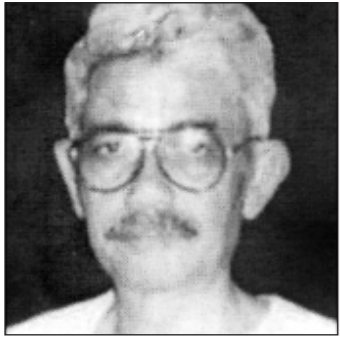


Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina addresses a public meeting in Narayanganj on May 1.



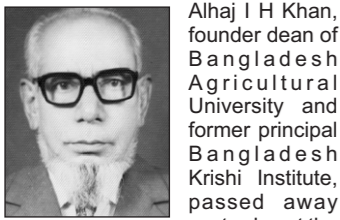
Bidhan Krishna Sen passes away

Bidhan Krishna Sen, a freedom fighter and an accused in Agartala Conspiracy Case, died of cardiac arrest at the National Institute of Cardio-vascular Disease (NIVD) in the city yesterday at the age of 72, says a press release.

Bidhan Krishna, also founder member of the Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD), was hospitalised on April 27.

His body was sent to Chittagong for cremation with state honour.

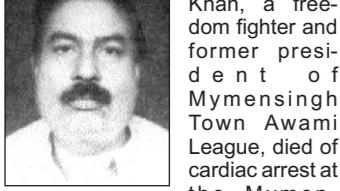
Alhaj I H Khan



Alhaj I H Khan, founder dean of Bangladesh Agricultural University and former principal Bangladesh Krishi Institute, passed away yesterday at the age of 87, says a press release.

He left behind his five sons and two daughters.

M Shajahan Khan



M Shajahan Khan, a freedom fighter and former president of Mymensingh Town Awami League, died of cardiac arrest at the Mymensingh Medical College Hospital in Mymensingh on April 30 at the age of 56, says a press release.

He is survived by his wife, two daughters and three sons to mourn his death.

Shajahan was laid to rest at the Bhatkhasar graveyard after namaz-e-janaza at the Mymensingh Jamia Islamia (Islamic University) premises on May 1.

His qulhwani will be held at Bakultala ground after Asr prayers today.

People voice no-confidence in coalition govt: AL

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) General Secretary Abdul Jalil yesterday said the people voiced their no-confidence in the ruling coalition led by BNP-Jamaat by responding to his deadline to dislodge the government.

"The government considered the people as its opponent and took repressive measures to cling to power by resorting to mass arrests," said Jalil who predicted to force the government to resign through a mass upsurge by April 30.

The AL leader was addressing a rally in front of the party central office at Bangabandhu Avenue.

Dhaka City unit of AL organised the rally to protest the mass arrests and demand the release of all arrested persons by the police in run up to an AL-set deadline for the fall of the government.

Jalil urged the party workers and the people in general to gear up the ongoing agitation in a bid to topple the government in the shortest possible time to pave the way for snap polls.

AL leader Zillur Rahman said the government lost its confidence in the people and depended on the police to continue its repressive rule.

Termining the government after April 30 as "clinically dead", he said they cannot escape their imminent fall.

He said by responding to April 30 deadline, the people have shown that they don't want the alliance government anymore.

AL leaders Amir Hossain Amu, Tofael Ahmed, Mukul Bose, Abdul Mannan, Abdul Rahman, Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya and Jubo League Chairman Jahangir Kabir Nanok also addressed the rally chaired by Mohammad Hanif.

Involve adolescents in HIV prevention

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday called for involving the adolescents in the prevention of HIV virus in the country.

"Give them a sense of responsibility and pride. If we act now especially with the young people, we could have tremendous gain in future," said Shamsuddin Ahmed, Unicef communications officer.

Presenting the keynote paper at a seminar on 'HIV/AIDS threat in Bangladesh', Ahmed said, "Young people are the greatest help for defeating HIV/AIDS. An effective way to reach adolescents is to help them play an active role in prevention campaigns."

He said schools are the hub for such prevention lessons. Education represents the best opportunity not only for delivering crucial information about HIV/AIDS but also for removing the ignorance and fear that perpetuate among the youths about HIV/AIDS.

Unicef Resident Representative Dr Morten Geirsing said, "There is no reason to believe that maintaining good cultural values can stop HIV transmission. In fact, Bangladesh has all the haul marks for a possible HIV epidemic."

