

**Obituary**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



**Kazi Ashif Tareq**, general manager (administration) of Summit Group, passed away yesterday morning due to cardiac arrest, says a press release. He was 32.

Tareq left behind his wife, friends, and well-wishers to mourn his death.

His namaz-e-janaza was held at Gausul Azam Jame Masjid at Uttara Sector-13 in the city after Asr prayers. He was buried at Uttara Sector-4 graveyard.

A doa and milad mahfil will be held at the mosque after Asr prayers tomorrow (Friday).

Tareq was son-in-law of Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Faruk Khan.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Overseas Employment Minister Khondker Mosharraf Hossain expressed shock at his early demise and consoled with the bereaved family members.

Faruk Khan requested all to pray for the salvation of his departed soul.

**Death anniversary**

METRO DESK



Today is the second death anniversary of **Muslim Miah**, an eminent businessman and father of Rozina Islam, senior reporter of the daily Prothom Alo, a press release says.

On the occasion, a special prayer will be held at Muslim Miah's Bashabo residence in the city after Asr prayers on Friday.

**Md Golam Kibria**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the fourth death anniversary of **Md Golam Kibria**, deputy superintendent of police and founder commandant of Bangladesh Reserve Force (presently RRF), Khulna, says a press release.

On the occasion, a doa mahfil will be held at his residence in Jessore Len Office Para.

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**Shahidul Islam Pannu**

METRO DESK



Today is the third death anniversary of **Shahidul Islam Pannu**, one of the directors of Sara Advertising Ltd, says a press release.

Pannu was an admired personality in the print and electronic media.



PHOTO: PMO

Leader of the House and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina speaks at the 12th session of the ninth Jatya Sangsad yesterday. (Story on Page 20)

**'Spelling Bee' takes off in Khulna**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The first-ever English spelling competition "Spelling Bee" was launched by Champs21, an initiative of The Daily Star, at a hotel in the city yesterday to help school students enhance their English language skills.

Titled "The Daily Star Spelling Bee - Powered by Horlicks" the contest will kick off on February 1. Students of class VI to class X from both English and Bangla medium schools are eligible to take part in it.

Russel T. Ahmed, chief executive officer of Champs21, was present at the inaugural function held at the conference room of Hotel Royal International.

Heads and English teachers from all schools of Khulna Metropolitan City took part in the event.

The competition will continue till March 10 this year at a stretch. But students willing to participate in the contest would be able to play preparatory games on the website of Champs21 (www.champs21.com).

The education-based programme has three phases--online round, divisional round, and TV round. A contestant must undergo the rounds to reach the top. Channel-i will telecast the TV round. British Council is the knowledge partner of the contest.

Detailed information about the rules of the contest is available on the website.

**Call to ensure accommodation for low-income people**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The working class is contributing much to the nation's welfare but they are being deprived of basic human rights like accommodation facilities, speakers said at a discussion yesterday.

Karmojibi Nari, a women's rights organisation, organised the programme to present a set of demands, including implementation of house rent act to accommodate the low-income people, aimed at ensuring the basic rights of women and low-income people.

People from the lower class and the lower middle class have been suffering particularly from price hike, speakers said, urging the government

to take meaningful measures to reduce the price of essentials.

They also demanded setting up a wage board for the people working in the garment factories and other private organisations keeping in pace with the price hike.

The discussion titled "Present Dhaka: Sufferings of people with lower income" was held at Dhaka Reporters Unity in the city.

Mentioning about the sufferings of female passengers due to lack of sufficient reserved seats in the public transports, the female leaders said the authorities concerned should reserve one-third of the seats in public vehicles for women.

Abu Sayeed Khan, managing editor

of the Bangla daily Samakal, said, "The government should take steps to facilitate the slum dwellers with pure water, electricity and required health care."

Poor citizens should be brought under social safety net programme to help meet their day-to-day needs, said Anwara Begum, director of Centre for Integrated Rural Development for the Asia and the Pacific.

Karmajibi Nari acting President Dr Pratima Pal Majumdar presided over the programme while its Coordinator Rahela Rabbani and Jahangirnagar University urban and rural planning department Chairman Prof AKM Abul Kalam addressed among others.

**36 agri varsity students get bail**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Thirty six students of Sylhet Agriculture University (Sau) were granted bail at the judicial magistrate court of Sylhet yesterday afternoon.

Proctor Dr Anwar Hossain on Thursday night filed the case against 36 students on charges of vandalising the administration building on Thursday. The university authorities also expelled three students, all Bangladesh Chhatra League men (BCL), from the university.

Meanwhile, campus sources said that no class was held yesterday for the fourth day as the students led by BCL men had called an indefinite strike.

**BID TO STOP BORDER KILLING Indian civil society urged to raise voice**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expressing deep concern over the continuous killing and atrocities being committed by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) on Bangladeshis, Citizens Movement, a rights body, yesterday urged the Indian civil society to raise its voice against such incidents.

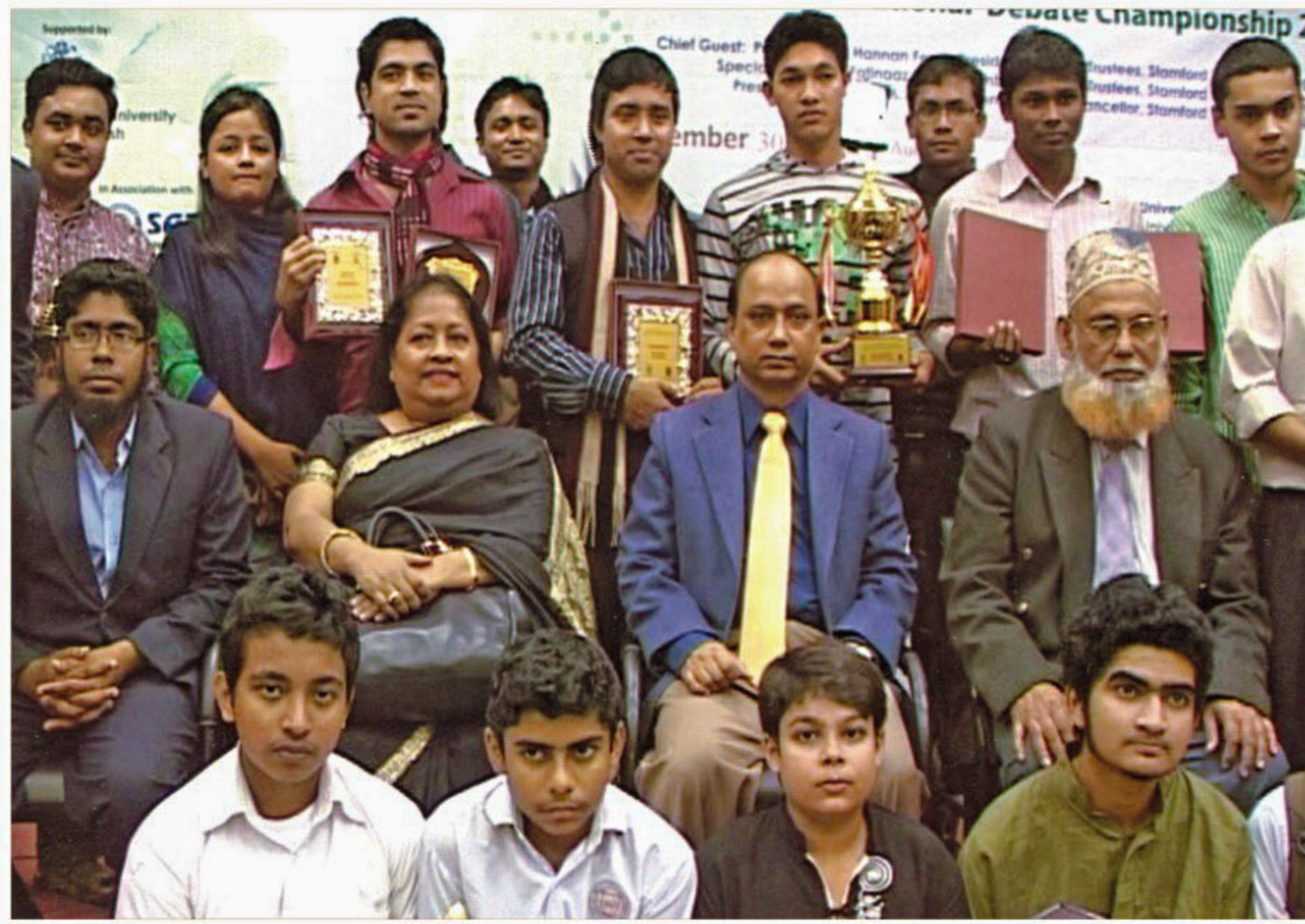
A statement signed by Citizens Movement convener Barrister Rafiq-ul Huq and member secretary Nurul Kabir said over 1,000 innocent Bangladeshis were killed and 987 others were injured by BSF over the last decade.

During this period at least 1,000 Bangladeshis were kidnapped while over 200 others remain missing, it added.

It strongly criticised comments made by Indian Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee and Bangladesh LGRD Minister Syed Ashraf Islam on January 21 which downplayed the torture on a Bangladeshi by BSF near the border.

Pranab and Ashraf's comments came after footage of a Bangladeshi cattle smuggler being stripped and tortured by, what appeared to be, BSF in Murshidabad was revealed on the media recently.

The statement said Ashraf's comment did not represent the opinion of the 16 crore Bangladeshis but shows the "submissive" foreign policy of the government.



Winners and guests at the prize distribution ceremony of the 6th Stamford National Debate Championship on the Siddheswari campus of Stamford University recently.

PHOTO: COURTESY

**Women dies as tree branch falls on her**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A female construction worker was killed after a branch of a tree fell on her head when she was walking on the footpath at Matuail in the city yesterday.

The deceased, Sharmin Begam, 40, had been working at a nearby under-construction building for the last several months, said her husband Abdur Rouf.

She was heading for home at Gabindapur in Matuail from her workplace at Nimtala to take her lunch around 2:30pm, when the incident happened, locals said.

Sharmin was rushed to a local hospital and later taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, where duty doctors declared her dead.

Eye witness Sohrab Hossain said the branches of the rain tree belonging to Mantu Miah was being cut down since the morning.



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