

# Delete distorted part from history

## AL demands

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Awami League yesterday demanded removal of the distorted part from the Swadhinota Juddher Dillopur, the official history of the Liberation War.

A reprint of the 15-volume book has been released recently with an insertion that names former president Ziaur Rahman as the proclaimer of independence. Such insertion is a clear violation of the Constitution as it says Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman declared the country's independence, said the AL leaders at a press conference.

Terming the Jamaat-e-Islami war criminals, they said the Jamaat was the mastermind behind the plan to distort the history.

As a partner of the ruling alliance, the Jamaat was doing all this to take revenge for its defeat in 1971 Liberation War, said AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil.

He also alleged that the ruling alliance even wants to change the national anthem and flag.

Quoting an article by Ziaur

Rahman published in the daily Ittefaq, Jalil said Zia himself admitted that Bangabandhu is the proclaimer of independence.

He said Zia in his article wrote, "We have got the green signal for the announcement of independence from the March 7 speech of Bangabandhu in 1971."

The AL leader said Bangabandhu declared the country's independence and it is recognised the world over. "Major Zia only read out the announcement following Bangabandhu's order," he added.

Major General (retd.) M Shafullah, who was the commander of Sector-2 during the Liberation War, said AL leader Abdul Hannan had made the proclamation of independence two or three times before Zia's announcement.

Captain (retd.) AB Tajul Islam, freedom fighters' affairs secretary of the party, read out a written statement at the press conference held at the Dhaka Reporters' Unity office.

The central working committee of the AL will meet today to discuss the issue and draw up the next course of action.

## Bar Assoc slates history distortion

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) yesterday condemned the distortion of the country's liberation history by re-naming former President Ziaur Rahman as the first declarer of independence in the reprint edition of 'Swadhinata Juddher Dillopur'.

In a joint statement SCBA President Rokanuddin Mahmud and General Secretary Bashir Ahmed said people of Bangladesh started fighting the Pakistani occupiers after the declaration of independence by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on March 25th 1971.

Replies to a question from Mashru Rahman Ranga of Jatiya Party, he said that all the processes for T&T cellular phone had been completed. In the first phase, 250,000 mobile phones out of one million would be marketed and all upazilas would be covered with its network.

In reply to a question from Maj

## Minister tells Parliament

### UNB, Dhaka

Post & Telecommunications Minister Aminul Islam yesterday said in parliament yesterday that the much-talked about mobile phone of Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (BTTB) would hit the market by December.

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## Admission seeker missing

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An admission seeker of Notre Dame College in the city went missing after coming out of the examination hall on Monday, police said.

Hasan Mahmud, 18, son of Sub-Inspector Mahbubur Rahman of Kotwali Police Station, went out of his residence at about 12:15pm for Notre Dame College.

Family members, quoting his coursemate, said Hasan came out of the examination hall at about 4:15 and he went missing since then.

Mahbubur Rahman has filed a general diary with Motijheel Police Station in this regard.

## Over 600 children with cleft lips get free treatment

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Cleft Lip Camp Group, a charity mission, has completed over 600 operations on children with cleft lips and palates.

The group led by Professor Khalilur Rahman carried out 31 surgeries, the highest at a single camp, at Santhia upazila in Pabna yesterday.

We have operated on 642 patients free of cost in different government health complexes since January last," said Dr Samanta Lal Sen, chief plastic surgeon of the group.

Anjuman Mufidul Islam, Pabna, was the co-organiser of the camp at Santhia where the surgeons performed the operations on children aged between 4 and 16 for over ten hours.

Spondon-B, an association of Bangladeshi living in California, USA, provided all necessary support for the operations.

## Moudud's friendly blame

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Moudud Ahmed yesterday blamed India for the failure of Saarc to reach its full potential by trying to dominate the forum and not being an appropriate role model for the region.

In a friendly way, I will blame India for being dominant and not playing a leading role in developing a growth model for itself or its neighbours, Moudud said, adding India's failure prevented Saarc (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) from tapping its potential.

Moudud was speaking as the chief guest at the inaugural session of the two-day regional conference on "The 12th Saarc Summit: Sustaining the Momentum for Regional Cooperation and Development in South Asia".

Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS) organised the conference, comprising six working sessions, being held at the BISS auditorium.

Moudud stressed that Bangladesh should embark on its own growth model, as he said an economic union of Saarc is far off. He said the size and nature of regional economies are too different and it would take a long time for harmonisation.

