DEROGATORY REMARKS Shawkat asked to appear before court on April 28

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday asked BNP chairperson's adviser Shawkat Mahmud to appear before it on April 28 on charge of making derogatory remarks against Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Metropolitan Magistrate Mehedi Hassan Talukder issued the order after hearing a case filed earlier in the morning with Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court.

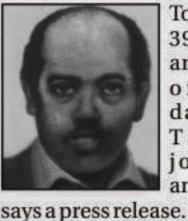
Complainant Advocate Mohammad PK Abdur Rob accused Shawkat, also president of the National Press Club, of making comments against Bangabandhu and the prime minister at a BNP rally in Cox's Bazar on March 20.

Earlier on Thursday,

Advocate Moshiur Malek, president of Bangabandhu Foundation, filed a case against Shawkat with the same court for terming State Minister for Law Qamrul Islam "a Battalar Ukil". The court had asked him to appear before it on April 11 in this case.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



anniversary of Khandakar Abu Taleb, a journalist and lawyer,

Today is the

39th death

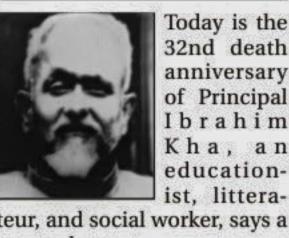
He was killed by the occupation Pakistani Army during the War of Liberation on this

day in 1971. On the occasion, a doa mahfil will be held at his residence at House N0 # 13, Road No # 2, Block # B, Section # 10 at Mirpur in the city after

Maghrib prayers today. Relatives and admirers are requested to attend the doa and pray for salvation of the

departed soul. Principal Ibrahim Kha

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



anniversary of Principal Ibrahim educationist, littera-

teur, and social worker, says a press release.

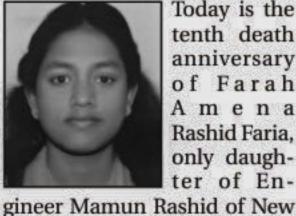
On the occasion, Qurankhwani, discussion and essay writing competition will be held at Principal Ibrahim Kha University College in Tangail today.

A discussion and award giving ceremony will also be held at Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) auditorium at Farmgate in the city at 4:30pm on April 2.

Besides, a discussion will be held at Central Public Library in the city at 4:30pm on April 9 organised by Principal Ibrahim Kha Foundation.

Farah Amena Rashid





tenth death anniversary of Farah Amena Rashid Faria, only daughter of En-

gineer Mamun Rashid of New Eskaton, says a press release.

On the occasion, Qurankhwani, doa and milad mahfil will be held. Food will be distributed among the inmates of Wapda Orphanage at Motijheel in the city.

Robiul Hossain Kochi METRO DESK

Today is the first death anniversary of Robiul Hossain Kochi, a freedom fighter and former chairman of Noakhali munici-

pality, says a press release. On the occasion, Qurankhwani and milad mahfil will be held at Noakhali Zame Masjid and his house

Maijdee Kalitara. Relatives, friends and admirers are requested to attend the programmes and pray for salvation of his departed soul.

