

NEWS IN *brief*

Tajuddin's anniversary of birth tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tomorrow (Friday) is the 86th birth anniversary of Tajuddin Ahmed, the first prime minister of Bangladesh.

A discussion on Tajuddin's life, recitation from his diary, and a cultural programme will be held at Liberation War Museum at 5:00pm on the day. Tajuddin Ahmed, also the finance and planning minister in the independent Bangladesh, was born in 1925 in Dardaria village in Kapiasia, Gazipur. He formed the first government of Bangladesh at the nation's most critical point in 1971 in the absence of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Tajuddin was killed in Dhaka Central Jail on November 3, 1975 along with Syed Nazrul Islam, Capt M Mansur Ali, and AHM Qamaruzzaman.



Taher's death anniversary today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 35th death anniversary of Col Abu Taher, a sector commander of the country's 1971 liberation war, who was killed in a secret trial in 1976.

On the occasion, Col Taher Sangsad and other organisations will lay flowers at his portrait in Col Taher Auditorium at the city's Bangabandhu Avenue this morning and organise different programmes paying tribute to his memories. Col Taher Sangsad will organise a discussion in TSC auditorium, Dhaka University at 4:30pm. US journalist and author Lawrence Lifschultz is expected to be the key speaker attend at the discussion. Earlier, an art competition for children will be held at DU's Faculty of Fine Arts at 9:00am. JSD-Chhatra League will bring out a procession and hold a rally on DU campus marking the day. Meanwhile, Col Taher Sangsad in a press release demanded the government observe the day nationally.



President visits Zohra Tajuddin

UNB, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman visited ailing Syeda Zohra Tajuddin, wife of Tajuddin Ahmed, prime minister of Mujibnagar government, at her old DOHS residence in the city yesterday afternoon. The president enquired about condition of Zohra Tajuddin and also wanted to know about her family members. Earlier, Zillur visited Samsunnahar Siddiqui, mother of Prime Minister's Adviser Major General (rttd) Tarique Ahmed Siddique, at the city's Apollo Hospital.

Dipu Moni greets new Pak FM

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister Dr Dipu Moni congratulated Hina Rabbani Khar on her assumption of the office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan. Dipu Moni conveyed her warm greetings and sent her best wishes for the success of the Pakistan foreign minister in her assignment.

Bangladesh recognises S Sudan

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh authorities accorded formal recognition to the Republic of South Sudan yesterday and pledged support to consolidate democracy, sustainable development and equitable social justice in the world's newest nation. "The independence of South Sudan on July 9 is the manifestation of the long-cherished aspirations of the people of South Sudan for self-determination", said an official statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Change in policy to promote govt employees if needed: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Keeping the greater interest of national development in mind, the government would promote its employees even if it means relaxing the respective department's policies, said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday. She was addressing the inaugural function of National Fisheries Week 2011 in the city's Osmani Memorial Auditorium. Hasina said she knows there are promotions pending in some of the ministries and the government already solved Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock's backlog of promotions, which has been stalling for a long time. "The government is working to ensure your job satisfaction and

your duty is to give your best effort with sincerity for the country's development," she said. On fisheries resources, Hasina said the government will soon provide the country's fishermen with Identity (ID) Cards to ensure the proper distribution of government incentives. "Some 1.50 crore people depend on fisheries while some 13 lakh people catch fish for their livelihoods. We will identify the real fishermen and give them ID cards," she said. Hasina underscored the need for hatchery-based production of fries to increase fish production in the country. She said the government would set up two polymerised chain reaction (PCR) labs in Satkhira and

Cox's Bazar for the final scrutiny of shrimps before export. Hasina said European Union stopped importing shrimps from Bangladesh as it found antibiotics in the processed shrimps. "That was the result of the BNP-Jamaat government's indifference. However, we formed a National Working Committee and solved the crisis," she said. She said the country's fish production must be increased so that it can export fish and processed fish products after meeting domestic demand. "There are 78 lakh Bangladeshi citizens living in various countries. They would always prefer to have fish than any other food while foreigners are also very fond of Bangladeshi fish, particularly

Hilsha," she said. Hasina said processed fish products of Bangladesh could be a useful product to capture international markets. She urged youths to take loans from Employment Bank and get involved in fish farming using modern methods. She said ensuring only food security is not enough as people have to be provided a balanced diet to build a healthy nation. The prime minister directed the fisheries ministry, fisheries department and all other law enforcing agencies to stop catching jatka (Hilsha fries) and use of illegal "current nets" for the larger interest of the nation. Hasina requested people from all walks of life to remain alert about

water pollution in rivers and wetlands. Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury, Food Minister Dr Muhammad Abdur Razzaque, Secretary to the fisheries ministry Ujjal Bikash Datta and fisheries department Director General Md Mahbubur Rahman Khan spoke at the function with Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdul Latif Biswas in the chair. The prime minister also distributed gold medals to five people and bronze medals to 12 people for their outstanding contribution in increasing the country's fish production. She later released 5,200 fries of five species at Ganobhaban Lake marking the occasion.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina poses for a photo with people awarded for their outstanding contribution in increasing the country's fish production at the inaugural function of National Fisheries Week 2011 in the city's Osmani Memorial Auditorium yesterday. PHOTO: PMO

