# METROPOLITAN/NEWS Double allocation for persons with disabilities in budget

# Speakers tell discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Faisal Rahman, a physically challenged schoolteacher and social worker, came from Jhalakathi to attend a discussion at the National Press Club in Dhaka to talk on budget allocation for the people with disabilities.

But upon his arrival at the press club, he found it difficult to reach the auditorium on the first floor of the club, as he could not use his wheelchair, his constant companion, to climb up the stairs.

"My assistant then carried me and the wheelchair up the

Rab member,

criminal

in shootout

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A member of the Rapid Action

Battalion (Rab) and a criminal

were injured in a shootout

between the elite force and a

crime gang in the city's Mirpur

recovered a revolver, two

bullets and two empty bottles

of Phensidyl from the spot

The injured criminal iden-

tified as Manik, who was taken

to orthopaedic hospital, was

wanted by police in mugging

identified as Constable Md

Amim told The Daily Star that

a Rab team, acting on a tip-off,

conducted a raid on

Balurmath of South Pirerbagh

at Mirpur at around 2:00am

where a gang of five to six

criminals were taking prepa-

law enforcers, the criminals

opened fire on them that

prompted the Rab men to fire

Manik sustained bullet injury

as he was trying to flee by

scaling over a wall. However,

other criminals managed to

trying to steal

Sonali Bank

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A person was caught red-

handed at Sonali Bank branch

on the Dhaka University cam-

escape from the scene.

money at

One caught

During the shootout,

back, he added.

Sensing the presence of the

ration to commit a robbery.

The injured Rab man was

Sub-Inspector (SI) Ruhul

The Rab members also

area early yesterday.

after the incident.

and robbery cases.

Nasir Uddin of Rab-4.

injured

stairs as there is no ramp at the National Press Club. Without an assistant, I find it difficult to move anywhere, as most roads and buildings are inaccessible forme," he said.

pay Tk 5,000 every month, which is quite a luxury for a schoolteacher like me," he At the discussion, Faisal with Disabilities'.

and other speakers demanded that the government double the allocation for the people with disabilities in the upcoming budget for 2009-10 fiscal

In the budget for 2008-09,

the government allocated around Tk 101 crore to ensure their rights, said the speakers.

National Forum of Organisations Working with the Disabled (NFOWD) and "For this assistant, I have to Actionaid Bangladesh organised the discussion on 'National Budget Allocation (2009-10) for the Development of the People

Highlighting the social discrimination against the people with disabilities, the speakers called for increased allocation for this group from the national level to union

complete data on the people with disabilities, Tk 10 crore for the 'Special Education Demand Development Project', Tk 6 crore for awareness programme among the health professionals, Tk 18 crore for disability prevention centre project, Tk 10 crore for special teachers, Tk 9 crore for stipend programme for students with disabilities, Tk 37.5 crore in allowance for the poor disabled group, Tk 10 crore for the rehabilitation of the acid burnt victims and physically challenged people, Tk 1 crore for national level sports competition and Tk 80 lakh for cultural activities. It is not possible for the government to build a digital

They demanded an alloca-

tion of Tk 6 crore for collecting

Bangladesh keeping the people with disabilities, who account for 10 percent of the total population, on the sidelines, said Bhaskar Bhattacharya, programme officer of Young Power in Social Action (YPSA), who is also a visually impaired per-

Rabeya Sultana of Actionaid, Secretary General of NFOWD Zowaherul Islam Mamun, and Managing Director of Jatiya Protibondhi **Unnayan Foundation Monsur** Ahmed Choudhuri also spoke at the discussion presided over by NFOWD President Khandaker Zahurul Alam.



Khandaker Zahurul Alam speaks at a discussion at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. On his left is Farida Yasmin and on his right are Monsur Ahmed Choudhuri and Rabeya Sultana.

# Sylhet city BNP

Haque Chowdhury, also a close aide to the BNP stalwart and former finance minister M Saifur Rahman, was released from the Sylhet Central Jail yesterday.

