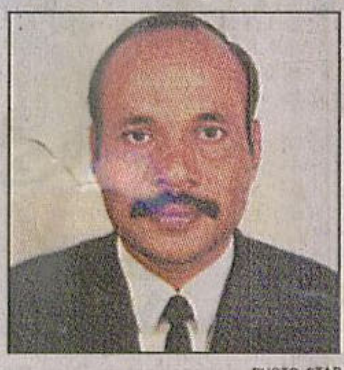


Top city AL leader slain

Dawn-to-dusk hartal in capital today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unknown assailants gunned down Law Affairs Secretary of Dhaka City Awami League (AL) Advocate Khorshed Alam Bachchu at Tejgaon yesterday, triggering violent street demonstrations in the capital.



Slain Khorshed Alam Bachchu; his family, right, mourns the murder.



Three gunmen sprayed point-blank around 10 bullets on SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

SC Bar to cancel Sircar, Moudud membership

Legal experts question speaker's ruling on lawyers' movement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) yesterday decided to cancel membership of the speaker and the law minister for their remarks against SCBA lawyers' ongoing agitation demanding removal of an

additional High Court judge. Noted jurists Dr Kamal Hossain and Dr M Zahir also questioned the speaker's ruling against the lawyers' movement, saying the speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad has no jurisdiction to issue such a ruling on matters out SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Stay orders stall Tk 30,000cr loan recovery: Saifur

orders of court. Speaking on separate point of order, a number ruling BNP lawmakers also alleged the judiciary, especially the Supreme Court, is interfering in parliamentary affairs which they said is beyond the SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday told the Jatiya Sangsad that the government is facing problems in recovering default loans amounting to about Tk 30,000 crore mainly due to stay

of the dead, 15 were from Natore, eight from Rajshahi, and one each from Naogaon, Chapainawabganj, Habiganj and Nilphamari. They include Tanjeema, 8, of Bagmara and Chandu, 30, and Sajib of Puthia upazilas of Rajshahi. Sabur, 8, Zamila, 55, Amir Hossain, 35, Ibrahim, Zahangir, 22, Alam, 38, Kamal, 32 and Anwarul, 35, of Sadar upazila, Alpona, 14, Zarina, 13, SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Peacekeeper laid to rest

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladeshi UN peacekeeper Nur Mohammad, who died in an ambush by militias in Congo on May 12, was laid to rest yesterday with full military honour at his family graveyard at Tatakandi village under Raipura upazila of Narsingdi district. Earlier in the morning, eight army gunners brought down the coffin of Nur Mohammad covered with UN and Bangladesh flags from the aircraft at Zia International Airport. Family members of the deceased soldier were also present at the airport.

After the funeral service, an army helicopter brought the body of Nur Mohammad from Dhaka to SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

200 missing as another launch sinks in Jamuna

Patuakhali toll soars to 78

STAR REPORT

Two children drowned and at least 200 people went missing in a launch sinking in river Jamuna near Arichaghat yesterday afternoon while 32 more bodies were recovered from the scene of Sunday's launch disaster in Patuakhali.

Our correspondent from Manikganj reports: MV Raipura with more than 200 passengers capsized in Jamuna in Shibabala upazila of Manikganj after it was buffeted by a

severe storm at about 4:30pm yesterday. Witnesses said 20 people managed to swim ashore while many are feared trapped inside the vessel.

Bodies of two children were recovered, and of them, one was identified as Russell, 4, of Sujanagar, Pabna. Rescue operation was going on until filing this report at 7:30pm.

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) yesterday dispatched from Narayanganj a team of divers to the scene. Besides,

salvage ship MV Rustam will reach Aricha by this afternoon, BIWTA sources said.

The vessel, coming from Notakhlaghat of Bera upazila of Pabna, was carrying more than its capacity of 150 passengers, added the sources.

In the last one decade, over 4,000 people died in major launch accidents in the country. The government however put the number at SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

Nor'wester kills 27

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

At least 27 people were killed and some 500 others injured as a nor'wester battered 10 upazilas of Rajshahi and Natore districts yesterday, leaving a trail of devastation.

