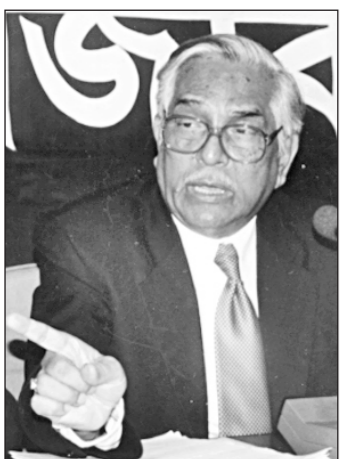


Bar Council polls today

Half of lawyers incompetent, inefficient, said senior lawyer Mahub

UNB, Dhaka

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



Advocate Khandker Mahubuddin Ahmed speaks at a press conference at the National Press Club yesterday.

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.

Govt law officers deputed to influence voters: Rokan

UNB, Dhaka

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.



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

and in many places presiding officers have been set to their choice. Government law officers have been deputed with bundles of money to influence the voters, he added. Rokan, also president of the Supreme Court Bar Association, refuted the allegations of corruption in Bar Council.

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.

"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.

A total 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 titled 'Dhaka Declaration' will be placed at the end of the two-day conference today. Dr Md Mir Quasem of Bangladesh Rural Development Board and Dr Selina Choudhury were also present.

Obituary

Dr MA Naser, former vice-chancellor of Bangladesh University of 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 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 yesterday morning at the age of 69.

She left behind her three sons, grandsons, granddaughters and a host of relatives to mourn her death. Her funeral was held at Baluarghichi 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 qulkhwani.



PHOTO: STAR

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 Bhattacharya, 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 rights.

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 Ranjan Dev, Advocate Delwar Hossain Bhuiyan, Dr Mridul Kanti Chakraborti also spoke.



PHOTO: STAR

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 Day.

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 time.

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 Acharya, Principal of Dhaka Medical College Prof. Dr Hosneara Tahmin, Principal of Dhaka Nursing College also spoke.



A colourful procession was brought out in the city yesterday to mark the International Nurses Day.

Death anniversary

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

DHAKA TODAY section containing various event listings: Drawing contest, BPIA roundtable, Film show, Prize giving ceremony, Bapa roundtable, Workshop, Discussion, BCU conference, Certificate giving ceremony, Seminar, Dress exhibition.