

## Husband held on charge of killing wife

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Police arrested a civil clerk of Bangladesh Navy and two others for killing his wife in Chittagong city yesterday.

The victim was identified as Halima, 22.

Police said Md Solaiman, 30, hailing from Chandpur, kicked Halima to death during a quarrel over family matters at his home at Banderulla area at around 9:00am.

Solaiman with the help of his reported second wife Subarna Akhter, 20, and her brother Bappy Ahmad, 19, hired a CNG-run auto-rickshaw to conceal his wife's body.

As the auto-rickshaw reached AK Khan Gate area under Pahartali Police Station, local people, sensing something wrong, caught him red-handed at around 2:30pm and informed the matter to the police.

Later, they were handed over to Bander Police Station where filing of a case was under process in this connection.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) Jahangir Alam said Solaiman confessed his involvement in the murder during a preliminary interrogation.

The OC suspected that it might be a pre-planned murder.



## Ahsanullah Master's death anniversary today

DU CORRESPONDENT

The fourth death anniversary of slain Awami League lawmaker Ahsanullah Master will be observed today.

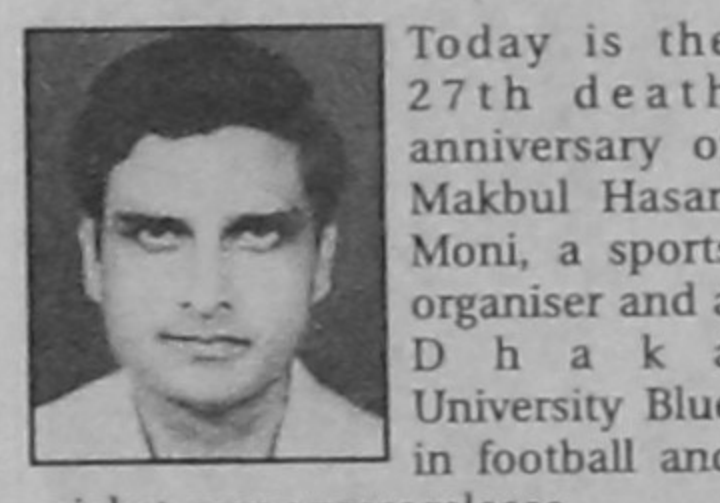
Ahsanullah Master, a freedom fighter and a lawmaker from Gazipur-2 constituency and Sramik League leader, was shot dead at a rally of Shechchaseb League in Tongi.

On the occasion, Shaheed Ahsanullah Master Smriti Parishad, Bhawal Ideal Academy, Bhawal Forum and other organisations have chalked out elaborate programmes at Tangi and Gazipur to mark his death anniversary.

The programmes include placing wreath at his grave, milad mahfil and discussion.

Besides, the Parishad will organise a memorial meeting at National Press Club on May 13.

## Makbul Hasan Moni

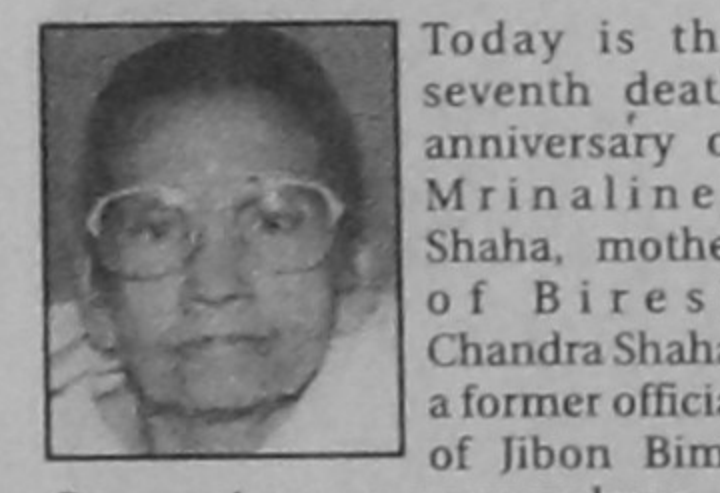


Today is the 27th death anniversary of Makbul Hasan Moni, a sports organiser and a Dhaka University Blue in football and cricket, says a press release.

On the occasion, Qurankhwani and milad mahfil will be held at his residence at Bakshi Bazar at 5:15pm.

Members of the family and Makbul Hasan Trust, friends and admirers will visit his grave at Azimpur and offer Fataha.

## Mrinalinee Shaha



Today is the seventh death anniversary of Mrinalinee Shaha, mother of Birech Chandra Shaha, a former official of Jibon Bima Corporation, says a press release.

