

NEWS IN *brief*

Jica VP in Dhaka on five-day visit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Toshiyuki Kuroyanagi, vice-president of Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica), yesterday arrived in Dhaka for a five-day visit, says a press release.

Kuroyanagi will call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her Foreign Affairs Adviser Dr Gowhar Rizvi, Finance Minister AMA Muhith and Planning Minister AK Khandaker.

He will visit Jica project sites, project of ICT ticketing system in BRTC bus service and Local Government Engineering Department.

In his first ever visit to Bangladesh, Kuroyanagi will participate in the celebration of 40th anniversary of Bangladesh-Japan diplomatic relations at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agriculture University.

Former Indian envoy in Dhaka Manilal Tripathi passes away

UNB, Dhaka

Former Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Manilal Tripathi passed away yesterday.

He was in Bangladesh from July 2000 to October 2003 as the Indian envoy, said an Indian High Commission press release.

Tripathi also served as the High Commissioner of India to Mauritius and its Ambassador to Rumania and Japan.

He was a 1970 batch Indian Foreign Service

Indian High Commission cancels tomorrow's cultural show, dinner

UNB, Dhaka

The Indian High Commission in Dhaka cancelled its cultural show and gala dinner, scheduled to be held in the capital's Sonargaon Hotel at 8:00pm tomorrow, due to the state mourning following the demise of former Indian Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral.

The high commission regretted inconvenience caused due to the cancellation. However, all other events will take place as per schedule, said a press

