

# BDR mutiny a plot to halt trial of war criminals

## Say organisations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different organisations yesterday condemned the brutal killing of the army officers at the BDR headquarters and demanded exemplary punishment to those involved in the killings.

They also held doa mahfils seeking eternal peace of the departed souls of the army officers and the civilians killed in the BDR mutiny and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family members.

In a statement, Prajanma

'71, an organisation of the children of the freedom fighters, said there is no doubt that a vested quarter who want to destroy the spirit of the liberation war carried out the incident.

Terming the incident a conspiracy to halt the trial of the war criminals, they also demanded the government start the trial of the war criminals immediately.

They also urged all to refrain from giving any provocative or motivated speech during this critical moment

for the sake of proper investigation into the incident.

In another statement, Gonotantrik Bam Morcha urged the political parties to focus on finding the masterminds behind the mutiny instead of accusing each other.

They also demanded the probe report be made public.

However, they questioned forming two probe bodies - one by the government and the other by the army officers.

Meanwhile, Shahjalal Islami Bank, Association of

Mobile Telecom Operators in Bangladesh and the High Commission of Bangladesh to the Republic of Maldives held doa mahfils at their respective offices praying for the salvation of the departed souls.

Bangladesh Medical Association, Mukti Joddha Sanghati Parishad, Moulvibazar Babosayee Samity and Bangladesh Mukti Joddha Sangsad Kendriya Command Council also condemned the killings in separate statements.



Envoys of the Asean countries call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 1)



## Qulkhwani

METRO DESK

Qulkhwani of Shaheed Col Quadrat Elahi, who was killed in the BDR mutiny on February 25, will be held at Azad Mosque in Gulshan after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

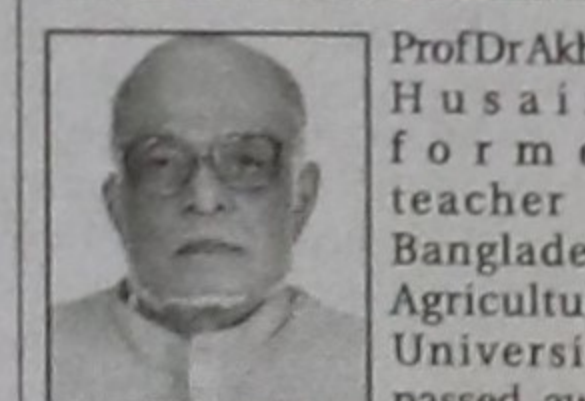
Col Elahi, son of Habibur Rahman and Rokeya Rahman, left behind his parents, wife, a son and a host of relatives and friends.

Col Elahi, who was posted as sector commander of BDR in Dianpur recently, took part in the UN peacekeeping missions in Bosnia and Sudan. He received the UN Medal for Gallantry.

Family members, friends and well-wishers are requested to attend the qulkhwani and pray for the salvation of his departed soul.

## Obituary

METRO DESK



Prof Dr Akbar Husain, former teacher of Bangladesh Agricultural University, passed away

at his Siddeswari residence in the city yesterday at the age of 82, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, two daughters and admirers to mourn his death.

## Death anniversary

METRO DESK



Today is the fourth death anniversary of Farida Sarker, wife of former power and energy

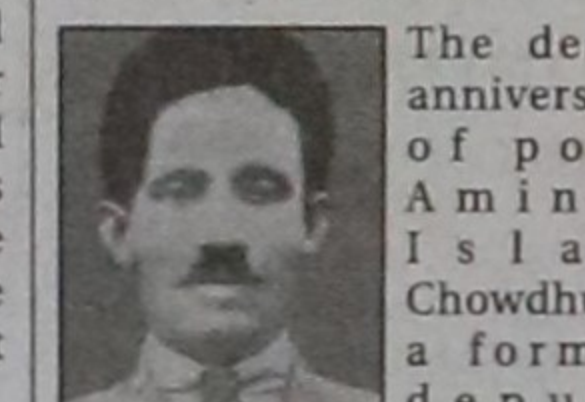
minister Ziauddin Ahmed Bablu, says a press release.

Farida was a Fulbright scholar, a newscaster of Voice of America and a teacher of North South University.

On the occasion, prayers will be offered and food will be distributed among the orphans.

