

## NEWS IN *brief*

### 4 fake journos, HR activists held

UNB, Keraniganj

Locals here caught four people impersonating as journalists and human rights activists red-handed and handed them over to police yesterday.

The arrested are Hridoy Ahmed Razu, 30, son of Sekander Ahmed; Sumon Mia, 23, son of Abdul Matin; Kabir Hossain, 28, son of Belal Hossain; and Leeza Khan, 32, wife of Kamrul Islam.

Police said the quartet went to Maniknagar and took Tk 5,000 as toll money from Anowar Hossain, owner of Boishakhi Ice Cream Factory, introducing themselves as journalists of Dainik Sandha Bani and human rights activists around 11:00pm.

Being suspicious, locals caught them when they were leaving by a car and gave them a mass beating.

A case was filed with Keraniganj model thana in this connection.

### Three snatchers arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police in a drive arrested three snatchers at Naya Bazar in Pahartali of the port city yesterday.

Arrested are Abul Kasem Suman alias Sandwippa Suman, 30, of Sandwip, Mohammmd Jasim, 32, of Sandwip, and Abdur Rahim, 27, of Laksmipur.

A locally made firearm, three bullets, and two machetes were recovered from the three.

Zahedul Islam, officer-in-charge of Pahartali Police Station, said the gang mugged Tk 5 lakh from a man on April 19.

They were also found involved in snatchings in the port city before, he added.

### Timbers worth Tk 8 lakh seized

CU CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Coast Guard seized stolen Segun and Gamari timbers worth Tk 8 lakh from an engine-run boat in the Karnaphuli River along Bakalia of the port city yesterday.

A Coast Guard patrol team conducted a drive near Bolir Hat area and seized 350.84 cubic feet stolen timbers of Segun and Gamari around 6:00am.

Sensing the presence of the law enforcers, the smugglers fled the scene abandoning the boat, says a press release.

The seized timbers were handed over to the Forest Department (south Chittagong).

# Quality higher education stressed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

University Grant Commission (UGC) Chairman Dr AK Azad Chowdury yesterday said higher education would be taken to such a level from where the country's graduates compete in global arena.

There would be no discrimination in uplifting and enhancing quality in higher education imparted by the public and private universities, said the UGC chief.

He made the remarks while speaking at a reception jointly organised by UGC Officers' Association and UGC Karmakarta Karmachari Parishad.

Dr Azad asserted he would leave no stone unturned to bring transparency, accountability, and dynamism in the commission.

He also urged the faculties in various universities to dedicate themselves earnestly to the enrichment of knowledge.

Md Kamal Hossain, president of UGC Officers' Association and deputy director of publication and information (research and publication division), chaired the function.

UGC members Prof Dr Md Abdul Hakim, Prof Md Tajul Islam, Prof Amena Begum, and Prof M Muhibur Rahman were present on the occasion.

## Snatched police shotgun recovered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday morning recovered a shotgun, which muggers snatched from law enforcers near Rajarbagh Police Line on Tuesday night, from East Dholaiapur area of Jatrabari in the city. The shotgun was left abandoned at a club.

OC Shahidul Haque of Paltan Police Station said four policemen led by a sub-inspector of the police station, around 11:30pm on Tuesday, tried to stop three muggers fleeing on a CNG-run auto-rickshaw after mugging a couple.

When a constable tried hitting the moving vehicle with his shotgun butt, one of the muggers snatched it and they escaped, the OC added.

A departmental probe team was formed, said the OC.



President Zillur Rahman administers oath to the newly appointed Chief Justice Mohammad Mozammel Hossain at Bangabhaban in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 20)

PHOTO: PID

## APPOINTMENT OF CG CHIEF

# Shafique echoes justice Khairul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Shafique Ahmed yesterday echoed the comment of just-retired chief justice ABM Khairul Haque on the chief adviser of next caretaker government.

"The [just-retired] chief justice has already said that future will say who will be the chief of the [next] caretaker government. I agree with him. We can't say it now that who will be the next chief," law minister told journalists after a memorial speech on Nalinikanta Bhattachali at National Museum in the city to mark the International Museum Day 2011.

