



Local businessmen and hawkers clash with police and vandalise vehicles when the law enforcers try to dismantle makeshift shops built illegally on a footpath at North South road in the city yesterday as part of Clean Dhaka Programme.

PHOTO: STAR

# Excavation of rivers this year to ease city water crisis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will excavate the river from the Jamuna to the Dhaleswari for bringing water to the Buriganga by this year to remove water crisis in the city, said Water Resources Minister Ramesh Chandra Sen yesterday.

"We cannot depend on groundwater, we need to utilise water of the Buriganga and other rivers around the city. For that, we'll finish dredging the river from the Jamuna to the Dhaleswar this year with our own capacity to bring water to the Buriganga."

The minister said this to reporters after attending a seminar in the city. He said, "If we make the water of the Buriganga clean and utilise it, there would be

no water crisis in the capital. We must go for surface water."

Replying to a question, Ramesh said they have sat with the industries minister and decided to take action against those who would pollute the Buriganga.

"Tanneries are mainly responsible for pollution of the Buriganga. The tanneries will be relocated to Savar within six months," he added.

The seminar on 'Role of River Research Institute and Its Future Plan' was organised by River Research Institute (RRI) at the conference room of Water Development Board.

State Minister for Water Resources Md Mahabubur Rahman and Water Resources Secretary Shaikh Md Wahid-uz-Zaman were also present at the seminar.

## DEFAMATION CASE

HC asks Farroque, Anee to surrender before trial court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday rejected a bail prayer of opposition chief whip Zainul Abidin Farroque and lawmaker Shahid Uddin Chowdhury Anee and directed them to surrender before the trial court within eight weeks in a defamation case.

The case was filed in Chittagong against them on charges of making 'derogatory' remarks about prime minister's son Sajeeb Wazed Joy.

The HC bench of Justice MA Wahhab Miah and Justice Md Abdur Razzaque also gave a warning to the Chief Judicial Magistrate of Chittagong, as he issued arrest warrant against the BNP leaders in this case without issuing summons against them.

The HC directed the trial court to grant bail to the accused after their surrender.

It also asked the government not to harass or arrest the accused during this eight weeks' period.

Farroque and Anee yesterday appeared before the HC to seek bail.

On March 25, Dirghatamo Barua, a local Awami League leader, filed the defamation case against Farroque and Anee, as they brought allegations of illegal Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) business against Joy.



## Save Mourin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mourin, an eight-year-old girl, has been suffering from thalassaemia since she was only four-month-old. Since then, she has been undergoing blood transfusion every two or three months.

But recently, she was diagnosed with aplastic anaemia and her condition has been deteriorating.

According to the doctors of Dhaka Shishu Hospital, Mourin needs to undergo bone marrow transplant immediately, which involves about Tk 35 lakh.

But it is not possible for her father Mojibur Rahman, a freedom fighter and retired banker, to manage such a huge amount.

So, her family has made an appeal to the well-off and generous people to come forward and extend financial assistance to save Mourin.

Contributions can be sent to Mojibur Rahman, Savings Account No. 34080774, Janata Bank Ltd, Local office, Dhaka.

Her family can be reached over phone No. 01716-702063 and 01710-439900.

## DHAKA TODAY

### Exhibition

Autism Welfare Foundation organises a three-day exhibition of artworks by children with special needs. Venue: Autism Welfare Foundation, House # 38/40, Road # 04, Block - B, Pisciculture Housing Society, Time: 10:00am.

### Seminar

Pratyasha, an anti-drug club, and WBB Trust will jointly organise a seminar titled 'The role of students in implementing the tobacco control act'. Venue: Central Auditorium, Jagannath University, Time: 11:30am.

# JS okays pay hike of president, PM, MPs

## Passes six bills

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The parliament yesterday passed six separate bills increasing salaries and allowances of the president, the prime minister, ministers, the speaker and the deputy speaker, lawmakers and judges of the Supreme Court (SC).

BNP lawmakers opposed increasing salaries and allowances of the president, the PM and ministers and criticised the government for the persisting crises of power, water and gas and price hike of essentials.

Without reducing people's suffering, the government is increasing the salaries. The ruling party cannot fulfil its electoral pledges, they argued launching a blistering attack on the government for salary hike of ministers particularly.

Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury and Law Minister Shafique Ahmed proposed the passage of the bills. The salaries are being increased to keep abreast of the pay hike of civil

servants.

Matia, however, blamed the past BNP-Jamaat-led government for the present crises of power, water and gas.

The past government did nothing to address those issues, she added.

The BNP lawmakers, however, did not oppose the two bills for increasing salaries and allowances of the speaker and the deputy speaker and SC judges.

They suggested the parliament not to pass the bills yesterday and send those to the select committee for eliciting people's opinions and increasing further of their perks.

Opposition lawmakers' all proposals were rejected and the House passed the bills in voice vote.

The hiked salaries would be effective from July 1, 2009, while the allowances would come into effect from July 1 this year, according to the provisions of the bills, which were placed in parliament on March 22.

