

# Call to adopt policy to ensure people's health rights

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday stressed the need to formulate a policy from health rights perspective where specific goals, directions, strategies and commitment of the government would be vivid for ensuring people's health rights.

Highlighting the current health service situation, they also put forward specific recommendations to improve the country's health system as the constitution accredits it as rights.

Titled 'National health policy and right to health', the seminar was organised by FK (Freds Korpset) Network,

Bangladesh in coordination with Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK) at Brac Centre Inn in the city.

The speakers said public health service should not be privatised or commercialised anyway and the principal approach would be 'Establishing people's rights, not profit'.

In the rights-based approach of the National Health Policy, the state is supposed to ensure equal opportunity of all irrespective of economic, social and geographical locations.

The health policy should incorporate health issues that are mentioned in the UN Human Rights documents,

Alma Ata declaration, Cedaw document, Women Development Policy, MDG and PRSP and the government's commitment in this regard.

Prof Rashid E Mahbub, former president of Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA), said the policy should incorporate the health-related chapters of different ministries as 19 ministries are currently working on health issues

partially.

The speakers further said that financing in health sector should have to be written clearly in the health policy.

At the same time, people's active participation in health

related activities should have to be ensured and the management of health sector would have to make vibrant, effective and up-to-date, they added.

Sarder Arif Uddin, team leader, Right to Quality Health of ActionAid Bangladesh presented a keynote paper.

With ASK Executive Director Advocate Sultana Kamal in the chair, the seminar was addressed by Assistant General Secretary of Young Women Christian Association (YWCA) Helen Monisha Sarker, Nitai Kanti Das of PSTC and Dr Pradeep Sengupta of Impact Foundation.

## ADAB seeks cooperation from finance minister

DU CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of the Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh (ADAB) yesterday sought cooperation from Finance Minister Abul Maal

Abdul Muhith in resolving the problems facing different NGOs, especially ADAB.

The ADAB leaders also apprised the minister of various activities of the NGOs at a meeting at the conference room of the finance ministry at the Secretariat, says a press release.

The finance minister gave a patient hearing to their statements and assured them of providing all possible assistance in resolving their problems.

ADAB Chairperson Abdul Matin led a delegation of the association at the meeting.

The delegation members included ADAB Vice Chairperson Lokman Hakim and executive committee members Kazi Baby, Abdu Sobahan Mia, KMAK Azad, Rafiqul Islam Molla, SM Nazer Hossain, Rafiqul Islam and ADAB Director Md Aminul Islam.

Meanwhile, Tongi police recovered the body with slit throat at Baradewra village at around 5:00am, and sent it to Gazipur Sadar Hospital for autopsy.



Muhibur Rahman speaks at a view exchange meeting at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. On his right is Advocate Salimullah Bahadur and on his left is Md Ziaul Sarker. (Story on Page 1)

## 2 youths murdered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday recovered two bodies, one at Pallabi in the city, and the other at Tongi on the outskirts of the capital.

The body, found at Pallabi, has been identified as Mohammad Mintu, 23, while the body of a youth found at Tongi could not be identified.

Pallabi police said, they recovered the body of Mintu from a road at Block-D of Section-11 at around 12:30am.

They sent the body to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) morgue for autopsy.

According to morgue sources there were stab injuries in his throat.

Mizanur Rahman, younger brother of Mintu, told The Daily Star that Mintu went out from his house at Lalkuthi in Mirpur to enjoy a concert at around 7:00pm.

He said Pallabi police informed them at around 3:00am about the death of his brother as they (police) found the address of Mintu from his wallet at DMCH.

Meanwhile, Tongi police recovered the body with slit throat at Baradewra village at around 5:00am, and sent it to Gazipur Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

This is the first time a case has been filed against an army officer on charges of torture in custody.

On April 13, Mohammad Shamsuddin Ahmed, proprietor of M/S Shamsuddin Overseas, filed the case against the three on charges of attempting to murder him in their custody during the state of emergency in 2007.

