

## 'Women's participation a must for making politics constructive'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Increased participation of women can make the politics more constructive, said the speakers at a seminar yesterday.

They said participation of women in policy formulation can also stop discrimination and violence against them.

The seminar on 'Women in Politics in Bangladesh' was organised by Legislative Support Service Project (LSSP) of Manabik Sahajya Sangstha (MSS) in the city.

In her keynote paper, Dr Dilara Choudhury said political participation of women in our country is

marginal as they are in weak position in our society.

She said the government is promise-bound to ensure more involvement of women in politics and every aspect of development as a signatory to different international conventions.

"But unfortunately they are not interested in doing so as the mainstream politics is male-dominated", she said adding "It could be perceived from their silence over the increase of reserved women seats in parliament."

"Women members of parliament from the reserved seats were

neglected and they were not involved in any decision making process", said Razia Matin Chowdhury, a former MP from the reserved seat.

She said there should be fixed quota for women in political parties for their nomination to parliament election.

G M Kader MP said leaders of women organisations and political parties should sit together as soon as possible to take a decision about the reserved seat of women in parliament.

The seminar was also addressed by Roushan Ershad MP, Advocate Promod Mankin, Prof Dr M S

Akbar, Prof M A Mannan, Muhammad Kamaruzzaman of Jamaat-e-Islami, Sheikh Shahidul Islam of Jatiya Party (Manju), Ahas Habib of Communist Party of Bangladesh, Anjum Ara of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, and Deborah Healy, director, Political Party Programme of National Democratic Institute.

The speakers urged the government and leading political parties to fulfil their electoral pledges to increase women's involvement in power structure, leadership and decision making process.

They said negative attitudes towards women's political participation should also be changed.

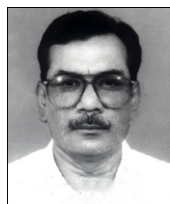
## Boat with 828 bags of rice sinks in Padma

UNB, Munshiganj

An engine boat carrying some 2,000 maunds of rice sank in the Padma near Mawa Ferry ghat in Louhajang yesterday.

Locals said the boat, heading towards Chandpur from Naogaon with 828 bags of rice, capsized in the river as it was caught in a whirlpool.

## Obituary



Yeahiyah Chowdhury Pintoo, a freedom fighter and ex-social welfare secretary of Awami League, died of a cardiac arrest at Mediaid

clinic on June 30 at the age of 65, says a press release.

He is survived by his wife, three daughters and two sisters.

His quikhwani will be held at his residence at 14/1, Lake Circus, Kalabagan after Asr prayers today.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the qul.

Awami League President and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina and General Secretary Abdul Jalil expressed condolence at the death of Yeahiyah Chowdhury.

## Prof Abdul Kader



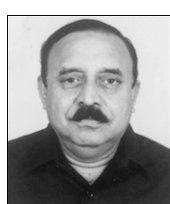
Prof Md Abdul Kader, founder of the monthly Computer Jagat and deputy director (training) of Directorate of Education, died at his Dhan-

mondi residence yesterday at the age of 55, says a press release.

A pioneer in IT movement, Prof Kader also edited and published Torotokka, a juvenile science magazine.

He is survived by his wife and two sons.

## AFM Hasan Dastagir



AFM Hasan Dastagir, founder-managing director of Purabi General Insurance and Desh General Insurance company Ltd., died at his Mohammadpu

r residence in the city on June 29 at the age of 62, says a press release.

He is survived by his mother, wife and three daughters.

His quikhwani will be held at his residence at House # 21, Road # 5, Pisciculture Housing Society, Sheikh Tek, Mohammadpur, at 5.00pm today.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the qul.

## Chehlum

BSS, Dhaka



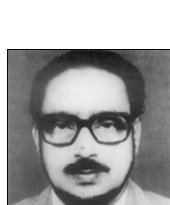
Chehlum of Major (Retd) Syed Abu Sadeque will be held at his residence at House-84, Gausul Azam Avenue, Sector-13, Uttara, after

Juma prayers today.

A valiant freedom fighter, Major Sadeque was the senior general manager of Petrobangla.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the chehlum.

## Death anniversary



The third death anniversary of Dr A K M Shamsul Huda, a language movement veteran, will be observed today, says a press release.

A milad mahfil will be held at his residence in Mirpur after Asr prayers.

Relatives and admirers have been requested to attend the milad.