# Tk 50 LAKH BRIBE SP, police inspector charged

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday framed charges against a superintendent of police (SP) and a police inspector in connection with a case filed against them for demanding Tk 50 lakh in bribe from SA Paribahan proprietor in December, 2002.

The accused are SP Mostafa Kamal, now posted at Parbatipur Railway, and Inspector Wahid Miah, now posted at Bangabhaban.

The two pleaded not guilty and demanded justice before the court after Judge Mohammad Mozammel Hossain of the Special Judge's Court-3 rejected their discharge petitions and read out the charges to them.

The court fixed May 23 for trial of the case and summoned complainant to appear before it to give his deposition on the scheduled date.

According to the prosecution, SA Paribahan Proprietor Salauddin Ahmed along with his office staff was going to

Sylhet by a private car on December 22, 2002 with a bag of Tk 20 lakh. A police box of Habiganj district stopped their private car, seized their money and asked them to file a general diary (GD) with local police station for their security reasons.

After their arrival at police station, the then SP Mostafa Kamal ordered the on duty policemen to detain them and filed a money laundering case against them. The SP and the inspector also demanded Tk 50 lakh from the SA Paribahan Head Office in exchange for their release.

Salahuddin and others were released on bail.

Later, Salahuddin filed a case against the two with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka on November 20, 2003 for demanding Tk 50 lakh in bribe from him.

Senior Advocate Mahubur Rahman appeared for the complainant while Advocate Anwar Zahid Bhuiyan defended the accused.

# Saber elected first VP of IPU standing body

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League lawmaker Saber Hossain Chowdhury has been elected first vice-president of Geneva-based Inter-Parliamentary Union's (IPU) first standing committee on peace and international security.

He was elected at IPU's 122nd assembly held recently in Bangkok where Deputy Speaker Shawkat Ali led the 18-member Bangladesh delegation, says a press release.

This is the highest position attained so far in the IPU standing committees by a Bangladeshi lawmaker.

The first standing committee is currently dealing with organised crimes, trafficking in human, arms and drugs, cross-border terrorism. It will present a report on legislation related to electoral fraud and changes of electoral process in the next assembly.

Saber will represent the Asia-Pacific geopolitical group comprising 27 member states in the committee as its vice president for a four-year term.

Based in Geneva, IPU was established in 1889 and is the only international organisation of parliaments worldwide with 155 members.

# Course on public relations

METRO DESK

Bangladesh Institute of Journalism and Electronic Media (BIJEM) organises a two-week training course titled 'Modern Technique of Public Relations and Communications' beginning on April 11.

The main objective of the course is to develop the image of the course in certain institutions or organisations by strengthening the skills of public relation officers through theoretical and practical education.

Public relations experts, leading journalists both from print and electronic media, university teachers, advertisement and ICT experts will conduct the course as resource persons, says a press release.

This particular course is open for professional PR men and also for people keen to build career in public relations. The last date of submitting nomination/application is April 11.

Classes will be held on Sunday to Thursday from 5:00pm to 7:30pm.

Interested candidates are requested to contact the BIJEM Office (257/8, Elephant Road, Kataban Dhal, Dhaka).

# City filling station looted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Armed robbers looted Tk 3.73 lakh from a filling station holding its employees hostage at gunpoint early yesterday.

Witnesses and police said a gang of six to seven robbed Salam Filling Station located at Tongbari and fled by a Pajero around 6:00am.

According to the employees, one of the robbers nonchalantly entered the toilet alone in the guise of a passerby. After a while the remaining robbers stormed into the office with guns.

They forced all of the three employees into the toilet and tied them up and later emptied the cash register.

Filling station owner Abdus Salam said the robbers looted the money collected from Saturday morning.

Salam filed a case with Ashulia Police Station.

Police said they were investigating the matter.

## CORRUPTION CASES

# Hearing on Hasina's petitions adjourned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday deferred until tomorrow the hearing on the petitions filed by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for quashing the proceedings of four corruption cases against her.

An HC bench of Justice Md Shamsul Huda and Justice Abu Bakar Siddiquee adjourned the hearing following a time prayer moved by Mehedi Hasan, a lawyer for the petitioner.

The bench was scheduled to hold the final hearing on the petitions yesterday.

The cases were filed against Hasina on charges of corruption in setting up of barge-mounted power plant and Meghnaghat power plant, in the appointment of consultants at Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority and in procurement of frigates.

The barge-mounted power plant graft case was filed by Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) during the previous caretaker government, and three other cases were filed by the now-defunct Bureau of Anti-Corruption (BAC) during the rule of the BNP-Jamaat-led alliance government.

Upon petitions filed by Hasina, the HC earlier stayed the proceedings against Hasina in the cases and issued rules upon the government, BAC and ACC to explain why the proceedings of the cases should not be quashed.

# BCL men beat two journo

DU CORRESPONDENT

A group of activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) beat up two journalists at Shabbagh in the city last night for publishing a report against the central unit president.

