

Qatar to continue to recruit Bangladeshis Says Qatar Emir

Qatar will keep on recruiting Bangladeshis and continue its development programmes in Bangladesh "despite economic crisis all over the world".

lar reference to its contribution to the UN peacekeeping operations. He said, "People from Bangladesh are good and we're happy with them."

requested Ambassador to reciprocate his appreciation to her. In response to the invitation of the president and the PM conveyed to him by the Bangladesh envoy, the emir said he would visit Bangladesh at a convenient time.

HC asks govt to explain

The High Court (HC) yesterday issued a rule upon the government to explain why its notification stating that there was no post of the headmaster in the registered primary schools should not be declared illegal.

Empowerment key to ensure women's rights

Political empowerment is a key to ensuring fundamental rights of women and changing their status in the society, said the experts at a roundtable yesterday.

announcement by the Minister for Local Government Syed Ashrafur Islam to hold direct election in reserved seats for women in future.

Schoolgirl dies as gate collapses on her

A six-year-old schoolgirl died when an iron gate of a building collapsed on her at Moghbazar in the city yesterday.

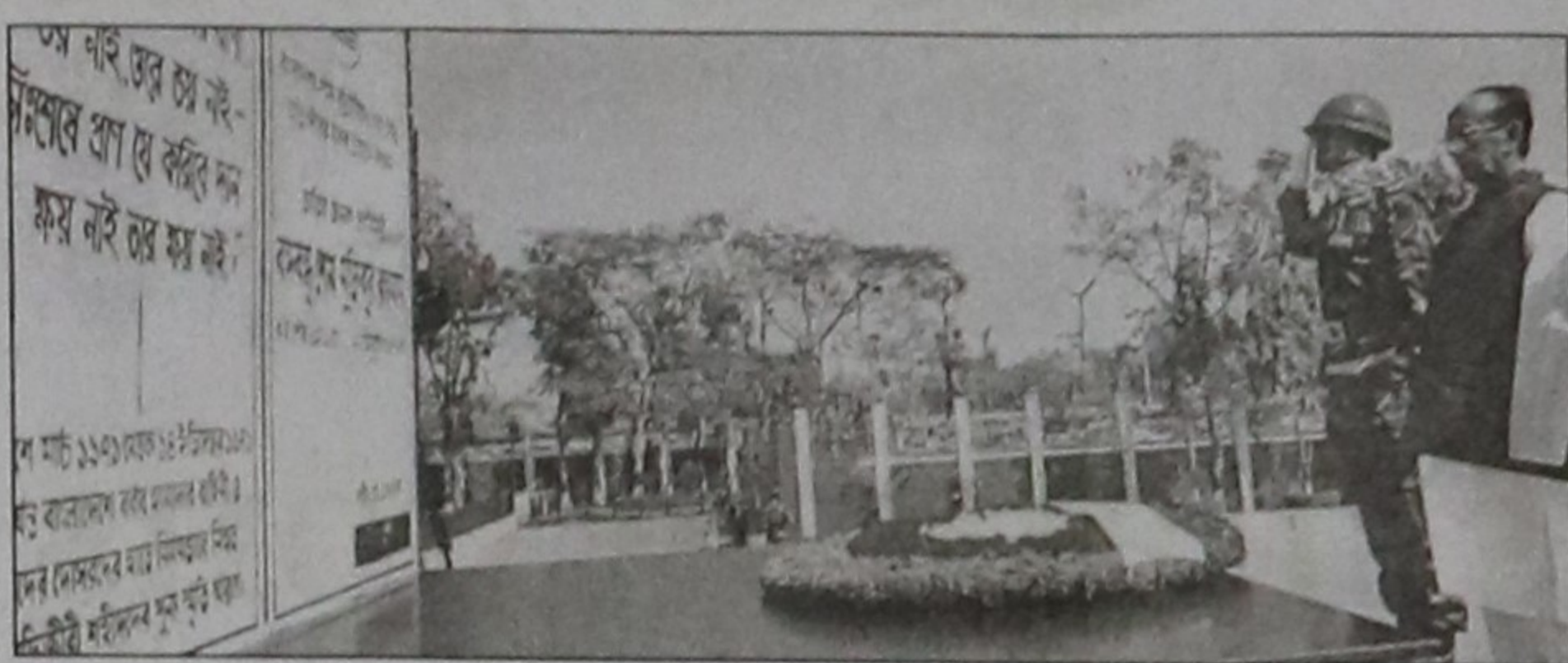
Drug addict, his accomplice sent to jail

