



PHOTO: STAR

The mother of a victim of Savar garments factory collapse bursts into tears while speaking at a rally at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday.

HEADMISTRESS MURDER Order to suspend IO, show cause DMP asstt commissioner

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The home ministry's monitoring cell yesterday ordered suspension of the investigation officer (IO) of Shahana Kabir Lili murder case for failing to make any headway in the probe.

It also ordered issuance of a show cause notice on the assistant commissioner (Uttara zone) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police as to why action will not be taken against him for failing to properly supervise the investigation.

Shahana, headmistress of Ashulia Government Primary School, was killed by a gang of robbers at her Uttara residence in the capital on April 17.

The monitoring cell at a meeting decided that from now on punitive action will be taken against the officers-in-charge (OCs), superintendents of police and deputy commissioners concerned if significant progress is not made in probing the cases listed with it, meeting sources said.

Earlier, action was taken only against the IOs and the supervising officers.

The meeting chaired by State Minister of Home Luthfozzaman Babar reviewed investigation into 13 sensational cases of murder, including the murder of Rajshahi University Professor Mohammad Younus, Khulna journalists Human Kabir Balu and Sheikh Belal Uddin and the headmistress

of Shiddheswari High School and her daughter.

The meeting asked the IO of Prof Younus murder case to press charges by May 15.

The cell had earlier summoned IO of Belal murder case and OC of Khulna Sadar Police Station Mohammad Iqbal to appear before it yesterday as the chargesheet in the case submitted on Monday did not contain the names of the masterminds behind the murder.

It rebuked the IO for not mentioning the name of Jamaat-e-Islami leader Shahabuddin Lashkar alias Dhira, suspected as a mastermind, and ordered inclusion of his name in the chargesheet and arresting him, a meeting source said.

Khulna journalists had earlier rejected the chargesheet.

After the meeting yesterday, Babar told reporters the deputy inspector general (DIG) of police, Khulna range, told him "He (DIG) had talked to Belal Uddin's son, he did not make any objection to the chargesheet and demanded immediate trial of the murder of his father."

The meeting ordered completion of investigation into all cases listed with the cell within 15 days to one month.

Hasina goes to Ctg today to seek vote for Mohiuddin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Leader of the opposition and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina is due today in the port city to drum up support for Nagorik Committee backed mayoral candidate ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury for the May 9 City Corporation (CCC) polls.

She would address four workers-and-public meetings, organised by May Dibash Uddjan Parishad, on the occasion of the historic May Day. The meeting venues and schedule are Export Processing Zone (EPZ) premises at 8:30am, Olonkar Cinema intersection at 9:30am, Old Railway Station at 2:30pm and Bohadardhat premises at 4:00pm.

Hasina will also meet leaders and activists of AL, Nagorik Committee, left-leaning parties and representatives of different professional groups in the evening and exchange views over the upcoming election, sources said.

A good number of central AL leaders, including Matiya Chowdhury, Amir Hossain Amu, Abdur Razzak and Assaduzzaman Noor, who arrived in Chittagong yesterday morning, would join their party chief in the meetings today.

Death anniversary

The 5th death anniversary of former home minister Maj Gen Abdul Mannan Siddiqui will be observed tomorrow, says a press release.

On this occasion, a milad and doa mahfil will be held at House No-83, Road No-6, old DOHS (Banani) after Asr prayers.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the milad and pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Seraj Uddin Ahmed

Today is the 20th death anniversary of Seraj Uddin Ahmed, founder chairman of Elite Group of Industries Ltd, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at his house at noon in Gulshan.

Md Nazrul Islam

The 14th death anniversary of Md Nazrul Islam, a former civil servant and a social worker, will be observed tomorrow, says a press release.

He was killed in a tragic road accident in the city in 1991.

On the occasion, Quranhwnani and milad mahfil will be held at his village home in Tangail.

