

# Remain alert to conspiracies

## Hasina urges countrymen

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called on the countrymen to unite and remain alert to conspiracies to destabilise the country.

"Many conspiracies will be hatched, but I won't allow the conspirators to be successful as long as I am alive," she said at a discussion at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city.

Referring to her recent interview with a foreign daily that bullets and grenades have been pointed at her, Hasina said she is not afraid at all, as none can take her life, except The Almighty Allah.

"We are passing a very crucial time," she added.

"I have been involved in politics to work for the welfare of the countrymen and I'll continue to do so until the end of my life," Hasina said, adding that there is no alternative but to attain economic freedom to steer the country forward.

The Awami League organised the discussion to mark the 89th birth anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the National Children's Day.

Hasina, also the president of Awami League, called on her party workers to stand by the countrymen and work for

their welfare as they brought the party to power with absolute majority.

"You [party workers] will have to know the needs of the people and serve them accordingly. The people have voted us to power and now we have to assess what we have given to them," she said.

Hasina said Bangabandhu brought independence to the country and showed the path to attain economic freedom.

"Now we will have to attain economic freedom and those who believe in democracy and the Liberation War will have to be united to face the challenges," she said.

Senior AL leaders Amir Hossain Amu, Abdur Razzak, Tofail Ahmed, Suranjit Sengupta, Matia Chowdhury, Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, Abdul Mannan, Sultan Mohammad Mansur Ahmed, Abdur Rahman, MA Aziz and Qamrul Islam also spoke at the discussion chaired by AL president member and deputy leader of the Jatiya Sangsad Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury.

Journalist and columnist Abdul Gaffer Chowdhury and former Dhaka University vice chancellor Prof AK Azad Chowdhury also spoke while cultural personality Asaduzzaman Noor and Yafes Osman recited poems on

Bangabandhu.

Earlier in the morning, Sheikh Hasina addressed a programme at the Osmani Memorial Hall on the same occasion.

She urged all to reach a consensus on protecting the child rights.

"Let's dedicate our present for the future of younger generation," she said.

Calling upon the affluent section to stand by helpless and underprivileged children, the prime minister said, "We must do our best to ensure a better future for our children so that they are able to laugh and stand upright as worthy global citizens."

Advising the children to pursue the path of justice and right, and not to bow down before any wrong, Hasina encouraged them to take lessons from her father's life.

Meanwhile, different social, political and cultural organisations yesterday observed the 89th birth anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in a befitting manner.

Nazrul Institute organised a discussion marking the birthday of Bangabandhu, also the National Children's Day.

Bangladesh Chhatra League observed the day through placing wreath at the portrait of Bangabandhu and

milad mahfil.

Bangladesh Shishu Academy celebrated the day by organising a discussion, and art and writing competition.

On the occasion, Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad organised a discussion at its office.

Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote also observed the day at Bangabandhu Bhaban.

Bangladesh Embassy in South Korea, Muktiyoddha Samannay Parishad, Bangladesh, Joy Bangla Sangskritik Oikyajote, Bangladesh Railway Sramik League, Amra Muktiyoddhar Santan, Muktiyoddha Juba Command, Titas Gas Employees' Union, and Agrani Bank Ltd Employees' Association also observed the day through different programmes.

## Diarrhoea situation improves slightly

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The rush of diarrhoea patients to the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Diseases and Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B) decreased slightly yesterday.

Some 489 patients sought admission to the ICDDR,B till yesterday evening, which was around 100 less than the day before yesterday.

"On Monday some 588 patients were admitted to the hospital by 6:00pm and it crossed 700 by midnight," said Prof Shahadat Hossain, scientist and head of longer stay unit of ICDDR,B.

He said if the trend of decrease continues for 3-4 days, then we could say the diarrhoea situation is improving.

Due to the early rise of temperature and shortage of supply in pure drinking water, diarrhoea outbreaks this year early in the city.

People of Mohammadpur, Adabor, Badda and Kidgaon area in the city are the worst victim of diarrhoea this year as the water supplied by the Wasa are dirty and stinky, according to the experts.

FORGERY CASE

## Proxy arrested

COURT CORRESPONDENT

One person was arrested when he appeared before a Dhaka court and sought bail as a proxy yesterday in connection with a forgery case filed against his brother with Sutrapur Police Station in February.

Mohammad Altaf Hossain, son of late Serajul Islam alias Badsha Miah of Sutrapur in the city, yesterday appeared before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) Court of Dhaka and sought bail in the case in the name of his brother Emdad Hossain.

