

## Obituary

METRO DESK



Advocate Md Abu Hena died due to a heart attack at his house

on Sherpur Road in Bogra on Tuesday. He was 85.

He left behind his wife, three daughters and a son to mourn his death.

He was buried at Bhai Pagla Mazar graveyard in Bogra following his namaz-e-janaza.

His quikhwani will be held tomorrow after Asr prayers at Satani Jame Masjid.

**Tozammel Hossain**  
OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Gaibandha

Tozammel Hossain Proddhan, Awami League Gobindaganj upazila unit president, died of a cardiac arrest at Bogra Medical College Hospital early yesterday. He was 62.

He left behind his wife, a son and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

He will be buried at Badurtola village in Gaibandha tomorrow after his namaz-e-janaza at Gobindaganj High School ground.

**Mukul Ratan Barua**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Mukul Ratan Barua, vice president of Bangladesh Buddhist Association, Chittagong region, died of a heart attack at his house in Askar Dighi area of the port city on Friday. He was 67.

He was the editor of "Bodhi Barta", a publication on the Buddhist community.

Industries Minister Dilip Barua expressed deep condolence at the death of Mukul.

**Stephane Norde**, managing director of Nestle Bangladesh Ltd, and high officials of the company at Kaulia Zahiruddin High School in Gazipur among the teachers and students of the school. Stephane inaugurated a training programme on nutrition awareness, "Nestle Healthy Kids (NHK)", there on Tuesday.

PHOTO: STAR

## GSP FACILITY

## Dipu Moni to spur US for continuation

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni will request the US government to continue to give GSP facility to Bangladesh when she will meet US Secretary of State John Kerry in Washington on May 17 to discuss the entire range of bilateral issues.

The talks will also highlight Bangladesh government's steps to avoid the recurrence of Savar-like tragedy through creating conducive labour conditions, including health and safety provisions of factories across the country.

"Since it's my first meeting with the new secretary of state, all aspects of bilateral ties would come up, particularly the GSP facility, the tragic Savar accident, and what steps the government has undertaken to avoid such incident," she told reporters at the foreign ministry last evening.

Dipu Moni will leave for the USA on May 12 to attend a high level meeting of UN global action meeting on human trafficking on May 13. She will go to Washington from there.

During her meeting with Senator Kerry, officials said, the foreign minister might seek US assistance in repatriation of the convicted killers of Bangabandhu so that they could be brought to justice and US support for the trial of war criminals.

Meanwhile, US Ambassador at Large for War Crimes Issues Stephen J Rapp will arrive in Dhaka on May 14 to "learn" more about the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT).

## HAJJ FLIGHTS

## Govt fixes air ticket fare for two packages

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday fixed air ticket fare for two packages, "normal" and "short", for this year's hajj pilgrims.

A pilgrim who intends to perform the ritual in 45 days under the "normal package" will have to pay US \$1475 for a return ticket while a return ticket under the newly introduced "short package" which includes 20 to 22 days' stay will cost US \$2550. However, the only package last year cost US \$1465.

The decision came at a Hajj Flight Review meeting at the civil aviation ministry.

Only 1,500 aspiring pilgrims will be able to avail the "short package" which

only includes business class tickets, said the meeting sources.

This year, the government has arranged the pilgrimage for 1.3 lakh aspiring pilgrims. Half of them will be ferried by Biman Bangladesh Airlines and the rest by flights by Saudia, the national flag carrier of Saudi Arabia.

The first hajj flight is scheduled for September 7 while the last flight will take off on October 9. The return flight will continue till November 21 from October 20.

Chaired by Civil Aviation Minister Faruk Khan, the meeting was also attended by Secretary to the ministry Khorshed Alam Chowdhury and Biman's Managing Director Kevin John Steele.

LABOUR ACT AMENDMENT  
SKOP to submit suggestions

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad yesterday formed a 4-member sub-committee to submit their recommendations to the government for incorporating those in the upcoming amendment to the Labour Act, 2006.

The organisation held a meeting in this regard and the members elaborately discussed about the amendments of the labour act, which the cabinet approved for amendment on April 22. The meeting also decided to abolish the post of coordinator, said a press release.

Shafi-uddin Ahmed, president of Sramik Federation of Bangladesh, was made the president of SKOP while Chowdhury Ashiqul Alam, general secretary of Bangladesh Trade Union Federation, was made member secretary. They will manage the works of SKOP for six months.

One minute silence was observed at the beginning of the meeting to pay homage to those who died in the collapse of the nine-storey Rana Plaza in Savar.



Heavy showers in the capital yesterday brought relief as well as misery to the residents. *Inset*, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue submerged in ankle-deep water.

PHOTO: STAR

## Updating asthma patients' statistics urged

BSS, Dhaka

Healthcare experts yesterday suggested updating the statistics of asthma patients to ensure treatment to the growing number of patients with respiratory problems in the country.

They were addressing the "17th Annual Scientific Conference on Asthma and COPD" organised by Asthma Association Bangladesh (AAB) at its auditorium in the capital's Mohakhali to mark the World Asthma Day.

According to the latest statistics which was prepared in 1999, there were around 70,000 asthma patients in the country.

Now, the number must have been doubled due to population growth, weather change and industrial development, said Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) President Dr Mahmud Hasan.

Knowledge about the actual number of patients is essential to provide the proper health services, said BMA Secretary General Dr M Iqbal Arsalan.

AAB President Prof Mirza Mohammad Hiron and Vice President Dr Biswas Akhtar Hossain also attended the event.

The World Asthma Day is observed on the first Tuesday in May every year.

This year, the theme of the day is: "You can control your asthma".

MAY 5 ATROCITIES  
IAB to hold rally tomorrow to protest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Islami Andolon Bangladesh (IAB) will hold a rally near Paltan intersection in the capital tomorrow protesting the May 5 atrocities and vandalism, said a press release.

Lambasting the burning of the holy Quran, party presidium member Syed Muhammad Fayzul Karim urged the government to arrest the real perpetrators of the atrocities instead of "wholesale arrest" of qawmi madrasa students and teachers who took part in the May 5 and 6 programmes.

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## EXHIBITIONS

**Platinum Suites**  
House-58, Road-11  
Block-F  
Banani, Dhaka 1213  
Friday & Saturday  
May 10th & 11th  
12pm-6pm



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WATCH  
THE **DHAKA**  
DIVISIONAL ROUND **TODAY**

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