

NEWS IN *brief*

**M Costa new Bishop of Ctg**

CU CORRESPONDENT

Mojes M Costa was selected as Chief Bishop of Christian community in Chittagong on Wednesday. Vatican President Pope Benedict (16) has given this declaration from the office of Vatican around 4:00pm.

Bishop Mojesh is now conducting his duty as Chief Bishop in Dinajpur Dharma Prodesh (Religious Province). Mojes will take his charge in Chittagong Dharma Prodesh within coming two months, said local Christian Community leaders.

His debut as clergyman started from 1981. Later, he obtained Licentiate Degree in Psychology from Gregorian University of Rome.

He has been discharging his duty as secretary of Catholic Bishop Sammilony (Bevy) of Bangladesh and chairman of National Youth Commission.

**MAIMED COLLEGE STUDENT  
Concern over Rab's shooting incident**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Human rights organisations yesterday expressed grave concern over Rab's shooting incident on March 23 which maimed college student Limon at Chhaturia village in Rajapur of Jhalakathi.

They demanded a proper investigation into the matter and exemplary punishment to the Rab personnel involved.

Advocate Shahida Nur Naher of Bangladesh Human Rights Commission in a press release said Rab is maiming or killing innocent people in violation of human rights and the constitution.

Ganatantric Bam Morcha in a press release demanded intervention of the chief justice in the issue and a judicial enquiry into the shooting incident.

Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) in a press release said following the incident, Rab filed two cases against Limon but the investigation officer of the case did not find any evidence of the allegations.

Rab should not have brought the allegations against Limon whom they shot and maimed whimsically, it observed.

ASK also said the government is yet to take any steps to prevent Rab from continuing extra judicial activities.

Rab shot Limon in the left leg at his village in the afternoon of March 23 when he was taking his cows to the field.

Limon's left leg was amputated from the thigh on March 27 at National Institute of Traumatology, Orthopaedic and Rehabilitation (Nitor) in the capital as his leg tissues were totally damaged due to excessive bleeding.

**Publisher murdered**

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went missing.

Altaf, 62, had been residing in his own one-story house on Road-11 of Sector-4.

Law enforcers recovered his body around 12:30am and sent it to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) morgue for an autopsy, said Khandaker Rezaul Hasan, officer-in-charge (OC) of Uttara Police Station.

According to police, some locals had been putting pressure on Altaf to sell the land on which his house stood. Last year they even held him for sometime and tried to grab the property from him forcibly.

Later, Altaf filed a case against six people. After staying behind bars for sometime, some of them came out on bail.

Police detained two of

them on Wednesday evening and recovered the body according to information provided by them, the OC mentioned.

Morgue sources said the mouth of the victim was tied with polythene and a piece of cloth. There were cut marks on the throat.

Syed Badrul Alam, brother-in-law of Altaf, told The Daily Star that he had a conversation with Altaf on the night of March 27. Caretaker of the house Jalal informed him that Altaf had been missing since the evening of March 28.

Failing to trace him, they informed police about the matter, added Badrul.

Altaf's wife and son live in Sweden. Jalal, along with a security guard, looked after the house.



Sushashoner Jonno Procharavizan (SUPRO) forms a human chain at Shahbagh in the city yesterday on the occasion of World Health Day.

PHOTO: STAR

**Rejoinder**

Rahimafrooz Batteries Ltd (RBL) in a rejoinder to the report, headlined "Rahimafrooz fined Tk 6 lakh" and run in The Daily Star on April 6, said the report contains certain misinterpretation of facts.

The company has said there are no canals nearby the factory, and the effluent is treated before being discharged into the drain provided by the concerned authorities.

It said the factory does not release the effluent into agricultural land or rivers, and the Department of Environment (DoE) did not find the pH level out of specification in the adjacent postalland.

The company said it is an ISO 14001 certified organisation and makes continuous efforts in running its operation in full compliance with all environmental regulations required by the DoE.

**Our reply**

The report was prepared based on a press announcement released by the Department of Environment (DoE) on April 5.

It said a DoE enforcement team conducted a test on sample liquid waste discharged by the RBL factory in Zirani of Gazipur during a drive.

The test revealed that the discharged effluent had an acidity (pH) level of 11 and electrical conductivity of 3,040 microsiemens per centimetre, which are higher than the accepted standards of pH of 6-9 and electrical conductivity of 1,200 microsiemens per centimetre, said the release.

The toxicity in the liquid waste is ultimately polluting the local agricultural lands, canal and rivers, it added.

**CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT**

**Subject on ICT at Class VI suggested**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The sub-committees on modifying textbook curriculum of secondary-level education have suggested introducing a new subject on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) at Class VI.

They also recommended lessening the existing 200-mark of two-part Bangla course at class VI by 50, and incorporating some new topics in Bangla first-paper which will be skil-based.

The committees submitted their draft reports on modifying curriculum of secondary-level to Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid at a programme at National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) yesterday.

On March 2, the government formed three committees for modifying the curriculum of secondary textbooks of

class VI, VII and VIII.

The national curriculum committee would review the drafts and direct the government to print books in line with the recommendations. Students of the three classes would get the books in 2012 academic year.

The committees made modification on the Bangla subject and Samajik Biggyan [Social Science]. The students of these classes would read Bangladesh O Bishwa Parichoy instead of Samajik Biggyan as per the recommendation of the committee.

The ICT subject would be 50-mark course, said sources.

At the event, the education minister said though modification of curriculum is a continuous process, no major modification was made after 1996.

"By this time, massive advancement in field of education, science and tech-

nology has been taken place and our students are studying with the old curriculum," he said.

The government has taken the initiative to bring changes in curriculum in line with the National Education Policy, he said, hoping that the modification would bring a qualitative change in education system.

