

DHAKABASHI TEAM MEETS CHIEF ADVISER

# Call to save Buriganga, convert central jail into park

UNB, Dhaka

A delegation of 'Dhakabashi', an organisation that carries out activities for preserving traditions of Dhaka city and social welfare, yesterday called on Chief Adviser (CA) Fakhruddin Ahmed and apprised him of its long-drawn agenda for celebration of 400 years of the city.

The celebrations will start from August 30 and last until 2010.

The CA suggested celebrating

the 400 years of Dhaka city in a coordinated manner as some other organisations have also taken initiative for the celebration.

President of 'Dhakabashi' Md Shukur Salek and Secretary General Sheikh Khoda Baks led the 12-member delegation to the meet at the CA's office.

The delegation leaders said Dhaka City Corporation can take initiative to coordinate the celebrations on the occasion of the grand festival. In this regard, they men-

tioned that Kolkata has also celebrated 400 years under supervision of Kolkata City Corporation.

The CA said he would look into the matter.

Dr Fakhruddin thanked 'Dhakabashi' for taking the initiative and a lot of programmes for celebration of 400 years of the city, saying: "History of Dhaka, its culture, tradition and heritage should be highlighted and the opportunity has come through this celebration."



A delegation of Dhakabashi, a socio-cultural organisation, calls on Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed at his office in the city yesterday.

MANPOWER AGENCIES' CHEATING  
27 Bangladeshis return from Iraq

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twenty-seven Bangladeshis who were promised of lucrative jobs in Dubai or elsewhere by manpower agencies but were dumped in Solaimania in Iraq returned home yesterday with the help from International Organisation for Migration (IOM) yesterday.

IOM officials received the cheated Bangladeshis landed at Zia International Airport yesterday morning.

"Most of them went to Iraq in April this year. They said there are more Bangladeshis languishing in Solaimania, but we are not sure of the numbers," IOM official Asif Munir told The Daily Star.

These people were not provided the jobs they were promised. Being informed of these stranded Bangladeshis, IOM office in Iraq contacted its Dhaka office and arranged their repatriation.

IOM also helped repatriation of 49 Bangladeshis in March and 42 in April. Some also came back home on their own arrangement.

IOM will apprise the government of the information it collected from the returnees, Asif Munir said.

According to Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training, Bangladesh presently does not allow any of its nationals to go to Iraq with work visas.

**Woman dies being entangled in generator engine**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A woman died after being entangled in the engine of a generator at Haji Fazil Karim Steel Market at English Road in the city yesterday.

The victim, Nargis Begum, 35, became entangled in the engine when she was filling the water tank of the generator in the afternoon.

Witnesses said her saree first got entangled in the engine and then pulled her body into it.

She died on the spot.

**WORK PERMIT Bahrain urged to lift suspension on Bangladeshis**

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh yesterday urged Bahrain to lift its suspension order on issuance of work permits to Bangladeshi workers.

Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury phoned State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bahrain Dr Nejat Sadik Al Baharna yesterday noon and discussed the matter with him.

Dr Nejat assured Iftekhar that he would try to do his best to take an initiative for lifting the suspension order.

Bahrain has recently issued an order suspending fresh recruitment of Bangladeshi workers and issuance of work permits after a Bahrain national was killed by a Bangladeshi.

Meanwhile, a spokesman of Expatriate Welfare and Overseas Employment Ministry advised Bangladeshi workers to obey the rules of the country concerned, as public sentiment is getting stronger in the Middle East countries against the breach of laws by foreigners.

## 7 to die for killing college student in Jhenidah

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

A Jhenidah court yesterday sentenced seven people to death for killing a college student six years back.

The convicts are Abdur Rob, Santosh Kumar, Swapna Kumar, Kanti Chandra Biswas, Baikuntha Sarkar, Krishnapada Biswas, and Akhshay Kumar, all of Badargachha village in Kaliganj upazila.

He was rushed to a Khulna hospital in a critical condition where he succumbed to his injuries the following day.

A postal deptt employees get 10 years

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A special court yesterday sentenced two postal department employees to 10 years' rigorous imprisonment for misappropriating allowances of other employees of the department.

