



## Prof Mannan passes away

Former vice chancellor (VC) of Dhaka University (DU) Prof Abdul Mannan passed away at his Gulshan residence in the city yesterday morning at the age of 76, says a press release.

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

His namaz-e-janaza was held on DU central mosque premises after Asr prayers yesterday.

The deceased will be buried at his family graveyard at Monohardi in Narshingdi tomorrow once his sons and daughters come home from abroad.

His qulhwani will be held at House no. 8, Road no. 68/A, Gulshan-2 after Maghrab prayers on May 4.

His friends, relatives and admirers are requested to attend the programme to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Prof Mannan was born on January 1, 1932 at Syedpur village under Monohardi upazila in Narshingdi district. He obtained masters degree in Biochemistry from DU in 1955 and joined the same department as a lecturer in 1961. Later, he joined Pharmacy department in 1983.

He was elected DU VC in July, 1986 for four years.

DU VC Prof SMA Faiz in a message condoled the death of Prof Mannan and conveyed sympathy to members of the bereaved family.

Pro-VC Prof AFM Yusuf Haider and Treasurer Prof Syed Abdul Kalam Azad also expressed deep shock at his death.

## Fund in budget for Khulna dev demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

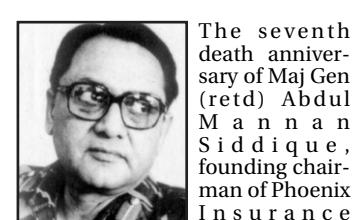
Khulna City Mayor Shaikh Tayebur Rahman has demanded that the caretaker government allocate necessary fund in the next national budget for implementation of different development projects of greater Khulna.

The city mayor who presided over a pre-budget discussion meeting held yesterday at the KCC auditorium hoped that the present government would come forward to fulfil legitimate demands of people of greater Khulna.

Organised by Khulna City Corporation, the pre-budget discussion meeting was addressed, among others, by Secretary General of greater Khulna Development Action Coordination Committee Shaikh Ashraffuzzaman, President of Khulna Press Club Makbul Hossain Mintu, and General Secretary of Khulna Press Club Md Shahab Ali.

Speakers urged the mayor to get ready for any legal battle against any further discrimination in the allocation of fund in the next national budget so far as implementation of different development projects is concerned.

## Death anniversary



The seventh death anniversary of Maj Gen (retd) Abdul Mannan Siddique, founding chairman of Phoenix Insurance Company Ltd, will be observed tomorrow, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad and doa mahfil will be held at his residence in the city after Asr prayers tomorrow.

His friends, relatives and admirers have been requested to attend the programme to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Serajuddin Ahmed

Today is the 22nd death anniversary of Serajuddin Ahmed, founder chairman of Elite Paint Group of Company Ltd, says a press release.

He was also founder director of Arab Bangladesh Bank Ltd, former president of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industries and former chairman of Tea Traders Association of Bangladesh (TTAB).

On the occasion, a milad mahfil followed by Ziafat will be held at his house in Gulshan in the city.

## Women still bystanders in decision making

Speakers tell int'l seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Finance Adviser Dr AB Mirza Azizul Islam yesterday said the government is fully committed to ensure accountability and transparency in public expenditures.

"I hope that the women will play important role in this process and become role models for their male counterparts," he said while speaking as chief guest at a seminar titled 'Women in decision making.'

The international seminar was organised by Bangladesh Audit and Accounts Cadre Women Forum in association with the office of Comptroller and Auditor General of Bangladesh, Financial Management Reform Programme, Ministry of Finance and United Nations Population Fund at Sheraton Hotel in the city.

Dr Islam said there is legal recognition of equal rights of men and women, but it is not enough, rather only a pre-condition.

An environment should be created so that the women can enjoy the instruments for equal rights, he added.

The adviser said participation of women in administration and private sector has significantly increased making remarkable progress in mainstreaming them.

"We, however, are not at the stage when we can have complicity. We still have large number of illiterate women and many are subjected to harassment and dowry," Fahimida noted.

