

Govt to fill vacant post of nat'l prof

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is going to fill a vacant post of national professor soon.

The decision was made at a meeting of the high-powered National Professor Selection Committee at secretariat with Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid in the chair.

Committee members Finance Minister AMA Muhith, Post and Telecommunications Minister Raziuddin Ahmed Razu, Education Secretary Syed Ataur Rahman and Dhaka University Vice Chancellor (VC) Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique were present at the meeting.

The meeting decided that proposals on the international standard and national-level educationists and researchers will be invited from University Grants Commission (UGC), health ministry and VCs of the public universities to fill up the post of the national professor.

They will be given a 15-day time limit to put forward names.

One post out of four national professors fell vacant with the death of National Prof AKM Nurul Islam.



Enayetullah Khan's anniversary of death today

METRO DESK

Today is the fourth death anniversary of Enayetullah Khan, founding editor of The New Age and editor-in-chief of the weekly Holiday, says a press release.

A titan of Bangladeshi journalism of regional and international reputation for his fearlessness for more than four decades, Enayetullah Khan passed away in Toronto, Canada, at the age of 66. He had been suffering from cancer of the pancreas.

Having begun his career as a journalist as a cub reporter for the then Pakistan Observer in 1959, Enayetullah Khan went on to found the weekly Holiday in August 1965, before taking over as editor of the paper in 1966.

He was also the editor of the Bangladesh Times between 1975 and 1977. He was awarded the Ekushey Padak for excellence in journalism.

He also served as a minister and as an ambassador to China, North Korea, Cambodia and Myanmar.

Enayetullah Khan was also the president of the National Press Club and the Dhaka Club.

Rafikul Islam Bakul

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna



Today is the 9th death anniversary of Rafikul Islam Bakul, a freedom fighter and former lawmaker.

The chief of Mukti Bahini in Pabna during the liberation war, Bakul hoisted the Bangladeshi flag for the first time in Pabna on March 23 in 1971.

MNLarma

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

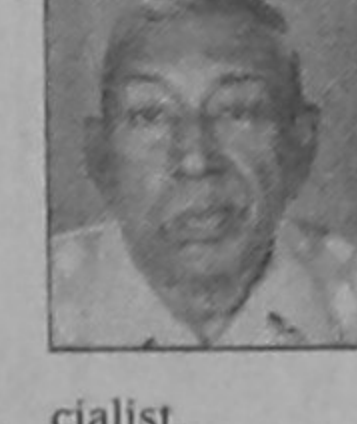
Today is the 26th death anniversary of Manobendra Narayan Larma, a former lawmaker and indigenous leader.

Larma was killed during the armed revolution to establish the rights of the indigenous people in 1983.

On the occasion, a discussion and cultural programme will be held at Liberation War Museum in the city at 3:00pm today.

Prof Dr Md Abdul Qavi

METRO DESK



Today is the fourth death anniversary of Prof Dr Md Abdul Qavi, an eminent child specialist.

The first professor of Paediatrics in the country, he won the first MR Khan Gold Medal posthumously, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad and doa mahfil will be held at his Tikatuli residence in the city.

Take joint action to tackle climate change, recession

Zillur urges OIC countries

UNB, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman yesterday urged the leaders of Muslim Ummah to take a concerted action to face the two-pronged problem of adverse effects of the global climate change and economic recession that has hit the OIC member-countries like Bangladesh.

"Indeed, the challenges caused by climate change, food insecurity and the current economic crisis call for concerted actions," Zillur said this while he was addressing the inaugural session of the 25th Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (COMCEC) in Turkey.

He said the OIC should

reenergise COMCEC as a mechanism for supporting one another in such crisis exploiting the full potential of the resources by enhancing intra-OIC economic cooperation and commercial activities.

"Therefore, we need to focus on meaningful engagement in areas of economic cooperation, trade, science and technology, agriculture, rural development," he told the assembly, also attended by leaders from the oil-rich Middle-Eastern countries, among others.

The COMCEC Economic Summit, being held marking the commercial bloc's 25th founding anniversary, began yesterday in the Turkish city of Istanbul. COMCEC Chairman and Turkish President Abdullah Gul chaired the

function.

