



## Sher-e-Bangla's anniversary of birth today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 134th birth anniversary of Sher-e-Bangla AK Fazlul Huq, a great leader of the sub-continent.

Different social and political organisations have drawn up elaborate programmes, including a do and milad mahfil, discussion and placing of wreaths at his grave-yard.

Sher-e-Bangla Smriti Academy will hold a function to distribute Sher-e-Bangla Smriti award and a discussion at the National Press Club in the city at 4:00pm.

The Academy will also organise a discussion and milad mahfil at his birthplace at Sattaria in Jhalakathi on October 28.

Jatiya Gonotantrik League, Muktiyoddha Ainjibi Parishad and Muktiyoddha Paribar Kalyan Sangsad will jointly organise a do mahfil and discussion on the premises of the mazar of Sher-e-Bangla at 3:00pm.

Milad mahfil and qudrankhwan will also be held at the residence of his grandson in the city.

## Govt urged to allocate more funds for farm production

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government should allocate more funds for agriculture sector to ensure more food production to cut rural poverty, speakers suggested at a seminar in Dhaka yesterday.

They said around half of the total population of the country lives below the poverty level in terms of food consumption.

The poor people, who mostly live in rural areas, have to spend around 70 percent of their income on food purchase, the speakers told the seminar on food security organised by Equity and Justice Working Group (EJWG), an alliance of NGO, and National Committee for Observing World Women's Day (NCOWWD), at National Press Club.

The seminar was organised in observance of World Rural Women's Day that was observed in the country and elsewhere in the world on October 15. This year the theme of the day was Right to Food: Rural Women Produce and Provide.

"Around 30 percent of the total population barely consumes around 1,800 calories a day while the daily need is estimated at 2,100 calories," Shamsudoha, secretary general of EJWG, said.

Awami League Agriculture Affairs Secretary Abdur Razzaq, BNP Agriculture Affairs Secretary Shamsuzzaman Duda and Member of NCOWWD Swapna Guho also spoke. Bazlur Rahman of EJWG moderated the seminar.

## Schoolboy missing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Ahad Rahman Khandaker, a class six student of Banani Play Pen School, has been missing since Tuesday.

Ahad, 13, son of Khandaker Khatun Azam, went out to play in the afternoon on the day but did not return to his home at House No-49, Road No-1/A, Block-I, Banani, Dhaka.

He is five feet tall and has fair complexion.

The boy was wearing navy blue pant and light pink shirt.

A general diary (GD) has been filed with Gulshan Police Station.

Anyone knowing the whereabouts of the boy is requested to contact nearby police station or call at 01552485777.

## Correction

In a news item headlined 'Establish district government to strengthen local bodies' published in The Daily Star on Wednesday, Feroz A Hassan, chairman of Coalition for Good Governance, was mentioned as a leader of the LDP. In fact, Feroz resigned from LDP on June 25 and he is no longer associated with the political party. We regret the inadvertent mistake.

# 'Border management important for bilateral relations'

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Adviser Iftikhar Ahmed Chowdhury yesterday said border management is an important component of bilateral relations between Bangladesh and India.

He made the remarks to reporters after visiting Indian Border Security Force (BSF) chief AK Mitra made a courtesy call on him at the foreign ministry.

Mitra is leading his country's delegation to the director general level border conference that began at Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) Headquarters yesterday.

Expressing satisfaction at the ongoing discussions between the BDR and the BSF, the adviser said

this would result in agreements that would further strengthen bilateral relations between the two neighbouring countries.

"We are pleased that we have been able to structuralise negotiations with regard to these through more frequent meetings," he said.

Indian High Commissioner Pinak Ranjan Chakravarty and BDR Director General Maj Gen Shakil Ahmed were present in the meeting, among others.

Meanwhile, Foreign Affairs Adviser Iftikhar Ahmed Chowdhury made a courtesy call on President Iajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban in the city yesterday.

The foreign adviser apprised the president of various issues relating

to his ministries.

