

## MA Samad's anniversary of death today

METRO DESK



Today is the 6th death anniversary of MA Samad, founder of Bangladesh General Insurance Company Limited (BGIC), said a press release.

After his retirement as managing director of Jiban Bima Corporation, he established BGIC. He was an honours graduate from the illustrious Presidency College, Kolkata.

He was the founder director of Bangladesh Insurance Academy and former chairman of Bangladesh Insurance Association.

Samad wrote two books in Bengali—one on life insurance and another on general insurance. He also wrote two textbooks in English on life insurance.

He was enlisted as an international expert in the Technical Assistance Programme on Trade and Development of the United Nations. MA Samad visited most of the insurance training institutions in UK and USA under UNDP fellowship programme.

Samad was born at Kulaura of Moulvibazar in a respectable Muslim family in 1923.

On the occasion, his family members and BGIC family have requested all friends, well-wishers and relatives to pray for the peace of the departed soul.

**Quazi Golam Dastgir**

METRO DESK



Today is the 3rd death anniversary of former ambassador Maj Gen Quazi Golam Dastgir, KAAO, psc.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to attend at House 36 (New), Road 11 (New), Dhanmandi R/A to pray for salvation of the departed soul after Asr prayers.

**Muzaffar Hossain Manik**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 9th death anniversary of journalist Muzaffar Hossain Manik, former executive editor of The New Nation, says a press release.

He was also the founder-convenor of Bangladesh Crime Reporters Association (CRAB); Editor and publisher of Weekly Chitkar; representative of Arab News in Bangladesh; founder-director of Bangladesh Mutual Securities Ltd. (Merchant Bank) and executive member of Satirtha Shommilon (DU:1958-1962).



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addresses a public meeting at Sripur Mawna High School ground in Gazipur yesterday.

PHOTO: PMO

## Padma graft charges not to affect image, says FM

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni has dismissed suggestions that the World Bank's allegations of corruption in the bidding process of the Padma Bridge project have tarnished the country's image abroad.

"I do not see any reason that the question raised by the donors regarding the Padma Bridge will tarnish the country's image," she said in reply to a question at a press conference at the foreign ministry yesterday afternoon.

"Donors may raise questions about such a big project and we will give them all information in a transparent way. It does not mean that the country's image has been tarnished," said Dipu Moni.

The World Bank has recently suspended its \$1.2 billion loan to the project amid alleged graft in the bidding process and the selection of a consultant. Two other financiers of the \$2.9 billion project—

Japan and the Asian Development Bank—have also reportedly held back their loans until the allegations are cleared.

World Bank country director Ellen Goldstein has said the bank will not proceed with the loan until it is satisfied on corruption and the fraud front.

The government has denied any wrongdoing in the project, but has said the World Bank allegations will be investigated.

The allegations are delaying the construction of the country's longest bridge (6.15-kilometers) that will connect Dhaka with the southwestern region.

Asked about the World Bank allegation that a minister's firm had asked for commission from bidders, Dipu Moni said in a big project many parties might be willing to participate and some might raise questions.

Turning to her meeting with US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, the

foreign minister said she had sought Mrs Clinton's cooperation in the repatriation of a convicted killer of Bangabandhu, Rashed Ahmed, from the US.

Clinton's response was that the request was under legal process in the US and the State Department would cooperate to expedite it, Dipu Moni said.

Asked about the US secretary of state's concern about the functioning of Grameen Bank, Dipu Moni said she had not expressed concern, but had rather expressed the hope that Grameen Bank would operate with its reputation intact and its borrowers would not face any problems.

Dipu Moni said that she had conveyed the government's reaffirmed commitment to a proper running of Grameen Bank.

The foreign minister said Mrs Clinton might visit Bangladesh sometime next year at her invitation.

## MISSING FROM CUSTODY

# Cops asked to trace AL leader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the police authorities to immediately find out the whereabouts of Habibur Rahman Hawlader, former Awami League president of Bahorbunia union of Morelganj upazila in Bagerhat.

