

## NAGAR UNNAYAN COMMITTEE STUDY

# Proposal to start projects to meet city housing needs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nagar Unnayan Committee (NUC) of the housing and public works ministry at a seminar yesterday proposed to start housing projects in the city to meet the housing needs especially for the poor, low income and middle income groups in a planned manner.

Prof Nazrul Islam of the NUC presented a study paper titled 'A proposal for a housing development programme in Dhaka city' along with architect Salma A Shafi at the seminar at the auditorium of the Department of Public Works with its Secretary ASM Rashidul Halin in the chair.

Two million housing units are required in the first phase in the city, said Prof Nazrul, adding that of them, 0.82 million units would go to the low-income group and 1.1 million are required for the middle-income group.

A three-phase proposal for the projects was made in the seminar. The 17-year projects would be

launched for poor, slum dwellers, low income, middle income and upper income groups. The first phase will be implemented from 2008 to 2013, second phase is from 2013 to 2018 and the third from 2018 to 2025.

Prof Nazrul further said the study has been undertaken as per directives of the chief adviser to the NUC in order to guide the government in formulating a housing development programme for the city with particular attention to the needs of the poor and low-income groups.

He expressed hope that the caretaker government within its tenure will take up at least one project, more specifically for the rehabilitation of 60,000 households evicted in February last year.

In the first phase, the NUC proposed to construct 1,09,200 shelter units for squatters at government land at Mirpur section-6, 11, 12, existing old squatter areas at Mirpur, Rayebazar, Kalyanpur and Kuril areas.

It also proposed to construct

3,10,800 unit shelters for slum dwellers under the new housing areas within Dhaka metropolitan areas -- Uttara Phase-III and Purbachal, large-scale low-cost housing in Tongi, Gazipur and Narayanganj and private land in Keraniganj, Demra and Savar.

Another proposal was made to construct 11,00,000 shelter units for the middle income group by renewing old housing areas, Rajuk-developed existing housing areas and at new satellite towns -- Jhilmil, Purbachal, Ashulia and Uttara Phase-III.

The NUC also proposed to construct 80,000 units for the upper income group at the existing redevelopment housing areas, new real estate development and holiday homes in outlying areas of the GDA.

According to the study, Dhaka city now contains 40 percent of the national urban population and more than 35 percent of the people living in the city are residents of slums and squatter settlements.

Differing the proposals of the committee, Secretary ASM Rashidul Hal said Dhaka is one of the most densely populated cities in the world.

Discouraging more people to come in the city, he said, "We have to go outside of Dhaka with new projects to reduce the burden of the city."

Speaking as the chief guest, environmentalist and founder of Bishwa Sahitya Kendra Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed said the study should provide more concrete suggestions about the way of constructing the habitats of poor and lower income groups.

Architect Dr Mahbubur Rahman, Rehab President Tanvirul Haque Probal, Dr AQM Mahabub of Dhaka University, former chief town planner of Rajuk Shaukat Ali, project director of Detailed Area Plan Tapan Kumar Nath and Additional Chief Engineer of Departments of Public Works Sayed Jahangir Kabir also spoke.

## Dhaka signs revised OIC charter

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh along with Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Malaysia, Indonesia and four more member states Wednesday signed the revised OIC charter that was adopted at the 11th Islamic Summit Conference in Dakar, Senegal in March this year.

Foreign Secretary M Touhid Hossain signed the charter in presence of the representatives of 57 member countries attending the 35th Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) meeting in Kampala on June 18-20.

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni inaugurated the CFM meeting at Muryonyo Commonwealth Resort.

In his speech, Museveni reiterated Africa's support towards the cause of Palestine. He also requested the Muslim world to match efforts to end Sudan crisis.

In the same session, the new Bureau of the CFM was elected when Uganda became the Chairman, Palestine, Syria and Iran as Vice Chairs and Pakistan as the Rapporteur.

Sam Kutesa, Foreign Minister of Uganda, presided over the inaugural session as the successor of the foreign minister of Pakistan.

## 1,584 cans of beer, foreign liquor, siezed, 7 held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) during separate drives at different parts of the city yesterday recovered 1,584 cans of beer, six bottles of foreign liquor and 17 kilograms of cannabis and arrested seven people in these connections.

Rab-3 officials said they conducted the drives at Ulan and Rampura in Khilgaon, Kazla in Jatrabari and Lalbagh areas and recovered beer and liquor and also arrested six people.

The arrestees were identified as Azad, Nehar, Yunus, Babul, Kamal and Abul.