A High Court (HC) division bench comprising Justice MA Wahab Miah and Justice Marzlul Haque on April 9 granted him

Sylhet District and Sessions Judge Abdul Quddus awarded Arif 10 years' rigorous imprisonment (RI) and his wife Shama Haque Chowdhury three years' RI on June 23 last year in a case filed by Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) for ill-

from the police.

advocate Rafiqul Haque Chowdhury Raja moved for the petitioner.

One of the ACC's first list of

On lifting the state of emergency, he was acquitted of the charges brought against him under Emergency Power Rules, but punished in the ACC case

Arif was granted bail in the three other cases in recent months. He is awaiting trial on the Tk 15 lakh extortion case filed by contractor Dilar Ahmed, while the case for Tk two crore extortion from controversial contractor Nuruzzaman and that for evading taxes had been

# SDC official due in city statement

Leaders of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) in a joint statement yesterday condemned the irresponsible statement of the minister on power and water crises, says a press release.

They condemned the speech of the state minister for power and energy who said the government has nothing to do in solving the CPB President Manzurul

Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim called on the government to take immediate steps to overcome the crises instead of threatening the aggrieved people.

"If they have nothing to do to solve the crisis, why the ministers are for? Are they here only to lead a luxurious life with the people's money?" the CPB leaders ques-

They also said that the state minister along with the other high-ups blamed the previous BNP-led government for the present crises, adding: "If so, then why are they not taking legal steps against them?"

# Ruet halls reopen tomorrow amid tight security were present at the meeting. RU CORRESPONDENT

Prince Abdul Aziz Bin Majed, the governor of Madina, receives Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on her

arrival at Prince Mohammad Airport in Madina from Makkah yesterday.

Abdur Rouf

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

All classes of Birshrestha

Munshi Abdur Rouf Rifles

College at the BDR headquar

ters in the city will resume on

Students have been asked

to enter the BDR headquarters

through BDR 3 gate (New

Market gate) or BDR 1 gate (BDR

cinema Hall gate). Students of

the morning shift should arrive

at 7:15am and students of the

Teachers will be present at

The students have also

No rickshaws or private

Classes of the morning

Guardians are requested to

been asked to use the same

out of the BDR headquarters.

cars would be allowed to enter

shift will end at 10:30am and

11:30am and classes of day

arrive at the gates 15 minutes

before the end of the school

hours to take back their chil-

dren.

Graft case

against Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

mayor stayed

The High Court (HC) yesterday

stayed the proceedings of a

corruption case against

Chittagong City Corporation

(CCC) Mayor ABM Mohiuddin

Chowdhury filed by the now

After a hearing on a petition

filed by Mohiuddin, a HC divi-

sion bench of Justice MA

Wahhab Miah and Justice

Marzi-Ul Huq also issued a rule

upon the deputy commissioner

(DC) of Chittagong to explain

why the proceedings of this case

The BAC filed the case

against Mayor Mohiuddin on

April 9 in 1995 with Kotowali

Police Station in Chittagong on

charges of corruption involving

about Tk 11 lakh and misuse of

charges against Mohiuddin in

this case on October 20 last year.

Now the proceedings of all

A Chittagong court framed

should not be quashed.

power.

defunct Bureau of Anti-

Corruption (BAC).

the BDR headquarters.

shift at 4:15pm.

dayshift at 11:30 am.

the gates.

April 26, says a press release.

reopens

Apr 26

Rifles College

The authorities of Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology (Ruet) yesterday imposed restrictions on rallies, processions and political activities of the student bodies on the campus for an indefinite period.

A decision to this effect was taken at a meeting with police high officials at the Ruet VC office in the evening.

acting registrar Prof Dr Murtuza Prof Dr Asraful Alam, different on the campus. gate while entering or coming faculty deans, departmental heads, hall provosts, house March 13 following a clash tutors, Assistant Police Commissioner of Motiher zone Jahangir Hossain, Officer-incharge (OC) of Motiher Police (RU) campus that left Shibir Station Habibur Rahman and acting security officer Yasin Ali injured.

