

## Cuet to reopen May 12

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The authorities of Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology (Cuet) have decided to reopen the campus on May 12.

The decision came at the 152nd meeting of Cuet's syndicate yesterday, confirmed an official of the registrar's office.

According to the decision, residential halls will remain open for students, and the admission process for new students will start from April 28.

Cuet campus has remained closed following student protests over the death of two students — Shanto Saha and Taufiq Hossain — of the university's civil engineering department in a road accident on Monday.

However, some demonstrating students said they have yet to accept the syndicate's decision.

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Valerie Ann Taylor, a British-born physiotherapist and humanitarian, being honoured for her contributions towards helping the poor and persons with disabilities in Bangladesh for over 43 years. She was recognised at the two-day international event titled "International Disability Art Festival 2024" yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## 43 years of compassion

### Valerie Ann Taylor honoured for service to impoverished, persons with disabilities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Valerie Ann Taylor, a British-born physiotherapist and humanitarian, was recognised yesterday for her enduring dedication and selfless service to the impoverished and individuals with disabilities in Bangladesh for over 43 years.

She was honoured at the two-day-long international fest titled "International Disability Art Festival 2024" — jointly organised by Dhaka Theatre and the British Council in association with Sundaram and the Institute of Informatics and Development at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

Born on February 8, 1944, in Bromley, Kent, Valerie first arrived in Bangladesh representing Voluntary Service Overseas in 1969. She served as a physiotherapist at the Christian Hospital, Chandraghona, in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Her concern for individuals afflicted by paralysis in Bangladesh grew as she observed the neglect with which patients enduring spinal injuries were handled.

Valerie was evacuated in 1971, during the Liberation War. Though she was only obligated to serve for 15 months, Bangladesh had impacted her greatly.

She returned to Bangladesh in 1972 after the war and devoted herself to serving patients suffering from paralysis. Later, she established the Centre for the Rehabilitation of

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## Death anniversary of Sher-e-Bangla today

STAR REPORT

Today is the 62nd death anniversary of Sher-e-Bangla AK Fazlul Huq.

Abul Kashem Fazlul Huq, popularly known as Sher-e-Bangla or Huq Saheb, was born on October 26, 1873, at his maternal uncle's house at Satoria, a village in the southern part of Barishal district.

He passed away on April 27, 1962.

Huq was an eminent public leader who had held many high political posts, including the mayor of Calcutta (1935), chief minister of undivided Bengal (1937-1943) and East Bengal (1954), home minister of Pakistan (1955) and governor of East Pakistan (1956-58).

Marking the day, different political parties, alongside socio-cultural and professional bodies, have chalked out various programmes to observe the day.

President Mohammed Shahabuddin and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina issued separate messages marking his death anniversary.



## Gas supply to remain halted for 12 hours

UNB, Dhaka

Gas supply will remain suspended for all categories of customers in different areas of the capital for 12 hours from 9:00am to 9:00pm today for emergency works in the gas pipeline.

According to Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution company Ltd, the areas where gas supply will remain off include Shanir Akhra, Baraitala, Chhapra Mosque, Dania, Jurain, Dholairpar and Kadamtoli.

The adjoining areas may experience low pressure in gas supply, said the Titas Gas, regretting the temporary inconvenience of the consumers.

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## Heat takes a toll on expecting mothers

NILIMA JAHAN

The ongoing heatwave has exacerbated the challenges faced by everyone in the country, but the situation has become particularly difficult for expecting mothers.

According to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, pregnant women are more prone to heat-related illnesses like exhaustion and heatstroke compared to other women.

This is because their bodies need to work harder to regulate both the mother's and the developing baby's temperatures.

As a result, the current heatwave has brought a new level of discomfort and difficulty for many expecting mothers, like first-time mother to be Sajida Islam Parul, a journalist due in the first week of May.

Despite already facing a high-risk pregnancy due to gestational diabetes, thyroid issues, and cystic fibrosis, Sajida has been grappling with dehydration, food aversion, and sleeplessness over the past week.

"I can't eat anything. I'm constantly thirsty, but the water is warm, and I'm sweating like crazy, leading to cold symptoms and fever. I've been strictly advised to avoid consuming cold water," she shared.

"I stay awake all night, and due to sleep deprivation, I'm noticing reduced movements in my baby. Additionally, I'm experiencing persistent skin irritation with blisters on my neck," she added.

