

NEWS IN *brief*

Kabir Chowdhury's birthday today

BSS, Dhaka

Today is the 90th birth anniversary of late National Professor Kabir Chowdhury, an author and a pioneer in the movement against fundamentalism.

On the occasion, various social and cultural organisations will organise different programmes today.

Forum for Secular Bangladesh and Trial of War Criminals of 1971 will organise a discussion at Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs (BILIA) auditorium in the city's Dhanmondi, where Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith will be present as the chief guest.

He was born in 1923 in Brahmanbaria and died on December 13 in 2011.

Eight JS bodies reshuffled

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) chief Oli Ahmed was made a member of the parliamentary standing committee on the civil aviation and tourism ministry as the House reshuffled eight parliamentary bodies yesterday.

Oli was removed on Tuesday from the helm of the parliamentary standing committee on the planning ministry. AL lawmaker HN Ashequr Rahman, who was chief of parliamentary estimate committee, replaced Oli.

In the reshuffling, veteran AL leader Abdul Jalil was made a member of the parliamentary standing committee on the finance ministry. Jalil was removed from the helm of the parliamentary standing committee on the commerce ministry in October 2009.

The reconstituted six other parliamentary standing committees are on the ministries of shipping, power, energy and mineral resources, religious affairs, cultural affairs, public undertakings, and youth and sports.

Creative method in HSC exams from 2014

UNB, Dhaka

The Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examinations will be held in creative method from the year 2014.

Examinations on Physics, Biology, Accounting, Business Entrepreneurship and Practical Management, History, Islamic History, Social Science and Social Welfare would be held under the method, according to a government handout.

Forty marks will be allocated for creative portion, 35 for multiple choice questions and 25 for practical test for Physics and Biology.

For the remaining subjects, 60 marks will be allocated for creative portion and 40 for multiple choice questions.

Security guard found dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday recovered a hanging body of a security guard from an under-construction building at Tanti Bazar in the old part of the city.

The deceased was identified as Ariful Islam, 22, of Bera in Pabna.

Police suspected that Arifur might have committed suicide by hanging from ceiling fan with a rope.

Officer-in-charge of Kotwali Police Station Salahuddin Khan said the body was recovered from a room on the ground floor of the under-construction building where he had been living as a security guard since February 1.

PM's tribute to Sultana Sobhan

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visited the residence of late Sultana Sobhan, wife of late Justice KM Sobhan, at Malibagh in the city yesterday.

She placed a wreath on the coffin of Sultana Sobhan and stood in solemn silence for a while to show respect.

Sultana Sobhan died at a city hospital on Monday.

WEATHER TODAY

Rise in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light rain is likely to occur at one or two places over Rajshahi, Rangpur and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Tangail and Mymensingh and weather may remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country in 12 hours till 6:00pm today.

Light to moderate fog may occur over the country during midnight till morning, Met Office said.

Day and night temperature may rise by 1-2 degree Celsius over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:49pm today and rises at 6:35am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 31.5 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sitakunda and lowest 09.5 degrees Celsius at Srimongal.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	29.0	15.2	62	55
Chittagong	30.0	15.8	74	59
Rajshahi	29.0	13.4	89	65
Rangpur	25.8	14.5	83	62
Khulna	30.5	16.2	77	52
Barisal	30.0	14.3	74	65
Sylhet	28.6	14.0	67	44
Cox's Bazar	31.0	16.3	49	50



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina speaks at the first meeting of the National Advisory Council on Revitalisation of Community Health Care Initiatives in Bangladesh held at the Prime Minister's office yesterday. (Story on Page 3)

PHOTO: PID

Eminent citizens hail new EC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some civil society members and eminent citizens yesterday appreciated the appointment of the new Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and other commissioners, terming it "democratic and transparent."

They hoped that the new Election Commission (EC) would act impartially to hold free and fair parliamentary elections.

Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad was made chief election commissioner while Mohammad Abu Hafiz, Mohammad Abdul Mobararak, Mohammad Zabeed Ali and Mohammad Shahnewaz were appointed election commissioners yesterday.

Former adviser to a caretaker government Dr Akbar Ali Khan said he (the CEC) is a very competent person and free from

political influence. He will be able to work independently and completely, he said.

