

# Rights movement a must to institutionalise democracy

## Speakers tell publication ceremony

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Citizens' rights movements must be strengthened and spread countrywide to continue political reforms and institutionalise democracy, said eminent citizens yesterday.

People of the country are not politically educated not only because of negligence of the political parties, but also because social activists do not play their due role in this regard, they added.

The observations came at the publication ceremony of two books written by Dr Badiul Alam Majumder, secretary of Shushashoner Janney Nagorik (Shujan), at the National Press Club in the city.

The books titled 'Democracy, Election and Good Governance' and 'Local Government: Past, Present and Future' were published by Agami Prokashoni.

Shujan President Prof Muzaffer Ahmad said, "We would indirectly blame the political parties for not educating the citizens, but unfortunately our social activists have also not done it."

Taking this opportunity, vested quarters exploited the democratic rights of citizens, he said, adding, "We don't want any feudal democracy and that people are confined in symbols in electing their representatives."

Prof Muzaffer criticised the present government's role in involving members of parliament (MPs) in the upazila-level local government.

Stating that the quorum is



Guests hold copies of two books by Dr Badiul Alam Majumder at a publication ceremony at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. From left are Dr Shahdeen Malik, Prof Amirul Islam Chowdhury, Prof Muzaffer Ahmad, ATM Shamsul Huda, Prof Khan Sarwar Murshid, Dr Badiul Alam Majumder and Dr Hameeda Hossain.

not completed in the parliament because of the MPs' involvement in other activities, the eminent citizens' rights activist said, "There is no alternative to strengthening the local government."

"All conscious citizens must get united to remain vigilant for good governance and democracy," he added.

Speaking as the chief guest, CEC ATM Shamsul Huda said the EC has done some good works in the recent past by bringing electoral reforms, but this is a continuous process for strong democracy.

"We have completed a phase, but there are many works to be done yet. For example, the peoples' representatives must come from the grass-roots levels and the parliament members should be constituted of 33 percent women members," he

added. Appreciating the activities of Shujan, the CEC said the organisation was very helpful in the EC's reform process.

He further said, "The problem of those who claim themselves elite is that they talk long words, but do not know of the issues in details."

Prof Amirul Islam Chowdhury, former VC of Jahangirnagar University, criticised the government for not passing the Local Government Commission Ordinance.

Human rights activist Dr Hameeda Hossain said political parties want democracy, but do not take effective steps to truly strengthen democratic institutions and educate people to develop a democratic culture.

The mentality of the political parties to go to power through elections and not really working

for democracy must be changed, she added.

Appreciating the role of Shujan, particularly Badiul Alam for writing the books on crucial issues of democracy and good governance, Editor and Publisher of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam said, "We need more such people for a true change."

The subjects of the books speak of the knowledge that is very important for the daily life, he said, adding, "We have achievements, but not in line with our immense potential."

Badiul Alam said, "I wanted that the books would help creating citizens' activism for democracy and development."

Noted jurist Dr Shahdeen Malik also spoke at the programme with former chairman of TTB Prof Khan Sarwar Murshid in the chair.

# Frame strict policy to stop violence against women

## Speakers tell seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday underscored the importance of formulating a strict policy and its implementation to ensure legal action to stop violence against women and girls.

They also stressed the need for increasing coordination between the government and NGOs to monitor whether laws related to elimination of violence against women are being implemented.

With the support of UNFPA Bangladesh, the seminar titled 'Men and women united to end violence against women and

girls' was organised by the Department of Women Affairs (DWA) at Biam auditorium in the city.

Speaking as the chief guest, Foreign Minister Dipu Moni said, "We have to strengthen legal systems and ensure access to justice and rule of law for protecting and upholding human rights."

The violence against women and girls would not be eliminated unless they are conscious about their rights, the minister added.

With a call to change the patriarchal mindset towards women to stop discrimination and violence against women and girls, she assured the

present government would give an all-out support to move them forward.

Women and Children Affairs Secretary Rokeya Sultana as the special guest said women's progress has been achieved remarkable so far but at the same time, there are some glaring gaps that need to be filled.