Moving the bail petition, Altaf's lawyer Advocate Abdul Karim told the court that the charges brought against his client Emdad Hossain were false, baseless and fabricated. He was implicated in the case as part of a conspiracy to harass him. So, he prayed for bail.

On the other hand, Advocate Dinobandhu Roy told the court that the person who appeared before the court was not real accused Emdad Hossain. He who stood in the dock is Altaf Hossain, brother of the accused Emdad. So, he should be brought into custody, Dinobandhu said.

Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Abdur Rahim then challenged the accused and asked him his real name. In reply, the accused gave his real identity. Then, the court directed the General Recording Officer (GRO) Mohammad Ratan Sheikh to put him in custody and file a criminal case against Altaf.

Following the order, the on-duty policemen arrested Altaf and filed a cheating case against him with Kotwali Police Station.

According to the prosecution, Radha Kanta Bonik, Sebayet at a temple in the city's Tipu Sultan Road, filed a case on February 24 this year accusing Emdad Hossain and six others of possessing properties of the temple by making forged documents in April 2003.



Bangladesh Judicial Service Commission Chairman Justice Md Tafazzal Islam hands over the annual report 2008 of the commission to President Zillur Rahman at Bangabhaban in the city yesterday.

## BJSC annual report 2008 submitted to president

UNB, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman yesterday asked Bangladesh Judicial Service Commission (BJSC) to select meritorious and committed candidates for the judicial service for ensuring justice and establishing the rule of law in the country.

He made the suggestion while an eight-member delegation of BJSC led by its Chairman Justice Md Tafazzal Islam handing over the annual report 2008 of the commission to the president.

Zillur emphasised ensuring transparency and neutrality in performing overall judicial duties.

Terming the judiciary as the last destination for common people, he said, "It is imperative to ensure justice for all."

The president expressed his satisfaction observing government's commitment to establish an independent judicial system in the country.

During submission of the report, the chairman apprised the president of the salient features of the report. Justice Islam said the commission, which mainly do the selection of suitable candidates for the judicial service and conduct departmental examinations, has recommended 604 successful candidates for appointment as assistant judges through the 22nd and the 24th BCS exams and Judicial Service Examination-2007.

Members of the Commission Justice Sayed Rifat Ahmed, Justice Md Emdadul Haque and Attorney General Mahmub-e-Alam were with the delegation.

Secretary of the President's Office Mohammad Shafiqul Alam, Military Secretary to the President Brig Gen Md Ehtesham Ul Haque and President's Press Secretary Abdul Awal Howlader were present during the meeting.

## Line up under army officers

### Director general orders BDR members

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) Director General Brig Gen Moinul Islam yesterday ordered the BDR members to line up at their respective sectors, battalions and training institutes under the army officers in line with the chain of command as government authorities began rebuilding the border force virtually from its ruins.

"We'll have to perform with utmost sincerity our state responsibilities vested in us by the people," he said addressing the BDR Jawans at Pikhana, rocked by recent mutiny in which a number of army officers were massacred.

Describing the February 25-26 cruel carnage as a black chapter of the world history, Brig Moinul said this huge stigma will have to be borne by all of the BDR members. He noted that the nation apprehends whether this stained organisation would be able to

perform the state duty properly.

"People want such a disciplined force that will perform their sacred duty of protecting the frontier and uphold Bangladesh's interests," said the new BDR chief, who took the reins as his predecessor Maj Gen Shakil Ahmed was killed along with most other army officers in command of the borderforce.

He said he firmly believes that a disciplined frontier force will be built up soon to fulfill the aspiration of the people and the government.

On March 9, Brig Moinul had instructed all acting Sector Commanders, Battalion Commanders and Commandants of Training Centres to join their respective workplace to consolidate their command over the mutiny-shaken force.

The BDR chief said many of them had already completed their office work at sector and battalion headquarters.

He made a clear instruction to the BDR members to boycott the persons identified as guilty and perform their professional duties with loyalty under their respective chain of command for further consolidation of the force.

Brig Moinul urged the BDR jawans to be respectful to the demand for punishing those responsible for the rebellion and the killings inside the BDR headquarters.

He said it is the moral duty of BDR men and their family members to provide correct information about "conspirators, perpetrators and their abettors so truth is sifted from falsehood and the truth prevails".

The BDR chief categorically said guilty BDR men will be given exemplary punishment through the due process of law while those who are innocent will not be subject to unnecessary harassment.

