

# NEWS IN *brief*

## AL to remain on streets in March

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ruling Awami League (AL) General Secretary Syed Ashrafur Islam yesterday said party activists would remain in the streets with month-long political programmes in March.

He said the programmes would be announced later. The AL leader was speaking at a joint meeting between the AL and its associated and like-minded bodies at the party chief's political office in Dhanmondi. The joint meeting was organised to prepare the party during the month-long programmes, which might coincide with the main opposition BNP's grand rally in the capital on March 12.

AL leaders Mahbubul Alam Hanif, Abdur Rahman, AFM Bahauddin Nasim, Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury, Mrinal Kanti Das, among others, were

## Ahmed Sharif's birthday today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 91st birth anniversary of Dr Ahmed Sharif, a renowned scholar, writer, researcher of medieval Bangla literature and a forerunner of free thought movement in the country.

On the occasion, Dr Ahmed Sharif Commemoration Lecture, organised by the Bangladesh Bhasha Samity, will be held today at the auditorium of the Modern Language Institute of Dhaka University at 4:00pm.

Prof Golam Murshid will deliver the commemoration lecture while Prof Monsur Musa will chair in the function.

## Tour for BSK book reading winners

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bishwa Sahitya Kendra (BSK) organised a 13-day long tour in the country's tourist spots for 12 readers of the organisation as they won a book reading competition.

The tour began yesterday with the participation of eight book readers while the rest four will make tour after their SSC examinations, said a press release.

The eight tour members are Mumtahina Mim, Jannatun Nur, Arifa Sanjid Eva, Ismat Jahan Ema, Joy Pal, Vaswati Shil, Newton Dali and Sohel Rana who are studying in different district schools.

Bishwa Sahitya Kendra, a non-profit institution promoting reading habits among the students and general people, launched a book reading competition last year among the school students of Dhaka,

## JS body for FFs retirement extension

BSS, Dhaka

A parliamentary standing committee yesterday recommended the extension of the retirement age of freedom fighter government employees from 59 to 61 years.

The committee meeting, held against the backdrop of an increase in the retirement age of public servants from 57 to 59, also recommended action by the ministry on making a list of freedom fighter government officers and employees and submitting it at the next meeting.

The recommendations were made at the 19th meeting of the parliamentary standing committee on Public Administration Ministry held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban with committee president

## DHAKA TODAY

**Protest**  
Bangladesh Jubo Union will organise a protest meeting; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 4:00pm.

**View exchange meet**  
Janoswastha Sangram Parishad will arrange a view exchange meeting; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 3:00pm.

**Convocation**  
Stamford University Bangladesh will organise its convocation; Venue: hold a discussion; Venue: Bangladesh Krishi Gabeshona Council auditorium, Farmgate; Time: 3:00pm.

## WEATHER TODAY

### Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country in 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

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

Mild cold wave is sweeping over Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions and the regions of Tangail, Mymensingh, Jessore, Kushtia and Srimongal and it may continue.

Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The sun sets in the capital at 5:52pm today and rises at 6:33am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 29.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sitakunda and lowest 05.9 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	25.6	12.7	42	34
Chittagong	27.0	13.8	56	36
Rajshahi	25.5	08.0	82	45
Rangpur	24.3	09.5	87	67
Khulna	26.5	12.0	59	61
Barisal	26.6	10.5	65	61

## Teenage girl 'commits suicide' in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A schoolgirl allegedly hanged herself at her residence at Turag in the capital yesterday.

The deceased was Safia Akhter, 14, a class-VIII student of a local school.

Police recovered the body from her Fulbaria residence around 10:00am.

The house owner Khalilur Rahman said Safia's mother Razia Begum, his tenant, was out for work in the morning and also Safia's sister and brother were not home at the time when the incident happened.

Razia locked into an altercation with Safia Saturday night over her involvement in an affair with a local youth.

Khalilur said the girl might have committed suicide over the issue.

The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsy.



A procession of Sector Corporation Sramik Karmachari Federation Samannay Parishad creates traffic congestion before Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday.



## President completes 3 years in office

BSS, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman yesterday completed three years in office.

He took oath as the 19th President of Bangladesh on February 12, 2009.

On the occasion, officials of the President's Office organised a function, greeting Zillur Rahman with bouquets and a cake-cutting ceremony.

In a short speech, the president greeted the countrymen and said that the only motto of his life is to work for the welfare of the people.

Referring to his 64 years of political life, the president said he suffered imprisonment for about 10 years for raising voice for realising the rights of the people.

He also thanked all employees of Bangladesh for extending their support and cooperation in the last three years.

