



## Prof Monirul passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prof Monirul Haque, vice chancellor of Darul Ihsan University and former chairman of the geology department at Dhaka University, died at LabAid Hospital at the age of 70 yesterday morning.

He had been suffering from Hodgkin's Lymphoma for the last four or five months.

His namaz-e-janaza was held at Baitul Aman Jame Mosque at Dhanmondi Road 7 after Zohr prayer yesterday.

His body will be taken to the geology department of DU at 12:30pm on March 25 for the students and teachers to pay their last respects to him and a namaz-e-janaza will be held at DU central mosque. Later, he will be buried at the Martyred Intellectuals' Graveyard in Mirpur.

His qulkhwani will be held at Baitul Aman Jame mosque on March 26 after Asr prayers.

A discussion and doa mahfil will be held at the geology department auditorium on March 27 at 3:00pm.

Born at Doulatpur in Comilla on December 21 in 1939, Prof Monirul Haque joined DU as a teacher in 1961. He also served as a member of University Grants Commission (UGC). He was appointed as VC of Darul Ihsan University on October 10 in 2006.

## AL asks Shawkat to withdraw statement within 7 days

A CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Awami League joint general secretary Mahbub-ul Alam Hanif yesterday asked Jatiya Press Club President Shawkat Mahmud to withdraw his statement against Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina within seven days.

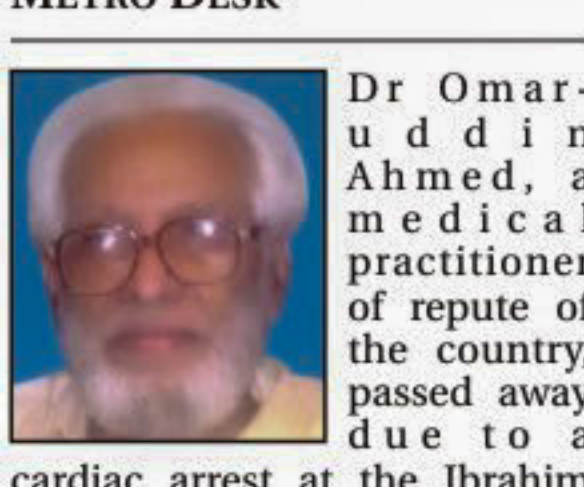
"Withdraw your statement within the next seven days, otherwise the people of the country will resist you wherever you will be found. Then you won't be able to come out of your house and you will not be given any chance to escape," Hanif told Shawkat, also an adviser to the BNP chairperson, while addressing a meeting of the grassroots representatives of the district AL in Cox's Bazar.

"He [Shawkat] also made indecent remarks on women activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League. We strongly condemn such remarks," Hanif said.

Cox's Bazar district Awami League acting president AKM Ahmad Hossain presided over the meeting.

## Dr Omaruddin Ahmed

METRO DESK



Dr Omaruddin Ahmed, a medical practitioner of repute of the country, passed away due to a cardiac arrest at the Ibrahim Cardiac Research Institute and Hospital in the city on March 18 at the age of 82, says a press release.

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

## Garment workers block road

### Commuters suffer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Several thousand garment workers staged a demonstration and put up a barricade near the Nabisco Biscuit Factory at Tejgaon in the city to press home their demand, causing a massive gridlock on Dhaka-Mymensingh Highway yesterday morning.

As a result, commuters had to wait for more than two hours on the road.

Witnesses said garment workers of Focus Fashions Limited along with their colleagues from some other nearby factories took to the street at 9:30am demanding an increase in wages.

Agitating workers also hurled brickbats to the police, injuring a police constable.

The police, however, brought the situation under control two hours later.

Locals said a section of unruly workers of Focus Fashions Limited, an export-oriented sweater factory, have been staging demonstrations on the street over the last few days to realise their demand for a hike in piece rate.

When contacted, owner of the factory Quamrul Islam said they would sit with the representatives of the workers today to resolve the issue. The production in the factory has been suspended for several days.

"We will follow the government rules and BGMEA rules while settling the issue. I won't give in to any unreasonable demands," he said.



Artists perform at the inaugural ceremony of a seven-day programme at Liberation War Museum in the city yesterday marking the 14th founding anniversary of the museum.

## 'Ensure safe water'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The World Water Day was observed in the country as elsewhere across the globe yesterday with a call for ensuring pure drinking water for a healthy nation.

This year the theme of the day was 'Clean water for a healthy world'.

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) with its associate organisations formed a human chain in front of the National Press Club.

The human chain was organised to address the water crisis and its solution with united effort of government, non-government and all other stakeholders.

TIB Trustee Board Chairman M Hafizuddin Khan led the human chain while former managing director of Dhaka Wasa Khandakar Azharul Haque and Director of WaterAid Dr SI Zinnah were present.

A TIB survey has found that lack of decentralisation of power and non-enforcement of water resource law are causes of corruption in the water sector. At least \$670 million are destroyed due to poor water resource management, according to the World Bank data.

Participants from Bangladesh Water Partnership, WaterAid, Dushtha Shasthya Kendra, Dhaka Ahsania Mission, Population Services and Training Centre and Coalition for the Urban Poor took part at the human chain.

Jaago Foundation and Coca-Cola Far East Ltd organised a daylong awareness programme at Jaago Foundation School at Rayer Bazar.

Meanwhile, WBB Trust staged a demonstration in front of Fine Arts Faculty of Dhaka University demanding the water resources be protected and pure drinking water be ensured by saving the country's wetlands.

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## Dowry leads to poverty, violence against women

### Speakers tell national workshop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dowry, a widely practised social malaise, forces many families deeper into poverty and it is one of the main reasons behind violence against women, speakers at a national workshop said yesterday.

Education, economic empowerment of women, women's equal rights to property and social awareness can help eliminate dowry system, they added.

Unnayan Shahojogi Team (UST) organised the national workshop on dowry and poverty at the LGED auditorium in the capital and shared a recently conducted study.

The study revealed that although dowry is illegal under the law, it is a widely practised social custom. It is one of the main reasons for child marriage, domestic violence, divorce and polygamy in the country.

In rural Bangladesh, many families are forced to sell out valuable items and property or take loans with high interest rate to fulfil the dowry demands, which in many cases forces them deeper into poverty.

Dowry demands have different forms such as money, valuables, property and promise of employment.

Ranjan Karmakar, executive director of Steps Towards Development, said, "In our society, men are considered asset while women are considered a burden. As long as women remain burden in the eyes of everyone, the practice of dowry will continue."

Advocate Sultana Kamal, executive director of Ain O Shalish Kendro and former adviser to the caretaker government, said, "Dowry is strongly linked to women's poverty. Poverty makes women more vulnerable. They remain dependent with an undignified status. The exchange of wealth in the form of dowry in a way turns women into a commodity."

Empowerment of women is the key to getting rid of dowry. Women can become successful in many fields if they get opportunities, she said.

Dr Badiul Alam Majumder, global vice president and country director of The Hunger Project, Dr Hamidul Haque, chairman of UST, Shah Md Anwar Kamal, executive director of UST, SM Tojammel Haque, director of UST, and Shaymol Dutt, editor of the daily Bhorer Kagaj, also spoke.

## DHAKA TODAY

**Seminar**  
CARE-Bangladesh and NIRAPAD will jointly organise a seminar on 'Disaster resilient haor: Flood risk reduction activities in Sunamganj'. Venue: Spectra Convention Centre. Time: 9:00am.

**Workshop**  
WHO Bangladesh organises a workshop to orient and update the media on WHO-supported health activities in Bangladesh. Venue: Hotel Sonargaon. Time: 10:00am.

**Roundtable**  
Transparency International Bangladesh organises a roundtable on good governance-related problems in government telecommunication sector and remedies. Venue: Cirdap auditorium. Time: 11:00am.

**Workshop**  
IUCN Bangladesh and WaterAid Bangladesh will jointly organise a workshop titled 'Clean water for a healthy world'. Venue: Bon Bhaban auditorium, Agargaon. Time: 10:00am.

## Meteorological Day today

UNB, Dhaka

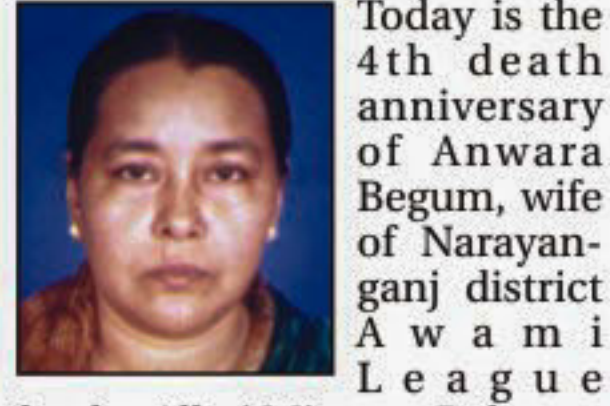
World Meteorological Day will be observed today.

The theme of this year is "60 years of Services for Your Safety and Well-being," said an ISPR release.

It said to facilitate international collaboration in meteorology, including coordination in observations and standardised instrumentation and better forecasting, the day will be observed in all the 189 members of World Meteorological Organisation (WMO).

## Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 4th death anniversary of Anwara Begum, wife of Narayan-ganj district Awami League leader Alhaj Mizanur Rahman Bachchu, says a press release.

On the occasion, milad mahfil and Qurankhwani will be held at her residence at 1 No. Khanpur Main Road and at her father's residence at Dawn chamber and at local orphanages.

## Qulkhwani

METRO DESK



Qulkhwani of Altafur Rahman, former managing director of the City Bank Ltd, will be held at his residence at House No # 88, Sector No # 13, Gausul Azam Avenue, Uttara in the city after Maghrib prayers today (Tuesday), says a press release.

Altafur Rahman passed away at 1:45pm at the Apollo Hospitals in the city on March 20 at the age of 74.

He was the elder brother of the late Birsreshtha Ft. Lt. Matiur Rahman and younger brother of Khurshid Alam, principal adviser of Bangladesh General Insurance Company Ltd and former governor of Bangladesh Bank.

He left behind his only son Sairas Altaf (Shasha), an officer of the City General Insurance Co. Ltd.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to attend the qulkhwani.

