

## CLIMATE CHANGE

## Close monitoring of ADB activities stressed

METRO DESK

Speakers at a consultation yesterday agreed to monitor closely the policies, projects and programmes of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in Bangladesh.

They evaluated the recently drafted national action plan on climate change, says a press release.

The national action plan was drafted without any public participation especially the vulnerable communities.

The daylong consultation on 'Environment and Climate Change: Role of the ADB in Bangladesh' held at the auditorium of Campaign for Popular Education (Campe) in the city was attended by nearly 40 representatives from NGOs, civil society organisations, academicians, journalists and human rights activists.

The speakers demanded that international financial institutions (IFIs) and northern multinational companies should shed the climate hypocrisy if they want to consider impacts of climate change on people.

The event was organised by VOICE, a research and advocacy organisation based in Dhaka, and Manila-based NGO Forum on ADB, an international civil society network.

While inaugurating the consultation, Ahmed Swapna, executive director of VOICE, said that the climate change issue is related with neo-liberal economic policies pushed by northern donors and international financial institutions especially ADB.

He said that the transnational companies are the major culprits of the climate change.

While explaining the role of ADB in Bangladesh, Dr Avilash Roul of NGO Forum on ADB said that ADB must consider or review its future investment in energy and transport sector in Bangladesh to avoid its hypocrisy on climate change.

So far the ADB has lent the largest amount in the energy sector followed by transport and communication sectors in Bangladesh.

Roul also said that the ADB has

not at all made the climate impact component prior to designing any projects in Bangladesh.

Waheeda Bashir Ahmed from Action Aid-Bangladesh suggested that any climate change strategy must involve vulnerable groups concern, which can't be compromised or negotiable.

Ziaul Haque Mukta, coordinator of Oxfam-International, Asgar Ali Sabri from ActionAid Bangladesh, Iqbal Hossain from Save the Children-UK, Md Hilaluddin from Angkor Bangladesh, Hosne Ara from VSO International, Zakir Hossain from Nagorik Uddog, Sajjad Ansari from In Search of Light, Shawkat Ali from SHARP, Abdul Jalil from CDP, Remuna Nurain from Bela and Hasan Mehedi from Humanity Watch also spoke on the occasion.

The consultation detailed out short-term and long-term strategies to work on climate change. There has been a strategy to bring media into the strategy on climate change in more concrete way.

## Memorial meet on 13 military officers: Probe demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a memorial meeting yesterday demanded investigation into what they called the "killing" of 13 military officers who were tried by court-martial and hanged on charges of involvement in the assassination of president Ziaur Rahman.

They also alleged that there were irregularities in the trial of the military officers, who were also freedom fighters.

This incident was part of a plot to remove freedom fighters from the armed forces, Lt Gen (ret'd) M Harun-Ar-Rashid said.

He also said that those who opposed the liberation war were involved in the plot.

The memorial meeting was held at the residence of late Col MA Rashid at Panthapath in the city, marking the death anniversary of the 13 military officers. Col MA Rashid was one of them.

Maj Gen (ret'd) Syed Muhammad Ibrahim, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal President Hasanul Haq Inu, Maj Gen (ret'd) Amin Ahmed Chowdhury, Maj Gen (ret'd) Mashudur Rahman, Maj Gen (ret'd) Jamil D Ahdan, Lt Col (ret'd) Nurunnabi, Col (ret'd) Shawkat Ali, Col (ret'd) Shamsul Alam, Barrister Tania Amir and family members of the late freedom fighters were also present.

## 'Ban Chhatra Mukti activities'

DU CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Chhatra Moitri (BCM), a left-leaning student organisation, yesterday staged a demonstration demanding an immediate ban on the activities of Chhatra Mukti on the Dhaka University (DU) campus.

Chhatra Mukti is the student front of Islamist outfit Hizb ut-Tahrir. The leaders and activists of the organisation also demanded punitive steps against the DU teachers who are involved in the organisation.