Chehlum

Chehlum of Syeda Afifa Fatima, wife of Desa Superintendent Engineer Mirza Tariqul Hossain, will be held after Maghrib prayers today, says a press release.

On the occasion, Quranhwnani and milad mahfil will be held at Khan Bahadur Garden, 195/2 Shantibagh in the city.

Afifa died on March 22 at the age of 49. She was the daughter of late advocate Alhaj Syed Md Hashim.

Members of her family sought blessings for the departed soul of Afifa from their relatives, friends and admirers.

29 killed by law enforcers in April

Odhikar report says

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 29 people were killed in the hands of law enforcers in April, and of them, 23 were killed in 'crossfire' across the country, reveals a report of Odhikar, a coalition for human rights, yesterday.

According to the report, 26 people were killed by police, while three by Rapid Action Battalion (Rab).

Nine people were killed in thana and jail custody during the period.

The report, prepared on the basis of stories published in different newspapers, said 23 people were killed, 598 hurt and four

others kidnapped in politics-related human rights violation.

It said 66 women and children were raped in April, and of them, 11 were killed after rape. Besides, 11 people- four children, five women and two men - were the victims of acid throwing in last month.

Ninety children were subjected to torture.

Twenty women were the victims of dowry, 13 of them killed in torture and two committed suicides.

In human rights violation in the hill tracts, three were killed, seven injured and 21 abducted, the report added.

BR implements only 38.83pc ADP projects in 9 months

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Only 38.83 percent of the railway projects under the Annual Development Programme (ADP) have been implemented in the first nine months of the current fiscal year.

The volume of implementation is 11 percent less than the 49.75 percent achieved in the corresponding period of FY2003-04, an ADP review meeting at Railway Bhawan chaired by Communications Minister Nazmul Huda was told yesterday.

Out of a Tk 778.03-crore allocation against 27 major development projects, the BR could spend only Tk 273.28 crore until March.

"The pace of ADP project implementation was slow due to delays in funding and procurement of project equipment," Huda told newsmen after the meeting.

He said many ADP projects of Bangladesh Railway (BR) are only

being launched after getting funding commitments from donors.

At the meeting, Huda asked the railway officials to accelerate the pace of ADP project implementation. He blasted them for a rising number of thefts and said the BR would not be a losing concern if the stealing were stopped.

He asked them to take stern actions against the thieves including filing cases with the police stations or face such actions themselves.

Huda also directed the BR to raise its earnings by utilising its 67,000 acres of land commercially.

The Railway Department has undertaken 22 package initiatives to repair the damage to BR infrastructure in last year's severe flooding, the minister told reporters. "Tenders have already been floated and I hope the repairs would start in the next dry season."

SEMINAR ON EINSTEIN, SN BOSE

'Provide more budgetary allocation for science edn'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar in the city yesterday called upon the young generation to concentrate more on science education and use their knowledge for the peace and humanity of the world.

Bengal has a rich tradition of science, but unfortunately, it has not been exercised and developed in the region, they said.

They said these at the inaugural session of a two-day seminar titled 'Albert Einstein and SN Bose' that began at the city's Bhasani Novo Theatre.

The seminar was organised by Bangladesh Academy of Sciences (Bas), German Cultural Centre and the Ministry of Science and ICT.

United Nations Education, Science and Cultural Organisation (Unesco) declared 2005 as International Year of Physics on the occasion of the centenary celebration of the Theory of Relativity and outstanding developments in Physics over the period.

Recalling the contribution of Einstein and Bose, Science and ICT Minister Dr Abdul Moeen Khan said both of them were vocal for peace, which can be a lesson for the young generation.

"The world would not be structured the way it has been now unless scientists like Albert Einstein and SN Bose had discovered their great theories," Bas President Dr Shamsheer Ali said.

He urged the government for more budgetary allocation for the development of science education in the country. "We always talk about money, but we should keep in mind that the economy in today's world is knowledge-based."

