



Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina addresses a public meeting to condole the death of party lawmaker Ahsanullah Master at Haidarabad in Gazipur yesterday.

## JS body report drops local govt provision

BSS, Dhaka

The parliamentary standing committee on law, justice and parliamentary affairs ministry yesterday submitted its report on the Constitution (14th Amendment) Bill, 2004 with a recommendation to abolish its clause-3.

The clause sought automatic dissolution of local government bodies including city corporations at the end of their tenures for holding elections every five years and to appoint public servants to the local government bodies up to the polls from dissolution.

The report, placed in the

### Qulkhwani



Qulkhwani of AKM Ahsan, a former principal secretary and social worker, will be held at his village home in Patiya, Chittagong, after Juma prayers today, says a press release.

He died of old-age complications at his home in Dhanmondi on May 5 at the age of 83. He was buried at his family graveyard.

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

Born into an aristocratic family in Patiya in 1922, Ahsan did his master's in English literature from Dhaka University.

His father Sayed Abdun-Nur was a well-educated and revered person. Ahsan secured the second position in the Central Superior Service examination in 1949. He achieved every scholarship in his student life.

House by committee Chairman Khandkar Mahub Uddin, recommended dropping the provisions. The committee, however, okayed all other provisions of the bill.

The bill, introduced by Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Barrister Moudud Ahmed on March 17, was withdrawn on April 26 for incorporation of three new provisions.

The bill was re-tabled in the House on April 28 after inclusion

of provisions to raise the retirement age of the Supreme Court judges from 65 years to 67, of the comptroller and auditor general and chairman and members of the Public Service Commission from 62 to 65 years.

The bill also sought provisions for 45 women's reserved seats in parliament and display of portraits of the president and the prime minister in government offices.

### CONTROVERSIAL APPOINTMENT

## RU students stage sit-in

RU CORRESPONDENT

General students of Rajshahi University (RU) yesterday staged a sit-in in front of the vice-chancellor's residence, and demanded cancellation of controversial recruitment of 544 university staff and immediate resumption of classes and examinations.

Expressing solidarity with them, left-leaning Bangladesh Chhatra Federation joined the five-hour programme, which ended at 2:00pm.

Outsiders allegedly belonging to ruling BNP's student wing Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal threatened some agitating students during the demonstration programme, sources said.

The students also held a pro-

test rally and demanded resignation of VC Prof Faisal Islam Faruki, Pro-VC KAM Shahadat Hossain Mondol and Proctor Prof Shamsul Alam Sarker.

They also threatened to lock the university administrative building on May 15 if their three-point demand.

Rajshahi University Teachers' Association (RUTA), meanwhile, decided not to participate in any academic council meeting until the university authorities cancel the controversial recruitment.

Prof Khalequzzaman, president of the RUTA, presided over the emergency meeting at Jubilee Bhawan on Tuesday night.

The RUTA started an indefinite strike from April 20 demanding immediate cancellation of the appointments.

## FM dismisses India's camp claims

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Minister Morshed Khan yesterday dismissed India's frequent allegations of Indian terrorists' camps in Bangladesh as fictitious.

On a question of BNP lawmaker Shahidul Islam in parliament, he also called the allegations run by the media 'unfortunate'.

Referring to the recent Bangladesh Rifles (BDR)-Border Security Force (BSF) meeting in Dhaka, Morshed said Dhaka gave the BSF a list of Bangladeshi criminals staying in India and also asked to send them back.

The foreign minister told the House that barbed-wire fences put up by India along the border are

unnecessary.

Replying to a question on water-sharing issue of the Teesta river, he said Dhaka always calls for sharing of waters of international rivers for protecting the interest of lower-riparian country.

The matter is being examined at Bangladesh-India Joint River Commission, headed by

Answering BNP lawmaker Gazi Mohammad Shahjahan, Morshed said Bangladesh had placed a list of items to India for zero-tariff access to its market.

Commerce ministries of both countries are examining bilateral Free Trade Agreement and multilateral South Asian Free Trade Area to reduce trade gap, which is US\$ 1 billion in India's favour.

## 4 to die for killing girl after gangrape

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gopalganj

A court here on Wednesday sentenced four persons to death for killing a minor girl of Muktadpur upazila of Gopalganj district on June 25 in 1998 after gangrape.

The District and Sessions Judge Munjurul Ahsan gave the verdict in presence of the convicts Kamrul Fakir, Babul Sheikh, Masud Sheikh and Lutfar Sheikh.

The prosecution story in brief is that Kamrul Fakir, Babul Sheikh, Masud Sheikh and Lutfar Sheikh gangraped Lima Khanam, 12, daughter of Chunnun Sheikh of

village Bakuri under Muktadpur Upazila of Gopalganj district on 25 June 1998 in a jungle near Kadampur old bridge when she was returning home from her maternal uncle's house.

Her maternal uncle's house is at village Provokordi. She died on the spot due to heavy bleeding.

The police recovered the body of Lima from the jungle and sent it to the Gopalganj Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Victim's father Chunnun Sheikh lodged an FIR with Muktadpur Police Station on 27 June the same year in this connection.