He informed the president that bilateral relations with the neighbouring countries as well as friendly countries across the globe, especially with the USA and the EU countries, have strengthened significantly.

The president's upcoming visit to the USA also came up in the discussion.

The president gave a patient hearing and assured the foreign adviser of all cooperation.

Military Secretary to the president Maj Gen Mohammad Aminul Karim, Secretary Sirajul Islam and Press Secretary Abdul Awal Howlader were present at the meeting.

## Proceedings of extortion case against Alena Khan stayed

UNB, Dhaka

Vacation bench of the High Court yesterday stayed the proceedings of the extortion case against Alena Khan, a human rights activist.

The case is now pending with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court here.

Passing the stay order upon a writ petition, Justice AFM Abdur Rahman issued rule upon the government to explain why invoking emergency rules in the extortion case should not be declared unlawful.

The court also granted Alena a fresh bail until the rule is disposed of.

On June 26, a construction contractor of the Roads and Highways Department filed an extortion case with Tejgaon Police Station against Alena Khan, executive director of Bangladesh Society for Enforcement of Human Rights (BSEHR) along with detained former communications minister Nazmul Huda and his wife Sigma Huda.

Huda is a member of the national committee of the BSEHR while Sigma is its secretary general.

According to the case, Huda called Wahidur Rahman Azad, the complainant, to BSEHR office in February 2003 and demanded Tk 10 lakh in cash.

Advocate Asaduzzaman appeared for Alena Khan.

## Man held for murder attempt on wife

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Police arrested a man for alleged attempt to kill his wife at Hasli village in Manikganj Sadar upazila early yesterday.

The arrestee, Dulal Hossain Meru, 35, attacked her wife, who is the mother of two sons, at around 1:00am when she was asleep, said police and locals.

Hearing her scream, neighbours rushed there and handed Dulal over to Manikganj Sadar Police Station.

## Moeen meets chairman of AUW Support Foundation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Army Chief General Moeen U Ahmed on a visit to Boston met Jack R Meyer, chairman of the Board of the Asian University for Women Support Foundation and senior managing partner & CEO of the hedge fund Convexity Capital, at his office at the John Hancock Building on Tuesday, says a press release.

Meyer, the immediate past president of the Harvard Management Company -- the group that manages the \$34 billion endowment of Harvard University -- welcomed General Moeen to Boston, apprised him of the ambitious plans for the establishment of the Asian University for Women in Chittagong which he described as "a world class institution" with "world class facilities and faculty" that would offer both undergraduate and graduate professional education for women drawn from throughout Asia.

He noted that it was expected that at least one half of the students would be on full scholarship and the wide diversity of cultures, languages, religions and socio-economic backgrounds would also be captured in the student population.

He also reported that the University's preparatory programme, the Access Academy, will open in Chittagong in rented facilities in March 2008 while the campus design and construction tasks are completed over the next two to three years.

General Moeen commented that he was deeply interested in the establishment of the Asian University for Women and offered to help in every way he can to expedite the launch of the University.

General Moeen and Meyer exchanged views on a series of issues relating to land allocation and transfer and tax exemption to be provided by the government to the university under the provisions of its Charter as ratified through an Act of the parliament in Bangladesh that still remain pending.

General Moeen said that "If people in Boston and elsewhere are striving to build a university for women in Bangladesh, surely Bangladesh cannot permit on-the-ground barriers to delay or otherwise adversely affect its implementation."

Meyer expressed his great appreciation for General Moeen's support and accepted General Moeen's invitation to visit Bangladesh before the end of the year.



A colourful rally was brought out from Expanded Programme on Immunisation (EPI) Bhaban at Mohakhali in the city yesterday to mark the National Immunisation Day.

## DRIVE AGAINST ILLEGAL CLINICS 6 arrested, 5 clinics sealed off

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A mobile court in a special drive against unauthorised clinics, pathologies and nursing homes in Rajshahi sentenced a clinic owner to one month's imprisonment and arrested five other people, including a professor of Rajshahi Medical College (RMC), in the last three days.

