

## Hasina celebrates 59th birthday with followers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hundreds of leaders and workers of Awami League (AL) and its front organisations yesterday thronged the Sudha Sadan residence of opposition leader Sheikh Hasina to celebrate her 59th birthday.

The AL leaders and admirers queued in long lines, bearing flowers, fruits, sweets, cake and candy to greet the AL chief in the morning. Hasina then cut her birthday cake in a simple ceremony.

Hasina recalled memories of her birthday with family members and friends and said her birthday was never celebrated with festivity. "Today, I am left without my parents and most of family members. They were brutally assassinated. My only sister, son and daughter are far away," she said.

Hasina said she forgot all her sadness and pain when she received plenty of love and affection from the people of Bangladesh. She asked the countrymen to pray for a hunger and violence free Bangladesh.

Bangladesh Chhatra League, the student wing of AL, brought out a colourful procession on the Dhaka University Campus to celebrate Hasina's birthday. The BCL leaders and workers also cut a cake.



Awami League President Sheikh Hasina feeds a piece of cake to a girl when the members of Bangabandhu Shishu Kishore Mela visited her at her Sudha Sadan residence in the city yesterday to wish her a happy birthday.

## 'Project true history to new generation'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

True history of the liberation war must be projected to the new generation to infuse in them the spirit of the war, said the speakers at a discussion yesterday.

The discussion titled 'Role of the Air Force in Liberation War' was organised by the Liberation War Museum on its premises in the city with the participation of the students of Bangladesh Bank Ideal High School and Shaheed Abu Taleb High School.

The speakers said Bangladesh Air Force (BAF), which was born in September 28, 1971 with only three aircraft, 10 pilots and 67 technicians to build up resistance against Pakistani occupation forces, played a very significant role in the liberation war.

Air Vice Marshal (Retd.) AK Khandokar, Air Vice Marshal (Retd.) Sultan Mahmud, Captain (Retd.) Shamsul Alam, and Captain (Retd.) Alamgir Sattar reminisced the memories of the liberation war and gave reply to different questions of the new generation.

The museum authorities have been organising such discussions followed by documentary films and quiz programme with the participation of new generation on its premises since 1999.

## ASSAULT OF CARE STAFF Police yet to arrest Bogra BNP leader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The police are yet to arrest a local BNP leader although a Tangail court issued an arrest warrant against him on May 3 this year on charges of assaulting a female official of Care Bangladesh.

Ahsanul Tayeeb Zakir, president of Sonatala BNP in Bogra, has been moving freely and even attending public functions, but he has been reported as 'absconding' since the arrest warrant was issued, said a Care press release on Tuesday.

Two newspapers -- the daily Prothom Alo and the daily Korotoa -- published reports on September 13 that Zakir joined an anti-drug rally, which was also attended by the officer-in-charge of Sonatala Police Station.

The press release said Zakir, also the administrator of Sonatala municipality, assaulted Care staff Rokeya Begum and humiliated her in public on February 10, 2002 at Sonatala Sadar Union as her motorcycle was parked on the driveway where Zakir's car was about to be parked.

Rokeya then lodged a general diary with the local police station and filed a criminal case against him under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act-2000.

The police initially refused to register the case, which was then transferred to the Detective Branch. But the report submitted by the DB was 'biased', the press release added.

Rokeya then filed a 'Naraji Petition' (objection) with the court, which has long been pending for hearing. Later, she filed a petition with the High Court in 2003 with an appeal to transfer the case to the Tangail court for fair judgement. The case was transferred to Tangail on January 25 this year.

Care Bangladesh has suspended all its activities at Sonatala Upazila for an indefinite period in the wake of the case.

On August 29, Care Country Director Steve Wallace and Deputy Country Director Hasan Mazumder met the inspector general of police who assured that Zakir will be arrested as soon as possible.

## Govt to amend censorship act to check vulgarity in films

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is amending the Censorship of Films Act, 1963 to check vulgarity in films, said Information Minister M Shamsul Islam yesterday.

The proposed amendment, now lying with the parliamentary standing committee on information ministry for scrutiny, provides that the court should not issue an interim stay on the action by the Film Censor Board against obscene films without taking its version, he said at a press briefing.

Among others provisions, the new law will impose a maximum of three years' imprisonment and a fine of Tk 10,000 for those involved

in producing vulgar films, including artists, technicians and exhibitors.

It will also empower the district information officer to seize such films.

The minister said the censor board's drive against obscene films is being hindered due to court injunctions against the board.

Laws are being misused in many cases, he added.

Dishonest filmmakers have filed 70 cases against the censor board after it has taken action against their vulgar films, said Information Secretary Dr Muhammad Mahbubur Rahman.

Of them, 33 producers and directors have obtained stay orders

and are running public exhibitions of these films, he added.