On the occasion, religious rituals will be performed at her home for salvation of her departed soul.

## SCF leaders go to Rangpur today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of the Sector Commanders Forum (SCF) who are on a three-day visit to northern districts will reach Rangpur today.

The forum is traveling different districts as part of mobilising public opinion against war criminals and anti-liberation forces in the country.

The forum began their campaign with a visit to Dinajpur yesterday. They will travel to Bogra tomorrow and will return Dhaka on May 9, SCF sources said.

During their visit, SCF leaders will meet with different socio-cultural organisations and exchange views with freedom fighters and local journalists.

# Remove pro-BNP-Jamaat men from admin

## B Chowdhury urges govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDB) President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday said pro-BNP and pro-Jamaat men still exist in the civil administration and election would not be impartial if they are not removed.

The former president was addressing a meeting at KC Memorial Clinic at Baridhara in the city.

The meeting was organised on

the occasion of joining leaders and workers from different political party of Rangamati to BDB.

The BDB president called on his party fellows to get prepared for the next elections.

"There are doubts among many people about holding of the election, but we think the government will hold the polls as per the electoral roadmap," said Badruddoza Chowdhury.

"Awami League will take part in the election, as they are pro-

election party, BNP with the election symbol 'sheaf of paddy' will also take part and, that is why, leaders and workers of Bikalpa Dhara will have to get prepared for the election from now," he added.

BDB will give nominations to minorities in the minority areas, he added.

BDB Secretary General Maj (Retd) MA Mannan, presidium member Joyal Abedin, central leader Abdur Rashid were present at the meeting.

## GRAFT CASES AGAINST FALU, DULU

# Hearing on leave to appeals adjourned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court (SC) yesterday adjourned for one month the hearing on leave to appeals against the High Court (HC) orders staying proceedings of five corruption cases filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) against detained former BNP lawmakers Mosaddek Ali Falu and Ruhul Quddus Talukder Dulu.

The ACC filed leave to appeals seeking stay on the HC orders, but a seven-member full bench of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court headed by Chief Justice Mohammad Rulul Amin directed to maintain status quo over the matters and the leave to appeals will be kept stand over for a month.

The apex court fixed June 9 for hearing of the leave to appeals. The court also asked both the parties of the cases to take steps to dispose of the rules earlier issued by the HC.

Counsel for both the sides said that as the SC did not pass any stay order in the cases, the HC orders would remain valid until disposal

of the ACC appeals.

The ACC in February last year filed four separate cases with Tejgaon and Ashulia Police Stations against Falu on charges of misappropriating public relief tins when Falu was personal secretary to the then prime minister Khaleda Zia.

In April last year, the ACC filed a case with Adabor Police Station against former deputy minister for land Ruhul Quddus Talukder Dulu and his wife Sabina Yasmin on charges of amassing illegal wealth worth over Tk 8 crore and for concealing wealth information of over Tk 5 crore in the wealth statement submitted to the ACC.

Following separate petitions filed by Falu and Dulu with the HC challenging the legality of the cases, the court stayed proceedings of the cases against them in December.

The HC also issued rules asking the ACC to explain why proceedings of the cases should not be quashed.

The ACC filed leave to appeals for obtaining stay on HC orders, which is still pending with the apex court.

# Nine trafficked girls return from India

A CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Nine ill-fated girls trafficked to India at different times returned to their families yesterday.

Rights Jessor, a human rights organisation, at a programme at its office handed over Fatima, 25, Rekha, 16, Kobita, 16, Patema, 18, Shefali, 28, her daughter Khushi, 6, Parvin, 30, Anwara, 25, and Monira, 30, to their respective relatives.

They were trafficked to India at different times tempting good jobs. Seven of them hailed from Jessor, while two others from Satkhira and

Comilla.

Mumbai police detained them from different parts of India while they were being sold.

Later, 'Oasis', a human rights organisation of India, brought them under its shelter. Rights Jessor with the help of social welfare ministry took them to Bangladesh on April 21.

District Commissioner of Jessor Abu-al Hossein, Superintendent of Police Iqbal Bahar and officials of social welfare department were present at the ceremony.

## LIAKAT MURDER Emon on fresh remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Criminal Investigation Department (CID) yesterday took top criminal Sanjiddul Islam Emon under its custody in a four-day remand in connection with the murder of BNP leader Liakat Hossain on April 7, 2004.

Liakat was shot dead at a community centre in Dhanmondi. Emon was shown arrested in the case on March 17 and the court granted his remand on March 27 for grilling him in the murder case.

As Emon was already in remand in other cases, he could not be remanded in connection with this case earlier.