## Govt plans comprehensive mechanism to face disaster

### Food minister tells regional summit

UNB, Dhaka

The government is developing a comprehensive mechanism for responding to any disaster in a widespread manner through ensuring participation of government and NGO aidpartners.

Food and Disaster Management Minister Dr Abdur Razzaque told a regional summit in the city yesterday.

He said the Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CDMP, phase-2), having a framework for effective disaster response, will also provide guidance to all concerned for contributing to impact mitigation in the event of such a natural calamity.

Dr Razzaque was addressing the inaugural session of

the 20th Meeting of Secretaries-General Forum of the South Asian Red Crescent and Red Cross Societies at Sonargaon Hotel.

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) organised the meet.

The minister said BDRCS, since its founding in 1973, has supported the vulnerable communities. Its Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP), Community-Based Disaster Management programme (CBDM) and Earth Preparedness Programme (EPP) are appreciated by international communities.

He also informed that under CPP some 42,675 volunteers are presently working in the coastal areas on a MoU between BDRCS and the government.

South Asian Regional Delegation Head Al Panico and International Committee of Red Crescent Dhaka Mission Head Finn Ruda spoke at the opening session with BDRCS chairman Prof Dr MS Akbar in the chair.

The secretaries general of the Regional Red Crescent and Red Cross Societies from different countries, including Afghanistan, Denmark, India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Nepal, the Philippines, the Netherlands, Finland and the USA are attending the three-day summit.

The summit will focus on the IFRC's Global Strategy-2020 with the vision 'A world of empowered communities that is inspired by humanitarian principles to tackle human suffering and advance development, dignity and peace'.



BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia presides over the standing committee meeting of the party at her Gulshan office in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

## KHILGAON SHISHU PARK HC asks Ansar DG to stop construction

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court has passed an order of injunction restraining the Director General (DG) of Bangladesh Ansar and Village Defence Party from carrying out any further construction work in the Khilgaon Shishu Park in the city.

A High Court bench of Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain and Justice Qamrul Islam Siddiquy passed the order on March 11.

The bench also asked the Ansar DG not to take any other move that will change the nature of the open space of the park.

The order came following a hearing of an injunction application filed by Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA) in connection with a writ petition to protect Khilgaon Shishu Park from illegal encroachment and occupation and ongoing construction by Ansar and Village Defence Party, which is threatening the greenery and environment of the city.

Senior lawyer Mahmudul Islam pleaded the case on behalf of BELA with assistance from Advocate M Iqbal Kabir of BELA.

## Shantu Larma, 14 others get bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday granted anticipatory bail for two months to Chittagong Hill Tracts Council (CHTC) Chairman Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma alias Shantu Larma and 14 others in an attempt to murder case in Ranagmati.

After hearing a bail petition jointly filed by the accused, the HC bench of Justice Syed AB Mahmudul Huq and Justice Moeenul Islam Chowdhury also issued a rule upon the government to show cause within two weeks why the petitioners should not be granted regular bail in this case.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court (SC) yesterday upheld the High Court (HC) orders granting bail to former BNP lawmaker Abdul Wadud Bhuiyan in four extortion cases against him.

The four-member full bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice MM Ruhul Amin delivered the verdict dismissing four government petitions against the HC bail.

## Call to stop use of children in begging

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Projonmo Bachao, an alliance against child abuse, organised a human chain programme in the city yesterday to raise awareness about the use of children in begging.

With a call to stop such practice, children from shelter homes formed four human chains at Asad Gate, Gono Bhaban and Bijoy Sarani areas in the city.

Seven organisations working for the welfare of children joined the human chain.

The organisers distributed leaflets among the people to make them aware of the fact that forcing children to beg is a punishable crime under the Bangladesh Children Act 1974.

Under the law, the offenders will face two years in prison or a fine of Tk 300 or both.

Rubi Akter, a girl at a drop-in centre of Aparajeyo Bangla, said, "We want to let everyone know that if everyone comes forward, it will be possible to stop such bad practice."

The alliance is also planning to carry out more awareness programmes in the city.

According to a survey conducted by Projonmo Bachao in October last year, beggars carry children in their laps while begging in order to play on people's sympathy. In most cases, the children are drugged to make them sleep.

The survey was conducted at six important traffic intersections of the city.

## HANNAN SHAH'S CASE HC grants bail to Irad Siddiky

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday granted anticipatory bail for two months to BNP leader Chowdhury Tanbir Ahmed Siddiky's son Chowdhury Irad Ahmed Siddiky in a defamation case filed by BNP Chairperson's Adviser ASM Hannan Shah.

