

DR TAHER MURDER

Verdict on May 22

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The verdict in the Rajshahi University teacher Dr Sheikh Taher Ahmed murder case will be delivered on May 22.

Rajshahi speedy trial tribunal fixed the date on Tuesday when the three-day argument between lawyers of state and accused sides concluded. The argument began on May 4.

Journalists are not allowed at the court room to follow the trial proceedings since the case was shifted to the speedy trial tribunal.

The sensational murder trial started on June 18 last year against six people, including RU teacher Dr Mia Mohammad Mohiuddin, and former RU Shibir president Mahbubul Alam Salehi.

Other accused are -- Jahangir, his brother Salam and brother-in-law Nazmul and Azimuiddin Munshi.

Salehi and Mohiuddin of same department masterminded the killing promising hired killers with computers and jobs. Mohiuddin is on bail.

Dr Taher, a senior professor of geology and mining department, was killed on February 1, 2006 and his body was recovered from a sewer behind his campus residence three days later.

Int'l surgical training begins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A two-day international surgical training programme on 'Longo operation', a high-tech colorectal surgery, began at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University in the city yesterday.

The training titled 'Masters Programme in Minimally Invasive Procedure for Hemorrhoid (MIPH)' is being organised by the department of Colorectal Surgery where 20 surgeons from home and abroad are participating.

Prof Dr AKM Fazlul Haque has been conducting the training.

The trainee surgeons will receive practical knowledge on how hemorrhoid operation can be done without trauma in the anus by the use of a modern stapling device called PPH-03.

The specialty of the surgery mostly known as 'Longo operation' is that patients can be released after 24 hours and may resume his or her activities within five to seven days, said Dr Fazlul Haque, adding that in the conventional surgery it takes at least one month to be cured and the complexity is high.

Prof Fazlul Haque, also the chairman of the department of Colorectal Surgery, had conducted Longo operation for over 700 patients since 2003.

While inaugurating the training programme at Samad Seminar Room at BSMMU, he said that nine patients would undergo operation during these two days and the surgery will continue from 8:00am to 2:30pm at the department of Colorectal Surgery. This programme will be repeated every three months.

Vice Chancellor of the University Prof Dr MA Tahir inaugurated the programme while Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof Majid, Prof Atai Rabbi and Prof Shafikur Rahman were also present.

CTG PAY HIKE RIOT

Operations at RMG units still uncertain

CU CORRESPONDENT

Commercial operations at the garment factories of Azim Group in the port city's Kalurghat BSCIC industrial area remained uncertain until yesterday evening.

General Manager of the group Anup Kumar Das told The Daily Star that the authorities were yet to take any decision over resuming operations at the factories until 6:30 pm.

"A meeting with the representatives of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) is going on since afternoon and is yet to reach any decision over the matter," he said.

Munir Hossain, knitwear operator of one of the garment factories,

said yesterday was the weekly holiday of the factories and they will join their work today as the authority assured them of fulfilling their demands in a meeting on Tuesday.

Earlier, the agitating workers of three garments factories of Azim Group -- Orchid Sweater Ltd, Global Specialised Garments Ltd (unit-1) and Savar Sweater Ltd -- staged demonstrations demanding increase of their share of piece rate on each garment product and breakfast allowance.

They vandalised at least 50 vehicles, mugged commuters, looted shops and also damaged few windows of the woven division office of the company by pelting bricks from outside the boundary.

Ex-BNP MP Giasuddin, 2 wives chargesheeted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday approved charge sheet against former BNP lawmaker Mohammad Giasuddin Ahmed, his two wives and son for concealing information and amassing wealth beyond known sources of income.

ACC Assistant Director Mozahar Ali Sarker submitted the charge sheet against Giasuddin, whose name was on ACC's first list of graft suspects and who surrendered before a local Cognisance Court in Narayanganj on February 25.

The charge sheet mentioned that Giasuddin amassed wealth worth Tk 35.13 crore beyond his known sources of income and concealed the information about the wealth worth Tk 20.56 crore from the ACC.

The charge sheet also charged Giasuddin's first wife Reshma Begum, second wife Tahfiza Begum and son Mohammad Foyzal with abetting him in acquiring the wealth through illegal means and concealing the wealth information.

As Reshma, Tahfiza and Foyzal are absconding, the charge sheet also recommended for issuing an arrest warrant against them.

