

Enayetullah Khan's death condoled

Journalist leaders of southern region have condoled the death of Enayetullah Khan, a veteran journalist of the country. In separate statements yesterday, they said Enayetullah believed in democracy, transparency, objectivity and unconditional free flow of information. He never compromised with the freedom of press and the rights of journalists. Enayetullah changed the scenario of journalism in English language of our country by publishing weekly Holiday and daily New Age, they said. In his sad demise a vacuum has been created in the field of bold and honest journalism which would be very hard to fulfill, they added. The journalist leaders also prayed for the salvation of departed soul and expressed sympathy for the members of the bereaved family. Those who issued statements included leaders of Barisal Reporters Unity, Barisal Press Club, Bakerganj Press Club, Patuakhali Press Club, Pirojpur Press Club, Bhola Press Club and Jhalakathi Press Club. Our correspondent from Manikganj adds: Leaders of Manikganj Press Club and district unit of Bangladesh Sangbadik Samity have expressed deep shock at the death of Enayetullah Khan. In separate messages, press club President AFM Nurtaq Alam Bahar and Joint Secretary Zahangir Alam Biswas and samity President Rasedul Islam Khan and General Secretary Biplob Chakrabarty also prayed for the salvation of the departed soul. FM condoles UNB adds: Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan has expressed his deep shock at the death of veteran journalist Enayetullah Khan. In a condolence messages yesterday, the foreign minister recalled the contribution of Enayetullah to journalism and to image-building of Bangladesh during his assignment as an ambassador to Myanmar and China. The death of Enayetullah is an irreparable loss to the nation, said the minister. He also conveyed sympathy to the members of the bereaved family and prayed for the salvation of the departed soul.



Journalist Bhaskar Rao of India speaks at a conference on 'Journalists Beyond Frontiers' organised by the South Asian Free Media Association (Safma) at a city hotel yesterday. On his left are Safma President Reazuddin Ahmed, NM Amin of Sri Lanka, Gopal Khanal of Nepal and Afzal Khan of Pakistan.

Free labour mobility a must for strong Saarc economy

Speakers tell seminar. Free mobility of labour along with free trade in Saarc countries has to be ensured in order to make the economy of South Asia strong, said the speakers at a seminar in the capital yesterday. They said under globalisation free trade was ensured, but free mobility of labour was not considered only to protect the interests of the capitalist countries. The seminar on 'New Imperialist Globalisation and Migration' was organised by Bangladesh chapter of World Social Forum (WSF) with the slogan 'another world is possible' at Dhaka Reporters Unity auditorium. Presided over by Khushi Kabir, coordinator of Nijera Kori, the seminar was addressed by former foreign secretary C M Shafi Sami, economist Prof Abul Barakat, human rights activist Dr Hamida Hossain and trade union leader Nurul Islam. Shafi Sami, also a former ambassador, said unscrupulous employers and recruiting agencies and corrupt embassy bureaucrats and officials are mainly responsible for the exploitations of migrant workers. He also alleged that no government took any steps to protect the rights of the migrant workers. Shafi Sami said lack of solidarity among the manpower exporting countries also helps exploitation of migrant workers by foreign employers. Prof Abul Barakat said globalisation is running in the form of market fundamentalism, free migration will not be possible. Dr Hamida Hossain said the government is less concerned about the security issue of female migrant workers who face different forms of exploitations abroad. She said any migration policy is yet to be formulated by the government.

