

NEWS IN *brief*

## Journalist Repression Day today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalist (BFUJ) and Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) will observe "Journalist Repression Day" today.

On the occasion, DUJ will hold a discussion at Jatiya Press Club at 11:00am. DUJ President Shah Alamgir and General Secretary Abu Jafar Surya requested fellow journalists to participate in the programme.

On this day in 1992, the then ruling party-backed cadres attacked on journalists at Jatiya Press Club, leaving over 100 journalists injured.

## BCL 4 DU female hall executives

DU CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) yesterday announced a partial committee of four female dormitories of Dhaka University (DU) unit for one-year tenure.

This was disclosed by a notification signed by BCL central and DU unit presidents and secretaries.

The selected committee members are Sharmin Sultan Lily and Quazi Sharmin Sultan Tonni (BCL Rokeya Hall unit president and secretary respectively), Nupur Khanam Duli and Afrin Nusrat (Shamsunnahar Hall unit president and secretary), Zakia Zaman Nipa and Tanzin Sharmin Misori (Begum Fazilatunnissa Mujib Hall unit president and secretary), Kamrunnahar Kamini and Shanta Akter Shima (Kuwait-Moiti Hall unit president and secretary).

## Rename Eden College after Pritilata Waddader

DU CORRESPONDENT

Eden College Unit Samajtantrik Chhatra Front, a left leaning student organisation, yesterday demanded renaming the college "Pritilata Waddader University".

The Front leaders, speaking at its reception ceremony for new students at the college, also demanded naming a new dormitory of the college after Sufia Kamal.

## Contempt charge against govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP leader Barrister Nasir Uddin Asim yesterday filed a petition with High Court (HC) bringing contempt of court charge against the government for barring him and his family members at Shahjalal International Airport from going abroad.

The immigration officials prevented Asim, human rights affairs secretary of BNP, and his family members from flying to London on Sunday.

The HC bench of Justice Md Ashfaqul Islam and Justice M Moazzam Husain will hear the petition today, Asim he said.

## WEATHER TODAY

## Light rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at most places over Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Rajshahi, Rangpur and Dhaka divisions in next 12 hours till 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy to heavy falls are also likely at places, Met Office said.

Day temperature may rise slightly over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:49pm today and rises at 5:12am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 34.8 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and lowest 24.6 degrees Celsius at Jessore.

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	33.0	26.3	91	76
Chittagong	31.8	26.4	75	85
Rajshahi	34.0	24.9	75	97
Rangpur	34.3	27.0	80	80
Khulna	32.7	26.5	88	97
Barisal	32.0	26.0	82	90
Sylhet	34.8	26.0	83	62
Cox's Bazar	31.5	26.0	83	62

## Rita, Mita recovering in hospital

## TANZIN SULTANA

Dr Aninun Nahar Rita and Nurunnahar Mita, the two young sisters suffering from Schizophrenia, are back to hospital again. This time they have fallen seriously ill after refusing all foods and water for more than a month.

Rita and Mita had been admitted to Bangladesh Medical College and Hospital last Saturday, said their doctor Mahmood Hasan, head of psychiatry department of BMCH.

Their condition was improving, he said.

The physician said the two sisters lived on nothing but water for 40 days before they were brought to the hospital. They had been living in complete isolation and refusing to let anyone in their Mirpur residence, he said examining their condition.

The two sisters made news headlines first in 2005 when they were discovered suffering from serious mental illness and bedridden due to long self-imposed isolation.

It was shocking to learn that the two educated sisters shut themselves off from the rest of the world because of their Schizophrenic condition and long neglect from their living family members. They have lost their parents long ago.



Mita

Rita, a medical graduate, had worked in the department of Histopathology at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University before her illness led her to quit the job. Mita studied Engineering in the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet).

Both sisters lived on income from their family furniture shop Woodland Doors and Furniture.

Dr Hasan said the two sisters have been suffering from a serious mental illness called Schizophrenia, a disease that makes them distort reality. They cannot separate illusion from reality.

Schizophrenia is a lifelong mental illness and patients need to take continuous medication for a long time to avoid relapses.

That time they recovered after



Rita

being treated at hospital for eight months. They returned home and started living near normal life.

They relapsed again in 2007 after they stopped taking the medicines, the doctor said.

Again they recovered after medical treatment for two and a half months.

The sisters relapsed again last week and the reason was the same -- they stopped taking medication.

"Their discontinuation of the medication is what led to the relapse," said Dr Hasan, adding that it was also what caused them to relapse the first time.

Even at Intensive Care Unit Rita is almost out of danger, said Dr Hasan while Mita who is being treated for urine infection in the general ward.

When she was brought to the hospital Rita was in serious condition due to the lack of food and she could hardly speak, Hasan said.

Mita talked incoherently, the doctor said, adding that sometimes it was difficult to understand her.

"She has been saying that their eldest sister, Kamrul Nahar Hena, is going to kill both of them," Hasan told The Daily Star.

However their mental condition is slowly improving and the doctors at BMCH are hopeful that both sisters will be released from the hospital within three to four weeks.

According to Adv Elina Khan, executive director, Bangladesh Society for the Enforcement of Human Rights (BSEHR), called for family care for the sisters. Her organisation has been involved in the welfare of the sisters since the discovery of their illness and isolation.

"Their older sister, Hena, will have to take care of them," Elina Khan told The Daily Star in answer to what will happen once they are released from BMCH, adding, "It is a continuous cycle, they get well and then relapse again and they need someone to make sure that both women continue to take their medicine."

Hasan Mahmud's remarks protested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some left leaning political parties yesterday protested remarks made by State Minister for Environment and Forest Hasan Mahmud on leaders of National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Ports.