With DWA Director General Rowshan Ara Begum in the chair, the programme was also addressed by woman leader Shirin Akther and Oxfam Bangladesh Gender Programme Manager MB Akther and DWA Project Director Mokhesur Rahman.

# Diarrhoea breaks out with rise of temperature

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With the early rise of temperature this year, the city dwellers witnessed the outbreak of diarrhoeal diseases earlier than usual.

International Centre for Diarrhoeal Diseases Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B) has started to experience fresh flow of patients suffering from diarrhoea for the last few days.

The number of patients coming to seek treatment for diarrhoea crossed 500 yesterday afternoon which was 770 on Wednesday midnight, according to the health experts of ICDDR,B.

They reasoned scarcity of pure drinking water in the city and sudden rise of temperature for diarrhoeal outbreak.

"Normally, diarrhoea breaks out in the country at the end of April or early May. But this year we have found a huge number of people

with diarrhoeal diseases are coming to seek treatments in this March," said Prof Shahadat Hossain, scientist and head of longer stay unit of ICDDR,B.

During this period last year, around 250-300 patients sought treatment at the ICDDR,B which have been doubled this time, he added.

He further said that most of the patients are coming from the city's Mohammadpur, Adabor, Khilgaon, Sabujbagh and Badda areas where the drinking water supplied from Wasa is unclear and stinky as they complained.

Dr Shahadat said 60 percent of the patients who are admitted to the ICDDR,B are children and people from all classes of these areas have been suffering from diarrhoea.

The number of patients' suffering from diarrhoea would come down if the supply of pure drinking could be ensured immediately, he added.

# WORLD KIDNEY DAY OBSERVED

## 35,000 die of kidney diseases every year: Experts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With the slogan 'Keep your blood pressure under control', the World Kidney Day was observed in the country as elsewhere across the globe yesterday with a call to create awareness of kidney diseases and their treatments.

Health experts at a discussion said a huge number of patients seek treatment at the advance stage of the disease due to lack of awareness.

As the symptoms of kidney diseases are not exposed at primary stage, people do not seek treatments and by the time of exposure of the symptoms, 75 percent of the kidney get damaged, they added.

The experts further said unfortunately, 90 percent

Death anniversary



The second death anniversary of Shamimuzzaman Chowdhury, an banker and businessman, is being observed today, March 13, 2009, says a press release.

He passed away in England on this day in 2007.

He was laid to rest at Binstead Cemetery in the Isle of Wight where he spent the last few years of his life with his family. He hailed from Sylhet.

He was the eldest son of former MP Mina Zaman Chowdhury and Shamsuzzaman Chowdhury, ex-chairman of Rajshahi Education Board.

Shamimuzzaman served as a manager of Uttara Bank branch in London before joining the BCCI.

Khodeza Begum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 7th death anniversary of Khodeza Begum, wife of former Gono Parishad member late Shamsuddin Shikdar, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held after Asr prayers at her son's residence at Shantanir in Mansurabad (Mohammadpur) in the city.

Shamsun Nahar Khan

METRO DESK



Today is the ninth death anniversary of Shamsun Nahar Khan, wife of former minister Ata Uddin Khan, says a press release.

On this occasion, a milad mahfil will be held and a special prayer will be offered and foods will be distributed among the orphans at Nawabganj Etimkhana and Madrasa.

people of the country cannot bear expenses of the disease as the treatment is still much costly.

Bangladesh Renal Association (BRA), Kidney Foundation, KAMPS, BADAS and Hypertension Society of Heart Foundation jointly held the discussion titled 'Syndrome, remedy and prevention of kidney diseases' at IDEB at Kakrail.

The experts said every year some 35,000 people die of kidney diseases and the main reasons of the diseases are nephritis, diabetes and high

blood pressure.

They urged all to remain cautious about these predominant factors of kidney diseases and to increase treatment facilities at different public and private hospitals as well.

Speaking as the chief guest, Health Minister Prof AFM Ruhul Haque said the country lacks manpower in health sector, especially in the rural areas.

President of BRA and Kidney Foundation Prof Harun-or-Rashid, Prof Syed Modasser Ali and National Prof MR Khan also spoke.