In support to the demands, they brought out a protest procession from Madhu's Canteen that paraded through different streets on the campus.

BCM leaders also submitted a memorandum to Vice Chancellor Prof SMA Farid, urging him to take immediate steps against the teachers who are involved with the outlawed party and impose a ban on the activities of the student front on the campus.

On September 18, police arrested 10 leaders and activists of Hizb ut-Tahrir from Rajshahi for their alleged involvement in militant activities. Of them, one arrestee was a teacher of Management Studies department at DU.

## Jamaat, IOJ attitudes towards EC condemned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The War Crimes Facts Finding Committee (WCFFC) condemned the attitude of Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Oikya Jote (IOJ) with the Election Commission (EC) regarding the reform proposals.

They earlier agreed on the issue of registration of parties, but now they have changed their mind.

In a statement the WCFFC urged the people to support the EC to implement the reform works.

The statement signed by the WCFFC Convener Dr MA Hasan also said the government could not implement any of the reform proposals to reduce corruption, even they did not touch the proposals to curb corruption among government officials.

## Appeal for help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Md Iftekhar Mahmud, a student of class ten at Nator Sugar Mills High School, has been suffering from blood cancer,

says a press release. He has been undergoing treatment at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital since March 7.

According to doctors, the boy needs a bone marrow transplant urgently. So, he should be taken to Singapore for such treatment, which involves about Tk 20 lakh.

But it is not possible for his father Md Abdul Khalek to afford such an expensive operation. He has already sold out his property to manage expenses for his son's treatment.

The boy's family has appealed to generous people to extend a helping hand to save his life.

Contributions can be sent to Sabina Yasmin and Shamima Aktar, Savings Account No. 34117663, Sonali Bank, Kakrail Branch, Dhaka.

Interested person can also call at 01710886166 to contact his family members.



Lt Gen (ret'd) M Harun-Ar-Rashid speaks at a memorial meeting in the city yesterday. On his right is Maj Gen (ret'd) Syed Muhammad Ibrahim.

## Apsora not first frozen embryo baby?

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Harvest Infertility Care Limited yesterday claimed that the first baby from frozen embryo was born in the country 10 months ago and the birth of Apsora on Friday was not the first incident of this kind.

At a press conference at the Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU) yesterday Prof Dr SR Begum of the Department of Gynaecology and Obstetrics of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) said that one 'Noor' was born on November 19 last year following frozen embryo implantation.

Dr Kabir and his wife, who had been trying for a baby for long 13 years, successfully had the girl following a treatment process of 'in vitro fertilisation' at the Harvest Infertility Care Limited.

Dr SR Begum supervised the crucial period of implanting the embryo to the mother's uterus and Prof Dr Malha Rashid of Dhaka Medical College conducted the delivery at the Central Hospital.

Due to apathy of the baby's parents, the news of giving birth of the frozen embryo baby was not publicised, the speakers said.

Dr Abu Hena Abid Zafar, Dr Mostaque Ahmed and Dr Farhana Anam were also present at the press conference.

The frozen embryo technology is similar to 'in vitro fertilisation', a process by which egg cells are fertilised by sperm outside the woman's womb in an artificial environment. The process involves

hormonally controlling the ovulation process, removing ova (eggs) from the woman's ovaries and letting sperm fertilise them in a fluid medium. The fertilised egg (zygote) is then transferred to the uterus for a successful pregnancy.

At this technology, the embryos were kept frozen and preserved in a nitrogen can at a temperature of minus 196 degrees centigrade and then implanted to womb.

## ILL-GOTTEN WEALTH ACC sues WDB superintendent engineer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday filed a case against a superintendent engineer of Water Development Board (WDB) on charge of amassing illegal wealth and concealing wealth information.

ACC Assistant Director Reba Halder filed the case against superintendent engineer Kazi M Shamsul Haque with Ramna Police Station.

Ramna police said a first information report was lodged against engineer Shamsul Haque accusing him of amassing illegal wealth worth Tk 69.5 lakh and hiding information of assets worth Tk 41.57 lakh.

