capital market.

Sadek Hossain Khoka, convener of the party's city unit, presided over the programme.

## Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dr Rokeya Begum, a former professor of Dhaka University (DU) and sole female clinical psychologist of Bangladesh, died of cancer at a hospital in the USA yesterday at the age of 67, says a university press release.

She left behind one son, one daughter and a host of well wishers to mourn her death.

DU Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique expressed deep shock at her death.

Alimun Nessa METRO DESK

Alimun Nessa, mother of Md Ataur Rahman, senior vice president of public relations department of Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited, passed away on Friday. She was 97, says a press release.

She left behind four daughters, four sons and a host of relatives to mourn her death. **Abdur Rahim Choudhury** METRO DESK



Kanım Choudhury, eminent cultural personality of Bogra, passed away

three sons and one daughter to mourn his death. He was buried at Bhai Pagla

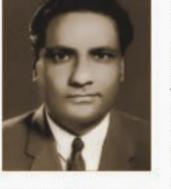
on February 9 at the age of 73.

He left behind his wife,

Majar graveyard in Bogra.

#### Death anniversary STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the third death



anniversary of Prof SHK Yusufzai, a former dean of Civil Engineering

faculty of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet). Prof Yusuf was a former

member of Bangladesh Planning Commission, says a press release.

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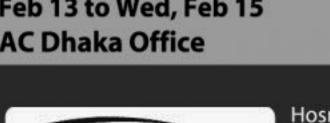
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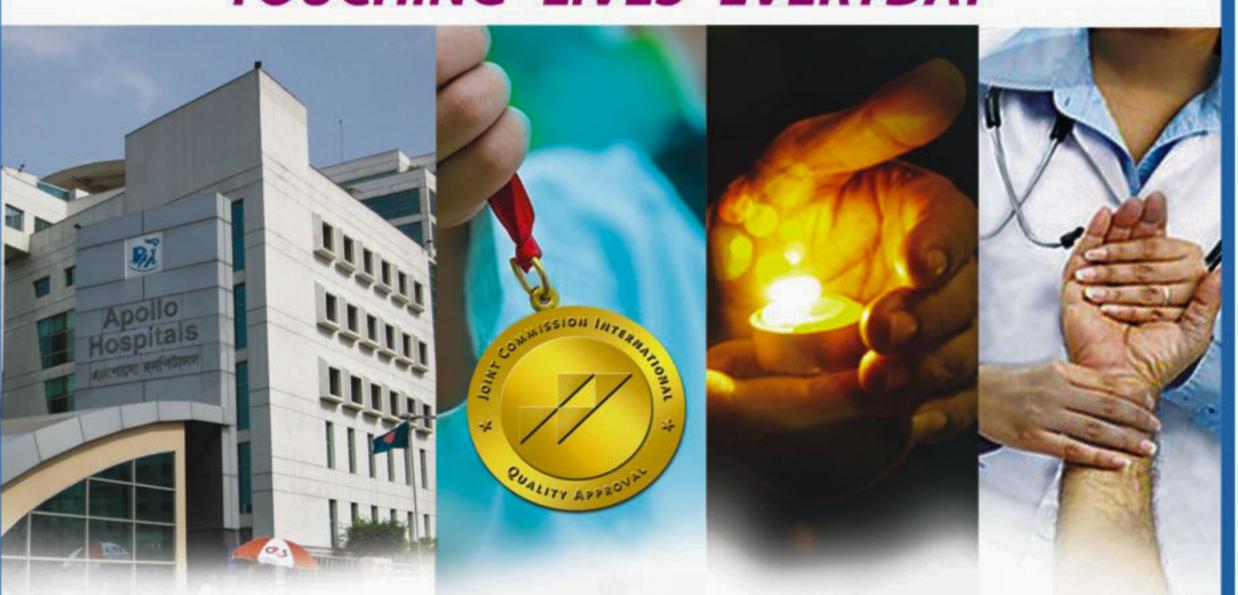
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