Habibur has allegedly been missing from police custody for more than three months.

In response to a writ petition, the court also asked the superintendent of police of Bagerhat and officer-in-charge of Morelganj Police Station to submit a report on the status of Habibur Rahman by October 27.

Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB), a rights organisation, yesterday filed the petition saying that Morelganj police detained Habibur from his Betbunia village on July 6 in connection with a case.

But, Habibur became untraceable since his detention. The police told his family members that they did not arrest him, the petitioner said.

During the hearing, petitioner's counsel Manzill Murshid prayed that the police be asked to inform the court the whereabouts of Habibur Rahman.

The HC bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik and Justice Md Nuruzzaman fixed October 27 for further order on this issue.

## Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the first death anniversary of Mirza Aziza Idris, veteran women's

leader and one of the organisers of the Liberation War of 1971, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at her eldest son's house: Eastern Fortune Apartment, 12/a, Eskaton Garden, Dhaka after Asr prayers.

Friends, relatives, colleagues, and well-wishers are requested to attend the programme to pray for the salvation of her departed soul.

Aziza died last year aged 85. Born in Dinajpur in 1926, she was involved in progressive and non-communal politics and a presidium member of Gonotantr Party.

## S Arabia cannot oppose war crimes trial: HR boss

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Saudi Arabia will have no ethical reason to oppose or protest if the allegations against the war criminals are proved and the court awards them the death penalty, National Human Rights Commission Chairman Prof Mizanur Rahman said yesterday.

"We are holding (war crimes) trial of our own people. The highest punishment of the trial is death penalty. They [Saudi Arabia] have no chance to protest or regret from a moral point of view if the court sentences the war criminals to death," he told reporters after a

workshop at Dhaka University (DU).

DU Alumni Association and Ethics Club, an organisation of law students of the university, jointly organised the event at Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban marking the 90th anniversary of DU.

The NHRC chief said open beheading is a violation of international human rights act.

Ethics Club President MI Shamin Chowdhury chaired the workshop while Barrister Amirul Islam, DU Alumni Association Secretary General Rakibuddin Ahmed, and Law Faculty Dean Prof Taslima Mansoor spoke on the occasion.

### U. S. Embassy, Dhaka

& jazz present

### Paul Beaudry & Pathways

<b>Venue:</b> Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) Bashundhara R/A, Plot 16, Block B, Dhaka	<b>Date:</b> Saturday 22 October 2011	<b>Time:</b> 7 P.M.-9 P.M.
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## WAR CRIMES TRIAL Permission to quiz ex-MP Alim sought

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Investigators yesterday sought permission from the International Crimes Tribunal to interrogate former BNP lawmaker Abdul Alim in connection with crimes against humanity during the War of Liberation in 1971.

The prosecution submitted a petition to the court in this regard, said Mesbahuddin Ahmed, deputy registrar of the tribunal.

In compliance with the tribunal's order issued on July 21, 2011, Alim along with his counsel came to the court and submitted a document to the registrar's office to evidence that he came to attend the hearing, he said.

The hearing scheduled for yesterday, however, was not held as the three-member panel of the tribunal had to go to the Netherlands on an official visit. The tribunal will fix a date for the hearing later, Mesbahuddin said.

"We need to question Alim in order to make further progress in the investigation," Ghulam Arief Tipoo, chief prosecutor of the tribunal, told The Daily Star.

The prosecution also submitted a progress report on the investigation to the registrar office and sought more time for preparing the final report.

Tribunal Chairman Justice Md Nizamul Huq along with its two other members—Justice ATM Fazlul Kabir and AKM Zaheer Ahmed and its Registrar Shahinur Islam—went to The Hague on October 10 to see how its International Criminals Court functions, the deputy registrar said.

On March 31, the court granted conditional bail to Alim considering his age and poor health.

Police arrested Alim at his residence in Joypurhat on March 27.

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