He was accused under sections 26(2) and 27(1) of the Anti-Corruption Commission Act, 2004.

## BOY POISONED TO DEATH

## Mystery unravels as mother comes round

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The mystery over the death of three-year-old Alif and serious illness of his mother Shaila Sharmin Shashi started to unravel as Shashi regained her consciousness yesterday.

Lying at the hospital bed, Shashi gave a statement to a metropolitan magistrate that she and her son fell sick soon after they had iftar at their home at Gulshan on Sunday evening.

She said that the iftar was laced with poison. She also suspects that her mother-in-law might have mixed poison with the iftar.

Shashi gave the statement under Section 164 before Metropolitan Magistrate Shamima Ara.

Alif died on the day while his mother became unconscious. She has been undergoing treatment at a Gulshan hospital.

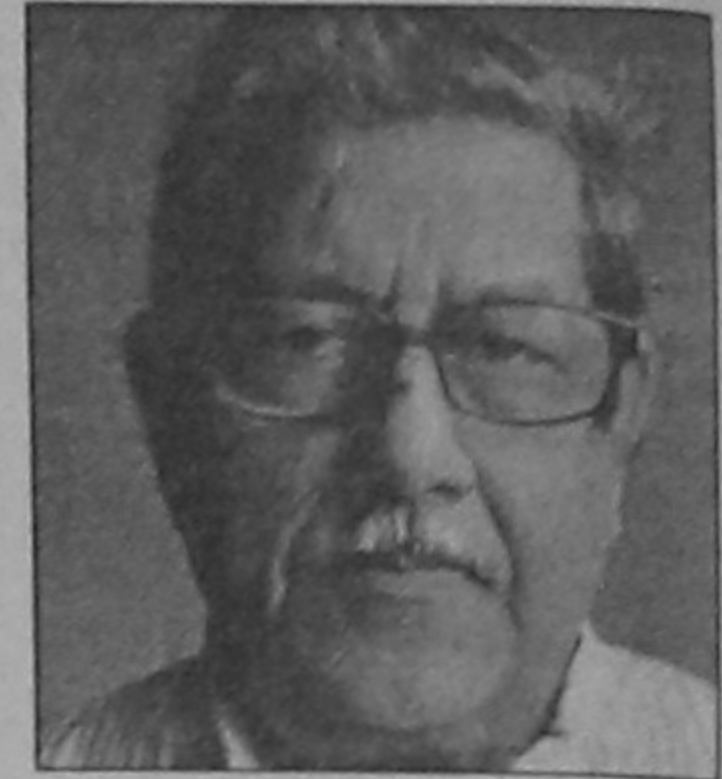
The police arrested her husband Samir Hossain in the early hours of Monday.

The family members of Samir alleged that Shashi tried to commit suicide by taking an overdose of sedatives after killing her son with sedatives.

Shashi's father Saiful Islam filed a case accusing Samir, his mother Monwara Hossain, younger brother Hira and sister Tuku of poisoning Shashi and her son. Samir's family also filed a case.

Sub-Inspector Azmal Huda of Gulshan Police Station said, "We are verifying the statement of Shashi."

Sources said Samir and Shashi got married six years ago and the feud between them started two years back, as Samir did not allow her to go to her father's house.



## Sarojini Basu Award for Prof Anisuzzaman

DU CORRESPONDENT

Kolkata University (KU) conferred honorary 'Sarojini Basu Award' on Prof Emeritus of Dhaka University Dr Anisuzzaman for his outstanding contribution to the research of Bangla language and literature, says a press release.

KU Chancellor Gopal Krishna Gandhi, also governor of West Bengal, yesterday handed over the award to the recipient at its annual convocation ceremony in Kolkata.

Suniti Kumar Chattopadhyay, Sukumar Sen, Ashutosh Bhattacharjee and Niharjanjan Roy are among the distinguished personalities who received the prestigious award introduced in 1939.

## FEMA delegates meet CEC

METRO DESK

A five-member delegation of FEMA met with the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) at his office yesterday, says a press release.