Jahanara Imam's 76th anniversary of birth today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 76th birth anniversary of Jahanara Imam, popularly known as Shaheed Janani (mother of martyr), will be observed today.

A renowned writer and activist Jahanara Imam spearheaded a popular movement that sought to bring the collaborators of the liberation war to trial and ban the communal politics in the country in 1992.

In her speech, Australian High Commissioner Lorrain Barker said, "There is a need for strong political leadership in combating HIV/AIDS threat in Bangladesh."

"It is very important to adopt an integrated approach at the policy level to address the issue and develop partnership consequently."

Organised by the Commonwealth Cultural Society of Bangladesh (CCSB) and Neway Bangladesh (NB), the seminar was also addressed by Prof Israt Shamim of Dhaka University, Syed Sukur Ali, president of CCSB, and N Srinarayan, chairman of NB.

Bangladeshi-born British HC arrives today

AFP, Dhaka

A Bangladeshi-born engineer will serve as Britain's new ambassador to Bangladesh, making him one of the highest-ranking Muslims in the British foreign service, officials said yesterday.

Anwar Choudhury, 44, will arrive in Dhaka today to become the first British high commissioner to Bangladesh to be born in the country, an embassy statement said.

A spokesman for the Foreign Office in London said the number of minorities in Britain's diplomatic corps was "steadily increasing."

"The appointments reflect the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's commitment to diversity," the spokesman said.

Choudhury was born in Sylhet district which produces many of the Bangladeshi immigrants to Britain. He left Bangladesh as a child and was educated in Britain as an engineer before serving the Royal Air Force and defence ministry.

Since 2000, he had been director of the "office of the e-embassy" which aims to put British government services online.

PM's gift for stipend-holders

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, who announced 2004 as the 'Child Literature Year', will send some 16,000 books to stipend-holders along with a letter advising them to develop a thirst for book reading.

Her personal letter with the gift, being sent through the Jatiya Grantho Kendro, is meant for encouraging the recipients to read more and more books to acquire knowledge beyond their formal studies.

The step aims at making the "Child Literature Year" a success, officials said yesterday.

In the letter the PM hopes that the gift will encourage the students more in reading books and establishing themselves as "enlightened future generation of the country."

The government has taken a number of programmes to enhance reading habit and the prime minister announced the years 2002 as 'National Book Year', 2003 as 'National Library Year' and 2004 as 'Child Literature Year'.

Book on private university launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Muslehuddin Ahmad, the initiator of the first private university of the country North South University, yesterday launched his book that describes the genesis, establishment and rise of the university and the events that followed.

"The Tale of the first private university of Bangladesh North South University" focussed on the reasons that prompted him to pioneer a private university in Bangladesh.

Speaking at the launching ceremony at the conference hall of Presidency University of which he is the vice-chancellor now, Muslehuddin thanked his family for initiating the movement and all those who were with him during the difficult times he went through in its establishment.

Commenting on the book and Muslehuddin Ahmad's endeavour, Prof. Dr. M. Asaduzzaman, Chairman University Grants Commission spoke on the milestone passed in the history of private universities. He also said that not all could build universities and fight for quality in them.

Justice Mustafa Kamal praised Muslehuddin Ahmad, for his commitment in making the North South University and for once again stooping to start another university of the same calibre.

Winding up, Prof. Dr. Wahiduddin Mahmood, Chairman of the programme, thanked everyone for their involvement in assisting Muslehuddin Ahmad in the launch of his book.

Finally, in conclusion Prof. Moniruzzaman Miah, Chairman, National Education Council, insisted that quality should be maintained in universities and laws should be passed in the governance of quality.

Death anniversary

Today is the first death anniversary of Badsha Sarder, father of Ahmed Sumari, senior reporter of Jahangirnagar University Public Relations office, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at the Savar Central Jame Mosque after Zohr prayers today.

Qulkhwani

Qulkhwani of Alhaj Begum Anowara Islam, wife of Eastern Group of Companies Chairman Alhaj AKM Saiquatul Islam, will be held at her residence at House No-19-20, Road No-113/A, Gulshan-2 in the city after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

Begum Anowara was killed in a road accident in Pabna on April 29.