National Health Care Network Chairman Prof Hajera Mahtab in her presentation in the business session said the women of Bangladesh are practically outside all the three components of power and are bystanders to national decision-making, policy formulation and execution.

She called for such an electoral system that will encourage political parties to integrate women into elective and non-elective public positions in same proportion and at same level as men.

In the keynote presentation, Finance Controller Army Fahimida Islam stressed the need for necessary exposure and training for making women's participation in politics effective.

"Specific legislation and guidelines specifying the roles and responsibilities of women members should be issued as soon as possible," she said, adding that changes in attitude towards girl children and orientation of mindset of boy children should be given importance.

"Sons must be trained to share

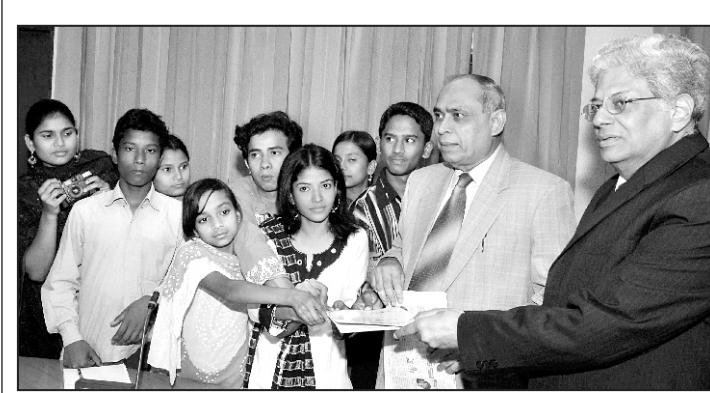
caring responsibilities. Daughters must be exposed to decision making factors so that they can think and develop themselves independently," Fahimida noted.

Speaking as special guest at the inaugural session, Acting Country Representative of Department for International Development (DFID) Elizabeth Carriere said development will not have its actual impact unless men and women equally share it.

"If a woman is educated, she will give birth to a healthy child who will in turn become an educated human being," she said, adding that equal access to men and women in every sphere of life therefore is very important.

Nurun Nahar, director general of Defence Audit Directorate, said, "Human development is not possible without improving the status of women. And this can be achieved through ensuring their full, equal and effective participation in decision making at all levels."

Comptroller and Auditor General of Bangladesh Asif Ali, UNFPA Representative Purnacharan Suchitta, Auditor General of Brunei Darussalam Datin Paduka Hajah Salma Binti Haji Haniffah, and Director of public reporting audit of Scotland Barbara Hurst also spoke on the occasion.



## Housewife succumbs to burn injuries

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A housewife died at Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) yesterday, a day after her husband and his first wife poured kerosene over her and set fire to her body.

The deceased Ranu Begum, 25, died at around 3:00am.

Sources said Ranu's husband Abdul Malik, a fish trader, and his first wife Rashida Begum poured kerosene over her and set her on fire at their house at Badda in the city at around 8:00am on Sunday.

Neighbours came to rescue Ranu after they heard her screams and rushed her to DMCH where she was admitted.

Doctors said she received 100 percent burns.

Victim's younger sister Sathi told The Daily Star that Malik lives with his first wife at Badda and Ranu lived separately in Narayanganj where she worked at a garment factory.

She alleged that Malik never took care of Ranu and did not provide any financial support.

Sathi said Malik did not disclose to Ranu about his first marriage when they first met and Malik took Tk 80,000 from Ranu at the time of their wedding two years back saying that he would invest the amount in his trade.

When Ranu came to know about his first marriage, she asked Malik to give her back the money that he took from her.

This was the main cause of their rift, she added.

Ranu came to Malik's house at Badda on Saturday afternoon for the money which led to an altercation between her and Malik.

A case was filed with Badda Police Station against Malik, Rashida, niece Nasima Akther and nephew Swapon in this connection.

Shanto said they are worried about the abuse of children as the political parties involved them in political activities several months ago.

He also stressed the need for a massive media campaign to raise awareness among the people about the negative impact of such practice.

