



Hafizuddin, Sayeed new TIB chairman, secy general

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former adviser to a caretaker government M Hafizuddin Khan has been elected chairman of the Board of Trustees of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB).

In the annual general meeting of the Board held yesterday, Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed, founder of Bishwa Sahitya Kendra, was elected secretary general while former adviser Advocate Sultana Kamal was elected treasurer, says a press release.

Hafizuddin Khan took over the charge from Prof Muzaffer Ahmad while Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed and Sultana Kamal took charge for three years from Editor and Publisher of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam and M Hafizuddin Khan respectively, who finished their tenure on May 31 this year.

The new office-bearers and other members of the Board thanked Prof Muzaffer Ahmad and the outgoing office-bearers for their contribution to TIB.



JICA Alumni Assoc executives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dr Khondoker Shawkat Hossain and Dr Md Aminul Islam were elected president and general secretary of the executive committee of Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA) Alumni Association for the term 2009-11, says a press release.

The biennial election of JICA Alumni Association was held on Friday.

Other office-bearers are: vice-presidents -- Md Mozammel Haque Khan, Begum Khalida Fahmi and Prof Dr Khorshed Alam Bhuiyan; treasurer -- Engineer Syed Mahfuz Ahmad; joint secretaries -- Dr Ishrat Hafiz and Md Nuruzzaman; organising secretary -- Dr Abdul Hanif; publication secretary -- Rezaul Haque; office secretary -- Md Mir Hossain; research secretary -- Gias Uddin Mia; cultural secretary -- Begum Hosne Ara Khanam; and social welfare secretary -- Dr Munira Parveen.



Hawkers' Kalyan Samity executives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Md Ishak and Md Alauddin were elected president and general secretary respectively of 'Sangbadpatra Hawkers' Kalyan Bahumukhi Samabail Samity Ltd recently, says a press release.

According to the provision 32 (1) of the Cooperative Society Regulations-2004, a nine-member managing committee was formed and took the charge of the office from the outgoing president and general secretary.

Other officer-bearers include Md Nurul Amin Mihazi, vice president; and Kazi Mahinuddin Bashir, Rafiq Ahmed, Mohaddad Ebrahim, Mohammad Yusuf, Abu Taher and Jakir Hossain, directors.

ACC BOSSES' REFUSAL TO APPEAR JS body to decide next course of action today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The parliamentary standing committee on public undertakings sits today to decide the next course of action as the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) bosses once again refused to appear before it.

The ACC in a letter to the committee on Sunday informed that it would not attend today's meeting. Earlier, the ACC high-ups refrained from appearing before the committee on April 8, saying the committee does not have jurisdiction to summon them.

Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, chief of the committee, yesterday told private satellite television Desh TV that the committee might issue arrest warrant against them if they do not attend the meeting.

The ACC's incumbent acting chief M Habibur Rahman, incumbent Commissioner Abul

Hasan Manzur Mannan, former chief Hasan Mashud Chowdhury and ACC Secretary Delwar Hossain, who is now land secretary, did not appear before the committee on April 8.

Their absence prompted the parliamentary body to charge them with the offence of denying the committee access to relevant documents and information for examining the functions and activities of the anti-graft commission.

The committee also decided to hold a joint meeting with the parliamentary standing committee on law ministry today to take necessary legal action against the alleged 'offenders'.

Contacted by The Daily Star last night over telephone, Suranjit Sengupta, chief of the parliamentary standing committee on law ministry, said he did not receive any letter to hold a joint meeting today.

EC to seek SQ Chy's biodata from JS secretariat

UNB, Dhaka

The Election Commission decided to issue a letter soon to the secretary of the Parliament Secretariat asking him to collect the biodata of BNP leader Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury MP, as he ceased from showing his academic qualifications during election, an Election Commissioner said yesterday.

Talking to reporters at the Election Commission Secretariat, Commissioner Mohammad Sohul Hussain said the commission is going to write to the parliament secretary within a day or two.

On other hand, the Election Commissioner said, the commission took decision to continue the legal procedures in the court as Jatiya Party Secretary General ABM Ruhul Amin Howlader filed a case challenging the EC's authority without submitting the educational certificates to the commission as per requirement.

Sohul Hussain said the biodata would be collected from the parliament secretariat and the EC would later take decision for further action after getting the necessary documents.

Sources said BNP leader Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury mentioned nothing as his educational qualifications in the affidavit documents attached with the nomination form for contesting the ninth parliamentary elections, held on December 29 last year.

And the JP secretary general mentioned educational qualifications as BA pass in Public Administration from Dhaka University in the affidavit documents, but his certificates were not submitted to the commission.