The authorities also asked

teachers, officials, students and employees of the university to keep their identity cards with them while they stay on the campus. Earlier on April 20, Ruet

authorities at an emergency meeting decided to reopen the residential halls on April 25 and campus on April 26.

The Ruet authorities will Ruet VC Prof Dr Fazlul Bari, deploy additional police and Ansar personnel on the campus Ali, Student Welfare Director from April 25 to ensure security

Ruet was closed sine die on between Bangladesh Chhatra League and Islami Chhatra Shibir on Rajshahi University leader killed and 100 others

# Train, truck collide in Tangail: 4 injured

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Four people were injured when a goods-laden truck and a Mirzapur upazila under Tangail district on Wednesday night.

Train communications remained suspended on Dhaka-North Bengal rout for six hours following the accident.

Jahangir Alam, officer-in- 4:00am, Jahangir said. charge of Mirzapur Police Station, told The Daily Star that the accident occurred at

Dhaka-bound goods-laden truck from Sirajganj hits a Dhaka-bound train of Lalmoni Express from speedy train collided head-on Lalmonirhat after breaking at Dherua Rail crossing in the crossbar, leaving four people injured.

around 10:00pm when a

Train communications became normal on the route after a rescue train from Dhaka took the goods-laden train to Dhaka at around

The injured people were rushed to the Mirzapur Kumudini Hospital.

# DHAKA

# ODA

### Conference

The 17th Annual Conference 2009 of Zoological Society of Bangladesh will be held. Venue: Department of Agricultural Extension, Farmgate. Time: 100:00am.

### Human chain

Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) forms a human chain protesting the construction of

Tipaimukh Dam. Venue: In front of National Museum. Time: 10:30am.

#### Photography exhibition

The inaugural ceremony of the 3rd annual photography exhibition of Dhaka University Photographic Society will be held. Venue: Drik Gallery. Time: 3:00pm.

#### View exchange meeting

Sampriti Mancha organises a view exchange meeting titled 'Compendium on IP laws in Bangladesh'. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:00am.

## Training programme

Corporate Social Responsibility Bangladesh organises a training programme on 'CSR essentials'. Venue: Hotel Asia Pacific, Baridhara. Time: 9:30am.

### Convention

The two-day 14th annual district convention 2009 of Lions Club

International, District 315A2 will begin. Venue: Hotel Sheraton. Time: 10:00am. Fair

The inaugural ceremony of a twoday education fair will be held. Venue: Residential Model College.

### Memorial meeting

Naripokkho organises a memorial meeting to pay tribute Nasreen Haq. Venue: Rangs Nilu Square. Time:

Media Initiative for Public Policy organises a roundtable on 'Fire safety preparedness'. Venue: PIB conference room. Time: 2:45pm.

### Reception

Feni Samity will accord a reception to noted figures of Feni. Venue:

United International University (UIU) organises a Baishakh Festival. Venue: Battala Residential Model College. Time: 10:00am.

### Publication ceremony

## Roundtable

Human Rights International Bangladesh organises a roundtable on the BDR massacre and human rights violation. Venue: Moni Singh-Farhad Trust Bhaban. Time: 3:00pm.

### Reception

### Lecture

Bangladesh Udichi Shilpa Gosthi organises Engineer Dr Golam Mohiuddin Memorial Lecture. Venue:

#### KHALEDA'S HOUSE BNP to protest in New York

ANA from New York

Pro-BNP expatriates will demonstrate in New York tomorrow demanding withdrawal of the order canceling the lease of Khaleda Zia's cantonment residence.

Akter Hossain Badal, president of USA unit of Release Tarique Movement, said that the next course of action would be declared at the rally.

Demonstrations will be held in New York and through out the USA in line with the central programmes of BNP. he told ANA.

Meanwhile, the leaders of USA, UK, Italy, Australia, Canada, France, Germany and Portugal units of BNP alleged that the government's attitude regarding Khaleda Zia's residence was vindictive.

