



PHOTO: STAR  
Police intercept a protest procession of different political parties and NGOs at Shahbagh in the city yesterday as the demonstrators were marching towards the office of the World Bank.

## Obituary

Advocate Paritosh Krishna Dey, a leader of Mymensingh Awami League and former joint secretary of the District Bar Association, died of a cardiac arrest on Tuesday at the age of 49, says a press release.

He is survived by his wife and two sons.

Opposition Leader and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina expressed condolence at his death.

### Reazul Islam

Reazul Islam, son of martyred intellectual Dr Abul Khair, died of a cardiac arrest at his Kalabagan residence on October 26 at the age of 45, says a press release.

He is survived by his mother, wife, one son, one daughter, two brothers and one sister.

His quikhwani will be held at his residence after Asr prayers on October 29.

### Abdul Hamid

Abdul Hamid, a retired senior assistant secretary, passed away on October 20 at the age of 63 while he was undergoing treatment in Dhaka, says a press release.

Hamid, also the office secretary of National Shooting Federation, is survived by his wife and two sons.

He was buried at his family graveyard at village Tilakpur (Nagar) in Kamalganj, Moulvibazar.

### Jabeda Khatun

Jabeda Khatun, mother of Md Alauddin (Rana), general secretary of Bangladesh Awami Motor Drivers' League, passed away on October 25 at the age of 57, says a press release.

She is survived by her husband and four sons.

# Govt urged not to give immunity to WB

## Political parties, NGOs threaten movement

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different political parties and non-governmental organisations yesterday called on the government not to pass any law giving immunity to the World Bank (WB).

They also threatened to launch a tough movement if any law in this regard is passed in the current session of parliament.

Economic progress will be jeopardised if the government grants immunity to the WB, political leaders and development activists said at a protest rally in the city.

They said the cabinet okayed a draft bill titled 'The International Financial Organisation (Amendment) Act 2004' on July 4 which will put the WB above law once it is passed in parliament.

Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon said the WB has no contribution to the development activities of Bangladesh.

Granting immunity to the bank would be counterproductive for the development of the country, he added.

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) leader Shirin Akhter said the bank is responsible for the closure of mills and factories in the country.

In the past two decades, no suggestion of the WB benefited Bangladesh, she said, adding that thousands of workers were rendered jobless instead.

"The WB always calls for transparency and accountability but now it is seeking immunity so that nobody can demand transparency in its activities," Shirin said.

Imamuddin, member-secretary of People's Health Movement, said the WB should refrain from interfering in internal politics.

Mohammad Zakaria of Action Aid Bangladesh, Aminur Rahman of World Social Forum, Workers Party leader Fazle Hossain Badsha and

President of Trade Union Kendra Nurul Islam also spoke.

After the rally, the protester started marching towards the office of the WB, but police intercepted the procession in front of the National Museum.



## Dhaka Samity executives

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

M. Sirajul Islam and M. Abu Horaira have been elected president and general secretary of Dhaka Mahanagar for 2004-2007 term, says a press release.

Newly elected president M. Sirajul Islam served as governor of Lions International Bangladesh from 1989 to 1990 and is currently a Governing Board member of Underprivileged Children's Education Programme.

The newly elected general secretary is currently holding the post of vice-president of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industries.

## 1,749 more held

### UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested 1,749 people including, one listed criminal, on various charges during their countrywide drive in the last 24 hours ending at 6.00am yesterday.

# 36 children rescued at Dublar Char

## Dry fish traders flee to avoid arrest

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Coastguards launched a special combing operation at Dublar Char and its adjacent coastal belts of Bay of Bengal following rescue of 36 children on Monday night from different seasonal fish drying firms.

The children aged between seven to twelve years were brought from different parts of the country to fishermen villages of Dublar Char and other coastal belts for employing them in odd jobs without any salary.

Acting on tip-off, Commander Abdul Matin of Mongla Western Zone of Coastguards led the operation on Monday night at Dublar Char backed by a platoon of police.

Zahid Hossain, Offcoer-in-Charge of Mongla Police Station, said the rescued children hailed from Noakhali, Nilphamary, Comilla and Chittagong districts would be sent back to their parents after proper investigation. They were allured with lucrative jobs here, Zahid said.

None of the employers could be arrested till yesterday as they managed to escape sensing presence of law enforcers during operation,

coastguard sources said.