In his complaint, Shamsuddin mentioned that Maj Sarwar, Samad and Saiful picked him up from his Naya Paltan office on July 26 in 2007 and took him to the temporary army camp at Paltan Community Centre where they tortured him without any reason.

Bangladesh Institute of Human Rights moved the case on behalf of the complainant.

## Death anniversary

METRO DESK

Today is the 4th death anniversary of KM Ataul Huq, former general manager of Jibon Bima Corporation, says a press release.

Ataul was the eldest son of late AKM Fazlul Huq Mowla, pioneer of insurance industry in Bangladesh.

Quarakhanwani and milad mahfil will be held on the occasion.

## Faisal

FROM PAGE 1

explosives either to train up militants or to supply those arms and explosives for militant attacks.

Investigators have already found Faisal's close links with banned Islamist outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh. Faisal had met executed JMB supremo Shaikh Abdur Rahman several times, and kept in contact with Sajidur Rahman, now-on-the-run boss of the militant organisation.

"We suspect him as a high-profile militant. He has knowledge about most of the militant attacks in Bangladesh," the investigator said wishing anonymity.

Faisal, founder of the madrasa, and his close associate Hassan Saifuddin Badal, who was also taken on a 10-day remand, were sent to Borhanuddin yesterday as their current remand will expire.

The investigator said the duo might be produced before a Bholi court today. He said fresh remand would be sought for them for further interrogation.

Faisal, founder of Green Crescent charity and NGO, was picked up along with his close associate Badal from Pubail in Gazipur on April 6 in connection with the arms haul from his madrasa.

On March 24, Rapid Action Battalion unearthed the 'mini-ammunition factory' inside the madrasa-cum-orphanage and seized 10 firearms, 2,500 bullets, 3,000 grenade ball splinters, 200 gram gun powder, different parts of ammunition and 72 books on jihad, Abul Ala Maududi and Osamabn Laden.

**DHAKA TODAY**

**Workshop**  
9:30am.  
**Roundtable on social safety net**  
Shamunnay and Manusher Jonno Foundation jointly organise roundtable on budget and social safety net. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:00am.

**Roundtable**  
Nagrik Forum organises a roundtable on role of the government and the opposition party in economic and national security. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 3:30pm.

**Seminar**  
Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics organises a dissemination seminar on literacy assessment survey. Venue: Sheraton Hotel. Time: 10:00am.

**Musical soiree**  
Bengal Foundation organises a musical soiree. Venue: Bengal Shilpajay. Time: 7:00pm.

**Roundtable**  
Save the Environment Movement, Rail Unnyan Jote and WBB Trust jointly organise a roundtable on role of the rail in economy and communications and rail budget. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 11:00am.

**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.

Having chances of rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind at one or two places over Chittagong division.

Mild heat, which is sweeping over Khulna division and the regions of Rajshahi, Iswardi, Faridpur Madaripur, Dhaka Sitakund, Feni and Khepupara, may continue, Met Office said predicting nearly unchanged day temperature over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:21pm today and rises at 5:30am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 37.8 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and lowest 22.0 degrees Celsius at Chuadanga.

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	35.8	26.5	63	50
Chittagong	33.0	25.5	73	78
Rajshahi	37.6	22.4	62	44
Khulna	36.6	23.6	69	66
Barisal	35.0	24.5	76	62
Sylhet	35.1	23.5	74	58
Cox's Bazar	34.0	26.0	64	76



(From left) Artists Qayyum Chowdhury and Rafiqun Nabi, Prof Nazrul Islam and Prof Kabir Chowdhury hold copies of a book titled 'Samokalin Shilpo O Shilpi' at a publication ceremony at the Bengal Gallery in the city yesterday. Prof Nazrul Islam has written the book.

PHOTO STAR

## Price control

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days in power.

