

NEWS IN *brief*

War crimes: Probe against SQ Chowdhury begins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A team of International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) yesterday started investigating the involvement of detained BNP standing Committee member Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury in crimes against humanity in Chittagong during the 1971 Liberation War.

Led by former Additional Deputy Inspector General of Police (IGP) and Chief Coordinator of the war crimes investigation agency Abdul Hannan Khan, the 13-member investigation team arrived on Tuesday night.

Since September last year, ICT investigation teams visited various areas of the district to collect information.

Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Nurul Islam said they have gathered ample evidence during their previous visits which led them to the crimes committed by SQ Chowdhury and others in 1971.

He termed the current weeklong visit as continuation of the ongoing probe.

Army man's wife found dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the body of the wife of an army soldier from his cantonment residence in the city yesterday.

The deceased is identified as Rabeya Sultana Tota, 25, wife of Jagangir Hossain Sajib.

The family members of Rabeya alleged that Sajib killed her being failed to get dowry. However, police suspected that she committed suicide.

Mahbubur Rahman, sub-inspector of Cantonment Police Station, said they recovered Rabeya's body from her residence at Zia Colony at about 7:30am and sent it to Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsy.

Promeela's death anniversary today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 49th death anniversary of Ashalata Sengupta Duli alias Promeela Nazrul, wife of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam.

The day, will be observed in a befitting manner at Promeela's birthplace at Teuta village of Shibalaya upazila in Manikganj, says a press release.

Nazrul-Promeela Parisahd, Teuta Academy, Teuta Primary School, Promeela-Nazrul Sangskritik Goshthi will hold different programmes at Teuta village, marking the day.

Programmes include procession, placing wreaths at the statue of Promeela, discussion and cultural programmes.

Promeela, daughter of Basanta Kumar Sengupta, was born in 1908 at Teuta village of Manikganj.



People were forced to jam footpath to wait for a few scheduled vehicles ran on the city streets as daylong drizzling disrupted traffic flow yesterday. The photo was taken from Farmgate. PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Azim protests Sahara's remarks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Independent lawmaker Fazlul Azim yesterday in parliament said if Home Minister Sahara Khatun made "defamatory comment" on him outside the House, he would have filed a case against her.

"I would have filed defamatory case against the home minister if she attacked me personally using defamatory words outside parliament," a lamented Azim told parliament.

During cut motion on the grants demand in the proposed budget for 2011-12, the home minister said, "When you [Azim] were an MP in the past BNP government, you were involved in different types of crimes and terrorism activities, you had wounded many people of your constituency during that time."

According to the constitution, no case can be filed against any member of parliament for his/her speech in the House.

Earlier Azim told the parliament that the country's law and order situation is worsening.

Speaker Abdul Hamid who was presiding over the sitting at that time called upon both the minister and Azim not to use "attacking languages" in the House.

Tk 50,000 for cancer patients

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A cheque worth Tk 50,000 was donated to Asrukona Cancer Support Unit, a supporting fund of Bangladesh YWCA to help cancer patients, at Ayesha Memorial Specialised Hospital's conference room on Monday.

The hospital Chairman Priti Chakraborty handed over the check to YWCA National General Secretary Joyce Mormita Das, says a press release.

The donation was raised from a daylong concert, "Robi Music for Women", jointly organised by the hospital and YWCA earlier this year.

The concert organiser Dr Asish Kumar Chakraborty, Managing Director Munir Ahmed Khan, presenter Debashish Bishwas, singer Bondona, and many officials of the hospital were present.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Abdul Aziz Choudhury, former engineer of Islamic University of Technology, passed away at his residence at Uttara in the city on Tuesday at the age of 77, says a press release.

His kulkhwani will be held at his Uttara residence on Friday after Asr prayers.

Tk 12,134CR DFENCE BUDGET

Judicious expenditure emphasised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The defence budget expenditures, especially in procurements, should be transparent and efficient, as a huge amount of hard-earned public money is being allocated for the country's armed forces, speakers at a dialogue said yesterday.

The defence budget will have to be judicious, and since defence is a strategic issue of a country its budget should be discussed to such an extent it deserves, they said.

The government has allocated for armed forces Tk 12,134 crore for the fiscal year 2011-12, which is higher than the budget for the last fiscal (2010-11) by Tk 1,216 crore.