When reporters pointed out that one of the members of the censor board is involved in making a vulgar film, Minister Shamsul Islam said, "Such a member should resign from the board."

The board has permanently cancelled censor certificates of 14 Bangla films on charges of vulgarity this year.

It has also cancelled licences and taken other actions against 24 cinemas for screening uncensored films.

Vice-chairman Abu Abdullah and members of the censor board were also present at the press briefing.

## Life term for adulteration of food demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Citizens' Rights Movement staged a token hunger strike on the premises of the Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday demanding life imprisonment for producers, suppliers and sellers of adulterated food items and cancellation of licences of the organisations involved in such trade.

Later addressing a rally on the same venue, the speakers urged the authorities concerned to continue the ongoing drive against food adulteration throughout the country.

Speaking as chief guest, former secretary Syed Margub Morshed said a section of dishonest traders blend life-threatening chemicals with food for lucrative gains.

He laid emphasis on strict legislation and its proper implementation as well as raising public awareness to stop adulteration of food items.

Convenor of Citizens' Rights Movement Tushar Rahman said the dishonest traders and organisations are continuing their heinous activities due to leniency in recently passed act against food adulteration.

He urged the government to form a commission for amending the new act.

Conducted by Moulana Abdus Salam, the rally was also addressed by Environmentalist Abu Naser Khan, Advocate Md. Shahjahan, Advocate Julfia Akter Raza, Dr. Jesmin Ara-Sultana Sathi, Haji Ansar Ali of Dhaka Jagoron, Najim Uddin of Amra Dhakabashi, Lata Rani Biswas of Cab and Shuvon of Work For Better Bangladesh.

## KIBRIA KILLING Quaiyum was victimised Says family

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The family of ousted BNP leader Abdul Quaiyum, now in jail as the main accused in the killing of SAMS Kibria, yesterday pleaded Quaiyum's innocence, saying he is a victim of intra-party feuding of Habiganj BNP.

"We demand the government to find out the real culprits through a neutral international investigation," said Ruhul Quaiyum, son of Abdul Quaiyum, at a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

He said that Quaiyum is a victim of a conspiracy on the part of some Habiganj BNP leaders, but he declined to name anyone involved.

"When my father became the local BNP vice president, a section of the Habiganj BNP did not like it. They are the ones who have framed him in the Kibria killing case," Ruhul pointed out.

Quaiyum started an early election campaign, including public advertisements and a public relations effort, just a few days before the killing of former finance minister Kibria on January 27, 2005. When the press pointed this out, Ruhul said, "As far as I know, my father did not declare himself to be an election candidate. I believe his enthusiastic followers have done those things to impress my father."

"The government's responsibility is to ensure security of the people. When it fails to do so, it is trying to give an eye-wash through arranging a farcical trial," Ruhul said, adding,

A farcical trial inflicts sufferings on the people and destroys families -- which is happening to my father and our family."

Ruhul said the police inhumanly tortured his father during a total of 47 days of remand. "He was threatened to be killed in a cross fire to make him give a false confession," Ruhul pointed out.

Asked about the freezing of his father's 10 bank accounts on allegation of unusually high transactions, Ruhul claimed that his father has only two accounts.

About Quaiyum's sources of income, he said his father used to do share business in the stock market besides his job in a private company.

The police filed two separate cases on the Kibria killing -- one under the Explosives act and the other for the killing. Quaiyum was arrested from Dhaka on February 5. The police submitted a charge sheet in the killing case on March 20 and in the explosives case on April 20.

In both the cases a total of 10 have been accused, of whom eight have been arrested. Of them, four have given a confessional statement while Quaiyum has not given any confessional statement.

However, the four persons who made confessions later appealed to the High Court to withdraw their confessional statements, saying the police forced them to make the statements. The high court has stayed the proceedings of both the cases.

Quaiyum's counsel advocate MA Hye was also present at the press conference.

# 'Introduce harsher punishment to check food adulteration'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday called for active participation of the civil society to ensure food safety.

They suggested introducing harsher punishment to check widespread adulteration of food items.

Referring to on-going drive against adulteration of food and drug in the city, the speakers said mobile courts may not continue the drive forever.

But such action is needed as a sustainable strategy to penalise the perpetrators who commit such crimes, they added.

The discussion titled 'Find permanent strategies for drive against adulteration' was organised by the Federation of NGOs in Bangladesh (FNB) at the National Press Club in the city.

Borhan Ahmed, executive editor of daily Janakantha, said, "As consumers we are not able to lodge direct complaints against the perpetrators for adulteration that put public health at risk."

He suggested formulating laws that would allow public to lodge lawsuit against committing such crimes that threaten public health.

