

## Journo Jawadur Rahman no more

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Md Jawadur Rahman, a member of National Press Club, news manager of BSS and assistant editor of The Observer, passed away at his own residence at Maddyha Badda in the city on Wednesday at the age of 72, says a press release.

Jawadur, also a part-time teacher of Mass Communication and Journalism Department of Dhaka University, had been suffering from cancer for a long time.

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

His first namaz-e-janaza was held on National Press Club premises yesterday.

He was laid to rest at Banani graveyard after his second namaz-e-janaza was held at his own residence after Zohr prayers.

Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) President Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury and Secretary General Altaf Mahmud and Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) President Shah Alamgir and General Secretary Omar Faruq expressed deep shock at his death.

National Press Club President Shawkat Mahmud and General Secretary Kamal Uddin Sabuj also condoled his death.

They conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family members.

Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique in another statement expressed deep shock at the death of Jawadur.

In a separate statement, Dhaka University Mass Communication and Journalism Alumni Association said Jawadur Rahman's incredible contribution to journalism and education is unforgettable.

Saber Reza Karim

METRO DESK



Saber Reza Karim, a former civil servant and ambassador, passed away due to old-age complications at his residence at Dhanmondi in the city on Wednesday at the age of 80, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, son and daughter and a host of admirers to mourn his death.

He will be buried at Banani graveyard after namaz-e-janaza after Juma prayers today.

His qulkhwan will be held at Plot 65A, Road 7A, Dhanmondi after Maghrib prayers on Sunday.

Ashraf Jamal

METRO DESK



Ashraf Jamal, former director of Japan Airlines, Dhaka, passed away due to cardiac arrest on Tuesday at the age of 65, says a press release.

He was buried at Azimpur graveyard. A milad mahfil will be held at Gulshan Azad Mosque today after Asr prayers seeking his divine blessing.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been invited to attend the programme.

Rahman Gani

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Rahman Gani, a social worker in Rangpur and father of photojournalist Rafiqur Rahman Reku, passed away at Rangpur Medical College Hospital yesterday at the age of 88, says a press release.

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

He was buried at Munshipara graveyard.

Ranjan Dev

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ranjan Dev, art director of Bangladesh Television, Chittagong Centre, passed away in the city on Tuesday at the age of 42, says a press release.

He left behind his newly married wife, parents, three sisters and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

His was cremated at Abhimitra crematorium on Wednesday in Chittagong.

Information and Cultural Affairs Minister Abul Kalam Azad, Information Secretary Dr Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury and BTV expressed shock at his death. They also conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family members and prayed for eternal peace of the departed soul.

# War criminals to be brought to book: Hasina

'Ershad tried to rehabilitate Bangabandhu killer'

UNB, Copenhagen

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said the nation would get rid of the curse and stigma of the assassination of its founding father completely only after the execution of the verdict in the Bangabandhu murder case.

She also reaffirmed her government's commitment to bringing the war criminals to justice.

The prime minister said this while addressing a community reception and discussion arranged by the Denmark unit of Awami League at Copenhagen Conference Centre on Wednesday on the occasion of the Victory Day and her visit to the Danish capital.

Hasina said that Ziaur Rahman as well as Khaleida Zia rehabilitated the killers of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman by providing them with jobs in the Bangladesh missions abroad and by making them 'so-called' members of parliament.

She mentioned that Khaleida had made Rashid an MP through the 'voter-less farcical election' held on February 15 in 1996.



PHOTO: PID

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina speaks at a community reception and discussion arranged by the Denmark unit of Awami League at Copenhagen Conference Centre on Wednesday night.

General Ershad had also tried to make another killer, Faruq, an MP in the 'farcical' election in 1988, she added. "But the people did not allow him to do so."

Hasina said she and her team are now in Copenhagen to inform the world of Bangladesh's vulnerability to the climate calamities and to arrange compensatory grants for the country's innocent people from the developed countries, who are mainly

responsible for the global climate change through excessive carbon emission.

She also renewed her pledge to make Bangladesh a most peaceful country in the South Asian region. "Terrorism and corruption will have no place in Bangladesh," she added.

