



Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina and her party leaders offer munajat after placing wreath on the coffin of eminent journalist and writer MR Akhter Mukul at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday.

# Govt to reform Sundarbans Bio-diversity Project

BSS,Dhaka

The government has decided to reform the Sundarbans Bio-diversity Conservation Projects (SBCP) as advised by the donors to develop a sustainable conservation

system on the basis of environmental plan and the participation of all key stakeholders.

The reform in the SBCP will be made as per the lessons learnt from the process of implementation of the project over the last three years

since 2000, said project director Dr Saiful Islam.

Environment and Forests Minister Tariqul Islam inaugurated the workshop on reformation of the SBCP at the IDB Bhaban in the city yesterday.

Tariqul underlined the importance of taking concerted regional and international efforts to protect the bio-diversity of the Sundarbans Reserve Forest (SRF).

"The Sundarbans is a pride of Bangladesh as being a world heritage in this part of the globe," he said. But a vicious circle comprising population problem, climate change and diversion of water flows of the upstream rivers, has endangered the existence of the world's largest mangrove, he added.

He said the SBCP was formulated very hurriedly in 2000 without any proper action plan to protect the interests of local people, arrange alternate livelihood for them and secure the integrity of the environment and bio-diversity of the SRF.

State Minister for Environment and Forests Jafrul Islam Chowdhury, Resident Representative of ADB in Bangladesh Taru Shibuchi, Secretary of the Environment and Forests Ministry Syed Tanveer Hussein, ADB consultant Dr Sanaul Mostafa, SBCP Director Dr Saiful Islam and Deputy Director Ali Kabir Haider took part in the discussion. Chief Conservator of Forests M Anwarul Islam was in the chair.

Sanaul said that the SRF with its non-wood resources, wildlife, tourism and fisheries, was not being properly managed in terms of bio-diversity conservation. That is why, the Sunderbans is facing depletion, hesaid.

# Automatic traffic signal opens at Gulshan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two out of 59 automatic traffic signal systems, believed to ease the city's traffic congestion significantly, opened at Gulshan Circles 1 and 2 intersections yesterday.

Installation of such a modern signalling system at the city intersections would bring unbearable traffic jam under control, Mayor Sadeq Hossain Khoka told the journalists after inauguration of the system at Circle-2.

"But the city dwellers have to abide by the rules," he said.

Special features of this system include central monitoring of the signals stationed at the Nagar Bhaban, determination of peak, off-peak and normal period on the basis of traffic movement.

The signal system will have a pushbutton switch for pedestrians' road crossing, a loop detector in the middle of road to count the number of vehicles and this information will automatically set the movement timing.

The central monitoring station will easily detect any fault in the

signal system and measures will be taken to repair it instantly.

Khoka said that any major city should have avenues in 25 per cent of its total area but Dhaka city has only six per cent, which is a major reason for traffic jam.

However, despite the automated signalling, present manpower of traffic department would remain in the ground to enforce law against violators, as the volume of traffic is quite large, he said.

Progress of the work so far includes import of all necessary equipment, completion of base foundation work at 36 intersections and installation of equipment on signal poles at 22 intersections, according to the DCC source.

Dhaka City Corporation has been implementing installation of 59 traffic signals funded by World Bank under the Dhaka Urban Transport Project. The work contract was awarded to ATS Technology (Hong Kong) Ltd. in February last year and is expected to be completed by September.

The total cost of the contract is Tk13.01 crore.

# Justice Mainur Reza Chy laid to rest

UNB, Dhaka

Former Chief Justice Mainur Reza Chowdhury was laid to eternal rest at Banani graveyard yesterday afternoon.

He died on Saturday at a city clinic at the age of 66. Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday paid her last respect to the former chief justice.

Khaleda Zia visited the residence of Chowdhury and stood in solemn silence beside the body for some time. She also offered 'munajat' for eternal peace of the departed soul.

The prime minister sympathised with members of the bereaved family.

PM's Adviser on Parliamentary Affairs Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury, Political Secretary Harris Chowdhury and Attorney General Hassan Arif were present during her visit.

The body of Justice Mainur Reza Cowdhury was brought to the Supreme Court premises where his colleagues and associates paid their last respect.

His namaz-e-janaza was held on the Supreme Court premises after Zohr prayers. The Speaker, ministers, judges, politicians and lawyers attended the janaza.



Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday paid her last respect to the former Chief Justice Mainur Reza Chowdhury.

# 2 JCD leaders of Tongi Govt College stabbed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leaders of Tongi Government University College were stabbed yesterday.

They were Kabir Hossain alias Liton Mridha, 28, senior vice-president and Ziaul Hossain Swapan, 26, general secretary.

