

## NEWS IN *brief*

### Woman detained for 'torturing' domestic help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday detained a woman from the city's Kathalbagan for an allegation of torturing female house help.

Police said they held Sathi Mandal, 28, a nurse of a private hospital, from a house at Free School Street of the area who tortured domestic help Maya Roy, 45, of her sister Surovi Mandal's house. Sathi used to stay there.

SI of Kolabagan Police Station Sariful Islam said acting on a tip off, they conducted a raid at the house and rescued Maya with injuries in her head.

Police admitted the victim to One Stop Crisis Centre (OCC) of Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

### Two brokers jailed for cheating

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court yesterday sentenced two brokers to four months on charges of pocketing money from two BRTA service seekers preparing forged documents of Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTA).

The arrestees Tusher Ahmed and Mohammad Arif are members of an organised gang of brokers.

A team of Rab-4 arrested them from the premises of Mirpur BRTA office on request from BRTA officials with whom the two cheated service seekers lodged complaints recently.

Kazi Babla Sharif, one of the complainants, said he gave Tk. 13,000 to Arif in July last year for transfer of ownership of a private car he bought, his job was not done. Rather the cheat demanded Tk 3,000 more from him recently.

### Trial of Mir Kashem begins

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Trial in the tax evasion case against Jamaat-e-Islami leader Mir Kashem Ali began yesterday at a Dhaka court with deposition of complainant.

Judge Mohammad Zohurul Haque of the Senior Special Judge's Court recorded statement of complainant Mohammad Moniruzzaman, deputy tax commissioner of the National Board of Revenue (NBR).

Later Kashem's lawyer crossed the complainant partly and submitted a petition seeking adjournment of the hearing.

The court fixed May 9 for the next hearing. The Jamaat leader, also an executive member of its central committee, was present during the hearing.

Earlier on March 23, the same court framed charge against Mir Kashem and fixed yesterday for trial of the case.

NBR filed the case on August 19 last year against Kashem saying that he evaded Tk 11,28,235 in income tax on Tk 34,85,866 earned through Keari Limited as its chairman and director. It also states that Kashem repeatedly misinformed NBR about his actual income.

After the hearing, the court issued an arrest warrant against the Jamaat leader for committing such offence. Kashem surrendered before the High Court (HC) on August 22 seeking an ad-interim bail. The HC then granted him bail for six months or till submission of the police report.

### Akkharananda's death condoled

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different political and social organisations yesterday expressed deep condolences over the death of Swami Akkharananda, principal of Dhaka Ram Krishna Mission.

Swami Akkharananda died of old age complications on Monday at the age of 83.

Chief Whip Abdus Shahid in a statement said Swami Akkharananda was dedicated to establish peace in the society.

The people of the country will remember him for his great contribution to the nation, he said.

Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain and General Secretary Subrata Chowdhury also expressed their deep condolence at his death.

They said the death of Akkharananda is a great loss for the nation, which is irreparable.

Shamprodaikota Jongibad Birodhi Mancha in a statement also condoled his death.



Winners of 'Brain Brats' 2011 and their parents pose for photograph with The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam at The Daily Star Centre in the city yesterday. They participated in a roundtable on learning via internet. The Brain Brats is the country's first online knowledge combat for school students organised by The Daily Star and Champs21, an e-learning service provider.

PHOTO: STAR



### Untimely demise of Nafis

METRO DESK

Nafis Ahmed Farid, only son of Brig Gen (retd) Anwar Farid, ex-director general of Fire Service and Civil Defence Department and Ayesha Farid, passed away in Canada on April 8 this year. He was 24 years.

He left behind his parents, sister Tahira, grandparents AR Sharif and Rasheda Khatun and a host of relatives and well-wishers, said a press release here yesterday.

His namaj-e-janaza will be held at Baridhara DOHS Jame Masjid in the city tomorrow (Thursday) after Asr prayers. He will be later laid to rest at the Military Graveyard of Banani.

A doa mahfil for Nafis will be held at the masjid on Friday after Asr prayers.

All have been requested to join the janaza and the doa.

### Bidyut Kar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Bidyut Kar, a playwright and cultural personality, passed away at his residence at the city's Dariapara yesterday due to cardiac arrest at the age of 60, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, one son and one daughter.

His body was kept for hours at the Sylhet Central Shaheed Minar and Sylhet Radio, where cultural activists and people from all walks of life paid tributes.

Cremation of the body of Bidyut was held at the Chalibandar Cremation Ground in the city.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith and City Mayor Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran condoled his death.

## 'Work unitedly to implement women policy'

BSS, Dhaka

State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Dr Shirin Sharmin Choudhury yesterday said all would have to work unitedly for implementation of National Women Development Policy 2011 for the development and empowerment of women.

She was speaking as the chief guest at a discussion on 'National Women Development Policy: Responsibility for Implementation'.

Women for Women organised the discussion at the Jatiya Press Club in the city with the organisation's President Zakia K Hassan in the chair.

Former adviser to the caretaker government Advocate Sultana Kamal, Raoshan Ara Sathi, MP, Nazma Aktar, MP, and Bangladesh Mahila Parishad President Ayesha Khanam took part in the discussion.

Dr Nilufar Banu presented a keynote paper while Dhaka University Professor Dr Mahmuda Islam moderated the function.