On April 13, the EC sent letter to both the leaders to submit the required certificates and the information to the commission within May 31 as deadline, but they failed to keep their commitment.

The election commission said the EC would write letter to the Speaker of parliament to cancel their membership in the last resort on charges of submitting 'false information in the affidavit'.

TIPAIMUKH DAM

Hafiz says he protested India's move

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Vice President and former minister Hafiz Uddin Ahmad yesterday said he had lodged strong protests against the construction of Tipaimukh dam, but Indian side did not pay any heed to those protests.

Protesting the remark of Water Resources Minister Ramesh Chandra Sen which was published in The Daily Star of June 1, Hafiz said the remark is politically motivated and baseless.

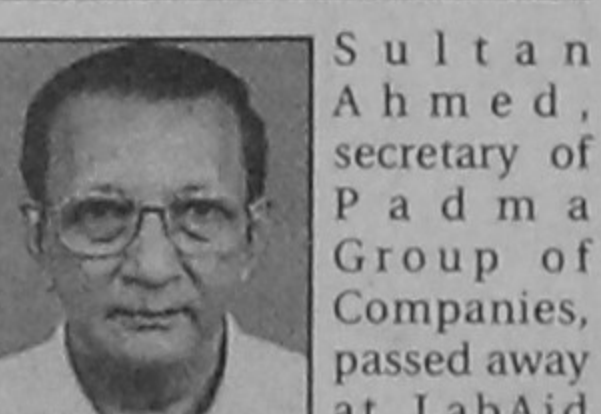
"I had registered strong protest regarding the proposed dam at the meetings of Joint Rivers Commission in 2003 and 2005," Hafiz said, adding that Khaleda's government also lodged protest against the project in April and May 1992 as well as in March 1995.

The former water resources minister said he hoped Ramesh would rise above party consideration and take bold steps regarding Tipaimukh dam appreciating the sentiments of the countrymen.

While talking to reporters at his office on Sunday, present Water Resources Minister Ramesh said the then minister Hafiz did not protest the move which started in 2002 when the BNP-Jamaat coalition was in power.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Sultan Ahmed, secretary of Padma Group of Companies, passed away at Lab Aid Hospital in the city on Sunday at the age of 75, says a press release.

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

Sultan was laid to rest at Azimpur graveyard. All the directors, officials and employees of the business house expressed deep shock at his death, conveyed deep sympathy to the bereaved family and prayed for salvation of the departed soul.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina presides over the cabinet meeting at cabinet division meeting room at Secretariat in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

Govt to cancel leases of unutilised lands in CHT

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

State Minister for CHT Affairs Dipankar Talukder at a workshop on Sunday said initiative has been taken to cancel the lands in the hill districts which were leased for different purposes, but still remain unutilised.

"Those who have leased lands in hilly areas, but did not use those for the purposes will lose their lands. Their leases will be cancelled and initiative has been taken in this regard," he said at the programme as the chief guest.

The workshop titled 'Livelihood situation of indigenous communities in plain land and CHT of Bangladesh: The constraints and probable solutions' organised by ActionAid Bangladesh was held at Cirdap auditorium.

Two research papers, jointly prepared by ActionAid Bangladesh, Alternative Movement for Resources and Freedom Society and PRA Promoters Society, were presented at the workshop.

"The problems of indigenous people living both in plain and hilly areas are not

the same. But their crisis is the same. And the question is of their livelihood. Major portion of the indigenous people are leaving their jobs searching for a better livelihood," said Dipankar.

Human rights activist and former adviser Advocate Sultana Kamal, Parliamentary Standing Committee Chairman lawmaker Promod Mankin, eminent writer Selina Hossain and indigenous leader Sanjib Drono also spoke at the workshop chaired by ActionAid Country Director Farah Kabir.

Appeal for help

METRO DESK



Shikhee Rani Adhikary, a student of first part of M Phil programme under Dhaka University, has been suffering from colon cancer, says a press release.

She stood first class first in both honours and masters final examinations of Sanskrit department.

Shikhee is being treated at Tata Memorial Hospital in Mumbai, and has already undergone four round of chemotherapy. She needs a further eight round of chemotherapy.

But Shikhee, whose father is a headmaster of a primary school, is unable to continue the treatment for want of money.

So she has appealed to well-to-do people of the society for financial assistance to complete her treatment.

Contributions can be sent to Shikhee Rani Adhikary, Account No 12100 380705, Sonali Bank, Dhaka University Branch, Dhaka.