The speakers said the concept and objectives of defence is changing day by day worldwide and stressed the need for rationalising the forces' objective and structure, and designing the forces with the state-of-the-art equipment and technologies.

Brac Business School of Brac University organised the dialogue on "Bangladesh Defence Budget" at the university in the city yesterday.

Dr Shamsul Alam, member of Planning Commission, said the country's defence still remains a "sacred

cow" as the issues of the armed forces is not discussed openly, which should not happen in an independent country and in the era of free-flow of information.

"As our resources are limited and we have a great urge for development, the spending of the armed forces should be judicious."

The strategy of military expenditure should not be for conventional warfare; rather they should be prepared for addressing domestic disturbance, natural calamities, and other internal contingency issues.

BNP Standing Committee Member Lt Gen (ret'd) Mahbubur Rahman termed the defence budget too inadequate, saying around 80 percent of the budget will be used for maintenance of the armed forces, their ration, and sometimes construction.

There will hardly be any money available for arming the forces, he said. Brig Gen Mohammad Abdul Halim, director (budget) of Bangladesh Army, said there is nothing secret about the budget of the armed forces.

Of the total defence budget this year, Bangladesh Army takes about 52 percent, Air Force 13.52 percent, and Navy 11.5 percent, he said.

About 58 percent of the budget for army will be spent for pay and allow-

ance, 17 percent for supply and service, 1.08 percent for maintenance, and .03 percent for welfare, he added.

AK Azad, president of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce Industries (FBCCI), said army is an independent force and it should be given the opportunity to function independently.

The politicians will have to have the commitment that the armed forces will not be used politically, he said.

As the leader in the United Nations (UN) peacekeeping missions, Bangladesh army needs equipment of state-of-the-art as the demand for quality in peacekeeping force is increasing day by day, said Lt Gen (ret'd) Zahir.

Commerce Minister Faruk Khan said the defence budget has been well spent since the independence of the country, as the country has been well secured for the last 40 years. Even the internal insurgency was also well tackled, he added.

Everybody should know about defence budget, he said, adding, "We will not raise any such demand, which is not practiced anywhere of the world." In a democratic country there should be discussion about every institution as per requirement, he said.

Brac Executive Director Dr Mahbub Hossain moderated the dialogue.

Gen Masud's service extended

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The government has extended service of Bangladesh High Commissioner in Australia Lt Gen Masud Uddin Chowdhury for three months to finish his preparatory work to return home, said official sources.

He was due to go for Leave Preparatory to Retirement (LPR) yesterday (June 29) from Bangladesh Army.

A highly placed source told The Daily Star yesterday that the prime minister yesterday signed the contract on service extension for Gen Masud following his application.

Earlier on June 15, the government called back Gen Masud and placed him in his former position in Bangladesh Army.

A key player in the 1/11 incident, Masud was placed in the foreign ministry and appointed to Bangladesh High Commission in Canberra on June 8, 2008.

The government after considering overall aspects of Masud's application extended his service till September 29.

Meanwhile, the government is searching for a suitable person as next high commissioner in Canberra prior to visit of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Hasina is expected to attend Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) to be held in Perth, Australia on October 28-30 this year.

Journo sues 10 Sangram bosses

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A former senior reporter of The Daily Sangram yesterday filed a case against ten bosses of the daily, including its Chairman and Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojahid and Managing Director Sharif Hussain.

Other accused are Jamaat's acting Ameer and Vice Chairman of Sangram Publications Ltd Makbul Ahmed, directors of the company-Jamaat acting Secretary General ATM Azharul Islam, advocate Nazrul Islam, Rafiqul Islam Khan, Mohammad Shahidul Islam, AHM Hamidur Rahman Azad, MP, Mominul Islam Patwary and Mohammad Abul Hussain Chowdhury.

AB Siddique filed the case with Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka against the accused.

In his complaint, Siddique said he had been working as a senior reporter in Sangram since 2008. But he was sacked from his service on June 4 this year as he demanded his dues about Tk 9 lakh. The accused also threatened him.

After the hearing, Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Mizanur Rahman recorded statement of the complainant and directed the officer-in-charge of Ramna Police Station to submit report by July 31 after an investigation into the matter.