A special prayer seeking divine blessings for the good health of the president and his family was also offered.

## Vessels stranded as Ghat workers protest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chittagong Ghat and Gudam Sramik Union observed a strike in 16 ghats adjoining Karnaphuli river yesterday, leaving at least 150 vessels stranded, protesting the alleged assault on its leaders on Saturday night.

Members of the union and Chattagram Ghat and Gudam Sramik Sangram Parishad, recently formed with the union's defecting members, clashed at Banglabazar Ghat area that night leaving six people injured.

The clash ensued over collecting money for a welfare fund for ghat workers.

The fund's formation was decided at a meeting between local lawmaker MA Latif and goods importers, lighter vessel owners and workers on January 25.

The clash ensued when the union leaders told the parishad leaders to start collecting the money though the fund was yet to be formed, added the sources.

The union President Md Abdul Quader and the parishad Convener Mohammad Alamgir blamed each other's organisations for trying to collect the money.

## BNP withdraws expulsion order on Ratan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP has withdrawn the expulsion order on Kamruzzaman Ratan, a former leader of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD).

According to a press release signed by party's joint secretary general Ruhul Kabir Rizvi, the decision was taken following a direction given by the party chairperson Khaleeda Zia.

BNP had expelled Ratan in 2003 following an allegation of breaching the party disciplines.

## 7 arrested for cheating army jobseekers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detective Branch of Police arrested seven people from Satkhira and the capital on Saturday and Friday for cheating jobseekers of Bangladesh Army and misleading police.

Following complaints from around 30 victims, the ringleader, Mithun Ghosh alias Apu, 33, impersonating an army major, and his wives, Beauty and Ranu Mondol, were arrested with many fake appointment letters from Satkhira on Friday night.

As per their confessions, Raju, Sumon, Hasan and Jalal Uddin were nabbed from a residential flat at Tilpapara of the city's Khilgaon the next day with computers and printers.

The frauds organised fake army recruitment tests and then sent letters to district police stations using the fake seal of army's Azimpur recruitment office requesting verification of the applicants, said DB Senior Police Commissioner Moshir Rahman.

Applicants became confident once police came to check their identities and gave the frauds Tk 1.5 to 3 lakh for the posts of sepoy, computer operators and nurses, he added.

## 49pc women face physical violence by husbands

### Shows survey

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

More than 50 percent of the women in a baseline survey across the country reported of facing physical and sexual violence by their husbands over the last 12 months.

Of the 1,982 women selected for the survey from the country's 30 unions, around 49 percent faced physical violence while about 42 percent face sexual violence during the period.

The findings were presented yesterday at a national workshop titled "Challenges and opportunities for addressing violence against women in Bangladesh" organised by Plan Bangladesh at a city hotel.

The survey was carried out under Protecting Human Rights (PHR) Project, an initiative of Plan Bangladesh in assistance with USAID.

Presenting the key findings, Dr Madhumita Das, senior technical specialist of ICRW, India, said slapping a woman, throwing something at her and threatening

her with a weapon are the most common acts of the violence.

She said one-third of the surveyed women reported experiencing forced sexual intercourse after or during an episode of physical violence while very few women sought help from any formal or informal service.

Around 13 percent stated violence as normal or not serious action while 11 percent believe that it will bring bad name for the family, she added.

The survey stressed the need for gender sensitisation across the population in the study area.

Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, state minister for women and children affairs ministry, Meher Afroz Chumki, chairman of parliamentary standing committee on women and children affairs ministry and Tariq-Ul-Islam, secretary of the ministry, Alexious Butler, director of democracy and governance office of USAID Bangladesh, and Myrna Remata Evora, country director of Plan Bangladesh also spoke among others.

## Einstein has not lost

### Two RU physicists tell int'l seminar

ANWAR ALI WITH AM JAHID, Rajshahi

Albert Einstein has not lost even if the subatomic particles called neutrinos travel faster than light, two former Rajshahi University physicists, who claimed to have completed the theory of special relativity by deriving new equations, said at an international seminar yesterday.

"Neutrinos have won the race with light but Einstein has not lost", Dr M Osman Gani Talukder, one of the physicists, said in his paper.

On September 23, 2011, Cern, the world's largest physics lab, published its experiment results showing that neutrino particles move 60 billionths of a second faster than what they would have done if travelling at the speed of light, says a BBC report.

A dilemma surfaced as much of the century-old modern physics depend on the idea that nothing can exceed the speed of light, which was laid out in part by Einstein in his theory of special relativity.