WB AUDIT REPORT SAYS Tk 16,000 CRORE MISSING FROM NCBS

PM, finance minister responsible: B Chy

UNB, Dhaka

Former President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury has said the prime minister and the finance minister will have to bear responsibility of the missing Tk 16,000 crore from four nationalised commercial banks (NCBs).

Quoting a recent audit report of the World Bank, he said some 300 factories could have been set up with Tk 16,000 crore creating jobs for three lakh workers. Besides, the Padma Bridge could have been constructed with this money.

B Chowdhury, who had to resign from the presidency following a BNP parliamentary party resolution in 2002, asked the government to find out the thieves.

He made the remarks at a May Day discussion at the 'Kanchi Kancha' auditorium in the city on Saturday.

Bikalpa Dhara member-secretary Major (ret'd) Abdul Mannan, Mahi B Chowdhury, Major General (ret'd) MA Halim, Jalal Ahmed of Garments Sramik Federation, Anwar Hossain of Saw Mills Sramik Association, MR Sikdar of Thai Aluminum Federation and Dr Ershad Sikdar Bachchu of Palli Chikitsak Parishad also addressed the meeting. Bikalpa Dhara national committee member Firoz M Hasan presided.

B Chowdhury said that if he was given the responsibility of running the country, he would induct at least one representative from the workers and one from the successful industrial entrepreneurs into the cabinet to resolve problems in the industrial sector through negotiation between the owners and the workers.

He said a permanent official committee should be formed to fix wages and allowances for the

workers. The committee will also recommend measures for education, health and welfare of the children of the workers.

Major (ret'd) Mannan demanded judicial inquiry into the alleged embezzlement of Tk 16,000 crore from the four nationalised commercial banks -- Rupali, Agrani, Sonali and Janata.

He wanted to know which "Bhaban" had taken away Tk 11,000 crore out of the missing Tk 16,000 crore. "How the finance minister could retain his job after this? The finance minister should have been sacked on that day," he told the meeting.

He said: "Today Bangladesh is the most corrupt country in the world. Bureaucrats, politicians and big fishes are involved in corruption. Their number is only 2,000. Corruption can be stopped if these 2,000 big shots can be caught."

ADB signs accord with LGED

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Asian Development Bank (ADB), the lead agency for implementing a US\$ 1.8 billion Primary Education Development Programme (PEDP-II), yesterday signed an agreement with the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) to house its programme liaison unit (PLU).

ADB Country Director Toru Shibuchi and LGED Chief Engineer Md Shahidul Hassan signed the lease agreement in the city on behalf of their respective sides.

The PLU has been set up to guide, monitor and oversee the work of the executing agency for implementing the PEDP-II, the country's biggest ever education programme aimed at reducing poverty and improving the quality of life for the children.

In consultation with the development partners, the ADB has decided to house PLU in an independent location to ensure its separate identity, said an ADB press release.

Accordingly, keeping in view the location of ADB's own building now under final phase of the construction, negotiations were held with the LGED to lease a portion of the fourth floor of its annex building for the purpose.

ADB is expected to move its new location by early June this year. The PLU will operate under the management of its Bangladesh Resident Mission and will have an important liaison responsibility on the matters of PEDP-II.

The primary education directorate of the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education is the executing agency while there are 11 development partners involved in the PEDP-II.



Muslehuddin Ahmad, author of the book titled "The Tale of First Private University North South University, speaks at its launching ceremony at the conference hall of the Presidency University in the city yesterday. Seated from left are Justice Mustafa Kamal, Prof. Dr. Wahiduddin Mahmood and Prof. Dr. Asaduzzaman.

DHAKA TODAY advertisement containing various event listings such as Grand conference, Seminar, Mass media conference, Foundation laying ceremony, Ashek-e-Rasul conference, Discussion, Blood donation, Film show, and Farewell ceremony.



Institute of Hazrat Mohammad (SAW) organises a discussion and prize giving ceremony in the city on the occasion of Rabiul Awal. From right, Law Minister Moudud Ahmed, Dean of the Diplomatic Corp Shahta Zarab and Institute President Syed Mohammad Ibrahim pose for photograph with the winners.

WEATHER TODAY advertisement featuring a weather forecast for Dhaka and other cities, including a table for temperature and humidity.