Meanwhile, some cabinet members also condemned the language and gesture of the state minister on the leaders.

Referring to the leaders, Hasan Mahmud on Sunday said, "They formed the national committee with some street urchins. They are now working in the country as agents of foreigners."

Talking to The Daily Star, one of the ministers said they were astonished seeing the way Hasan Mahmud was talking about the leaders.

Ganoshinghati Andolan said people will reply to the minister's indecent remarks in a befitting manner.

The national committee in a press release said the remarks of Hasan Mahmud were objectionable and devoid of political manners. Communist Party of Bangladesh and Jatiya Mukti Council also condemned the minister's comment.

## Ex-Shibir president sent to jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Former president of Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) central committee Rezaul Karim was sent to Chittagong central jail yesterday in a sedition case filed for making "derogatory remarks" about the prime minister and the home minister.

District and Sessions Judge Abdul Kuddus Mian passed the order after Rezaul appeared before the court seeking extension of his bail that expired on May 25.

Rejecting the prayer, the court ordered to sent him to jail.

## Obituary

Bss, Dhaka

Jebun Nahar, mother of Jatiya Press Club President and News Editor of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) Kamal Uddin Shabuj, passed away due to prolonged illness at the United Hospital in the city at about 3:00pm yesterday at the age of 70.

Jebun Nahar had been suffering from cancer for long. She was admitted to the hospital a few days ago.

She is survived by her husband, three sons, five daughters and a host of relatives and well-wishers.

The first namaz-e-janaza was held on Jatiya Press Club premises.

She will be buried at her family graveyard at Bashpara village in Chagaliya upazila of Feni this morning after second janaza.

Staff correspondent adds: Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia in a message yesterday condoled the death of Jebun Nahar, prayed for salvation of the departed soul and conveyed sympathy to members of the bereaved family.

## Mozammel Hossain

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A F M Mozammel Hossain, a former chief engineer of Bangladesh Power Development Board, passed away at his residence at Dhanmondi in the city yesterday due to cardiac arrest at the age of 64, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, one son and two daughters.

## HC FORMER JUDGES Petition to allow law practice

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday filed a petition with the Supreme Court, seeking its permission to restore the constitutional provisions allowing the retired High Court judges to practise law in the Appellate Division.

The petition prayed to the SC to modify its observations in the judgment on the fifth amendment to the constitution, so that article 99 (2) of the constitution can be restored, and the retired High Court judges can conduct cases before it.

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam told reporters that a full bench of the Appellate Division will hear the petition today.

The Appellate Division in the judgment on the constitution's fifth amendment

## Full bench of the Appellate Division will hear the petition today

case did not specifically say anything about article 99 (2), he said.

But the government has reprinted the constitution excluding article 99 (2), and therefore that the provision of original constitution of 1972 has been restored prohibiting the retired HC judges to run legal profession at SC, he said.

The attorney general also said that the government has filed the petition for restoring the article until the parliament amends the charter.

The Appellate Division may hear the petition today.

## BOGRA JUDGE Stay on HC order sought

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A petition was filed with the Appellate Division yesterday seeking stay on a High Court order that prohibited the district and sessions judge of Bogra to perform judicial functions for dismissing a sensational murder case on the basis of an out-of-court settlement.

The petition also prayed to the Appellate Division to stay the HC order for suspending public prosecutor of Bogra district and sessions judge's court Abdul Matin, its Additional Public Prosecutor Khoda Box and Assistant Public Prosecutor Khairel Bashir.

District and Sessions Judge Mofizul Islam, Matin, Khoda Box and Bashir jointly filed the petition, Deputy Attorney General ABM Altaf Hossain told The Daily Star.

He said the Appellate Division may hear the petition today.

## HC for policy on dietary supplements

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a rule upon the government to explain within three weeks why it should not be directed to formulate a policy for manufacturing, importing, selling and distributing dietary supplements.

In response to a writ petition, the court also asked the government to explain why it should not be directed to create a specialised regulatory body for the same purposes.

Sheikh Alamgir Hossain, an official of Boston Labs House, a dietary supplement company, yesterday filed the writ petition as public interest litigation.

A dietary supplement, also known as food supplement or nutritional supplement, is a preparation intended to supplement the diet and provide nutrients, such as vitamins, minerals, fibre, fatty acids, or amino acids.

It can be found in many forms such as tablets, capsules, softgels, liquids, or powders.

Some countries define dietary supplements as foods, while in others they are defined as drugs or natural health products.

## Convocation

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University will organise its first convocation. Venue: Bangabandhu International Conference Centre, Time: 10:30am.

## Seminar

Stamford University Bangladesh will arrange a seminar. Venue: Stamford Centre, Dhanmondi, Time: 11:00am.

## Award giving

Sheltach will hold an award giving ceremony. Venue: Ruposhi Bangla Hotel, Time: 3:30pm.

## Utshaw

Rajshahi Zila Samity will arrange an utshaw. Venue: Kalabagan field, Time: 10:00am.

## Human chain

BIWTA will form a human chain. Venue: Sadarghat Launch Terminal, Time: 11:00am.

## Book launching

Bangladesh University Grants Commission will organise a book launching ceremony. Venue: UGC auditorium, Agargaon, Time: 3:00pm.

## Cultural programme

Bangladesh Sangeet Sangathan Samanay Parishad will organise a cultural programme. Venue: Shilpakala Academy, Time: 3:00pm.

## Workshop

USAID, Progati and BEI will jointly organise a workshop. Venue: Biiss conference room,

Shilpakala Academy,