

# Ensure timely distribution of development budget

Speakers urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday urged the government to ensure timely distribution of the development budget so that people of underprivileged community can be its real beneficiary.

The roundtable was organised by Dhoritri Foundation, an NGO, at the auditorium of Bangladesh Arthony Samity (Bangladesh Economic Association) in the city.

"We do not want to see that development budget remains unused at the end of fiscal

year. The budget implementation process must start from July 1, and it must be completed on time," said Foundation President Dr Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad while presiding over the roundtable.

Speaking as chief guest, Social Welfare Minister Enamul Haq Mustafa Shaheed assured that the government will take necessary measure so that the budget is used properly.

He said special projects would be taken to get people with disability involved in professional career.

The minister said safety net

budget and its relations with people of underprivileged community needs to be discussed, but it must be seen that who would be the beneficiary of such discussions.

He alleged that nowadays holding pre-budget discussion on different issues has become a fashion, and many people take part in the discussion for personal benefit.

Executive Director of Dhoritri Foundation Adon Islam presented the keynote paper at the discussion.

The paper contained four-point demand that included

specific mention of cleaners and people with disabilities in the upcoming budget, arrangement of job for one member of each family, coordination between government and non-government organisations in implementing the budget and allocation of 30 percent budget in education, health and training sectors for the underprivileged community.

Columnist Syed Abul Maksud, Adviser of ATN Bangla Nawazish Ali Khan and Rabeya Sultana of ActionAid also spoke at the roundtable.

BDR CARNAGE

## BNP to form human chain today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP will form human chains across the country today protesting the government 'attempt to hide the real culprits' of BDR Headquarters carnage and demanding quick and fair trial of the perpetrators of the massacre.

Party leaders, workers and supporters will form human chain from Gabtali to Jatrabari in the city from 11:00am to 12:00noon and central leaders will present at different spots. Senior leaders including Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain may attend in front of National Press Club to make the programme a success.

BNP secretary general in a statement urged the leaders and activists of the party and its associate bodies to make the programme successful.

The human chain would be formed as part of BNP's month-long agitation programme that began on May 5, demanding solutions to various issues.



Speaker Advocate Abdul Hamid speaks at a discussion on the occasion of May Day at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. Save the Youth Forum organised the event.

PHOTO: STAR

## TRIBUTE PAID TO NUCLEAR SCIENTIST 'Science Bhaban to be built, named after Dr Wazed'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a civic condolence meeting yesterday paid tribute to Dr Wazed Miah, an internationally renowned nuclear scientist and the husband of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, saying that he was a very good human being and politically conscious person with high integrity.

Dr Wazed led a very simple life although he was a scientist of high repute and remained close to the centre of power, they said.

Awami League organised the meeting at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the capital as part of its three-day mourning programme to condole the death of the eminent scientist.

AL presidium member and deputy leader of the Jatiya Sangsad Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury presided over the meeting attended by leaders and workers of different political parties.

The speakers said the death of Dr Wazed is an irreparable loss to the field of science. The nation needs persons like him to implement the AL's electoral pledge of building a digital Bangladesh.

At the meeting, Industries Minister Dilip Barua announced that a Science Bhaban would be built and named after Dr Wazed in the capital to help promote science in the country. Dr Wazed had dreamt of establishing a Science Bhaban to advance science and technology research in the country.

The minister said he would place a proposal in this regard at the cabinet meeting to fulfil the dream of the late scientist.

AL Presidium Member Amir Hossain Amu said Dr Wazed was a son-in-law of Bangladesh Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the husband of the prime minister, but he never misused his power.

Tofail Ahmed, another presidium member, said that during the mass upsurge in 1969, Dr Wazed brought information from Bangladesh to the world.

AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil said Dr Wazed was a man of principle and was always engrossed in study.

Columnist and scientist Dr Ajoy Roy said Dr Wazed had dreamt of establishing a nuclear research centre of international standards.

He was a very brilliant student with outstanding performance in his student life, said the columnist, who

was a teacher of the late scientist.

Jatiya Party (Manju) Secretary General Sheikh Shahidul Islam, AL presidium members Suranjit Sengupta and Matia Chowdhury, Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon and AL leader Mohammad Nasim also spoke.

Cultural personality Asaduzzaman Noor MP recited a poem on Dr Wazed.

The Awami League also arranged special prayers in all mosques, temples, churches and all party offices across the country yesterday for the salvation of the departed soul.

The home ministry also held a special doa and milad mahfil at the ministry. Home Minister Sahara Khatun, State Minister Tanjim Ahmad Sohel Taj and other high officials attended the doa mahfil.

Qulhwani of Dr Wazed will be held at prime minister's official residence, Jamuna, after Asr prayers today.