# BNP likely to decide Tanbir's fate tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Standing Committee of BNP may sit tomorrow to settle the fate of its member Chowdhury Tanbir Ahmed Siddiky whose son brought allegation of demanding Tk five crore against the party chairperson.

Sources said Tanbir will submit his reply to a show cause notice today, following his son Irad Ahmed Siddiky's public statement against the chairperson and other leaders of the party.

The party in its notice gave 72 hours to Tanbir to explain about his son's statement what he made on Monday at a press briefing at his Gulshan residence in presence of the BNP veteran.

Irad alleged that Khaleda Zia sought Tk five crore from him for getting party ticket to

contest mayoral election of Dhaka City Corporation.

Later on Tuesday, Tanbir at another press conference said the allegation brought by his son against the party chief is not true.

Party insiders said Tanbir is now trying to convince the chairperson so that the party will not take decision to expel him, but BNP leaders and its associate bodies are mounting pressure on the leadership for taking highest disciplinary action against him.

"He [Tanbir] embarrassed chairperson and the party for several times. Even he is the first signatory to the controversial October 29 meeting at Saifur Rahman's house during the caretaker government which created Saifur-led faction of the party," a senior leader of the party told The Daily Star last night.

# Mugger beaten to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An angry mob beat a mugger to death and injured four others of the gang in the capital's Kazipara early yesterday.

In another incident locals found an unconscious injured man at Nabisco intersection in Tejgaon Wednesday night and rushed him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). The duty doctor declared him dead.

The deceased snatcher was Mamun, 20, and his injured accomplices were Khalil, Newaz, Sumon and Rana. Sumon was admitted to DMCH while the other three were held at Mirpur Police Station after first-aid at DMCH.

Sub-inspector (SI) of Mirpur Police Station GM Kamruzzaman told The Daily Star that as the snatchers were leaving the scene snatching Tk 150 from a pedestrian around 3:30am, night guards in Navana Lane, Kazipara challenged the gang.

Mamun, one of the gang members, threatened the guards to leave but the guards caught them and screamed for help instead. Locals thronged the spot and started beating the snatchers. They recovered several sharp weapons from them, the SI added.

Meanwhile, SI Mohammad Aminul Islam of Tejgaon Industrial Area Police Station said the recovered body at Nabisco was identified as Abdul Aziz, 40, an employee of a medicine manufacturing company at Lalmaia.

SI Islam said Pijush Saha, the deceased's colleague, identified the body at DMCH morgue yesterday and filed a murder case.



# Milad for Col Gulzar today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A milad mahfil seeking the salvation of the departed soul of Col Gulzar Uddin Ahmed will be held at Udayan Apartment at Shahid Mainul Hossain Road in Cantonment in the city after Asr prayers today.

Family members of Gulzar have requested all friends, colleagues, and well-wishers to attend the milad and pray for eternal peace of the departed soul.

Col Gulzar, one of the brightest army officers in the country, was best known for his efficient role in the crackdown on Islamist militants and terrorists.

He was killed during the mutiny by BDR jawans at the BDR headquarters, but his body remained unidentified. Finally, his body was identified through a DNA test on Tuesday.

# Empower women to achieve prosperity: Dilip Barua

CU CORRESPONDENT

Industries Minister Dilip Barua yesterday emphasised the need for empowering women to lead the country towards prosperity.

Development of a country is not possible without full participation of women in the mainstream economy, he said.

He was addressing a roundtable on "Women now: Barriers and potentials in Small and Medium Enterprises (SME)" as the chief guest. Chittagong Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CWCCI) organised

# ACC to continue drive with full vigour in future

## Says Hasan Mashhud

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Although the drive against corruption currently appears to have lost its pace, the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) would continue its drive with full vigour in the future with the help of the government, its Chairman Lt Gen (retd) Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury said yesterday.

"We still have the opportunity to work independently. We believe the government has full confidence in us carrying out such drives. The drive might not seem to be advancing with full vigour, but we hope that a working relationship will be established with the government in the near future," he said.

Hasan Mashhud told this to reporters after a meeting with the ambassadors of European Union yesterday.

