



## 44th death anniversary of Sher-e-Bangla today

BSS, Dhaka

The 44th death anniversary of Sher-e-Bangla AK Fazlul Hoque will be observed today in a befitting manner across the country.

Various political and socio-cultural organisations drawn up elaborate programmes, including milad mahfil and discussion to mark the day.

President Iajuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia gave separate messages yesterday on the occasion.

President Iajuddin recalled the contribution of Sher-e-Bangla in dissemination of education along with on a self-reliant nation.

He said the great leader would ever be remembered for his lifelong struggle against oppression of the common people.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, in her message, recalled Sher-e-Bangla's role in the movement against British rulers alongside his struggles for the rights of poor people.

She said AK Fazlul Hoque is an indelible name in the history of Indian sub-continent. Sher-e-Bangla had played a pioneering role in protecting rights of the poor and the underprivileged.



## Death anniversary of Samad Azad today

UNB, Dhaka

The first death anniversary of former foreign minister and Awami League president member Abdu Samad Azad will be observed today.

To mark the day, Awami League will hold a milad mahfil at its central office after Asr prayers.

Distribution of food among the destitute and a milad mahfil have also been arranged at his village home at Sunamganj after Zohr prayers.

Besides, another milad mahfil will be held at his Dhanmondi residence in Dhaka after Asr prayers on Friday.

AL General Secretary Abdul Jaill urged party leaders and activists to observe the death anniversary of Samad Azad with due respect, said a press release.

## General Stackpole arrives

BSS, Dhaka

Former US Marine Task Force commander Lt Gen Henry C Stackpole arrived in the city yesterday on a five-day goodwill visit to attend the 15th anniversary of 'Operation Sea Angel'.

Adjutant General of Bangladesh Army Major General Md Matur Rahman received him at Zia International Airport. High officials of the US Embassy in Dhaka were also present at the airport.

In the wake of a devastating cyclone that hit coastal areas of Bangladesh on April 29, 1991, General Stackpole, then commander of the 5th Marine Expedition Brigade of the US Marine Task Force, with 4,700 Naval personnel and 2,400 sailors and 8 Warships took part in the relief and rescue operation titled in the affected areas with Bangladesh Armed Forces.

During his stay in Dhaka, General Stackpole will call on Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant General Moeen U Ahmed.

He will place wreaths at Banshkhal, Chittagong, in memory of the victims of 1991 cyclone and will visit the under construction cyclone shelter-cum-school at Malum Ghat there.

He will also make a presentation on Civil-Military Cooperation on 'Operation Sea Angel'.



Prime Minister Khaleda Zia speaks at the Third Saarc Health Ministers' Meeting at Sonargaon Hotel in the city yesterday.

## PM calls for combating AIDS in Saarc countries

Regional strategy launched

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday called for formation of a broad-based compact between the government and civil society stakeholders to combat the massive challenge of HIV/AIDS in South Asian countries.

"HIV/AIDS poses major health and economic challenge for contemporary South Asia," she said while inaugurating the Third Saarc Health Ministers' Meeting at Sonargaon Hotel in the city.

The prime minister also formally launched the Saarc Regional Strategy on HIV/AIDS at the function.

"I hope the strategy will complement actions that all our countries are taking at the national level to contain the spread of HIV/AIDS," said Begum Zia, who is also Chairperson of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc).

Health and Family Welfare Minister of the host country Dr Khandaker Mosharrif Hossain, chair of the last health ministers' meeting Pakistan Health Minister Mohammad Nasir Khan, Indian State Minister for Health Pranabaka Lakshmi and Saarc Secretary General Chenkyab Dorji also addressed the inaugural ceremony of the daylong conference.

UNAIDS Representative Mohammad Ali Bhuiyan presented a statement on the Saarc Regional Strategy on HIV/AIDS, developed by the Saarc countries in partnership with the UNAIDS. The inaugural ceremony was followed by two working sessions.

Ministers, MPs, diplomats, members of international organisations and civil society and senior government officials were present at the inaugural function.

The prime minister stressed the need for adequate preparations to prevent and control health emergencies like the recent outbreak of Bird Flu.

"In most recent times, bird flu has affected some parts of South Asia. These affects lives and livelihoods of many of our ordinary people," she said.

She highlighted some other areas of concern saying South Asia often faces major health emergencies such as Avian Influenza and Dengue.

Suggesting cooperation in pharmaceutical production, Khaleda Zia hoped that the health ministers would consider it seriously as to how best Saarc nations can benefit from each other's capabilities in the "area of great promise."