He said there is a tough challenge for the newly constituted EC as the main opposition BNP did not accept it. "They will have to work in such a way that those who are opposing them now one day will accept them. They will have to win the hearts of the people by carrying out duties and responsibilities with complete neutrality. Otherwise, it will be tough for them to be acceptable."

Asked, Former adviser to a caretaker government Advocate Sultana Kamal, hailed the government for appointing the CEC and other EC members through a proper procedure.

She, however, said it would have been better if the government had appointed a civil society member at

the commission.

About the BNP's rejection of the new EC, Sultana Kamal said, "They have no rational ground to oppose it."

"I wish the new commission holds a free and fair parliamentary election," she said.

Sector Commanders' Forum Secretary General Lt Gen (retd) Harun-ur-Rashid said the new commission had been formed through a transparent and democratic way.

"I hope the new commission will take bolder steps than the previous commission to hold free and fair elections," he said.

He also urged all political parties and the government to extend cooperation to the new EC, avoiding the culture of "accepting" or "rejecting".

Those, who will not cooperate, will be considered as the barrier to establishing a strong election com-

mission, he said.

Congratulating the new EC, Sushashoner Janno Nagorik (Sujan) Secretary Badiul Alam Majumdar said the new election commission would have to prove their capability, skills and honesty through their activities.

It would have been better if the government had sought opinion and recommendations of civil society members before issuing the gazette notification, he said.

Pro-BNP academic Prof Moniruzzaman Miah, however, said the government activities in the last three years had proved that it appointed the party men in different vital posts.

"I think the appointment has been done under political consideration," said Moniruzzaman Miah, who is a former vice chancellor of Dhaka University.

BNP to hold March 12 rally peacefully

Says Khaleda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday asked party leaders to conduct a massive countrywide campaign, inspiring people to attend a peaceful rally scheduled for March 12 in the capital to pressurise the government into restoring the caretaker government system.

Warning of possible provocation from the government's side, she advised the party men to work hard with patience to face any situation and hold the rally peacefully.

"The government is trying to provoke our party men but they will not succeed. We will hold our rally peacefully," said Khaleda while holding a preparatory discussion with party leaders over the rally at BNP's Gulshan office.

"We will hold our programme peacefully. But we will take position wherever we are obstructed on way to attend the rally," Goyeshwar Chandra Roy, member of the standing committee, told reporters after the meeting.

Criminals 'kill' woman, loot Tk 25,000

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A domestic help went missing as unidentified criminals looted Tk 25,000 and an unspecified amount of gold after allegedly killing a housewife in a flat in the city's Shaheenbagh yesterday.

The victim, Shamim Ara Begum, 50, was bedridden and suffering from kidney related diseases for the past four years, said her family sources.

Shamim's husband, Mohammad Asaduzzaman, accounts officer of Concord Group, said he came home to find the door unlocked around 6:20pm and the domestic help, Parvin Begum, employed there for the past six months, missing.

His wife's body, with no mark of injury, was on the bed while the door of their steel wardrobe was broken with the inside ransacked, he said, adding that his son and daughter were not home that day.



BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia holds a meeting at her Gulshan office in the city yesterday with party leaders to discuss preparations for March 12 rally.

PHOTO: BNP

Strong political will can end corruption

Says Obaidul Quader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Communications Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday stressed the need for a zero tolerance policy against corruption and strong political will to eradicate the bad practice.

"We will have to change our political culture with the firm determination of avoiding corruption," he said.

The minister was speaking as chief guest at a seminar styled, 'Corruption through ages and its impact on economy,' organised by the English language daily, The Independent, at its office in the city.

Huge expenditures in electoral campaign have driven political leaders into engaging in corruption after getting elected to office, opined Obaidul Quader. He criticised the Election Commission (EC) for not taking any action against those who use crores of money on their electoral campaigns.

Speaking about the role of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), the minister emphasised establishing the ACC as an impartial, independent and authoritative body in order for corruption to be curbed and for development to take place.

The ACC stipulation, which says it will have to take permission from the authorities concerned before the filing of any case against any government officials, should be amended to strengthen the body, said Quader, who is also presidium member of the ruling Awami League.

Politicisation in state-run institutions, including educational institutions, hospitals, press clubs, is one of the major reasons

for corruption, he opined.

Addressing the function as special guest, ACC Chairman Ghulam Rahman said corruption occurred when a huge gap between demand and supply were created in society.