Tajul Islam, director of the FNB, said, "Citizen's role could bring a permanent supervisory responsibilities that can eventually exercise authority in ensuring routine drives by any legal body to supervise and check adulteration."

Advocate Shah Deen Malik in his keynote paper recommended introducing harsher punishment under the current Special Powers Act, 1974 to bring the perpetrators in the books. Besides, setting up of consumer courts through a consumer act can be an effective tool for victims to claim or realise their compensation, he added.

Advocate Syeda Rizwana Hasan, executive director of Bangladesh Environment Lawyers' Association (BELA), said, "Apart from checking adulteration it is also necessary to check if the



Journalist and TV Presenter Mohammad Jahangir speaks at a discussion titled 'Find permanent strategies for drive against adulteration' organised by the Federation of NGOs in Bangladesh (FNB) at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.

manufacturers of food items declare ingredients in the label. Once the ingredients are declared manufacturers may hesitate to contaminate the food item with other sub-standard substance(s)."

Dr Md Ibrahim, executive director of CMES, pointed out that the mobile court's drive against adulterated food is focused on the elite society only.

"In fact, many people suffer from consuming adulterated food outside the metropolitan areas. So it is also required to launch similar drives in rural areas," he said.

Bazul Rahman, editor of daily Sangbad said, "We have done the ground work by launching the drives against the perpetrators. It is now time for launching a massive movement to make people aware of adulterated food and allied products. Once people are aware of the situation, demand would automatically come for public

health safety."

Abul Khair, senior reporter of daily Ittefaq, informed that the government has decided to launch as many as 37 mobile courts during the month of Ramadan in the city and introduce harsher punishment to check food adulteration.

Prof A B M Faruk of Dhaka University suggested regulating advertisement of all food and allied products.

He said, "It is often noticed that the advertisers attract people to consume harmful products without considering long-term public health risks. Controlling the ads may substantially reduce the abuse."

Kazi Faruk of Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB) and Abul Hasib Khan of RIC also spoke.

Journalist and TV Presenter Mohammad Jahangir moderated the discussion.



Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, executive director of the Centre for Policy Dialogue, speaks at the launching ceremony of Global Competitiveness Report 2005-06 and Bangladesh Competitiveness Environment Study 2005 at the CPD offices in the city yesterday.

## 2 murdered in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unknown criminals slaughtered a teenage domestic worker at Adabar and stabbed a contractor to death at Shyamoli in separate incidents in the city yesterday.

Nayem, 14, son of Jalal Miah of Mymensingh, worked in the house of Mostafa Chowdhury at Road No.-3, Block-Kha, Pisciculture Housing Society. He was found slaughtered under the staircase on the ground floor of the house in the evening.

Mostafa told reporters that he took the boy to market in the morning and sent him back at around 12:00 noon. Mostafa returned

home in the evening only to find the boy lying in a pool of blood.

Police sent the body to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) morgue.

The reason behind the killing could not be known immediately.

In the other incident, Selim-uz Zaman Hamidul, a contractor for Dhaka City Corporation, was stabbed to death at around 7:30pm.

Unknown criminals attacked him at a lane beside the Shaymoli Cinema Hall and then sent him to the DMCH by an autorickshaw in a critical condition, but the doctors declared him dead.

## Three commit suicide in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two women and a youth committed suicide in separate incidents in the city yesterday.

The dead were identified as Rubaiya Khan, 28, Naznin Akhter, 19, and Md Khorshed Alam, 27.

Rubaiya committed suicide by hanging herself from a shower pipe in the bathroom of her house at Purana Paltan early yesterday.

She had been living separately from her husband Sumon after she came to know that he is a drug addict. She also received a divorce letter from her husband about one and a half month ago, said her sister Zakia Khatun.

In another incident, the police recovered the body of Naznin Akhter from Khilkhet early yesterday.

Her sisters said Naznin had a love affair with a youth who lived in the same area.

But the youth expressed his unwillingness to marry her, prompting her to take her life by hanging herself from a ceiling fan with a scarf, they said.

In the third incident, the body of Alam was found hanging from a ceiling fan at a hotel room at Arambagh.

The hotel manager informed the Motiheel police in the early hours of yesterday after he saw through the window of the room that the body of the boarder was hanging.

Alam checked in the hotel on Tuesday night, said the manager.



Language movement veteran Abdul Matin puts his signature on a paper at the launching ceremony of a mass signature campaign in the city yesterday. The Muktiyoddha Gono Parishad launched the campaign.



## Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over the country till 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy falls are also expected at places during the period, Met Office said predicting nearly unchanged day temperature over the country.

