

# War trial against 8 to be finished this year

Says law minister



**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
The ongoing trial of eight war crimes suspects will be completed by this year, Law Minister Shafiqur Rahman said yesterday.

"I assure you that the trial of the eight accused would be completed within this year maintaining fairness and international standards," he told at a discussion at the Jatiya Press Club auditorium last evening.

There is no scope for questioning about the trial in the International Crimes Tribunal as the accused are enjoying their right to defend themselves, he mentioned.

The government is going to formulate a new law to tackle any probable bid to foil the trial proceedings, noted the minister adding, another tribunal would be set up within this month to speed up the process.

Shafiqur also argued that the trial is not progressing slowly; rather, the prosecution is working to collect the necessary evidence and witnesses in a short time to

ensure speedy trial.

State Minister for Law advocate Qamrul Islam, the special guest at the discussion, said the government will not obstruct the March 12 programme of BNP, rather their factions would foil it.

The law enforcers will take stern action if they [BNP] try to carry out "destructive activities" in the name of political programme, he added.

Lt Gen (retd) Harun-or-Rashid, general secretary of Sector Commanders' Forum, said the government should hold the trial of war criminals to uproot the religious fundamentalists from the country.

He urged the government to hold the trial within the tenure of the incumbent government.

If the incumbent government fails to complete the trial and loses the next national polls, the BNP-Jamaat alliance will take revenge on the Awami League leaders and supporters, warned Prof Khondoker Bazlul Hoque, chairman of Agrani Bank.

Sammilito Tarun Peshajibi Parishad, a platform of young professionals, organised the meeting with its president barrister Zakir Ahmed in the chair.

Rashed Khan Menon, president of Bangladesh Workers Party, also addressed the programme.

Six top Jamaat-e-Islami and two BNP leaders are facing charges for committing crimes against humanity during the 1971 Liberation War.



A devotee carries the idol of a Hindu god during a celebratory procession organised on the occasion of Gopal Utsab, a festival of Hindu communities, at Tanti Bazar in the city yesterday. Jaggannath Jeun Thakur Mandir organised the programme.

PHOTO: STAR

## Two Indians arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

A team of army personnel and police arrested two Indian nationals from Rubber Bagan area in Matiranga upazila yesterday.

The arrestees are Manas Dev Burman, 35, son of Sukromoni Dev Burman from Khoyai area and Ratan Shadhan Jamatiya, 33, son of Kripa Hari Jamatiya from Amarpur area of India.

Acting on a tip-off, the joint team arrested them for their suspicious movement carrying some Indian rupees and some fake national identity cards, said police.

## 3 companies get SCB-Financial Express CSR award

METRO DESK

The fourth Standard Chartered-Financial Express CSR Award ceremony was held in the city Thursday, says a press release.

Three companies--Renata Ltd, DBL Group, and Nestle Bangladesh Ltd--bagged the award for their outstanding achievements in CSR (corporate social responsibility) works.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith, who graced the ceremony as the chief guest, handed over the awards to the recipients.

Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud, chairman, Standard Chartered-Financial Express CSR Award Committee, announced the names of winners of this year's award.

Delivering his welcome address, Jim McCabe, chief executive officer of Standard Chartered Bank, expressed his delight for partnering the Financial-Express, an English daily, in the award.

Moazzem Hossain, editor of the Financial Express, also addressed the programme.

## WOMEN'S VOLUNTARY ASSOC Foujia, Anamika president, gen secretary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Foujia Haque and Anamika Haque were elected president and general secretary of the Women's Voluntary Association.

They were elected for the period of 2012-13 through an election held at the association's auditorium on Thursday, said a press release.

The other office bearers are Mustary Quasem, Fatema Majid, Nazma Haque as vice presidents while Hajera Alam, as treasurer, Rajia Sultana, joint secretary, Anjuman Ara Alam as joint treasurer.

## Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 12th death anniversary of AHM Abdul Baqui, a social

worker and retired government officer.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held.

## Death anniversary

METRO DESK



Today is the 10th death anniversary of Syed Md Habibur Haque, founder

managing director of Crystal Insurance Company Limited. Board of directors, shareholders, executives and all officers and staffers of the company prayed for eternal peace of his departed soul, said a press release.

He passed away on this day in 2002 at his residence.