Judge Sirajul Islam of Special Court-7, set up on the Jatiya Sangsads Bhaban premises, handed down the verdict to Krishna Kumar Dasgupta, an accountant, and Abdul Kalam, cashier of the department.

The court also fined them Tk 2 lakh each. If they fail to pay, they would have to serve one more year in jail.

Krishna Kumar and Abdul Kalam were both tried in absentia. But Krishna Kumar suddenly appeared in the court yesterday to know the fate of the case. He was then arrested and sent to jail.

According to the prosecution, the convicts misappropriated Tk 1.53 lakh in allowances of employees through submitting fake vouchers.

**3 youths jailed for possessing Yaba tablets**

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced three youths of well-off families to jail terms ranging from one year to four years for possessing 16 Yaba tablets and 24 pornographic CDs.

The convicts are Dayee Khan Meer alias Chiku, Mahmud Al Juberee alias Shanon, and Altaf Akmal Kollo.

The court, however, acquitted three other youths -- Sheikh Wahid Shafiq, Salman Rahim Juar and Musfiqur Rahman Tamal -- as charges against them could not be proved.

Judge Mohammad Nurul Huda of the Speedy Trial Tribunal handed down the verdict at a packed courtroom.

Chiku was sentenced to one year's rigorous imprisonment (RI) while Kollo to four years and seven months' RI. Kollo was also fined Tk 5,000. If he fails to pay, he will have to serve three more months in jail.

The other convict, Shanon, was sentenced to one year and three months' RI.

**2 bakeries, 11 shops fined Tk 3.2 lakh**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court in two separate drives yesterday fined two bakeries and 11 shops Tk 3.21 lakh for adulteration of food, unhygienic condition and weight manipulation at Baridhara in the city.

The mobile court team, assisted by Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) members, went to Bhai Bhai Bakery and Fast Food at Baridhara Notun Bazar and fined them Tk 2.1 lakh and Tk 1.1 lakh respectively.

The mobile court, led by a magistrate, wanted to see the licences of the bakeries, but they failed to show the licences. The also found date-expired foodstuff there.

Later, the magistrate and Rab members raided 11 shops at Nadda Kitchen Market and checked scales and weights. They found many of those do not have actual weights.

The 11 shops were fined Tk 21,000.



Director General of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) Prof Abul Faiz speaks at a discussion titled 'Achieving Acceptable Level of Maternal Mortality Rate: Status, Achievement and Expectation' at Cirdap auditorium in the city yesterday. On his right is Prof Saira Akhtar and on his left are Bangladesh Mahila Parishad President Ayesha Khanam and Dr Rowshan Ara.

PHOTO: STAR

MANPOWER, TRANSPORT FOR MAGISTRATES

SC asks govt to comply with earlier order

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court (SC) yesterday once again directed the government to comply with its earlier order for providing manpower and transports for judicial magistrates as part of completing separation of judiciary from executive by July 1.

The six-member full bench, headed by Chief Justice Md Ruhul Amin, passed the order after hearing the judiciary separation case.

The court fixed July 2 for further order.

Earlier, the apex court had at least five times asked the government through the attorney general (AG) to recruit manpower and provide transports for judicial magistrates.

As the court sat yesterday morning for hearing the case, Attorney General Fida M Kamal presented before it some papers detailing the government's actions in implementing the court order.

POWER PLANT CASE

HC verdict in Hasina's writ petition June 1

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court will deliver its verdict on June 1 in the writ petition filed by former prime minister Sheikh Hasina challenging the legality of the trial proceedings of the barge-mounted power plant corruption case.

A HC bench of Justice Mohammad Abdur Rashid and Justice Md Ashfaqul Islam yesterday fixed the date at the end of the hearing on the writ petition.

The trial of the power plant corruption case against Hasina is going on in the Special Judge's Court-1 on the Jatiya Sangsads Bhaban premises. The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) filed the case.

Following Hasina's writ petition, the HC on May 12 issued a rule asking the authorities to explain within eight days why continuation of trial proceedings of the case should not be declared illegal.



Poet Khaleda Edib Chowdhury passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent poet and litterateur Khaleda Edib Chowdhury passed away at her residence at Uttara in the city in the early hours of yesterday.