After a two-day remand in connection with the case of Rafiqul Islam Azad, a doorkeeper of Gausia Market, Emon was produced before the court yesterday and the court allowed the CID to take Emon under its custody for quizzing.

Emon was deported by the Indian authorities on March 7 and since then he has been remanded several times in different cases.

## 'Holding polls interim govt's main task now'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) said the main task of the caretaker government at this moment is holding the parliamentary election according to the electoral roadmap.

They said this at a meeting of the political wing of the party held at the party office in the city yesterday.

They said smooth transition to democracy is the only way out in the current economic and social crisis. The leaders also said it is need now to be vocal for democracy and democratic rights, trial of war criminals and against the hegemony of the imperialist force.

Acting President of CPB Shahidullah Chowdhury presided over the meeting. CPB General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim, Ruhin Hossain Prince, Mahabub Alam, Sazzad Zahir Chandan and Ahsan Habib Lavlu spoke in the meeting.



Asthma Association takes out a procession at Mohakhali in the city yesterday to create mass awareness about asthma on the occasion of World Asthma Day.



## Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at a few places over all the six divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period, Met Offices said.

Highest temperature 34.5 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Teknaf and Maidjdee Court and lowest 20.3 degrees Celsius at Rajshahi.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:30pm today and rises at 5:19am 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                   | 20.4 | 74                     | 61      |
| Chittagong  | 31.4                   | 22.5 | 78                     | 70      |
| Rajshahi    | 33.4                   | 20.3 | 71                     | 63      |
| Khulna      | 33.2                   | 21.4 | 76                     | 63      |
| Barisal     | 33.5                   | 22.5 | 73                     | 69      |
| Sylhet      | 32.0                   | 21.8 | 81                     | 57      |
| Cox's Bazar | 33.5                   | 23.0 | 67                     | 66      |



## Roundtable

Embassy of Sweden, Royal Norwegian Embassy, Royal Danish Embassy, CSR Centre and Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI) jointly organise a roundtable on 'Corporate social responsibility: Taking business forward'. Venue: BEI conference room. Time: 4:00pm.

## Potato campaign

CSD Bangladesh in association with Ministry of Agriculture and FAO will organise a potato campaign marking the International Potato Year 2008. Venue: Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre. Time: 10:00am.

## Roundtable

Samillita Sangskritik Jote organises a roundtable on energy policy and oil-gas exploration. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:30am.

## Discussion

Bangladesh National Awami Party (NAP) organises a discussion on current political scenario and expectation of people. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 4:00pm.

## Murder case filed against alleged war criminals in Bogra

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

A widow yesterday filed a murder case against a person and his three sons for killing her son in Bogra during the liberation war in 1971.

The widow Nekbanu filed the case with the chief judicial magistrate's court against Osman Bihari and his sons Aslam Hossain, Anwar Hossain and Iqbal Hossain.

In a statement the complainant mentioned that the accused entered a shop named Momin Radio House on May 14, 1971 and killed her son Gulzar and another employee inside the shop. They also took away the bodies.

The statement said the attackers also looted the shop and harassed many innocent people in the area during that period.

It was informed at a press briefing in Bogra Press Club yesterday that family members of those killed in the area during the war of independence are also taking preparation to file 11 more cases against Osman.

## BIWTA staff commits suicide

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A staff of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) allegedly committed suicide after jumping from the rooftop of the 10-storey BIWTA building at Motijheel in the city yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Fazle Rabbi, 35, a staff of the drawing section of BIWTA.

Police recovered his body from a road near the building at 10:30am and sent it to Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsy.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Motijheel Police Station Fazlur Rahman said they recovered a piece of paper inscribed 'nobody is responsible for my death' which suggested that Rabbi committed suicide.

However, BIWTA Deputy Secretary AKM Arif Uddin filed an unnatural death case with Motijheel Police Station mentioning that Rabbi died after falling from the rooftop of the building.

Rabbi's father-in-law Israil Mollik, who is also a staff of BIWTA, told reporters at Dhaka Medical College Morgue that Rabbi had long been suffering from severe stomach pain.

He hailed from Rajshahi.