This correspondent has spoken to 15 pregnant women — they all mentioned experiencing

dehydration, sleeplessness, headaches, food aversion, constipation, and skin irritation during this heatwave.

More than three mentioned a pain in their abdomen due to constipation.

According to obstetricians and gynaecologists, expecting mothers experience increased heat due to heightened metabolic activity as they nurture a developing baby inside.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Avoid sun exposure, unnecessary outings
- Drink plenty of water (at least 12 glasses a day)
- Regular check-ups
- Stay at home, take enough rest
- Wear loose, comfortable clothing

This often leads to dehydration, restlessness, urinary tract infections, constipation, fever, and other complications.

Excessive heat can also result in reduced fetal movement, potentially leading to premature labour and low birth weight in babies, cautioned the experts.

According to an analysis of 70 studies conducted since the mid-1990s and published in the British Medical Journal in 2020, for every 1 degree Celsius (1.8F) in temperature rise, the number of stillbirths and premature deliveries increases by about 5 percent.

Prof Ferdousi Begum Flora, a gynaecologist and obstetrician of the Obstetrical & Gynaecological Society of Bangladesh (OGSB), advised expectant mothers to stay hydrated, as excessive sweating can remove salt and minerals from their bodies.

"We recommend drinking plenty of water (at least 12 glasses a day) and consuming fruit juice for non-diabetic mothers, as well as opting for liquid-rich foods," she advised.

"Additionally, expectant mothers should stay at home and take enough rest, wear loose and comfortable clothing, and do regular check-ups. If any issues arise, they should promptly seek medical attention."

Dr Ferdousi also emphasised the importance of avoiding sun exposure, unnecessary outings, and physical activities that may lead to excessive sweating.

Dr Helena Jabeen, a former senior consultant at Mohammadpur Fertility Services & Training Centre and 100 Bedded Mother and Child Hospital — currently in PRL but still fulfilling duties — informed The Daily Star that they have been observing that following the recent Eid holidays, many expectant mothers have come with symptoms of cold and fever, likely due to sudden changes in weather conditions.

She also recommended wearing breathable clothing, eating small, easily digestible meals frequently throughout the day, taking showers regularly, sleeping, and avoiding prolonged sun exposure, especially at noon.

## Withdraw restrictions on journalists immediately

### TIB calls upon Bangladesh Bank

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) yesterday expressed deep concern over the restrictions on journalists' access to Bangladesh Bank.

The organisation called for immediate withdrawal of such a move, terming this restriction an unprecedented obstacle in the way of media's professional responsibility in disclosing banking and financial sector information for public interest.

In a written statement, TIB Executive Director Iftekaruzzaman said the restrictions are an unethical and arbitrary step in the way of ensuring people's legal right to know information.

He questioned what message the top leadership of Bangladesh Bank wants to send to everyone by deciding to stop the free flow of information when the banking sector is plagued by various crises, including bad loans, financial fraud, and lack of good governance.

"Is this initiative taken to hide the information of their own failure to bring good governance to the

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## BANGLADESH'S PROGRESS

### What Pakistan can see, BNP cannot: Quader

BSS, Dhaka

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday said BNP always sees darkness in the daylight and that's why they cannot see the development of the country.

"Although Pakistan admires the development of Bangladesh, the opposition could not see the development as they [BNP] see darkness in the daylight," he said.

Quader, also the road transport and bridges

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## Dhaka seeks global action to cut carbon emissions

AGENCIES

Environment, Forest, and Climate Change Minister Saber Hussain Chowdhury engaged in a bilateral meeting with Saudi Arabia's Chief Climate Negotiator, Khalid M. Almeheid, during the Petersburg Climate Dialogue in Berlin, Germany, on Thursday.

The meeting underscored the commitment of both nations to collaborate on addressing pressing climate challenges and advancing the global climate agenda.

The two exchanged insights and perspectives on key issues such as renewable energy adoption, and climate adaptation strategies.

Saber reiterated Bangladesh's unwavering dedication to ambitious climate action, highlighting the country's significant strides in renewable energy development and climate resilience efforts.

He emphasised the importance of international cooperation and collective action in achieving the goals outlined in the Paris Agreement.



LANE OF IRONY... Cyclists ply the main lane on this road in the Agargaon area while private cars sit parked in the bicycle lane. Introduced in 2019 by DNCC, this bicycle lane has brought little relief to cyclists in the city as more often than not it is illegally occupied by vehicles. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS