



Hossain Zillur honoured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman, former adviser to the caretaker government, has been awarded Dr Jean Mayer Global Citizenship Award in the US recently.

The Institute for Global Leadership, Tufts University, conferred the award on Dr Zillur for his contribution to the country's economy, social welfare and policy-making during the period of from January 2008 to January 2009 as well as his vision about South Asia and the contemporary world.

Besides, he also became an Inspire Fellow of the university, says a press release.

An eminent economist and social thinker, Dr Zillur was a leading researcher at the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies from 1977 to 2000. He initiated and led the internationally renowned Analysis of Poverty Trends Project.

In 1996, he founded the Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC). As its executive chairman, he initiated major new research programmes on governance and education and is the author of 'Unbundling Governance'.

Dr Zillur was the lead consultant in preparing the first Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP). He was also appointed to the SAARC Poverty Commission (ISACPA) and was the lead drafter of 'Our Future, Our Responsibility: Roadmap for a Poverty-Free South Asia'.

Biman unable to fly to NY as CAAB demoted
Says pilots' assoc president

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Biman Bangladesh Airlines will not be able to fly its own aircraft on the Dhaka-New York route unless the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) is upgraded to category one from two.

Bangladesh Airlines Pilots' Association (BAPA) President Capt SM Helal said, "Bangladesh's own aircraft will not be able to fly to New York as the United States Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has placed CAAB into Category 2

from 1." He said this yesterday at a press conference at Sonargaon Hotel in the city on the eve of a three-day conference of pilots.

He apprehended that the sky world of Biman, national flag carrier of the country, may also shrink if CAAB, the regulatory body on aviation-related activities, fails to upgrade its category within a specific time frame.

Besides, other reputed airlines from the same grounds, said the pilots' association.

BAPA organised the press conference to inform the media about the Asia/Pacific regional conference of International Federation of Airline Pilots Association (IFALPA).

The BAPA president said around 51 participants from Asia and the Pacific countries, including New Zealand, Australia, Japan, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Mexico and Canada will take part in the conference.

Biman will have to take lease on aircraft from other airways which are under category 1, he added.

AUG 21 ATTACK
CID hunts for IDP adviser Azizul Huq

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Criminal Investigation Department (CID) on Tuesday night raided the residence of Kazi Azizul Huq, an adviser of Islamic Democratic Party (IDP) and a close associate of IDP Chief Sheikh Abdus Salam who is now being gridded on a remand in August 21 grenade attack case.

During the raid that was conducted following an information from Salam, the CID men could not arrest Azizul as he had gone out of his residence, but seized some important documents and a computer's hard disk, said a source close to the IDP leaders.

The CID also interrogated one of Azizul's two sons for around three hours yesterday at CID office to know his father's whereabouts and his links with banned militant outfit Harkatul Jihad Al Islami (HuJI) Bangladesh.

However, it could not be ascertained whether the CID has found any link of Azizul with the deadly grenade attacks that left 23 Awami League leaders and workers

killed and scores injured.

Azizul played a key role in sending Bangladeshi youths to fight Afghan war from 1984 to 1992. He also played a key role in 2006 and during the last caretaker government tenure to bring Huji men in open politics floating the IDP, sources said.

The source also said a team led by an assistant superintendent searched the house for three hours from 12 midnight.

When contacted last night, CID ASP Abdul Kahar Akond, also the investigation officer of the case, did not admit raiding Azizul's residence and questioning his son.

HUJI MAN REMANDED Meanwhile, a Dhaka court yesterday placed alleged Huji member Abdul Majid on a five-day remand in connection with the grenade attack case. The CID sought for a 10-day remand.

Majid, held from the city's Uttara area on January 6 in connection with an arms case, was shown arrested in the grenade attack case following a confessional statement of Abdus Salam.

Hasina glittering example of women's empowerment
Says US envoy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has established herself as a glittering example of global women's empowerment with her determined and relentless efforts towards the development of the womenfolk, visiting US Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues Melanne Verveer said yesterday.

Melanne said this during a meeting with the prime minister at her office. They expressed hope for further "strengthening and deepening" the relations between Bangladesh and the United States.

Sheikh Hasina through the ambassador invited US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to visit Bangladesh.

In reply, Verveer said she would convey the invitation to Hillary. The prime minister lauded Hillary Clinton for her effort towards empowerment of women.

US Ambassador in Bangladesh James F Moriarty, Ambassador M Ziauddin, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister MA Karim, Secretary to the Prime Minister's Office Mollah Waheeduzzaman and Deputy Press Secretary to the Prime Minister Mahbul Hoque Shaki were also present on the occasion.

MUTUAL FUNDS
SC stays HC verdict

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday stayed for two weeks a High Court verdict that allowed issuance of bonus shares or right shares by closed-end mutual funds.