Meanwhile, the Rab personnel also arrested one Russell from Jatrabari area and recovered 17 kilograms of cannabis from his possession.

## Develop quality of professional learning

Navy chief tells certificate award ceremony

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chief of Naval Staff Vice Admiral Sarwar Jahan Nizam yesterday said there is no alternative to developing the quality of professional learning especially at the backdrop of the unique progress of science and technology across the globe now.

The navy chief was addressing the Certificate Award Ceremony of the 25th Junior Staff Course (JSC) at Naval Academy at Patenga as the chief guest.

A total of 22 junior-level officers from different countries took part in the 10-week long course.

Of them, 17 officers were from Bangladesh Navy, two

from Bangladesh Army and Air Force, and one each from Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Nigeria, sources said.

The navy chief said the course is not only challenging for the members of the armed forces but it also enables the officers to acquire skilled management and optimum exploitation of the workforce under them.

He also urged the officers to discharge their duties with unflinching honesty.

Assistant Chief of Naval Staff Commodore Farid Habib and Commodore Commanding of Chittagong Naval Area M Nasir were also present.

## CPI lauds role of Bangladeshi journalists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Asia Programme Coordinator of Committee to Protect Journalists (CPI) Bob Dietz has praised Bangladeshi journalists for their courage to stick to objective journalism despite all odds.

Despite adverse conditions, Bangladeshi journalists are still doing objective reporting, he said while speaking as the special guest at the launching ceremony of America-Bangladesh Press Club in New York, according to ANA, a news agency.

It is undoubtedly a good news for the American media that the Bangladeshi journalists established the press club to uphold the same commitment to their work, he added.

"The journalists in Bangladesh are presently passing through a hard time. Many are even risking their lives while carrying out their professional duties," Bob Dietz said.

Weinstein, director of New York Times Foundation, Elinor Tatum, publisher of Amsterdam News, Juana Ponce de Leon, executive director of New York Community Media Alliance, Ron Kim, representative of New York state governor, and Guillermo Linares, immigrant affairs commissioner at New York city mayor's office, also spoke on the occasion.

## NSU workshop on online resources of its library held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A workshop on how to access and use online resources of the library of North South University (NSU) for its faculty members was held yesterday, says a press release.

Dr SAM Khairul Bashar, province-chancellor, was the chief guest while Dr Mizan R Khan, chairman of the environmental science and management department, was the special guest at the workshop organised by the NSU library.

Dr Mostafizur Rahman, deputy librarian and coordinator of the training course on Digital and Online Librarianship, was the resource person.

A large number of NSU faculty members including Prof M Mabud, Dr Mohammad Ali, Dr G U Ahsan and Mobina Hasan attended the workshop.

Dr Khairul said the NSU library started with only 39 online journals in 2002, and now it subscribes nearly 10,000 titles of online journals.

## New chairman of Lions PDG Forum

Benajir Ahmed has been elected chairman of Lions Past District Governors Forum (PDG Forum) of Lions Clubs International (LCI) Multiple District-315 Bangladesh at the forum's annual general meeting at Gulshan Club in the city on Monday, says a press release.

Lions PDG Forum represents the past and present districts governors of LCI Multiple District-315 Bangladesh since inception of Lions Clubs in the country from 1958.

Ahmed is the immediate past chairman of the board of governors of North South University (NSU) Foundation. He is one of the founders and life members of the foundation.



People who deposited their money in Jubok projects form a human chain in front of the High Court in the city yesterday demanding return of their deposits.

## OSMANI UDYAN LAND

# SC stays HC verdict

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court (SC) yesterday stayed the High Court (HC) verdict directing the police to handover the possession of about three acres of land at Osmani Udyan to one Monwara Begum claiming herself as owner of the land.

Responding to a leave to appeal against the HC judgement, a three-member full bench of the Appellate Division headed by Justice Mohammad Fazlul Karim passed the order.

On November 18 of last year, the HC upon a writ petition delivered a judgement directing the police to handover within 7 days the possession of the land to petitioner Monwara.

The government, Dhaka City Corporation (DCC), and Bangladesh Railway authorities jointly filed a leave to appeal with the SC against the HC verdict.

DCC's counsel Dr M Zahir yesterday told newsmen at his Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) chamber that following the apex court judgement, the land of the Osmani Udyan would not be handed over to land grabber Monwara until the disposal of the appeal in the court.

He also said a regular appeal against the HC verdict would be filed soon with the SC.

Dr Zahir said in 1993, Monwara filed a case with the second sub-judge court of Dhaka demanding ownership over 2.8172 acres of land at Osmani Udyan and Phulbaria Railway area, and the court passed an order in her favour.

