



PHOTO: STAR  
Bangladesh Rifles Director General Major General Md Mainul Islam speaks at the special Darbar at BDR headquarters at Pilkhana in the city yesterday on the occasion of the BDR Week. (Story on Page 1)

## Khaleda blames govt for politicising judiciary

UNB, Dhaka

Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia blamed the government for politicising the judiciary where the judges feel disappointed in administering justice, resulting in what she said lawlessness.

"There is nothing called the rule of law in the country. The behaviour of attorney general is unfortunate. The judges feel frustrated," she said this while she was addressing the newly elected pro-BNP office-bearers of Dhaka Ainjibi Samity at her Gulshan office.

The BNP chair said the country is passing through a difficult time. Terrorism, extortion and killings became order of the day while soaring prices of commodities, scarcity of electricity, gas and water aggravated the plight of the public life.

Khaleda alleged that the government has been

installed in power by external forces to serve their interests. "The only way to salvage the country from this repressive regime is launching a united movement," she told the lawyer leaders.

Refuting allegation of corruption against her government, she said a false campaign is being carried out against BNP. Had BNP resorted to corruption, the country would not have so many development works done during her rule.

In a counteroffensive Khaleda brought charges of corruption against the present government, saying that the people in power are busy making quick bucks.

"Even the ruling party people are saying small thief, medium thief and big thief (MPs, ministers, prime minister) have plunged into corruption. People cannot expect anything if the country remains in the hands of big

thief," she said in metaphorical terms.

Khaleda said despite a peaceful atmosphere in absence of the opposition movement, the government has failed to fulfil any of its election pledges.

Instead of giving job, she said, the people are being made jobless. Good officers in the police department and the armed forces are losing jobs because of politicisation, she alleged, adding that the government is trying to introduce one party rule that cannot be accepted anyway.

Stressing united movement to get rid of the situation, Khaleda said once the movement could be started, people would join it as they did not get anything from this government.

BNP leaders Barrister Zamiruddin Sircar, Barrister Aminul Islam, Barrister Shajahan Omar and Dhaka Ainjibi Samity President Sanaulah Mia were present.

## BSMMU employee commits suicide

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An employee of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) committed suicide yesterday jumping from the top floor of the C block.

Mohammad Hafizuddin, 35, had been working at the Department of Urology for the last five years as a peon.

Hafizuddin, who hailed from Kamaura village of Ashuganj in Brahmanbaria, had been suffering from depression for the last three weeks that forced him to commit suicide, said the hospital authorities.

While talking to The Daily Star, Prof SAM Golam Kibria said, "Hafizuddin used to work under me and he was depressed for the last few weeks because of uncertainty about his job."

Sources at the hospital said Hafizuddin was appointed on a daily basis and it was during the period of Prof Hadi. But recently a group of pro-Awami League leaders of the employees had been threatening to oust him from the job, which made Hafizuddin upset.

Finally he went to talk to the chairman of the department Prof MA Salam who said they have nothing to do with Hafiz's job.

It proved to be the last straw, which made Hafizuddin jump from the fourth floor of the building.

Monir Hossain, a cousin of Hafizuddin told reporters that two days ago Hafizuddin called him over telephone and said a laptop had been stolen from Dr Kibria's room a few days ago and he was suspected and tortured for this. Perhaps it forced him to commit suicide, he said.

However, when contacted, Dr Kibria said that it is a false allegation.

Director of BSMMU Abdul Majid Bhuiyan also said that the laptop issue is a false one.

"Hafizuddin had been suffering from depressive illness and sought treatment at the psychiatry department of the outdoor. Recently one of his sons was run over by a bus and made him more upset," he said.

## A day of funfair

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of underprivileged and mentally challenged children had a great day amid much funfair at the city's Wonderland amusement park yesterday courtesy of G4S, a British private security company.

G4S, one of the world's leading security solution groups, holds the programme fashioned Happy Day on March 3 every year in 26 countries across the globe to make the underprivileged children happy at least for a day.

A group of 20 children from Caring Glory, an organisation that works for the intellectually challenged children, along with ten others, had breakfast, lunch and fun with G4S family members and their children.

Mentally challenged children performed songs, had chats and enjoyed free rides in the amusement park.

"Our goal is to provide the children, who are deprived in normal economic and social conditions, with fun, happiness and sense of integration," said G4S (Bangladesh) Director Reza Amin.

