

## Include climate change in dev strategy

Speakers tell conference

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It is essential to incorporate the issue of climate change in the development strategy of the government, said discussants at a special conference on climate change yesterday.

The environmental issues, which have not been incorporated in the government's development strategy, must be included now, said Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (BAPA) President Prof Muzaffer Ahmad in the inaugural session of the special conference on "Climate Change and Bangladesh Development Strategy: Domestic Tasks and International Cooperation".

BAPA and Bangladesh Environment Network jointly organised the conference at the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants (ICMA) auditorium in the capital.

If the issue is excluded from the development strategy, the impact of climate change might frustrate implementation of the strategies adopted to reduce poverty, said Atiq Rahman.

Stressing the need for playing a pro-active role in combating climate change, BRAC University Vice Chancellor Prof Jamilur Reza Choudhury said Bangladesh should be in the driving seat in terms of negotiation with the developed countries for getting funds on climate change.

mate change.

He said the developed countries, responsible for climate change, will try to allocate funds for management of the effects of climate change with those for natural disasters. But Bangladesh has to be very careful about it.

Emphasising the need for rehabilitating the people likely to be displaced because of climate change, lawmaker-elect Abul Mal Abdul Muhit said Bangladesh should adopt a 'strategy' like the Maldives for relocating its citizens living in areas vulnerable to climate change, to other countries. Then other necessary steps will have to be taken, he added.

Bangladesh Economic Society President Quazi Kholiqzaman said, "We shall not be able to withstand the impact of climate change without a strong economic base."

Dipen Bhattacharya of University of California in his presentation said at the end of the century, salinity in surface water would be increased because of climate change as it would lead to an increase in rain by 20 to 25 percent during monsoon and a fall in rain by 16 percent during winter.

Dr Nazrul Islam said the challenges of climate change cannot be tackled only through foreign funds without proper steps for country's internal development.

## 11 fish shops gutted in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Eleven dried fish shops were gutted in a fire at Asadganj market in the port city early yesterday.

Fire Brigade sources said the fire originated from an electric short circuit at a shop at Asadganj Shuktipatti, country's biggest dried fish market, at around 12:30am and soon engulfed the adjacent shops.

Thirteen fire fighting units extinguished the blaze after three hours' frantic efforts.

Fire Brigade sources said the extent of loss could go up to Tk 50 lakh while the affected shop owners claimed that it would be around Tk 2 crore.

## BDB to work with new govt to curb graft, terrorism

Says B Chy

A CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

Former president AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday said Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDB) will work with the newly elected government to eliminate terrorism, corruption and poverty from the country.

B Chowdhury, who recently resigned from Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDB) as its president following his party's defeat in the December 29 election, said his party has accepted the people's mandate and will give support to the new government taking up programmes for the welfare of the people.

He said this at a view exchange meeting at Srinagar in Munshiganj to find out the reasons behind his party's defeat in the 9th parliamentary elections.

Acting Secretary General of the party Mahi B Chowdhury called on all to work together with the new government to strengthen democracy.

BDB leaders Joyal Abedin Bir Bikram, Manzur Rashed, Jahangir Alam and Ashraf Hossain Hasu also spoke in the programme.

## Recruitment test question leaked in Bandarban

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Candidates in an examination to appoint staffers for Bandarban Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court staged a demonstration in the town yesterday alleging that questions were leaked on Thursday night.

However, the police foiled their attempt to hold a rally in front of the local press club.

A total of 684 candidates sat for the recruitment test yesterday against a total of 46 posts.

The protesters alleged that the authorities supplied question papers to certain candidates on Thursday night.

Local journalists also received some copies similar to the question paper.

When contacted, officials and staffers declined to make any comment.



## Chehlum of Nurul Islam today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chehlum of veteran labour leader and politician Mohammad Nurul Islam and his son Islam Tomhor Puchi will be held at Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) cafeteria of Dhaka University at 3:00pm today, says a press release.

Relatives, well-wishers and political colleagues of Nurul Islam are requested to attend the chehlum.

Nurul Islam, president of Gonatantri Party and Bangladesh Trade Union Centre, and his son died in a mysterious fire at his residence in the city last month.



MP-elect Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin speaks at a reception accorded to newly elected lawmakers of Awami League from Dhaka city during the extended meeting of the city unit of the party at the party office at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city yesterday.

## Pabna University of Science, Tech to be launched today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Pabna University of Science and Technology will be officially launched in Pabna today.

Besides, the foundation stone of the university building will be laid at Rajapur and the administrative activities of the university will be inaugurated.

Finance Adviser AB Mirza Azizul Islam and Education Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman will inaugurate the administrative activities at the Teachers' Training College so that students can get enrolled in mid-February session.

Administrative and academic activities of the university will continue at the Teachers' Training College until the completion of the construction of the university buildings.

The authorities have already selected the site for the university covering 40 acres of lands at Rajapur in Sadar upazila. The process of purchasing the lands would be completed soon, the sources said.

The government appointed Prof Md Amin Uddin as its vice chancellor who has already started administrative activities.