Then following her application, the Board of Investment (BOI) approved the land for building a five-star hotel on the plot in 2000, but the government cancelled the approval in 2001.

Monwara filed a writ petition with the HC challenging the legality of the government action.

The HC issued a rule upon the government to show cause as to why the cancellation of the approval should not be declared illegal.

Pending the rule in the HC, Monwara and her associates started cutting the trees of Osmani Udyan in 2001.

The HC issued a suo moto rule of contempt of court against Monwara and her husband Advocate MA Khalek and ordered the police authorities to keep the land under their supervision.

Following the contempt rule, Monwara and her husband sought unconditional apology to the court

which pardoned them and discharged her writ petition.

In 2007, Monwara filed another writ petition with the HC seeking a direction to the police to hand over the possession of land to her.

The HC, on November 18 of last year, delivered the judgement directing the police to handover the possession of the land to Monwara within seven days. Then the government, DCC and Bangladesh Railway authorities jointly filed a petition with the SC against the HC verdict.

The SC asked the parties concerned to maintain status quo in this regard and asked the government, DCC and Bangladesh Railway authorities to file a leave to appeal with the court against the HC verdict.

The Appellate Division on June 17 and 18 heard submissions from counsels of the case and yesterday passed the stay order.

Barrister Rafique-ul Huq and Ajmalul Hossain appeared for Monwara, while Additional Attorney General Mansur Habib stood for government and Advocate Shahed Alam argued for the railway.

## GRAFT CASE Proceedings against Khoka's wife stayed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday stayed the proceedings against Ismat Ara, wife of Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka, in a corruption case filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

A HC bench of Justice Sharif Uddin Chaklader and Justice Md Emdadul Haque Azad also issued a rule upon the government to show cause as to why the proceedings against Ismat Ara should not be quashed.

The rule came following a petition filed by Ismat Ara.

ACC Assistant Director Shamsul Alam filed the case with Ramna Police Station on April 2 against Ismat Ara for amassing wealth worth Tk 17.57 crore disproportionate to their known sources of income and for concealing information about wealth of Tk 9.96 crore in their wealth statements submitted to the ACC.

Barrister Rafique-ul Huq assisted by Barrister Mahbubuddin Khokon moved for the petitioner.

## Mother kills daughter in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mother yesterday killed her two-and-a-half-year-old daughter at Adabar in the city over a trifling matter.

Police said the arrestee said she locked into a squabble with her husband over a trifling matter yesterday morning. At one stage, she got angry with her husband and threw the child out of their house which led to the death of the kid.

The child was then admitted to a local clinic at Shekher where the doctors declared the ill-fated child dead, they added.

Police arrested wife Minara Begum after her husband Awlad Hossain, a driver, filed a murder case for killing their daughter Suborna.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Adabar Police Station Mahbub Alam said the couple had been quarrelling since last three days over the second wife of Awlad and her children.

## Art competition for underprivileged children held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum (BSAF) yesterday organised an art competition and a cultural programme for underprivileged children at LGED Auditorium in the city as a follow-up programme of the World Day Against Child Labour.

Twenty underprivileged children from 20 non-government organisations, and children from 10 other organisations belonging to BSAF network, took part in the programme.

The themes of the art competition were 'village' and 'patriotism'. Mohammad Sajal Mia, who reads in class 4 of UCEP school at Mirpur, drew the picture of a minor boy breaking bricks and another minor boy helping him by bringing bricks to him.

"This is a common picture on my way to school and workplace," Sajal said.

BSAF Director Mohammad Kafil Uddin distributed prizes among the winners and the participating children.

He also distributed crests among the representatives of the participating NGOs.

Besides, 500 children, who are studying in those NGO schools, took part in different events of the cultural programme.

Country Director of Terre Des Homes-Netherlands Mahmudul Kabir was the chief guest at the cultural programme.

Former skipper of the national cricket team Habibul Bashar Sumon was also present as special guest.

## Hearing deferred over Tarique plea

FROM PAGE 1

Khaleda Zia, before the court as he was ill.

Upon a defence plea submitted on June 15, the court also ordered the jail authority to arrange "proper treatment" for Tarique.

The court session began at 10:50am.

Of the eight accused in the case, Babar and Abu Sufian, director of Bashundhara Group concern East-West Property Development Ltd, were produced before the court.

During the hearing, Tarique's counsel barrister Rafiqul Islam Mia requested the court to give orders for sending Tarique abroad for better treatment and adjourn the trial proceedings until his recovery.