## Aminul Islam Chowdhury

METRO DESK



The death anniversary of poet Aminul Islam Chowdhury, a former deputy magistrate, will be observed at Naherpur Chowdhurybari at Mirsharai in Chittagong after Juma prayers today, says a press release.

## Mahmuda Begum

METRO DESK



Today is the 10th death anniversary of Mahmuda Begum, says a press release.

On the occasion, a

doa mahfil will be held and food will be distributed among the destitutes at Louhajang in Munshiganj. A

doa mahfil will also be held at the residence of AKM Mohsin, president of Bangladesh Photo Journalists Association, in the city.

AKM Zahirul Haq

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 1st death anniversary of AKM Zahirul Haq Jibon, senior principal officer of

Sonali Bank, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held after Asr prayers at his residence (32 Kadamtola, Basabo) in the city.

Chowdhury Amir Kawsar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tomorrow is the fourth death anniversary of Chowdhury Amir Kawsar alias Kislul Chowdhury,

says a press release.

On the occasion, Qurankhwani will be held and food will be distributed among destitutes at this village home in Faridpur after Asr prayers.

# JS okays resolutions seeking membership of CPA, IPU

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Jatiya Sangsad yesterday unanimously passed two resolutions seeking reinstatement of its membership of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) and Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU).

The resolutions will immediately be sent to the headquarters of CPA and IPU requesting them to reinstate Bangladesh parliament's memberships of the two organisations.

Bangladesh parliament again lost its membership of CPA in May 2007 since the 8th parliament was dissolved on October 27, 2006 and new parliament was not constituted in next 90 days stipulated in the constitution. It lost membership of IPU in April 2008 for the same reason.

Secretary general of CPA in a letter on January 21 asked

the parliament to pass a resolution and send it to the CPA headquarters for reinstatement of its membership.

Similarly, IPU also sent a letter on February 3 asking the parliament to pass a resolution and send it to its headquarters for reinstatement of membership.

Chief Whip Abdus Shahid proposed the motion for reinstatement of the parliament's membership of CPA, while Whip Mujibul Haque placed another motion on IPU membership.

Placing the motions separately, Shahid and Mujibul said the country's parliament got memberships of CPA and IPU in April 1973 and April 1972, but it lost memberships in 1976 and 1982 as martial laws were declared suspending democratic process.

Later, the parliament got back its memberships of the two organisations in 1979 and

1986, they added.

The house held a short discussion on the motions and it unanimously passed the resolutions. Lawmakers thanked both the whips for placing the motions.

Participating in the discussion, Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Shafique Ahmed said the image of the country's parliament will be increased with the reinstatement of its membership of CPA.

"Lawmakers of the parliament will be able to participate in different international seminars and discussions to enrich their parliamentary knowledge," he added.

Commerce Minister Faruk Khan said the country would be freed from the stigma with getting back the membership of CPA.

BNP lawmaker MK Anwar supported the motion, saying that parliament must be made focal point of all activities.

# UK shocked at massacre at BDR HQ

## British envoy calls on Khaleda

BSS, Dhaka

British High Commissioner in Dhaka Stephen Evans yesterday called on BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia at her party's Gulshan office in the city.

Chairperson's Foreign Adviser Reaz Rahman and former foreign secretary Shamsher Mobin Chowdhury were present during the meeting.

After the meeting, Shamsher told journalists that the UK expressed deep shock at the heinous killings of army officers at BDR headquarters on February 25-26.

Khaleda informed the envoy that a crisis has been created in the country following the BDR incident, he added.

He quoted BNP chairperson as saying, "Now the country has been passing through a very critical time and a national unity is needed to overcome the situation."

Khaleda reiterated her willingness to cooperate with the government to get over the crisis.

# 5 Dhaka Polytech Instt students to attend contest in London

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Five students of Dhaka Polytechnic Institute are going to participate in the Central and South Asian Regional Enterprise Challenge at the Shakespeare's Global Theatre in London.

The team will showcase new ideas to address pollution at the three-day event that begins on March 9, it was said at a press conference at the British Council in the city yesterday.

Besides Bangladesh, students of five other central and south Asian countries -- Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Nepal, Pakistan and Uzbekistan -- will participate in the event with the theme 'Make Your Mark'.

The British Council is organising enterprise competitions for young students from technical and vocational institutes as part of its 'Skills for Employability' project in central and south Asia.