Mentioning that the Supreme Court's (SC) verdict on caretaker

government system has established "a policy of law," he said, "The verdict is not contradictory to our constitution. We will have to respect the court's verdict."

There is no legal scope to return the money to the persons who gave it to the Truth and Accountability Commission as they admitted that they earned the currency illegally, said the law minister while replying to a query.

The Supreme Court on May 16 upheld the High Court verdict that declared illegal the truth commission the Fakhruddin Ahmed-led caretaker government had formed as part of its anti-graft crackdown.

Earlier, Professor of Rajshahi

University (RU) Emeritus ABM Hossain gave the memorial lecture recalling contribution of the first curator of Dhaka Museum Dr Nalinikanta Bhattachali.

Pointing out the poor condition of the museums of the country, Hossain said lack of fund and inspiration from local people as well as lack of skilled manpower and academic knowledge are responsible for this poor condition.

He urged for introducing the Museology department in the university level. Though there are the Archaeology departments, but no Museology department in the universities. Students are given knowledge to create things at the

Archaeology department but no department is established to preserve those things, he added.

Hossain stressed the need for a policy on museum affairs and digitisation of the museums.

Law minister pointed out that only museum could preserve the correct history of the country. "If the history about the birth of the country is preserved in the museum without any distortion, the next generation will learn about it properly," he said.

Among others, Vice-chancellor of Dhaka University AAMS Arefin Siddique and Director General of National Museum Prakash Chandra Dasspoke at the event.

## MIG-29 CASE

# Charges read to 5 accused

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Air Marshal (ret'd) Jamal Uddin Ahmed and four others, accused in the MiG-29 purchase graft case, yesterday claimed themselves innocent and demanded justice before a Dhaka court after the charges were read out to them.

The four others are former defense secretary Syed Yusuf Hossain, Air Commodore (ret'd) Mirza Akhter Maruf, former joint secretary Hossain Serniabat, and Unique Group Managing Director Nur Ali.

Special Public Prosecutor Shaheen Ahmed Khan cited important portions of the statements taken from 34 prosecution witnesses and read the charges to the accused.

Judge Mohammad Abdul Majid of the Special Court for Dhaka division then asked the accused whether they were guilty or not.

The court also fixed May 22 for arguments from the prosecution and the defense.

Earlier the court recorded statements of 34 prosecution witnesses, including the complainant and the investigation officer of the case.

On August 12, 2008, the court relieved former army chief Mustafizur Rahman of all charges in the case after he died on August 3.

On August 20, 2008, a special court, dealing with graft cases, framed charges against Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina and five others.

The High Court quashed the case proceedings against Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who was also an accused in the case, on March 9 last year.

According to the prosecution, it was alleged that while Hasina was in power, she in collaboration with the other accused unnecessarily purchased eight MiG-29 jet fighters for gaining benefits, causing a loss of Tk 700 crore to the state exchequer.

The case was filed with Tejgaon Police Station against Hasina and six others on December 11, 2001.



Leader of the Opposition and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia meets former British prime minister Gordon Brown MP at House of Commons in London. Bangladesh origin Rushanara Ali MP, left, was present.

PHOTO: BNP

# Materialise Nooruzzaman's dream for trial of war criminals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a memorial meeting yesterday urged all to work for materialising Lt Col (ret'd) Quazi Nooruzzaman's (Bir Uttam) dreams of bringing the people who had committed war crimes and crimes against humanity to book.

Nooruzzaman was a man who could not confine his life in Liberation War, he kept on putting pressure on the successive governments for brining the war criminals to justice, they said.

Paying tribute to the memories of the freedom fighter, they said Nooruzzaman was a uncompromising freedom fighter throughout his life and his ideals and examples would inspire the young generation and help the country move forward with the spirit of the War of Liberation.

Samaj Chinta Forum organised the meeting at Jatiya Press Club in the city.

Nooruzzaman, a veteran of the Second World War, the commander of sector-7 in the war and one of the architects of the Ekattorer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee, passed away on May 6.