Qulkhwani

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

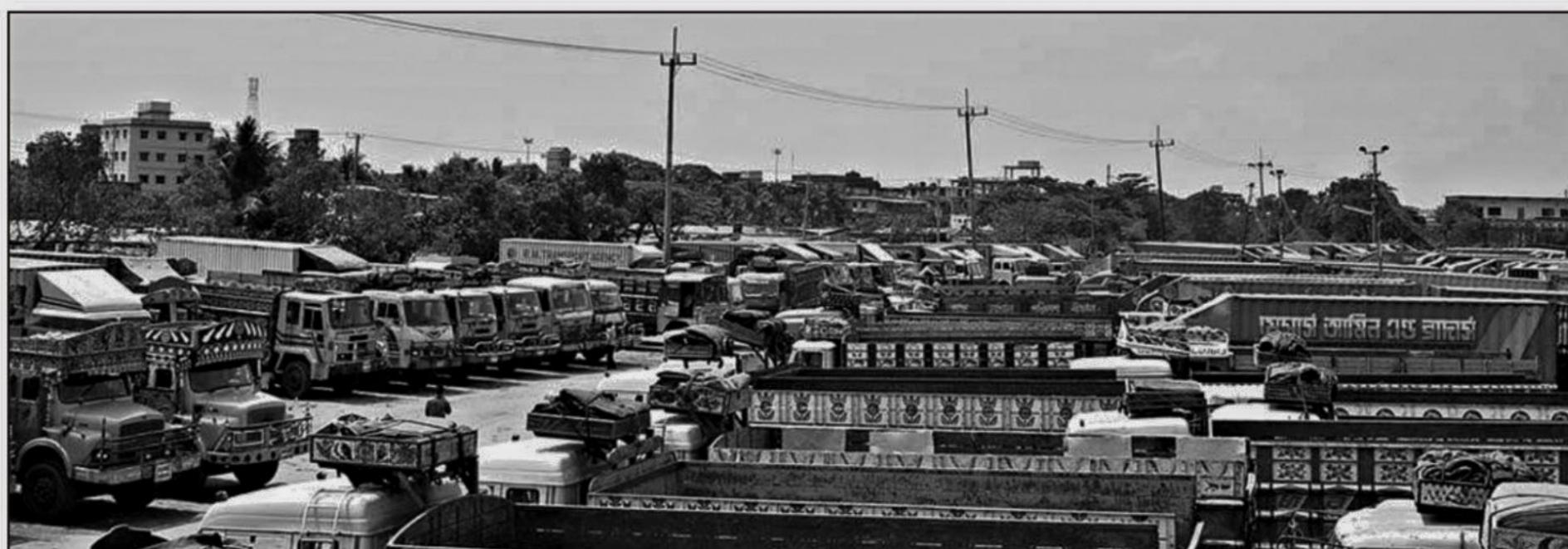


Mozaffar Hossain Khan, former chief engineer of Public Works Department,

Qulkhwani of

will be held at Azad Mosque at Gulshan in the city after Asr prayers today, said a press release.

newspapers and announced March 27 the Relatives, friends and welldate for the interview for the post of princiwishers are requested to pal, they said. attend the programme.



Trucks remain stranded at Chittagong port yesterday as workers of the port went on a strike demanding reinstatement of retrenched workers.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA.COM

Textbooks' digital version less utilised

Experts suggest broad publicity to aware students

FARHANA URMEE

The first ever initiative to make sure that every student in primary and secondary level gets textbooks through a website still remains less utilised due to lack of awareness among the teachers, students and their guardians. The contents of the textbooks under

National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) were launched on its official website on January 4, 2010 for the first time in the country with a vision to take the education to a new horizon of progress. A total of 139 textbooks of primary and

secondary level are available on www.nctb.gov.bd. By logging in the website, anyone can go

through the textbooks and download them for Furthermore, any students can get the

books throughout the year on the website from

anywhere in case of losing any books. Experts say it will help resolve the issues of textbook shortage and mismanagement in the distribution and stop their illegal publication and selling.

However, many teachers and students in the capital still know very little about the digital version of the textbooks. Talking to Mamtaz Parveen, a lecturer of

physics at Dhaka Residential Model School, the scenario became clearer. She and her colleagues at the school said they first came to know about the initiative

from the correspondent. However, they lauded it, saying it would help reduce the crisis of textbooks and its illegal selling at high prices. Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid said unawareness about the first ever initiative of

would be taken to make it more familiar and widely used. "The contents of the textbooks have been uploaded on the website to serve students and teachers better by taking the ultimate advan-

the country is not unusual, but initiatives

tage of the modern technology," he said. Besides, if any students cannot afford Internet access, they can be provided with the printed copy the books after downloading from the website with the help of private efforts, said the minister.

