



KNOWLEDGE CORNER



**BENGALI LANGUAGE MOVEMENT:**  
The Language Movement was the first step towards our Liberation War. In 1947 British India was partitioned and two geographically distant and culturally different regions were united under the name of Pakistan. Bengali-speaking people in East Pakistan made up 44 million of the total population of 69 million. But government, civil services, and military of Pakistan were dominated by West Pakistanis. Though Urdu was not the native language of any part of Pakistan, in 1947, a key resolution at a national education summit in Karachi advocated Urdu as the sole state language. Widespread opposition and protests immediately arose. Assembly member Dhirendranath Datta proposed legislation in the Constituent Assembly of Pakistan to allow members to speak in Bengali and authorize its use for official purposes. Prime Minister Liaquat Ali Khan and the Muslim League denounced the proposal as an attempt to divide the Pakistani people. Students of the University of Dhaka and other organized a general strike in 11 March 1948 to restate the demand that Bengali be declared an official language of Pakistan. On that day police attacked a procession injuring several students and leaders including A. K. Fazlul Huq. In protest of this brutality, continuing strikes were observed from 12 March to 15 March, 1948. At the height of civic unrest, Governor-General of Pakistan Muhammad Ali Jinnah came to Dhaka and declared that "Urdu and only Urdu" embodied the spirit of Muslim nations and would remain as the state language, labeling those who disagreed with his views as "Enemies of Pakistan" in his speeches at a civic reception at Racecourse Ground on 21 March and Curzon Hall of the University of Dhaka on 24 March, 1948. At both meetings, Jinnah was interrupted by large segments of the audience. The Urdu-Bengali controversy was reignited when Governor General Khawaja Nazimuddin, defended the "Urdu-only" policy in a speech on January 27, 1952. On January 31, 1952 the Shorobodolio Kendrio Rashtrobhasha Kormi Parishod was formed in a meeting at the University of Dhaka, chaired by Maulana Bhashani. The action committee called for an all out protest on 21 February, 1952 including strikes and rallies. As the preparations were going on, the government imposed Section 144 in the city of Dhaka, thereby banning any gatherings of more than four people. At 11 AM of 21 February, 1952 students gathered at the university gate and attempted to break the police line. Police arrested several students for violating Section 144. Police also opened fire and killed a number of students, including Abdus Salam, Rafiq Uddin Ahmed, Abul Barkat and Abdul Jabbar. Bangladesh officially sent a proposal to UNESCO to declare 21 February as "International Mother Language Day." The proposal was supported unanimously at the 30th General Conference

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# Princess Anne comes to aid of Aila-hit people

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Visiting Royal Princess Anne, the only daughter of Queen Elizabeth II and Duke of Edinburgh, on Wednesday visited cyclone Aila and Sidr-affected villages in Satkhira and Bagerhat. The princess reached Chakbara village under Gabur union in Satkhira's Shyamnagar upazila in a seaplane at 11:50am to witness the Aila-affected people living in their makeshift houses. Several hundred people from villages near the Sundarbans thronged the embankment of Kholpetua River to welcome the princess. Princess Anne talked with the villagers who told her that they received reliefs from UK-funded aid organisation 'Shushilan' over the last five months. Pointing out that Shushilan will cut down the relief from next month, the Aila victims narrated what trouble they will be in once that happens.



Princess Anne, daughter of Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom, talks to residents affected by cyclone Aila in Chakbara village under Dabur union in Shyamnagar upazila of Satkhira district yesterday. PHOTO: REZAUL KARIM

## NEWS IN brief

### Non-govt teachers threaten strike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
Bangladesh Non-government Primary Teachers Society will begin massive movement from April if their jobs are not nationalised immediately. The society President Mohammad Shamsul Alam said this at a press conference organised by the society at Dhaka Reporters Unity in the city yesterday attended by teachers from different districts. He also sought allocation of Tk 488 crore in the next fiscal year in this regard. "Though we made the demands over the last 20 years, no government came forward," he said, adding that they would begin continuous strike at Muktangan from April 24 if the demands are not met. He said around 1 lakh of his colleagues are working in about 23,000 non-government primary schools and urged them to bring necessary clothes and dry food with them to make the movement successful.

### Garment goods looted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
Three people snatched a huge quantity of cloths worth Tk 10 lakh from in front of a garment factory at Shah Ali of the city's Mirpur in the wee hours of yesterday. The gang also injured store in-charge of the garment factory, Mohammad Abuzor Gifari, 26. He received primary treatment at a local hospital. Imran Alam, general manager of Advance Attire Ltd, said three men named Montu, Faysal, and Alamgir snatched 30 rolls of cloths beating the store in-charge while the goods were being unloaded from a pickup van in front of the factory around 1:15am.