It is almost one year since the present government assumed the office on January 6 this year, but none can bring allegations of corruption

against any of the cabinet members, the prime minister told the gathering of expatriate Bangladeshis.

Hasina said the gas resources in the country would be explored and used in such a way that the people can get maximum benefits from their natural resources.

She also observed that the previous caretaker government did one good thing -- they prepared a flawless voter list after identifying some 1.23 crore fake voters.

The present government is working to turn Bangladesh into a modern country, she said and called on the expatriates to help the government in its efforts to bring about development.

Hasina said the expatriate Bangladeshis across the world are the lifeline of the country's economy as they continue to send home a huge amount of foreign currencies despite globaleconomic recession.

She promised to safeguard the voting right of the expatriate Bangladeshis and ensure harassment-free and quality services for them at the country's airports as well as safe migration.

She also requested them to

make investment in various development sectors of Bangladesh.

"I assure you of providing all necessary facilities and creating scopes and a congenial atmosphere for investment in the country," Hasina told the expatriates.

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni and State Minister for Environment Hasan Mahmud also spoke at the reception presided over by Denmark Awami League President Mustafa Majumder.

The reception was followed by a cultural programme where expatriate Bangladeshi women and children performed.

Health Minister AFM Ruhul Haque, Bangladesh Ambassador to Sweden and Accredited Ambassador to Denmark Imtiaz Ahmed, All European Awami League President Anil Das Gupta, The Daily Star Editor Mahfuz Anam, daily Samakal Editor Golam Sarwar, economist Dr Kholiqzaman Ahmad, Fazle Noor Taposh MP, Jahid Ahsan Russel MP, Iqbalur Rahim MP, Mahbub Ara Gini MP and Press Secretary to the Prime Minister Abul Kalam Azad attended the function.

## Language barrier to good salary abroad: Nahid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Foreign language training would expedite the building of skilled human resources and boost their earnings in the labour markets, said Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday.

Deficiency in language skills lowers the salaries of around 65 lakh Bangladeshis abroad, he also said at an inauguration ceremony of a course at foreign language training centre of Madrasa-e-Alia.

He stressed the need for more foreign language training as that may help the Bangladeshis earn handsomely.

"The government initiated the foreign language training project," the minister also said mentioning the project cost is Tk 19.40 crore.

The education boards are now managing the project consisting of 11 centres across the country that will be ended in 2010. Till now a total of 8,362 people received training under the project.

Prof AKM Yakub Hossain, principal of Madrasa-e-Alia, presided over the ceremony while Uzzal Bikash Dutta, joint secretary of education ministry, Prof Noman-ur-Rashid, director of

Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education and Jashim Uddin, project director, also spoke.

**FREE BOOKS FOR STUDENTS** Earlier, at a view exchange meeting at Dhaka College Nahid said he is still receiving threats from vested quarters trying to foil the government's efforts to distribute textbooks among the secondary level students for free.

He, however, reaffirmed that the government would take necessary steps to distribute free books in time.

He also said the education policy will be finalised within this year and it would be implemented next year.

"With the existing curriculum, it would not be possible to fulfil the dreams of building a digital Bangladesh. So, steps will be taken soon to modernise the curriculum," Nahid said.

Students of the Dhaka College demanded that the college be upgraded into a university.

Education Secretary Syed Ataur Rahman and Director General of the Directorate General of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Md Noman-ur-Rashid also spoke at the meeting.

## Change mindset towards children with special needs

Speakers tell workshop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a workshop yesterday called on all to change their attitude towards the mentally challenged children and work together to bring them closer to the mainstream community.

Children with autism and those with mental growth retardation belong to a number of categories, they said, adding that autistic children suffer from different spectrum of disorders.

Autism is a mental condition thought as a syndrome that may range from moderately severe to relatively mild and no clinical deficits. It is a complex neuro-behavioural disorder that usually appears in a child by the age of three.

KIDZCARE, a school for children with special needs, organised the workshop titled

'Good parenting and children with special needs' at a city hotel.

Presenting a keynote paper, Dr Raunak Hafiz, chairperson of Autism Welfare Foundation, said autistic children are born with a lot of potential and have gifts that would make them shine in the mainstream community if they are given the right opportunity.

Such invisible disabilities like autism should not be allowed to hamper the growth of these children, she added.

Dr Raunak, also convener of Autism Thematic Group of Jatiya Protibandhi Unnayan Forum (JPUF), said: "They are not mentally challenged. Autism is a condition and not a disorder. What is normal to them seems abnormal to us."

Founder of Centre of Rehabilitation of the Paralysed

(CRP) Valerie Taylor as the chief guest said, "Being more privileged, we have so many things to learn from these children, including how they are trying to learn and demonstrating the lessons what they have learned."

She praised the parents for their unreserved support to their children and appealed to the society to help the special children to be a part of the community.

Dr Jean-Jacques Laurette of the European Union delegation to Bangladesh, Secretary Muhammad Musa, Society for the Welfare of the Autistic Children (SWAC) Principal Sabina Hossain and Society for the Welfare of the Intellectually Disabled Children, Bangladesh (SWID) Deputy Director Rumiz Uddin Ahmed also spoke.



PHOTO: STAR

BNP takes out a colourful procession from in front of the party's Naya Paltan office in the city yesterday to celebrate the Victory Day.

## DRUG PEDDLING

## Dhaka jail chief guard suspended

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka Central Jail authorities yesterday suspended the chief jail guard on charges of supplying drugs to the prisoners.

On-duty guards caught Havidler Yunus Miah red-handed in front of the main entrance of the jail when he

was entering the jail on Wednesday afternoon with 120 pieces of Ifam tablets, sources said.

Senior Superintendent Towhidul Islam told The Daily Star that they suspended Yunus Miah yesterday.

A departmental case has been filed in this regard, he added.

## Girl dies in wall collapse

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A minor girl was killed and five people were injured when a dilapidated wall collapsed on them at Segunbagicha in the city yesterday.

The dead was identified as Rikta, 8.

Of the injured, Helal, 10, his sister Nazma, 7, and their cousin Rikta were rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) while injured Tusher, a student of Tejgaon College, Foyal, a student of Jagannath University, and one Faruque

were rushed to other hospitals.

DMCH sources said Rikta, who was admitted with injury to her head, died around 7:15pm.

Sub-Inspector Taposh Kumar Barua of Shahbagh Police Station said the accident occurred around 2:45pm when workers of an under-construction building of Abdul Khalek were stockpiling soil against the boundary wall.

The wall collapsed on the children when they were playing beside it while the other victims were crossing over the wall, he said.

## DHAKA TODAY

### Roundtable

Centre for Strategic and Peace Studies (CSPS) organises a roundtable on 'Police remand with special emphasis on moral, legal and practical aspects'. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:00am.

### Festival

United Showbiz Bangladesh organises a three-day Bangladesh Bridal Festival beginning today. Venue: Radisson Water Garden Hotel. Time: 10:00am.

### Publication ceremony

The publication ceremony of 'An imaginary interview of Bangabandhu and other things' authored by Prof Dr ASM Badruddoza will be held. Venue: National Academy for Planning and Development. Time: 4:00pm.

### Reunion

The reunion of Management Net will be held. Venue: Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) auditorium, Dhaka University. Time: 10:45am.

## Farewell reception for chief justice, two SC judges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) and the attorney general's office jointly hosted a farewell reception for three Supreme Court judges, including Chief Justice MM Ruhul Amin, who will go into retirement this month.

The two other judges are Justice Md Joynul Abedin and Justice Md Abdul Aziz, who will retire on December 31. The chief justice will retire on December 22.

The farewell reception was held at the chief justice's court in the Appellate Division. All the judges of the Appellate Division and High Court Division, and a number of lawyers were present.

Speaking on the occasion, SCBA President Advocate AFM Mesbahuddin and Attorney General Mahbub Alam highlighted the works of the judges in their professional life.

Addressing the ceremony, the judges stressed the need for good relationship between the benches of the court and the SCBA to ensure the rule of law and justice in the country.

## Appeal for help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Pinky, a student of Shaheed Mahmud Mahamud Police Lines School in Rajshahi, has been suffering from heart abnormality, says a press release.

The 14-year-old girl has a hole in her heart and it has been becoming bigger day by day, which is life-threatening, doctors said.

Moreover, one of her heart valves has already been damaged and the other valve is affected.

As her condition is deteriorating day by day, she needs advanced treatment immediately, which involves about Tk 5 lakh.

But it is not possible for her middle-class family to afford such an expensive treatment. So, her father has appealed to generous people to extend a helping hand to save Pinky.

Contributions can be sent to the following bank account: Shamsul Hoque Tanku, Savings A/C No. 207-200-19650, Dhaka Bank, Karwan Bazar branch, Dhaka.

## Adamjee old boys' assoc AGM

METRO DESK

The annual general meeting of Ex-students Association of Adamjee Cantonment School and College (EXSAACSC) will be held at AKM Giasuddin Milki Auditorium at Kambarbari in the city's Farmgate area at 3:00pm tomorrow, says a press release.

## Dhaka college girl found dead in Sylhet Army sepoy held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The body of a student of Badrunessa Girls College in the capital was recovered yesterday afternoon from a hotel in Sylhet.

The girl, identified as Raiyan Sultana Sumona, along with Monwar Hossain, an army sepoy in the Chittagong Cantonment, had rented a room at Hotel Paira in Dargah Gate area on December 15.

Sylhet Kotwali thana police took Monwar Hossain in custody.

Hotel authorities said Monwar and Sumona introduced themselves as couple to them. They went to Sylhet to visit the shrine of Hajrat Shahjalal (RA), the hotel authorities quoted the couple

as saying.

Monwar told the hotel authorities yesterday morning that Sumona's body was hanging in the toilet.

The body bore clear marks of attack, said Kotwali police. It was sent to Osmani Medical College morgue.

Police said Monwar claimed that it was a suicide but it can only be ascertained after an autopsy is done.

During preliminary interrogations, Monwar claimed he had a long-standing relation with Sumona, a student of second year honours. She used to stay at a hostel in Dhaka.

Sumona was a relative of Monwar and both hail from Shariatpur district, Monwar informed police.

## BEATING OF STUDENT

## Court summons city school teacher

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday issued summons upon a teacher of Motijheel Ideal School and College asking him to appear before it on March 31, 2010 in a case filed against him on charges of beating a student of class eight mercilessly in November this year.

Metropolitan Magistrate AM Zulfikar Hayat passed the order after SM Abul Kashem, father of the victim SM Ali Zaker alias Samrat, 14, filed a criminal case against the teacher Mohammad Abul Bashar Patwary on December 10.

In his complaint, Kashem mentioned that Bashar had been pressing his son to be taught privately by him for a long time. But he (Kashem) did not agree to have his son tutored by the accused teacher as he (teacher) was earlier dismissed for his alleged corruption and illegal means.

The complainant also said he often beat his son as he did

not agree to have tutored his son by that teacher. But he did not oppose it as his son was a student of a famous school.

The teacher on November 15 asked Samrat to tell his parents to meet with him the next day. Samrat's parents met the teacher the following day accordingly and wanted to know why they were asked to meet him. Then the teacher asked Samrat who had beaten his son Nahid.

The teacher beat Samrat in front of his parents mercilessly with a stick and injured him as he (Samrat) told the teacher that he knew nothing about the incident. Samrat was admitted to a local clinic from where he was shifted to Dhaka National Medical Institute College as his condition deteriorated on November 20.

After his son's release from hospital, Kashem went to Motijheel Police Station for filing a case where police refused to register it on December 9, the complainant added.

## Steps to build bridges at certain heights

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has taken an initiative to ensure that the bridges over the rivers around the capital are constructed at certain heights as per recommendations of a task force so that they do not create obstacles to the movement of water vessels.

It has formed a five-member committee to inspect 14 bridges on Turag, Tongi and Balu rivers and take proper steps so that they are built at certain heights. Some of the bridges are under construction.

The committee was formed at a meeting at the conference room of the shipping ministry yesterday, with Shipping Minister and taskforce chairman Shahjahan Khan in the chair.