After hearing the bail petition filed by Irad Ahmed Siddiky, an HC bench of Justice Syed AB Mahmudul Huq and Justice Moeenul Islam Chowdhury also issued a rule upon the government to show cause within two weeks why the petitioner should not be granted regular bail in this case.

Irad appeared before the HC bench for bail in the case.

Hannan Shah filed the case on March 15 with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) Court against Irad for making offensive comments against the BNP chairperson and him (Hannan) on March 9 at a press briefing.

Dr Kamal Hossain appeared for the petitioner.

# WEATHER TODAY

## Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

Day temperature may rise slightly over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:09pm today and rises at 6:04am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 35.8 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 17.5 degrees Celsius at Ishwardi.

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	34.7	20.5	64	39
Chittagong	33.7	21.8	74	60
Rajshahi	35.0	17.8	70	46
Khulna	33.6	20.5	86	52
Barisal	33.6	19.5	79	54
Sylhet	33.5	18.8	55	44
Cox's Bazar	33.3	22.3	75	62

## Gazipur road crash kills one

A CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

A local garments worker was killed in a road accident on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway in Bagher Bazar areas of Gazipur Sadar yesterday.

The dead was identified as named Babul Khandker, 32, electric supervisor of local Golden Refit Garments.

The accident occurred when a Mymensingh-bound bus ran over him while he was crossing Dhaka-Mymensingh highway in Bagher Bazar area at around 7:45am, leaving him dead on the spot.

The agitated garments workers set the bus on fire after the accident.

They also put up barricade on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway disrupting movement of traffic for one hour.

# DHAKA TODAY

### Motor show

The inaugural ceremony of the 4th Lucas Dhaka Motor Show 2009 will be held. Venue: Brac University, Room AH 203. Time: 3:30pm.

### Aid group meeting

The mini aid group meeting on urban poverty reduction of Gazipur Municipality will be held. Venue: Cirdap auditorium. Time: 9:30am. Gazipur Municipality and Practical Action jointly organise the meeting.

### Handicraft exhibition

The inaugural ceremony of Indigenous Handicraft Exhibition will be held. Venue: 90 Park Road, Banihara. Time: 3:00pm.

### Leadership lecture

Entrepreneurship Development Forum of Brac University will host a lecture on 'Leadership for the 21st century'. Founder and president of

Bangladesh Youth Leadership Centre Ejaz Ahmed will deliver the lecture. Venue: Brac University, Room AH 203. Time: 3:30pm.

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Entrepreneurship Development Forum of Brac University will host a lecture on 'Leadership for the 21st century'. Founder and president of

World University of Bangladesh will accord a reception to Abdul Gaffer Chowdhury and confer a gold medal on late Altaf Mahmud. Venue: ICMB auditorium, Nilkhet. Time: 4:00pm.

### Reception

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## Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Firoza Begum, wife of late Matiar Rahman, passed away due to kidney problems at Bangladesh Medical College Hospital in the city on Sunday at the age of 76, says a press release.

She left behind her five daughters and two sons.

She was laid to rest at her family graveyard in Brahmanbaria.

Her Quikhwani will be held at her daughter singer Nargis Chowdhury's residence at Dhanmodi in the city on March 19.

Relatives and admirers are requested to attend the milad and pray for salvation of the departed soul.

## Abul Hossain

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Abul Hossain, former assistant secretary of Ministry of Education, passed away at his village home at Dhamrai on Sunday, says a press release.

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

He was laid to rest at his family graveyard in Dhamrai after namaz-e-janaza at Shikha Bhaban in the city on Monday.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid expressed deep shock at his death and conveyed sympathy to members of the bereaved family.

## Abdul Khalek

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Abdul Khalek, a labour leader and one of the founders of Hazaribagh Tannery Workers' Union, passed away yesterday at Dhanmodi Clinic in the city, says a press release.

His namaz-e-janaza was held on the union office premises after Zohr prayers. He will be buried at his village home Companyganj in Noakhali.

Hazaribagh Tannery Workers' Union President Abul Kalam Azad condoleed his death, conveyed sympathy to members of the bereaved family and prayed for salvation of the departed soul.

## Death anniversary METRO DESK

Today is the first death anniversary of Abdul Mannan Sikdar, a social worker and patron of education, of Khudukhali village under Banskhal in Chittagong, says a press release.

On the occasion, Quankhwani and milad mahfil will be held after Asr prayers.