They were undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Kabir said, "We were having breakfast in a hotel at Cherag Ali Market at 11:30am when two unknown youths entered the hotel and grabbed Swapan to drag him out of the hotel. As I resisted the youths, they stabbed us and fled the scene."

Kabir received stabs in his stomach and face while Swapan in his neck.

Locals chased the youths and held one Sourav, 23, from in front of Kaderia Cotton Mills and handed him over to police.

Police, however, could not give any details about the incident.

No case was filed till filing of the report at 7:15pm.

# BOAT CAPSIZE 8 bodies recovered, 7 still missing

BSS, Kurigram

Eight bodies of the victims in the recent boat capsizing incident in Indian territory have so far been recovered while seven others are still missing.

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and police continued their rescue operation in the downstream, official sources said yesterday.

The boat with a 15-member bridal party capsized in the Indian side of the bordering Dharala river on Friday along Moghalhat border of Lalmonirhat district.

One of the bodies was handed over to Border Security Forces (BSF) of India through a Company Commander level flag meeting between BDR and BSF on Saturday night.

The victim was identified as Afi Begum alias Moyna Bibi, 30, wife of

Fazlul Haq of Doribansh village in Dinhatana thana of Koochbehar district. Lalmonirhat Sadar thana police recovered the body on Saturday afternoon from the Dharla river along Moghalhat border, police said.

# Prize giving ceremony of IT quiz on July 1

The prize giving ceremony of IT quiz competition, co-sponsored by The Independent and University of Information Technology and Sciences (UITS), and honouring meritorious students of 2003-04 will be held in the city on July 1, says a press release.

Science and ICT Minister Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan will attend the function as chief guest while Chairman of the University Grants Commission Prof M Asaduzzaman, President of Bangladesh Academy of Science Prof M Shamsher Ali and Editor of The Independent

Mahbubul Alam as special guests.

# WEATHER

## T O D A Y

# Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Khulna and Barisal divisions till 6.00pm today.

Moderately heavy fall is also likely at places over Chittagong division, Met Office said predicting that slight rise in day temperature is expected over the country.

Highest temperature 37.4 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and the lowest 23.3 degree Celsius at Majdee Court.

**The sun sets in the capital at 6:50pm today and rises at 5:14am tomorrow.**

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

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	34.6	25.0	83	72
Chittagong	32.5	24.0	78	81
Rajshahi	36.6	26.3	71	81
Khulna	35.6	26.7	73	65
Barisal	34.7	25.4	86	69



Participants of the Mobile Mela and the raffle draw winners pose with the GrameenPhone officials at a function at the Spectra Convention Centre in the city yesterday.

# Lissner calls on Tariqul

UNB, Dhaka

United Nations Resident Coordinator and UNDP Representative in Bangladesh Jorgen Lissner called on Environment and Forest Minister Tariqul Islam at his Sangsad Bhaban

# Obituary



Alhaj Tamiz Uddin Ahmed, Managing Director of Broadway Designs Ltd and Director of Eurotex Garments Ltd, died

of cancer at his residence at West Arjatpara in the city yesterday at the age of 55, says a press release.

He left behind his wife and two sons.

His chehlum will be held at his

# MOBILE MELA RAFFLE DRAW GrameenPhone hands over prizes

STAR CORRESPONDENT

GrameenPhone handed over prizes to the winners of Mobile Mela raffle draw at a function at Spectra Convention Centre in the city yesterday.

Some 60 visitors to the fair won prizes in the raffle draw on the entry tickets of the first ever mobile phone handset exhibition held on June 3-4.

They were presented cell phone sets by the companies who participated in the fair.

Director of Sales and Marketing Division of GrameenPhone Mehboob Chowdhury distributed the prizes among the winners.

Abed Khan, editor of the Bhorer Kagoj and Faridur Reza Sagor, managing director of Impress Telefilm, conducted the draw earlier this month.

Companies that took part in the

fair were also awarded. M/S Motiur Rahman got the crest for the best decorated stall while Siemens Bangladesh Ltd was awarded for the best service. Certificates were given to 17 companies.

In his welcome speech, Mahboob Hossain, additional general manager and head of distribution of GrameenPhone, said, "Beside doing business, our company has been making significant contribution to the welfare of the society."

Earning from the entry tickets which amounted to Tk 3,01,050 was given to Grameen Shiksha, a sister concern of Grameen Bank, which distributes scholarships and stipends to poor students, he added.

Mehboob Chowdhury handed over the cheque for the amount to Noorjahan Begum, managing director of Grameen Shiksha.

In her thanks giving speech,