Bar Council polls today

Half of lawyers incompetent, inefficient: Mahbub

UNB, Dhaka

Half of about 25,000 lawyers enrolled in the bar are incompetent and inefficient, said senior lawyer Khandker Mahbubuddin Ahmed

Addressing a press conference at the National Press Club yesterday on the eve of Bangladesh Bar Council election today Khandker Mahbub held responsible its pres-



Advocate Khandker Mahbubuddin Ahmed speaks at a press conference at the National Press Club vesterday.

ent leadership for the 'degeneration' in the legal profession.

"They ruled over the Bar Council, the statutory body of the lawyers, for the last 15 years and enrolled Tom, Dick and Harry on political consideration to increase their vote bank so that they can perpetuate the rule," he added.

He said about "half of the lawyers cannot write a petition correctly even in Bangla. They prefer business including tender bungling rather than legal practice, keeping the identity as lawyer in the soci-

He urged the lawyers to vote for Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Oikya Parishad (JAOP) panel backed by the 4party alliance and led by Sheikh Razzak Ali, former Speaker to cleanse the statutory body of the

Govt law officers deputed to influence voters: Rokan

Sammilita Ainjibi Samannaya Parishad (SASP) panel leader Barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud at a separate press conference at Supreme Court Bar Association hall said that the government has indulged in dirty game in the Bar Council election. Ministers are promising funds to different bars



Barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud addresses a press conference at Supreme Court Bar Association hall vesterday.

and in many places presiding officers have been set to their

Government law officers have been deputed with bundles of money to influence the voters, he

Rokan, also president of the Supreme Court Bar Association, refuted the allegations of corruption in Bar Council.

The tenure of Barrister Amir-ul Islam who is vice-chairman for last six years ends in June.

New leadership of the Bar Council will be elected today for three-year term. Polling will be held at 78 centres across the country when some 24,846 lawyers are expected to cast vote.

The JAOP and SASP held separate projection meetings at Supreme Court Bar Association hall yesterday.

Confce on self-help approach in health sector begins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A two-day international conference began in the city yesterday with a call to integrate the voice of stakeholders into policy-making decisions in the health sector.

The conference, Self-help: Stakeholders perception and realisation, aims to provide a forum for the stakeholders to share their experiences with self-help approach.

More than 40 government, nongovernment and community-based organisations and development partners are taking part in the conference organised by a self-help promotion core group comprising eight members including ICDDR,B, Swiss Red Cross, Plan International and Dascoh.

"Self-help is a noble cause that already exists. We are not inventing anything new but looking forward to better alternatives and better ways to overcome the challenges in health sector." said Dr David A Sack. executive director of the Centre for Health and Population Research, at the inaugural session.

Atotal of six groups met yesterday for panel discussions on different topics under the banner of community-based organisations. local government, adolescents, regional network, cooperatives and development partners.

A declaration styled 'Dhaka Declaration' will be placed at the end of the two-day conference today.

Dr Md Mir Quashem of Bangladesh Rural Development Board and Dr Selina Choudhury were also present.

Obituary



Engineering and Technology (Buet), died of old-age complications at a hospital in the city yesterday at the age of 83, says a press release. Dr Naser, professor emeritus of

Dr MA Naser,

Bangladesh

chemical engineering at BUET, was also a former chairman of University Grants Commission He is survived by his wife, three

sons and a daughter. He hailed from village Damla, Bikrampur. His body has been kept at the mortuary at Birdem hospital. He will

be buried at Azimpur graveyard after his sons return from abroad.

Bakul Rani Sarkar CU CORRESPONDENT

Bakul Rani Sarkar, wife of eminent physician and ex-chief resident surgeon of Kemble Hospital, Kolkata late Dr. Sunil Bikash Sarkar. died of heart failure at a city clinic here vesterday morning at the age

She left behind her three sons, grandsons, granddaughters and a host of relatives to morn her death. Her funeral was held at Baluardighi in the port city in the

Qulkhwani

Qulkhwani of Aminur Rahman, former chief librarian of PTS Savar, will be held at Jaleshwar Mosque in Savar after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

He died of heart ailments on May 9. Relatives and well-wishers have been requested to attend the



Bangladesh-Bharat Moitree Samity organised a discussion at Cirdap auditorium in the city yesterday to mark the 143rd birth anniversary of poet Rabindranath Tagore. From left are JSD President Hasanul Haq Inu, Dr Durga Das Bhattacharva, Indian High Commissioner Veena Sikri and Dr Mridul Kanti Chakraborti.

'Tagore was source of inspiration for liberation struggle'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Poet Rabindranath Tagore was a source of unlimited inspiration for the liberation struggle, said Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil yesterday. His literary works still show the

way in any crisis situation for the society, culture and nation, he said at a programme marking the 143rd birth anniversary of the great poet. Bangladesh-Bharat Moitree Samity organised the event in the

city, with Dr Durga Das Bhattacharya in the chair. Barrister Tania Amir said Tagore is a global personality and all his literary creations call for liberty of individuals and protection of human

Tagore's philosophy and

thoughts is still relevant and is needed in the prevailing conditions where human rights are violated, movement of people is restricted and communalism is being promoted, she said.