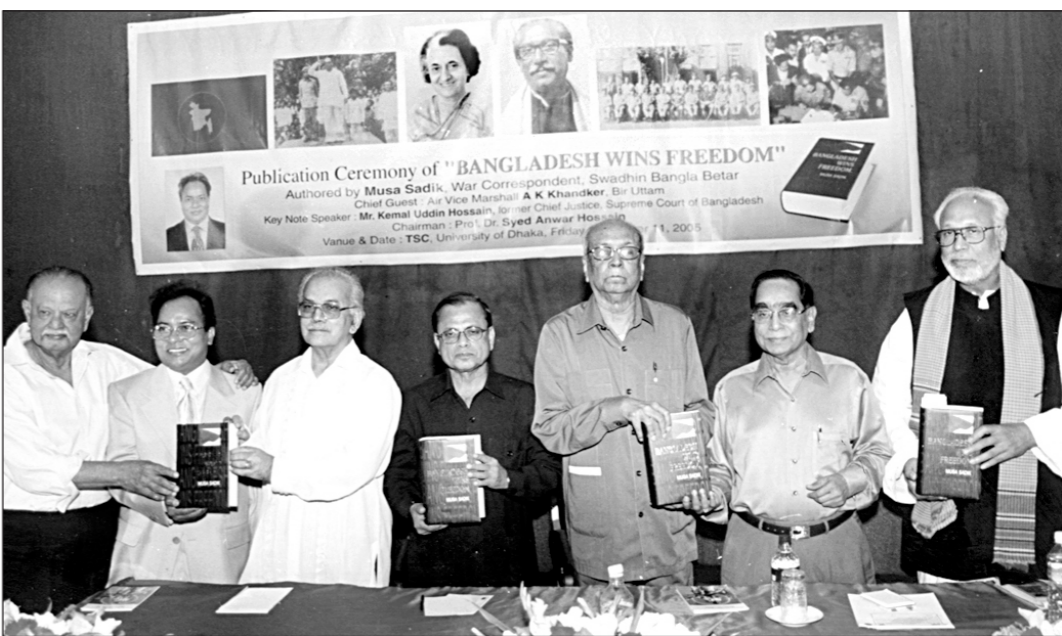
In a keynote paper, Syed Saiful Haq Asif said globalisation has benefited the capitalist society and increased the gap between the rich and the poor. Although migrant workers are playing important role in the development, their rights are still ignored, said the paper. It also suggested introducing Saarc work permit, if necessary, among the member countries so that the people of the region could move freely for job as per their qualifications. Referring to exploitation of migrant workers by foreign employers and recruiting agencies, the speakers reiterated the need for formulating rules and regulations for the welfare of the migrant workers. Chief Executive Officer of Nagorik Uddyog Zaker Hossain, and representatives from different migrant and human rights organisations were present at the seminar.

'Bangladesh Wins Freedom' launched

Air Vice Marshal (Retd.) AK Khandakar Bir Uttam launched the book titled 'Bangladesh Wins Freedom' by Musa Sadik, a researcher and writer and war correspondent of Swadhin Bangla Betar, at the Teacher-Student Centre auditorium of Dhaka University. "The unity among the people during the liberation war has now faded away," he regretted. He thanked the author for presenting such a valuable book on the liberation war, saying that the book contains many untold stories and important information. Bangabir Abdul Kader Siddiqui called on the people to unite to safeguard the country's independence and sovereignty. "It is really unfortunate that we could not yet make a list of even one lakh martyrs, out of 30 lakh," he said. "We achieved independence through bullet in 1971, but now we have to safeguard it through ballot," said former chief justice Keamal Uddin Hossain. Author Musa Sadik said, "During an interview, former president Ziaur Rahman acknowledged that he proclaimed the independence on behalf of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman." Presided over by Syed Anwar Hossain, former director general of Bangla Academy, the ceremony was also addressed by HT Imam, cabinet secretary of the government-in-exile, and Major General (Retd.) CR Dutta.

SAARC SECURITY MEASURES Hasina blames govt for harassing people

Hasina was addressing as chief guest a meeting marking the 33rd founding anniversary of Awami Jubo League at Rangpur Circuit House ground in the morning. The meeting was presided over by Jubo League Chairman Jahangir Kabir Nanok. The AL chief said the alliance government failed to create job opportunities for thousands of educated youths in the country whereas the AL government from 1996 to 2001 provided 16 lakh youths with financial assistance and training on different trades. "The BNP-led coalition government has made unemployed youths terrorists instead of giving them employment to lead a dignified life," she added. Later in the afternoon, Hasina visited Kolkond union under Gangachara and Modhupur union under Baderganj upazilas in Rangpur. Addressing a public meeting at Abdus Samad High School ground at Gangachara, she said the government has decorated the capital spending cores of taka in the name of Saarc summit when thousands of munga-hit people in the northern districts are passing days in starvation. Hasina alleged that the BNP-Jamaat leaders are busy in siphoning money by raising the price of all essentials. She said the farmers are incurring losses as they do not get the real price of their products in the wake of higher price of inputs including fertilisers, electricity and diesel. Hasina has been in Rangpur on a five-day tour in the munga-hit northern districts. Today she will visit Fulchhari upazila in Gaibandha district and leave for Dhaka in the afternoon.