He urged well off people and private organi-

sations of the country to come forward with their help for the poor students, saying the government alone cannot afford providing Internet service at every school right at this moment.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in her speech

also urged the well off people of the society to download and print out the textbooks for the students who have not Internet access. Describing the initiative as a 'second line defence', educationist Dr Syed Manzoorul Islam said, "It has been launched for the stu-

dents if somehow anyone miss the free books delivered by the government." "Yet, broad publicity is required to make it familiar to the students and the teachers," he said, adding NCTB, secondary and higher secondary education boards can issue official letters to the schools asking them to inform

their students about the service. He also said, "Education ministry can advertise the service. Above all schools can also take initiatives to inform the students and their guardians about the virtual version of the text-

On how to make it more pro-poor, he said,

computers with Internet connectivity at every school around the country, so public-private partnership is essential here. A number of ninth grade students at Udayan

the government alone cannot afford providing

Madhyamik School in the city told the correspondent that they were aware of the website but they never visited it as they have already had the books in their hands. Md Benajir Ahmed, headmaster of Mohammadpur Government High School, said

though textbook crisis is very little, the digital version of the books will help the students get them easily at home and abroad. Often schools fail to deliver all the textbooks on time due to various inadequacies, where the

website might be a new option rather than buying the books at double price form markets, he added. "My kid is fond of his computer. If he knows

his textbooks are available in his machine, his study hours will definitely increase," said Maushumi Mansura, a mother of fourth grade student.

Raise voice to protect rivers

Matia asks water management officials

VIQARUNNISA NOON SCHOOL AND COLLEGE

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury yesterday criticised water management officials for not raising voice against donor agencies' persuasion to build dams, which has resulted in dying of rivers in many cases.

water management officials to fight the prescription of donor agencies. Nobody raised voices to protect rivers from dying by maintaining their normal flow." Politicians do not stay in power for long but

civil servants do, Matia said, adding: "But I have not heard any policy prepared by bureaucrats that focuses on protecting normal flow of rivers."

She said this at a seminar on 'Impact on agriculture due to climate change' organised by Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad (BUP) at its office in the city.

Bangladesh Agriculture University Vice Chancellor Prof MA Sattar Mandal, Bangladesh Economic Association President Quazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad spoke at the programme with BUP Chairman Dr Mohammed Farashuddin in the chair.

Referring to rise in salinity in coastal regions, Matia said salinity could have been fought much if flow of sweet water can be increased from the upstream. But such scope is limited due to hindrances in normal flow of rivers in the upstream.

Water management officials had a mandate to work on keeping the rivers alive by maintaining flow of the rivers, she said, adding: "But they escaped their mandates and vive," she added.

A stalemate is prevailing at Viqarunnisa Noon

School and College as the institution is being

yesterday carried out their administrative

duties as per the High Court (HC) directive,

sources said the unwanted stalemate is dis-

rupting the academic and administrative

said Rokeya is the acting principal of the insti-

tution as per the court's directive and every-

Body of the institution allegedly removed the

existing acting principal Rokeya Akter and

gave the duty of acting principal to one of the

teachers of the institution named Shaila

Ahammed on March 25 ignoring the HC's

decided to appoint a fulltime principal remov-

ing Rokeya whose tenure will be ended on

Sources said the Governing Body recently

They published an advertisement in the

Many teachers on condition of anonymity

The problem arose when the Governing

activities of the renowned institution severely.

Though the teachers of the institution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

run by two acting principals.

body should follow the directive.

directive.

February 2011.

agreed with whatever donor agencies prescribe for getting consultancy after retire-

Referring to the issues of spread of arsenic in water, the minister also blamed donors and scientists for not raising their voices against unplanned establishment of irrigation pumps "I've not seen any strong attempt among and shallow tubewells, which led to over mining of underground water and pushed arsenic

"Nobody talked against over mining of underground water and suggested for harvesting rain water. I don't understand why do you surrender your creativity. No expertise can be developed by surrendering creativity."

Experts at the seminar said climate change would affect agriculture and livelihood in multifarious ways like reduction of arable fields due to recurrent floods, increasing draughts leading to a rise in irrigation costs, rise in salinity intrusion limiting cultivation of existing crop varieties.

To be adaptive to the impacts of climate change, Prof Abdus Sattar suggested developing climate change responsive varieties through strengthening agricultural research, investment in maintaining soil health and continuation of input subsidy and profit incentives for farmers.