The court consisting Metropolitan Magistrate Rabiul Alam, Lt Col Muhammad Aminul Islam and Major Abdullah Al Baki also sealed off five private clinics and realised over Tk 5 lakh from different clinics and pathologies.

Mustafizur Rahman, one of the owners of Al Arafah Clinic, was sent to jail and the clinic was fined Tk 50,000 for different irregularities, including running the clinic with

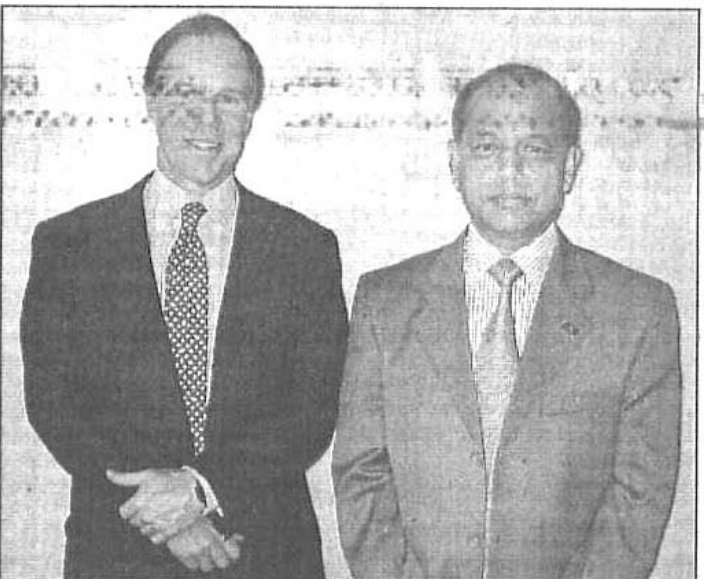
forged documents.

Dr Abu Raihan Khondoker, an associate professor of Biochemistry department of RMC, was arrested from Laser Diagnostic Centre after the court seized a number of blank papers of pathological reports carrying Raihan's signature.

Sources in the joint forces said, the clinic authorities used to cheat patients by giving medical investigation reports at their will using Raihan's pre-signed papers.

Dr Raihan, however, was granted bail later.

Other arrestees include lab assistant Mirajul and technologist Shahadat of Laser Diagnostic Centre, Manager of Dolphin Clinic Badiuzzaman and laboratory assistant Lutfar Rahman.



Army chief General Moeen U Ahmed meets Jack R Meyer, chairman of the Board of the Asian University for Women Support Foundation, at the latter's office in Boston on Tuesday.

## Parties' accountability must for fair polls: Rawshan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Self-proclaimed Jatiya Party (JP) acting president Rawshan Ershad yesterday said ensuring accountability, democratic practice and reforms in political parties is needed to eliminate the influence of black money and muscle power in general elections.

"Unless reforms ensure democratic practice and accountability within political parties, general elections can never be held without the influence of black money and muscle power," a JP press release quoted Rawshan as saying.

At a meeting with a section of the JP leadership at her residence, Rawshan also urged the government to meet with political parties

to solve the 'ongoing political crisis'.

Speakers at the meeting lauded the government for implementing the decision to separate the judiciary from the executive.

They warned the government against taking World Bank advice on increasing fuel prices.

Rawshan urged the JP leaders, activists and supporters to unite under a 'nationalist banner'.

The JP needs to fill the political vacuum to protect the country's sovereignty and ensure the people's economic freedom, she said.

JP presidium member SMM Alam, and acting secretary general Golam Moshir were among quite a few speakers at the meeting.

## CTG WASA Court orders attachment of property of former engr, contractor

UNB, Ctg

The Divisional Special Court, Chittagong, yesterday ordered attachment of property of Kazi Abu Taher, former engineer, and AN Faruq Ahmed, contractor of Chittagong WASA, in an extortion case filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

The accused remained fugitive and the court earlier on October 3 had issued arrest warrants against them.