"Many freedom fighters could not remain a freedom

fighter at the end, but he [Nooruzzaman] was the person who was a freedom fighter throughout his life," said Justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman, former chief adviser to a caretaker government.

He said Nooruzzaman was a youth and a hopeful person in his entire life. "His courage to wage movement anew even at his last age amazed me," he said.

There was a scarcity of good people in the country and Col Nooruzzaman was one of them, said veteran language hero Abdul Matin,

urging all to be good for making a beautiful Bangladesh for which lakhs of Bangladeshes fought and sacrificed their lives.

Veteran journalist ABM Musa said the young generation will have to carry out the responsibility given by the freedom fighters and sector commanders.

Awami League Advisory Council Member Tofail Ahmed said Nooruzzaman was a man of principles and he always had done what he believed.

"He [Nooruzzaman] never bowed down before injus-

tice," he said, adding that the warrior could not see his dream, which is trial of the people involved with war crimes, materialised. "Let's fulfil his dream," he added.

The trail of war criminals will have to be done during the regime of this government, he said, adding that otherwise they have to be responsible to the people.

Nooruzzaman's wife Dr Sultana Zaman, daughter Prof Naila Zaman, Human Rights Commission Chairman Dr Mizanur Rahman, among others, were present.



Prof Naila Zaman, daughter of Lt Col (ret'd) Quazi Nooruzzaman (Bir Uttam), speaks at a memorial meeting organised by Sector Commanders Forum at Liberation War Museum in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## PALLI PHONE CASE

# Yunus, three Grameen staff get bail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A Pabna court yesterday granted bail to Dr Muhammad Yunus, former managing director of Grameen Bank (GB), and three officials in a case filed for sending bloated telephone bill to a Palli Phone, a Grameen Telecom initiative subscriber.

The three officials are Mahbubur Rahman, manager of Pabna zonal office; Md Masud Reza, administrative officer of the zonal office; and Md Habibur Rahman, Ataikula branch manager of Grameen Bank.

Adv Md Abdul Matin, counsel of the four accused, placed petitions for bail and told the court that Dr Yunus has already received bail in the case from the High Court and submitted necessary documents.

"Showing respect to the High Court order, the court granted Dr Muhammad Yunus bail," said Matin, also the president of Pabna Bar Association.

The three other accused were granted bail on a bond of Tk 10,000.

During the hearing the officials were present at the court. A High Court lawyer appeared before the court on behalf of Prof Yunus, the country's lone Nobel Prize winner.

On February 15, Abdul Mazed, a former manager of Grameen Bank Ganguhati centre in Ataikula, filed the case with the Senior Judicial Court-3.

Mazed had complained that the Palli Phone authorities sent an abnormal bill of Tk 76,000 to Hafiza Begum, a subscriber of the phone.

The bank started pressing Mazed to clear the bill as the woman got the phone through him, he added. Mazed had to pay the money.

Mazed left the job last year and filed the case.

The court asked the accused to appear before the court yesterday.

# BSSMU to build 1,500-bed building

BSS, Dhaka

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) Hospital will build a new building to add 1,500 more beds to facilitate quality healthcare especially for middle and lower income people.

This was revealed yesterday when BSMMU Vice Chancellor (VC) Prof Pran Gopal Dutta called on President Zillur Rahman at Bangabhaban.

During the meeting, the VC apprised the president that the new multi-storied building would be established on 12 bighas of lands just adjacent to the existing BSMMU complex.

He apprised the president of various academic and clinical developments of BSMMU. A modern Neonatal Intensive Care Unit recently opened at BSMMU hospital, he said.

The VC invited the president to preside over the first convocation of BSMMU to be held on June 21. Nobel Laureate Harvard University Prof Jack Szostak is expected to be the convocation speaker, he informed.

The president gave consent to attend the convocation and assured of all-out cooperation in this regard. He put emphasis on expanding modern healthcare facilities in the country especially for the middle and lower middle-income people.

Concerned secretaries of the president's office were present.