"In fact, all modern scientific instruments, from digital camera to computer, owe their development to the modern theories of Physics," said Bas Fellow and Seminar Coordinator Dr Anwar Hossain.

Charge d' Affaires of Swiss Embassy in Dhaka HP Fitze and Ambassador of Germany in Dhaka Dietrich Andreas also addressed the inaugural session that was presided over by Professor Dr Shamsheer Ali.

Scientists from Germany, Switzerland, India and Bangladesh will deliver their speeches in the seminar.



Expatriate docs join Apollo Hospitals as consultants

Dr Jasmin Manzoor and Dr Lutful L Chowdhury have joined the Apollo Hospitals Dhaka as consultant in dermatology and consultant in gastroenterology & internal medicine respectively, says a press release.

The expatriate Bangladeshi doctors have years of experience in different capacities in the UK and the USA.

Dr Jasmin has a wide expertise in treating different dermatological conditions and general cosmetics and surgical dermatology.

Dr Lutful has extensive training on all modalities of both diagnostic and therapeutic GI Endoscopy, including gastroscopy, colonoscopy and ERCP.

NGO activities in quasi-political areas may create tension

Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud tells seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent economist Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud yesterday said that non-government organisations (NGOs) are now getting more and more involved in quasi-political areas, which may create tension in the future.

NGOs should focus on raising awareness to ensure accountability and good governance in the health and education sectors, he said as the chief guest at a seminar on 'Economic Transformation and Social Development in Bangladesh'.

The East West University and the Economic Research Group jointly organised the seminar at the conference room of the university, with its Vice Chancellor Prof Farash Uddin Ahmed in the chair. Indian economist Isher J Ahluwalia was present as special guest.

Prof Wahiduddin said the readymade garments sector has

somehow survived in the post Multi-Fibre Arrangement era as the governance problems did not have any impact on the sector.

Yet, the growth in the garment sector may decline around 25 percent in the quota-free regime, he added.

The country's economic growth prospects crucially depend on sustainable high export growth, which can be achieved through continued growth of garment exports as well as export diversification, he said.

Economist Isher J Ahluwalia said Bangladesh has achieved successes in increasing life expectancy, reducing infant mortality rates and birth rates, improving the status of child nutrition and promoting girls' education in the last one and a half decades.

She said any country that has changed its government through election three times in a row cannot be called a dysfunctional state.

"When compared with other developing countries, Bangladesh emerges as a feisty fighter moving steadily to improve its status along the many dimensions of social development," she added.

Ahluwalia said accelerating economic growth in the years ahead will be more challenging because of tough competitions in exports.

Former finance minister Abul Mal Abdul Muhit, economist Debapriya Bhattacharya, Prof Mamtaj Uddin Ahmed, Dr Sazzad Zahir and Dr Asaduzzaman also spoke.

Hossain Zillur Rahman presented a speech on 'Good Governance: A Search for Entry Points' in the second session of the seminar.

Former finance minister M Sayeduzzaman chaired the session.

National art competition held

Fast Corporation Pvt Ltd, the exclusive distributor of Faber-Castell Germany in Bangladesh, organised an art competition at Shilpakala Academy-Charukala Plaza in the city recently, says a press release.

Co-organisers are Nestle Bangladesh Ltd, Etcetera Bangladesh Ltd, Igloo Ice-cream and Meridian Chips.

A total of 1761 participants from all over the country participated in the competition.

Eminent artists Rafiqun Nabi and Abul Bark Alvi from the Institute of Fine Arts, Dhaka University inaugurated the programme. Prothom Alo Editor Matuir Rahman distributed prizes among the winners chief guest. Unirend Ltd Muneer CEO Ahmed Khan and Fast Corporation (Pvt) Ltd Managing Director Hafiz Ahmed attended the programme.

Oust govt for fair trial of Kibria's killers: Tofail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fair trial of the killers of Shah AMS Kibria, former finance minister and Awami League leader, will be held on this soil at any cost, said the speakers at a rally yesterday.

