

# Involvement of community vital to keep city clean

Says DCC mayor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka said involvement of community people helps much in cleaning the city, as it is not possible for the government to do the job properly with its limited manpower and infrastructure.

It is a mammoth task for the government alone to clean the city which is home to 1.2 crore people, he added.

The mayor said this at an award giving ceremony of Clean Dhaka Week 2010 organised by DCC at Osmani Udyan in the city yesterday.

He also said that the city corporation has only one-third capacity for waste management.

"The manpower to clean the city and vehicles to carry solid waste are quite insufficient. If the government increases tax or allocate more money for this purpose, we can turn it into a more beautiful and cleaner city. As it is not possible in the current economic context, we are doing this job by involving community people."

Khoka said the waste management cost in the city is worth Tk 100 crore per year and the government is subsidising a huge amount in the waste management sector. Some 50 trucks will be brought soon to this end.

He also thanked Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica) for its cooperation in waste management programme

that began in 2000 and will continue until 2015.

Besides, Jica has been preparing a master plan for Dhaka city, said Chief Waste Management Officer of DCC Capt Bipan Kumar Saha.

DCC and Jica launched the Clean Dhaka Week 2010 campaign on January 10 with a view to involving city dwellers to clean their city with increased awareness.

Five DCC wards out of 90 were awarded for their performance in cleaning the city under the programme. Ward No. 84 won the 1st award while Ward Nos. 86 and 50 won the second while Ward Nos. 36 and 5 received the third awards. Some 48 organisations under these five wards were the awarded for their performance.



Indigenous girls perform a dance number at a cultural fair at Dinajpur Zila School yesterday. PHOTO: FOCUSBANGLA.COM

# University student stabbed to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Muggers stabbed a private university student to death at Silimpur in the town last night.

Police said Al Mumin, a 4th year BBA student of ASA University in the capital, was attacked by a group of six muggers when he and his girlfriend were passing by Shahid Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital at around 9:00pm.

The hoodlums stabbed Mumin indiscriminately leaving him seriously injured.

He was rushed to the hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.

# Road blocked after truck crushes 2

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A woman and her eight-year-old daughter were crushed to death under the wheels of a truck in front of their Gabtoli house on Thursday night leading to a five-hour road blockade by several hundred locals.

As the truck was speeding away the locals went after it and caught its driver and helper in Mohammadpur area, three kilometres off the place of occurrence.

The agitated locals also ransacked around 30 vehicles and put up a barricade on the

Gabtoli-Mohammadpur road at 9:30 pm resulting in a huge traffic tailback.

The victims were identified as Parvin Akter, 25, wife of Dhaka City Corporation sweeper Asad Miah, and her daughter Afsana Mimi, a student of Class II of Baghbari Government Primary School in Gabtoli.

Mimi's uncle Shahid Miah told The Daily Star the truck ran over Parvin and Mimi as they were crossing the Gabtoli-Mohammadpur road on their way to Gabtoli Sweeper Colony at around

9:30pm.

They were returning home from a relative's house at Dhaka Udyan of Mohammadpur, he said.

Mohammadpur police rescued the driver Sentu and helper Mantu after they were given a good thrashing by the locals. Mantu is the driver's brother.

Investigation Officer of the case Hekmat Ali told The Daily Star the truck was going to Chittagong from Hemayetpur, Savar, with some raw materials. He said the arrested driver was sent to the court.

# Aphrodisiac kills four in Tangail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Aphrodisiac prepared by a local herbalist claimed lives of four people while one fell seriously ill at Ghatail upazila in Tangail yesterday.

Out of mere curiosity, the victims took the mixture Thursday around 9:00pm, police and families of the deceased told The Daily Star.

Chanu Miah, 27, and Abdur Rahman, 28, of Kaikkarchala village, Bacchu Miah, 22, and Abdul Latif, 25, of Montala village died while Rafiqul Islam, 25, is now undergoing treatment at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH).

The five were first rushed to Madhupur Upazila Health Complex and then to MMCH Friday morning after they had revealed the matter to their families. Chanu Miah died on the way to the hospital while the rest after reaching there.

Tangail Superintendent of Police Mizanur Rahman told The Daily Star that a local Kabiraj (herbalist) suggested the medicine to the victims. The mixture, called as halua, was said to be a blend of 62 different herbs.

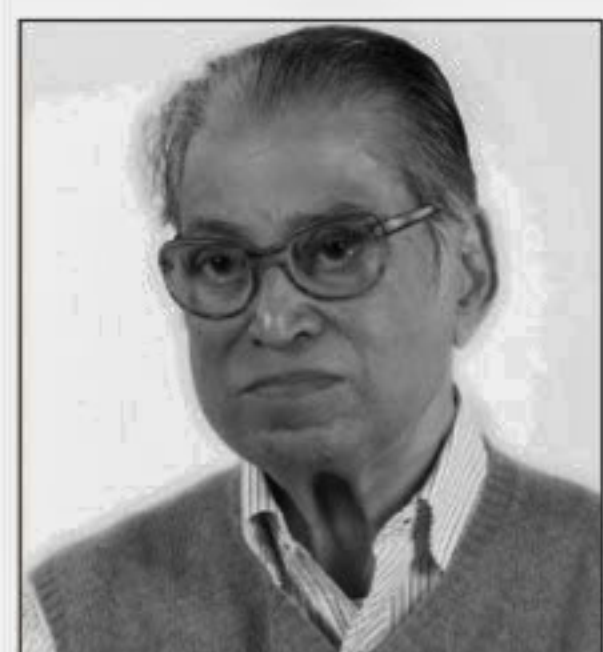
# Jatiya Party council today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The biennial council of the Jatiya Party (JP) will be held at the Institution of Engineers in the city at 10:00am today, said a press release.

Party Chairman Anwar Hossain Manju will preside over the meeting.

Awami League leaders Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury and Syed Ashraful Islam, and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) President Hasanul Haq Inu are expected to attend the inaugural ceremony of the council.



# Qulkhwani of Sayeed Ahmed tomorrow

METRO DESK

Qulkhwani of Sayeed Ahmed, a noted theatre personality, art critic and playwright, will be held at 1/3 Block # D, Lalmatia after Maghrib prayers tomorrow, says a press release.

He passed away at LabAid Hospital in the city on Thursday.

Friends, admirers and well-wishers are requested to attend the qulkhwani.

# Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jahanara Begum, a social worker and one of the pioneers of handicraft movement in Bangladesh, passed away at her residence in Comilla on Sunday last at the age of 78, says a press release.

She was buried at her family graveyard.

Jahanara received Shadhinat Padak for her contribution in social work and organising women.

# A life cut short by eve teasing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pinky's joy of getting new textbooks was doubled when she received those from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

But who could have imagined that it would be so short-lived? The new year might have presented her with many more surprises, but Pinky probably had had enough of this world.

The class IX student could not put up with the insult of being teased and slapped in front of others, which was too harsh on her young mind, and chose to commit suicide.

Police recovered the body of Nashfia Akand Pinky, 13, hanging from a ceiling fan of

the drawing room of her uncle's residence at Shyamoli in the city on Tuesday.

Pinky was brought up at her uncle's residence since her mother had died a few years ago.

Her family members have claimed that Pinky committed suicide because Murad, a driver, had teased her and slapped on her face in the public.

Murad went into hiding immediately after Pinky had committed suicide.

There was no one available at Murad's residence on Thursday.

Police have arrested Kamal, a security guard of the building, that very day after Ali Ashraf Akhand, a paternal uncle of the victim, had filed a

case with Sher-e-Bangla Police Station accusing Murad, the driver of private car, and Kamal.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) Reaz Hossain of Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station told The Daily Star that police have found some information but he won't disclose that for the sake of the investigation.

However, Investigation Officer of the case Sub-Inspector ASM Sayeed said in preliminary investigation they have found that there was an affair between Murad and Pinky.

Jui Begum, 35, a neighbour of Murad, said around 15 days before Pinky committed

suicide, Murad's mother had gone to her grandmother with a proposal. But Pinky's grandmother refused it.

However, Pinky's father Nazrul Islam Akand denied the allegations, saying that a quarter was trying to divert the investigation.

Mohammad Liton, a neighbour of Murad and a neighbour of Pinky, said Murad was absent for seven days before the incident.

When he went to Murad's place, he came to know that Murad was behaving abnormally and taking drugs.

The family of Murad had been living there for around six years while Pinky's family came there over a year ago.

# Trial of bomb, grenade attacks demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Communist Party of Bangladesh leaders yesterday demanded the trial of all bomb and grenade attacks, including those on the CPB rally, Chhayanaut and Udichi, which left a number of people dead.

They placed the demand at a rally organised by the CPB Dhaka city committee at the Mukhtangon in the capital commemorating the CPB leaders killed in a bomb attack in 2001 at the city's Paltan Maidan.

They asked for government aid to the people who sustained severe injuries in the massacre and are now passing days in miseries.

Speaking as the chief

guest, party president Manzurul Ahsan Khan stressed the need for government effort to root out militancy from the country to avert further bomb attack.

About city's worsening traffic congestion, Khan suggested that the government should increase the number of traffic officials and arrange proper training for them.

The CPB president demanded workers' wage commission and payment of their unpaid wages. He also urged the government to take necessary steps for checking the price hike of daily essentials.

Khan emphasised the need for strengthening Bapex and other state-run

organisations to explore gas on their own rather than depending on multinational companies.

Bangladesh Chhatra Union President Manabendra Dev urged the law enforcement agencies to launch a combing drive to free the university campuses from firearms and violence.

Presiding over the meeting, CPB Dhaka city committee president Abdul Kader urged the government to adopt effective diplomatic policy to strengthen relationship with the Saarc countries. He also criticised the industries minister for not opening the factories shut down earlier.

# Graft cases against politicians should be settled fast

Says Prof Badruddoza

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDB) President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday said corruption cases against politicians as well as government officials should be settled fast.

"It is embarrassing for those who are in politics or in government jobs while doing their duties with corruption charges on his shoulders. So, the cases should be settled first," he said at the inauguration of BDB's special council at Institution of Diploma Engineers in the city.

The BDB president said, "Some cases might be false, but let the courts decide the fate of those cases and let the alleged people prove themselves fair. It

does not look good when someone is in an influential post of the government with corruption charge on his shoulder."

The Awami League-led grand alliance government decided to withdraw cases against politicians filed during both the immediate-past caretaker government and the BNP-Jamaat alliance government, saying that those were politically motivated.

Prof Badruddoza also said that a 'crisis of confidence' has grown on the people's mind as both the ruling and opposition parties are continuously deceiving them by telling lies.

"The ruling party said they are hundred percent successful in their first year in power, on the other hand, the opposition party said they were completely suc-

cessful. Both the claims are false, as no one can be fully successful or unsuccessful. Alternative power may seize power again in future if it continues."

The former president said the present government has not been able to deliver its promise of ensuring good governance in its one-year rule. Extrajudicial killings and branding of arms are still ongoing on at educational institutions.

He called on both the ruling and the opposition parties to make parliament effective in the interest of democracy.

Prof Badruddoza advised the government not to make any compromise for reaching an agreement with India on fair share of waters of common rivers.

# First reunion of DU Statistics Dept Alumni Assoc held

DU CORRESPONDENT

The first reunion of the Dhaka University Statistics Department Alumni Association was held on campus amid much enthusiasm and reminiscence of old days.

A good number of alumni of the department participated at the programme on Kazi Motaher Hossain Bhaban premises marking the inauguration of the association.

Dhaka University (DU) Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique inaugurated the celebration in the morning by releasing balloons.

Later in a discussion session, former vice chancellor of Jahangirnagar University Prof Gazi Saleh said the relationship between reality and statistics is very deep. Those who study statistics are more realistic.

Statistics-related works should be done by the statisticians, otherwise there might be problems, he added.

DU VC Prof Arefin said statisticians have been playing a vital role in the development of the country. And those who studied statistics at this university are leading the journey, he added.

Speaking as the chief guest, Editor of the daily Prothom Alo Matiur Rahman said he was a student of the department in the 60s.

Termining the 60s very important in the history of Bangladesh, he said the heart of all movements, including the liberation war, was Dhaka University. Students of the university lead all the movements.

The speakers at the discussion also recalled the contribution of Kazi Motaher Hossain, the founder of the department.

The activities of statistics department at DU began in 1949 alongside the mathematics department.

# Two JMB suspects held

UNB, Sherpur

Police arrested two suspected members of banned militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) from the district town early yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off, a police team raided Dhakalhati village at about 5:00am and arrested Nazmul Shadat Rana, 22.

Following information given by Rana, police also arrested Moniruzzaman Manik, 20, from Sheripara village at about 6:00am.

They were being questioned.

Police super Anisur Rahman said the arrested persons are among the 25 JMB cadres listed by the district police administration.

# EU team to visit Khulna shrimp industry

UNB, Khulna

A three-member delegation of the European Union (EU) arrives in Dhaka tomorrow to observe the shrimp industry, as freshwater shrimps worth Tk 300 crore have been prepared here for export.

The delegation of the EU's Food and Veterinary Mission will visit some shrimp processing factories,

shrimp enclosures and hatcheries during their three-day visit.

They will also exchange views with people involved with the shrimp industry, the country's second-biggest foreign-currency earning sector.

Export of freshwater shrimps to the EU resumes this month after six months' suspension since June last following detection of health-

hazardous antibiotic Nitrofurans in consignments of exported shrimps in January 2009.

The importers had cancelled over 50 consignments of lobsters bound for Europe. As a result, export of the frozen shrimps remained suspended, creating a crisis in the sector.

Now, freshwater shrimps worth Tk 300 crore have been prepared for export.

# Appeal for help

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah



Babul Khan, 30, has been confined to a wheelchair for almost 15 years.

Fifteen years ago, when he used to sell fruits in the market besides his studies, Babul injured the spinal chord in a road accident.

Due to the injury in his spinal chord, both his legs are getting thinner day-by-day.

Doctors have said that if a circuit can be set up in his backbone, he will be able to get back to normal life.

His treatment will cost at least Tk 10 lakh, but it is not possible for her poor mother to bear the expenses.

So, his mother Rizia Begum has appealed to the affluent to extend their helping hands to help save her son's life.

# No change in temperature

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 24 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Prevailing mild to moderate cold wave over Khulna and Rajshahi divisions and the region of Srimongal may continue, Met Office said.

It also said moderate to thick fog may occur over the country during the period. Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:38pm today and rises at 6:42am tomorrow.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 30.3 degree Celsius was recorded at Sylhet and the lowest of 7.0 degrees at Chuadanga.

The 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	26.5	13.2	70	52
Chittagong	27.3	15.0	88	68
Rajshahi	24.2	7.8	96	68
Khulna	26.0	10.2	74	59
Barisal	27.7	10.6	89	77
Sylhet	30.3	13.6	63	53
Cox's Bazar	29.5	16.0	92	79