

## NEWS IN *brief*

### Kabir Chy's death condoled

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Overseas units of Ekattorer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee expressed condolence at the death of eminent writer and national Professor Kabir Chowdhury. Dewan Abdul Baset, president of Saudi Arabia branch, Akhteruzzaman Laltu, president of Sweden branch, Shekhar Gomes of Canada, Shafi Chowdhury of New York, Mohammad Shamim of Florida, Billah Hossain of France, Hafizur Rahman Mity of Italy and BB Chowdhury of UK branch of the committee; Al Amin Babu, coordinator of the committee for North America and Sabbir Rahman Khan, international secretary of the central committee condoled the death of Kabir Chowdhury.

### Accused of BDR mutiny: Court to order removal of fetters in jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Metropolitan Sessions Judge's court, trying the 850 accused of the Pilkhana carnage case, yesterday said it would pass an order on the jail authorities to remove the fetters on the accused inside the jail. The court said this following a petition filed by the defence counsels saying that the accused could not perform their religious rituals and ablu-tion properly as they are in fetters all the time.

### Reunion at Mohammadpur govt high school

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Reunion of former students' association of Mohammadpur Government High School is going to be held in the last week of January 2012, says a press release. Registration is going on for the occasion at the school auditorium from 4:00pm to 8:00pm. The contact numbers are- Nasim Mahmud-01815691481, Azizul Haque-01680168111, Abdul Guffar-01818553620, Belayet Hossain-01819217743 and Osman Gani-01817075700.

### NGFF school alumni picnic Jan 6

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

NGFF School Alumni Association has arranged a picnic for its member on January 6 next year at Shwbnapuri in Ashulia. Members are requested to register their names with their respective batch representatives by December 26 to take part in the picnic, says a press release.



### Night temperature may fall

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry with temporary or partly cloudy sky over the country in 12 hours till 6:00pm today. Moderate to thick fog may occur at places over the country during midnight till noon. Mild cold wave is sweeping over the regions of Rajshahi, Pabna, Rangpur, Jessore and Kushtia and it may continue, Met office said. Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country and night temperature may fall slightly over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:14pm today and rises at 6:34am tomorrow.

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      | 21.4                   | 12.0 | 85                     | 67      |
| Chittagong | 23.0                   | 15.0 | 65                     | 67      |
| Rajshahi   | 22.4                   | 09.5 | 100                    | 85      |
| Rangpur    | 19.0                   | 09.7 | 94                     | 89      |



Khetab Prapto Juddhahoto Muktiyoddha O Shaheed Paribar Kalyan Parishad and Muktiyoddha Kalyan Paribar Punorbashon Society form a human chain before Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday demanding the arrest and trial of former Jamaat-e-Islami chief Ghulam Azam, who was charged with 52 war crimes recently.

PHOTO: STAR

### ARMS HAUL CASE

### Nizami's petition rejected

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday rejected a petition filed by Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Motiur Rahman Nizami for scrapping the proceedings of a case against him filed under the arms act in connection with the 10-truck arms haul in Chittagong.

The court rejected his petition considering that it was not placed before the HC.

Deputy Attorney General Md Salim told The Daily Star that following the High Court order there is no legal bar to running the case against Nizami at the trial court.

The HC bench of Justice Syed Muhammad Dastagir Husain and Justice Gobinda Chandra Tagore passed the order after hearing arguments from the counsel of Nizami and the deputy attorney general.

The same bench yesterday also dropped from its hearing list another petition submitted by Nizami for scrapping the proceedings of yet another case against him filed on charge of smuggling firearms following the 10-truck arms incident.

On April 2, 2004, police seized 10 trucks of weapons and ammunition from the Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Ltd jetty. Two cases were filed the next day with Karnaphuli Police Station -- one for smuggling firearms and the other under the arms act.

Nizami, former industries minister, filed two separate petitions with the HC for scrapping the proceedings against him in the two cases on November 27 this year.

### NARSINGDI MAYORAL ELECTION

### Family nominates Lokman's brother: Local AL unhappy

STAR REPORT

Md Kamruzzaman, the younger brother of the slain mayor Lokman Hossain, was yesterday declared as a mayoral candidate in the upcoming by-polls to the Narsingdi municipality.

Lokman's mother Majeda Begum at a press conference at her Basail residence announced Kamruzzaman's name as per the decision of her family members, local Awami League (AL) leaders and dignitaries.

Talking to The Daily Star, several close aides of Lokman and senior AL leaders said they were not happy with the decision as they wanted Tamanna Nusrat Bubli, wife of the slain mayor, as the mayoral candidate to fight against Lokman's "enemies."

The by-elections will be held on January 19 next year.

In response, Lokman's rivals, including Matin Sarkar, his brother Ashraf Sarkar, Mobarok Hossain Moba and Manik Mia who according to Lokman's family were involved in Lokman murder, are preparing to act against Kamruzzaman, said locals.