The storm lasting 25 minutes from 2:30pm damaged houses and crops and uprooted trees and electric poles disrupting road communication and power supply in vast areas.

Around 1 lakh people have become shelterless in the two districts, about 50,000 of them in Sadar upazila of Natore and in the district town. They are living under the open sky, official sources said.

Of the dead, 15 were from Natore, eight from Rajshahi, and one each from Naogaon, Chapainawabganj, Habiganj and Nilphamari.

They include Tanjeema, 8, of Bagmara and Chandu, 30, and Sajib of Puthia upazilas of Rajshahi. Sabur, 8, Zamila, 55, Amir Hossain, 35, Ibrahim, Zahangir, 22, Alam, 38, Kamal, 32 and Anwarul, 35, of Sadar upazila, Alpona, 14, Zarina, 13, SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

POLLS IRREGULARITIES EC for authority to cancel candidature

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The Election Commission (EC) wants authority to cancel candidatures of contesting candidates for gross irregularities in the election process.

The EC yesterday at a meeting chaired by Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) MA Syed discussed the issue of having such legal authority for conducting the polls free and fair, sources said.

It also echoed a high court rule about collecting information on the candidates' academic qualification, criminal backgrounds -- if any, profession and source of income.

The EC should acquire all this information and disclose it to the public to help them properly choose

their representative and not get cheated by the rhetoric of candidates, the high court rule on April 23 said also asking the EC to explain why it should not be directed to take measures to collect such information.

The EC yesterday decided that it will not contest the rule as it is in favour of such rules.

"The candidature of a contesting candidate should be declared null and void if he is accused of repeatedly violating electoral rules," Election Commissioner AK Mohammad Ali told The Daily Star after the meeting. "Candidates who frequently violate electoral code of conduct during the election period do not have the right to be people's SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Felicitations

We congratulate **Dr. Mostafizur Rahman**, Managing Director of Popular Diagnostic Centre Ltd. and Popular Pharmaceuticals Ltd. for being awarded the **Nawab Sir Salimullah Gold Medal 2004** for outstanding contribution in healthcare sector of Bangladesh.

POPULAR
Popular Pharmaceuticals Ltd.

CONGRATULATION

Nawab Sir Salimullah Gold Medal-2002 has been awarded to **Haji Md. Mozammel Haque M.P.** (From right side standing position-1st) Honorable Chairman & Managing Director of **Bangas-Tallu Group of Industries** for his outstanding performance in the industrialisation of the country. Honorable President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh presented him the award at an eventful ceremony held on 16-05-2005 in Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel, Dhaka.

We express our heartiest congratulation to our honorable Chairman Haji Md. Mozammel Haque M.P. and pray to Almighty Allah for his good health and long life.

All Executive, Officers & Staff
of
Bangas-Tallu Group of Industries

bangas Tallu
An Industrial Group

**একই স্রোতে
বিভিন্ন সুযোগ ও নিশ্চয়তা**

ডি পি এস +

- যে কোন দিন জমা প্রদান
- আবশ্যিক মুদাফা সঞ্চয়
- মোদাকাল ৩, ৫ ও ১০ বছর

সেভিস একাউন্ট

- প্রত্যাহিক জমার উপর মুদাফা
- মাসিক ৫০,০০০ টাকা জমার উপর ১০% বোনাস
- রিটেল টাইম এসএমএস ব্যাংকিং
- ২৪ ঘণ্টা অনলাইন এটিএম সুবিধা

এম বি +

- সুনির্দিষ্ট মাসিক আয়
- উচ্চহার মুদাফা
- মোদাকালে ফুল টাকা প্রত্যাপন
- বয়স্কিমভাবে সঞ্চয়ী হিসাবে মুদাফা জমা

ডি বি +

- আমদান ৭ বছরে বিতরণ
- মোদাকাল উত্তীর্ণ হবার পূর্বে উত্তোলনের ক্ষেত্রে সঞ্চয়ী হিসাবের হারে মুদাফা প্রযোজ্য

ফিক্সড ডিপোজিট

- মোদাকাল ১, ২, ৩ ও ৬ মাস এক ১ বছর
- আবশ্যিক মুদাফা

ফি

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