The committee headed by

joint secretary (admin) of the shipping ministry Md Alauddin has been asked to submit its reports within 15 working days with recommendations on the next course of action.

The meeting emphasised the need to implement the recommendations of the taskforce to restore navigability of the rivers and ensure uninterrupted water flow through them.

There are 14 bridges from Kanchpur to Mirpur Bridge, which were constructed below certain heights. Seven of them were constructed by Roads and Highway Department, five by LGED and two by railway.

According to the rules, the bridges should be built at the height of 25 feet from the highest water level of the rivers.



## Coalmine Officers' Assoc executives

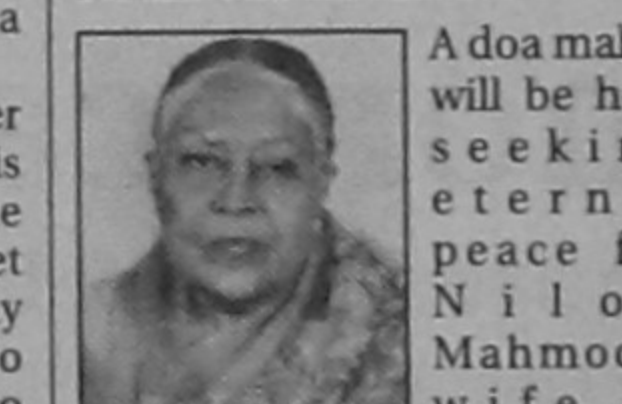
DU CORRESPONDENT

Habib Uddin Ahammad, deputy managing director (underground operations) and Khan Mohammad Zafar Sadik, manager (central), have been elected president and general secretary of the Barapukuria Coalmine Officers' Welfare Association at its election on December 14, says a press release.

Other office-bearers are Vice President Mohammad Anisuzzaman, Organising Secretary Mohammad Yunus Ali, Professional Secretary Mohammad Jahangir Alam, Office Secretary Syed Mohammad Hossain, Sports and Cultural Secretary Mohammad Sajidul Islam and Members Mohammad Mamunur Rashid Sarker, Mohammad Shoyebur Rahman and Mohammad Akkas Ali.

## Doa mahfil

METRO DESK



A doa mahfil will be held seeking eternal peace for Nilo Mahmood, wife of Kafiluddin Mahmood, former finance secretary to the government, at 'Dhanmondi Pride', House 72, Road 11A, Dhanmondi in the city after Maghrib prayers today, says a press release.

She passed away on December 9.

Relatives, friends and admirers are requested to attend the programme.

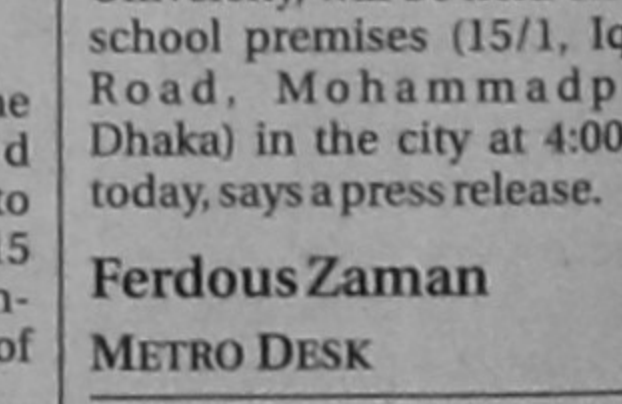
## Qulkhwani

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Qulkhwani of Quazi Azhar Ali, former secretary to the government and founder of Mohammadpur Preparatory High School and founder vice chancellor of Bangladesh University, will be held on the school premises (15/1, Iqbal Road, Mohammadpur, Dhaka) in the city at 4:00pm today, says a press release.

## Ferdous Zaman

METRO DESK



Qulkhwani of Ferdous Zaman, president of Inner Wheel Club of Dhaka and wife of MA Zaman, former chief engineer of Power Development Board, will be held at House-CEN (D) 23, Road-99, Gulshan-2 in the city after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

She passed away on December 12 at United Hospital in the city.