"Increased investment in agricultural research and extension will be the main weapon to fight the impacts of climate change," he added. The agriculture minister said the govern-

ment wants to take preparation instead of being panicked.

"We will take preparation, fight and sur-

They also said around 250 teachers of the

In the meantime, Rokeya filed a writ

college gave a letter to the Governing Body

requesting them not to remove Rokeya before

petition with the HC and the HC on

Thursday issued an injunction against the

appointment in the institution for one

chairman of the school's Governing Body and

the chairman of Dhaka Education Board ask-

ing them why the advertisement of the

But, the Governing Body removed Rokeya

Against this backdrop, the administrative

and academic activities are being disrupted

severely as the institution is facing problem

to form the examination committee for the

upcoming Higher Secondary Certificate

principal on January 2008 and her tenure was

extended in December on the same year

because of her goodwill and efficiency, said

Currently, around 16,000 students are

Rokeya Akter was given the duty of acting

appointment should not be declared illegal.

on Thursday ignoring the directive.

exams that commence on April 1.

studying at the institution.

teachers.

The HC bench also issued a rule against the

month and fixed April 12 for next hearing.

ending her tenure.

her family at 01913928006.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Alo and HSBC Limited.

level competition.

morning.

experts.

Two acting principals! Call for proper use of Bangla

tion.

Save Sharmin STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A father seeks financial assistance for the treatment of his daughter who has been suffering from kidney damage.

Both the kidneys o Sharmin, a class ten student of Mirpur Syed Ali High School have been damaged. She survives on dialysis.

She recently fell very ill According to doctors, she immediately needs to undergo kidney transplant, which involves about Tk 10 lakh. But it is not possible for Sharmin's poor parents to manage such a huge amount. Sharmin's father Md

Shahjahan, a cook at Dhaka Dental College, has appealed to generous people to extend a helping hand to save his daughter.

Contributions can be sent to Abdul Jabbar, Savings Account No. 107-101-13083 DBBL, Karwan Bazar branch Interested persons can contact

LANGUAGE CONTEST HELD

Bhasha Protijog, a Bangla language competi-

tion for school students, was held amid festiv-

ity at Azimpur Girls' High School in the city

yesterday, jointly organised by the Prothom

Some 750 students from different schools and

colleges in Dhaka took part in the competi-

regional level. The winners of all regional level

contests will now take part in the national

and College Hosne Ara Begum inaugurated

the competition by releasing balloons in the

and literature, the daylong event featured a

question-answer session where the young

learners got an opportunity to enrich their

knowledge of Bangla language and literature

by asking various questions to academics and

Apart from a 30-minute test on language

This was a regional level competition.

This competition was the last one at the

Principal of Azimpur Girls' High School

Bangladesh, India to launch joint programme to save Sundarbans

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh and India will launch a joint programme in Kolkata next week, the first such in South Asia, to save the world's largest mangrove forest Sundarbans from the onslaught of climate change.

"There will be a joint forum between India and Bangladesh for protection of the Sundarbans ecosystem that spreads from India to Bangladesh," Indian Environment and Forest Minister Jairam Ramesh was quoted by the Indian media as saying.

Jairam Ramesh and his Bangladesh counterpart Dr Hasan Mahmud will launch the joint programme in Kolkata next week, during which

officials from the two countries will work out details.

"They (forest officials) will work in close coordination to conserve the fragile ecosystem of the Sundarbans, Ramesh said. The two countries are likely

to conduct a joint census of Royal Bengal Tigers in the Sundarbans of which 60 per cent lies in Bangladesh terri-

The Sundarbans, a world heritage site spread over 10,000 km across the two countries and is home to several hundred Royal Bengal Tigers and half of the rare mangrove varieties found in India, has been facing the risk of disappearance because of rising sea levels induced by climate change.

Drug addict mistakenly kills trader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A trader met a tragic death early yesterday as an addicted youth mistakenly stabbed him in broad daylight at Lalbagh in the city.

Anwar Hossain, 32, owner of Moon Paint and Chemical at Moulavibazar of Old Dhaka, succumbed to his injuries at Dhaka Medical College and Hospital. Locals claimed the

addicted youth Imu, a resident of Abdul Aziz Lane of Lalbagh area, on Saturday noon entered into a nearby saloon to look for his tenant Sakib with whom he had previous enmity.