The prime minister looked forward to a very productive deliberation in the meeting and hoped that the meeting would richly contribute to enriching cooperation within the region in the area of health.

"The fundamental rationale for cooperation at the level of Saarc is that the common people of the region will stand to benefit from fruits of such cooperation. We wish Saarc to a people's organisation," she said and added the efforts in the broad areas of health are of utmost significant in this regard.

Begum Zia said the health ministers' meeting is taking place at an important juncture of SAARC's history as the 13th summit in Dhaka in last November emphatically resolved that the SAARC's third decade should be focused, result-oriented and time-bound.

She, therefore, requested the meeting to have a hard look at the implementation status of the earlier decisions taken in the area of health and population, and carefully consider the implications while formulating new decisions and framing new strategies.

The prime minister said the 13th SAARC summit underlined the need for developing regional strategy for prevention and treatment of dengue, tuberculosis (TB), malaria and other infectious diseases like Kalazar.

The SAARC summit also decided to launch a regional initiative to ensure basic healthcare services and sanitation in the rural areas, she said and called upon the health ministers to consider how best to cooperate in this regard.

She said sharing of various models of innovative community-based service delivery mechanisms developed by SAARC member states would go a long way in developing a sustainable regional programme.

In this context, she said Bangladesh has made definite strides in the use of sanitary latrines in the rural areas. "We hope to ensure a hundred per cent success in this regard by 2010," she said and wished to share the Bangladesh experience with the SAARC neighbours.

Referring to the vast economic potentials of the region "that can be tapped through cooperation", Begum Zia said, "We are also mindful of the challenges arising out of endemic poverty, malnutrition, population density and high prevalence of communicable and non-communicable diseases."

Referring to the endeavours by the Saarc countries to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the prime minister said Bangladesh has already achieved the goal relating to universal access to safe drinking water with about 96 per cent safe drinking water beneficiaries in 2004.

## Titu flown to Bangkok for treatment

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Critically injured photojournalist Anurup Das Titu was flown to Bangkok for advanced treatment yesterday.

He left Chittagong Shah Amanat International Airport by a Thai flight at 11:35am.

In Bangkok, Titu will undergo treatment at Bamroongrad Hospital. Bangladesh Cricket Control Board will bear the cost of the treatment and other related expenses.

Titu's uncle Tamal Chowdhury, also a sports reporter and BCCB Member Advocate Shaheen Aftabur Reza are accompanying him.

Titu, a photo journalist of local daily Purbokone, received critical head injury in the police attack on the first day of the second test between Bangladesh and Australia at Chittagong divisional stadium on April 16.

The media bashing by police that also left at least twenty other journalists, six critically, drew flak from local and international media as well as different organisations.

## BSU reunion tomorrow

Bangladesh Students' Union (BSU) will hold a reunion tomorrow on the occasion of its 54th founding anniversary, says a press release.

The reunion will be held at Battala in front of the arts faculty building on the Dhaka University campus at 11:00am.

The BSU has requested all former leaders and activists to attend the reunion.



## Obituary

Rossana Massari, cultural and political attaché for the Italian Embassy in Dhaka, passed away in Bangkok on April 13 after a prolonged illness at the age of 66, says a press release.

She lived in Bangladesh for the last 32 years, working for the Italian Embassy for much of that time. She is survived by her daughter Tahira.

Rossana Massari made a great contribution to strengthening the relationship between Italy and Bangladesh. She promoted cultural and economic events and was deeply involved in development issues.

To commemorate her life, a concert of classical music by sarod maestro Shahadat Hussain Khan will be held in the Italian Embassy compound, Plot # 2 & 3, Road # 74-79, Gulshan # 2, at 7:00pm on April 29.

## Prof Abdul Halim Khan

Prof Abdul Halim Khan, former principal of Nabinagar College and managing director of The Brother and Brothers, passed away at the Gastro-liver Clinic in the city on April 25, says a press release.

He left behind his wife and two daughters.

On the occasion, a qulhwani and doa mahfil will be held at Johrabad Jame Masjid at Mirpur after Juma prayers and at his Gulshan residence after Asr prayers on Friday.

## Nasreen Huq's janaza tomorrow

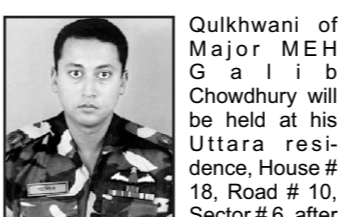
Namaz-e- janaza of Nasreen Huq, country director of Action Aid Bangladesh, will be held on the premises of Dhanmondi Eidghah mosque tomorrow after Juma prayers, says a press release.