ACC Assistant Director Khairul Huda filed the case in October last year.

LAWACHHARA ENVIRONMENT

Chevron claims full compliance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chevron in a statement yesterday claimed that it is in full compliance with the environment clearance certificate with its 3D seismic survey at Lawachhara Reserve Forest in Moulvibazar, says a press release.

Contrary to reports in some of the national dailies published on May 5, a statement of Chevron says they are is conducting work with the utmost care for the environment and regularly keeps Petrobranga and members of the monitoring team informed of ongoing seismic work at Lawachhara.

In the statement, Chevron officials said it was outside Chevron's jurisdiction to inform Petrobranga or ministry of environment of such a fire.

They further said, "Chevron, Petrobranga and deputy commissioner of Moulvibazar have each conducted separate investigations and the findings were consistent that the fire had no link at all with the seismic activities of Chevron and no seismic personnel were in the area where the fire incident took place on April 26. The claim that Chevron workers might have caused fire is unfounded."

The allegation that crew members are not properly trained is

baseless. Chevron places the utmost importance on safety and protecting the environment and all crew members working in the forest underwent a rigorous two-day safety and environmental awareness training programme. Safety meetings are also held every morning before work begins to ensure safety awareness at every step, the statement added.

Chevron is conducting a thorough investigation into claims that cracks have allegedly developed in walls of mud huts in the area. We take such claims seriously and will act accordingly.

Throughout the process including prior to the seismic work was started and while the Environmental Assessment Study was carried out, Chevron made every effort to consult key stakeholders of Moulvibazar area.

In addition, Chevron held several meetings in the area and several press conferences at local and national levels to facilitate sharing of information, the statement included.

Chevron expects to complete the seismic survey by the middle of this year safely and without making any long-term impact on the environment and the wildlife.

Duke of Gloucester arrives in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prince Richard, duke of Gloucester of the UK, yesterday arrived in the city on a four-day visit to Bangladesh, particularly to Sadr-affected southern region of the country.

The Duke, who holds several military appointments and carries out official duties in the UK and overseas on behalf of The Queen, will also call on President Iajuddin Ahmed during his visit that will end on May 10.

Upon his arrival, the Prince accompanied by British High Commissioner Anwar Choudhury visited the Department of Architecture of Brac University and had ideas of the architectural and structural patterns of houses and buildings of Bangladesh.

Prince Richard, who himself is an architect, took keen interest on the structures of houses built in the disaster-prone southern districts and the shelter centres.

Brac University Vice Chancellor Dr Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, chairman of the Department of Architecture of the university Dr Fuad Hasan Malik and officials of British High Commission and UK Department for International Development (DFID) were also present during the visit.

First cousin of The Queen Elizabeth II, the Duke of Gloucester's visit among other issues will focus on the UK's continued and wide-range commitments to long-term development in Bangladesh, particularly its contributions to disaster management and relief and reconstruction projects in Southern Bangladesh undertaken following the devastating cyclone Sadr last year, said a press release.

The Royal visit coming shortly after trips by three cabinet level ministers in just four months further underlines the new heights reached in strong bilateral relations between the UK and Bangladesh, it added.

"We are absolutely delighted to welcome His Royal Highness. His personal visit demonstrates the importance UK attaches to people-to-people links with Bangladesh; these links are bedrock of the friendship between our countries," said British High Commissioner Anwar Choudhury.

Appeal for help



Kazi Bashirul Islam of Brahmanbaria has been suffering from kidney illness for last four years, says a press release.

His both kidneys have been damaged. Bashirul is now under the treatment of Urology Professor Dr Harun-or-Rashid, and having kidney dialysis.

According to the doctors, he needs kidney transplant which involves a huge amount of money.

It is not possible for poor Bashirul to afford this expensive treatment and as such he has appealed to well-off section of the society for financial assistance.

Contributions can be sent to Kazi Bashirul Islam, Savings Account No 2775, Sonali Bank, Nayabazar Branch, Mobile: 01912163555 (on request).

Kamrul Hasan Abir



Abir, a boy of four and a half years old, has been suffering from profound hearing loss problems since he was six-month old, says a press release.

He neither hears nor speaks. According to Surgeon A S Tahir, Abir needs immediate cochlear implant surgery which involves a huge amount of money.

This is a lengthy treatment and it needs speech therapy and a yearlong follow-up after the surgery.