## Birth anniversary



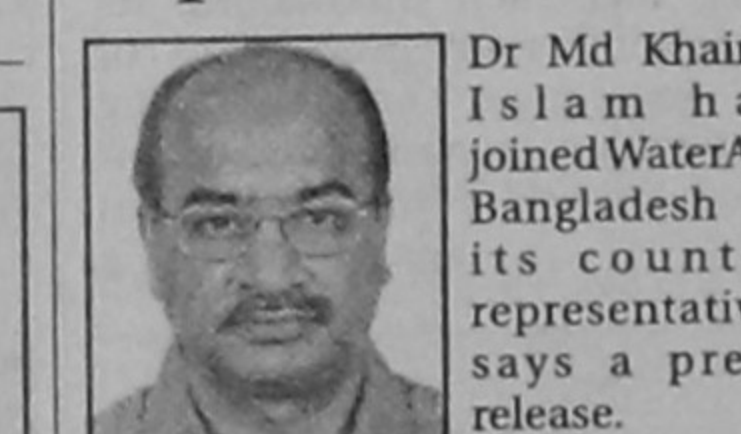
Today is the 95th birth anniversary of Kazi Abul Kashem, first Bangali Muslim artist and cartoonists in the subcontinent,

says a press release.

He passed away in 2004 due to old age complications.

He received many awards including Bangla Academy Award, Shilpi SM Sultan Padak, and Bangladesh Shishu Academy Padak.

## Dr Khairul joins WaterAid as country representative



Dr Md Khairul Islam has joined WaterAid Bangladesh as its country representative, says a press release.

WaterAid Bangladesh is a UK-based charity promoting safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene.

Prior to joining WaterAid, Dr Khairul led regional operation of Plan International in eastern and southern Africa as regional programme support manager and served as country director of ORBIS International Bangladesh.

Dr Khairul initiated Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) in selected countries of Africa. He has over 12 years of senior management experience in national and international NGOs, including Asia Foundation, Grameen Bank and Plan International Bangladesh.

WaterAid's mission is to overcome poverty by enabling world's poorest people to gain access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene education. In Bangladesh, it has provided safe water supply to 1.3 million, sanitation facility to 4.2 million and hygiene education to 4.5 million since its operation began in 1996.



Members of a delegation of Pakistan National Defence University pose for photograph with President Iajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 5)

# 'Free Hasina to make dialogue a success'

DU CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), student wing of Awami League (AL), yesterday demanded unconditional release of detained AL President Sheikh Hasina before holding of dialogues between the government and the political parties.

BCL leaders also demanded immediate release of its General Secretary Mahfujul Haider Rotan and termed his detention illegal and inhuman.

They articulated the demand at a press conference at Dhaka University Central Students' Union (DUCSU) building.

"Dialogues between the government and the political parties would not be successful without Hasina," said BCL President Mahmud Hasan Ripon at the press conference.

He said false cases have been filed against Hasina and a quarter has been hatching conspiracy against her to make her ineligible for the upcoming national election.

"People of the country are no more blind about the conspiracy. So, along with the student community and countrymen, we will face the conspiracies and bring her out of the jail amid tough agitation programme", Ripon added.

He also demanded unconditional release of Rotan and said, "Without any specific allegations

he has been detained for 16 months, which is nothing but sheer violation of humanity. We demand his immediate and unconditional release."

The BCL president also alleged that no cases have yet been filed against the fundamentalist group that conducted violence at Hathazari in Chittagong but a number of cases have already been filed against BCL leaders and activists in Chittagong University on charges of violation of EPR when they demonstrated on their campus demanding release of Hasina.

"We protest such bifocal policy of the government and demand withdrawal of all cases filed against BCL leaders and activists", he added.

He said, "Due to such activities, the government has lost its neutrality." He also demanded immediate declaration of an election schedule and trial of the war criminals.

The demand also demanded the government lifts the State of Emergency and checks price hike of essentials. Ripon also declared that the hall committees of BCL DU unit would be declared within seven days to facilitate their agitation programmes to press home their demand.

Acting BCL General Secretary Syed Abul Kalam, DU unit President Sheikh Sohail Rana Tipu and General Secretary Sajjad Saqib Badsha were also present at the conference.

# Programmes to celebrate Rabindra Joyantee

UNB, Dhaka

The government has drawn up elaborate programmes to celebrate the 147th birth anniversary of Biswa Kabi Rabindranath Tagore at national level tomorrow.

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed will inaugurate Tagore's birth anniversary programmes at 10:00am on the day at Osmani Memorial auditorium. The inaugural programme will be followed by a cultural function.

Bangladesh Betar, Bangladesh Television, private TV channels and radio stations will broadcast the programme live, said an official release yesterday.

Shilpakala Academy will organise a cultural programme based on various creative works of the great

poet at the auditorium of Jatiya Natyashala in the evening. Prominent artists will recite poems, perform dance and render Tagore songs.

Besides, various programmes have been chalked out to mark the day at Shilaidah in Kushtia, Patisar in Naogaon and South Dighi in Khulna, the three districts that harbour the memories of Rabindranath Tagore.