The body will be kept at House 51, Road 9A, Dhanmondi R/A from 11:00am to 12:30pm prior to janaza.

Her qulhwani will be held on Saturday at the same place after Asr prayers.

Nasreen Pervin Huq died following an accident at the car park of her residence in Dhanmondi on April 24.

## Qulhwani



Asr prayers today, says a press release.

Major Galib died in a road accident on Saturday.

A milad mahfil will be held on the occasion. Relatives, friends and well-wishers have been requested to attend the qulhwani.

## 'Use Internet to become global village member'

### Cyber Fair 2006 begins in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

President Iajuddin Ahmed has called upon the young generation to use Internet to become a member of global village.

He said every new innovation brings both positive and negative effects for the society, Internet is also not any exception to it.

The president was speaking at the inaugural ceremony of Cyber Fair 2006 at Bhasani Novo Theatre in the city yesterday.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Science and Information and Communication Technology, Cyber Café Owners' Association of Bangladesh (CCOAB) is organising the five-day fair of cyber services for the first time in the country.

The president said the use of information technology is very important to be connected globally, but its misuse is not acceptable.

He asked the ministry concerned and civil society to take adequate steps in tackling the valueless use of Internet.

"If all concerned work together, our young generation can innovate more new ICT products by utilising Internet as well as computer technology," he added.

The president urged the owners of cyber cafés to take proper initiative in protecting the younger generation from distasteful use of Internet.

They must be concerned to prevent misuse of this invaluable technology, he added.

Speaking as special guest, Science and ICT Minister Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan said no nation can

move forward without information technology in the present global scenario.

"We are planning to launch e-governance to build up a close relation between general people and the government," he added.

Quoting an EU (European Union) survey, the minister said Bangladesh at present is one of the top ICT software developer country.

"Our position will be further improved as we are going to be connected with submarine cable network next month," he added.

At present, some 500 cyber cafés are in operation, but people have no idea about the café culture and the services they offer, said Md Sabur Khan, chief executive officer of Dafodil Group and chairman of the fair committee.

"We are planning to focus on telecommunications, community computing, science and technology, public health and administration so that the visitors can know about cyber facilities," he added.

Secretary to Ministry of Science and ICT Mian Mushtaq Ahmed, Chairman of Privatisation Commission Inam Ahmed Chowdhury and Ashfaquddin Mamun, general secretary of CCOAB and chief co-ordinator of the fair organising committee, also spoke at the inaugural session.

CCOAB President Md Zahurul Hossain, Basis President Sarwar Alam and President of Bangladesh Computer Society Dr Aminul Haq were present on the occasion.

Bangladesh Computer Samity, Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services

(Basis), Internet Service Provider Association of Bangladesh (ISPB) and Bangladesh Computer Society are the co-organisers of the fair.

Eastern Bank Ltd is the co-sponsor of the fair while Skybd, an internet service provider is the official ISP. The Daily Star, the Jugantor and Channel-i are the media partner of the fair while Pepsi Bangladesh is the official drinks.

A total of 58 local organisations comprising web developers, job portals, BPO companies, mobile content developers, mobile operators, ICT education institutions, application developers, business portals, internet service providers, ICT consultants, software and hardware companies are showcasing their products at 50 stalls and 10 pavilions in the fair.

Organisers said they have also arranged some events for the visitors.

These include a free-access Internet browsing zone, a game zone and Internet application zone to provide different Internet facilities to the visitors.

Besides, seminars on latest technologies such as fibre optic and Wifi technology will be conducted on the sidelines of the fair, they added.

The fair will remain open from 10:00am to 9:00pm daily.

The entry fee has been fixed at Tk 10.

## Contractor shot dead in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Criminals shot a contractor dead apparently due to intra conflict in Pallabi area in the city yesterday.

Sources said Zakir Khan Iran, 34, a local contractor and a listed criminal accused in two murder cases, was watching cricket match between Australia versus Bangladesh on television at Nagar Baul Bahumukhi Samobay Samity office at around 3:45pm. Suddenly his mobile phone rang and he went out to receive the call.

"After a short while the television viewers at the samity office heard sound of firing. As they came out, they found Zakir writhing on the road with bullet hit his head. They also saw a motorbike was swiftly running away and a man was also running", said eye witness Muhammad Dulal.

Locals chased the man, named Biplab, captured him and handed

him over to the police.

Meantime, Zakir was rushed to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) where the doctors declared him dead.

Pallabi police said Zakir was a listed criminal of Mirpur area and an accused in two murder cases.

Police suspect that he might have been killed due to intra conflict with rival groups.