CU celebrates 46th founding anniversary

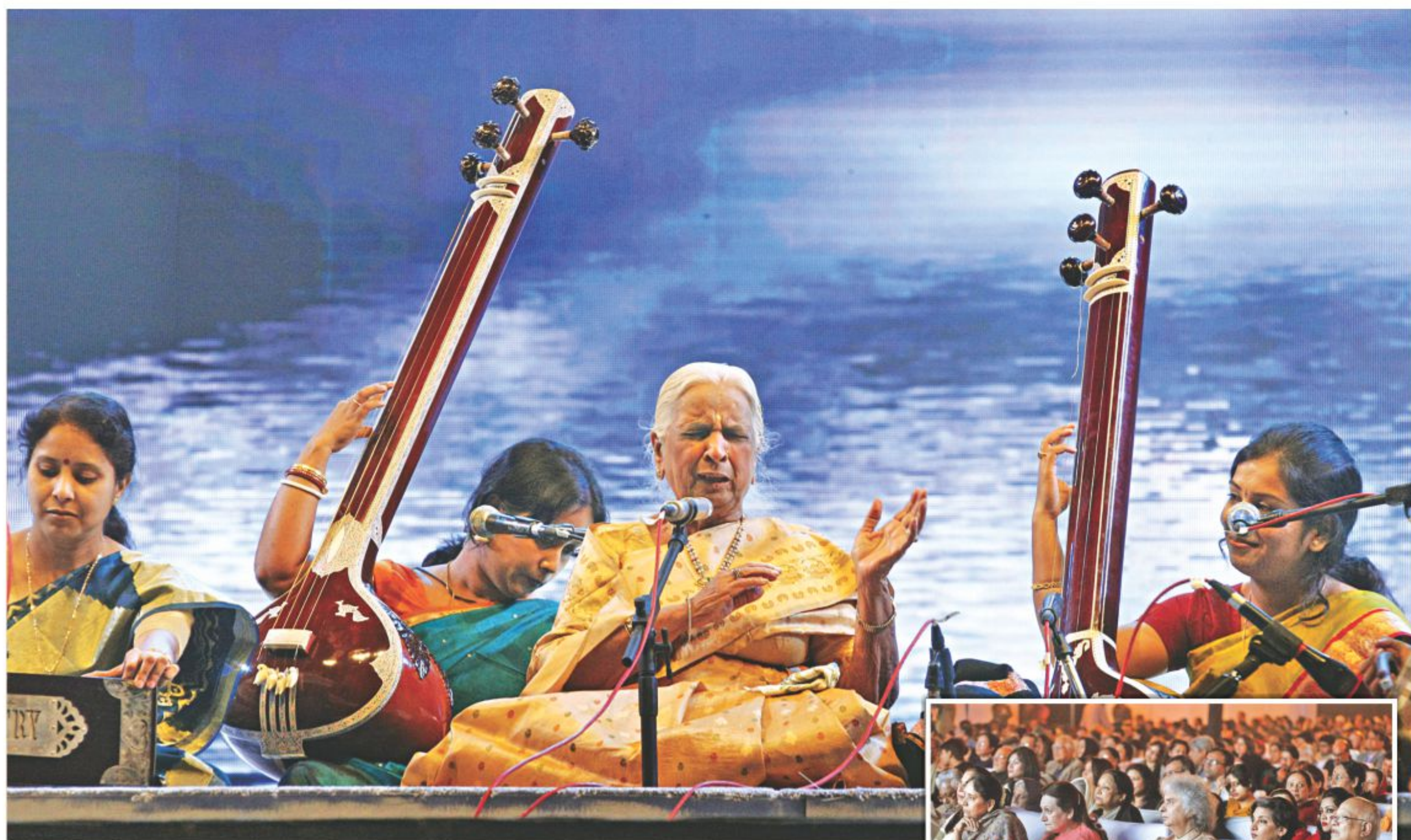
CU CORRESPONDENT

Chittagong University (CU) celebrated its 46th founding anniversary yesterday through a daylong colourful programmes including processions, a documentary show and discussions.

The programmes began with a procession participated by teachers and students with colourful banners and festoons.

Later, the CU authorities held a documentary show depicting important events in CU's history.

CU was founded in 1966 with four departments -- Bangla, English, history and economics -- and



Indian classical singer Vidushi Girija Devi immerses music enthusiasts and connoisseurs in deep serenity as she performs in Bengal ITC SRA Classical Music Festival 2012 at Army Stadium in the capital last evening. Inset, (from right) Finance Minister AMA Muhith, Indian film actress Shabana Azmi, and Indian Santoor maestro Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma enjoying the music.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

15TH ANNIVERSARY OF CHT PEACE ACCORD

Govt yet to hand over control to district councils

Complains Santu Larma

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Adivasi leader Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma yesterday said the past governments had not handed the control of any important issues, including law and order and land management, over to the councils of three hill districts as promised in the 1997 peace accord.

These issues are very necessary for the full implementation of the deal, he told a discussion on "15 years of the CHT peace accord", organised by Manusher Jonno Foundation at the capital's Brac Centre to review its current status.

"If the government wants, it can hand over the issues within six

months," said the Adivasi leader, popularly known as Santu Larma. People of the Chittagong Hill Tracts are still hopeful of the accord's full implementation during this government's tenure, he added.

On Friday, Larma, chief of Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS), told a press conference that a meeting between secretaries to different ministries and the CHT ministry decided to hand over the issues within August 30.

According to the peace agreement, management of 33 issues are supposed to be handed over to the three CHT district councils. Apart from law and order and land

management, these include education, agriculture, dispute resolution, and unreserved forests.

Meanwhile, State Minister for CHT Affairs Dipankar Talukdar yesterday refuted Larma's claim that this government had not handed over any important issues to the CHT district councils. He said many important issues like primary education, agriculture, and youth development department were already handed over, reports our Rangamati correspondent.

The minister also said most of the clauses of the peace accord had been implemented in the last 15 years. The accord has 72 clauses in all and, 48 of them have been executed so far, he told a press

conference at the Awami League office in Rangamati town.

Speaking at the discussion in Dhaka, Larma warned that the CHT tension would only intensify if the peace agreement was not implemented. "The situation in the region will depend on the way the government treats and evaluates the CHT issues."

Shaheen Anam, executive director of Manusher Jonno Foundation, chaired the discussion, while Prof Mizanur Rahman, chief of National Human Rights Commission; Abdul Qayyum Mukul, associate editor of the daily Prothom Alo, and economist Prof Abul Barakat, among others, spoke one the occasion.