### Factory fined

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
A mobile court of Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) yesterday fined a factory of Tejgaon Tk 29 lakh for using deep tubewell illegally since April 2009. The team led by Wasa Magistrate Kazi Wasiuddin fined Padma Policton Fabrics Tk 1.85 lakh for violating related rules, Tk 5.70 lakh as two years' penalty, and 21 lakh for using sewerage line for the last 15 months.

## FATWA AGAINST COUPLE HC summons 10 arbitrators

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
The High Court (HC) yesterday summoned 10 local arbitrators of Moulvibazar to appear before it on March 10 to explain their conduct of organising a fatwa against a local couple. In response to a writ petition, an HC bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik and Justice Sheikh Md Zakir Hossain also directed the officer-in-charge of Moulvibazar Police Station to ensure their appearance. The arbitrators are Wahidur Rahman Mesba, Mahbubur Rahman, Samir Mian, Abul Kalam, Mobassar Mian, Rakib Mian, Mohan Mian, Mujahid, Fakhru Islam and Mesbahur Rahman. Two arbitrators -- Foyzur Rahman, also secretary of a local mosque committee, and influential Askar Mia -- appeared before the bench yesterday as per its February 13 order. They mentioned that the 10 organised the fatwa in the name of Ponchayet. Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh filed the petition on February 13 following a report published in the daily Janakantha on February 10. The report said Rabeya Khatun and her husband Koychor Mia of Barokapon village of Ekutana union of Moulvibazar sadar upazila are on the run in fear of the fatwa. The arbitrators in the fatwa directed Rabeya to marry a man, the report said. Advocate Manzill Murshid appeared for the petitioner while Deputy Attorney General ABM Altaf Hossain stood for the government.

## BID TO ARREST PRICE HIKE Govt expands OMS rice

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
The government yesterday expanded open market sale (OMS) of rice further by increasing number of trucks and providing more rice to dealers in a bid to arrest price hike. Fifty more trucks will sell OMS rice in the city from Friday, six days a week, instead of the current five days. The number of trucks in operation in the city is 200. The decision was taken at a meeting after evaluation of OMS activities in the country. Food and Disaster Management Minister Abdur Razzaque presided over the meeting held at the ministry. The meeting decided that each dealer in union level will be given 1.5 tonnes of rice instead of one tonne while dealers in Chittagong, Cox's Bazar, Bandarban, Khagrachhari, Rangamati, Khulna, Satkhira and those in Sylhet division will get two tonnes. Two dealers, instead of the present one, will be engaged in the districts. Observing many irregularities in OMS activities, Razzaque asked concerned officials to strengthen their monitoring across the country. In January and February, the government distributed rice among the ultra poor in the city through 'fair price cards' but despite the efforts, nothing could check the price hike. The current reserve of food grains in government warehouses is about 9.2 lakh tonnes while another 2.18 lakh tonnes is now being unloaded at Chittagong port, said sources in the ministry. Food Division Secretary Barun Dev Mitra, Disaster and Relief Division Secretary S Aslam Alm and Director General of food directorate Ahmad Hossain Khan were present.