# Addl attorney general resigns

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mansur Habib, additional attorney general, appointed by the last caretaker government, resigned yesterday.

Sources said advocates MK Rahman and Murad Reza might be appointed as new additional attorneys general soon.

Habib tendered his resignation to the attorney general for forwarding it to the president for approval.

In the letter, Habib said he resigned on personal grounds and requested the president to accept his resignation.

He told The Daily Star that Attorney General Mahbubey Alam did not give him any assignment since he (Mahbubey) took office.

Besides, he was informed that two new additional attorneys general would be appointed soon, said Habib.

Attorney General Salah Uddin Ahmad and the deputy attorneys general appointed by the last caretaker government had earlier resigned.

the roundtable at Hotel Agrabad.

Former adviser to caretaker government Gitiara Safia Chowdhury, Chittagong Deputy Commissioner Ashraf Shamim and Royal Danish Embassy Councillor Jacob Dal Winther were the special guests at the programme with Bangladesh Federation of Women Entrepreneurs' President and former adviser to caretaker government Rokia Afzal Rahman in the chair.

Dilip said the ways for women were not smooth from the very beginning of the civilisation and they are yet to reach the front line and get proper respect even in most of the educated and well-off families in Bangladesh.

"If women, who have profound desire and commitment, get proper assistance from her surroundings, they will be able to attain the goal," he said.

Dilip said the government has undertaken a number of steps, including free education for the female students, training for the women entrepreneurs, loan with a lower interest rate and maternity allowance.

He said the proposed project for setting up a women's industrial park is under active consideration of the government.

Gitiara said 50 percent of the population are women and if

men extend their helping hands, the women will be able to go forward.

Rokia Afzal Rahman said one of the important objectives of Millennium Development Goals (MDG) is women's empowerment.

"We can achieve the goal through proper education as our female students are doing well now than the male students, and by increasing the number of women entrepreneurs," she said.

She lauded the role of CWCCI for involving a huge number of women in the SME sector and activities of the entrepreneurs who have already become successful.

She urged the potential entrepreneurs to prepare proposals for agro-based industry and seek help from the industries ministry in this regard.

CWCCI President Monwara Hakim Ali highlighted the problems the women entrepreneurs are facing.

"We are now working for setting up a cooperatives bank for the women entrepreneurs," Monwara said.

Five women vice-presidents elected from Hathazari, Anwara, Chandanais, Rangunia and Sitakunda upazilas were accorded a reception at the roundtable.

# 9 sued for killing FF during War of Liberation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A case was filed with a Khulna court on Wednesday against nine 'Rajakars' for killing freedom fighter Moslem Golder of Balladanga village, Batiaghata, during the War of Liberation.

The court of Senior Judge Magistrate Abu Ibrahim took cognizance of the case yesterday and fixed March 22 as the date for hearing on it.

Abdullah Golder, son of Moslem Golder, filed the case against Rafiqul Morol, 68, and his younger brother Belayet Morol, 64, Mostafa Molla, 72, Mohor Sheikh, 62, Ashraf Ali Sheikh, 65, Gaffar Golder, 69, Abdul Hakim, 67, Rajab Ali Sarder, 77, and Karbala Sarder, 64.

In his complaint, Abdullah Golder stated that the murder was committed on December 11 in 1971.

He said the alleged Rajakars gunned down his father in the morning of December 11 in the compound of Pulbari union council office in Batiaghata.

Of the accused, Rafiqul Morol and Rajab Ali Sarder acted as Rajakar commanders during the War of Liberation, he said.

The killers also cut the body of his father into pieces and dumped them into Kazibacha river, Abdullah said in his complainant.

He has named eight people in the petition as witnesses, including his mother Khodeza Begum.

Officer-in-charge (OC) of Batiaghata police station Abdus Salek said that he has not yet received any order from the court for conducting an investigation into the allegation of the petitioner.

# Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Eminent educationist Asma Ahmed (Jonna), daughter of late Dilshad Jahannara and Abdul Majid and wife of former secretary Badruddin Ahmed, passed away in Philadelphia in the US, on March 9 at the age of 82, says a press release.

