

Daily Star

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former bureaucrats made the celebration remarkable.  
Speaking on the occasion, Editor and Publisher of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam said, "In the last 19 years the ethos we tried to represent is journalism without fear or favour. It is our duty to represent public interest, it is the public interest that makes the nation and it is the public interest that ultimately makes a newspaper. And we have tried the best of our abilities to represent the public interest."

He appreciated and expressed gratitude to the readers, advertisers, columnists and patrons for their continuous support and help to the newspaper to move forward.

"We feel in The Daily Star our obligation to national interests above all sorts of vested interests," said Mahfuz Anam. "It is you [readers and patrons] to judge whether we have succeeded or not."

He said a newspaper cannot exist if it does not have readers. "So, we are delighted to have your support and I thank all the readers on behalf of The Daily Star team."

He also recalled the contributions of founding editor SM Ali, founding managing director AS Mahmud and founding executive editor Tawfiq Aziz Khan.

Chairperson of the Media World, the owner organisation of The Daily Star, Rokia Afzal Rahman welcomed and thanked the guests.

Prof Rehman Sobhan, Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui, Chief Election Commissioner ATM Shamsul Huda, Election

Commissioner Sohul Hossain, former caretaker government advisers M Hafizuddin Khan and Rasheda K Chowdhury, Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury, Commerce Minister Col (retd) Faruk Khan, Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister JM Quader, Awami League leaders Amir Hossain Amu, Obaidul Quader, BNP leader MK Anwar, Communist Party of Bangladesh Secretary General Mujahidul Islam Selim, Workers Party chief Rashed Khan Menon, daily Prothom Alo Editor Matur Rahman, daily Independent Editor Mahbubul Alam, daily Manabjamine Editor Motiur Rahman Chowdhury, Ambassador Muhammad Jamir, Maj Gen (retd) Muhammad Ibrahim, Syed Abul Maksud, Iftekharuzzaman, Manusher Jono Executive Director Shaheen Anam, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad General Secretary Ayesha Khanam, Prof Badiul Alam Majumder, Aimin Nishat, Jaglul Ahmed Chowdhury, PSC Chairman Sadat Hossain, barrister Rafiq U Haque, noted singer Runa Laila, actor Alamgir, actresses Suchanda, Babita and Champa, singer Samina Chowdhury, among others, were present at the reception.

A large number of professionals, officials from development agencies and non-government organisations also attended the colourful function that ended with a dinner party.

Executive Editor of The Daily Star Syed Fahim Munaim conducted the function.

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PM accuses BNP

**FROM PAGE 1**  
The Zia International Airport was recently renamed Hazrat Sahjalal (R) International Airport by the government.

The cabinet with the PM in the chair decided last Monday to rename institutions and structures named after late president Ziaur Rahman and those whose names of which were "illegally" changed by the BNP-Jamaat coalition government during 2001-2006.

The Awami League organised yesterday's discussion to mark the International Mother Language Day tomorrow. AL Presidium member and Deputy Leader in parliament Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury chaired the programme.

At the discussion Hasina held the opposition responsible for manipulating price hike of essentials, especially rice. She said the country has a huge stock of rice.

About the trial of war criminals, she said the trial must be held in the country. She said, "Until the trial takes place, the souls of thousands of freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives for the country's liberation will not get peace and the goal for which Bangladesh emerged will not be fulfilled."

Coming down heavily on Opposition Leader Khaleda Zia for changing her birthday to August 15, Hasina said the opposition leader observes her birthday on that day in a bid to encourage the killers of father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

"They [BNP-Jamaat] awarded the killers and gave them jobs in Bangladesh missions abroad," she said.

The opposition has not yet commented on the execution of Bangabandhu's killers "because of a severe pain in their heart as they tried all their best to save the killers", said Hasina.

The collaborators of the killers of Bangabandhu could not bring any good for the country, its people and democracy, she said. "Rather they created militancy and destabilised the country. So, you [people] will have to be careful about them."