PM has no right to announce election date

Says Rafiqul Islam Mia

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP standing committee member Rafiqul Islam Mia yesterday said the prime minister has no right to announce election date.

"It is the Election Commission that has the sole authority to announce election date according to constitution's Section 119," he said.

He was addressing a human chain organised by Projonmo Academy before the capital's Jatiya Press Club demanding withdrawal of cases against BNP leaders.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, at a meeting in Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban on Thursday, said the next parliamentary election date will be announced in October 2013.

Meanwhile, BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said, "Our ongoing anti-government movement is not aimed at saving war criminals; rather it is for forcing the government to concede the demand for restoration of the caretaker government system."

He was talking to journalists after placing wreaths at the grave of late president Ziaur Rahman in the capital. Muktiyuddho Projonmo organised the programme.



BSc in Health Technology (Dental) Students' Association yesterday holds a rally in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital with a five-point demand, including changing the programme name into BSc in Dentistry, creation of job opportunity for them and introduction of a four-year academic programme along with one-year internship.

PHOTO: STAR

ACT TO REGULATE NGOS Unrestricted flow of dev funds demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The proposed foreign donation regulatory law must incorporate simple provisions, not restrict non-government development funds, and be immediately made public for scrutiny, demanded international NGO activists at a press conference yesterday.

Forum-Asia, a Bangkok-based organisation for human rights and development; CIVICUS, a global alliance of civic movement; and Commonwealth Human Rights Initiatives (CHRI) jointly organised the press conference in the capital's Jatiya Press Club.

The Bangladesh government consulted civil society leaders and 65 non-government organisations (NGO) on the proposed law and assured incorporation

of the recommendations.

"Still, we remain extremely worried whether the recommendations will accordingly be incorporated when the bill is placed in parliament, as it ultimately depends on the government's desire," said Sayeed Ahmad, Forum-Asia's country programme manager.

The proposed law's excessive focus on scrutiny and control of NGOs may foil the civil society's independence, said CIVICUS Advocacy Manager Mandeep S Tiwana.

Other concerns are cumbersome approval process involving multiple clearances for foreign-funded projects, absence of an approval timeframe, lack of specific grounds for rejection, requirement for five-yearly registration renewal and power to take control of NGO assets, said Sayeed.

WAR CRIMES TRIAL FFs to fast unto death if it's not done by Dec 16

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Freedom fighters at a rally in Sylhet city yesterday afternoon announced that they would fast unto death from December 17, if the government failed to complete the trials of the detained 'front line' war criminals by December 16.

Earlier, they brought out a procession in the city to observe arrival of the victory month, December, when Pakistani occupation army surrendered in the Liberation War.

They staged the rally at Sylhet Central Shaheed Minar after the procession started from the city's Keane bridge point.

Md Shamsuddoha, district commander of Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad, chaired the rally.

The speakers demanded that the trial of the war criminals must be completed by December 16. Otherwise they will fast unto death.

The freedom fighters from the city and different upazilas in Sylhet joined the programme.

DHAKA TODAY

Dialogue

The Daily Star and the ADD International, Bangladesh will hold a national dialogue on "Improving livelihood of peoples with disabilities: Enhancing skills and employment in readymade garments and beyond".

Parbatya Chattagram Jano Sanghati Samity will organise a discussion on implementation of Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Peace Accord; Venue: Engineers' Institute, Ramna; Time: 10:00am.

Dialogue

Parliamentary Caucus on Indigenous Peoples will hold a two-day policy dialogue on CHT accord; Venue: Nabab

Discussion

WEATHER TODAY

Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

Light fog may occur over the river basins of the country during late night till morning, Met Office said.

Night temperature may rise slightly over the southern part and nearly unchanged elsewhere over the country.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:11pm and rises tomorrow at 6:26am.

Country's highest temperature 30.4 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 11.5 degrees at Ishurdi.

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

	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	28.5	16.0	65	58
Chittagong	28.2	17.0	84	77
Rajshahi	27.5	11.8	83	66
Rangpur	26.9	13.5	86	93
Khulna	28.0	14.0	90	85
Barisal	28.2	14.7	88	90