She left behind her two children, Nina Ahmed and Yusuf Ahmed, and a host of relatives to mourn her death.

She was a member of Rotary Club of Dhaka and WVA.

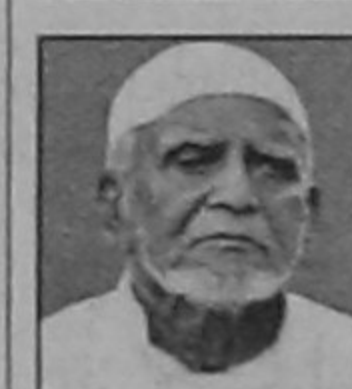
She will be laid to rest at the Banani graveyard after namaz-e-janaza at Azad Mosque at Gulshan Avenue after Zohr prayers on March 14.

Her kulkhwani will be held at old DOHS Community Centre at Banani at Road No2 on March 15 after Asr prayers.

Relatives and admirer are requested to attend the doa and pray for the eternal peace of her departed soul.

Alhaj Abdul Mannan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Alhaj Abdul Mannan, father of former BNP lawmaker Alhaj Mosaddek Ali Falu and Photo

Journalist Association General Secretary Nuruddin Ahmed, passed away at his residence in the city due to old age complications on Wednesday night at the age of 92, says a press release.

He left behind his four sons, two daughters and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

He was laid to rest at Shajahanpur graveyard after his namaz-e-janaza at Shaheedbagh Jame mosque.

His kulkhwani will be held at Shaheedbagh Jame mosque in the city after Asr prayers today.

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and Secretary General Khandakar Delwar Hussain expressed deep shock at his death and prayed for salvation of the departed soul. They also conveyed sympathy to members of the bereaved family.

Amena Begum

BSS, Dhaka

Amena Begum, wife of late president Ziaur Rahman's brother, passed away at a hospital in the city on Wednesday night at the age of 70, family sources said.

She left behind her two sons, two daughters and a host of admirers to mourn her death.

Amena was buried at Mirpur Martyred Intellectuals Graveyard after a namaz-e-janaza at Allama Mosque at Dhaka Cantonment after Asr prayers yesterday.

Khaleda visited the Cantonment residence of Amena's daughter and paid her last respect to the deceased.

## DHAKA TODAY

### Condolence meeting

Old Ispahanian Community organises a condolence meeting in memory of Maj Gen Shakil Ahmed, a former student of Ispahani Public School and College, Comilla. Venue: Feni Samity auditorium, Tropicana Tower, Tophkhana Road. Time: 4:00pm.

### Human chain

Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon and Adivasi Paribesh Raksha Andolon will form a human chain demanding a safe Jaffong and Companyganj. Venue: In front of National Museum. Time: 10:30am.

### Science conference

Onusondhitsu Chakra Bigyan Sangathan will organise the fourth national science conference. Venue: Central Shaheed Minar. Time: 9:30am.

### Discussion

Bangladesh Nirjatan Protirodh Society will hold a discussion titled 'Human rights and today's world'. Venue: Public Library seminar hall. Time: 3:30pm.

### Drawing contest

Raju Smity Sangsad organises a children's drawing contest to mark Raju Day. Venue: Teacher-Student Centre (TSC), Dhaka University. Time: 10:30am.

### Conference

The Institute of Textile Engineers and Technologists (IETE) organises its grand conference 2009. Venue: College of Textile Engineering and Technology. Time: 9:00am.

### Reception

Members of the Garo community who are living in Dhaka will accord a reception to lawmaker Advocate Promod Mankin. Venue: Tejgaon Church Community Centre. Time: 2:00pm.

### Evaluation meeting

The two-day internal yearly

## WEATHER TODAY

### Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

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

**The sun sets in the capital at 6:07pm today and rises at 6:08am tomorrow.**

Country's highest temperature 35.2 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 16.1 degrees Celsius at Srimongal.

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	32.8	23.0	41	24
Chittagong	33.6	21.5	74	--
Rajshahi	32.8	18.8	28	--
Khulna	32.5	21.5	63	52
Barisal	33.0	21.3	65	62
Sylhet	32.8	19.5	58	29
Cox's Bazar	33.5	21.0		