The minister suggested that bilateral issues should not be brought to the multilateral South Asian forum for discussion, as he said it might throw the future of Saarc's ideals in serious doubt.

He also said concern over important regional issues, including India's river interlink project, was not allayed because of Saarc countries' reluctance to discuss it at the sub-regional level.

Speaking as special guest, Saarc Secretary General QAM Rahim said the commitment to forming a South Asian economic union at the Islamabad summit would have a multifaceted impact on the progress and efficacy of Saarc in future.

Rahim was optimistic about institutional reform of the forum that would make inroads into economic union, common currency and a visa-free South Asia.

Reaz Rahman, advisor to the foreign ministry, said the Social Charter, South Asian Free Trade Area and an agreement on suppression of terrorism at the 12th Saarc Summit in Islamabad indicated a new start for the region.

### Ceremony meeting

Dhaka City Corporation will hold a meeting to ensure sanitation facilities for all by 2010 with LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan as chief guest. Venue: Nagar Bhawan Auditorium, Time: 12:00 noon.

### Condolence meeting

Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote organises a condolence meeting in memory of language movement veteran and liberation war insipri M R Akhter Mukul. Venue: Bishwasiholy Kendra Auditorium, Bangla Motor, Time: 4:00pm.

### Memorial meeting

Bangladesh ICT Journalist Forum organises a meeting in memory of Professor Md Abdul Kader, founder of monthly Computer Jagoth, Venue: National Press Club, Time: 2:30pm.

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The non-government primary school teachers continued their strike for the fourth consecutive day yesterday demanding nationalisation of their jobs.

The strike will continue until the announcement of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia accepting their demand, says a press release of Bangladesh Non-governmental Primary Teachers Association (BNPTA).

They said that the government was trying to foil their logical movement.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia expressed her solidarity with the movement of the non-government primary teachers when she was in power and promised to meet their demand if voted to power.

The BNPTA will announce next course of action at the grand rally of non-government primary teachers at central Shaheed Minar on July 24.

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## Tk 206cr DAB project for healthcare network

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Diabetic Association of Bangladesh (DAB) has taken up a five-year-long Healthcare Development Project to establish a countrywide healthcare network at a cost of Tk 206 crore.

Under the project, a 250-bed hospital-cum-training centre will be set up at Mirpur in the capital. Besides, 10 healthcare centers including 10 urban health centers will be established in and around Dhaka.

The project also envisages construction of nine healthcare centers including a 100-bed hospital in Sirajganj, and a 30 to 75-bed hospital each in Pabna, Bogra, Dinajpur and Thakurgaon under the supervision of respective district diabetic associations.

DAB officials said the project has been taken up to develop an integrated health care delivery system that covers a sector approach including primary, secondary and tertiary health care system using the existing structure and experience of the DAB and its affiliated associations all over the country.

Of the total cost, Tk 103 crore will be available as grant from Dutch government and the rest Tk 103 crore will come from a consortium comprising 12 financing institutions.

The financing institutions are Pubali Bank, Dutch-Bangla Bank, Sonali Bank, Rupali Bank, City Bank, Agram Bank, UCBL, Prime Bank, IPDC, Bank Asia, IFIC Bank and Standard Bank.

The loan will be the largest consortium loan in the health sector under

the private initiative.

This was stated at a signing ceremony between the DAB and the consortium for Tk 103 crore loan at a city hotel yesterday.

Bangladesh Bank Governor Dr Fakhrul Islam was the chief guest at the ceremony attended by the managing directors of concerned financing institutions.

Dr Fakhrul said this is a new concept which has provided an opportunity for the banking sector to show that they are capable of funding such a big project.

He said it has become imperative for the banks to invest in new areas as

huge amount of idle money is lying with them.

We need productive and profitable investment so that both the people and the banks can be benefited," he added.

Pubali Bank Managing Director Khandaker Ibrahim Khaled said the consortium finance would be a revolutionary step as 12 institutions have not provided such a big loan earlier.

Dutch-Bangla Bank Managing Director Md Yesin Ali, DAB President Prof Wahiduddin Ahmed and Secretary General Prof A K Azad Khan also spoke.

## Conference on English teaching begins tomorrow

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

ence as chief guest. Charles Nuttal, acting director of the British Council, and Karl Fritz, director of American Cultural Centre, will be present at the opening ceremony as special guests.

The conference is open to all English teachers and those interested in English language teaching.

Interested persons can register for the conference at the library of Institute of Modern Languages, Dhaka University. The registration fee for the members of Delta is Tk 100, while for others is Tk 200.

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