Talking to The Daily Star, local people, journalists and AL leaders alleged that masterminds in Lokman's killing have now engaged in a fresh conspiracy against Lokman's family centering the by-polls.

"All the common enemies of Lokman united to implement their evil design to kill the popular mayor. After the Election Commission announced Narsingdi by-polls schedule, they again have united to act against Lokman's family," said SM Kaiyum, a close aide of the deceased.

Lokman who won gold medals twice as the country's best mayor was gunned down on November 1 inside Narsingdi district AL office.

Several close aides of Lokman said many senior AL leaders, including district AL president and local MP did not attend the press conference.

"Besides, Kamruzzaman has some problems regarding his behavior and manners," said an AL leader.

"We, close aide of Lokman and senior Awami League leaders will sit in a meeting today [last night] to decide our next course of action," said another AL leader.

### Schoolgirl violated

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A 12-year-old schoolgirl was violated allegedly by her neighbour after being abducted from the city's Lalbagh area.

The neighbour, Masum Miah, 50, went into hiding. Her family members said the girl went missing on Tuesday afternoon, and she was found in Nawabganj area of Lalbagh on Wednesday evening.

The family admitted her to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) yesterday afternoon.

A case was filed against Masum and another person.

### Immunisation Jan 7, 11

UNB, Dhaka

The government yesterday decided to observe the National Immunisation Day on January 7 and 11 to bring 2.2 crore children under immunisation programme.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the National Steering Committee on Polio Eradication and Measles Control at the secretariat with Health Minister Prof AFM Ruhul Haque in the chair.



### Protest Rally

Amra Muktiyoddhar Santan will organise a protest rally; Venue: Savar National Mausoleum, Time: 8:00am.

### Photo Exhibition

Brac will organise a photo exhibition on liberation war; Venue: Dhaka University campus, Time: 10:00am-5:00pm.

### Human Chain

Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote will form a human chain; Venue: Bangabandhu Bhaban, Time: 8:00am.

### Victory Fair

Shanto-Mariam Foundation will organise a victory fair; Venue: Shanto-Mariam University, Kamla campus, Savar, Time: 2:30pm.

### Victory Day events

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Reiterating the call for hastening the trial of war criminals, the 40th anniversary of victory is going to be observed today in a befitting manner across the country with political, social, cultural, public and private organisations holding colourful programmes.

Forty years back on this day, Bangladesh achieved freedom from Pakistan occupation forces winning a bloody battle of nine months. Three million people sacrificed their lives for the freedom. A total of two lakh women irrespective of their age and religious identity also fell victims of physical torture including rape by the Pakistani occupation forces and their collaborating local fronts like Al-Badar, and Al Shams.

The celebration of the day will begin at dawn with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina placing wreath at the National Memorial in Savar followed by other political, social, and cultural organisations, beside individuals. Law enforcement agencies and defence personnel will stage special parade on the occasion at the national parade ground at 10:00am.

President Zillur Rahman, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and leader of the opposition in the parliament Khaleda Zia have delivered separate messages congratulating the countrymen and remembering martyrs of the War of Liberation and those who led the war.

Apart from the programmes arranged by the government, hundreds of organisations have announced daylong programmes to observe the day.

The programmes include hoisting of national and organisational flags, placing wreaths at the portrait of Bangabandhu, taking oath to help complete war crimes trial, discussion, seminar, rally, cultural events, reception to freedom fighters, blood donation programme, debate for children and screening of documentary films on war.

Sector Commanders Forum, Liberation War-71, has organized programmes at Suhrawardi Udyan in the city to observe the day.

A three-day long programme in Dhaka University, organised by different student organisations, will end today through holding of colourful events like including multimedia projection, film show, and smearing the cartoons of Razakars (collaborators of the Pakistani occupation forces) with dirt.

Bangla Academy has also been holding a three-day programme since December 14 celebrating the 40th anniversary of victory.

Bangladesh Awami League, Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), National Garments Workers Federation, Tour Operators Association of Bangladesh, Dewanbag Sharif, Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal, Fire Service, Management Net, Razakar "hate-monument" Establishing Committee, Dhaka Union of Journalists, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, and National Academy for Educational Management are, among other organisations, holding colourful celebration programmes across the country.

### Women journalists meet PM

UNB, Dhaka

Primer Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the present government has taken numerous initiatives to ensure the empowerment and development of the country's women.

She said this when a delegation of Bangladesh Women Journalists Centre led by its President Nasim Nahar Minu and General Secretary Pervin Sultana Jhuma met her at the Prime Minister's Office in the city.

Briefing reporters after the meeting, the prime minister's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad said the prime minister elaborated the measures taken by the government in the last three years.

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