Barrister Rafiq told the court that according to the report of the medical board formed by the government for Tarique, his physical condition is deteriorating day by day and that his treatment is not possible in the country.

Quoting the report, Rafiq also said Tarique's treatment is possible in Germany, Italy and England.

He urged the court to look into how Tarique was made "cripple".

"Tarique, son of a freedom fighter and a former president, has been made cripple in custodial

torture and the court has the jurisdiction to look into the matter for the sake of justice," he said.

He also said since Tarique was sent to jail and placed on remand on court orders, the court should probe how a physically fit person was made ill.

Prosecution lawyer advocate SK Golam Hafiz opposed the defence request to the court for sending Tarique abroad for proper treatment.

He said they have never objected to Tarique's treatment. The court has some limitations and cannot go beyond those limitations; rather it is the state that can pass such an executive order like sending Tarique abroad for treatment.

Alleging that the defence is "playing" with its client's life, Hafiz said the defence can submit a petition for Tarique's personal exemption from being present during the trial proceedings.

"Let us not play any game with the life of Tarique Rahman," said Hafiz.

The defence lawyer, however, said their client wants to be present during the trial proceedings.

Babar's lawyer also filed a petition yesterday for ensuring proper

treatment for his client.

After hearing both the sides, the court fixed June 26 as the next date for hearing on charge framing in the case.

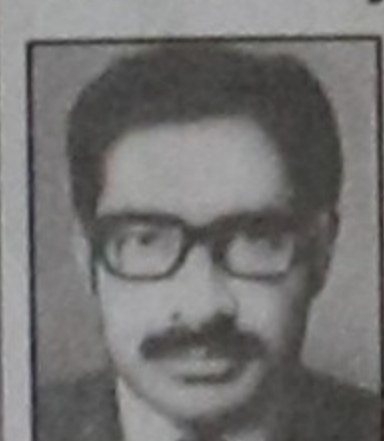
On October 4 last year, Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Deputy Assistant Director Abul Kashem filed the bribery case, involving the murder of Bashundhara Group Director Humayun Kabir Sabbar, with Ramna Police Station, accusing six persons including Babar.

Tarique and former BNP lawmaker Qazi Saleemul Huq Kamal were included in the case after investigation found their involvement in the bribery.

Bashundhara Group Chairman Ahmed Akbar Sobhan alias Shah Alam and his two sons Shafiat Sobhan Sanvir and Sadaat Sobhan, and Tarique's personal secretary Mia Nur Uddin Apu are the other charge-sheeted accused.

The ACC said the eight were involved in receiving and giving the bribe to ensure that Sanvir did not face charges for killing Sabbar whose body was found outside a building in Bashundhara residential area on July 5, 2006.

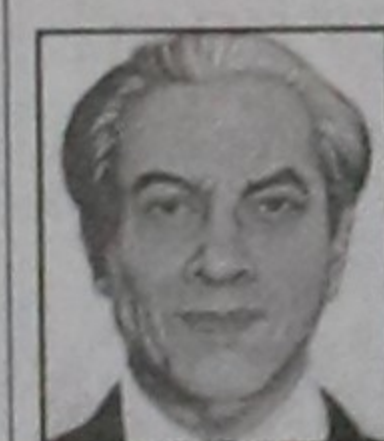
## Obituary



Dr Mirza A Sobhan, former president of Bangladesh Private Medical Practitioners' Association, passed away at his residence on Wednesday at the age of 72, says a press release.

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

## Death anniversary



Today is the 24th death anniversary of Ahmad Sobhan, a senior lawyer, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at his Dhamond residence.

## Ekrumul Haque

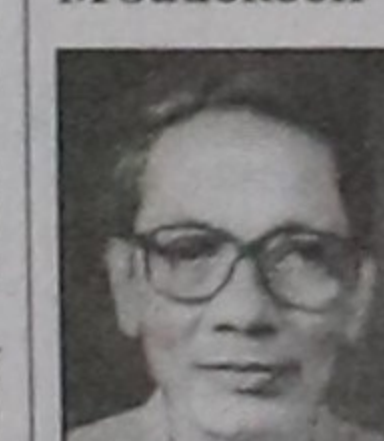


Today is the 7th death anniversary of Ekrumul Haque, commander of Zone C of Noakhali during the War of Liberation, says a press release.

On the occasion, Beer Mukti Joddha Ekrumul Haque Smriti Pathagar and local freedom fighters organised different programmes on Purnapur School premises at Chhatkhil upazila in Noakhali.

A milad and doa mahfil will be held after the Juma prayers and wreaths will be placed at his grave at 3:30 pm.

