

## Khaleda flies to London today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia leaves Dhaka for London this morning en route to the US on a two-week visit. This will be her first trip to the UK and the US after the 2008 election debacle.

She will meet her elder son and BNP's Senior Vice Chairman Tarique Rahman, who is undergoing medical treatment in London since September 2008, party leaders said.

They hoped a number of high profile meetings will be held between Khaleda and top-level officials of both countries.

After a week's stay in London, she will take off for the US on May 21 and is expected to return home on May 29.

BNP Vice-chairman Shamsur Mobin Chowdhury, chairperson's Advisers Osman Farruk, Sabihuddin Ahmed and Abdul Awal Mintoo, journalist Shafiq Rehman, among others, will accompany her during the visit.



PHOTO: STAR

**Wailing relatives of three construction workers who were electrocuted at a construction site in the city's Kotwali yesterday. The incident happened when they were moving a metal pipe which came in contact with a live wire drawn from a steel shop adjacent to the site. (Story on Page 20)**

## No rule to appoint CJ based on seniority

### Says Quader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) Presidium Member Obaidul Quader yesterday said there is no provision in the service rules of the Supreme Court regarding appointment of Chief Justice based on seniority.

He also dismissed BNP's allegation that rules were violated in appointing the Chief Justice and accused the main opposition of propagandizing against the government over the issue.

"It's not right that laws or rules were violated in appointing the new Chief Justice. Without reading the service rules of the Supreme Court, BNP leaders are making misleading statements over the issue," said the AL policymaker while speaking at a discussion at Dhaka Reporters' Unity.

Bangabandhu Academy organised it marking the second death anniversary of eminent nuclear scientist Dr Wazed Miah, husband of Prime Minister and AL President Sheikh Hasina.

Another AL Presidium Member Satish Chandra Roy, lawmaker Nazrul Islam Babu, Faiz Uddin Miah, and Humayun Kabir Mizi, among others, spoke at the discussion with academy president Hemayet Uddin Bir Bikram was in the chair.

## PM leaves for Geneva tomorrow

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister (PM) Sheikh Hasina leaves here for Geneva tomorrow to attend the 16th World Meteorological Congress (WMO) and the 64th World Health Assembly.

The PM and her entourage members will take off in the morning for Doha enroute to Geneva, foreign ministry sources told the news agency yesterday.

During her four-day visit, the PM will address WMO's high level segment on May 16 and address the assembly on May 17.

The WMO congress, a specialised UN agency, will discuss issues on weather, climate change, water, environment, natural hazards and gender.

## Youth held for making video on rape

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab-7) yesterday arrested a youth from his house at Masterpara in Halishahar of the port city for blackmailing a housewife.

Upon arrest Sajib Debnath, 25, son of late Sudhangshu Debnath, was handed over to Halishahar police for further legal action.

Sources said Sajib made a relationship with a woman in 2007 while she used to bring and take her daughter to and from an art school in Halshahar area.

Sajib was a teacher at the school.

He used to go to her house often in absence of her husband. On December 2009, Sajib raped the woman and videotaped it.

The culprit threatened the woman that he would upload it on the Internet if she did not pay him money.

So far Sajib had realised Tk 2.5 lakh in several instalments from the victim and putting pressure on her to pay more money.

As her husband learned the matter, he made a complaint to Rab-7 headquarters.

A team of Rab-7 led by its Commanding Officer (CO) Lt Col Abu Hena Md Mostafa Kamal raided Sajib's residence and made the arrest yesterday.

ASP Nurul Huda of Rab-7 said Sajib confessed his crime in primary interrogation. The husband of the woman filed a case.

## 350 tolas of gold jewellery stolen from shop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Over 350 tolas of gold ornament were stolen from a jewellery shop at the city's Zindabazar early hours yesterday.

The miscreants took away the gold ornament from Swarna jewellery in Hajari Building. They entered into an adjacent shoe store for making a hole on the wall before breaking the shutter and grills of the jewellery shop. Police later picked up three of the staff of Jewellery for quizzing.

Meanwhile, Sylhet unit of Bangladesh Jewellery Samity called for a day long strike in all the jewellery shops in the city today. They will also stage a human chain today.

## Big ADP on cards

*Govt mulls Tk 46,000cr development plan for next fiscal year*

UNB, Dhaka

The government plans to undertake a huge Annual Development Programme (ADP) of Tk 46,000 crore for the next fiscal year with priority on power, transport, education, local government, agriculture and water resources sectors.

The size of the next year's ADP will be the largest ever in the country's history although the revised ADP for the current fiscal (2010-11) had to be curtailed substantially as the implementing agencies failed to disburse the allocated funds in due time.