The journalists were identified as Anis Raihan, staff correspondent of the weekly Saptahik, and Ahmed Fayed, staff correspondent of the weekly Budhbar.

Chief reporter of the Saptahik Mohiuddin Niloy said some 20 to 25 BCL men attacked the journalists in front of Shabbagh Police Station around 8:30pm as per the direction of AGM Sabir Jahan Saikat, president of SM Hall unit BCL.

The journalists were walking towards Dhaka University through its Shabbagh entry point, he added.

As they reached in front of

Shabbagh Police Station, SM Hall unit BCL president honked his motorbike horn loudly from behind the reporters. When the reporters gave their identities and asked Saikat to explain the reason of honking the horn, Saikat got angry and called his fellows from the hall.

Niloy further said that Saikat took away the professional identity cards of the reporters and charged Anis for filing a report against BCL Central Committee President Mahmud Hasan Rimon.

The reporters sought cooperation from policemen present at the scene.

The Saptahik published a report on Rimon's recent activities in its last issue.

The injured journalists were rushed to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University and later shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.



PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOK.COM

The injured journalists are taking treatment at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital.

## SUICIDE OF GIRL

# 'Punish culprits'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different organisations yesterday demanded exemplary punishment to the culprits who provoked Ummeh Kulsum Elora to commit suicide.

Elora, 14, committed suicide on April 3 after she found it hard to put up with the abuses hurled at her.

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad leaders in a statement observed that many girls have committed suicide recently.

They demanded the culprits be handed exemplary punishment.

In another statement, Karmojibi Nari (KN) condemned the incident.

Saying that Elora has joined the list of victims of eve teasing, the KN leaders called upon all to be united to resist violence against women.

They urged NGOs and human rights organisations to launch awareness campaigns

to this end. Bangladesh Students' Union in a statement said if the government does not take stern actions against the culprits, such incidents of violence will increase day by day.

## Qulkhwani

METRO DESK

Qulkhwani of Tafari Begum, wife of late ATM Sirajuzzaman Shikder, will be held at House 20/A, Road 8, Gulshan-1 in the city after Esha prayers today, says a press release.

She passed away on April 2 at the age of 81.

She left behind her four daughters and four sons to mourn her death.



# Abdul Mannan's anniversary of death today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

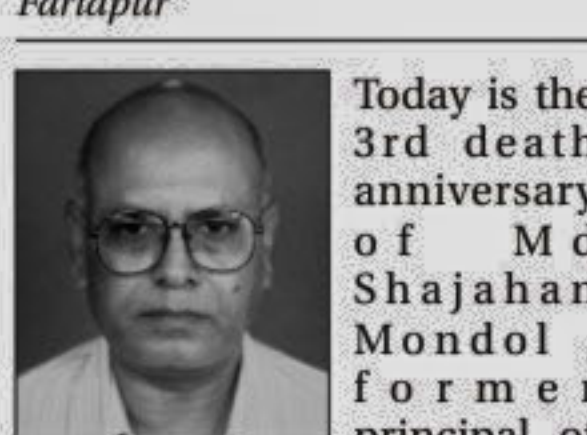
Today is the 5th death anniversary of Abdul Mannan, close associate of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, first home minister and health minister of Bangladesh and in charge of Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra, says a press release.

On the occasion, doa and milad mahfil will be held and foods will be distributed among the destitute at his mazar in Tangail.

The countrymen and admirers have been requested to pray for salvation of his departed soul.

## Md Shajahan Mondol

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur



Today is the 3rd death anniversary of Md Shajahan Mondol, former principal of Faridpur Polytechnic Institute.

On the occasion, Quarnkhwani, milad mahfil will be held after Zohr prayers at Bairut Aman Bazar mosque in Faridpur town today. Foods will also be distributed among the destitute.

Relatives and admirers are requested to attend the function.

## Rati Lal Saha

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 10th death anniversary of Rati Lal Saha, father of Pranab Saha, editor of the ATN News, says a press release.

On the occasion, a two-day programme, including recitation from the holy Geeta and Kirtan, has been arranged at his residence at Madhyapara of Gaibandha town today and tomorrow.

Family members of the deceased requested all relatives, friends and admirers to pray for eternal peace of the departed soul.

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## WEATHER TODAY

### Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at one or two places over Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Jessore, Kushtia, Khulna, Pabna and Bogra in next 24 hours till 6pm tomorrow (Monday).

Weather may remain dry elsewhere over the country, Met Office said.

Mild to moderate heat wave is sweeping over Rajshahi division and it may continue.

Day temperature may rise by 1-2 degree Celsius over the country.

**The sun sets in the capital at 6:16pm today and rises at 5:46am tomorrow.**

Country's highest temperature 37.3 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and lowest 22.4 degrees Celsius at Sylhet.

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	34.3	27.2	72	62
Chittagong	31.5	26.3	76	76
Rajshahi	37.3	27.8	78	58
Khulna	34.5	27.5	73	65
Barisal	33.6	26.5	80	72
Sylhet	32.3	26.2	73	71
Cox's Bazar	33.2	26.2	73	76