Born in 1937 in Comilla, she was the editor of juvenile magazine 'Nabarun' and 'Sachitra Bangladesh'.

She received many awards and wide acclaim for his contribution to Bangla literature. The awards include Bangla Academy Literary Award, Alaoi Literary Award, Poet Jasimuddin Literary Award, and Bangladesh Lekhika Sangha Award.

Khaleda Edib Chowdhury, wife of late Anwarul Haque, is survived by her only son, Rehab President Tanvirul Haque Probal, and two daughters Sangita Khan and Sumona Haque.

Her quirkiness will be held at her residence in Uttara Sector #4, Road #6, House #53 after Asr prayers on Friday. Relatives, friends and well-wishers have been requested to attend the quirk.

The Bangla Academy and the BCS Information Association has expressed deep shock at the death of Khaleda Edib Chowdhury.

Md Zahid Kamal

BSS, Barisal

Md Zahid Kamal, upazila nibabhi officer of Babuganj upazila in Barisal, passed away due to a stroke at Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital in the town yesterday at the age of 42.

He left behind his two minor sons, wife and a host of admirers to mourn his death.

Zahid joined at the civil service in 1993 as a member of the BCS (Administration) cadre.

Death anniversary

Today is the fourth death anniversary of Sohel Chowdhury, a young theatre artiste, says a press release.

On the occasion, a dha maifil will be held at his residence in Habiganj and at Sherkhertek in the city. A destitute feeding programme will also be at his Habiganj residence.

## UN Peacekeepers Day today

UNB, Dhaka

The International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers will be observed across the world today.

On this day 60 years ago, the United Nations Security Council established the first peacekeeping operation, the United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO), based in the Middle East.

Bangladesh television and private television channels will telecast the programme live.

Advisers to the caretaker government, special assistants to the chief adviser, chiefs of the three services, inspector general of police, media personalities, and top civil and military officials, among others, will be present on the occasion. Besides, UN resident coordinator in Bangladesh will attend the ceremony as the chief guest.

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In his message, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said: "More than half of our Member States contribute troops and police to peacekeeping operations. We are grateful to every one of them. Our special thanks go to the top contributors: Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Nigeria and Nepal. Together, these nations of the south contribute nearly half of the UN's peacekeepers."

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Dialogue should be held between AL, BNP chiefs  
Says SQ Chowdhury

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detained BNP leader Salauddin Quader Chowdhury yesterday termed the ongoing dialogue 'rubbish' and said a dialogue should be held between the two chiefs of BNP and Awami League to overcome the present crisis.

"There has to be a settlement between the BNP and Awami League. To overcome the present crisis, a dialogue will have to be held between the two chiefs of BNP and Awami League to overcome the present crisis.

Asked about the AL's decision to boycott the dialogue, he said political parties should play positive role for holding timely and credible elections as per the Election Commission roadmap.

Asked if AL and BNP boycott the election and the fundamentalist force comes to power, would the British government recognise such force, Norman said they don't think such a thing will happen in Bangladesh.

About the necessity of a national charter despite having a constitution in place, he said it is the political parties and the government to decide what would be the best for Bangladesh.

He said the British government would continue to assist Bangladesh for attaining sustainable democracy for economic and social prosperity.

## Workshop on fundraising

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Freedom Foundation (BFF) yesterday organised a workshop on 'Effective communications for successful fundraising' in collaboration with Resource Alliance-UK.

The workshop focused on understanding the non-profit super bands, crafting message to win more supporters and how to write successful fundraising appeals.

Twenty-nine representatives from 26 non-profit organisations from 13 districts participated at the workshop.

Chairperson of Resource Alliance Mal Warwick conducted the workshop that was inaugurated by Safi Rahman Khan, executive director of BFF.

## DHAKA TODAY Seminar

Green Voice organises a seminar on the rivers and environment in Bangladesh. Venue: RC Majumdar Auditorium, DU. Time: 10:30am.

Discussion

Save the Environment Movement organises a discussion on bus routes, bus fare and traffic jam. Venue: Save the Environment Movement auditorium. Time: 11:00am.

View exchange meeting

Swadhinata Forum organises a view exchange meeting on 'Democracy in Bangladesh and role of Shaheed Zia in building national unity'. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 3:30pm.