The survey touched issues like economic performance, inflation, administration and judiciary, Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), law and order, corruption, and best performing ministers.

At the last point, it was found that a large section of the respondents could not exactly recall which minister heads which ministry, and mostly refrained from answering. But those who could answer the question, 28 percent of them rated Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury, and Food Minister Dr Abdul Razzaque each as the best performing ministers. However, because of the low number of respondents, The Daily Star refrained from publishing the graph for this question.

The survey found that 71 percent of the respondents feel that the country has been moving in the right direction while 17 percent said it has been going in the wrong direction since the new government took over. Rural and female respondents voted more favourably.

When asked to rate the government's performance at the completion of its 100 days, 62 percent said they are satisfied, 19 percent very much satisfied, while only 15 percent said they are not satisfied. Such expression of high satisfaction cut across the political divide, the poll shows.

About the economy, 59 percent feel the government is doing well while 13 percent feel negatively, and 24 percent think the economy is not doing so good.

A large number of respondents were highly critical of BCL, and equated the organisation with activities like violence, capturing institutions, and extortion. They feel Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina should take stern actions to control BCL.



**Nizam, Bipu elected ORWA president, general secy**

## METRO DESK

Prof Dr Nizamuddin Ahmed and lawmaker Nasrul Hamid Bipu have been elected president and general secretary of Old Remians Welfare Association (ORWA), says a press release.

ORWA is an association of former students of Dhaka Residential Model College.

AKM Zaman, Mahmudul Haque Bhuiyan, Moshiur Rahman and Sarafat Chowdhury were elected vice presidents and FH Arif, Abdul Noor Tusher and Shahed Kamal Shaad joint secretaries.

They were elected for 2009-10 at a meeting of the association on April 4.

A 23-member executive committee was also appointed.

An advisory board was also nominated at the meeting. Members of the board are Ahsanul Kabir, Dr Khaliduzzaman and Touhid Samad (all 1964 batch), past presidents Md Habibul Alam, Bir Pratik and Feroze M Hasan, and Major (Retd) Qamru Islam.

The committee will organise the golden jubilee of the college in 2010. All Remians have been requested to contact the ORWA office for details.

## First-ever bus route franchise

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government wants to ensure safe and affordable transport system for commuters. The BRTC will improve service through an organised and faster journey.

In her speech, Home Minister Sahara Khatun said extortion would be eliminated from the transport sector.

Under the franchise system, all existing bus companies operating on this route with valid permit will run under one company.

The route covers around 30 kilometres from Uttara sector 12 (Khalpar) to Plassey (Azimpur) via Sobhanbag, Manik Mia Avenue, Bijoy Sarani, Mohakhali, Khilkhet, Airport and Azimpur. A total of 27 up and down stoppages have been selected on the route.

Digital ticketing system replacing manual paper tickets would be introduced. A prepaid card system will soon follow.

At the initial stage, 30 air conditioned (AC) and 70 non-AC buses will operate on the route. The state-run Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) has also taken part in the scheme providing 20 buses from its fleet.

State Minister Quamrul Islam, Awami League leader Mostafa Mohsin Mantu, Haji Md Selim and the UNO attended the jama'a.

Meanwhile, Saroj Sangskriti Brityo, a local cultural organisation, postponed its Pahela Baishakh programmes to pay respect to the late freedom fighter and placed wreaths at his grave.

Tanagar Muktijoddha Kalyan Parishad will hold a condolence meeting on Ati Bhawal High School premises at 4:00pm on Friday.

Saida Khanam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Saida Khanam, mother of Power Development Board Chairman ASM Alamgir Kabir, passed away yesterday at a city hospital at the age of 82, says a press release.

She left behind three sons, four daughters, a host of grand children, relatives and well-wishers to mourn her death.

She was buried at Alipur graveyard in Faridpur town. Her Qulkhani will be held at her Purba Khabashpur residence in the town tomorrow.

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