Hasina directed party leaders to work for the welfare of the people who voted the AL to power and always hope that the AL will stand beside them in times of crisis and need.

She also directed them to strengthen the organisation. She said her government will

work sincerely to build a modern, prosperous "Digital Bangladesh", the most peaceful country in South Asia free from corruption, militancy and criminal activities.

Paying tributes to the language martyrs, the PM said her government will inaugurate tomorrow the International Mother Language Institute, which would work for the rights of all mother tongues in the world.

Addressing the discussion, AL General Secretary Syed Ashrafur Islam said those who had opposed Bangla as the country's mother tongue also opposed the country's Liberation War and establishment of democracy in the country.

Referring to the Nuremberg war crime trials, he said not only the war criminals but also their organisations must face trial.

AL Presidium members Matia Chowdhury, Yusuf Hossain Humayun and Satish Chandra Roy, advisory council member Prof AK Azad Chowdhury, Dhaka University Professor Begum Jahanara, party leaders Mahbubul Alam Hanif and Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, among others, were present at the discussion.

**4-party revival**  
**FROM PAGE 1**  
leaders will sit when the proper time comes," he said.

But Bangladesh Jatiya Party Chairman Andaleeb Rahman Partho yesterday told The Daily Star, "We should face the government united from now on as it is clear that the government will conduct an all out drive against the opposition to establish one party rule." A Jamaat leader said time has come to make the four-party alliance active and hoped top leaders of the alliance will make their decision in this regard in time.

Islami Oikya Jote Secretary General Abdul Latif Nezami said now all can understand the necessity of the alliance. He thinks the revival of the alliance is now a matter of time.

An opposition leader who recently met Khaleda said he and a few others had an informal meeting with her and they discussed the issue. "It is true we have to go for movement but now we have to work on our own to make our respective party strong," he quoted Khaleda as saying.

BNP leaders said the party is fully focused on completing its reorganisation process as well as that of its front and associate bodies. If the situation arise, the party would think about a common anti-government platform after the reforms, they said.

They hoped to complete the BNP reorganisation, with formation of new committees, by this month. The party will also hold grassroots representatives' conference to boost field-level leaders' and workers' morale.

Besides, the party high command announced the new committee of Jatiyatadabi Chhatra Dal, pro-BNP student body, and Chhatra Dal has decided to form new committees at all levels in the next six months.

Khaleda recently said the committees for Jatiyatadabi Jubo Dal and Mahila Dal would be announced soon.

The BNP-led four-party alliance became inactive after the humiliating defeat it had sustained in the December, 2008, general elections.

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Shaheed Minar

**FROM PAGE 1**  
branches of six trees and a few branches of another Palash tree on the south part of the premises.

The PWD authorities might have chopped off the branches on request of law enforcement agencies, said Saiful, also the member secretary of Amar Ekushey Udjapon Committee, DU.

He said law enforcers in several meetings asked to make sure that no trees and their leaves create obstacles to their activities.

Also known as flame of the forest, the trees were planted to carry the spirit of the month of February. And their flowers represent the colourful and joyous season of spring.

Prof Syed Hadiuzzaman, director of the arboriculture department at DU, said every year ahead of February 21 these trees lose their branches.

Prof Md Abul Hasan, chairman of Botany department at DU said, this is the blooming season for Palash and cutting branches in this period is not acceptable.

The current loss might hamper the blooming of flowers next year, he added.

On February 21, government high-ups, including president prime minister, ministers, will pay their tribute to the martyrs of the Language Movement, 1952 by placing wreaths.

Khulna AL

**FROM PAGE 1**  
their followers went to the office of sub-divisional engineer at around 10:00am and prevented them from dropping bid papers.

Nine contractors, who hold different positions in Khulna district and city Awami League, submitted bids under three firms.

Dabiruddin declined to disclose the names of the contractors or the firms.

Wishing anonymity, one of the nine contractors said the 80 other contractors would get back the money they spent for buying tenders schedules.

"It is not true that we prevented anyone from dropping bid papers," he said ruling out the allegation of tender manipulation.