## MOVE TO ENSURE SAFETY OF BANGLADESHIS IN LIBYA NHRC to meet int'l agencies Embassy blamed for non-cooperation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) will sit with the representatives of different international organisations in Dhaka today or tomorrow to ensure security for Bangladeshi migrant workers in Libya. Speaking as the chief guest, NHRC Chairman Dr Mizanur Rahman yesterday disclosed the decision at a press conference on 'Ensure safety, security and rights of stranded Bangladeshi migrant workers in Libya: Role of government.' The commission has already requested some international organisations like-International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), International Organisation for Migration (IOM) to take effective measures for safe relocation of the Bangladeshi workers, he said, adding, "We will formally sit with them within one or two days." National Alliance for Migrants' Rights, Bangladesh (NAMR,B) organised the event at the Dhaka Reporters Unity. Mizanur urged the government to give Bangladeshi ambassadors and high commissioners in different countries the power of taking instant decision to face any untoward situation and sufficient budgetary allocation to implement their decision. He also requested the media men not to publish any report without cent-percent confirmation on the Libya issue. Meanwhile, relatives of some migrant workers in Libya alleged that the Bangladesh embassy there did not extend any cooperation to ensure their security. "I have been staying at a cave near Tripoli since last few days with no access to food, even drinking water. There is no way to go out of the cave because the violence is still going on. I do not know when we will get rid of this suffering and how much time I can survive with starving," said Jahangir Alam, a migrant worker in Libya. Talking to his father and reporters through mobile phone at the press conference, Jahangir, an inhabitant of Satura of Makinganj, alleged that the Bangladeshi embassy in Libya did not extend any cooperation to them. Monnu Sikder, an inhabitant of Rajbari, said his brother, who worked in a Korean company in Benghazi of Libya, made the last contact through mobile phone seven days ago when he said the Bangladeshi embassy did not pay heed to their problem despite repeated requests. Osman Goni of Munshiganj alleged the same adding that his brother Almas Dhali who received bullet injuries on February 25 did not get any chance of treatment till February 28, when he last contacted with them. NAMR,B placed 8-point demands at the event to ensure security for the workers and protect their rights. The demand includes strengthening of diplomatic move, effective steps to ensure communication with them as well as welfare and repatriation package for the Libya-return migrants. Officials from various NGOs were also present at the press conference.



A scene from the play "Khubish Nama" being performed by Muktamancha Natya Dal from Gazipur on Central Shaheed Minar premises yesterday on the second day of the week long Bangladesh Patha Natak Utsab 2011 (street theatre festival) organised by Bangladesh Patha Natak Parishad and The Daily Star. PHOTO: STAR

## Hawker beaten to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
A group of hawkers allegedly beat one of their colleagues to death at Uttara in the city last night. Locals and police said the hawkers beat up Mohammad Selim, 35, at Section-7 in Uttara following a feud over business at around 8:00pm. Uttara Police Station Officer-in-Charge Khandker Rezaul Hasan said they found Selim lying on a road in a critical condition and rushed him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries at around 10:30pm. The OC said the cause behind the killing could not be known immediately.

## Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
Today is the 11th death anniversary of A H M Abdul Baqui, former deputy magistrate and renowned sportsman of Dhaka University. He served as the government official in several districts across the country. A quankhwani and doa mahil will be held and prayers will be offered at his graveyard on the occasion.

## 5 hurt as DU students, bus employees clash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
Clashes between Dhaka University (DU) students and bus employees left at least five people injured yesterday evening. The students ransacked over 10 buses and put barricades for about an hour at the city's Fulbaria. The injured include two students of DU Amar Ekushey Hall and three bus employees. Officer-in-Charge Rezaul Karim of Shahbagh Police Station said the clash erupted as employees of a bus on Abdullahpur to Gulistan route misbehaved with a student returning to DU from Uttara.

## WEATHER TODAY

### Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka  
Weather is likely to remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country in next 12 hours till 6:00pm today. Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said. The sun sets in the capital at 6:02pm today and rises at 6:18am tomorrow. Country's highest temperature 34.4 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sitakunda and lowest 10.5 degrees Celsius at Rajshahi. 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	31.3	18.7	43	33
Chittagong	32.2	17.0	55	28
Rajshahi	30.5	10.5	53	42
Rangpur	29.4	14.0	76	56
Khulna	30.5	13.5	61	48
Barisal	32.0	13.6	55	52

### DHAKA TODAY

**Discussion**  
Rural Journalist Foundation (RJF) will hold a discussion, Time: 3:00pm, Venue: Kendrio Konchikancha Milonayaton, Segunbagicha.

**Market.**  
**Dialogue**  
Winrock International will hold a dialogue, Time: 9:00am, Venue: Brac Centre Inn.

**Memorandum**  
Gonotantik Biplobi Party will submit a memorandum, Time: 2:00pm, Venue: Jatiya Press Club.

**Unveiling Ceremony**  
Deshor Kotha Publication will hold an unveiling ceremony, Time: 4:00pm, Venue: Liberation War Museum.

**Inspection**  
Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) will conduct an inspection, Time: 4:30pm, Venue: Tejgaon Shishu Palli.

**Cover Launching**

**Celebration**  
Canadian High Commission, Dhaka, will organise a celebration programme, Time: 6:00pm, Venue: Canadian Club, Baridhara.

**Workshop**  
Labour and Employment Ministry and ILO, will jointly organise a workshop, Time: 9:00am, Venue: Cirdap Auditorium.

**Celebration**  
Bangladesh Mahila Parishad will hold celebration programme, Time: 3:00pm, Venue: Swadhin Bangla