A total of 200 students would be admitted in four

departments -- Computer Science and Technology, Electronic and Electrical Engineering, BBA and Mathematics -- in the first academic session. Classes would be started in mid-February.

The VC told The Daily Star over phone: "We are taking preparations to start classes in mid-February. At first, 200 students would be enrolled in four subjects. Admission forms would be available at the end of this month. The admission process would be completed by February 15 and classes would be started in mid-February."

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) returned the body of a Bangladeshi youth after a company commander-level flag meeting with Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) last night.

Operation Officer of Rifle Battalion-2 Major Shahedul Islam Shahed said the meeting was held on the zero line on Cocharbdr.

The victim was identified as Ziarul, 28. He was gunned down by BSF on Cochar border under Ranishankoil upazila in the district on Thursday.

## BSF returns body of youth

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

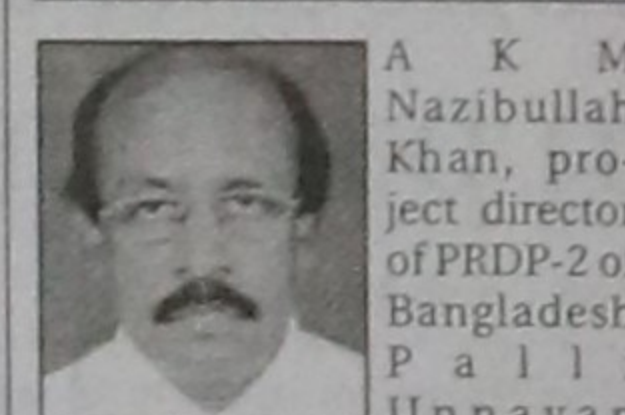
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## Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



A K M Nazibullah Khan, project director of PRDP-2 of Bangladesh Paili Unnayan Board, passed away due to brain haemorrhage at Square Hospital in the city yesterday at the age of 57, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, one son, one daughter and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

## DHAKA TODAY

### Roundtable

The daily Prothom Alo organises a roundtable on expectations to the parliamentary session. Venue: Prothom Alo office. Time: 10:00am.

### Lecture

Prof Sirajul Islam will deliver a lecture on 'Contribution of Asian Trade to America's post-revolutionary transformation' at the inaugural ceremony of the 57th founding anniversary of Asiatic Society of Bangladesh. Venue: Asiatic Society auditorium. Time: 10:00am.

### Human chain

Citizen Rights Movement will form a human chain demanding UN intervention to stop Israeli attack on Gaza. Venue: In front of National Museum. Time: 11:00am.

### Rotary Dhaka Central

The regular meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka Central will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 1:30pm.

## DIFFERENT ORGANISATIONS GREET HASINA

# Countrymen hope for meaningful change

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different socio-political parties have continued to greet Awami League President Sheikh Hasina for her landslide victory in the 9th parliamentary elections on December 29.

Greeting the prime minister-elect, Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday said the countrymen hope for a meaningful change, effective parliament and good governance under her strong leadership.

He also congratulated all the lawmakers-elect of the ninth parliament.

Describing the victory of the grand alliance as an outcome of the people's protracted united movement, he said the people through the December 29 polls had given their verdict

against terrorism, militancy, war criminals and corruption.

He said this history victory had also created a wide scope for building more prosperous in the days ahead.

Greeting Hasina, Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh hoped that the plan 'Vision 2021' which she placed in front of the people would be implemented under her strong leadership.

Bishwa Kabita Parishad in a statement congratulated Hasina on her massive victory in the elections.

Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Parishad also hailed the victory of the AL-led grand alliance.



Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad and other leaders wave at party supporters and activists at a discussion marking the 24th founding anniversary of the party at Engineers Institution auditorium in the city yesterday.

## Polls held in free, peaceful manner

Say election observers

DU CORRESPONDENT

Janipol, an election observation group, has said the ninth parliamentary election was held in a free, fair, neutral and peaceful manner with very few stray incidents across the country.

Janipol observed the election both on long-term and short-term basis under the close guidance of its Chairman Prof Nazmul Ahsan Kalimullah in selected constituencies keeping eyes on other areas as well, says a press release signed by its divisional coordinator AKM Salahuddin.

According to its pre-election observations the new code of conduct has had some impacts on the candidates' electoral activities. The practice of wall writing largely dropped and black and white posters were used instead of coloured ones.

However, the tendency of buying votes prevailed to some extent as part of long-standing electoral culture, it added.

The early deployment of army as striking force played a key role in maintaining law and order while other law enforcement agencies were also very prompt in action, the press release added.

In its interim report Janipol said some under-aged people were seen at a booth in Mymensingh College centre

under Mymensingh -4 constituency.

In Gonobidyanketon centre under Narayanganj-5 constituency, polling started at 8:30am due to absence of polling agents and in Gajomohon Government School centre under Dhaka-12 constituency, voting started at 9:00am, the report added.

At Jigatola and Moneshwar Registered Primary School under the same constituency, few voters were misinformed that they were not in the list of that centre. As a result they went back without casting votes, said Janipol.