Dr Talukder and Dr Mushfiq Ahmad said they have solved the dilemma by adopting a 21-equation non-Einsteinian approach and

by completing Einstein's three-equation special relativity theory with the addition of 18 new equations.

The two physicists presented two papers entitled "Homogeneous number system and correspondence between infinity and invariant under addition" and "Neutrino travelling faster than light and Einsteinian and Non-Einsteinian views of relativity" on the concluding day of the two-day seminar yesterday. On the first day, they presented eight papers, out of a total of 10, describing their ideas.

RU Vice Chancellor Prof M Abdus Sobhan said in the concluding session that the university would publish the minutes of the seminar in a journal within a week and post them on the Internet for review by scientist worldwide.

Hartmut Baerwolff, professor at Cologne University of Applied Sciences, Germany, chaired the concluding session.

Rajshahi University organised the international seminar on "special relativity" in association with The Daily Star at RU Senate Bhaban. Channel i was the media partner.

## Deliver unmet pledges

### Dutch envoy urges AL

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The ruling party should speed up efforts and put extra emphasis to fulfill the undelivered pledges in the remaining two years of its tenure, Dutch Ambassador to Bangladesh Alphons Hennekens said at a press conference yesterday.

"After the election victory, the Awami League indicated to move its election and development agenda forward. Looking at the politics, democratisation, economy, we can say the ambitious election manifesto has not been realised yet", he said in a reply to journalists.

Hennekens said the AL had announced a very comprehensive and ambitious election manifesto before the 2008 election, which covers all aspects. As it has not been realised in three years, the government should speed up efforts in the next two years, he added.

He also informed journalists that the Netherlands will provide 200 million Euros (about US\$2.63m) to Bangladesh as bilateral fund and 100 million Euros (\$1.32m) through Dutch NGOs.

Being a delta country, the Netherlands has formulated a 100-year concept plan to safeguard itself from the adverse impacts of sea-level rise and climate change, he said.

As Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina took interest in the Delta Plan, the Dutch government is planning to sign a MoU with Bangladesh in a couple of months to share the concept and help Bangladesh make a livable and safe workplace, he said.

The press conference held at the Dutch Embassy in the city was organised in celebration of the 40th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between Bangladesh and the Netherlands.

Marking the anniversary, the Dutch ambassador also hosted a reception on Saturday, says a press release. Finance Minister AMA Muhith attended the function as the guest of honour.

## New DUJ leaders take charge

BSS, Dhaka

Newly elected leaders of Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) yesterday took over charge of the union for the next two years.

Omar Faruque and Shaban Mahmud were elected president and general secretary respectively of the DUJ in the election held on January 30. The panel led by Faruque won most of the office bearers and members of the 19-member DUJ executive committee in the election.

Enamur Reza Dipu, vice president of the outgoing committee and Abu Zafar Surja, general secretary, handed over the charge to new DUJ President Omar Faruque and General Secretary Shaban Mahmud at the union office at the Jatiya Press Club.

President of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury and Secretary General Abdul Jalil Bhuyian spoke on the occasion.

## Journo couple murder condemned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different socio-cultural, political and human rights organisations, business bodies and media activists yesterday strongly condemned the brutal murder of the journalist couple, Sagar Sarowar and Meherun Runi.

Expressing deep shock, they demanded the immediate arrest of and exemplary punishment to the murderers.

They also conveyed their sympathies to the bereaved families and prayed for the eternal peace of the departed souls.

Sagar, a news editor of private TV channel Maasranga Television, and his wife Meherun, a senior reporter of ATN Bangla, were stabbed to death in their West Rajabazar residence in the city in the early hours of Saturday.

They also demanded the government to take initiatives in ensuring security and upbringing of the couple's only child, Mahir Sarowar Megh.

Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain termed the murder an irreparable loss for the country's journalism arena.

Transparency International, Bangladesh

Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzaman and Broadcast Journalists Association, in separate statements, said the murder indicates the vulnerable condition of the country's law and order.

Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association said the murder could have been prevented if perpetrators of previous murder incidents were duly punished.

Sector Commanders Forum, Liberation War-71, Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, Ain O Salish Kendra, Karmojibi Nari, Bangladesh Manabdhikar Bastobayan Sangstha, TV Camera Journalist Association, Bangladesh Christian Association, Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal, Samajtantrik Mahila Forum, Islami Oikya Andolon, Jubo Forum, Bangladesh Mohajir Welfare and Development Committee, Progressive Art and Mass Media Workers Forum, Dhaka University Teachers' Association, Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh, Parbatyia Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity, Dhaka University Journalists' Association, Jatiya Sangbadik Sangstha and Bogra Journalists Forum, Dhaka also condole the deaths.