If the government does not stop such autocratic attitude. they would wage a movement across the globe, Abdul Latif Samrat, chief coordinator of International Affairs of BNP told ANA.

## Salam made CDA chairman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Abdus Salam, chairman of Well Group of Industry, has been made new chairman of Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) yesterday.

The establishment ministry at the directive of the president gave him the contractual appointment to the post for the next two years with immediate effect, says the concerned ministry circular.

Sources said Salam is expected to take office as the new CDA chairman in a day or two, said the sources.

## Obituary

UNB, Dhaka

Syed Ahmed, a freedom fighter and former office secretary of Awami League, died at LabAid Hospital here yesterday at the age of 70.

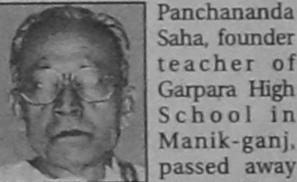
Ahmed, also former general secretary of Jubo League and Bangladesh Taxes Bar Association, left behind his wife, sons and daughters and a host of well-wishers to mourn his death.

His namaz-e-janaza will be held at the AL office at Bangabandhu Avenue at 10:00am today.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Acting President of AL Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury and Joint Secretary Syed Ashraful Islam expressed deep shock at the death of Syed Ahmed.

## Panchananda Saha

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Saha, founder teacher of Garpara High School in Manik-ganj, passed away due to old age

complications at his residence in Manikganj yesterday at the age of 85, says a pres release. Panchananda, father of

Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) General Secretary Pathik Saha, left behind his wife, three daughters and three sons and a host of relatives to mourn his death. He was cremated at Garpara.

DRU executive committee in a message expressed deep shock at his death and conveyed sympathy to members of the bereaved family.

#### Sheikh Abdul Wadud STAFF CORRESPONDENT

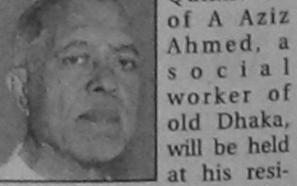
Sheikh Abdul Wadud, retired airport manager of civil aviation and father of Mostafa Firoz, chief news editor of Bangla Vision, passed away due to old age complications yesterday at the age of 81, says a press release. He was laid to rest at his

family graveyard in Keshabpur Mirza Nagar in Jessore.

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

## Qulkhwani

STAFF CORRESPONDENT Qulkhwani



social worker of old Dhaka, will be held at his residence at 35 Prasanna Poddar Lane at Nayabazar in the city

Relatives and admirers are requested to attend the milad mahfil.

Hospital in the city on April 20 at the age of 71.

# Heatwave may continue

pus yesterday morning when he tried to steal money from the cash box. Senior Principal Officer of the branch Rahmat Ara said cashier Suprio Ranjan Chakma

caught Mohammad Yunus when he was trying to steal money from the cash box. Yunus told the bank authorities that he came from Khulna and his accomplice managed to escape. Yunus was

later handed over to the police. Rahmat Ara said that Prof Amulia Chandra Mandal of Mathematics department lost Tkone lakh on April 21 from the branch and she also lost her purse and a mobile set on April

13 from the bank premises. "We informed the higher authorities and they told us to restrict the entrance to the office room, but it is really tough to enforce restriction as we have to deal with university students and they want to meet the officers for their problems several times," she added.

# DMP boss orders action

against drug lords

UNB, Dhaka Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner Shahidul Huq yesterday armed his force with strict orders to crack down on drug lords without sparing anyone even if they have link

with any influential quarters." The Commissioner gave the instructions to senior police officers at a meeting

held at the DMP headquarters.

drugs trading. He said it is not possible for the police alone to

check this unlawful trade. Huq stressed anti-drug awareness among the police, starting from constable to senior officers, so they can show zero tolerance to the

druglords. hed are to sid The DMP Commissioner said a special anticrime drive was supposed to start from last night. The operation will be conducted at identified places where drugs trading

#### Talking to UNB, he said it is the task of the Narcotics takes place, he added. Control Department to check AC chair coach dropped

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Despite good demand, the Western Railway Authorities dropped the lone airconditioned (AC) chair coach from Padma Express train that runs between

Dhaka and Rajshahi from yesterday. The train starts for Dhaka from Rajshahi in the after-

noon and leaves the capital for Rajshahi at midnight. The railway authorities said the AC chair coach has been added to a Dhaka-bound train from Khulna as the AC

coach of Chitra Express needs repair. "The Padma Express will

Celsius at Sylhet.