Dr Wazed passed away at the Square Hospital on Saturday after a prolonged illness. He had been suffering from various health complexities, including kidney and cardiac problems.

## Shafique meets German justice minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Shafique Ahmed met Federal Minister of Justice of Germany Brigitte Zypries in Berlin with particular focus on protection of human rights yesterday.

The two ministers discussed matters of mutual interests and protection of human rights in the meeting.

Lawmaker Nurul Islam Sujon, Additional Law Secretary Mohammad Shahidul Haque, Joint Secretary AK Mohammad Hossain and Charge D' Affaires of Bangladesh Embassy in Berlin Tarik Ahsan also attended the meeting.

The four-member delegation is in Germany on a six-day visit to share knowledge and gather experience from institutions relating to protection of human rights there with view to fully operating the National HR Commission of Bangladesh.

The delegation also visited the embassy and met members of Bangladeshi community in Berlin.

## HC declares illegal forced retirement of Nuruzzaman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday declared illegal a government order sending AHM Nuruzzaman, a secretary of the prime minister's office (PMO), to forced retirement in 2004.

Upon a writ petition filed by Nuruzzaman, an HC bench of Justice ABM Khairul Haque and Justice Md Mamtazuddin Ahmed delivered the verdict.

The then government on June 3 issued an order giving forced retirement to Nuruzzaman from his office.

Nuruzzaman filed a writ petition with the HC challenging the order the same year.

The HC then issued a rule upon the government to explain why its order giving forced retirement to the petitioner should not be declared illegal.

Dr Kamal Hossain appeared for the petitioner.

## BOOK ON HISTORY OF LIBERATION WAR

## HC grants Hamidullah to be party in writ

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday permitted M Hamidullah Khan Bir Pratik, commander of Sector 11 during the liberation war, to become a party in the pending writ petition regarding the declaration of independence.

The HC bench of Justice ABM Khairul Haque and Justice Md Mamtazuddin Ahmed issued the order upon a petition filed by the sector commander.

In the petition, Hamidullah said he is well versed in all the series of events during the war and he wants to be a party to assist the court and highlight on issues like the declaration of independence.

He also stated that late President Ziaur Rahman had declared independence of the country.

After hearing the petition, the court asked him to explain why directions should not be passed upon the government to ban the set of books that distorted the fact regarding the declaration.

On April 20, the HC upon a writ petition filed by MA Salam, a freedom fighter and a private practitioner, issued the rule and also asked the government to explain why it should not be directed to take legal action against the individuals who changed the history of declaration of independence as stated in the Proclamation of the Independence.

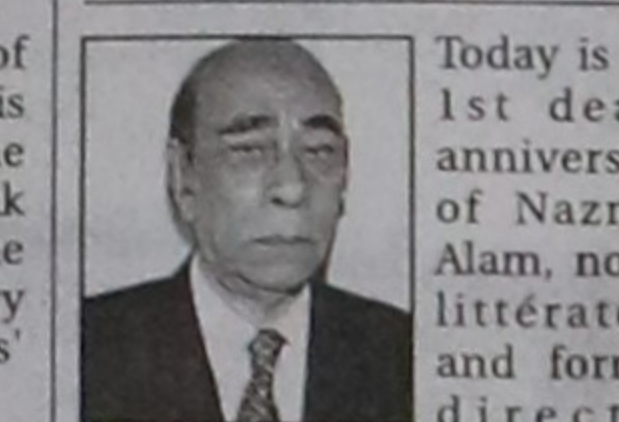
Salam stated in the petition that the set of books -- History of Bangladesh War of Liberation -- published in November 1982 had stated that Bangladesh Sheikh Mujibur Rahman made declaration of independence on March 26, 1971. It was also recognised in the Proclamation of Independence published on April 10, 1971.

Subsequently, the volume was reprinted in December 2003 and was published in June 2004 by the then BNP-led four-party alliance government to say that Maj Ziaur Rahman made the declaration on March 26, 1971.

Barrister Ruhul Qudus Kajal assisted by barrister Nasiruddin Asim and advocate Toufik Inam Tipu appeared for Hamidullah.

## Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 1st death anniversary of Nazmul Alam, noted litterateur and former director

general of Radio Bangladesh, says a press release.

He won the Bangla Academy Literary Award for his short stories in 1978 and was selected the best dramatist for the television drama 'Othocho Pobito' in 1976.

Nazmul also won Lalon Smriti Puroshkar in 1983 and Humayun Kadir Smriti Puroshkar in 1986.

In the same year, the deceased won the award for best story writer by the Asia Week Magazine for Ekti Ochoh Ali (A Counterfeit Coin).

