

# Contribute to nation building

President asks students

UNB, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman yesterday called upon the student organisations to contribute more to the nation building activities by upholding their past glorious history.

"It can't be expected that student organisations will be involved in intra-party conflicts to serve the interest of individuals or small groups," he said.

Zillur made the remarks while presiding over the 7th convocation of Brac University at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid spoke as the special guest while former Chief Adviser to a caretaker government Justice Mohammad Habibur Rahman was the Convocation Speaker. Brac University Vice Chancellor Prof Ainun Nishat also spoke on the occasion. Zillur, also the chancellor of the university, said students are the engines of the nation. They will have to advance the nation through their creative works. But the proud history of the student organisations has not been reflected throughout their activities today. "I hope the student community upholding their past pride will contribute more to the nation building activities," he said.

Mentioning that the quality education is getting city-centered, he called for reducing the gap in higher education opportunities between the rural and the urban areas to expedite overall development of the country.

The president awarded three chancellor gold medals to Nurat Jahan Dipa and Maria Matin in the Bachelor of Social Science in Economics while Nowrin Nowshaba in the Masters of Biotechnology for their outstanding academic results.



President Zillur Rahman gives away a gold medal to a successful graduate at the 7th convocation of Brac University at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

## New Age editor, publisher, journo reprimanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal yesterday reprimanded the editor, publisher and a journalist of the daily New Age and issued a serious caution against them for publishing a 'highly contemptuous' article in October last year.

The article with a headline 'A crucial period for International Crimes Tribunal' written by David Bergman, editor of special reports, was published in the newspaper's OP-ED section on October 2, 2011.

"A few paragraphs of the article are not only unwarranted but also highly contemptuous, and offences of contempt have been established due to its publication", the court observed while delivering verdict on a contempt of court case.

The tribunal, however, exonerated New Age Editor Nurul Kabir, its Publisher ASM Shahidullah Khan, and journalist David Bergman, saying that they have to be more cautious while writing and publishing articles on the proceedings of the tribunal in future.

The judges said they had exonerated Kabir and Bergman considering their earlier works in favour of the war crimes trial and also cleared ASM Shahidullah Khan as he was not in the country when the article was published.

The tribunal comprising its Chairman Justice Md Nizamul Huq, Justice ATM Fazle Kabir and AKM Zahir Ahmed announced the verdict over forty minutes. Kabir, Shahidullah and Bergman were present in the courtroom.

It observed that Kabir has defended himself but expressed a 'hot sentiment' during arguments before it.

The court said the editor, publisher and reporters should consider the understanding of the general people about the law before writing, editing and publishing any article on the proceedings of the tribunal.

Barrister Mustafizur Rahman Khan appeared for Shahidullah Khan and David Bergman.

## 3 held with 1.8kg opium

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Detective Branch (DB) of Police arrested three people with 1.8 kilograms of opium from MM Ali road area in Chittagong city on Saturday.

Posing as buyers, the DB men nabbed Miraj, Bablu, and Tuhin from Khaja Petrol Pump around 9:00pm.

# 16 killed, 93 injured in road crashes

METRO DESK

Sixteen people were killed and 93 others injured in separate road accidents in Rajbari, Tangail, Narail, Chittagong, Netrakona, Mymensingh and Lalmonirhat yesterday.

Our Faridpur and Manikganj correspondents report: Four persons, including two policemen, died instantly and two others were injured as a BRTC bus hit a microbus carrying them on Rajbari-Kushtia highway at Afra in Rajbari at around 6:30am yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Abdul Mannan Molla, sub-inspector of Madaripur Sadar Police Station, Selim, constable of the police station;

Shamsuddin, a court clerk (Muhuri) and Lal Miah Majid, driver of the microbus, said Alamgir Hossain, officer-in-charge of Pangsha Police Station of Rajbari.

Injured constables, Ashraf Ali and Nurjahan, were admitted to Rajbari Sadar Hospital.

In Tangail, a Pabna-bound bus from Dhaka, carrying about 40 passengers, plunged into a roadside ditch in Savulla area in Mirzapur upazila at about 12:15am yesterday, killing five people on the spot and injuring 31 others, said police.

The deceased are Shokjan Begum, 50, of the sadar upazila, Abdul Hamid Sardar, 45, of Sujanagar upazila, Jamal Mondol, 35, of Ataikula upazila, Hafizur Rahman,

36, of Sujanagar upazila of Pabna district; Saiful Mollah, 25, of Shahjadpur upazila and Jahirul Islam, 45, of Ullapara upazila of Sirajganj district.

Of the injured, nine were admitted to Mirzapur Kumudini Hospital.

In Narail, two school teachers died instantly and at least 50 others were injured as a bus carrying them fell into a roadside ditch at Chasra village in the sadar upazila at about 1:00pm yesterday.

The deceased are Dilruba Akhter Dilu, 40, wife of Auiyub Biswas of the village and Tripti Rani Gosh, 30, wife of Ratan Gosh of Tularampur village of the upazila.

Locals and police said the bus, with at least 130 people, including students and

guardians of Chasra Govt Primary School, was going to Lohagara Niribili picnic spot on an education tour.

Injured Piary, 6, Enamul, 8, Hridoy, 7, Momotaz, 35, Lili, 35, Mursana, 8, Lipi, 30, Bithi, 10, and Shila, 35, were taken to Narail Sadar Hospital while the others to Jessore Sadar Hospital.

In Chittagong, Saddam Hossain 22, son of Kabir Hossain, was killed and 10 others injured when a bus fell into a roadside ditch at Chinki Astana in Mirsarai upazila yesterday.

The injured were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH).

In Netrakona, Taslim, 3, son of Azimuddin of village Bamni, was killed

on the spot as a motorbike knocked down him on Mohonganj-Chasrakhal road at Bamni in Mohonganj upazila yesterday morning.