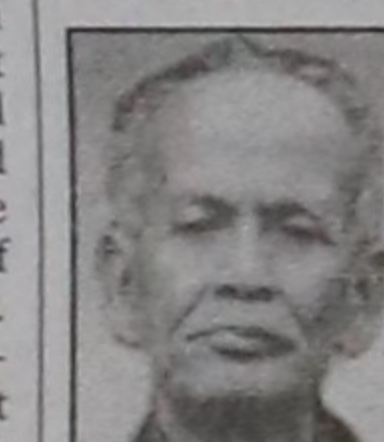
## M Sadekeen



Today is the 9th death anniversary of M Sadekeen, a freedom fighter, journalist and a litterateur, says a press release.

He worked for Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra during the War of Liberation. Sadekeen also worked for the Janakantha, Dainik Ittefaq and the now defunct Dainik Bangla, Dainik Purbadesh, Dainik Azad and The Morning News. He was also the editor of the weekly Robbar and Shushrusa.

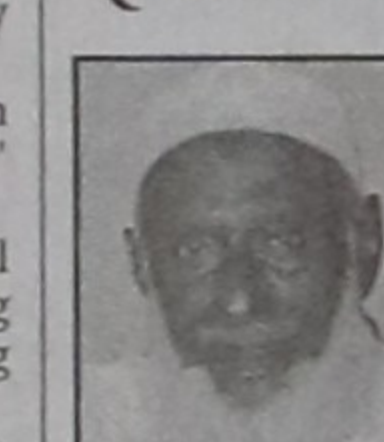
## Prof Md Abdul Jabbar



Today is the 8th death anniversary of Prof Md Abdul Jabbar, former vice principal of Mymensingh Ananda Mohan Govt College, says a press release.

On the occasion, a Quarnkhwani and milad mahfil will be held at 11:00am at his village home at Musuli under Nandail upazila in Mymensingh.

## Qulkhwani



University (BSMMU), will be held after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

On the occasion, prayers will be held simultaneously at the Banani Mosque for men and at his residence at house 37, road no 6 of Banani for women.

Friends, relatives and admirers are requested to attend the prayers.

Dr Rashid, a renowned hematologist, was also president of Bangladesh Society of Hematology and Bangladesh Society of Pathology.

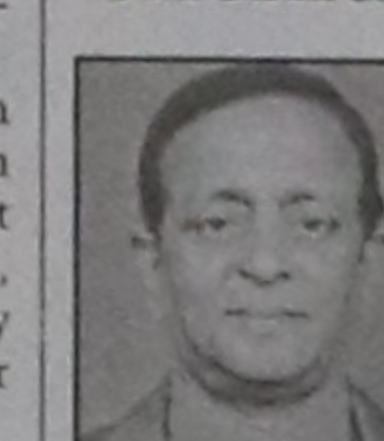
## Monowara Begum

Qulkhwani of Monowara Begum, wife of businessman Haji Abdul Majid and mother of Oxitem International Ltd Managing Director Kamal Hossain, will be held after Asr prayers today at House 1, Road 18, Block-C, Section-10 at Mirpur in the city, says a press release.

Relatives and admirers are requested to attend the qulkhwani and pray for salvation of her departed soul.

She died on Monday at the age of 59.

## Chehlum



will be held at his ancestral house at 15/17 Shantinagar in the city after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

Relatives, friends and admirers are requested to attend the prayers.

## DHAKA TODAY

### Seminar

Shiyata organises a seminar on 'Shamsur Rahman: Upanishitha Kobi'. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 4:30pm.

### Lecture

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad organises a memorial lecture to mark the 97th birth anniversary of poet Sufia Kamal. Venue: BIAM auditorium. Time: 4:00pm.

### Discussion

Liberation War Museum and United Nations Information Centre, Dhaka will hold a discussion to mark the World Refugee Day. Venue: Liberation War Museum. Time: 4:00pm.

### Seminar

Career Development Centre (CDC) organises a seminar titled 'Career formation and its global perspectives'. Venue: Hotel Razmoni Isha Kha. Time: 5:00pm.

### Human chain

Green Voice will form a human chain protesting the move to lease out gas blocks. Venue: In front of Raju Memorial Sculpture on Dhaka University campus. Time: 10:30am.

## WEATHER TODAY

### Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at many places over all the six divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy to heavy rainfalls are also likely at places, Met Office said, predicting nearly unchanged day temperature over the country.

Highest temperature 31.6 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 23.2 degrees Celsius at Sathkhira.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:49pm today and rises at 5:12am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

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