The court set October 31 for framing charges against the five accused who were charge-sheeted

in the case.

ACC filed the case against five officials of Chittagong WASA on charges of misappropriating Tk 16.90 lakh from a pipeline project.

On Sept 26, the joint forces arrested three of the accused -- chief engineer M Shafiqul Islam, superintending engineer M Shafiqullah and assistant engineer Abdul Kuddus -- at the WASA Bhaban.

ACC Inspector Mominul Islam submitted charge sheet to the court on September 27 against the five accused.

## Obituary



S Obaidur Rahman, joint secretary for the erstwhile Central Government of Pakistan, passed away on October 24 at

Square Hospital in the city at the age of 90, says a press release.

After his retirement, he was a member of Police Training Committee and chairman of Samabay Marketing Society.

He left behind two sons, grand children and a host of relatives, friends and admirers to mourn his death.

## Death anniversary



Today is the 16th death anniversary of Shafi Ahmed, an organiser of the Liberation War, says a press release.

He was also a former councillor of Dhaka Stock Exchange and former general secretary of Dhaka University Central Student Union (DUCSU).

Fateha will be offered and wreaths will be placed at his grave-yard at 7:00am and a milad mahfil will be held after Asr prayers at House-6, Block-A, Road-18, Banani in the city.

Relatives, friends and admirers are requested to attend the milad mahfil.

Rafiqunnessa Khatun

UNB, Dhaka



Ahmed Chowdhury, will be observed tomorrow.

On the occasion, do and milad mahfil will be held in the capital and in Sylhet.

Rafiqunnessa was born in 1915 in Golaganj, Sylhet in an illustrious family of Bhadeswar. Her husband, late Ghyasuddin Ahmed Chowdhury, was a renowned civil servant.

## Qulkhwan



Qulkhwan of Aminul Islam Khan, former Managing Director of Bangladesh Shilpa Bank (BSB) and founder managing director of Investment Corporation of Bangladesh (ICB), will be held at his residence at House 25, Road 6, Dhanmondi in the city after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

He was also the chairman of Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) and treasurer of the Diabetic Association of Bangladesh (DAB).

Aminul Islam passed away at the University Hospital of Singapore on Tuesday morning.

## Chehlum



Chehlum of Abdur Rahim, founder member of the Brothers' Union and a notable figure of the Language Movement, will be held at 41, RK Mission Road in the city after Juma prayers on Friday, says a press release.

He passed away due to kidney ailments at the PG Hospital on September 16.

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



Syed Badrul Ahsan, editor, current affairs, The Daily Star, speaks at a view exchange meeting titled 'Flood 2007: experience sharing on relief operation' at Tangail Press Club Community Centre yesterday. CARE Bangladesh and BURO Tangail jointly organised the programme in association with European Commission (EC).



## No change in temperature

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 24 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said in a forecast.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 33.7 degree Celsius was recorded at Sitakundu and the lowest of 18.5 degrees at Sitakundu.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:24pm today and rises at 6:02am tomorrow.

The 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	31.8	19.5	53	61
Chittagong	30.0	21.3	86	60
Rajshahi	31.2	19.6	84	--
Khulna	31.5	21.6	89	83
Barisal	31.5	20.5	83	83
Sylhet	31.4	20.0	60	72
Cox's Bazar	32.5	23.6	73	72

## Alleged mugger succumbs to injuries in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An alleged mugger succumbed to his injuries at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) yesterday.

The deceased Rajon alias Rajib, 21, along with his two accomplices Johnny and Helal were admitted to DMCH on Tuesday night after they were beaten by a mob allegedly for snatching a cellphone set on that day.

Shyampur police said the deceased Rajon along with his seven accomplices snatched a cellphone set from one Belal Hossain at Donia Naburgh in Shyampur on October 18.

Local caught Rajon, Johnny and Helal when they were roaming around at 8:30pm on Tuesday and handed them over to police after a mob beating.