The G4S intends to make them happy for a while, said its Managing Director Selim Chowdhury.

The security group operates in around 110 countries throughout the world, employing over 5 lakh personnel, including management staffs, said Reza Amin, adding that the number in Bangladesh is around 12000.

The group entered the Bangladeshi market in 1998 with the promise to provide quality and international standard security services.

A total of 26 countries of North Africa, Middle East and South Asia (NAMESA) region with Morocco in the west and Cambodia in east celebrate the day.

Spanish Ambassador to Bangladesh Arturo Perez Martinez was also present on the occasion.



PHOTO: STAR  
A group of underprivileged and mentally challenged children perform at a programme at the city's Wonderland amusement park yesterday. G4S, a private security company, organised the programme.

## Extramarital affair behind suicide of Konika

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Extramarital affair with the employer led to the suicide of Konika Parvin, an employee of Brilliant Hira Ltd., police said yesterday.

Konika, 25, office manager of the company at Gazipur, committed suicide by hanging herself from the ceiling fan at her Uttara residence in the city on Monday.

Later, the police recovered her body and also arrested her employer Anu Jaigirdar, who is now on a two-day remand at the Uttara Police Station.

During interrogation in the remand, Anu confessed that he had an extramarital affair with Konika, the police said.

Officer-in-charge (OC) Khandaker Rezaul Hasan said Anu appointed Konika as an office manager in his office but developed an illicit relationship with her with the promise of marriage.

Anu did not marry her after

her repeated requests for marriage, the OC said quoting Anu.

The OC also said one of Anu's friends introduced her to Anu for appointing her at Brilliant Hira Ltd.

Investigation officer (IO) of the case Mohammad Selim told The Daily Star that Konika had been working in Anu's office for the last four years and she also made a trip to France during this period.

The police are now trying to find out whether Konika committed suicide or she was killed, he said, adding that Anu also confessed that his refusal to marry her might have led to the death of Konika.

Dhaka Medical Morgue sources said her death is a case of suicide.

Konika's father Alamgir told reporters at DMC Morgue that Anu's friend helped Konika get the job but Anu deceived her by having illicit relationship with her with the promise of marriage.

## ARRANGEMENT FOR HAJJ PILGRIMS

# Shipping corporation to team up with pvt cos

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Shipping Corporation (BSC) will either go for partnership or joint management with private shipping companies to send Hajj pilgrims to Saudi Arabia by ship this year.

The decision was taken at the 25th meeting of Board of Directors of BSC held at the Shipping Ministry yesterday with Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan in the chair.

The meeting discussed all the possible options in

carrying pilgrims through the sea route and decided to finalise one of them later this month.

Acting shipping secretary Abdul Mannan Hawlader, director general of finance ministry's monitoring cell Dr Chowdhury Saleh Ahmed and BSC Managing Director Commodore Moksumul Kader were present at the meeting.

The last time Bangladesh sent pilgrims by ship to perform Hajj was in 1985.

The government in

February took an initiative to carry pilgrims by ship so that people can perform the holy Hajj at lower expenses than airfares.

The initiative was taken after a private shipping corporation made some proposals for carrying the pilgrims at 40 percent less than the cost of travel by air.

Carrying pilgrims through sea route will help avert the problems in carrying thousands of pilgrims by air for aircraft shortages and other hassles.

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## Changes in GPA-division equivalence system

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has determined anew the equivalence between the GPA system and the division system in the public examinations.

The education ministry has issued a gazette notification to this effect, says an official handout yesterday.

The ministry has amended the earlier notification issued on June 2 last year and set separate criteria equivalent to the grading system for Secondary School Certificate (SSC) and Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) levels to reintroduce 1st, 2nd and 3rd divisions in proportion to grade point average (GPA) marks.

The decision came in the wake of movements from students who claimed that the earlier adjustment of the

grading system with division system was discriminatory.

From now on, GPA 3.00 or above is equivalent to first division while GPA less than 3.00 to 2.00 is second division and GPA less than 2.00 to 1.00 is third division for the students of SSC and equivalent exams and HSC and its equivalents.

According to the earlier notification, GPA 3.50 or above was equivalent to first division while GPA less than 3.50 to 2.50 was second division and GPA less than 2.50 to 1.00 was third division for the students who passed SSC and equivalent exams during 2001-2003 period and who passed HSC and its equivalents in 2003.

The new notification will be in effect until issuing another notification, the handout mentioned.