They discussed various issues contained in the draft guidelines formulated by the Election Commission for the domestic poll observers.

During the meeting the delegates made a number of suggestions including relaxation of certain conditions contained in the draft guidelines in relation to the registration of poll observer organisations and modification of the reporting format so that the observers can fill it easily and quickly.

Members of the delegation are Feroz M Hassan, Advocate Salma Ali, Nasir Uddin Ahmed, DM Abdul Bari and Burhanuddin Ahmed.

## Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 19th death anniversary of Maulana Shamsul Huda Panchbagi, a Language Movement veteran and

freedom fighter, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at Panchbag in Mymensingh.

## Jam worsens near New Market

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try relentlessly to drive them away. While we drive them away from one end, they park on another end."

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) relaxed restrictions to allow hawkers sell their goods on parts of pavements during Ramadan considering economic aspects of people of lower-income group.

Shop owners at Gausia Market said they have got some relief this year as the authorities barred rickshaw movement on a 100-yard stretch of Elephant Road from Gausia Market.

During a visit to the areas Monday afternoon, The Daily Star found tailbacks on Mirpur Road from New Market to City College intersections.

Elephant Road resident Farhana

Afroz said they witness severe traffic jams in the area particularly at Bata Signal since the beginning of Ramadan. "The jams have become so severe that we now walk instead of taking other vehicles," she added.

Locals said rickshaws block the entrances to different alleys first which pretty much blocks all roads in the area. They also said New Elephant Road remains plagued with jams as Eid shoppers going there get off their vehicles on the road slowing down traffic on the already narrow street. Besides, traffic policemen stop traffic on New Elephant Road at Science Lab intersection for more time to allow congestion on Mirpur Road to ease.

Even though community police have been deployed alongside traffic policemen to keep the front

of markets rickshaw-free, swarms of rickshaws were found gathered near the shops with community police struggling to remove them.

"The traffic congestion is created in front of markets as rickshaws wait for passengers after dropping others. It often blocks roads causing jams," said a security guard of Eastern Plaza at Hatirpoul.

Rickshaw puller Abdul Aziz told The Daily Star that it took him 45 minutes to reach Road-5 in Dhanmondi from New Market. Usually it takes 15 minutes.

"I charged Tk 60 to come to Gausia from Eastern Plaza," Mishuk driver Rafiqul Islam told The Daily Star. Asked whether he charged too much, he said, "What shall I do when it took more than half an hour to get here from a place only a kilometre away."

## Public hearing from today

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the Petrobangla proposal.

In the proposal, Petrobangla suggested a variable price hike for its different categories of consumers. The average hike will come to 65 percent.

As per the proposal, Petrobangla, for domestic consumers, suggested raising the gas price to Tk 600 from the existing rate of Tk 400 for a double-burner oven while Tk 550 for single-burner oven against the present rate of Tk 350.

The proposal is for a 50 percent raise over the existing rates for domestic gas users.

The metered domestic consumers will have to pay Tk 208 instead of Tk 130 with a price increase of 26.81

percent. Similarly, Petrobangla proposed to increase gas price for commercial users by 26.08 percent, meaning a price hike of 1,000 cubic feet or 1 mcf) price will go up to Tk 291.59 from the current price of Tk 233.12.

For the industrial consumers, the proposed per-unit price is Tk 182.25, up from the present rate of Tk 148.13, with a 23.03 percent raise. The same rate will apply to tea-estates.

For captive power plants, the new rate is proposed to be Tk 182.25 per unit, up from the present rate of Tk 105.59, by a 72.60 percent raise.

The Petrobangla proposed Tk 93.73 per-unit as gas price for the Power Development Board (PDB), independent power producer (IPP)

and small power plant (SPP) instead of Tk 73.91, with a 26.81 percent raise.

For fertilizer industries, the new rate is envisaged to be Tk 93.73 instead of Tk 63.41 per unit by a raise of 47.81 percent.