However, Mustafizur Rahman Firu, general secretary of Khalishpur Awami League, admitted the incident of tender manipulation and demanded fresh floating of tenders.

Long queues

**FROM PAGE 16**  
queues of visitors reached upto TSC intersection in the north and Doel Chottor in the south.

Visitors faced sea of dust while passing through the thin lanes of the premises.

The stalls witnessed a very good sale as the sellers were struggling to manage a large number of buyers.

During children's hours, a good number of children visited the premises with their parents. They were moving from one stall to another with joy and excitement.

Meanwhile, the authorities announced the names of the winners of Bangla Academy Literary Award 2009.

The winners included-- Arunav Sarker and Rabul Hossain in poetry, Anwara Syed Haq and Sushanto Majumder in novel, Abul Ahsan Chowdhury in research and Rafiqul Haq in children's books.

As many as 206 new titles arrived at the fair yesterday which included--Pagla Manik by Shawkat Ara Begum, Kabbo Samogra by Baitullah Kaderi, Kemon Kore Parli Tora Bol by Muhammad Habibur Rahman, Shapnera Thake Shapnera Odhare by Mustafa Jamaan Abbasi.

Mosquitoes

**FROM PAGE 16**  
"I have never seen such mosquitoes in my life which I face every day in my home especially in the evening," said Habib, a resident of Uttar sector-14.

An official of DCC said shortage of adulticide, negligence of duty of field workers, lack of proper monitoring and cleaning drive in water bodies are the main reasons of the rise of mosquito menace.

The under construction buildings often block the drains creating new breeding ground for mosquitoes, he said.

The DCC authority did not allocate fund for cleaning the city's water bodies timely which is also the reason for increasing number of mosquitoes, said another official of DCC.

He stressed the need for cleaning a total of 5,142 bighas of water bodies regularly to destroy mosquito breeding grounds, he said.

DCC Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka said effectiveness of adulticide to kill mosquito has been reduced and DCC cannot use more effective adulticide due to protest from environmentalists that also has led to the aggravation of the menace.

He said DCC is also going to conduct another anti-mosquito drive soon to destroy mosquito breeding grounds.

Khoka said a huge number of mosquitoes come to the city from the breeding grounds outside the DCC area.

Environment

**FROM PAGE 1**  
cleaning certificate to ship breakers but the system failed to prevent environmental pollution and reduce the number of accidents.

The last major accident occurred on December 26 last year at Rahim Steel, which had a cleaning certificate from the Department of Explosives. Six people were killed and 12 others sustained severe burn injuries in the incident.

Export or import of foreign ships without cleaning them is a violation of Basel Convention 1989, which Bangladesh has already ratified.

Sources said the environment and forest ministry made the move after ship breakers from Chittagong held talks with Environment and Forest Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud, who hails from the port city.

In its directive on the government on March 18, the court asked the environment and forest ministry to formulate within three months necessary rules on ship-breaking in line with Bangladesh's obligations under the Basel Convention, 1989, the Environment Conservation Act, 1995 and the Environment Conservation Rules, 1997.

But the ministry did not take enough measures to control the ship breakers.

None of the 36 ship-breaking yards at that time took clearance certificate in accordance with the environmental law, rather the number of illegal yards doubled in the last 10 months. Many of them were set up clearing mangrove forests in Sitakunda.

Several visits to ship-breaking yards in Sitakunda revealed that none of the yards had any mechanism to deal with toxic wastes, which they directly dump into sea.

Over 30,000 workers are engaged in ship scrapping in Chittagong's Sitakunda, which houses the world's second largest ship-breaking industry. At least 250,000 people in the country live off the industry directly and indirectly, according to experts.

3 injured

**FROM PAGE 16**  
Chowdhury Shuvra, 23.

Sub-Inspector Abdul Hye of Government Railway Police said an Akhaura-bound local train from Kamalapur Railway Station hit the microbus around 9:30pm when the microbus tried to cross the level crossing.

Witnesses said the gateman being oblivious lifted the bar soon after another local train passed the crossing.

Two pedestrians also sustained injuries as the microbus hit them after it was tossed by the train, they said adding that the vehicular movement was not interrupted, as the accident caused no obstacle on the road.

However, the SI visited the spot but could not ascertain whether the bar was lifted.

Climate change

**FROM PAGE 1**  
another thick layer of problems for the UN as it grapples with what many experts describe as the greatest challenge of this century.

"There is drift and hesitation, and the resignation will add to the mood," said a senior European diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The December 7-19 conference in Copenhagen bitterly disappointed those clamouring for a new offensive against climate change.

It was supposed to unlock a historic pact that, from 2012, would unite all nations in rolling back greenhouse gases and defending poor countries from the damaged weather systems.

But it ended in near-fiasco. Desperate for a face-saving result, the leaders of the major carbon emitters cobbled together an outcome of the lowest common denominator.

Warning should be limited to two degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) and 30 billion dollars would be mustered in aid by 2012, with potentially hundreds of billions more by 2020, they declared.

But the agreement set down no roadmap for reaching the goal and in any case, the pledges made by nations are simply voluntary.

Barely was the ink dry on the accord than countries began to tiptoe away from it. China and India have so far failed to endorse the document, which entails declaring that they wish to be "associated" with it.

Today, momentum and direction seem to have drained out of the climate process, say negotiators.

The Copenhagen Accord lacks traction, for it raises suspicions of a rival forum,

driven by an elite group, to the global format.

And hopes that the United States, the world's second biggest polluter, will give a dynamic push are fading as President Barack Obama's domestic political problems worsen.

"There is a post-Copenhagen daze. Everyone is trying to take stock of what's going on," said Laurence Tubiana, director of the Institute of Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI) in Paris.

After initially talking up the outcome of Copenhagen as a useful consensus, some governments are now openly admitting it was a setback.

"We need to admit that it was a failure," Russian President Dmitry Medvedev said on Thursday. "But at the same time it was a lesson. Such events require a different kind of preparation in the future."

In 2008, 84 vessels were scrapped in Sitakunda. According to an International Labour Organisation report, 551 minor and 42 major accidents took place in the country's 36 ship-breaking yards from 1996 to 1998.

The recent report of a survey, conducted by Greenpeace and International Federation for Human Rights, said on average at least one worker is injured a day and one dies a week.

Dhaka, Delhi

**FROM PAGE 1**  
led the Bangladesh side at the secretary level meeting.

He also said the required investment for the plant will be between \$1.5 billion to \$1.7 billion. "We are not able to give you the exact figure until the feasibility study is finished," he however added.

Azad said although usually it takes around four years to set up such a power plant, they are optimistic about starting power generation in the new plant within three years of issuing the work order.

Replying to questions from reporters on what will be the unit price of the generated power and what will be the per unit cost of the generation, Azad said that also cannot be determined until the feasibility study is done. He also said coal for the plant will be imported, but from where, that has yet to be determined too.

The cross-border power grid will take two years to be set up after the work order is issued. Forty five kilometres of the power line will be in Bangladesh, and the remaining 85 kilometres will be in India.

"It might be possible to begin importing 250MW of power from India from June 2012," said Azad.

About the per unit cost of importing power from India, its Power Secretary HS Brahma said power will be sold to Bangladesh at the rate paid by the state governments of India, which may range between 2.5 and 4 rupees, depending on factors such as generation cost, and the state where the power is being generated.

The Bangladesh power secretary indicated that the final cost of per unit power imported from India might stand at Tk 3.5 for Bangladesh.

He also said the cross-border power line could be used for importing power from the private sector of India as well, since the agreement allows private citizens and companies of both countries to invest in the power sectors of each other.

Talking at the briefing, the Indian power secretary said he hopes that the cooperation in power sector will be a good step forward for bilateral relations between the two countries.

PDB Chairman Alamgir Kabir, and other senior officials of both countries were also present at the briefing.