Govt urged to duly honour Col Taher

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The left political parties yesterday urged the government to confer the "due posthumous honour" to Col Abu Taher, a sector commander of the 1971 liberation war, in recognition of his contribution to the war and to the country. Addressing a discussion on the eve of the 35th death anniversary of Col Taher who was executed following a secret trial on July 21, 1976, the left leaders said killing of Taher was a tragedy for the country. They also demanded posthumous trial of Ziaur Rahman, former president of the country, and his associates for masterminding the killing of Taher in the name of trial. "Role of Taher was portrayed wrongly during last 35 years due to political reasons. Now, he should be given due respect", said Mainuddin Khan Badal, a lawmaker and central leader of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD). "Taher was a symbol of conscience and bravery of the nation", he told the discussion organised by the JSD marking Taher's death anniversary at the city's Mahanagar Nattya Mancha. JSD President Hasanul Haque Inu said a

permanent structure should be built for the memory of Taher in the capital alongside naming of streets and other structures after him. Inu, who was sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment in the same 1976 trial, said Taher was not killed in conflict of power but for his attempt to free the country from the grip of the then military rulers. He criticised Ziaur Rahman for establishing communal politics in the country by killing Taher. Attending the programme, Taher's wife Lutfa Taher said, "Taher saved Zia's life during the November 7 soldiers' upsurge. But Zia betrayed my husband later and killed him in the name of trial". She urged the JSD leaders and workers to continue their movement to establish a society free from all sorts of repression as dreamt by Taher. Gono Forum presidium member Pankaj Bhattacharjee said the High Court verdict that declared Taher's trial illegal has brought back Taher on his own glory after 35 years of confusion. JSD leaders Adv Robiul Alam, Dr MA Karim, Prof MM Akash of Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), and Anisur Rahman Mallik of Workers Party also spoke.

Financial support for gallantry award winners to increase

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has decided to increase the financial grants for the gallantry award winning personnel of law enforcement agencies. Monthly financial grants for gallantry award winner freedom fighters of the four categories (Bir Shreshtha, Bir Bikram, Bir Uttam and Bir Pratik) will also be increased. Planning Minister AK Khandaker revealed this plan to reporters following an inter-ministerial meeting held at the home ministry in the city yesterday. He, however, did not ascertain to what extent the grant will be increased but a meeting sources said the grant might be increased at least eight times. Considering present price of essentials, the government took the decision, he said adding, that the hike in the grants will be decided in another meeting scheduled on August 7. He said they decided to introduce gallantry award to cost guard and award winners in Ansar will be brought under the financial grant. Personnel from police, Bangladesh Border Guard, Ansar, Coast Guard and Fire Brigade are given gallantry award for their heroic deeds while discharging their duties. Among others, Home Minister Sahara Khatun, State Minister for Home Shamsul Huq Tuku and State Minister for Liberation War Affairs AB Tajul Islam attended the meeting.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



K a z i Monowara Begum, mother of poet Dr Abul Hasnat Milton,

passed away at her residence in Khulna yesterday due to cardiac arrest at the age of 63, says a press release. She left behind her husband and two children. She was the vice-president of Bangladesh Mahila Parisahd in Khulna district. Health affairs secretary of the Bangladesh Awami League, general secretary of the Bangladesh Medical Association, general secretary of Swadhinata Chikitsak Parishad and general secretary of Dhaka Medical College Teachers' Association condoled her death.

Salahuddin Ahmed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Salahuddin Ahmed, Bhola upazila correspondent of the Dainik Sonali Sangbad, passed away at the National Heart Foundation in Dhaka yesterday due to cardiac arrest at the age of 54, says a press release. He left behind his wife, three daughters and one son. Journalists in Chapainawabganj condoled his death and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family members.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the fifth death anniversary of Rebeka Walie, wife of ATM Wali

Ashraf, a freedom fighter and former lawmaker, says a press release. On the occasion, fateha will be offered at her graveyard at Bancharampur in Brahmanbaria and milad and doa mahfil will be held at her Kamalapur residence in the city today. Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to attend the programmes and pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Ferdousi Akhter

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the first death anniversary of Ferdousi Akhter, former general

manager of East Asia Finance and Commerce, says a press release. On the occasion, doa mahfil will be held on her organisation premises at the city's Babu Bazar and at her graveyard at Mothbaria in Pirojpur. She died at a private hospital in the city allegedly for wrong treatment. Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Schoolboy missing

SUST CORRESPONDENT

Tanvir Hossain, 12, a class V student of Shahjalal University School, has been missing since July 17. His father is an accounting staff of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST), Sylhet. Tanvir, who is about four feet tall and of brown skin, was wearing jeans pant and half-sleeve ash colour shirts. He speaks in the local language of Comilla. Family sources said Tanvir went out of the house situated nearby the campus for his father's office at SUST around 3:00pm Sunday but did not return. Taher filed a General Diary (GD No-1292) with Sylhet Kotwali Police Station in this connection on Tuesday. Anybody with information about his whereabouts is requested to contact his father Abu Taher at 01721829805.



Dhaka Metropolitan Police has started a drive to seize illegal rickshaws plying the city streets. The photo was taken from Rajarbagh area yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

WEATHER TODAY

Light rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at most places over Khulna, Barisal, Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at many places over Rangpur and Rajshahi divisions in 12 hours as of 6:00pm today. Moderately heavy to heavy falls are also likely at places over the country, said Met Office. Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The sun sets in the capital at 6:47pm today and rises at 5:23am tomorrow. Country's highest temperature 34.2 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and lowest 23.5 degrees Celsius at Rangamati. 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	30.3	25.2	83	83
Chittagong	28.9	25.3	93	89
Rajshahi	30.6	26.3	94	92
Rangpur	31.5	25.4	88	77
Khulna	30.4	25.2	100	88
Barisal	30.2	25.0	93	88