Highest temperature 35.7 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 25.4 degree Celsius at Srimongal.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:48pm today and rises at 5:50am 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	33.7	25.7	75	88
Chittagong	33.5	26.8	85	79
Rajshahi	34.4	25.8	84	80
Khulna	34.2	27.4	80	95
Barisal	35.2	27.0	84	76
Sylhet	33.2	25.5	92	80
Cox's Bazar	33.5	27.0	70	79

## Muktijoddha Gono Parishad launches mass signature campaign

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Muktiyoddha Gono Parishad launched a countrywide mass signature campaign in the city yesterday to press its demand that the remains of Bir Shreshtha Motiur Rahman be brought back from Pakistan.

The Parishad leaders said they would collect 50,000 signatures in one month and the programme would continue until the demand is met.

The parishad also announced a 101-member national committee, with sector commander of the liberation war Lt. Col. (ret.) Kazi Nuruzzaman Bir Uttam as its convenor and Istiaq Aziz Ulfat as chief coordinator.

Maj. Gen. (ret.) Syed Muhammad Ibrahim Bir Pratik, Dr. Khaliquzzaman, Dr. Nazim Uddin Ahmed and Dr. Lelin Chowdhury were made joint convenors.

Journalist Fayez Ahmed, language movement veteran Abdul Matin, Azizur Rahman Bir Uttam, Istiaq Aziz Ulfat, Dr. Nazim Uddin, Sadeq Ahmed Khan and Bir Shreshtha Motiur Rahman's wife Mili Rahman were present at the launching ceremony of the campaign.

## DHAKA TODAY

### Launching ceremony

United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) and Board of Investment (BOI) will launch the UNCTAD World Investment Report 2005 with BOI Executive Director Mahmudur Rahman in the chair. Venue: Dhaka Sheraton Hotel. Time: 9:30am.

### Pathagar convention

Pathagar Andolon organises the seventh national convention of Muktiyoddha Shahid Smriti Pathagar with prominent journalist Sharif Kabir in the chair. Venue: WVA auditorium, House 20, Road 27 (Old), Dhanmondi. Time: 3pm.

### Silent sit-in

Family of slain former finance minister Shah AMS Kabir will stage a silent sit-in as part of Blue for Peace Programme. All have been requested to attend the programme wearing blue dresses. Venue: Science Lab intersection to New Market. Time: 5:00pm.

### Workshop

Sultan-Chhafa Pathshala organises a workshop on 'Education of under privileged children: Review of Sultan-Chhafa Pathshala experiences' Venue: PPRC Seminar room, Dhanmondi.

### Publication ceremony

Hafezz Huzur (RH) Parishad organises the publication ceremony of a book in memory of Hazrat Moulana Muhammadul Hafezz Huzur. Venue: Institute of Diploma Engineers, Kakrail. Time: 9:00am.

### Seminar on Rumi

Office of Cultural Counsellor, Iranian embassy, organises a seminar to celebrate the Day of Moulana Jalaluddin Rumi, a great Persian poet. Venue: Office of Cultural Counsellor, Dhanmondi. Time: 4:30pm.

### Biochemists' convention

The inaugural ceremony of the 2nd National Convention and Scientific Seminar of Bangladesh Society of Medical Biochemists will be held. Venue: Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University. Time: 10:00am.

### Publication ceremony

Comrade Moni Singh Smarakgrantha Sampadana Parishad organises the publication ceremony of a book titled 'Comrade Moni Singh Smarakgrantha' in memory of Comrade Moni Singh. Venue: Liberation War Museum, Shegun Bagicha. Time: 4:30pm.

## Wage Board meet adjourned till October 2

BSS, Dhaka

The second meeting of the 5th Wage Board held in the city yesterday was adjourned till October 2.

The meeting was held at Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) with chairman of the board Justice M Fazlul Haque in the chair.

Executive Director of the Daily Ittefaq Barrister Mainul Hossain, Managing Director and Chief Editor of BSS Gazul Hassan Khan, Director and Editor of the Daily Samakal Golam Sarwar, Editor of the Daily Pratham Alo Motiur Rahman, Publisher and Editor of the Daily Independent Mahbubul Alam, Secretary General of BFUJ Ruhul Amin Gazi, Assistant Editor of the Daily Ittefaq Habibur Rahman Milon, President of the Federation of Press Workers M Fazle Imam and Secretary General M Abul Hashem, President of the Federation of general employees M Motiur Rahman Talukdar and Secretary of the Wage Board Sharkey Chaman Khan were present at the meeting.

The meeting discussed fixation of dearness allowance evaluating inflation and market prices in the last nine years. Owners of newspapers, representatives of journalists, general employees and press workers gave their opinion.

The meeting was adjourned when owners of the newspapers sought time for discussing the issue among themselves until October 1.

The adjourned meeting will be held on Sunday at 11:00am. A decision on fixing dearness allowance is likely to be announced at the meeting.