Chamber judge of the Appellate Division justice Md Muzammel Hossain passed the order upon a petition filed by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

The judge also asked the SEC to file a regular leave-to-appeal petition with the Supreme Court against the HC verdict within two weeks.

Following a writ petition, the HC on November 8 delivered a verdict allowing issuance of bonus shares or right shares by the closed-end mutual funds.

Three investors Ibrahim Akand, Delwar Hossain and Raihana Haque filed the writ petition.

4 killed in road crash

A CORRESPONDENT, Comilla

At least four people were killed and 11 others injured in a road accident on Dhaka-Chittagong highway at Syedpur in Burichang upazila on Tuesday night.

The dead were identified as microbus driver Md Beel, 27, of Chhagolnainya village, Oliullah Chowdhury, 56, principal of Ranihat Al-Amin Academy, Maulana Abul Yusuf, 50, principal of

Chhagolnainya Al-Beroni Kindergarden and Maulana Md Ashan, 55, principal of Miskonjura Academy in Feni.

Highway police said the accident occurred when a truck hit a microbus at about 11:30 pm, leaving 11 microbus passengers injured.

Of the injured, four were rushed to Comilla Combined Military Hospital where three died on Tuesday night and another succumbed to his injuries yesterday morning.

Obituary

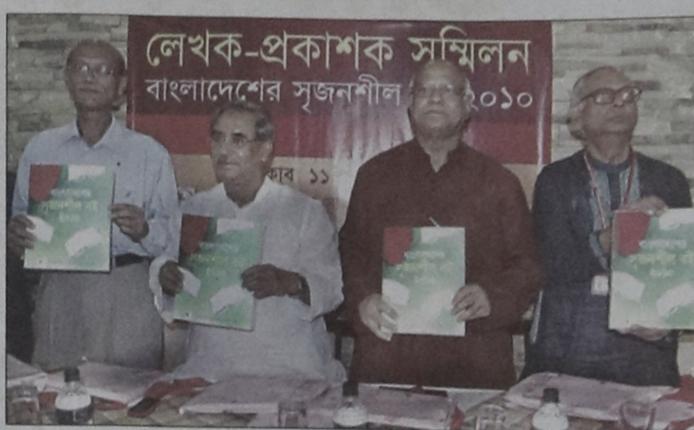
METRO DESK



Maksuda Rafique passed away at LabAid Specialised Hospital in the city yesterday morning at the age of 54, says a press release.

Maksuda was the wife of Ershad Md Rafique, elder brother of Late Sheikh Sultana Kamal, a noted sportswoman, and the daughter-in-law of Late Dabiruddin Ahmed Mridha of Matuail in the city.

Her quirkwani will be held at her residence at 802, South Shahjahanpur in the city after Asr prayers tomorrow.



(From left) Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid, Information Minister Abul Kalam Azad, Finance Minister AMA Muhith and Mohiuddin Ahmed hold copies of a catalogue of creative books titled 'Bangladesher Srijanshil Boi 2010' at its publication ceremony at Dhaka Club yesterday.

CATALOGUE OF CREATIVE BOOKS LAUNCHED
'Steps taken to formulate book policy'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A catalogue of creative books titled 'Bangladesher Srijanshil Boi 2010' was launched in the city yesterday.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid and Information Minister Abul Kalam Azad jointly unveiled the cover of the catalogue at a gathering of writers and publishers at the Dhaka Club.

Bangladesh Gyan O Srijanshil Prakashak Samity (Academic and Creative Publishers' Association of Bangladesh) organised the publication ceremony of the catalogue containing information about 15,000 creative books from 60 publishers.

This catalogue will help readers, writers and researchers get preliminary information about the creative books available in the market, speakers at the ceremony said.

Information Minister Abul Kalam Azad said the government has taken initiatives to formulate a book policy and to curb book piracy.

The role of creative litera-

ture is vital to build a meritorious nation and that the country has a rich heritage of literature, he said.

He also said many books are being published every year and the books have to be distributed in rural areas at a nominal price.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith said many creative books are being published every year and the readership has also grown in the last 15 years.

But the rural areas are lagging behind in education and the practice of literature, he added.

He called on all, especially the writers and publishers, to take steps to promote the practice of literature.

Prof Kabir Chowdhury said lack of scientific knowledge, prevalence of superstition and reluctance to raise voice against fanaticism are preventing the country from moving forward.

A smear campaign is on against 'secularism' and a vested quarter has been claiming that 'secularism' means lack of religion, he said. The people who know the real meaning of it say secularism is concerned with worldly mat-

ters, he added.

"This superstition holds us back. We have to stand against fanaticism and make the people aware that the practice of science is more important," he said.

He urged writers and publishers to help spread the light of education.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid said the number of readers is small compared to the population due to poor literacy rate.

