

## NEWS IN brief

## 65-yr retirement age for varsity teachers hailed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Vice chancellors of different universities expressed their gratitude to Prime Minister (PM) Sheikh Hasina following her announcement to extend retirement age of teachers at all public universities to 65 years.

The Association of Universities of Bangladesh yesterday congratulated the PM during a meeting at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) with Prof Pran Gopal Datta, vice chancellor (VC) of BSMMU, in the chair.

University of Dhaka VC Prof AAMS Arefin Siddiqui; Shahjalal University of Science and Technology VC Prof Dr Mohammad Saleh Uddin; Jagannath University VC Prof Dr Mesbahuddin Ahmed; Khulna University of Engineering and Technology VC Prof Dr Muhammad Alamgir; Jessore Science and Technology University Prof Dr Abdus Sattar; and Bangladesh Textile University Prof Dr Nitai Chandra Shutrudhara were also present.

Prof Dr Mohammad Abdul Mannan Akand, VC of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Rahman Agricultural University, also thanked the PM.

The PM on Sunday announced that the retirement age of 65 would be applicable for teachers of all 34 public universities of the country.

## CU trees being cut down

CU CORRESPONDENT

Chittagong University (CU) began cutting down trees in Shah Amanat Park adjacent to CU Shah Amanat Hall yesterday alleging that the trees are "hampering necessary ventilation" of the hall and blocking sunlight.

Campus sources said CU authority called an auction on March 31 to sell ten tamarisk trees adjacent to the hall.

One local Hazi Ismail bought these trees worth of Tk 167,000 and began to cut them down, they said.

A few students expressed anger over the matter saying that the park's beauty would be greatly hampered.

## Teachers continue fast unto death for MPO

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of teachers who were not awarded monthly pay order (MPO) facility continued their fast unto death for the second day yesterday in front of Jatiya Press Club in the city, pressing their demand for the facility.

Some 200 teachers of non-government schools, colleges and madrasas gathered in front of Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education (DSHE) and began the programme on Sunday.

Later, they were forced to move and gathered in front of Jatiya Press Club, they said.

They alleged that around 1,500 teachers have been left out after the government entitled 1,612 non-government educational institutions the facility last year.

## BFUW AGM, poll held

METRO DESK

The annual general meeting and election of Bangladesh Federation of University Women (BFUW) were held at University Women Federation College in Dhanmondi of the city on Saturday, says a press release.

New executive body for the term 2011-2013 consists President: Prof Nazma Siddiqui; Vice President: Khaleda Sabet, Dilara Chowdhury, Prof Nilufar Sultana, Secretary General: Shahzadi Begum; Treasurer: Honeara Siddique; Joint Secretary: Parveen Hasan; Joint Treasurer: Nabia Bari.

Other office bearers are Rashida Hossain, Zubeida Munawwar, Iva Alam, Momona Khatun, and Motahara Mannan.

## GlaxoStar Weather Today

## Change in temperature unlikely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at one or two places over Rajshahi, Rangpur, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Jessor, Kustia, Noakhali and Comilla in next 24 hours till 6:00pm today.

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

Mild heat wave is sweeping over the regions of Rajshahi, Ishwardi and Jessor and it may continue.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:19pm and rises tomorrow at 5:40am.

Country's highest temperature 37.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and lowest 19.6 degrees 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	34.8	25.6	72	41
Chittagong	30.2	24.2	81	80
Rajshahi	37.0	21.8	75	43
Rangpur	32.2	22.6	70	57
Khulna	35.6	24.0	80	48
Barisal	34.7	23.6	83	79
Sylhet	34.7	21.2	52	45

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## Blood-stained body of girl found in hotel

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dakkhan Khan Police broke into a room of a residential hotel at Ashkhona and recovered the blood-stained body of an eight-year-old girl from inside it yesterday.

Police said, they recovered the body of the unidentified girl after the authorities of Setu Residential Hotel informed that the room was locked from inside.

Police broke open the lock of the room and found the body of the girl lying on the bed. They sent the body to Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsy.

Police said the hotel authorities told them that around 11:00pm on Sunday, a youth gave his name in the hotel register as Raihan and the girl's name as Rumi. The youth told the hotel authorities that they were siblings and they came from Sunamganj.

The youth said they came to a relative at Dakkhin Khan but he lost the address of the house and was taking accommodation in the hotel.