Outlaw leader killed in 'shootout'

UNB, Rajbari

An outlawed party was killed in a "shootout" between his accomplices and the Rapid Action Battalion members while a constable was injured at Bangram village in Sadar upazila Thursday midnight.

The deceased was identified as Samad Mollah alias Samad Member alias Aziz commander of the banned Purbo Banglar Communist Party (ML-Janajuddha).

Rab sources said a gang of outlaws was holding a secret meeting on the embankment of the Padma River near Laxmikol Govt Primary School to carry out terrorist activities in the area.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of the elite force rushed to the spot and urged the outlaws to surrender.

Sensing their presence, the criminals opened on the law enforcers forcing them to fire back that triggered a ten-minute long gunfight.

"Samad, also chief of Samad Bahini, was wounded in the gunfight while his cohorts fled the spot," said a spot account.

Constable Kamaluddin was wounded in the gunfight, Rab said.

Rab members took Samad to Sadar Hospital where the doctors declared him dead.

A pistol, a revolver, six rounds of bullet and six bottles of phenidyl syrup were recovered from the spot.

Samad was wanted in a number of cases, including murder.

No respite

**FROM PAGE 16**  
were killed in custody since the November 17 suo moto rule upon the government for an explanation on this issue.

The same day Mahbubey Alam assured the court that he would personally ask the Rab director general to take measures so that such killings do not take place in the elite force custody.

He said, "I have instantly informed the authorities concerned of the government about the High Court's concern over the killing incidents in custody."

He also said that he did not know whether any extra-judicial killing took place after the HC had expressed concern over the issue.

The hearing on the suo moto rule, which was to be held on January 10, has not yet taken place due to reconstitution of HC benches early January.

Asked whether there was any possibility of holding the hearing at the HC soon, the attorney general said he did not know about it.

He also said that he did not know the latest status of the case.

In December, human rights organisations Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust and ASK submitted separate statements on extra-judicial killing to the HC. According to the statement, over 1,000 people have been killed in custody in "so-called" crossfire, encounter or gunfight since the Rab formation in 2004.

BSF tortures

**FROM PAGE 1**  
came to Bangladesh following the torture.

Golam said the BSF arrested him and cut off his left wrist at one stage of brutal torture when he was returning to Bangladesh on the night after buying cattle.

The victim later reached Bangladesh territory on the night by crossing bordering Sonair river.

In another incident, cattle trader Nur Islam was tortured by BSF troops of CS Khali camp while he was returning to Bangladesh with four cattle on the same night.

After torturing him, BSF personnel threw him into the bordering Kalindi river near Banshjhharia in Kaliganj upazila. Local people later rescued him. Both the cattle traders were crossing the borders illegally.

When contacted, Major Jahangir of 41 Rifle Battalion and Major Iareq of 7 Rifle Battalion at Nilkumur said they have heard of the incidents.

Dredging

**FROM PAGE 16**  
the Kaptai Lake area here in the morning.

The minister also said different projects would soon be undertaken to ensure employment of people, associated with different activities near the water body.

Vulnerable Group Feeding Cards would be provided in aid of fishermen during the ban period of fishing, said Dipankar Talukdar, state minister for CTE Affairs.

Later, the minister inaugurated a two-day health service camp on the premises of the district civil surgeon office at Old Hospital Road at the town.

China at odds

**FROM PAGE 16**  
of dialogue with the Chinese government," Gibbs said.

The Dalai Lama, who fled his homeland for India in 1959, advocates a "middle way" of seeking greater rights for Tibetans while accepting Chinese rule.

Beijing accuses the Dalai Lama of plotting to split up China, dismissing his conciliatory approach as insincere.

China said Vice Foreign Minister Cui Tiankai summoned US ambassador Jon Huntsman to lodge "solemn representations".

A US embassy spokeswoman told AFP that Huntsman replied by telling Cui "now is the time to move forward and cooperate in ways that benefit our two countries, the region and the world."

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Ma demanded that the United States take immediate steps to "eliminate the pernicious impact" of the White House meeting.