Mentioning that Bangladesh is one of the worst victims of climate change, although its contribution to this global menace is insignificant, Zillur said the country's development efforts have been severely frustrated by the devastating impacts of natural disasters.

"Climate change-induced disasters are now hurting us with increased frequency and severity. They are threatening our development gains over the last few decades, and also our efforts to attain the Millennium Development Goals. The erratic pattern of floods, cyclones and droughts is posing particular threat to our food security," he told the meet.

About the current financial and economic crisis, he said the country has been witness-

ing a decline in remittances, reduced trade earnings, credit crunch, shrinking employment market at home and abroad, decreased flow of foreign direct investment, and stagnant ODA (official development assistance).

Zillur hoped that the Summit would usher in new opportunities, provide guidance and show the Ummah the avenues for increased economic cooperation for the betterment of the people.

Emphasising common objectives to build a strong, prosperous and self-reliant economy for the Muslim Ummah, he said collective and consolidated efforts are needed to strengthen and enrich the economies of the Muslim Ummah.

Two polytech students killed as study tour bus overturns

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Two students of Rajshahi Polytechnic Institute were killed early yesterday when a bus carrying a group of students on a study tour overturned while trying to speed away from armed robbers.

The dead were identified as Raju Ahmed and Irene Parvin Molli, both 5th semester students of the institute, while 30 others, including two teachers, were also injured in the accident at Dhamuirhat in Naogaon.

The accident took place at around 2:30am when armed robbers signalled the driver to stop, but he tried to speed away as the robbers chased the bus with firearms.

The students were going to Dhulbari coalmine in Dinajpur on a study tour.

Fifteen of the injured, including RPI Vice Principal Moazzem Hossain and part-time teacher Masum Reza, were taken to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital while the other injured were given first aid.

Delwar condemns attack on house of GQ Chy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Khandakar Delwar Hossain yesterday condemned the attack on the house of BNP leader and former lawmaker Giasuddin Quader Chowdhury and demanded arrest of the culprits immediately.

He also condemned the attack on the offices of BNP and Sramik Dal in Lalmonirhat by Chhatra League men and demanded their punishment.

The BNP leader said AL is trying to establish one-party Bakshal rule suppressing the opposition parties by using its muscle power.

Although many things have changed in the course of time, the character of AL has not changed, he said, adding that they are still trying to deprive the opposition parties of their democratic rights.

People will give a befitting reply to such activities if AL does not show its democratic attitude, Delwar observed.

MUKTIJODHA SANGSAD

Body formed to conduct elections

UNB, Dhaka

The government has formed a five-member election commission for conducting the elections of central, district and upazila command of Bangladesh Mukti Joddha Sangsad.

Retired secretary Mohammad Rashidul Alam was made the chief election commissioner.

The four other members are retired secretary Hiralal Bala, acting secretary of Civil Aviation and Tourism Ministry Shafique Al Mehedi, Brigadier General (Retd) Jalal Uddin Siddiqui and Major (Retd) M Abdus Salam.

The election commission will take necessary measures for holding the elections of central, district and upazila command of the Sangsad the same day.

Ensure safety of ship-breaking workers

HC asks govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the government to take proper steps to enforce the rules of Labour Law 2006 in the ship-breaking industries in Sitakunda to ensure safety of the workers.

The court also issued a rule upon the government to explain why it should not be declared that the incidents of deaths of some workers in the ship-breaking industries resulted from the failure of the government to discharge its duties in enforcing the labour law.

In the rule, the court also asked the government to explain why it should not be directed to ensure the safety of labourers through proper enforcement of the labour law.

A High Court bench of Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain and Justice Qamrul Islam Siddiqui gave the order following a writ petition filed by Ain

O Salish Kendra (ASK), a human rights organisation.

The petition stated that about 30,000 workers have been working in a very vulnerable situation in the ship-breaking industries due to the government's failure to enforce the rules of the labour law.

On an average, a worker dies a week and a worker falls sick a day due to poisonous gases and other accidents, it said.

The petition also said that the government earns Tk 900 crore every year and 90 percent of the demand for iron is met from this sector, but the future of this sector is bleak due to non-enforcement of the law.