Sometime during the day yesterday, the youth left the room. The hotel staff looking through the window of the room saw that the body of the girl was lying on the bed and they informed police of the matter, police said.

## Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prof Abdur Rahid, a language hero and father of presidium member of Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation (BGTF) Kamal Bayejit, passed away while undergoing treatment at a city hospital in Uttara yesterday at the age of 78.

He was buried at his family graveyard at Lohojong of Bikrampur after namaz-e-janaza there yesterday and his first namaz-e-janaza was held at Number 3 sector Mosque of Uttara after Zohr prayers.

Shawkat Ahmed

METRO DESK

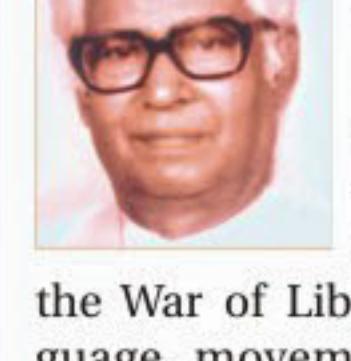
 Shawkat Ahmed Chowdhury, son of Abdul Majeed Chowdhury of Bahadurpur, Beanibazar, Sylhet, died of cardiac arrest early morning on April 6 at the age of 61.

He left behind his wife and two sons to mourn his death.

Shawkat was buried in Mohammadpur Tajmahal Road Graveyard after Asr prayers on April 6 after namaz-e-janaza at Mohammadpur Kaderia Taiyebiya Madrasa premises, says a press release.

## Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

 Today is the 14th death anniversary of Mohiuddin Ahmed, an organiser of the War of Liberation, language movement veteran and parliamentarian of the country.

Mohiuddin Ahmed Jatiya Smriti Sangsad and different socio-political organisations will place wreath at his grave in Mirpur Martyred Intellectuals' graveyard at 9:30am today. A milad mahfil will also be held at his Dhanmondi residence in the city after Asr prayers today.

## Qulhwani

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

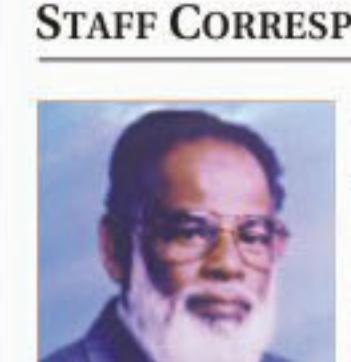
 Qulhwani of Chowdhury Saifuddin Ahmed, an organiser of the War of Liberation and a social worker, will be held at his Naya Paltan residence in the city after Asr prayers today.



PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Artists of Chittagong Charushilpi Sammelan and students of Chittagong Institute of Fine Arts busy preparing for Pahela Baishakh, the first day of the Bangla year 1418, on Fine Arts College premises in the port city yesterday.

## BORDER KILLINGS

## PM asks for stronger dialogue with India

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the foreign and home ministries as well as Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) to raise the border killing issue with India more strongly.

"The government should deal with the issue more strongly to stop the border killings," a cabinet minister quoted the prime minister as telling her colleagues at the weekly cabinet meeting held at the Secretariat.

LGRD Minister Syed Ashraful Islam brought the border killing issue to discussion when Foreign Minister Dipu Moni placed a report on the participation of the Bangladeshi delegation in the 33rd Saarc Council of Ministers.

Hasina asked the foreign minister and State Minister for Home Shamsul Hoque Tuku to take necessary steps so that both Bangladesh and Indian governments take sincere effort to stop the

border killings.

The prime minister directed them so that the matter comes up prominently in the discussion during the upcoming visit of Indian prime minister to Bangladesh.

Innocent and unarmed Bangladeshi citizens are being killed in indiscriminate firings and also in torture by Border Security Forces (BSF) of India on the borders regularly.

The BSF allegedly killed 907 unarmed Bangladeshis between 1 January 2000 and 31 March 2011, Odhikar, a human rights body based in Dhaka, says in its latest report.

Bangladesh has long been asking India to stop firings at unarmed Bangladeshis by BSF. India also gave commitments repeatedly to stop border killings in different meetings, including the home secretary meetings and conferences of director generals

(DGs) of BGB and BSF but did not keep its promises in reality.

The issue dominated the home secretary level meeting held in Dhaka in January where Indian Home Secretary GK Pillai assured of taking sincere effort to stop the killings.