They said the government is trying to protect those who were behind the killing by keeping them out of the trial process.

The rally was organised by Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote in front of Bangabandhu Museum in the city to mark the 75th birthday of Shah AMS Kibria today.

He was killed in a grenade attack in Habiganj recently.

AL Presidium Member Tofail Ahmed called for united movement to oust the government for fair trial of Kibria's killers.

"The anti-liberation forces wanted to exterminate Awami League by killing Bangabandhu and his family members, but they could not achieve their goal due to dynamic leadership of Sheikh Hasina," he added.

Advocate Tarana Halim, general secretary of Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote, said

Kibria had to die due to government's negligence.

"As a family member, I can say that the government did not offer us any helicopter to bring the injured Kibria to Dhaka," she asserted.

Presided over by AL Cultural Secretary Alamgir Kunkum, the rally was also addressed by Krishak League leader MA Karim, Rasheda Mahiuddin and Abdul Matin Bhuiyan.

Obituary

Engineer Syed Mostafa Kamal, son of Barisal Bibhagh Samity President Alhaj Syeda Jamila Saleh, died at Los Angeles in California on Wednesday, says a press release.

He was laid to rest in Los Angeles.

Barisal Bibhagh Samity in a message expressed deep shock at the death of Mostafa Kamal and conveyed sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

Dwijbar Dasgupta

Dwijbar Dasgupta, a senior lawyer of Khulna, passed away due to cardiac arrest at the Khulna Medical College Hospital (KMCH) at the age of 77, says a press release.

He left behind his four sons and four daughters to mourn his death.

Mafique Uddin Ahmed

Mafique Uddin Ahmed, former official of the audit department, died of old age complications at his residence in Sylhet yesterday, says a press release.

His namaz-e-janaza will be held on the mazar premises of Hazrat Shahjalal (RA) after Asr prayer today.

He left behind his four sons and one daughter to mourn his death.



Winners of the National Art Competition 2004-2005 pose for photograph with the guests at the Shilpakala Academy.

FF seeks PM's help in fight against his eviction move

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A freedom fighter crippled in the Liberation War seeks the prime minister's intervention in preventing an influential quarter from evicting him from his government-allocated house.

The government in 1988 allocated him a house No. 30 in Purana Pallan in the capital for his contributions to the Liberation War, Manik Ali told The Daily Star yesterday.

No-one can claim the house as it was abandoned property, Manik added.

"But without any reason the Abandoned Property Management

Board on April 26 issued me a seven-day ultimatum to vacate the house," he said.

The Ministry of Liberation Welfare has recently assured the freedom fighter that he can stay in house, he said. "But an influential local quarter in connivance with some government officials are trying to evict me."

"I sacrificed my eyes and a hand for the country, and now I'm being rewarded with being evicted from my house," Manik said.

Manik fought as a junior commander at the Sector No. 4 in Sylhet and lost his eyes and left hand in a mine blast on December 6, 1971.



Professor Sirajul Islam, dean of Business Studies Faculty, inaugurates the re-union of Management Net, an organisation of ex-students of Department of Management, Dhaka University, at the Business Studies Bhawan on Friday.

WEATHER TODAY

Rain or thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind speed is likely to occur at few places over Khulna, Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Barisal and Chittagong divisions with moderately heavy to heavy at places till 6.00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met office said.

Highest temperature 37.4 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Mongla and lowest 19.0 degree Celsius at Jessore and Khulna.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:27pm today and rises at 5:23am tomorrow.

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

Table with columns: City/Town, Temperature in Celsius (Max, Min), Humidity in percentage (Morning, Evening)



Muktijuddha Gono Parishad took out a procession in the city yesterday protesting the failure of the government and the politicians in controlling price hike.

DHAKA TODAY TOMORROW. Painting exhibition, BJS rally, AGM, DUJ discussion, DSEC seminar, Musical evening, Cultural function, Roundtable, Launching ceremony, Discussion, Memorial discussion.