A motive of profit among politicians is one of the major reasons for corruption, he said.

Claiming that there were some constraints for the ACC in conducting impartial investigations into any case, Ghulam Rahman said the ACC should be given full freedom to work impartially.

Despite the government's recommendations, the ACC had not withdrawn 300 cases, said the ACC chief while pointing out different steps against corruption.

Speaking at the function, Hasanul Haq Inu, chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on post and telecommunications, said military rulers in the past were responsible for corruption in Bangladesh.

He too stressed the formation of an independent investigation commission to reduce corruption.

The Independent Editor Mahbulul Alam chaired the seminar, while private television channel Boishakhi TV Head of News Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul moderated it. Bangladesh Open University professor Mamtazuddin Patwari presented the keynote paper.

Former vice chancellor of Dhaka University Prof Moniruzzaman Miah, The Daily Sun Editor Prof Syed Anwar Husain and The News Today Editor Riazuddin Ahmed also spoke on the occasion.

DARUL IHSAN UNIVERSITY

HC orders stopping law course

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the University Grants Commission (UGC) to take immediate steps in stopping Darul Ihsan University's (DIU) two-year Bachelor of Law course as it was being run without the commission's approval.

Delivering a verdict on a writ petition, the court also directed the DIU authorities to pay Tk 5 lakh to each of five petitioners as their "careers were affected" after studying the course at DIU.

The five petitioners, Khan A Salam, Afifa Aktar, Shamim Ara, Abul Hasnat and Imam Hasan, had completed the course and attained certificates.

Afterwards, they appeared for the enrolment certificate examination of Bangladesh Bar Council, which gives licence to the country's lawyers to practice law, on February 26, 2010 and the viva voce on November 24, 2010.

But the council refrained from publishing their results as per a letter sent to the council's enrolment committee chairman from UGC, which pointed out that the course had no UGC certification.

The five on January 17 last year filed the petition challenging the council's decision.

AL leader Tinku passes away

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League leader Dr Jahangir Sattar Tinku died of brain tumour at his Moghbazar residence in the city yesterday morning.

His namaz-e-janaza was held in front of the Awami League office at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city.

AL leaders Amir Hossain Amu, Joint General Secretary Mahub-ul-Alam Hanif and State Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Jahangir Kabir Nanak attended the janaza.

BSS adds: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed deep shock at the untimely death of Tinku.

In a condolence message, she recalled the contribution of Tinku to the country's democratic and anti-autocracy movements. "He played an important role in restoration of democracy in the country by participating in the movements," she added.

Hasina prayed for eternal peace of the departed soul and conveyed deep sympathy to the bereaved family.

Meanwhile, Chittagong Journalists Forum Dhaka (CJFD) President Saif Islam Dilal and General Secretary Hossain Zakir condoled the death.

Prof Manoranjan Saha

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prof Manoranjan Saha of the Department of Applied Chemistry and Chemical Engineering of Dhaka University died of blood cancer at a hospital in India yesterday at the age of 60, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, one son, one daughter and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique expressed deep shock at his death.

Abu Taher Majumder

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

President of Bangladesh Nationalist Muktijoddha Dal Comilla district unit Abu Taher Majumder died due to cardiac arrest in a city hospital on Tuesday at the age of 65, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, one son, four daughters and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

He was laid to rest at the family graveyard following his namaz-e-janaza at his village home at Pathankot and Thakurpara Madina Mosque in Comilla yesterday.

Abul Kalam Masud

METRO DESK



Syed Abul Kalam Masud, Chairman of DANA Group, passed away at Bangkok Hospital in Thailand on February 5 at the age of 76, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, two sons and grand children.

He was laid to rest at the Banani Graveyard after his namaz-e-janaza.



Book launching

The launching ceremony of Nasreen Khundker's book, *An Orange Glow in the Sky*, will be held; Venue: Alumni Floor, Senate Bhaban, Dhaka University; Time: 4:00pm.

Book launching

David Lewis' book, *Bangladesh: Politics, Economy and Civil Society*, will be launched; Venue: British Council, 5 Fuller Road; Time: 6:30pm.

Rally

Samajtantric Mahila Forum will organise a rally; Venue: before Jatiya Press Club; Time: 4:30pm.

Memorial meeting

Ekatturer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee will organise a memorial meeting; Venue: Bilia Auditorium; Time: 4:00pm.