Sylhet

Cox's Bazar

from Padma Express of Chitra Express will be repaired," said the chief commercial manager of Western

Railway. "We have decided to drop the coach temporarily following its 30 percent demand. Moreover, the Padma Express has an AC berth-coach alongside the AC chair coach," he

added. However, the passengers have complained that the dropping of AC chair coach would have a bad impact on the service of Padma Express as its demand have risen this

summer. They say they prefer AC chair coach to AC bus for Dhaka as the chair coach costs only Tk 334 per seat while a

# get back its AC coach within two weeks when the AC coach seat of AC bus costs Tk 500.

UNB, Dhaka Weather may 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 is likely at one or two places over Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Tangail and Mymensingh, Met Office said.

Moderate to severe heatwave sweeping over the regions of Chaudanga, Rajshahi, Ishwardi and Jessore and mild to moderate heat wave sweeping over Khulna and Dhaka divisions and the regions of Rangpur, Sayedpur and Dinajpur may continue, it said.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period. The sun sets in the capital at 6:24pm today and rises at 5:29am tomorrow. Country's highest temperature 41.2 degrees Celsius was

recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and lowest 21.8 degrees

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded

in some major cities and towns yesterday were: Humidityin City/Town Temperature in percentage Celsius Evening Morning Max Min Dhaka 36.8 28.3 74 Chittagong 32.2 27.6 82 15 41.2 28.4 81 Rajshahi 75 55 38.0 28.2 Khulna 81 35.0 27.9 Barisal

21.8

27.8

31.5

33.5

82

77

# chief released

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Sylhet city BNP chief Ariful

adinterim bail for six months.

gotten wealth.

But Shama is still on the run Advocate Afzal H Khan and

corruption suspects Arif surrendered to the joint forces on February 25 in 2007. He was sent to jail hajat. Later, five cases were filed

againsthim on different charges.

for ill-gotten money.

stayed by the HC.

# POWER, WATER CRISES CPB protests minister's

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

power crisis even in three years. Ahsan Khan and General

Threatening the people to stop movement to realise their demands implies promoting corruption, crime and crises, they

#### cases against Mohiuddin have been stayed and it was the last such case, his lawyer HS Deb Brahman said.

on Sunday

METRO DESK Director General of Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) Martin Dahinden is due to arrive on a five-day visit to Bangladesh on Sunday, says a press release.

This is his first official visit

to Bangladesh and the first

high-level visit from

Switzerland after the present

government has come to the power. Dahinden is scheduled to meet state minister for foreign affairs and finance minister to discuss bilateral development

He will also meet a number

of civil society, NGO, business

and donor representatives

issues.

of SDC.

and visit several SDC-funded programmes in Rajshahi division. Dahinden took over as SDC director general in May 2008. SDC is a Swiss international

cooperation agency within the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA). Bangladesh is one of the 17 priority countries Time: 11:00am.

5:00pm. Roundtable

Diploma Engineers' Institution Time: 10:00am. Baishakhi festival

The publication ceremony of the third part of the diary of Tajuddin Ahmed will be held. Venue: Planning and Development Academy auditorium. Time: 4:00pm.

Satkhira Sangskritik Forum will accord a reception to Prof MR Khan on his winning the Ekushey Padak. Venue: Shilpakala Academy. Time: 4:00pm.

Engineers' Institution. Time: 5:00pm.

today after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

He passed away at Square