## Nirmul blasts Nizami's remarks on Surya Sen

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ekattarer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee yesterday accused Jamaat Amir Motiur Rahman Nizami of slandering Masterda Surya Sen, a valiant freedom fighter during the British colonial rule.

In a statement, Prof Kabir Chowdhury and eminent writer Shahriar Kabir, adviser and president of the committee, said Nizami by his remark on Masterda has again proved their role against the country's freedom in 1971.

Calling Surya Sen a terrorist, Nizami, also industries minister, has

proved that the Jamaat-e-Islami has not shifted from their previous position on the question of the country's freedom, the statement said.

Surya Sen was inspirational to the freedom fighters in 1971, as he stood against the colonial rulers' repression, the Nirmul Committee said.

The statement went on to say that the Jamaat-e-Islami had called the freedom fighters in 1971 "criminals and collaborators of India".

Earlier on Wednesday, Nizami told reporters at Sangsad Bhawan chamber that Surya Sen had introduced terrorism in the country.



A delegation of Commonwealth Society of Bangladesh called on President Iajuddin Ahmed (middle) at Bangabhaban yesterday. On his left are MM Rezaul Karim, Major General (Retd) K M Shafiqullah and Rokia Afzal Rahman and on his right is Jagul Ahmed Chowdhury.

## C'wealth Society team calls on president

UNB, Dhaka

A delegation of Commonwealth Society of Bangladesh called on President Iajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday.

The delegation led by its president MM Rezaul Karim apprised the president of the activities of the Society.

The delegation handed over a memorandum, sent on behalf of Queen Elizabeth, central patron of the Society, to the president.

Expressing satisfaction over its activities, Iajuddin said the Society could play a significant role for overall development of the commonwealth countries like Bangladesh.

The delegation members also included secretary general of the Society Jagul Ahmed Chowdhury, Major General (Retd) Quazi Golam Dastagir, Rokia Afzal Rahman and Major General (ret'd) KM Shafiqullah.

## Referral lab to be set up to control standard of pathological tests

UNB, Dhaka

Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Khondaker Mosharraf Hossain said a referral laboratory would be set up to improve and control the standard of pathological tests.

Addressing the 22nd annual conference of Bangladesh College of Physicians and Surgeons (BCPS) at Mohakhali here yesterday, he said that many times the same test showed different results at different laboratories, set up under the private sector.

Quality tests are being done in many private pathological centres, but carelessness by technicians brings faulty results that hamper not only the proper treatment but also bring bad reputation for the concerned centre, he said.

State Minister for Health Mizanur Rahman Sinha, Vice Chancellor of Bangladesh Sheikh Mujib Medical University Professor MA Hadi and DG of Health Directorate Professor Dr Muhammad Mizanur Rahman also addressed the conference. BCPS President, Professor Dr Syed Mokarram presided.

## 1191 more held

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested 1,191 people during the countrywide drive on various charges in last 24 hours till 6:00am yesterday.

During the drive, they also recovered six firearms and seven bullets and filed three cases against three people under the Arms Act, says a police headquarters press release.

## Mahi accuses Sinha of violating election code of conduct

UNB, Dhaka

Mahi Chowdhury, a candidate of Bikalpa Dhara for Munshiganj-1 by-election, has lodged a complaint with the Election Commission accusing State Minister for Health Mizanur Rahman Sinha of violating the election code of conduct.

In a letter to the chief election commissioner yesterday, Mahi alleged that Sinha campaigned for the BNP candidate openly while visiting Srinagar on Wednesday, said

apress release.

Meanwhile, Srinagar upazila BNP yesterday expelled three of its leaders -- Motaleb Hawlader, Harun-ur-Rashid Khan and Abdul Qaiyum -- for 'campaigning for Mahi Chowdhury'.

Our staff correspondent adds: About 500 leaders and workers of Munshiganj district BNP joined the Bikalpa Dhara yesterday.

They joined the new party when Mahi Chowdhury went to Munshiganj for the election campaign.

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Sammiti Nari Samaj leader Farida Akter speaks at a press conference at the Dhaka Reporters Unity office in the city yesterday.

## Govt urged to keep provision of direct election

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sammiti Nari Samaj (SNS) yesterday once again urged the government to keep provision of direct election to reserved seats for women in parliament before passing the bill that provides 45 reserved seats for them.

At a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity office, the SNS leaders said if the bill is passed without this provision, they will urge all women activists of BNP and Awami League to abstain from seeking nomination of their parties considering the greater interest of women community.

They said the government on one hand is talking about women empowerment and on the other hand is shrinking their power.

Expressing concern over the increase of repression on women across the country, the leaders

demand of the government to publish a 'white paper' on this issue.

Shirin Akter said the BNP made a promise to the nation before the general election that it will make a provision of direct election to reserved seats for women in parliament if voted to power.

Farida Akter said "We want to take nomination of political parties, but we want to be accountable to the public and not to the party alone."

Shamsunnahar said if women can compete in city corporation elections then why they will not be able to contest in the parliament election.

When asked, all the speakers said they will form a separate political party with women if the situations demand so.

Rokeya Rafique Baby and Sultana Akter Rubi were present at the conference.

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