A book titled 'Bangladesh Wins Freedom' was launched at a ceremony in the city yesterday. From left are Maj. Gen. (Retd.) CR Dutta, author Musa Sadik, Air Vice Marshal (Retd.) AK Khandakar, Prof Syed Anwar Hossain, justice Kemal Uddin Hossain, HT Imam and Kader Siddiqui.

Summit to chart

FROM PAGE 1 She said for the governments and peoples of South Asia, the great event marks the 20th anniversary of the establishment of Saarc and the consolidation of their identity as South Asians. "The 13th Saarc Summit is an occasion of great importance for Bangladesh and governments and peoples of South Asia as a whole." Khaleda termed this a defining moment for South Asia as it seeks to realise its potential by moving into the core areas of economic cooperation. There is a growing recognition that South Asia has come into its own as one of the most dynamic regions in the world that is set to promote economic growth and social development, she said. The prime minister paid tribute to late president Ziaur Rahman for his statesmanship and vision in promoting the ideas of institutionalised regional cooperation. "We in South Asia continue to draw inspiration from his vision," she said. The prime minister mentioned that Saarc was established two decades ago with the core object of visibly improving the standards of living of ordinary South Asian men and women in an environment of harmony and peace. "Today, our Asian nations have at their disposal a regional forum for deliberations on cooperation in economic, trade, social and cultural areas. Saarc has succeeded in forging regional responses to many challenges that we are confronted with," she observed. The prime minister noted that Saarc represents a major component of Bangladesh's foreign policy. It has been the endeavor of Bangladesh government to continue actively to translate the Saarc spirit into action to create opportunities for the people to live in dignity and to realise their full potential. She said at the end of two decades of regional cooperation, the 13th summit offers a unique opportunity to look at areas of cooperation "in more innovative, imaginative and pragmatic ways so that we focus not only on strengthening national initiatives but also focus on a truly regional orientation". She hoped that the 13th Summit is an important forum to find new avenues for meaningful cooperation as well as face further common challenges posed by globalisation and the sudden and disastrous impact of natural calamities. "We, the South Asian nations, must take advantage of our natural and human resources, strong cultural and historical linkage and our common desire to move forward in improving the quality of life of our peoples," the prime minister said.

SYLHET AUG 17 BLASTS 6 out of 10 cases await final report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet Sylhet police will submit final report of six of the 10 cases of August 17 bomb blasts in the town as they could not find any clue to these incidents, said an official. Meanwhile, police arrested Obaidullah Prodhania, 25, one of the accused in the case of bomb attack on Sylhet Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal Judge Biplob Goswami, in Chandpur Thursday evening. Police have already submitted charge sheets in two of the rest four cases while they will submit charge sheets in two others this week. Sylhet police got a time extension for the submission, the police official told The Daily Star. Deputy Inspector General of Sylhet police Syed Shah Zaman Raj yesterday told The Daily Star that the progress of investigation into the blast cases is comparatively good in Sylhet. Mohsin Khan and Abdul Hai, Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) activists and teachers of Sengram Madrasa in Jaintapur upazila, are the two main accused in the charge sheets, while police are also looking for JMB cadres Delwar and Murad. According to the confessional statements of Mohsin and Hai, Mohsin and Delwar blasted bombs on the court premises while Murad and Hai in Ambarkhana area. Delwar's name also came in the statement of Akhtar Hossain, another

JMB cadre who attacked the speedy trial tribunal judge. Sylhet police made a number of attempts to arrest Delwar but failed. Police caught Obaidullah from Bishnupur area of Chandpur and brought him to Sylhet yesterday morning on the basis of Akhtar Hossain's statement. Police will produce Obaidullah before the magistrate's court today and pray for his remand, a police official said yesterday afternoon. According to the statement of the arrested JMB cadre, Akhter, Sylhet and Chandpur police jointly raided the village and arrested Obaidullah Prodhania, 30, at his house. Obaidullah was brought to Sylhet Police Station yesterday morning. Biplob Goswami, judge of the Speedy Trial Tribunal, Sylhet, came under bomb attack near his residence at Kumarpura. Locals caught Akhter and handed him over to the police.



Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists stages a sit-in in front of the National Press Club in the city yesterday protesting cancellation of the booking of an auditorium, the venue of its national convention.

2 die, 9 fall sick by taking Potka fish

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg Two persons including a baby girl died and nine others fell sick after taking poisonous fish at Ramzan Hajir Colony slum in Dakshin Bakolia of the port city yesterday. Members of three poor families took the poisonous Potka fish collected free of cost from Firingee Bazar fishery, police and witnesses said, adding that immediately after taking the fish at around 11:00am, they started falling sick. One-year-old Mahmuda, daughter of Kabil Hossain, died after she was breast-fed by her poison affected mother Salma. All the poison affected people, who were badly vomiting, were rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital where Feroz, 45, died at around 3:00pm.

Obituary

K a z i M Sakhawatulla, a researcher and writer, died of cancer yesterday noon, says a press release. He graduated from Islamia College in Kolkata in 1940. He served in many important posts at home and abroad. He authored a number of books on socio-political issues, including 'Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib: Untold truth and unheard facts'. Altaf Hossain Munshi BSS, Dhaka Mohammad Altaf Hossain Munshi, a retired police officer, died of old-age complications at Birdem Hospital on Thursday night at the age of 90. He is survived by his wife, eight daughters and two sons.

Death anniversary

Today is the sixth death anniversary of Hasna Hena Qadir, wife of Lieutenant Colonel M Abdul Qadir who embraced martyrdom in the war of liberation in 1971, says a press release. Hasna Hena Qadir, one of the founders of the Ektattur Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee, died on November 12, 1999. A milad mahfil will be held after Asr prayers at the army graveyard in Dhaka where she was buried. Relatives and well-wishers have been requested to pray for the salvation of the departed soul. Siddiqur Rahman Khan UNB, Dhaka The 33rd death anniversary of valiant freedom fighter Siddiqur Rahman Khan (Siddique Master) will be observed today. His family members have arranged feeding of the destitute and prayers on the occasion.

