

# NEWS IN *brief*

## Sher-e-Bangla's contribution recalled

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 49th death anniversary of Sher-e-Bangla AK Fazlul Haque was observed in the city and elsewhere across the country in a befitting manner yesterday.

Different socio-political and cultural organisations observed the day with a number of programmes, including placing of wreaths at his mazar, doa mahfils and discussions.

Members of Sher-e-Bangla Jatiya Smriti Sangsad placed wreaths at his mazar in the morning and organised a discussion there, says a press release.

Speakers at the discussion called for naming the Padma Multi-purpose Bridge after Sher-e-Bangla and establishing a hospital in Bagerhat after his name.

Praying for salvation of his departed soul they offered qurankhwani there.

National Democratic League and Amra Muktijoddhar Shantan also placed wreaths at his graveyard and organised discussions.

## Tribute paid to Samad Azad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sixth death anniversary of former foreign minister and Awami League (AL) presidium member Abdus Samad Azad was observed yesterday with due respect.

To mark the day, different organisations including AL and its associate bodies and Abdus Samad Azad Foundation placed wreaths and offered fateha at his grave at Banani graveyard in the city.

In the morning AL central leaders paid their homage to their departed long-time comrade by placing wreaths.

A milad mahfil was held at the AL president's political office at Dhanmondi after Asr prayers for salvation of the departed soul.

Jagannathpur upazila unit of AL of Sunamganj district also organised a commemorative meeting to pay their tribute to the leader.

## Coast Guard gets three Navy ships

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Navy handed over three of its ships permanently to Coast Guard at simple ceremony in the city yesterday, says an ISPR release.

The ceremony, attended by Navy chief Vice Admiral Zahir Uddin Ahmed and Coast Guard Director General Rear Admiral Kazi Sarwar Hossain, was held at Coast Guard headquarters at Agargaon.

The three ships of 61st Patrol Craft Ship (PCS) -- Tawfiq, Tanvir, and Tamjid -- were made in China and commissioned with Navy in 1982.

The ships were used in combating pirates and ensuring security in Chittagong and Mongla ports and given temporarily to Coast Guard on July 17, 2005.

## 'Ban anti-liberation activities'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gonotantri Party yesterday demanded special law for banning activities of anti-liberation organisations.

It also demanded reinstating proposals of 1972 constitution and removal of Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim, as it is inappropriate and contradictory to the essence of the constitution. The demands came at a press conference held at Jatiya Press Club in the city.

## Non-govt teachers press for budgetary allocation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two associations of teachers yesterday demanded budgetary allocation for the teachers and employees of non-government educational institutions, just as allocated for their government counterparts to eliminate discrimination.

At a conference, they said non-government teachers and employees carry out 90 percent duties in the education sector, still they are extremely neglected.

Bangladesh College Teacher Association (BCTA) and Bangladesh Principal Council (BPC) jointly organised the conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU) in the city.

## STOCK MARKET SCAM Legal notice on Ibrahim Khaled to quit Krishi Bank

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Supreme Court lawyer yesterday served a legal notice upon Khondker Ibrahim Khaled, asking him to resign from the office of chairman of Bangladesh Krishi Bank within 10 days for disclosing the contents of stock market scam probe report to the media.

Khondker Ibrahim Khaled, head of the four-member probe committee, submitted the probe report to the finance minister on April 7. ATN Bangla, a private TV channel, aired his interview on this issue on April 7 and 8.

Advocate Md Abul Hashem in the notice said Khondker Ibrahim Khaled has made some objectionable comments regarding certain companies and individuals at different times in different electronic media.

"You (Ibrahim Khaled) deliberately and consciously got involved with character assassination of people and business organisations quoting from your so-called report and your such undesirable comments were not made in good faith and your terms of reference," the notice said.

It said that Ibrahim Khaled has intentionally disclosed the contents of the probe report, which is an absolute property of the government of republic, which is a violation of relevant laws.

Abul Hashem told The Daily Star that Ibrahim Khaled's earlier commented that steps should be taken against the people named in the probe report under the martial law. This is amount to inviting martial law in the country, Abul added.

He also said that he served the notice for the interest of people, and he will file a writ petition with the HC, seeking its direction on Ibrahim Khaled to resign from the post of chairman of Bangladesh Krishi Bank, if he does not do it within 10 days.

Advocate Syeda Afsar Jahan issued the notice on behalf of Abul Hashem.

Implementing it would be a big challenge for the government but the prime minister assured to allocate the finance needed, he added.

"The policy reflects national characteristics and here lies a strong probability of its implementation," Nahid said. The government has already started implementation of some of the policy's strategies, he mentioned.

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The government should increase allocation in education sector, as this would be the best investment for a brighter future for the nation, said Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday.

He said the government should allocate six percent of Gross Domestic Product and 20 percent of national budget for education sector in this regard.

The minister was speaking at a launching ceremony of the English version of National Education Policy 2010 at Cirdap auditorium in the city, organised by Ministry of Education in collaboration with Unesco Dhaka.

Unwrapping the policy's cover, Nahid said the English version would help meet the demand of development partners and noted educationists of foreign countries.

The policy has been formulated based on the need for a concrete education policy and in a way so that it can be implemented, he said.

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## Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shamima Akhter, an employee of Channel-i, passed away at city hospital yesterday due to cardiac arrest at the age of 45, says a press release.

She left behind her an offspring and a host of relatives and well-wishers.

Shamima worked with Channel-i from its inception.

Her namaz-e-janaza was held on Channel-i premises after Zohr prayers.

She was buried at her village home at West Potia Maijpara of Potenga in Chittagong.

Channel-i condoled her death.

## Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 14th death anniversary of artist Azizur Rahman, father of Poet Aminur Rahman Sultan, a deputy director of Bangla Academy and editor of little magazine Amitrakkhor, says a press release.

On the occasion, Azizur Rahman Smriti Natya Sangsad will organise a memorial meeting and milad mahfil at his residence at Ishwarganj in Mymensingh after Asr prayers today.



Ruling Awami League Chief Sheikh Hasina leads a 12-member delegation, on behalf of the party, to talks with the parliamentary special committee on constitutional amendment at Sangsad Bhaban in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

# Govt should enhance funds in edn sector

## Says education minister

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sion of the policy would be well appreciated in other countries like the main one which is broadly accepted among Bangladeshis.

Describing the key features of the policy, Dr Qazi Kholiqzaman Ahmad, co-chair of National Education Policy Implementation Committee, said enacting an education law is imperative for the policy's implementation.

Education Secretary Dr Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury, Unesco Dhaka Head and Representative Derek Elias, and Additional Secretary of education ministry SM Ghulam Farooque also spoke.

In another programme, former education secretary Syed Ataur Rahman said an estimated Tk 1.20 crore would be needed for the policy's implementation.

At a seminar titled "Implementation of National Education Policy 2010 focusing on Regional Disparities", he said around Tk 28.598 crore would be needed to build additional classrooms while Tk 1,500 crore would be needed to construct new buildings.

"An additional Tk 15,000 crore would be required every year if we want to implement the education policy," he said while giving a presentation.

Dhaka School of Economics in association with Bangladesh Economic Association and Campaign for Popular Education organised the programme at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the city.

# MONEY LAUNDERING Koko's lawyers for withdrawal of case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lawyers of Arafat Rahman Koko, the youngest son of BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia, submitted an application to the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) for withdrawing or discontinuing the money laundering case filed by it against Koko.

The lawyers Mahub Uddin Khokon, Bodruddoza Badal and Rajib Rouf Chowdhury placed the application to ACC Chairman Ghulam Rahman yesterday.

According to the application, the case against Koko can not be run as per the February 9 Supreme Court ruling over proceeding with the case under the Money Laundering Prevention Act, 2009.

The SC ruled that an offence committed before the promulgation of the 2009 act, cannot be tried under it, the application said. The alleged time of occurrence in the case against Koko has been shown between 2004 and 2007, which is much before the 2009 act's promulgation, the application added.

The ACC filed the case against Koko, now in Bangkok for treatment, on March 17, 2009 under the Money Laundering Prevention Act, 2009 on charge of siphoning off Tk 19.7 crore to Singapore.

According to ACC's deposition, a portion of the money deposited to Koko's bank account was from an account of China Harbour Engineering Company Ltd in the USA.

At the time during the money transfer, the company was working in Bangladesh on the construction of New Mooring Container Terminal.

The trial court has earlier recorded statements of 10 prosecution witnesses in this case.

Mahub Uddin Khokon said the ACC chairman informed them that his office will take decision on the application scrutinizing the SC ruling and the relevant laws.

# Oitiya book fair starts in Dhaka, Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Oitiya Book Festival was kicked off yesterday in Dhaka and Chittagong to mark the 11th anniversary of Oitiya.