## EDUCATION IN MOTHER LANGUAGE

# 'Include indigenous issue in upcoming edn policy'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday urged the government to include the issue of primary education of the indigenous children in their mother language in the upcoming education policy to ensure their education rights.

As the mother language of the ethnic communities is not Bangla, the language and content of the textbooks is not familiar to their cultural circumstances, they said, adding that to spread the light of education among the indigenous people there is no alternative to imparting education in their mother tongue.

The speakers stressed the need for forming a taskforce or working group or caucus comprising experts immediately to work on the issue.

The national seminar titled 'Basic education in mother tongue for the ethnic minority children' was organised jointly by Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE), Gonoshasthya Kendra, Karitas, Save the Children Alliance, Brac, Bangladesh

Adivasi Forum and three other NGOs at LGED Bhaban in the city.

In his keynote paper, Dr Sourav Sikder, chairperson of the Department of Linguistics, Dhaka University, said around 25 lakh indigenous people of 45 indigenous communities living in the country are lagging behind in many sectors especially the indigenous children are deprived of basic education rights.

Since the existing syllabus of the national curriculum and textbook are in Bangla it is not at all scientific for the indigenous children, he added.

Lack of adequate schools and teachers, lingual obstacles, discriminatory behaviour of the teachers, Bangalee classmates and lack of awareness, financial constraints and lack of specific initiatives are obstacles to the advancement of the indigenous children, he said.

The goal of education for all will not be achieved without prioritising indigenous children's primary education, he said, adding, "We have to adopt a national plan

in light of the concerned strategies and policies to ensure education for all children of the country."

He suggested building schools in every indigenous village, taking initiatives to impart primary education in the mother languages, preparing textbooks in indigenous languages, appointing indigenous teachers and allocating adequate fund in the upcoming budget.

Urging the government to include the issue in the national education policy, Secretary of Bangladesh Adivasi Forum Sanjib Drong said forming a taskforce or working group or caucus is a must to deal with the issue.

Lawmaker Rashed Khan Menon, chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on education, urged all to incorporate the government and other stakeholders into the non-government initiatives for the development of the indigenous community.

Rasheda K Chowdhury, former adviser to a caretaker government, presided over the seminar while lawmaker Promod Mankin also spoke.

## SUNAMGANJ-4 BY-POLL Eleven hopefuls collect nominations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

As many as 11 hopefuls have so far collected nomination papers to ensure their candidature for contesting the Sunamganj-4 by-election which is scheduled to be held on June 15.

Deputy Election Commissioner of Sylhet division Khondaker Mizanur Rahman, who is also the returning officer, told The Daily Star yesterday that the EC preparations are afoot to hold the polls.

A total of 11 aspirants collected nomination papers from the Sunamganj district election office till last evening, he added.

The constituency comprising Sunamganj Sadar and Biswambharpur upazilas went vacant following the death of Momtaj Iqbal on 17 April.

District Jatiya Party chief Momtaj as the grand alliance nominee defeated former whip Fazlul Haque Aspia in the December 29 polls. She had entered the politics following the death of her husband, former minister Maj (retd.) Iqbal Hossain Chowdhury.

Nomination papers would be submitted until May 17, scrutiny on May 20, withdrawal on May 27 and election would be held on June 17.

Those who had collected nomination papers include Fazlul Haque, Minara Begum, Azizur Samad Don, Nurul Islam Chowdhury, Ayub Bakht Zaglu, Wahidur Rahman Sufian and Khairul Kabir Rumen from the AL camp, former lawmaker and acting chief of the district Jatiya Party Abdul Mazid, Iqbal Ahmed of Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh and independent candidates Faizul Ahmed and AA Nizami.

## Agrani Bank Shishu Sahitya Puraskar announced

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Shishu Academy announced Agrani Bank Limited Shishu Sahitya Puraskar from Bangla 1409-1413, says a press release.

The awards were given in seven categories of children's literature -- rhyme-poetry-song, story-novel-mythology, biography-essay, translation-travelogue, health-science-technology, drama, and cover illustration.

The winners will be given a citation and Tk 10,000 each.

## Training course on PR

METRO DESK

Bangladesh Institute of Journalism and Electronic Media (BIJEM) is organising a two-week training course titled 'Public relations and modern technique of public relations' beginning from May 17.

The main objective of the course is to develop the image of certain institutions or organisations by strengthening the skills of public relations officers through theoretical and practical education, says a press release.

Public relations experts, leading journalists both from print and electronic media, university teachers, advertisement and ICT experts will conduct the course as resource persons. This particular course is open for professional PR men and also for people keen to build career in public relations.

The last date for submitting nomination/application is May 17.

Classes will be held on Sunday-Thursday from 5:00pm-7:30pm. Interested candidates are requested to contact BIJEM office at 257/8 Elephant Road at Kataban in the city.