Sakib was having his shave at that time and Imu stayed there for a while and left the saloon, witnesses said.

A minute later, Imu again entered the saloon and picked up a scissor when Anwar was having his shave on the same chair where Sakib had been sitting and stabbed Anwar thinking as Sakib.

Anwar's face was covered with shaving foam when Imu stabbed him in the chest, they said adding that Imu immediately realised his mistake as Anwar screamed out.

Imu ran away from the spot saying that it was his mistake as Anwar was not his target. Locals rushed Anwar to

DMCH where he breathed his last around 2:00am yesterday. Abdus Sattar, sister-in-law of Anwar, told The Daily Star that Imu and Anwar did not

know each other and even they did not have any altercation inside the saloon.

Bula Mustafa passes away

METRO DESK

Bula Mustafa, a noted singer, passed away due to old age complications at her city residence on Saturday at the age of 63, says a press release.

Bula, wife of former director general of Radio Bangladesh Late MN Mustafa, left behind her daughter, son, a grandson and a host of relatives and well-wishers to mourn her death.

Her mortal remains have been kept at the mortuary of the Apollo hospitals Dhaka pending the return to Dhaka of her son from the USA.

Her namaz-e-janaza will be held at the Baitul Atique Central Jame Mosque at Baridhara Road No 8 after Zohr prayers today.

Her qulkhwani will be held at her residence after Maghrib prayers tomorrow.

Alhaj Faez Ahmad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Alhaj Faez Ahmad, director of Sunman Group of Companies, passed away due to a cardiac arrest at Chittagong Metropolitan Hospital yesterday at the age of 75, says a press release.

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

Jahura Haque

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jahura Haque, mother of joint secretary general of Jatiya Party-JP Jamilul Haque Bakul, passed away at her Uttara residence in the city yesterday at the age of 95.

She left behind three sons, four daughters, relatives and many well wishers to mourn her death, says a press release.

DHAKA 0 D

Conference

International Network of Alternative Financial Institutions (INAFI) Bangladesh organises a conference on 'Institutional support for migrant's enterprise development: Bank-MFI partnership'. Venue: Brac Centre

The inaugural ceremony of the 8th

International Conference Centre.

National Furniture Fair 2010 will be held. Venue: Bangabandhu

Inn. Time: 9:30am.

Fair

Time: 3:00pm. Congregation National Alliance of Disabled People's Organisation will organise the national congregation of the people with disabilities. Venue:

Paltan Maidan. Time: 9:00am. Publication ceremony The publication ceremony of two illustrated books on the liberation

war will be held. Venue: Hotel Lake Shore. Time: 10:45am. Discussion

Manusher Jonno Foundation will

hold a discussion titled 'One year of formulating Right to Information Act: Present scenario and future strategies'. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 2:00pm.

High School. Eminent educationists, language experts and writers gave answers to the questions of the students at the programme.

Shaimul, a class eight student of Saint Joseph

Prof Rafiqul Islam, poet Nirmalendu Goon, writer Anisul Haq, Prof Shourav Sikdar, Prof Azizul Haque, HSBC official CM Sami Hafiz, tiger expert Khasru Chowdhury and Dr Soumitra Shekhar spoke at a discus-

Prof Rafiqul Islam said, "Unesco fears that most languages in the world would become extinct at the end of the 21st century. Bangla is the fourth most widely spoken language in the world. But we ourselves have made Bangla language vulnerable

He urged all to practise and promote proper use of Bangla.

Poet Nirmalendu Goon lauded the initiative to organise such a competition and said this event is helping raise awareness about Bangla among children and juveniles and build enthusiasm for literature. A total of 60 students won the competition

under four categories. "In competitions, judges usually ask Later, a cultural programme was also held where Aditi Mohsin and Mahmuduzzaman

questions to the contestants, but in 'Bhasha Protijog' we, the students, ask questions to learned persons and get answers," said Babu rendered songs.

through its inappropriate use."