Moreover the treatment is not available in the country. Abir's father Ali Anwar, an assistant teacher of Viharunnisa Noon School and College, is not able to bear the cost of the treatment.

So he has made a fervent appeal to well-off people of the society for financial assistance for the treatment of his son.

Contributions can be sent to Ali Anwar, Savings Account No 02039898, Sonali Bank Ltd, Viharunnisa Noon School and College Branch, Dhaka.

Qulkhawni



Qulkhawni of M o h a m m a d Jashim Uddin, assistant general manager of A l o o k Refrigeration Co. Ltd. will be held tomorrow,

says a press release. On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at Alook Tower at 47/1 Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Shahrani at Mohakhali in the city after Asprayers.

Jashim passed away at Birdem Hospital on May 1 at the age of 45. He left behind his wife, one son and one daughter.



(From left) Awami League (AL) presidium member Suranjit Sengupta, acting President Zillur Rahman, Sayed Khokon and AL presidium member Amir Hossain Amu hold copies of a book titled 'Dhakar Prothom Mayor Md Hanifer Sangrami Ek Jiboner Katha' at a publication ceremony at Sheraton Hotel in the city yesterday.

PBCP men demand tolls from N'ganj RMG owners

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Tolls were demanded over cellphone from eight garment owners of Fatullah in the name of Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) yesterday.

Four of them filed general diary (GD) with Fatullah Police Station in this connection seeking their security.

Owner of Ruposhi Garments and Director of Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) Mohammad Suhrawardy in his GD said a man called him at 9:15am from the cell phone 01726-695790 demanding Tk 4 lakh in toll, otherwise he will be killed.

The man introduced himself as Abir Hasan, regional commander of PBCP, and asked him to talk to Ziaul Haque Zia, another leader of the party.

Zia told him that around 30 to 40 members of the party are in jail and they need Tk 40 lakh to free them, and for that they are demanding Tk 4 lakh from him.

From the same cell phone, Tk 6 lakh was demanded from garment owner Abdul Based, Tk 6.5 lakh from the owner of Fiber Text Garment Sohail Nazrul, and Tk 4 lakh from SA Textile mills owner Ripon.

Officer-in-charge of Fatullah Police Station said four businessmen have filed GD in this regard and police would take steps after looking into the matter.

Meanwhile, Sheikh Rasel, managing director of Moon Star garments, was arrested yesterday in a cheque forgery case and for making dillydally in providing arrears of the workers of his factory in the town.

Tagore's birth anniversary

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birth-anniversary programmes at 10:00am today 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.

President Iajuddin Ahmed and the chief adviser have given special messages highlighting the colourful life of the poet and his contributions to Bengali language and literature.

In his message, the president said, "Rabindranath is not only an individual but also an institution and his distinctive literature and arts would always inspire Bengali-speaking people to do creative work."

F a k h r u d d i n said, "Rabindranath's songs and poems had inspired people during the country's Liberation War."

Shilpakala Academy will organise a cultural programme based on

various creative works of the great poet at the Jatiya Natyashala auditorium in the evening. Prominent artists will recite poems, dance and render Tagore's songs.

Besides, various programmes have been chalked out to mark the day at Shilaiddah 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 holding various programmes.

As part of the national celebrations, Bangla Academy will arrange a programme on the poet on Sunday in its seminar room.

The academy has also published a souvenir on the occasion.

Tagore was a poet, visual artist, playwright, novelist, and composer whose works reshaped Bengali literature and music in the late 19th

Asia Regional Higher Edn Summit in Dhaka in Oct

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Asia Regional Higher Education Summit will be held in the city in October with a view to expanding innovative approaches to teaching, research, technology transfer and business development in higher education.

The three-day summit will begin on October 6 with a focus on higher education alliance.

USAID decided to arrange the Asia

regional summit following the Global Higher Education Summit held in Washington on April 29 and 30.

Dhaka University Vice Chancellor (VC) Prof SMA Faiz and Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) VC Prof AMM Safiullah were the only representatives from Bangladesh at the global summit.

CU train hits Rab pick-up van

CU CORRESPONDENT

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) narrowly escaped casualty as Chittagong University (CU)-bound shuttle train rammed into a pick-up van of the elite force near the port city's Oxygen intersection yesterday afternoon.