Local administrations across the country will also arrange programmes marking the day.

Bangladesh missions abroad will also celebrate the day with holding various programmes.

As part of the national programmes, Bangla Academy will arrange a programme on the poet on May 11 at its seminar room.

# EC skips specific date

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the court adjourned the hearing till today.

The EC submitted its reply to the court through an affidavit yesterday, a day before the hearing is scheduled to resume.

The EC's counsel, Dr Shahdeen Malik, however declined to give any detail to The Daily Star, although he confirmed that he submitted a reply through an affidavit yesterday.

Petitioner Sobhan also received a copy of the EC's reply yesterday.

Following the EC's reply, Sobhan told The Daily Star, "My question before the High Court would be, what is a road map and what is its legal position, when the content of it clearly violates the legal provisions in the constitution."

He also noted, although the HC had asked the EC to inform the court through an affidavit when the commission will hold the election, the EC did not specify any date under oath.

The EC in its reply informed the court about the progress till May 2 in voter registration, issuance of voter ID cards, and in its other activities.

The EC told the court, "The Election Commission is working to prepare the electoral rolls with photographs of the voters as mandated by the Electoral Rolls Ordinance, 2007."

"After the publication of the draft voter list as mandated by section 7, there will be a period for additions, changes and corrections in terms of section 7(4) of the said Ordinance and after that the final voter list will be published as mandated by section 7(5) of the Ordinance and the target date for the completion of these tasks is set as October, 2008," the EC said in the affidavit.

The commission also informed the court that voter registration has been completed in 331 areas while

the job is continuing in another 108 areas, and 6,41,08,518 voters have been registered till May 2.

The Election Commission estimates that the total number of voters to be registered will be around 8 crore, of which (till May 2) 80 percent voters have already been registered," the EC's affidavit mentioned.

The commission also informed the court that it has already prepared voter identity cards for 1,85,25,526 voters, 96,94,616 of which have already been distributed.

The EC also said 23 percent of all voter ID cards have already been prepared, and 12 percent of them have already been distributed.

The EC informed the court that the draft list of re-demarcated constituencies has been 'notified' on April 30 while June 1 has been scheduled for filing of objections.

"It is expected that the delimitation of constituencies will be finalised in terms of the roadmap by 30/6/2008."

Following the writ petition filed by Sobhan, an HC bench comprising Justice Shah Abu Nayeem Mominur Rahman and Justice Shahidul Islam issued the rule on the EC to explain why it should not be directed to hold the general election within 90 days of filing the writ petition.

The HC also asked the commission to explain why its failure to hold the election within 90 days of dissolution of the last parliament in October 2006, should not be declared unlawful.

The EC, its secretary, the chief adviser, and the law ministry represented by the law secretary were made the respondents.

Following replies from the respondents the hearing started on April 30 before its adjournment till today.

## Contraband drugs seized

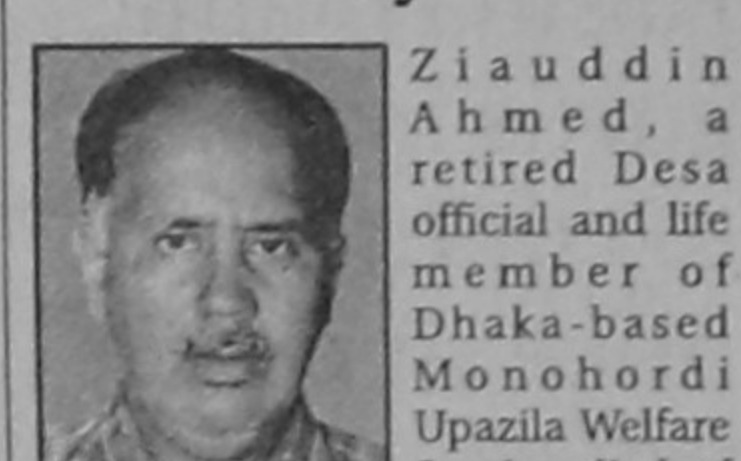
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Members of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday seized 6500 capsules and tablets from a storehouse at Mitford Hospital area in the city and arrested three persons in this connection.

Rab officials are suspecting that the medicines are being used as alternatives to contraband drug -- phensidyle and stimulating tablet -- yaba.

The arrestees were identified as Raju Mandal, 38, Sentu Hasan, 35, and Ahmed Asadul Huq, 35.

## Obituary



Ziauddin Ahmed, a retired Desa official and life member of Dhaka-based Monohori Upazila Welfare Samity, died of

liver cancer at Gastro-Liver Hospital in the city on Sunday at the age of 72,