Tiles trader succumbs to injury

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A tiles trader of the city's Bangla Motor area succumbed to his injuries at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital yesterday after a teenager struck him on the neck with a cricket bat at Hatirpool Pukurpar on April 21.

The deceased Mizanur Rahman Shanto, 32, was a resident of Hatirpool Pukurpar.

Shanto's brother Mosharraf Hossain said Mobin, an SSC examinee, struck Shanto when he asked Mobin and the local boys to stop playing cricket and leave.



BNP Acting Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Almgir visits Rumana Manzur at LabAid Hospital in the city yesterday. PHOTO: BNP

Fakhru visits Rumana at hospital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP acting Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Almgir yesterday said his party does not believe in the concept of interim government, which the ruling party leaders have proposed instead of caretaker government system.

"BNP will not accept interim government [system]. We want the next parliament election to be held under thirteenth amendment [that introduces caretaker government system] of the constitution," he said while talking to reporters after visiting Dhaka university teacher Rumana Manzur at a city hospital.

The BNP leader demanded exemplary punishment to Rumana's husband who brutally tortured and blinded her.

Replying to a query, he termed the government's call to sit for discussion to settle the dispute regarding caretaker government as "a strategy of cheating." "I hope the government will refrain from doing it [scrapping caretaker system] and their good sense will prevail," he said.

Meanwhile, party standing committee member Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain warned the government of dire consequences if the constitution amendment bill is passed in the parliament.

DHAKA TODAY

Seminar
Bangladesh Pathanotok Parishad and Shilpakala Academy will jointly arrange a seminar. Venue: Seminar hall, Shilpakala Academy, Time: 5:00pm.

Discussion
Inner Wheel District 328 Bangladesh will organise a discussion. Venue: Engineers Institution, Bangladesh, Ramna, Time: 11:00am.

Rally
Communist Party of Bangladesh will arrange a mass rally. Venue: In front of Central Shaheed Minar, Time: 12:00pm.

Discussion
Nagorik Sanghati will hold a discussion. Venue: Mukti Bhaban, 21/1, Purana Palton, Time: 10:30am.

Book launching
Association for Land Reform and Development will arrange a book launching ceremony. Venue: Cirdap auditorium, Time: 4:00pm.

Meeting
Jagrata Janata Forum will arrange a roundtable. Venue: Jatiya Press Club, Time: 4:00pm.

Exhibition
Bio-medical Physics and Technology Department of Dhaka University will hold a research exhibition. Venue: Karzon Hall, Dhaka University, Time: 10:00am.

Cultural programme
Jatiya Adivasi Parishad will organise a cultural programme and rally. Venue: Central Shaheed Minar premises, Time: 10:00am.

Meeting
Jagrata Janata Forum will arrange a roundtable. Venue: Jatiya Press Club, Time: 4:00pm.

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 Rajshahi, Rangpur, Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions in 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

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

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:50pm today and rises at 5:15am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 31.6 degree Celsius was recorded today at Khulna and lowest 23.6 degrees Celsius at Feni.

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	30.7	25.8	90	95
Chittagong	30.0	24.8	98	82
Rajshahi	31.0	24.2	98	92
Rangpur	27.8	25.0	95	90
Khulna	31.6	25.6	88	97
Barisal	30.6	25.5	97	96
Sylhet	28.1	25.3	96	92

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INVITATION FOR TENDER

Standard Bank Limited is going to procure some IT equipment. Sealed Tenders are hereby invited from the reputed Company/Supplier/Firm for Supply, Installation of IT equipment at the branches and Head Office. Tender schedule in detail will be available at the Head Office, IT Division of the Bank from 30th June 2011 to 6th July 2011 during office hour upon payment of Tk. 1000.00 (Taka One Thousand only) in cash for all set (non-refundable). Tender should be submitted in a sealed tender box kept at the IT Division of the bank on or before 7th July, 2011 within 12:00 pm and the same will be opened at 12:30 pm on the same day in presence of the representative (if any) of the participant. Only the bonafide firms having long business track record and having adequate support experts will be qualified for this bidding. Bank reserves the right to accept or reject any bid partially or fully without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Md. Abdul Qaium Khan
Vice President & Head of IT