The entire curriculum of secondary education would be modified in phases from 2013, he added.

Dr Siddiqur Rahman, professor of Dhaka University and a curriculum adviser, said the upcoming curriculum would enhance student's creativity further.

Dr Suraiya Parvin, convener of the sub-committee on ICT, stressed the need for extensive training of teachers on ICT as the subject would be introduced for the first time.

**FIFTH AMENDMENT**

**Verdict on govt petition May 11**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court (SC) will deliver a verdict on May 11 on the government's petition to review its judgment on the Fifth Amendment to the constitution.

The government on March 14 filed the review petition with the SC against some of its observations regarding transitional and temporary provisions in the judgment.

The five-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Justice MD Muzammel Hossain yesterday fixed the date after concluding hearing on the petition.

Placing argument, Attorney General Mahbubey Alam prayed to the apex court to cancel its observations in its verdict, which condoned provisions

regarding transitional and temporary provisions in Article 150 of the constitution.

He said that if the SC observations remain in force, there would be provision for considering the transitional and temporary period, meaning the state before framing of the constitution.

The attorney general also prayed for upholding its HC Division observations, which did not condone those provisions.

Mahbubey Alam told the reporters that there is nothing in the name of transitional and temporary period in the constitution.

If the HC observation is upheld, no extra constitutional method will be established, he added.

The SC in its judgment on February 2 last year upheld the High Court judgment over the Fifth Amendment with some observations and modifications.

The HC in its verdict in 2005 cancelled the fifth amendment which had ratified all actions including those that destroyed the basic character of the country's constitution and made it subordinate to martial law proclamations, orders, and regulations made during around four years after August 15, 1975.

Appearing for Italian Marble Works Company Ltd (BIMWC), which had filed a writ petition with the HC challenging the legality and constitutionality of the 5th amendment, Barrister Ajmalul Hossain argued for upholding the HC observation.

**BFUJ demands 8th wage board, 100pc DA**

BSS, Dhaka

Leaders of the Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) yesterday demanded of the government to form the Eighth Wage Board and announce 100 percent dearness allowance (DA) for the journalists and employees of newspapers and news agencies immediately.

The BFUJ placed the demand when its newly elected office-bearers called on Information and Cultural Affairs Minister Abul Kalam Azad at the PID auditorium at the secretariat.

They also placed other demands before the minister including trial of the killers of journalists in Khulna, Jessore and Bogra during the BNP-Jamaat regime, taking initiative to solve housing problems, and raising a welfare fund for the journalist community.

The BFUJ leaders expressed their strong resentment against the recent derogatory remark of Commerce Minister Faruk Khan about the journalists at the meeting.

Responding to different demands and suggestions of the journalist leaders, Azad regretted the commerce minister's remarks and said "The government is always media-friendly and we keep in mind the contributions of the journalists to the country's all democratic struggles."

On the formation of the new wage board for the journalists, he said he would discuss the issue with the prime minister to take a decision in this regard soon.

BFUJ President Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury and Secretary General Abdul Jalil Bhuyian led the delegation while outgoing secretary general Altaf Mahmud, DUJ President Shah Alamgir, General Secretary Abu Jafar Surja, Saiful Islam Talukder, Ataur Rahman, Shahidul Alam, Nazimuddin Shyamal, Moqbul Hossain Mintu, Pradeep Bhattachariaya Shankar, Wahabuzzaman Jhantu, Hasan Millat also spoke at the meeting.

**'Eliminate corruption'**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion said to enhance the health, education and local government services corruption and irregularities should be removed immediately.

Marking the World Health Day, Savar Upazilla health Complex, Transparency International Bangladesh, Shachetan Nagorik Sama (Sanak) arranged the programme in Savar yesterday, says a press release.

Resident Doctor of Savar Health Complex Dr Md Najibur Rahman, Sanak Member Dr Md Abdul Latif Biswas spoke at the discussion.

**CASE AGAINST KOKO  
Charge framing hearing deferred**

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday deferred till May 9 the hearing on charge framing against Arafat Rahman Koko, youngest son of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, in connection with a tax evasion case.

Judge Mohammad Zohurul Haque of the Senior Special Judge's Court passed the order after Koko's lawyer submitted a petition seeking an adjournment of the hearing.

In the petition, Advocate Sanaullah Miah, counsel of the accused Koko, said they had earlier filed a writ petition with the High Court (HC) challenging the legality of the case.

The HC, after the hearing, issued a rule upon the government to explain why the proceedings of the case should not be declared illegal. But the hearing on the rule is now remained pending.

So, he prayed for an adjournment of the hearing, the lawyer said.

On the other hand, Additional Public Prosecutor Shah Alam Talukder told the court that they were ready to take part in the charge hearing.

Earlier on March 20, the same court adjourned the hearing on charge framing against Koko till yesterday.

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) on March 1 last year filed the case against Koko for evading income tax for fiscal years from 2002-2003 to 2006-2007.

**Glaxose WEATHER TODAY**

**Thundershowers likely**

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at one or two places over Rangpur and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Tangail, Mymensingh and Bogra in next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Weather may remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country. Mild heat wave may sweep over the regions of Rajshahi and Ishwardi.

Day temperature may rise slightly over southern part and it may remain nearly unchanged elsewhere over the country, Met Office said.

**The sun sets in the capital at 6:17pm today and rises at 5:44am tomorrow.**

Country's highest temperature 36.0 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and lowest 16.3 degrees Celsius at Srimongal.

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	34.0	22.6	62	43
Chittagong	31.4	20.6	44	63
Rajshahi	36.0	20.7	67	35
Rangpur	32.6	19.2	73	59
Khulna	35.7	21.5	75	45
Barisal	33.5	21.5	74	56

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