Secretaries to the Industries and labour and employment ministries, inspector general of factories, Chittagong divisional commissioner and the president of Ship-Breakers Association have been asked to reply to the rule.



PHOTO: FBCCI

Annisul Huq, president of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry, speaks at a meeting with a delegation of British-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce at the FBCCI boardroom in Dhaka yesterday. Shahagir Bakht Faruk, president of FBCCI, is also seen.



Shaheed Noor Hossain Day today

DU CORRESPONDENT

Today is Shaheed Noor Hossain Day.

On this day in 1987, Noor Hossain, a young pro-democracy activist, was killed in police firing near Zero Point in the city while participating in a procession against the autocratic regime of H M Ershad.

He, headed a shogun Swairachar, Nipat Jak, Gonatantra Mukti Pak (Down with autocracy, let democracy be freed) inscribed in white paint on his chest and back when a bullet pierced through his body.

His death strengthened the movement and expedited the fall of the autocratic ruler and restore democracy in the country.

President Zillur Rahman, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia gave separate messages on the occasion.

To mark the day, Workers' Party of Bangladesh, Gonatantraik Bam Morcha and Bangladesh Krishak Sramik Mukti Andolan will place wreaths at Shaheed Noor Hossain Square at Zero Point in the morning.

Shaheed Noor Hossain Sangsad will place wreaths at Noor Hossain Square at 9:00am, offer Fateha at his grave at Jurain graveyard at 10:00am, hold a milad and doa mahfil at its office at 4:00pm and meet the family members of Noor Hossain at 5:30pm.