Drug addict Md Yunus, who killed his two sisters at Debidwar, and his accomplice Shafiqullah were sent to jail after the police produced them in a judicial magistrate's court yesterday.

Both of them confessed to the court that they were involved in the killing of Tuhina, 11, and Sharmin, 8, that took place at Surjapur village on Saturday, the police said.

KILLING OF TWO SISTERS Drug addict, his accomplice sent to jail

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President Zillur Rahman stands in silence after placing wreaths at the Martyred Intellectual Memorial at Mirpur in the city yesterday.

Impartial, efficient judges needed to try war criminals

Speakers at a seminar yesterday said trial of the war criminals will not be ensured even if a special tribunal is formed without appointing courageous, impartial and efficient judges for the tribunal.

The law we have for trial of war criminals is an excellent piece of legislation under which the war crimes can be tried as per international standard. The trial of war criminals must be held for the sake of humanity, civility, civilisation and rule of law and it has nothing to do with any political motivation," former law minister Advocate Abdul Matin Khasru said.

He said unless the judges of the special tribunals are impartial and committed to establishing rule of law the trial of war criminals might have faced the same fate as was the case of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib killing when at one stage eight judges of the appellate division felt embarrassed to deliver the justice.

Ex-BNP MP Giasuddin granted bail

The High Court (HC) yesterday granted three-month ad-interim bail to detained former BNP lawmaker Mohammad Giasuddin of Narayanganj in a corruption case filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

Upon a bail petition filed by Giasuddin, a HC bench of Justice Syed AB Mahmudul Huq and Justice Moyeenul Islam Chowdhury issued a rule upon the government to show cause within two weeks as to why the petitioner should not be granted regular bail in this case.

A court of Narayanganj sent Giasuddin to jail February 27, 2007, when he surrendered before the court in connection with a money laundering case.

The ACC filed a case against him on charge of amassing illegal wealth and concealing information. Deputy Attorney General Motahar Hossain Sajuj yesterday told The Daily Star that the HC earlier stayed the proceedings of this case against Giasuddin, who was shown arrested in 10 criminal cases.



DUJA executives

Shahjahan Shuvo of the daily Inqilab and Riadul Karim of the daily Janakantha yesterday were selected president and general secretary of the executive committee of Dhaka University Journalists' Association (DUJA) for the year 2009.

Other office bearers are: vice-president -- Saidur Rahman of the daily Ittefaq; treasurer -- Daud Mohammad Isa of Bangladesh Today and joint secretary -- Najmul Hossain of Channel1.

Obituary

Abdul Jalil, a freedom fighter at Bagmara in Rajshahi, passed away due to a cardiac attack at his house on Saturday at the age of 71.

He left behind his two wives, six sons and seven daughters and a host of relatives to mourn his death. He was buried with state honour.

Death anniversary

The 10th death anniversary of Kazi Aref Ahmed, one of the organisers the Liberation War and one of the founders of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD), was observed through different programmes yesterday, says a press release.

The days' programmes include placing wreaths at his grave, milad mahfil and discussion. JSD President Chairman Hasanul Huq Inu MP chaired the discussion at Col Taher Auditorium in the city.