Sources said the pick-up van bearing a patrol team of the Rab-7 Chittagong was passing a level crossing near the intersection at around 2:45pm.

A CU-bound shuttle train was also passing the crossing at the same time and rammed into the pick-up van.

However, all of the Rab men escaped injury.

Short film festival to raise funds for Amit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A two-day short film festival will begin at the Institute of Business Administration (IBA) of Dhaka University (DU) from today to raise funds for treatment of Amit, a first year student of Sheikh Borhanuddin College, who is suffering from stomach cancer.

Amit needs an advanced medical treatment which will cost approximately Tk 10 lakh, but his family is not financially solvent enough to afford the expenses.

The film festival has been divided into four sessions. The first session will start at 2:00pm ending at 3:30pm and the next session will start at 4:00pm and end at 5:30pm. The sessions of the second day will start at 4:00pm and ends at 5:30pm and 6:00pm to 7:30pm.

Tickets of the shows will be available in front of the IBA auditorium, which will cost Tk 100 per session, Tk 180 for two sessions, Tk 250 for three sessions and Tk 300 for four sessions.

A Europe-based short film label FutureShorts is the co-arranger of the programme.



Bangladeshi girl killed in US road crash

Kazi Meherin Hossain Pinky, 22, daughter of Kazi Moazzem Hossain Sabu of Chiora Kazi Bari at Choudagram in Comilla, was killed in a road accident at Texas, Houston, in the United States on May 4.

Pinky, a bright and meritorious student, was studying BBA on completion of her graduation from Elsie High School, says a press release.

She was buried in Texas on May 6 after a namaz-e-janaza attended by a large number of Bangladeshis.

Qulkhawani

Her Qulkhawani will be held at Eastern Palace, 21, Siddeshwari in the city after Maghrib prayers today.

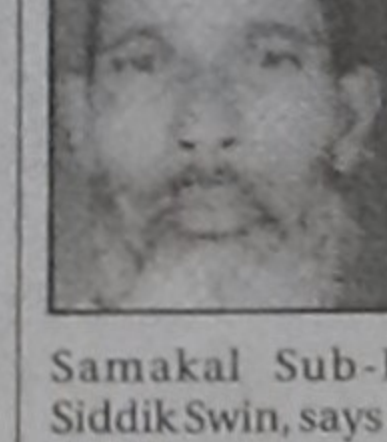
Death anniversary



Today is the 6th death anniversary of Kazi Habibur Rahman, a noted educationalist and former registrar of Chittagong University, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil and destitute feeding will be held at his village home at Chittagong.

Kazi Habibur Rahman



Today is the 5th death anniversary of Kazi Habibur Rahman, a social worker of Raiganj upazila in Sirajganj and father of daily Samakal Sub-Editor Nurnobi Siddik Swin, says a press release.

On the occasion, Qurankhawani and milad mahfil will be held at Rameshorganti under Raiganj upazila in Sirajganj after Zohr prayers.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the programme.

**Seminar**

Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI) organises a seminar on 'Telecom and ICT industry in Bangladesh: The past, the present and the future'. Venue: BEI conference room. Time: 9:30am.

**Award giving**

Berger Paints (BD) Ltd organises the Berger Award giving ceremony for the students of architecture of Buet. Venue: Buet auditorium. Time: 6:45pm.

**Workshop**

The Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Bangladesh (ICMAB) organises a workshop on 'Key performance indicator - a tool of management'. Venue: ICMAB auditorium, Nilkhet. Time: 6:30pm.

**Seminar**

Oxam International in cooperation with GMark Consulting Ltd will organise a seminar on 'Agribusiness in Bangladesh: Present status, pitfalls and prospects'. Venue: Cirdap Auditorium. Time: 9:30am.

**Discussion**

Bangladesh Thalassaemia Society will organise a discussion to mark the World Thalassaemia Day. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 11:30am.

**Thundershowers likely**

UNB, Dhaka

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

Day temperature may rise slightly over the country during the period, Met Offices said.

Highest temperature 38.6 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 22.0 degrees Celsius at Sylhet.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:31pm 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	35.5	26.4	71	70
Chittagong	33.0	26.0	60	76
Rajshahi	36.0	24.9	84	58
Khulna	36.5	27.0	80	61
Barisal	34.8	27.0	73	67
Sylhet	31.3	22.0	85	76
Cox's Bazar	34.5	24.8	55	76