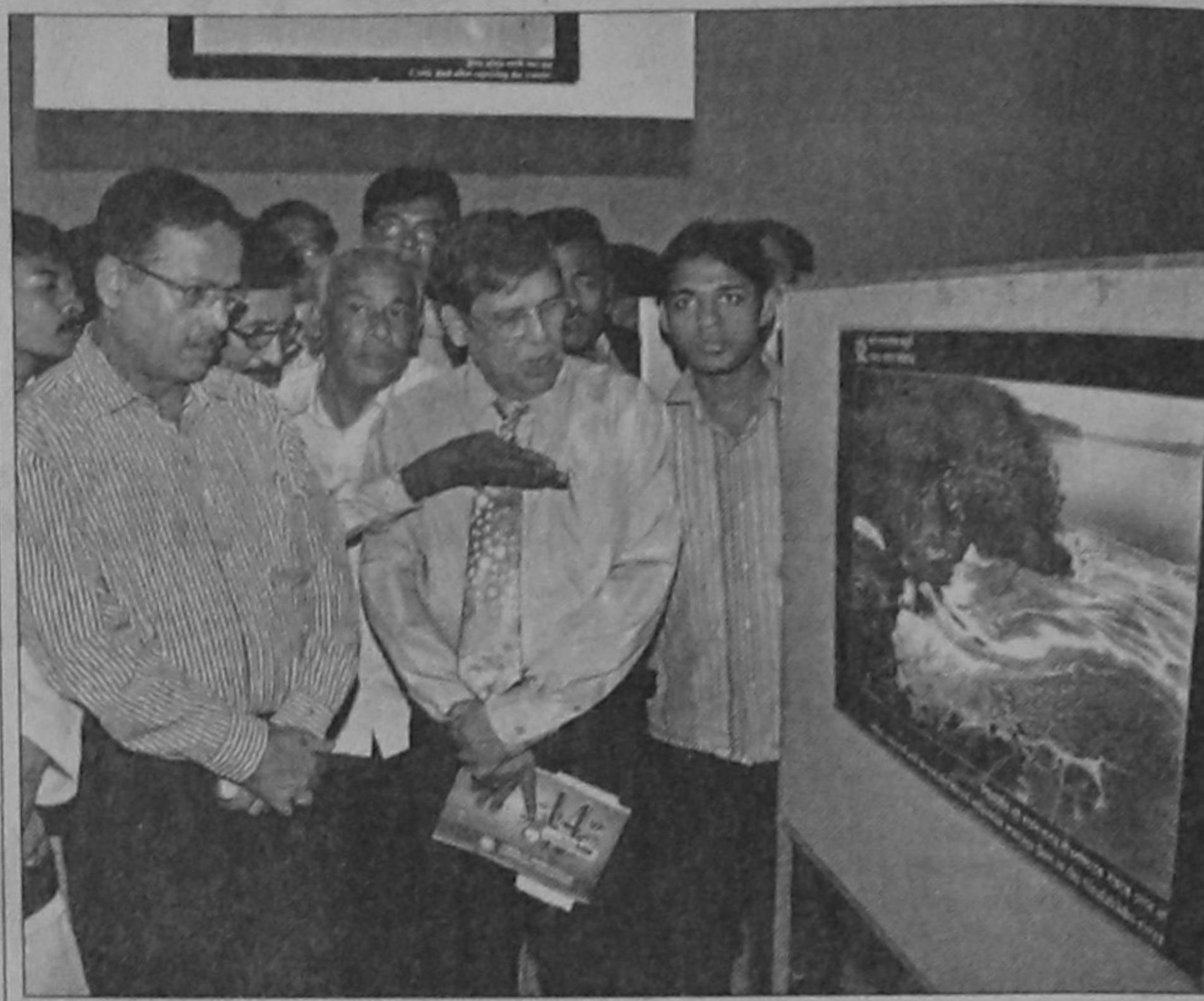


PHOTO: STAR

State Minister for LGRD Jahangir Kabir Nanak and others look at a photo at a photography exhibition on environmental degradation at the National Press Club in the city. Nanak inaugurated the three-day exhibition yesterday, organised by Bangladesh Photojournalists Bahumukhi Samabaya Samity.

DU tender process to go online

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University (DU) has decided to sell and receive schedules of tenders for its development activities online in a bid to avoid tender manipulation.

The DU authorities will start the process experimentally this month.

"We will launch the system experimentally this month at a function and the development of software for the service is going on," Treasurer Prof Mijanur Rahman told The Daily Star on Sunday.

DU Syndicate, the highest decision-making body, has accepted a proposal on the process of introducing the system on October 25, he added.

He said an expert committee comprising specialists from DU and Buet has prepared the proposal in three months.

The experimental process will start selling and receiving tender schedules for purchasing computers and accessories of an institute.

Snatching schedules of tenders or creating obstacles to submitting the schedules of firms by leaders and workers of the ruling party's student body often takes place on the DU campus.

Since Awami League (AL)-led grand alliance government assumed power early this year, its student wing BCL men got involved themselves in manipulating over a dozen of tenders of development works at DU.

"We consider the initiative as a step to digitise the premier institution," Prof Mijanur, adding that this would also help avoid chaos regarding dropping of tenders schedules.

He said the official website of DU is being modified and the tender process will be done through it.

US envoy-at-large arrives today

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

US Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues Melanne Verveer arrives in the city today on a three-day visit to Dhaka to meet the government officials, politicians, and business and civil society leaders.

Verveer, whose position was created by the Obama administration this year, will discuss a range of bilateral and multilateral issues with a special focus on women's development, says a release of American Centre yesterday.

She mobilises concrete support for women's rights and political and economic empowerment through initiatives and programmes designed to increase women's and girls' access to education and health care, to combat violence against women and girls in all its forms, and to ensure that women's rights are fully integrated with human rights in the development of the US foreign policy.

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CORPORATE OFFICE: House: 342, Road: 114, Gulshan-2, Dhaka-1212
 Phone: 9892373, 8832601, 8822613, 8851607, Cell: 01817036478
 01817 143983, 01817 143981, 01817 046632, 01817 143982
 01817 036474, 01817036475, 01817 036476, Fax: 88 02 9885669
 E-mail: anz_dhaka@yahoo.com

CHITTAGONG OFFICE: 1182, Noor Ahmed Road, Love Lane, Chittagong
 Phone: 613004, 613005, 2851414, 0443 4490606
 Cell: 01817 210412, 01817 210413, 01817 210414, 01817 210415
 01813 260584, Fax: 88 031 616220, E-mail: anzproperties_dg@yahoo.com