In Mymensingh, motorcyclist Rafiqul Islam, 35, a businessman of village Poyari in Phulpur upazila was injured critically as a bus rammed his bike on Mymensingh-Haluaghat road at Shambhuganj Bazar area in sadar upazila yesterday afternoon.

He succumbed to his injuries at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital.

In Lalmonirhat, a three-wheeler hit Mofazzol Hossain, 5, son of Sirazul Haque of Aditmari upazila, at Kalisthan village of the upazila at around 5:45pm yesterday killing him on the spot.

## Kazi Akram's anniversary of death today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 12th death anniversary of Kazi Akram Hossain, former president of Bangladesh Chhatra Union.

On the occasion, his family members will provide aid to the deprived children, said a press release.

Akram, one of the noted leaders of 70s, led anti-military rule movement.

## Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Safiqul Haider, EVP and in-charge of Crystal Insurance Company Ltd, passed away at his Goran residence in the city early Wednesday night.

## Begum Rashida

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Begum Rashida Chowdhury, mother of a USA expatriate Prof Chowdhury Hafizul Ahsan, passed away yesterday at the age of 74.

She was buried at a graveyard of Bagerhat town after namaz-e-janaza at court mosque in the town.

Her kulkhwani will be held on Wednesday after Zohr prayers at the mosque.

## Syeda Sadeka Begum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Syeda Sadeka Begum, mother of Syed Mahbub Morshed, senior reporter of Daily Naya Diganta, passed away due to old age complications on Friday at the age of 65.

President and secretary general of Dhaka Reporters Unity consoled her death.

# 200 shanties gutted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Around 200 shanties were gutted as a fire swept through a slum in Narayanganj city yesterday.

At least 10 people were injured while trying to put out the blaze, Officer-in-Charge Saidul Islam of Fatulla Model Police Station said quoting witnesses.

He said the fire broke out at Chandmari slum around 5:30am.

Fire brigade sources said the fire might have originated from an electric short circuit at a jute depot located in the slum.

Eight fire-fighting units from Mandalpara and Hajiganj rushed to the spot and extinguished the blaze after two hours of frantic efforts.

Md Saiful Islam, deputy director of Fire Service and Civil Defence in Narayanganj, said a number of jute depots located in the slum helped the fire spread fast to the adjacent shanties.

Transport movement on one side of the Dhaka-Narayanganj link road remained suspended for two hours following the incident.

**FIRE GUTS 40 KARWAN BAZAR SHANTIES** Our staff correspondent reports: A fire at Karwan Bazar Railway slum gutted around 40 shanties and some rooms of a house in adjoining Christianpara, leaving at least five people injured, in the early hours yesterday.

Fire service sources suspect that the fire originated either from an earthen stove or a mosquito coil around 2:30am. Six firefighting units brought the blaze under control after a one-hour effort, added the sources.

The slum dwellers said they could not save their belongings from the fire that engulfed the mud, wood and bamboo-made shanties before firefighters reached the spot.

## '91 graft case against Hawladar to continue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court has paved the way for a lower court to resume the proceedings of a corruption case filed against Jatiya Party Secretary General ABM Ruhul Amin Hawladar more than 20 years ago.

The HC yesterday rejected a petition filed by Hawladar in 1992 for quashing the proceedings of the case against him.

The now defunct Bureau of Anti-Corruption filed the case with Ramna Police Station on May 4, 1991 against him and 24 others on charges of damaging Tk 36.83 lakh of Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC) by reducing the amount of money deposited by different textile mills.

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) took up the case after its formation in 2004.

After hearing on the rule, the HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Sheikh Md Zakir Hossain yesterday delivered the verdict, vacating the earlier stay order of the HC regarding the case.

## DUI for wage board

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) yesterday threatened to go for tougher movement if the government do not form eighth wage board immediately.

The leaders, at a meeting at their office, said Information Minister Abul Kalam Azad in January last gave an assurance of announcing eighth wage board by the first week of February.

Three weeks of February have past but the announcement has not come as yet. It is creating anger and frustration in the journalist community, they said.

A nine-member election commission of DUJ, headed by former president of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ), Manzurul Ahsan Bulbul, was also formed at the meeting.



### Human chain

Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote will form a human chain; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 11:00am.

### Seminar

South Asians for Human Rights (SAHR) will organise a seminar; Venue: Brac Centre Inn, Mohakhali; Time: 1:00pm.

### Discussion

Bangabandhu Mancha will hold a discussion; Venue: Dhaka Reporters Unity; Time: 10:00am.

### Human chain

Bangladesh Human Rights and Press Society will form a human chain; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:30am.

### Discussion

Sammilita Peshajibi Forum will

## CHARGES AGAINST QUADER MOLLAH Hearing on March 4

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) further deferred till March 4 the scheduled hearing yesterday on charge framing against Jamaat-e-Islami leader Abdul Quader Mollah for his alleged crimes against humanity.

The order came yesterday following an adjournment prayer filed by Quader's defence counsels.

One of the counsels, Tajul Islam, told the tribunal that they could not take preparations as they were unable to read the 258-page document of the formal charges against Quader since the photocopy of the documents was very unclear.

The three-judge tribunal headed by its Chairman Justice Md Nizamul Huq then directed the prosecution to provide the defence lawyers with legible copies of the documents in a week.

The tribunal on January 29 had deferred the hearing till yesterday following a time petition filed by the lawyers of Quader, who is charged with seven specific crimes against humanity committed during the War of Liberation in 1971.

The prosecution on December 18 last year submitted formal charges against Quader before the ICT, which took the charges into cognisance on December 28.

Quader is among the six Jamaat-e-Islami and two BNP leaders who are facing war crimes charges at the tribunal.

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