

## Daily Star's publication unveiled at Boi Mela

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A 500-page publication based on the 20th anniversary supplements of The Daily Star was unveiled at Amar Ekushey Boi Mela at Bangla Academy premises in the city yesterday.

Bangla Academy Chairman Prof Emeritus Anisuzzaman untied a red ribbon to uncover the three-issue compilation, titled "40 Years of Bangladesh: Way Forward".

"I had the opportunity to read some of the articles. I felt that they were written with much thought and care," he said.

Editor and publisher of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam and noted poet Nurul Huda were also present at the programme.

The 500-page supplements were published in The Daily Star last year celebrating the newspaper's 20th anniversary.

The three books, titled "Democracy and Government," "Economy and Development" and "Foreign Policy and Human Resources", contain articles by a number of leading personalities related to the respective titles.

## ADMISSION TO NEW DEPT UGC worried as PSTU defies HC order

UNB, Dhaka

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has expressed deep concern over the start of admission process in the newly launched animal husbandry department at Patuakhali Science and Technology University (PSTU) "in defiance of a High Court order".

"The government and the UGC are concerned, as the PSTU hurriedly initiated the admission process in the animal husbandry department defying a High Court order in this regard", a press release said yesterday.

The UGC formed a seven-member high-powered committee on October 24, 2011 to resolve the problem over the admission of students in the new department, the release added.

On February 2, the committee in an emergency meeting urged the PSTU authorities to have patience until the HC gives its complete verdict on the issue.

The UGC asked the university authorities to comply with the decision.



(From right) Poet Nurul Huda, Editor and Publisher of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam, Bangla Academy Chairman Prof Emeritus Anisuzzaman and Associate Editor of The Daily Star Shah Husain Imam showcase a 500-page publication based on the 20th anniversary supplements of The Daily Star at Amar Ekushey Boi Mela at Bangla Academy in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## FIRST ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

# PM's guidelines to revitalise community healthcare

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday gave necessary guidelines to the authorities to revitalise community healthcare services in the country through community clinics.

She gave the directives 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.

During the meeting, the national advisory council held detailed discussions on the activities of community clinic project and the progress of its implementation.

The prime minister's press secretary,

Abul Kalam Azad, later briefed journalists about the outcome of the meeting.

Sheikh Hasina said father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman first thought of reaching healthcare services to the doorsteps of the common people and her government, during its previous term, had started the community clinic project in line with the dream of Bangabandhu.

The premier said during her previous tenure (1996-2001), infrastructure facilities for some 11,000 community clinics were built and 4,000 clinics went into operation.

"But, the previous BNP-Jamaat government stopped the project out

of political spite. As a result, rural people were deprived of healthcare services."

The present government, soon after assuming power, resumed the project and operation of 11,000 community clinics in the country, she added.

The prime minister mentioned that during his recent visit to Bangladesh, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon highly praised the activities of the community clinics. Many countries in the world are thinking of setting up community clinics in their respective countries replicating this idea, she said.

Hasina said her government is considering setting up of a

Healthcare Assistance Trust Fund, like the Education Assistance Trust Fund, to ensure healthcare for the poor and helpless people.

She reiterated that donation in the health and education sectors would be exempted from tax.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith, Health Minister Dr AFM Ruhul Haque, Social Welfare Minister Enamul Haq Mostafa Shahid, Adviser to the Prime Minister Prof Syed Modasser Ali, State Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Jahangir Kabir Nanak, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister Sheikh Wahid Uz Zaman and concerned secretaries also were present.



Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Sangskritik Dal forms a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club yesterday demanding withdrawal of "false cases" against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

PHOTO: STAR

## BDR CARNAGE

# Witness tells how officers' bodies were thrown out of building

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A witness to the 2009 BDR carnage yesterday testified how mutineers shot dead and threw out three army officers from a building at BDR's Pikhana headquarters.

Submitting his deposition, the witness, Nayeb Subed Abdul Kuddus, said he first heard gunshots and chaos around 10:00am on February 25 while he was inside the Shainik Line building of 36 Rifle Battalion.

He saw Col Mujibul Haque and Lt Col Enayet run into the building. Soon subedar major Shahidur Rahman, havildar Omar Ali Mollah, subedar Ikramul Haque, sepoy Bazlur Rashid, lance nayek Anwarul Islam and some others followed suit, said Kuddus.

"After a few minutes I heard gunshots," he said. While running up the stairs to investigate, he heard MLSS Saifuddin shout out that Major Makbul was hiding on the first floor.

Kuddus said sepoy Alim Reza shot Maj Makbul dead and with the help of others threw out the body from the first floor. Afterwards, he saw other mutineers throw out the bodies of Col Mujibul and Lt Col Enayet from the third floor.