Human rights activists, who are criticising India for firing and killings of unarmed Bangladeshis, said the government should take strong position to stop the killing.

At the cabinet meeting, Hasina also asked the law and finance ministries and Bangladesh Bank to expedite trial of the money laundering cases.

The prime minister made the directive as money laundering cases, including those against BNP chairperson's two sons -- Arafat Rahman Koko and Tarique Rahman -- and their business partner Giasuddin Al Mamun are losing pace, said meeting sources.

## Bangladeshi youth killed in London

UNB, Beanibazar

A gang of assailants stabbed to death a Bangladeshi youth in East London on Friday late night, according to a delayed report received here yesterday.

London Metropolitan Police arrested two suspected assailants but their identity could not be ascertained.

The deceased was identified as Kawser Hussain, 24, an employee of Dockland at east London and son of Azizur Rahman of Chandarpur village of Beanibazar upazila of Sylhet district.

He used to live along with his wife at Chowly Street in east London.

Friends and family sources said Kawser, along with his wife was going to his elder sister's house by a car at 11:00pm on Friday.

He got down from the car and walked towards his elder sister's house, leaving behind his wife in the vehicle.

All on a sudden, a gang of white youths attacked him with sharp weapons and stabbed him indiscriminately, leaving him dead on the spot. His awe-stricken wife, who watched the murder from the car, raised a hue and cry but nobody came to her husband's rescue.

## Assault on devotees of Lalon protested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two organisations yesterday strongly protested and condemned the attack on 28 devotees of mystic legend Lalon and forced shaving of their long hair and mustaches at Char Ramnagar in Pangsha upazila, Rajbari on April 5.

Bangladesh Sangeet Sangathan Somonnoy Parishad and Karmojibi Nari in separate statements also demanded immediate arrest and punishment to the people responsible for the offence.

Karmojibi Nari president Shirin Akhter and general secretary Sharmin Kabir in a joint statement said Lalon songs are a powerful element of Bangalee culture and forcibly shaving off long hair and mustaches of Lalon's devotees is a real threat from fundamentalists.

The fundamentalists in a planned way made similar attacks on Lalon devotees several times in the past, said Biswajit Roy, general secretary of Bangladesh Sangeet Sangathan Somonnoy Parishad.

He expressed solidarity to the activists of the cultural movement of Pangsha and demanded quick arrest of people who harassed the Lalon devotees.

## NEGLIGENCE OF DUTY Wasa Eng suspended

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) yesterday suspended its executive engineer of drainage circle, Md Nurul Islam, as he neglected his duty.

State Minister for LGRD Jahangir Kabir Nanan in a sudden visit to Mouchak area yesterday found people suffering due to waterlogging caused by blockage in storm sewerage line.

He instantly asked the authority to take immediate steps to solve the problem and take action against Nurul Islam.

He also warned of actions against other Wasa officials if they show any negligence in duty, which creates public suffering.

The Daily Star published a picture of the Mouchak waterlogging on Saturday.

## RID PHARMA CASE Plea to place proofs before court

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Special Public Prosecutor Mahmud Hossain Jahangir yesterday appealed to the court for directing the complainant to produce before it on May 15 the evidence seized in connection with the Rid Pharma case.

The case was filed against managing director of Rid Pharmaceuticals Ltd and four other officials on charges of adulterating paracetamol syrup that caused deaths of 28 children in 2009.

In yesterday's petition, Jahangir said the drug administration, during the occurrence of incidents, seized alamats from Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Shishu Hospital and several other places, which are very essential for proving the charges brought against the accused.

Judge Mohammad Abdul Majid of the Drug Court granted the prosecution petition directing Mohammad Shafiqul Islam, drug superintendent, to produce all the alamats seized from different places on the scheduled date.

Rid Pharma managing director Mizanur Rahman and his wife Sheuly Rahman, one of the directors of the company, who were earlier granted bails from different courts, were present during yesterday's hearing.

The three other accused -- Abdul Gani, another director of the company, and two pharmacists Mahbubul Islam and Enamul Haque -- are absconding.

Earlier on March 9, the same court framed charges against the five accused for manufacturing adulterated syrup.

On August 10 of 2009, Shafiqul Islam filed the case accusing the five of the company for using toxic diethylene glycol in manufacturing paracetamol syrup that caused deaths of 28 children the same year.