## Woman stabbed to death in Jhenidah

UNB, Jhenidah

A woman was stabbed to death by some villagers at Srimampur under Shailakupa upazila in the district last night.

The assailants, said to be Jamaat activists, stabbed Porbasi Begum, 50, wife of Shukkur Ali, at around 7:30pm as she tried to save her son Hujo from the attackers.

The victim died on the spot. Six people were arrested in this connection.

## Death anniversary

METRO DESK



Today is the 4th death anniversary of Md Suja ul Daula, a former Member of Parliament, former chairman of Eastern Mercantile Bank (now Pubali Bank) and a renowned pharmacist, says a press release.

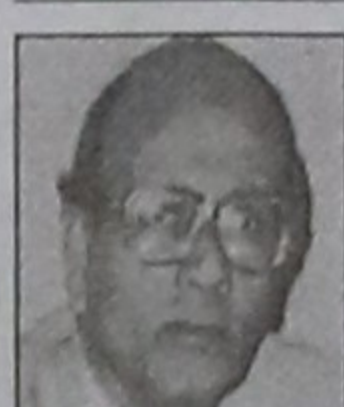
On the occasion, milad mahfil and Qurankhwani will be held at his residence and at the Mirpur Martyred Intellectuals' Graveyard after Maghrib prayers today.

Foods will also be distributed among the destitute at the graveyard.

Relatives and well-wishers are requested to attend the milad mahfil.

## Qulkhwani

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Qulkhwani of Prof Dr Munir Uddin, former head of the Department of Medicine, Dhaka Medical College and Hospital, will be held at his West Rampura residence in the city after Asr prayers today.

He passed away on Thursday at the age of 79 after suffering from liver cirrhosis for a long time, says a press release.

## Sheikh Hasina's acid test

FROM PAGE 1

much money, who had how many 'mastans' in command, who did a better job of thrashing the opposition (in many instances physically so) and who were personally loyal to her and Tarique Rahman. There was no question of expertise, experience and ability. The fact that running the government requires some, however rudimentary, knowledge did not appear to have occurred to the then prime minister. In fact cabinet posts were distributed in such a cavalier manner that they lost any meaning whatsoever. It was widely rumoured that the foreign ministry was awarded after a payment of a sizeable sum. The fact that such an important post was kept vacant for a time and then given to a man whose apparent definition of diplomacy was 'PR', which was further defined as throwing lavish dinners and arranging trips for diplomats, lent credence to that rumour.

One can argue that politicians cannot be expected to be experts. The so-called logic is that since they only give policy directions, they might not have any knowledge of their respective ministries. This view might have been applicable once

upon a time. It is certainly not so in the 21st century. Every ministry now requires in depth knowledge of the latest scientific discoveries and technological innovations. There is hardly a single area where personal loyalty and party commitment is enough to be on top of things.

It is because the ministers are chosen randomly and with so little consideration for relevant knowledge and experience that the respective ministers fall victims to conniving consultants (both foreign and local) and manipulating bureaucrats (both serving and retired). There are of course exceptions, but exceptions do not make the rule, they in fact, prove it.

At the end of the day, governance is mostly about management. So ministers need to be good managers -- meaning in addition to knowing their respective subjects, they need to have human and resource management skills. In today's world management is the most vital component of governance. It is truer for a country like Bangladesh, where resources are scarce and there are endless things that need to be done.

In selecting her new cabinet

Sheikh Hasina's policy must be to choose the best and the brightest with an announced policy of 'zero tolerance for corruption, abuse of power, partisanship and inefficiency'. All her cabinet, state and deputy ministers must be willing to make public detailed accounts of their personal assets and liabilities, including that of their immediate family. No one should be included in that august group who is not comfortable with this policy. In her last term she is said to have collected such statements, but lost the moral high ground by not making them public. This time the task is easier since the EC has already made public a part of such information. Forcing her cabinet colleagues to make such information public is a sure way to contain their corruption. And let us not forget, ministers did and do get corrupt.

By delivering the biggest AL victory after 1973, Sheikh Hasina has truly come of her own. She is no longer a leader by default, but by performance. As the architect of her party's resounding come back she now enjoys a completely different stature, respect, admiration and adulation.

However, because of the

stupendous nature of her victory, her responsibility to deliver has become enormous. The key to that delivery is a good, competent and corruption-free cabinet. If she chooses the right people, she will have already succeeded halfway. Conversely any wrong choice will make her task that much more difficult. Sheikh Hasina will do well to remember that who ever indulges in corruption, the blame will be hers, and hers alone, as she learnt it the hard way last time.

If she really chooses a 'zero tolerance for corruption' policy, which will be clearly indicated by her choice of the cabinet, she can count on the independent media to be at her side to help her implement that policy. Through quick, comprehensive and constant coverage we pledge to help her in freeing Bangladesh of the ignominy of corruption and restore that dignity to our people that they so richly deserve. The swing votes in favour of Awami League and the near complete rejection of BNP and its allies is nothing but the people's reaction to corruption. Any misreading of this result will be fatal for the victors.