Readers could buy books at discount rate from the fair held at the Public Library in Dhaka and Studio Theatre in Chittagong, says a press release.

A total of 800 books were published by Oitiya is being found in the festival.

The festival will continue till May 20 and May 8 in Dhaka and Chittagong respectively.



Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran, president of the Pontifical Council for Inter-religious Dialogue (Vatican's Department), calls on BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia at her Gulshan office in the city yesterday.

# Appoint chief justice maintaining seniority: SCBA

UNB, Dhaka

Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) President Khandker Mahub Hossain yesterday warned the government of "dire consequences" if it appoints the next Chief Justice (CJ) ignoring seniority.

"Government is planning to appoint next CJ purely on political consideration, ignoring the seniority of the Appellate Division judges," he alleged while addressing an emergency general meeting of SCBA executive committee.

He said according to the seniority list, Justice Shah Abu Nayeem Mominur Rahman deserves the highest post of the judiciary after the incumbent CJ ABM Khairul Haque who goes on retirement on May 18.

He said if the government follows the seniority list in appointing the CJ, Justice Shah ANM Mominur Rahman will be the next head of the caretaker government as per the existing constitutional provision.

"Don't appoint the next CJ from partisan viewpoint by ignoring the seniority list," said Mahub, also BNP chairperson's adviser.

The main opposition political party would not also accept it, he added.

Earlier, the SCBA meeting urged the president to take appropriate decision on the appointment of the next Chief Justice upholding the seniority, as the lawyers would not accept such appointment.

The meeting also urged the government to appoint judges in the High Court division based on merit and frame a specific guideline to this effect.

Barrister Jamir Uddin Sircar, Barrister Rafiqul Islam Miah, Barrister AM Mahub Uddin Khokon and ABM Nurul Islam also addressed the meeting.

# \$40m WB credit for repatriation from Libya

BSS, Dhaka

The World Bank (WB) has approved US \$40 million credit for repatriation of Bangladeshi migrant workers escaping the ongoing conflict in Libya.

The fund is a part of the US \$74.1 million project to bring back and repatriate Bangladeshi workers from the troubled African country, says AWB release.

Another US \$29.5 million comes from different donors through the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), which will implement the project on behalf of the government. The government contribution to the project stands at US\$4.6 million.

The credits from the International Development Association (IDA), the WB's concessionary lending arm, carry a maturity of 40 years with a 10-year grace period and a 0.75 percent service fee.

An estimated 70,000-80,000 Bangladeshis were working in Libya before the crisis, of which about 34,000 have returned due to security concerns.

# DESTROYING EVIDENCE 3 cops asked to face court on May 4

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday asked three policemen to appear before it on May 4 for their explanation why they had destroyed evidence (alamat) of the Rehana Akhter Bakul murder case of Mymensingh district.

Judge Shahed Noor Uddin of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-1 passed the order after Special Public Prosecutor Abu Abdullah submitted a petition.

The policemen are Shahid Shokrana, court inspector of Mymensingh Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court, court sub-inspector Habibur Rahman, and court sub-inspector (ret'd) Ibrahim Khalil.

The three policemen had earlier submitted a petition with the First Class Magistrate's Court of the district where they said the case was disposed of on July 26, 1998 and the accused constable Rafiqul Islam (husband of the victim) and his brother Nazrul Islam were acquitted of the charges.

They submitted another petition for destroying evidence of the case saying the case was "disposed of." Later, the magistrate granted their petition.

Meantime, the tribunal asked concerned policemen to place the evidence before it on the scheduled date while recording statement of a witness but one of the policemen had submitted a petition with the tribunal on April 25 saying that the evidence was earlier destroyed.

Earlier on different dates, Mymensingh District and Sessions Judge's Court recorded statements of 19 prosecution witnesses. Later, the case was transferred to the tribunal for its quick disposal.

Bakul was killed by her husband as her family failed to give dowry at Jatia village in Bhaluka upazila of Mymensingh on May 7, 1997.

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### No change in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at a few places over Chittagong division and at one or two places over Rajshahi, Rangpur, Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal and Sylhet divisions in 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 6:25pm today and rises at 5:26am tomorrow.**  
Country's highest temperature 34.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 20.2 degrees Celsius at Madaripur.

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	21.0	70	55
Chittagong	30.2	22.5	84	69
Rajshahi	33.8	22.2	70	55
Rangpur	32.2	22.2	78	67
Khulna	32.9	23.0	82	60
Barisal	30.0	22.4	87	72

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