The state minister said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is determined for development and empowerment of women and the government is very firm on implementation of the women development policy.

She said the National Women Development Policy 2011 is a guideline for empowerment of women in the country.

It is not a law, but a vested quarter is misinterpreting it, she added.

Advocate Sultana Kamal said the women of this country took part in all movements starting from the 1952 language movement side by side with men.

This women development policy is the result of that struggle, she added.

She thanked the government for formulating the policy and demanded its quick implementation.

### 2 youths held for offering bribes to police

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday arrested two people at Mohammadpur Police Station for allegedly trying to bribe policemen to release a motorbike.

Police seized the motorbike from the city's Dhanmondi-27 around 15 days back as it had no legal papers.

Assistant Commissioner Biplob Sarkar of Mohammadpur Zone told this correspondent that two youths Mokhesur Rahman, 30, of Savar and Akram Matbor, 31, of Rayerbazar area of Mohammadpur yesterday went to Mohammadpur Police Station around 5:00 pm.

As the youths claimed ownership of the seized motorbike, he asked them to show documents, he said.

Police arrested them as they failed to show documents and for offering Tk 15,000 to make a deal. The police also recovered Tk 10,000 from their possession.

Police filed a case in this connection.

## Relations to strengthen further

### Khaleda tells Rajapaksa

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leader of the Opposition and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday hoped that the existing friendly relations between Bangladesh and Sri Lanka will get even stronger in the coming days.

She expressed her hope while making a courtesy call on the visiting Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel in the city.

The BNP chairperson and Sri Lankan president discussed about important issues including bilateral relations, education, military issues and SAARC's effectiveness, BNP Vice-President Shamser Mobin Chowdhury told reporters after the meeting.

He said the opposition leader thanked the Sri Lankan president for visiting Bangladesh and she hoped the already existing friendly firm relations between the two countries will be enhanced in future.

Khaleda urged the Sri Lankan president to continue his bold role in making the SAARC effective and appreciated the Sri Lankan people for restoring peace in the country under the dynamic leadership of Rajapaksa, said Shamser.

The Sri Lankan president recalled that good relations between Bangladesh and Sri Lanka began with the setting up of Bangladesh mission in Colombo during the rule of late president Ziaur Rahman, added Shamser.

BNP Acting Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir and its chairperson's adviser Sabihuddin Ahmed also accompanied the opposition leader during the meeting.



#### Meeting

Kapaeeng Foundation and ILO will jointly organise a meeting. Venue: Cirdap auditorium, Time: 10:00am.

#### Rally

Communist Party of Bangladesh will arrange a protest rally. Venue: Mukhtangan, Time: 4:30pm.

#### Roundtable

International Medical College will hold a roundtable. Venue: Brac Centre Inn, Time: 11:00am.

#### Protest rally

Sammilito Sangskritik Jote will arrange a protest rally. Venue: Central

Shaheed Minar, Time: 4:00pm.

#### Discussion

WBB trust will organise a discussion. Venue: 16, Jhonson Road, Time: 11:00am.

#### Human chain

BSMMU Teachers Association will form a human chain. Venue: In front of BSMMU, Time: 11:00am.

#### Peace meeting

World Peace Organisation will hold a peace meeting. Venue: Dhaka Ainjibi Samity auditorium, Time: 3:00pm.

#### Roundtable

Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi



PHOTO: BNP

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia calls on Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa at his Sonargaon Hotel suite yesterday.

## Regional meet on migrant workers begins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Coordination of Action Research on Aids and Mobility (CARAM) yesterday expressed concern over the government decision to send large number of women migrant workers as domestic workers to Saudi Arabia a country that has seen increasing cases of abuse and rights violations.

CARAM, an international NGO, raised the concerns at the two-day long 4th regional consultative meeting on Asian contractual migrant workers held in the city yesterday as a part of the Colombo Process, says a press release.

Also, Human Rights Watch, Migrant Forum in Asia, and Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit jointly organised a press conference on the occasion at the National Press Club in the city.

At the conference, Nisha Varia, senior women's rights researcher at Human Rights

Watch, said migrant worker abuses often take place due to information gaps, poor coordination, and job competition.

Therefore, the Dhaka meeting where different country representatives will sit around the table and address these problems together will prove helpful, she said.

The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) provides technical support to the Colombo Process and serves as its secretariat.

The countries attending the Colombo Process include Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Eight observer members will represent the countries of employment namely Bahrain, Italy, Kuwait, Malaysia, Qatar, South Korea, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.



Nisha Varia speaks at a discussion on Protecting Asian Migrants' Rights at Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday. On her right are Dr Chowdhury Abrar and William Gois. Three organisations, including Migrant Forum in Asia, organised the discussion demanding steps to protect migrant workers.

PHOTO: STAR

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### Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at one or two places over all the seven divisions 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 6:22pm today and rises at 5:33am tomorrow.**

Country's highest temperature 35.5 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Patuakhali and lowest 21.0 degrees Celsius at Rajshahi and Ishwardi.

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	24.0	53	42
Chittagong	33.6	26.4	71	74
Rajshahi	33.4	21.0	73	67
Rangpur	32.0	21.8	81	61
Khulna	34.3	21.6	62	57
Barisal	33.8	23.6	63	69

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