Khan Foundation organised a discussion on 'Gender Equality and Violence against Women' in the city yesterday. From left are Jone Moore, counsellor of Canadian High Commission, Advocate Rokhsana Khondoker, executive director of Khan Foundation, Justice Md Ruhul Amin of Supreme Court, Dr Abul Moyeen Khan, minister for Science and Information and Communication Technology, and Justice Md Fazlul Karim.

## Chief Justice underscores application of ADR

BSS, Dhaka

Chief Justice K M Hasan yesterday emphasised the need for application of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) at the grassroots level to achieve the goals of quick dispensation of justice.

"Like any good law, the ADR will also remain largely ineffective and a mere paper legislation if this legislation is not duly activated," he said while inaugurating a day-long training workshop at a city hotel.

The workshop on 'Mediation techniques: Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) in the Civil Justice Delivery System in Bangladesh' was jointly organised by the Legal and Judicial Capacity Building Project and the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs.

At least 100 judges and lawyers of Dhaka Division took part in the workshop.

Presided over by Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Moudud Ahmed, the inaugural function was also addressed by State Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs M Shahjahan Omar, World Bank's Country Director Christine I Wallich, Law Secretary Mohammed Asaduzzaman, and Project Director M Fazlur Rahman.

The chief justice said the ADR concept was introduced in the country to avoid delay, unnecessary expenses and congestion in the process of civil litigation. He said this concept would be fruitful if put into practice at the grassroots

level by all concerned.

Moudud Ahmed in his speech brought a similarity between the new concept of ADR and the traditional Salish system, which had long been in practice in rural areas to settle various disputes.

"The government has only given a legal shape to it by amend-

ing the civil procedure code to make justice more accessible and affordable to the litigants," he said.

Moudud Ahmed said the success of ADR concept mostly depends on the sincere and good wishes of the judges and the lawyers.

## Number of docs rises three times in 22 years

BSS, Dhaka

The number of registered physicians has increased three times in the last 22 years.

During the period, the number of beds in hospitals and dispensaries has increased two times while the number of registered nurses went up six times.

According to sources of the Health and Family Welfare Ministry, the number of tuberculosis hospitals remains the same in the last 22 years.



Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote formed a human chain in the city yesterday to protest the nomination of Salauddin Qader Chowdhury for the post of OIC secretary general.

## 7 AL, BCL men held with arms in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, KHULNA

Seven activists of Awami League and Chhatra League were arrested at a fish farm at Kapashdanga under Rampal upazila in the early hours of yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off, police raided the fish farm at 3am and nabbed the seven.

They also recovered two foreign made guns and 21 cartridges from their possession.

The arrestees are -- Mesbahuddin Mukta, 28, younger brother of Khulna district, BCL president Shaikh Abu Hanif, Monirul Huq Babu, 33, son of slait Awami League leader of Rampal Shaikh Abu Zafar, Khulna city BCL activist Wahab Molla, 28, Rampal AL activists Bishnupada Biswas, 38, and Mohammad Ghazi, 30, and Dumuria AL activist Atiar Rahman, 35.

The arrested AL and BCL men are being questioned at Rampal Police Station, said OC.

## Amin Jute Mills workers stage demonstration for wages

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Hundreds of workers of Amin Jute Mills Limited yesterday staged demonstration demanding their wages.

No untoward incident, however, occurred as police were posted in and around the mill area and production too was not hampered, Ayub Chowdhury, general manager, told this correspondent over telephone in the evening.

Police and mill sources said the incident took place at around 10.00am when

about three hundred workers of the morning shift came out of the mill and demonstrated peacefully on the busy Chittagong-Hathazari road and rail track near Aturar Depot and Oxygen areas under Panchlaish and Baizid Bostami Thana. The workers withdrew their agitation at 11.00am when mill authorities paid them wages of one week and assured them that the wages of remaining four weeks would be paid as soon as possible.

"We could pay them only Tk 35 lakh under an arrangement with the Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) which gave the money from its emergency fund," GM Ayub Hossain said.



Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf distributes relief materials among the flood victims in Feni on Wednesday.

### WEATHER TODAY

## Light rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over Barisal, Sylhet, Chittagong and Rajshahi divisions and at one or two places over Dhaka and Khulna divisions in the next 24 hours till 6.00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 34.4 degree Celsius was recorded at Jessore and the lowest of 24.5 degree at Faridur.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:50 pm today and rises at 5:16am tomorrow.

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

City/Town	Temperature		Humidity in	
	Max	Min	M	orning
Evening Dhaka	32.4	27.0	7	5
Chittagong	31.6	26.0	6	9
Rajshahi	33.7	26.5	8	2
Khulna	32.6	27.0	8	4
	78			