Presenting the price-hike proposal, Petrobangla Chairman Jalal Ahmed said his organisation's cumulative deficit on account of undercut gas supply to international oil companies (IOCs) is about Tk 2000 crore.

"If we don't raise gas prices, Petrobangla will have to go bankrupt shortly, which will ultimately make it unable to go for further exploration," he said to justify the merit of the government move in the interim period.

absconding since the case was filed.

The court fixed September 29 for the next hearing of the case.

On Sunday, ACC Deputy Director Abdul Karim, also the IO of the case, submitted the charge sheet to the CMM Court in the case filed against Obaidul for irregularities in importing a car and evading tax on its purchase.

Former lawmaker Saidul Haque from Brahmanbaria is also an accused in the case.

The IO appealed to the court for issuing arrest warrant against Obaidul Karim and the order to attach his properties. Earlier, Saidul Haque was granted bail by the High Court.

In the charge sheet, the IO mentioned that the charges brought against the two were primarily proved and they should be brought under trial.

The commission filed the case with Tejgaon Police Station against Obaidul Karim and Saidul Haque on August 9 last year for committing the offences.

## Pintu denied bail

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arrested in the case on Saturday following a petition submitted by the investigation officer (IO) Sub-Inspector Mainuddin of the police station.

On September 19 this year, victim's wife Minara Akhter of Munshihathi of Kamrangirchar area filed the case against Pintu and five of his accomplices with Keranigonj Model Police Station for committing the offence.

Other accused are Pintu's accomplices Jubo Dal leader Shaju, 25, Zahuruddin, 32, Gaffar, 35, Naim, 35, and Delwar, 36.

According to the case statement, the complainant mentioned that Pintu, the prime accused in the case, had appointed her husband Sohail on

January 1, 2004 as an employee for collecting rents of his (Pintu) dredgers. Pintu's accomplices had kidnapped away Tk six lakh from her husband collected from dredgers on April 13 the same year.

But Pintu blamed her husband for stealing the money and he asked his accomplices to pick up Sohail. Sohail's body was found floating on the Bunganga River on April 16. Victim's wife could not dare to file a case against Pintu and his accomplices fearing threats on her life, the complainant added.

Pintu was sent to jail on February 12 last year after he surrendered to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) Court of Dhaka in connection with an attempted murder case.

CASE AGAINST OBABDUL Judge Mohammad Azizul Haque of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court issued the arrest warrant against Obaidul following a prayer submitted by the IO of the case, as he had been

## Business Reporters' Network formed in Jessore

METRO DESK

The Business Reporters' Network (BRN) was formed in Jessore yesterday to help the media and the enterprises understand business issues better.

Thirty correspondents of national print and electronic media and reporters of local dailies interested in business journalism joined the network, says a press release.

The concept of BRN was first introduced in Bogra that is now actively highlighting local business issues, their problems, possibilities and success.

The positive results in Bogra inspired the formation of the BRN in Jessore under an initiative of MRDI supported by Katalyst. MRDI will act as the secretariat of this newly formed network.

Under this initiative, training on business journalism for BRN members will be arranged. Besides, dialogues with business bodies and field visits to different enterprises will be arranged with an aim to know their problems as well as to pick up success stories which might inspire others.

It is expected that the BRN interventions and some other on-going projects of MRDI will help improve business-media relations and contribute to the growth of business especially small and medium enterprises in the country, the release added.



## Light rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions and at a few places over

Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy rainfalls are also likely at places during the period, Met Office said in a forecast adding that the day temperature might remain nearly unchanged over the country.

Highest temperature 34.2 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and lowest 22.3 degrees Celsius at Sandwip.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:52pm today and rises at 5:49am 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	31.8	25.0	85	83
Chittagong	31.5	25.0	79	83
Rajshahi	32.0	25.0	85	98
Khulna	31.5	25.5	83	92
Barisal	32.5	25.2	83	93
Sylhet	34.2	24.5	81	69
Cox's Bazar	31.6	24.6	81	85