Fix target people for food rationing

India, focused on how his government provides price support to the poor. The Indian government provides 35 kgs of food grains to the poorest of poor families at a highly subsidised rate of Rs 2 a kg for wheat and Rs 3 a kg for rice. This group is given a special card. The government also runs some five lakh fair price outlets across India, he added.

Dr Somporn Isvilanonpa, a member of Rice Policy Panel of Thailand, said agriculture sector is highly subsidised in Thailand and irrigation is provided free to the farmers there.

BIDS Director General Dr Quazi Shahabuddin, Atiur Rahman of Dhaka University, Uttam Deb of Centre for Policy Dialogue and Chris Austin of DFID, among others, spoke. The speakers also stressed the need for increasing production of food grains using modern technology.

900 corruption cases face legal complexities

Some 900 corruption cases have been facing legal complexities because of the lengthy process of trial and some loopholes in the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Act, 2004.

The ACC Act has been amended twice since the inception of the commission. The first amendment was made on April 18, 2007 that included empowering the commission to make arrests and deal with money laundering offences.

Proceedings. In another recommendation, ACC has sought the authority to ask for assistance from any government, non-government or autonomous bodies, if necessary. Other recommendations include empowering the commission to employ police to investigate the cases filed by the police.

Election to JS

FROM PAGE 16 "We have a discussion about holding polls to the seats reserved for women in parliament on March 22 but this is not final," a senior EC official told The Daily Star after a meeting on the issue.

The EC official seeking anonymity said the commission decided to send letters to three major political parties--Awami League, BNP and Jatiya Party--informing them about the elections schedule.

Top-level election officials attended the meeting presided over by Chief Election Commissioner ATM Shamsul Huda at the EC secretariat yesterday and discussed the matter.

Director General (Admin) of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Col Hanif Iqbal spoke about these issues at a routine press briefing at the commission office yesterday.

The launching ceremony of the book 'Atharo Sataker Goddo: Itihas O Sangkalan' (Prose of the 18th century: History and compilation) by Dr Golam Murshid was held at Liberation War Museum premises in the city yesterday.

The first 73 pages of the 388-page book contain the history of prose of the 18th century, its evolution in the 19th century, and trait of language at that time and some treasured information, says a press release.

DHAKA TODAY

Seminar Department of Zoology of Dhaka University, NRI, RIU and Aid Comilla jointly organise a seminar on bamboo flowering, rodent outbreak, and food security. Venue: Zoology department auditorium. Time: 11:25am.

Discussion Dhaka Language Club organises a discussion on 'International Mother Language Day 2009'. Venue: North South University. Time: 10:30am.

Roundtable Energy & Power organises a roundtable on increasing efficiency of de-rated power plants: Strategy for implementation. Venue: Cirdap auditorium. Time: 10:00am.

Discussion Rajshahi University Alumni Association organises a discussion in memory of Dr Shamsuzzoha. Venue: Liberation War Museum premises. Time: 4:00pm.

Rotary Dhaka The regular meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka will be held. Venue: Sonargaha Hotel. Time: 5:30pm.



Participants in the 85th Annual Convention of Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat, Bangladesh that concluded in the city on Sunday.

WEATHER TODAY

Light fog likely

Table with 5 columns: City/Town, Temperature in Celsius (Max, Min), Humidity in percentage (Morning, Evening). Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar.

MIRZA MASROOR AHMAD

Mirza Masroor spoke to thousands of Ahmadis assembled in Dhaka via internet streaming from London. Ahmadis throughout the world watched the broadcast live on the Jamaat's satellite television channel 'MTA International'.

During his one-hour address, Mirza Masroor spoke of the continued persecution of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat in Bangladesh and other countries.

He said that the people of Bangladesh had suffered at the hands of cruel opponents in the very recent past and had borne such trials with great fortitude and forbearance.

Speaking about the beliefs of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat, Mirza Masroor stated that all Ahmadis were blessed with full certainty of faith.