Painting a grim picture of dropouts at primary and secondary levels, he said, "Illiteracy and poverty are interlinked and we have to fight against them."

He also said the government has taken an initiative to distribute free textbooks at primary and secondary levels, but it is facing setbacks.

"However, we hope to reach books to the students before the new year," he said.

Nahid sought cooperation from the publishers for the government's effort to distribute free textbooks.

Association President Mohiuddin Ahmed and Executive Director Osman Gani also spoke.

BSF kills 2

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chnauabganj

The Indian Border Security Force (BSF) gunned down two Bangladeshi cattle traders and injured two others inside Indian territory at Shukdepur opposite to Chouka border under Shibganj in Chapainawabganj yesterday.

One of the dead was identified as Abdul Baset, 25, son of Mohsin Ali, but the identities of others could not be known.

BDR officials said BSF troops of Shukdepur outpost fired six rounds of bullet on a group of Bangladeshi cattle traders when they entered Indian territory to collect cattle near border pillar no 77 at around 5:00am.

The shooting killed two on the spot while injuring two others, the officials added.

The BSF men took away the bodies to their camp.

Major Nazrul Islam, operation officer of 39 Rifles Battalion, said BDR strongly protested the killing in a letter and asked the BSF to return the bodies.

ECO-FRIENDLY INITIATIVES
Bangladeshi NGO wins SEED Award

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

A range of eco-friendly start-up initiatives in Bangladesh, Colombia, India, Niger, South Africa and Zimbabwe have won the Supporting Entrepreneurs for Environment and Development (SEED) Award, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) announced yesterday.

The five Gold Winners of the 2009 SEED Award include a Bangladeshi non-governmental organisation (NGO) developing a low-cost solar lantern made from recycled parts of kerosene lanterns; an association of small-scale women farmers in Zimbabwe striving to reverse severe land degradation through organic farming; a group in Colombia setting environmental standards for local miners; civil society organisations in South Africa and India developing bio-cultural procedures to help

indigenous communities share the benefit of local resources; and institutions in Niger establishing sustainable solid waste management systems to keep cities clean.

The SEED Award recognises promising new locally-driven enterprises that work to improve livelihoods, tackle poverty and manage the sustainable development of natural resources in developing countries, according to a UN News Centre report.

"The SEED Gold Winners show us that a low-carbon, resource-efficient green economy is as much a developing country and rural community issue as it is a developed country one," said UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner.

The SEED Initiative, founded in 2002 by UNEP, is a partnership with the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

President returns home

UNB, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman returned home last night after attending the COMCEC Economic Summit under the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) in Turkey.

"An Emirates flight carrying the President landed at the 21a International Airport at 8:52pm," Abul Kalam Azad, deputy press secretary to the president, told UNB over phone.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith, Agriculture Minister Begum Matia Chowdhury, Dean of Diplomatic Corps Swedish Ambassador Britt Falkman Hagstrom, Turkish Ambassador Sakir Ozkan Torunlar, cabinet secretary and chief of Naval Staff received the president at the airport.

Death anniversary
METRO DESK



Today is the 10th death anniversary of Hasna Hena Qadir, wife of Lieutenant Colonel M

Abdul Qadir, a martyred freedom fighter, says a press release.

Hasna Hena Qadir, who was one of the founders of the Ekatturer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee, died on November 12, 1999.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at her grave at Banani army graveyard in the city after Asr prayers today.

A doa mahfil will also be held and food will be distributed among the destitute.

Rawjatul Zannat Champa
STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the first death anniversary of Rawjatul Zannat Champa, a noted artist, says a press release.

One of the pioneers in the country's boutique industry, she was the fashion designer of Nipun for nine years.

She also did the illustrations for many magazines and was a teacher at SFX Green Herald International School.

Mansur Ahmed Khan
STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi



Today is the 7th death anniversary of Mansur Ahmed Khan, a freedom fighter and brother of eminent artist Hashem Khan, says a press release.

Mansur was the curator of Martyrs' Memorial Archive at Rajshahi University till his death since its inception in 1976.

Enayet-A-Morshed
STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 5th death anniversary of Enayet-A-Morshed, a social worker and sportsman, says a press release.

On the occasion, a doa and milad mahfil will be held at his residence at 144/4, Nababberbagh at Mirpur in the city and at his village home at Ghashipara of Dinaipur.

www.uabdl.com



Fly twice weekly to
London

Starting from 21 November 2009

@ *TK.33683

ONE WAY

*Conditions apply

United
AIRWAYS (BD) LTD.

ইউনাইটেড
এয়ারওয়েজ (বিডি) লিঃ

... Fly your own Airline

For more information please contact your nearest travel agent or call 24 Hour +88028933271, +8801713486651

Dhaka-Dubai

*TK.21500

ONE WAY

Dhaka-Kolkata

*TK.6850

RETURN