# DHAKA TODAY

## Discussion

Bills organises a discussion on common minimum demand for working women. Venue: Mahanagar Natya Manch. Time: 3:00pm.

## Conference

The inaugural ceremony of the 7th conference of South Asian Federation of Obstetrics and Gynaecology will be held. Venue: Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre. Time: 7:00pm.

## Reminiscence meeting

Jalalabad Association, Dhaka organises a reminiscence meeting of Emaduddin Ahmed Chowdhury, former chairman of Pubal Bank. Venue: Pubal Bank auditorium. Time: 3:30pm.

## BELTA AGM

The annual general meeting and election (2009-10) of BELTA will be held. Venue: British Council auditorium. Time: 3:30pm.

# Another defamation case against Abu Karim

COURT CORRESPONDENT

An Ulema League leader yesterday filed a defamation case against recently forced-retired information secretary ATM Fazlul Karim alias Abu Karim for writing a verse criticising Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his family members.

Maulana Mohammad Ismail Hussain, president of Bangladesh Ulema League, filed the case with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka against Abu Karim and Sayeed Bari, publisher of Suchipatra Prokashana.

The same court on March 2 issued an arrest warrant against him in connection with another defamation case filed by Hazrat Maulana Mohammad Elias Hussain, president of Bangladesh Awami Ulema League, on February 22.

Later two more edition cases were also filed on February 24 against Abu Karim for his alleged involvement with defaming father of the nation and making malicious comments subversive to the state.

The order of those cases will be delivered on March 16. After hearing the yesterday's case, Metropolitan Magistrate Kanika Biswas recorded statements and did not pass any order on the issue.

In his complaint, Maulana Ismail mentioned that the accused had written a verse titled 'Baganey Phutey Achhey Anek Golap' in February 2006 and the Suchipatra Prokashana published the book in Ekushey Book Fair in 2008.

# Khulna power distribution co boss removed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The managing director of West Zone Power Distribution Company Limited (WZPDCL) Engineer Abu Isahque has been removed from his post.

The decision was taken at the board meeting of WZPDCL on Tuesday following allegations of corruption and inefficiency against him.

He will be replaced by AFM Alamgir Kabir, a member (Distribution) of the PDB.

# Media urged to help promote gender parity

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Women's rights activists at a seminar yesterday called on the mass media to play a key role in improving the status of women in society through raising awareness and portraying positive image of women.

The mass media is gradually changing where presence of women are increasing everyday. The media could be a perfect tool to spread the message of women's empowerment, said Maleka Banu of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad.

The Mahila Parishad organised the seminar on 'Patriarchy in the mass media' in the city where the speakers said the media generally portray typical submissive image of women instead of showing their positive image.

Filmmaker Fauzia Khan presented the keynote paper at the seminar.

Nawajish Ali Khan, adviser to ATN Bangla, said changing mindset and raising awareness are a must for eliminating gender disparity. Women also should come forward to play a leading role in this regard.

Fashion designer Shahrul Shahid said, "Women who work in the media has a role to play too. They have the right to say 'no' and speak out about their

representation in the media." Ayesha Khanam, president of the Mahila Parishad, Nasiruddin Yusuf, chairman of Sammita Sangskritik Jote, M Hamid, CEO of RTV and President of Group Theatre Federation, filmmaker Mustafa Sarwar Farooki, and filmmaker Nurul Alam Atique also spoke.

# Book fair on gender topic begins Sunday

METRO DESK

A three-day book fair will begin at Shilpakala Academy in the city on Sunday marking the International Women's Day, says a press release.

The United States government is sponsoring the fair.

The fair, with approximately 40 booths, will showcase books and other literature on gender issues, to raise awareness about gender equality.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid will inaugurate the book fair.

US Ambassador to Bangladesh James F Moriarty will honour Rasheda K Chowdhury, former adviser to the caretaker government, at the programme for her selection as a finalist for the Secretary of State's International Women of Courage Award.



# No change in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country in next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:04pm today and rises at 6:15am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 36.0 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 16.0 degrees Celsius at Rajshahi.

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	34.4	20.0	59	59
Chittagong	29.0	22.4	83	79
Rajshahi	35.0	16.0	68	40
Khulna	35.2	20.0	81	67
Barisal	33.4	20.0	89	83
Sylhet	31.0	19.0	63	63
Cox's Bazar	31.0	21.5	76	76