## Qulkhwani

METRO DESK



Qulkhwani of Rahima Begum, mother of Tajul Islam, director of Crystal Insurance Company Limited, will be held today after Asr prayers at Apartment No. A/3, House No. 11, Road No. 71, Gulshan-2.

She did away on February 29. Members of the board of directors, management and employees of the company condoled the death.

## RIVER LINKING PROJECT

# Bangladesh to safeguard its interest: Gowher Rizvi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The prime minister's International Affairs Adviser Gowher Rizvi yesterday said the government would do whatever is necessary to safeguard Bangladesh's national interest.

"We will do whatever we need to safeguard our national interest. There is no doubt about it," he said when asked what impacts Bangladesh might face if India implements its National River Linking Project.

Rizvi was talking to journalists after the inauguration of Active Citizens Achiever's Summit 2012 organised by British Council at Fuller Road in the city.

Gowher reiterated his hope that the Teesta water sharing agreement will be signed soon. "We discussed about the Teesta issue and I have full expectation that it will

be done soon," he said.

On the project and the Indian Supreme Court's order on it, the adviser denied commenting, saying that he did not see the verdict.

Gowher called upon citizens to carry out their duties instead of expecting the government to do it.

"It is a fundamental misunderstanding of our roles and responsibilities when we try to pass everything to the government."

Gowher inaugurated Social Action Project Fair showcasing 20 of the best initiatives led by youths.

AKM Manzurul Hauque, director general of Department of Youth Development, and Rosemary Arnott OBE, director of British Council Bangladesh, also spoke on the occasion.



Primary and Mass Education Minister Afsarul Ameen inaugurates a water purification plant, funded by telecom company Robi, at Chittagong Railway Station yesterday. The plant will provide clean drinking water for passengers.

PHOTO: STAR



Representatives from the winner companies of the fourth Standard Chartered-Financial Express CSR Award pose for photo with Finance Minister AMA Muhith, economist Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud, Standard Chartered Bank Chief Executive Officer Jim McCabe, and The Financial Express Editor Moazzem Hossain at the award giving ceremony in the city on Thursday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Brig Gen (retd) Sirajul Haque, 76, former chairman of Bangladesh

Transport Corporation (BRTC), passed away at Combined Military Hospital in the city on Thursday.

His namaz-e-janaza was held at Old DOHS Banani Mosque and was buried in army graveyard.

A doa mahfil will be held on March 8 at Old DOHS Banani Community Centre after Asr prayers.

## Khalilur Rahman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Md Khalilur Rahman, founder registrar of Chittagong University, passed away on Thursday at the age of 84.

He left behind his one son, two daughters and a host of relatives to mourn his death, said a press release.

His qulhwani will be held today after Asr prayers at his Uttara residence at House No-26, Road No-16, Sector-3.

## UNINTERRUPTED SPAWNING

# Ban on fishing in 5 rivers starts

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

To facilitate uninterrupted fish spawning, including that of Hilsa, Department of Fisheries imposed a two-month fishing ban, starting from March 1, on 340 square kilometres of five major rivers snaking by seven of the country's southern districts.

The yearly ban put into effect since 2006 covers the Hilsa, Meghna, Tetulia, Bishkhali and Padma rivers passing by Barisal, Bhola, Patuakhali, Barguna, Munshiganj, Chandpur and Laxmipur districts.

The area stretches from Shatnol to Char Alexander (100km) and Madanpur Char to Shahbazpur (90km) of the Meghna river, Veduria to Char Rustom (100km) of the Bishkhali river, Kalapara to Charmanik estuary areas (50km) and Padma, Hilsa and Tetulia rivers and their branches, said the department's Assistant Director Dr Nirmal Chandra Roy.

Anyone found violating the ban could face fines ranging from Tk 5,000 to Tk 10,000, be jailed and have their fishing nets confiscated and destroyed, said the department officials.

The department completed disseminating the information among those involved in the fish trade, said Dr Nirmal.

## Religious mahfil

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 34th grand religious mahfil on the occasion of Fateha-i-Yazdaham, the death anniversary of Shyakh Sayed Abdul Qadir Zilani (Rah) will be held at Ulandaha of Uttara Model town road in the city today.

Different international Islamic scholars will deliver speeches on the life and works of the Abdul Qadir Zilani, said a press release.

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