Of the proposed ADP outlay of Tk 46,000 crore for fiscal 2011-12, the government will provide Tk 27,315 crore while Tk 18,685 crore will come as project assistance, Planning Ministry sources said.

They said an allocation of Tk 9,555 crore has been proposed for the Local Government Division in the next year's ADP while Tk 7,153 crore for the Power Division and Tk 4,587 crore for the Roads and Railways Division.

An amount of Tk 1,448 crore has been proposed for the Planning Division with block allocations for the Padma Multipurpose Bridge project, some dredging projects, and also some other important projects.

According to Planning Ministry sources, Primary and Mass Education Ministry has been proposed Tk 3,512 crore, Health and Family Welfare Ministry Tk 3,500 crore and Education Ministry Tk 2,143 crore.

Sources said, the ministries and divisions had earlier proposed for an ADP allocation of Tk 67,000 crore - Tk 53,000 crore from domestic sources and Tk 14,000 crore as project assistance. But, the Finance Division has trimmed the amount to Tk 46,000 crore.

DHAKA TODAY

Seminar

Association of Physicians of Bangladesh will organise a seminar; Venue: Ruposhi Bangla Hotel; Time: 10:30am.

Programme

Bangladesh Girls Guide Association will hold a programme; Venue: Guide House, New Bailey Road; Time: 10:00am.

Discussion

Nagorik Forum will organise a discussion; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 4:00pm.

Anniversary programme

Shaptahik 2000 will organise its anniversary programme; Venue: The Daily Star Centre; Time: 1:00pm.

Human chain

Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Oikya Parishad will hold a human chain; Venue: in front of Jatiya Press Club; Time: 4:00pm.

Rally

Save The Environment Movement will organise a rally; Venue: Kayettuli Water Pump Field; Time: 10:30am.

Discussion

The Daily Star will organise a discussion; Venue: The Daily Star Centre; Time: 10:00am.

Rally

Communist Party of Bangladesh will hold a rally; Venue: in front of Jatiya Press Club; Time: 4:30pm.

Human chain

Nagorik Adhikar Sangrakkhan Forum will organise a human chain; Venue: in front of Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:30am.

Discussion

Monthly Legal Aid will hold a discussion; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:00am.

Workshop

Bangladesh International Arbitration Centre will organise a workshop; Venue: Conference Hall, MCCJ, Motijheel; Time: 10:30am.



Visitors look on the photos snapped during the study tours of the Architecture Department of Buet. The seven-day photo exhibition, inaugurated by Head of the department Prof Dr Zebun Nasreen Ahmed, concludes at the university today.

PHOTO: COURTESY

## Shawkat Osman's anniversary of death today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 13th death anniversary of Shawkat Osman, a noted litterateur of the Bangla literature.

On the occasion, a memorial meeting will be held at the Liberation War Museum in the city at 5:00pm today, says a press release.

He passed away on this day in 1998.

Shawkat Osman fought against communalism, extremism and anti-liberation forces during his lifetime.

He was born in Hugli of West Bengal in India. He had enriched the Bangla literature with his write-ups, which cover a number of segments of literature.

He received a number of awards for his contribution in literature.

## BSC ship set to sail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Banglar Urmi, a cargo vessel of Bangladesh Shipping Corporation (BSC) lying idle for 27 months, is set to sail on Monday after being repaired for five months under management of Army Welfare Trust.

BSC chartered its two ships -- Banglar Urmi and Banglar Gourav -- each around 13,000 deadweight tonnage, to the trust five months ago through a five-year contract of US \$ 500 per day for each under Bareboat Charter.

Under the charter, the trust would bear all voyage related costs, including vessel fuel, port dues, operations, maintenance, appointing crews and insurance.

After signing a Memorandum of Understanding, the trust began repairing the vessels, aided by BSC engineering department, using local technology to make them fit for sailing. The trust would use the ships to transport goods produced by its different factories, said sources.

Major General Abu Belal Muhammad Shafiul Huq, chairman of Management Committee of Army Welfare Trust, visited Banglar Urmi anchored at River Mooring No-10 in Patenga of Chittagong yesterday to oversee repair works.

The trust Managing Director Brig Gen Arif Ahmed Chowdhury and BSC Managing Director Commodore Moksumul Kader accompanied him.

Arif, talking to reporters, said repairing the two ships would cost less than the presumed Tk 15 crore due to use of local technology and Banglar Gourav would likely go into operation at the end of June.

Moksumul said BSC was not able to "provide" such a big amount to repair the ships.

Mentionable, BSC bought the ships in the 1980s.

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