## GRAFT IN RIVER DREDGING IN LAST 7 YRS

# JS body asks ministry to submit report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary standing body yesterday expressed deep resentment over the corruption in the name of river dredging and asked the water resources ministry to submit a detailed report on corruption and irregularities in dredging sector during the immediate-past BNP and caretaker government.

The standing committee on water resources ministry

also asked the authorities concerned to take stern actions against those who are responsible for destroying forestland during the BNP-Jamaat-led four-party government.

"We think huge corruption took place in the name of river dredging during the last seven years. We have already received several allegations of corruption in this sector," Abdur Razzaq, chairman of the committee, told the reporters after a meeting.

"We have asked the ministerial committee formed to investigate corruption in dredging sector to submit its report before the committee's next meeting," he added.

Speaking about committee members' visit to Moheshkhali and Kutubdia

in Cox's Bazar, Abdur Razzaq said mangrove forest around of this region has been destroyed.

Besides, a large area of forestland has been destroyed in the name of fisheries and salt cultivation during the BNP-Jamaat four-party alliance government.

"We have asked the officials concerned to investigate the matter and take stern action against those who are responsible for destroying the mangrove and forestland," Razzaq asserted.

Water Resources Minister Ramesh Chandra Sen and committee members Ruhul Amin Hawlader, Abdur Rahman, AKM Fazlul Haq, Abdullah Al Islam Jacob, ABM Anwarul Haq and AHM Hamidur Rahman Azad were present at the meeting.



## Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at a few places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Barisal and Chittagong divisions in next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

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

The sun sets in the capital at 6:34pm today and rises at 5:16am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 36.0 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 21.5 degrees Celsius at Rangpur.

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	34.5	25.0	73	81
Chittagong	33.0	25.5	76	72
Rajshahi	34.8	22.5	79	70
Khulna	35.3	25.5	87	67
Barisal	33.6	25.4	77	68
Sylhet	32.1	24.5	75	70
Cox's Bazar	35.0	25.5	66	67

## DHAKA TODAY

### Conference

Consumers' Association of Bangladesh (CAB) organises a conference on 'Consumer protection in Bangladesh issues and challenges'. Venue: Hotel Purbani. Time: 8:15am.

### View exchange meeting

Sampriti Mancha and Bangladesh Adivasi Forum will organise a view exchange meeting on the education-related problems of the indigenous people. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 3:30pm.

### Seminar

Children's Television Foundation of Bangladesh organises a seminar on 'Climate change: Impact on children and awareness'. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:00am.

### Drama

The High Commission of India in Dhaka in association with Indian Council for Cultural Relations will organise a dance drama 'Savitr' by Aurobindo Anusilan Society. Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy. Time: 7:30pm.

### Launching ceremony

The launching ceremony of Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project (HEQEP) jointly financed by the government and the World Bank will be held. Venue: Hotel Sheraton. Time: 10:00am.

## DU GEOGRAPHY DEPT

# MS result publication postponed for alleged 'manipulation'

DU CORRESPONDENT

The process of publishing result of MS (master's of science) students under thesis group of geography and environment department of Dhaka University (DU) has been postponed on suspicion of a "possible result manipulation".

The suspicion created when an examinee asked the exam controller over a phone about the possible date of publishing the result, claiming that he has achieved the first class first position.

Exam Controller M Bahalul Haque Chowdhury told The Daily Star, "Moshiur Rahman, an examinee who achieved a 2nd class 27th position in his honours degree, confirmed him that he has got a 1st class 1st position in the exam, while we were preparing the result."

"How does a student know the result that he has become first before publishing it?" he questioned and went on saying that they have postponed the process of publishing it on suspicion of a "possible result manipulation" and the matter is now under investigation.

Bahalul said Moshiur sat for the examination getting nearly 90 percent class attendance. When contacted, Chairperson of the department Prof Shahnaz Haq Hussain said preparation of result and marking exam sheets are controlled by the department's internal examination committee.

"There is no chance of knowing any result before it is published if members of the exam committee do not leak it," she said, adding that the total process is done very secretly based on teachers' professional ethics.

"It is a big crime if someone ruins the secrecy," Dr Shahnaz said and added that she would place the matter in department's academic committee.

Talking to this correspondent, Chairman of the department's exam committee Prof AQM Mahbub said the result was prepared very secretly and transparently. There was no chance of manipulation.

"Two students achieved 1st class 1st positions. It is not like that a student who did not get first class in honours cannot be first in his or her master's," he added.

Quoting the officials of the exam controller office, he further said that Moshiur got the highest mark in the 150-mark thesis course.

Bahalul said Moshiur sat for