Meanwhile, an unidentified youth was brought to DMCH in the early hours yesterday and was declared dead by the doctors.

The body bears marks of injuries in the back and in two legs, which indicate that he was beaten to death, said the morgue sources.

A man who, among others, brought the victim to DMCH said they found him lying in front of a shopping complex at Senpara-Parbata area in Mirpur.

## Moinul Islam takes oath as MP

UNB, Dhaka

Speaker Jamir Uddin Sircar administered oath to newly elected MP Moinul Islam Khan at Sangsad Bhaban yesterday.

Moinul, a candidate of the ruling four-party alliance, was declared elected in the recent by-polls to Manikganj-4 constituency.

Deputy Speaker Akhter Hamid Siddiqui, chief whip Khandaker Delwar Hossain and leaders of the alliance were present on the occasion.

## Tongi Poursava polls today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Election to Tongi municipality will be held today amid tight security since all the 65 polling centres have been identified as "vulnerable."

A 28-member security team along with one magistrate will be stationed at each centre until the completion of the election to ensure peaceful election.

Ten platoons of BDR, five platoons of armed police, and around 2,500 Ansars will be deployed to maintain the law and order situation. In addition, six mobile courts and a special team of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) will also be active in the municipal area.

A total of 1,73, 416 voters will cast their votes to elect one chairman and 15 commissioners from 88 candidates. Casting of vote will continue from morning to afternoon without any break.

Incumbent Chairman Advocate Azmat Ullah Khan from Awami League (AL) will contest with Hafiz Uddin Sarkar from the ruling four-party alliance and Nurul Islam Sarkar, an independent candidate, for the chairman post. Mentionable, Nurul Islam Sarkar is a convict in the AL lawmaker Ahsanullah Master murder case.

Azmat Ullah won the post in 1995 beating the then Jatiya Party candidate Nurul Islam Sarkar and was re-elected in 2000 after defeating Hafizuddin Sarkar by 7,000 votes.

## WEATHER TODAY

### Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Jessore, Kushtia and Comilla in the next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country. Met Office said and predicted slight rise in day temperature.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 37.5 degree Celsius was recorded at Chuadanga and the lowest of 21.8 degrees at Sayedpur.

**The sun sets in the capital at 6:26pm today and rises at 5:27am tomorrow.**

The 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	35.7	25.7	84	57
Chittagong	35.0	25.0	79	77
Rajshahi	37.0	23.5	73	50
Khulna	36.0	25.6	65	62
Barisal	35.6	25.6	--	63
Sylhet	33.7	23.7	55	61
Cox's Bazar	33.4	25.1	71	75



Food godown workers take out a procession carrying sticks at Tejgaon in the city yesterday demanding arrest and punishment to notorious criminal Nabi Solaiman.

## RURAL ELECTRIFICATION SYSTEM REB's reluctant attitude makes it vulnerable

### PBS chairmen tell meeting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chairmen of Palli Bidyut Samities (PBSs) have blamed reluctant attitude of Rural Electrification Board (REB), political influence and corruption for making the rural electrification system vulnerable.

Addressing a meeting yesterday, they also opposed the recent government circular which said no fee will be imposed on the consumers in cases of stealing electric wires and transformers.

Abdur Rashid, chairman of Manikganj PBS, said neither the REB officials nor the general manager of the samity paid any heed to the needs of the consumers even after making calls with the board chairman.

"The general manager could not secure an approval from the REB in giving connections as he failed to pay them bribe," he alleged.

Manikganj will be another Kansat if the demand of the consumers for electricity is not met within a month, he cautioned.

State Minister for Power Iqbal Hasan Mahmood assured him of

consumers to seek bribes from them. Asadul Biswas, chairman of Chuadanga-Meherpur PBS, said time has come to investigate why the consumers have taken a stand against the samity and do not pay bills.

He said the rural electrification systems should be freed from the clutches of politics in a bid to ensure smooth supply of electricity to rural people.

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forming a ministerial committee to investigate the matter in Manikganj PBS.

Chapainawabganj PBS Chairman Monirul Islam identified lack of coordination between the REB and the concerned PBS that led to Kansat killings saying that if the issues of meter rents and load shedding were explained to the locals, 21 people would have not been killed.

Majority of the PBS chairmen expressed concern over the existence of the PBS if the consumers are not made liable for stealing electric wires and transformers.

Shamsul Haque Bokul of Naogaon PBS questioned who will replace the stolen transformers?

"The rate of stealing transformers will be increased under the new rule," he said.

Azizur Rahman, chairman of Faridpur PBS, suggested imposition of at least 25 per cent penalties on the consumers for stealing transformers.