Product fair of CARE Bangladesh

METRO DESK

The Economic Development Unit of CARE Bangladesh organised a product fair styled 'May Fair' at their head office at Karwan Bazar in the city on Sunday.

The fair featured a diversity of handicrafts and other products made by marginalised rural and urban women under the EDU-SHOUHARDO Collaboration project, says a press release.

Some of these goods are even exported to European markets.

The kind of products which were showcased ranges from rugs and place mat made from handlooms, vegetable-dyed scarves, karchupi sarees and traditional dresses, weaved lungi and gamocha, jute bags and scrubbers to mushroom, honey, ghee, hand-stitched greeting cards and dresses, soap and garment items like shirt and punjabi.

The products put on display were gathered from all the four working regions of CARE Bangladesh -- Rangpur, Tangail, Kishoreganj and Chittagong.

Given the artistic flamboyance that these women exude through their work, CARE thought it would be befitting to showcase their talent, read the release.

It is also an opportunity for everyone to realise the struggle and strife that they have to endure each day to develop their human conditions and social positions, the release added.

ALRC concerned over extra-judicial killings

REZAUL KARIM

The Asian Legal Resource Centre (ALRC) yesterday expressed concern over the authorities' continued "blanket justification" for extra-judicial killings that the ALRC says provides impunity and enables further abuse.

In their report on Bangladesh titled 'Bangladesh: Extra-judicial killings, torture, violence against women, media freedom and the lack of an independent judiciary', they said the human rights situation deteriorated significantly during the last caretaker government's tenure.

The report said it is imperative that the new Awami League government take action to address past and ongoing violations through effective investigations and prosecutions. But the authorities are yet to take such actions.

The ALRC said the Awami League in its election manifesto promised that it will not allow extra-judicial killings. It also promised to uphold rule of law and human rights in the country.

Crossfire is often used to justify extra-judicial killings by the authorities. Reports indicate that there were 315 extra-judicial killings in 2006, 184 in 2007 and 149 in 2008.

From January to May 2009, since the new government came to power, a further 20 such killings have been recorded but no action was taken.

Not a single case has yet been investigated by any competent authority.

"Heart attacks" and "suicides" are blamed for suspicious deaths in custody. Around 20 soldiers from the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR), which staged a mutiny in late February 2009, have died under suspicious circumstances in custody.

Despite there being evidence of serious injuries to the bodies, the authorities have claimed that the deaths have mainly resulted from "suicides" or "heart attacks".

On judicial independence, it said although in theory the judiciary was separated from the executive branch in November, 2007, it is still not able to function independently.

The injured were rushed to Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital.

Truck driver Saidul and coach driver Abdul Based died on the spot.

Police said the accident occurred when a coach of Haque Enterprise bound for Parbatipur upazila in Dinajpur collided head-on with a paddy-laden truck coming from the opposite direction at about 3:30am.

Traffic movement on Dhaka-Bogra Highway remained suspended for about one hour following the accident.

TAX EVASION

HC asks Hasnat to surrender before trial court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

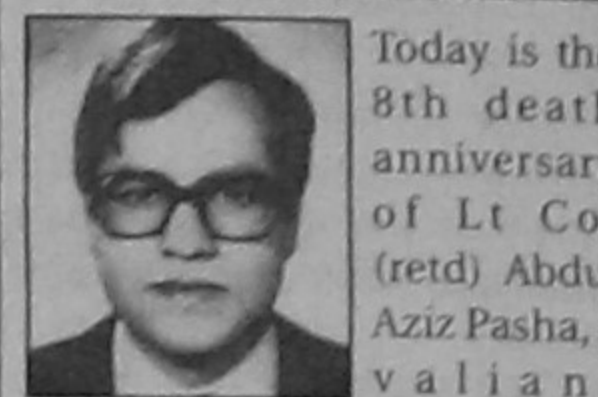
The High Court (HC) yesterday directed former Awami League chief whip Abul Hasnat Abdullah to surrender before the trial court within four weeks in connection with a tax evasion case.

The HC bench of Justice Mirza Hussain Haider and Justice Borhan Uddin passed the order upon a petition filed by Abul Hasnat Abdullah.

Earlier, he was sentenced to eight years by a special court in Dhaka in this case.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 8th death anniversary of Lt Col (ret) Abdul Aziz Pasha, a valiant freedom fighter, says a press release.