Initiate steps to end poverty, violence

FROM PAGE 1 SAHR Chairperson IK Gujral and Co-chairperson Asma Jahangir on behalf of the other members called upon the Saarc leaders to move from rhetoric to reality. The statement came up with eight-point suggestion to achieve the goals. These are-- 1. Adopt the Citizens' Social Charter and implement these strategies collectively to promote equality and social justice, 2. Ratify human rights conventions and endorse them into domestic legislation so as to ensure fundamental freedoms to life and liberty, 3. Ratify Saarc's Convention to Combat Trafficking in Women and Children, and enter into multi-lateral and bilateral arrangements to deter trafficking, 4. Take initiatives for economic cooperation for the benefit of all regions and all sections of society and prevent concentration of wealth in the hands of a few, 5. Prevent the spread of communalism and sectarianism by introducing secular education, and promoting awareness of our diverse cultures through text books and media, 6. Liberalise visa systems to ensure freedom of movement of populations across borders and introduce a system of seasonal work permits to meet the supply and demand for labour, 7. Encourage cultural exchanges between different groups of citizens within South Asia, and 8. Take measures to release South Asian citizens who are in prisons in neighbouring countries without bureaucratic delays. "In order to meet the goal of poverty alleviation, Saarc countries must stand by their international and constitutional commitments to human rights and democracy, and contribute to a culture of tolerance and respect for all citizens," the statement asserted. Welcoming the holding of the Summit of heads of government of Saarc countries in Dhaka on 12 and 13 November after two years, the SAHR said the formation of Saarc had raised strong hopes amongst the people of the region that it would lead to greater unity of the people, a loosening of artificial boundaries and freedom of movement. "Our struggle was for a just society in South Asia, which would uphold human rights, democratic values and equality. But our region remains backward and one of the poorest because of our divisiveness and intolerance of differences. Communalism and sectarianism have divided neighbours; an unequal development has increased disparities; militarisation has diverted scarce resources and heightened insecurities of citizens. More recently religious chauvinism and militancy threatens the very structure of our societies," reads the statement. The statement reads: The governments of seven South Asian countries came together in 1985 to form Saarc, with a shared vision to end the vicious circle of poverty and to promote democracy as a basis for citizen-state relationship. Its common premise was a respect for human rights, human dignity and diversity. South Asians have a common history and have shared a culture of tolerance and pluralism. Our ideals have represented the principles of peace, democracy, secularism and human security as the basis of our diverse nationhood. Today, the heads of governments of Saarc countries are meeting under the shadow of massive natural disasters, which have devastated large populations. The enormity of the Tsunami in Sri Lanka and South India and the subsequent earthquake in Kashmir has shown the fragility of people's lives. In facing both disasters South Asians have shown a remarkable spirit of cooperation. Yet the conflicts between governments have prevented an effective assistance to the disaster victims. In Sri Lanka there were allegations of an unequal distribution of relief; in Kashmir it took 23 days to open a chink in the Line of Control, to enable help from one part of Kashmir to move to another. Thousands in Kashmir face a bleak winter of starvation or death. Yet both governments of India and Pakistan have continued to negotiate for defence purchases. The link between military expenditure, social misery and economic deprivation is well known. Militarisation is an obstacle to democratic development and citizens' participation. It is not possible to build peace until we divert our wasteful expenditures to people's needs, until we adopt cooperative and collective strategies to create equal access to a just development. On the eve of independence from colonial rule, South Asian leaders had promised sovereignty of the people in a democratic framework. But as the political economy has promoted the interests of rich and powerful coeries, governments have become more oppressive and excluding. Nepal has been experiencing a great human rights violation, largely perpetrated by the Royal Nepalese Army and the Maoists, causing extensive damage to human lives and property. The State needs to move quickly to reinstate and protect civil and human rights by restoring representative government and democratic freedom. In Pakistan, military domination has restricted citizens' participation and democratic development. It has created a space for fundamentalist creeds and militancy. In Bangladesh, political conflicts continue to foster authoritarianism, which is a threat to the parliamentary system of governance. In India elections have ensured a change of governments, but economic and social power rests with a small class of people, while pockets of poverty are excluded from the system of representation. Our governments have shown a concern with growing political violence. As in the dominant countries of the west, they have resorted to legal terror to suppress such violence. New laws on terrorism, resort to extra judicial killings by all our governments against their citizens is not likely to bring peace. This can only be promoted through policies that promote citizens' participation, that provide access to opportunities and that uphold human rights. South Asians share many social bonds of family, kinship, religion and geographical proximity. Yet it is the only region in the world where restrictions on our freedom of movement across borders separate us. Women's rights to equality have been accepted by all Saarc states by ratifying CEDAW Convention. It is now the responsibility of governments to legislate for equal rights to eliminate gender discrimination, to work towards their social acceptance and to deter violence against women, including trafficking. The vulnerability of poor children must be addressed by preventing their exploitation in hazardous labour and ensuring their right to nutrition, education and health.

Wife beaten to death for dowry in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg A husband killed his wife, mother of a 10-day son, for dowry at Ranganua in Chittagong yesterday. The dead was identified as Asma Khatun, 18. Police arrested her husband Saiful Haq Sebu in this connection. According to sources, Sebu beat Asma to death at their house at Mollarghata of Chandraghona some time in the afternoon. After killing Sebu was trying to hang the body of Asma from the ceiling in a bid to pass it as a suicide case when the neighbourhood caught him red handed at around 4:00pm. Sebu was later handed over to police. Local people alleged that Sebu used to beat up and torture Asma for dowry since they got married from a neighbouring village one year ago.