The children were treated as slaves by the owners of seasonal fish drying firms at Dublar char, coastguards said. Some of the children said they used to live in subhuman condition there without food.

According to rescued children, most of the dry fish traders hailed from Chittagong and Noakhali. Some times we became victims of sodomy, they said.

Dublar Char is famous for dry fish trader (shutki machh). Country earns huge foreign exchange exporting dry fish from here every year.

Hundreds of fishermen and minor children are engaged in catching sea fishes here and dry them up under the scorching heat of the sun.

There are a dozen of fishermen's villages at Dublar Char where these hapless children are kept as hostages by dry fish traders, police and coastguard sources said.

The traders also harbour notorious pirates of the Sundarbans for plundering forest resources and smuggling of contraband goods through the sea routes, they said.



Minister for Science and Information & Communication Technology Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan, third from left, speaks at a workshop on 'Role of MPs in local government' at Democracy Auditorium in the city yesterday. On his right are Rajshahi City Corporation Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu and advocate Rokhsana Khandoker and on his left are Whip M Ashraf Hossain, Khulna City Corporation Mayor Sheikh Tayebur Rahman and Md Faruk Khan MP.

# Greater empowerment of local govt bodies suggested

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a workshop yesterday called for greater empowerment of local government bodies to institutionalise democracy and ensure good governance.

They also called on the lawmakers to play a more pro-active role in parliament and local government bodies in this regard.

The Khan Foundation organised the workshop on 'Role of MPs in local government' at Democracy Auditorium in the city.

The speakers pointed out that conflict between the lawmakers and the representatives of local government is a major obstacle to rural development.

The key role of MPs is to make laws and formulate policies on national issues, but they are more engaged in distributing rice and wheat allocated by the government and constructing roads and culverts in their constituencies, said Opposition Whip Faruk Khan.

The government should stop allocating rice and wheat in the name of MPs, he said, adding that local government should be entrusted with the local development activities.

Whip M Ashraf Hossain said

## One killed in road accident

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Madaripur.

A youth was killed in a road accident in front of Madaripur Sadar Police Station, in the town yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Mizan Sharif, 18, son of Abu Sharif of village Chirapara under sadar upazila of the district.

A Mongla bound speedy bus hit Mizan leaving him dead on the spot while he was crossing the road on his bicycle, witnesses and Sadar thana police sources said.

most of the MPs are businessmen and they are more interested in making money than in dealing with the local problems.

He said that although Gram Sarker units have been in place, they have no role to play in the development of rural areas.

He called on the lawmakers to help representatives of local government implement development projects. z said the MPs should act as a bridge between the central government and the local government bodies.

He also called for decentralising the administration and specifying the duties of the MPs and the representatives of local governments.

For a sustainable democracy and development, the lawmakers should work in joint efforts with the local governments as consultants and coordinators, Dr Moyeen added.

Rajshahi City Corporation Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu, Khulna City Corporation Mayor Sheikh Tayebur Rahman, Syed Manzur Hossain MP, KM Jahangir MP, Mahbubur Rahman MP, Joint Editor of the Prothom Alo Abdul Qaiyum, UP Chairman Sirajul Islam, Hasna Hena, and NGO representative SM Shah also spoke.



PHOTO: STAR  
Sammilita Nari Samaj, an organisation of women's rights activists, stages a demonstration at Muktangan in the city yesterday demanding direct elections to seats reserved for women in parliament.



Rotary District-3280 Governor AKM Shamsuddin hands over a crest and a cheque to Kaniz Fatema, an audiologist at Hicare Hearing Centre, for her good work for the children with hearing difficulties on Sunday on the occasion of the Rotary vocational month. Rotary Club of Metropolitan Dhaka organised the event.

WEATHER  
T O D A Y

Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry over the country till 6.00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 33.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chittagong and Cox's Bazar and lowest 19.8 degree Celsius at Srimongol.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:22pm today and rises at 6.02am tomorrow.

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

City/Town	Temperature	Humidity in Celsius	percentage
	Max	Min	Morning Evening
Dhaka	32.1	22.4	57 62
Chittagong	33.5	21.5	66 76
Rajshahi	31.4	20.3	78 71
Khulna	31.8	22.3	72 75
Barisal	32.0	21.5	72 95
Sylhet	32.5	21.2	64 75
Cox's Bazar	33.5	24.0	74 71