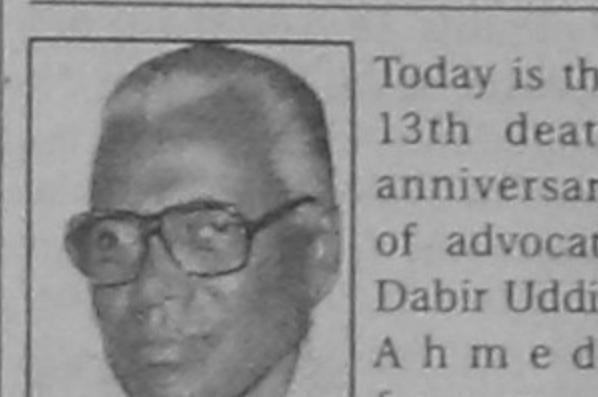
He passed away in exile in Zimbabwean capital Harare in 2001 and left behind his wife, one daughter, one son and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

Pasha joined the then Pakistan Army as a senior captain in 1971. He took part actively in the liberation war.

He was one of those brave Bangalee army officers who gave up their jobs and joined the war.

Dabir Uddin Ahmed

METRO DESK



Today is the 13th death anniversary of advocate Dabir Uddin Ahmed, former lawmaker, organiser of the liberation war, a close associate of Bangabandhu and Sirajganj Awami League leader, says a press release.

On the occasion, a Quankhwani and a milad mahfil will be held at his village at Islampur under Ullapara in Sirajganj and at 213/1-B, Khilgaon Chowdhurypara in the city.

Yeas Bhanu Binu

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 4th death anniversary of Yeas Bhanu Binu, former student leader, Mahila Parishad leader, active member of Communist Party of Bangladesh and wife of Shaheen Rahman, executive editor of the Weekly Ekota, says a press release.

As a student of Fine Art Institute, Binu took part in the movement against Ershad's despotic regime. She was also involved in a number of social and cultural organisations, including Kochi Kanchar Ashore.

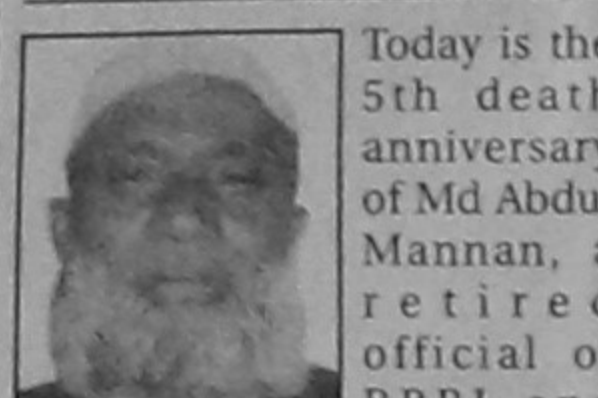
Binu attained her Bachelor's degree in Fine Arts and Master's degree in History of Arts. She worked for the collection of folk art and served as an art teacher.

She passed away at the age of 37 after suffering from cancer.

Communist Party and the Weekly Ekota in a statement paid tribute to Bina's memory.

Abdul Mannan

METRO DESK



Today is the 5th death anniversary of Md Abdul Mannan, a retired official of BRRI and father of poet Arefin Shamsul Haque, a member of public relations and marketing committee of Bangladesh Scouts, says a press release.

A Quankhwani followed by a doa mahfil will be held after Zohr prayers at his own residence Sham's Nikunja at Telepara Chandana in Gazipur and another ritual will be held on June 5 after Zuma prayers at his village home Moyesdipur Waihar Bari Jame Mosque under Senbagh in Noakhali.

All the relatives and friends have been requested to attend the milad mahfil.



Light rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

Moderately heavy to heavy falls at one or two places over Barisal and Chittagong divisions are also likely during the period, Met Offices said.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:43pm today and rises at 5:11am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 35.4 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Madaripur and lowest 22.0 degrees Celsius at Dinajpur.

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
Dhaka	33.1	24.2
Chittagong	29.0	23.3
Rajshahi	34.2	25.9
Khulna	33.5	24.0
Barisal	32.5	25.3
Sylhet	29.1	25.2
Cox's Bazar	29.0	24.0
	Morning	Evening
	70	69
	94	80
	80	65
	86	80
	83	91
	93	91
	94	79

DHAKA TODAY

Discussion

Deshpremk Jonogoner Manch organises an open discussion on Tipaimukh Dam. Venue: Gano Sangskriti Kendra. Time: 3:00pm.

Award giving ceremony

The Kabir Chowdhury Shishu Sahitya Award 2008 giving ceremony will be held. Venue: Bangla Academy seminar room. Time: 4:30pm.

Manik Mia award

The Manik Mia Award 2009 giving ceremony will be held. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 4:00p. Manik Mia Foundation organises the event.