## 8th World Hindi Conference July 13-15 in New York

The 8th World Hindi Conference will be held in New York on July 13-15, says a press release of the High Commission of India in Dhaka.

The conference will be organised by the Government of India in cooperation with the Bharatiya Vidya Bhawan and other Hindi organisations based in the US.

The theme of the conference is 'Vishwa Manch Par Hindi'. The inaugural ceremony of the conference will take place at the UN headquarters in New York, which will be followed by an academic session on Hindi in the UN.

The three-day programme of the conference includes academic sessions, cultural programmes and exhibitions that would be held at Fashion Institute of Technology in New York.

Details of the conference programme are available on the website [www.vishwahindi.com](http://www.vishwahindi.com) which also includes information for online registration for attending the conference.

Local universities/educational institutions may like to depute their representatives to attend the conference. Those interested may contact Anil K Matta, second secretary (I&C), by dialing 8820243-07/Ext.156 or sending e-mail at [informa@hcdhaka.org](mailto:informa@hcdhaka.org).

## Kidnapper confesses to murder of boy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Khaled Hossain Zakir gave the confessional statement in the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) Court yesterday that he and his cousin Shamim killed Saidul, 7, after kidnapping him for ransom of Tk 50,000 at 8:00pm on Saturday.

He told the court that they had stabbed the boy to death and dumped his body in a garden as they could not find any place to hide him when Saidul's family announced the news of his missing through loudspeakers in the area.

Later, members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) on Sunday recovered the body of Saidul from a mango garden near Civil Aviation Staff Quarter at Kaola in the city according to Zakir's statement.

Saidul, son of Babul Mia of Dewali under Dakkhin Khan Police Station in the city, was a student of a local kindergarten school. Babul Mia is now living in Kuwait.

Rab arrested Khaled Hossain Zakir and his accomplice Babul from Tongi at 4:00pm on Sunday when they went to receive ransom promising release of Saidul from Tongi Station Road. Zakir's cousin Shamim was arrested from Turag.

The court granted three days' remand to Shamim and Babul for interrogation, Dakkhin Khan police said.

The old parts of both Dhaka and Chittagong are the most vulnerable to earthquake due to narrow road, high density of population and buildings, experts at a seminar said yesterday.

They also said risk of earthquake depends primarily on the geological condition and geo-morphological setting of the city.

ActionAid Bangladesh organised the seminar at Spectra Convention Centre in city's Gulshan where experts suggested taking short term and long term measures so that casualties by earthquake can be reduced.

Experts said many structures of the both cities in particular schools, garment factories, mosques, shopping centres, and movie theatres are at high risk.

Dr M Shahidul Islam, professor of Geography and Environmental Studies of Chittagong University (CU), said vulnerability of any city depends on geological set-up, infrastructure and socio-cultural condition.

"Huge population will die or be critically injured and most of the buildings will be damaged if a medium earthquake hits the old parts of Dhaka or Chittagong," he said while presenting his keynote paper on Earthquake Vulnerability Atlas of Chittagong City.

He suggested taking short-term awareness programme so that people can save themselves from the earthquake.

"The government should take strong long term programme especially imposing restriction to construct high rise building with low-quality materials," he said.

"One person dies when a doctor makes a mistake, but hundreds of people will die when an engineer makes a mistake," he mentioned urging the engineers to be careful while constructing a high-rise building.

KS Masud Siddiqui, director general of Disaster Management Bureau, said people would understand their duties before, during and after an earthquake if a map based awareness programme is launched.

Prof Sharif has published two books and a number of articles in international journals, including Cambridge Journal of Economics.

## B Ed, M Ed exams on May 10

UNB, Dhaka

The B Ed and M Ed examinations, scheduled for May 2 under the National University, have been shifted to May 10 due to Buddha Purnima holiday.

A PID handout yesterday said the B Ed exam (irregular)-2007 and M Ed exam 2007 will be held at 9:00am on May 10 instead May 2.

The schedules of other exams, however, will remain unchanged, the handout said.

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