After hearing the deposition, the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka at Ali Madrasa playground in the city's Bakshibazar adjourned the proceedings till February 13.

On January 11, another witness, Havildar Bazlur Rashid, gave a similar description of the murder of the three army officers.

Earlier in the day, witnesses sepoy Abbas and cook Aman Uddin gave their depositions and defence lawyers cross-examined them briefly.

Fifty-seven army officers were among the 74 victims killed in the bloody mutiny at the headquarters of Bangladesh Rifles, which was later renamed Border Guard Bangladesh, during February 25-26, 2009.

## Boy dies in freak accident

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A minor boy died after getting injured accidentally by a player while enjoying a cricket match at the playground of a madrasa at Rugganj upazila in Narayanganj yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Mohammad Yakub Rana, 10, a class four student of Mukraql Mohammadiya Alim Madrasa of Rugganj, and son of Mohamamd Nuruzzaman, a resident of Mukraql village.

He received injuries on the head when a player collapsed with his full weight on him while running to catch the ball, said Mohammad Illias, elder brother of the victim.

The mishap occurred at around 10:30am while he was watching the match from the corner of the playground.

Rana was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead.

## Prevent job seekers going abroad on tourist visas

### Inter-ministerial meeting told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An inter-ministerial meeting yesterday suggested stronger vigilance on the travel and recruiting agencies to prevent job seekers who want to work overseas illegally after going abroad on tourist visas from leaving the country on such visas.

"Such cases could jeopardize our labour markets abroad. So, we are finding a new mechanism so that none goes abroad with visit visas to stay back and work," Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Secretary Dr Zafar Ahmed Khan told The Daily Star after attending the meeting.

Expatriates' Welfare Minister Khandker Mosharraf Hossain, Foreign Minister Dipu Moni, Civil Aviation Minister Faruk Khan, Home Minister Sahara Khatun, Prime Minister's Finance Adviser Dr Mashiur Rahman and high officials of the ministries concerned joined the meeting at the expatriates' welfare ministry.

Zafar Ahmed Khan said there are many such Bangladeshi workers abroad, and some

countries have given objection to the issue on many occasions. Recently, it has been found that 300 Bangladeshis went to Libya via other countries with tourist visas, he said.

"If this trend continues, we cannot send workers legally, and that will be a big blow for us," he said.

Ashadul Islam, additional secretary of the expatriates' welfare ministry, said it is true that the authorities cannot bar one from going abroad with valid visas, but there should be a mechanism to track the jobseekers going abroad posing as tourists.

"We will devise a mechanism soon," said Islam, also head of a taskforce on overseas recruitment.

"Immigration police, travel and recruiting agencies have a big role to play here," he told The Daily Star.

Requesting anonymity, an official who was in the meeting said those going abroad with tourist visas for the first time could come under special screening by police.

"They could even check if they have TIN [tax identification number]," he said.

## 2 die as train hits motorcycle

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A union parishad (UP) chairman and his secretary were killed yesterday as a railway vehicle hit their motorcycle on an unmanned level crossing near Nandangachhi Railway Station in Charghat upazila of the district.

Neempara UP chairman and senior vice president of the upazila BNP Abdus Salam, 60, and his secretary Rafiqul Islam, 45, died on the spot as they were dragged some 150 yards by the railway vehicle, Charghat Police station Officer-in-Charge Shamsul Islam said quoting witnesses.

The accident occurred around 4:30pm while they were returning home from the UP office on a motorcycle and were hit by the Rajshahi-bound vehicle, he added.

The vehicle, locally called as Gang-car and used for regular railway track maintenance, was under the Divisional Engineer-2 section of Bangladesh Railway Western Zone, said officials.

Abdus Salam hailed from Fakirpara village while Rafiqul was from Jhikra village of the upazila.

Zonal General Manager of Bangladesh Railway M Tafazzal Hossain said a four-member committee headed by Additional Chief Engineer (track) M Shahjahan Ali was formed to investigate the matter.

COMING OUT TOMORROW

**theSTAR**  
A Weekly Publication of The Daily Star

The Star magazine's cover story this week focuses on the beautiful Baldah Garden and how a piece of paradise in the heart of the city is facing a losing battle against the onslaught of commercialisation. The much famed Bangladesh Premium League (BPL) has turned out to be a money spinner, but is it really going to help local cricket?

This Friday's issue also has features on the recent imbroglio centring round the formation of the Election Commission, a library which is going to celebrate its 48th birthday and a new government order that might slow down Bangladesh's growth in the manpower sector.

**An Endangered Eden**

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