She urged the authorities to preserve the works of Rabindranath Tagore for younger generations.

"Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore is a strong link in the friendship between Bangladesh and India. He is a part of our shared history and heritage," said Indian High Commissioner Veena Sikri.

"We are perhaps the only two countries in the world whose national anthems have been composed by the same poet," she said.

His plays and dance dramas continue to enthral the audiences even today because the social message they convey is still relevant, she said. As a compassionate man,

Tagore made new experiments in rural reconstruction for the welfare of the rural people and advocated community development programme, said the Indian high commissioner.

Hasanul Haq Inu, president of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, said, "The politicians in our country must be educated and honest to make a model nation and Tagore is an example for us.'

Writer Salam Azad, Sheikh Nurul Islam, Ismat Kadir Gama, Prem Ranian Dev. Advocate Delwar Hossain Bhuiyan, Dr Mridul Kanti Chakraborti also spoke.



Drawing contest

The Ain o Salish Kendra organises a drawing competition for children with a view to eliminating hazardous child labour. Venue: Mohammadpur Primary School. Time: 3.00pm.

BPJA roundtable

Bangladesh Parliament Journalist Association (BPJA) will hold a roundtable on 'Seats' for women in parliament: People's aspiration'. Venue: . National Press Club.

Film show

Academy Film Society will screen an Indian film titled 'Kaho Naa Pyaar Hai' (2001), an Australian film titled 'Strictly Ballroom' (1992) and a British film titled 'Romance' (1999). Venue: Society auditorium, 21/C Jigatola. Time: 3.30pm, 6.30pm and 8.30pm.

Prize giving ceremony

Gillette Bangladesh is organising a prize giving ceremony of a slogan contest titled 'Gillette Blue II -- Win your car'. Venue: Sheraton Hotel. Time:

Bapa roundtable

Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) and International Training Network, Buet, will hold a roundtable on 'Transforming human waste into resources: Method and management'. Venue: ITN seminar room, Buet. Time:

Workshop

The Gender in Media Forum organises a workshop. Venue: Planning and Development Academy Auditorium,

Nilkhet. Time: 9.30am. **Discussion**

A discussion in memory of journalist Manik Saha will be held, with Sardar Fazlul Karim in the chair. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 4.00pm.

BCU conference

A two-day conference of Bangladesh Chhatra Union. Dhaka University unit. will begin. Venue: Aparajeyo Bangla, DU campus. Time: 11.00am.

Certificate giving ceremony

Daffodil Multimedia Ltd. and Daffodil Institute of IT will hold the certificate giving ceremony of a workshop on 3D animation. Venue: DIIT auditorium, Dhanmondi. Time: 11.00am.

Seminar

Bangladesh Immigration Lawyers Samity organises a seminar on 'Higher study in Australia'. Venue: 83 Siddeswari Circular Road. Malibagh. Time: 10.00am.

DHÂKA TOMORROW

Dress exhibition

Kay Kraft organises a seven-day dress exhibition titled 'Summer fest'. Venue: Kay Kraft at Baily Road. Time: From 10.30am to 9.00pm daily. The exhibition will continue till May 20.



Association for Law, Research and Human Rights formed a human chain in front of the High Court yesterday protesting repression on prisoners in Iraq by the US-British occupation forces.

Special training courses for nurses to be introduced

UNB, Dhaka

Special training courses will be introduced for nurses for the development of specialised treatment in government hospitals.

Health Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain said this at a discussion meeting organised at Shaheed Dr Milon Auditorium of Dhaka Medical College on the occasion of International Nurses

The day is observed marking the birthday of Florence Nightingale as per the decision of International Nursing Council. In Bangladesh, the day is being observed for the first

Mosharraf said the curricula of training would be modified apart from including foreign languages in it for the development of nursing and creating opportunities for the nurses to work abroad.

"Some 1,000 nurses come out from 38 government and five private nursing institutes and one nursing college that is inadequate against our need." he said.

Mosharraf said the government would set up five more nursing institutes and one nursing college to raise the number of nurses as one

nurse has to assist two doctors in our country against international doctor-nurse ratio of 1:3.

"Some 2000 nurses have been appointed after creating new posts and the process of creating 2000 more posts for nurses is underway in addition to creating 800 posts of supervisors," he said.

Health Secretary AFM Sarwar

Kamal, Vice Chancellor of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Prof. MA Hadi, DG of Health Directorate Prof Dr Md Mizanur Rahman, WHO Country Representative Dr Sunity Achariya, Principal of Dhaka Medical College Prof. Dr Hosneara Tahmin, Principal of Dhaka Nursing College



A colourful procession was brought out in the city yesterday to mark the

International Nurses Day.

Today is the second death anniversary of Begum Lutfunnesa, mother of poet and architect Rabiul Husain,

Death anniversary

says a press release. A milad mahfil will be held at Kushtia Jam-e-Mosque and at her residence, 57 Shahi Bhusan Road, Thanapara, after Juma prayers tomorrow

Relatives and well-wishers have been requested to pray for salvation of the departed soul.