

## NEWS IN *brief*

### SC stays HC order against Feni OC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday stayed for six weeks a High Court order that directed the government to suspend the OC of Feni Sadar Police Station on charge of assaulting an assistant commissioner (AC) (land) of the district.

Chamber Judge of the Appellate Division Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain, however, ordered to investigate the incident of assault as per the High Court order.

The chamber judge passed the order after hearing on a petition filed by Feni OC Nazim Uddin for staying the HC order.

Some plainclothes police led by Nazim Uddin allegedly assaulted AC (land) Nazrul Islam, and surveyor Khademul Islam while they were evicting illegal structures in front of the police station on May 3.

### 3 Sust departmental heads resign

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Three departmental heads of Applied Science and Engineering Faculty of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (Sust) resigned.

They sent their resignation letters through the dean to the registrar at about 4:00pm yesterday.

They were Prof Dr Md Akhtarul Islam, head of Chemical Engineering and Polymer Science, Prof Dr Md Akhtarul Islam Chowdhury, of Civil and Environmental Engineering, and Dr Md Mostafizur Rahman, of Architecture.



Garbage floating on Gulshan Lake not only emit a bad smell but the pollutants largely pose a threat to its bio-diversity. Lack of regular cleaning and awareness among the polluters are responsible for this sorry state. This photo was clicked yesterday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

### Hold Ducsu election

Students, teachers urge Dhaka University authorities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students, teachers and former leaders of Dhaka University Central Students Union (Ducsu) yesterday urged the authorities concerned to hold election to Ducsu regularly.

They said Ducsu election will make an opportunity for the students to represent in the senate, a decision making body of the university, to press home their demands.

Their demands were placed at a roundtable organised by Bangladesh Chhatra Chhatra Moitri in Ducsu building.

Mentionable, Ducsu election was not held for more than 20 years.

Mujahidul Islam Selim, former vice-president (VP) of Ducsu and general secretary of Communist Party of Bangladesh, said the University Grants Commission (UGC) should take steps to ensure holding Chhatra Sangsad (student's union) election to all the public universities.

Rashed Khan Menon, a lawmaker and also a former Ducsu VP said the Dhaka University (DU) authorities should take steps to make it (Ducsu) effective.

Dhaka University Teachers' Association (Duta) President Prof Anwar Hossain, Bangladesh Chhatra Moitri President Bappaditya Basu, Bangladesh Chhatra League President Badiuzzaman Sohad, Bangladesh Chhatra Union President Ferdous Ahmed Ujjal, among others, spoke on the occasion.

### PADMA BRIDGE

## Alternative funding won't bring good: BNP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Acting Secretary General Mirza Fakhruddin Alamgir yesterday said it would be better for the country if the government took action against the corrupt identified by the World Bank and construct the Padma Bridge with donors' fund instead of going for alternative sources.

"It will go against the country's interests if the government accepts fund with tougher conditions from alternative sources instead of bringing corrupt persons to trial", he told a press briefing at the party's central office in the capital's Nayapalton.

He said the BNP would cancel the deal for the construction of \$2.97 billion worth of Padma bridge if the money was collected from alterna-

tive sources with tough conditions.

Alleging corruption, the World Bank suspended funding in the country's biggest ever infrastructure project in September 2011.

The government is now negotiating with Malaysia to collect necessary fund for Padma project, which was an electoral pledge of the ruling Awami League. Malaysia is scheduled to give a final proposal to the government regarding the matter towards the end of this month.

However, Finance Minister AMA Muhith said on Sunday that source of the funding would be finalised by July.

Against this backdrop, the BNP yesterday clarified its stand over the government initiative for alternative financing of the project.

Mirza Alamgir said funding with

high interest would result in a long time crisis for Bangladesh, while the crisis could be removed if the government took actions against the corrupt.

"It will be good for the country if the bridge is built with the help of the World Bank with low interest rate", he added.

### DISAPPEARANCE IS A CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY

While addressing a discussion organised by '90s student leaders' at Jatiya Press Club in protest of the disappearance of BNP leader M Ilias Ali, Mirza Alamgir said "forced disappearance" of a political leader was nothing but a crime against humanity.

"This is no less than war crimes", he said and urged the people to stand against the "abduction of political leaders by the government".

He claimed that 127 persons had gone missing over the last three and a half years.

Ilias, a central organising secretary of BNP and former lawmaker, went missing on April 17 from the capital.

Mirza Alamgir also urged the government to restore the caretaker government system by June 10. "Or else, people will force the government to meet the demand through a mass upsurge".

Former student leader and BNP Joint Secretary General Aman Ullah Aman presided over the meeting.

At the party's March 12 mass rally, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia gave the government the June 10 deadline for reinstatement of caretaker government system, which was scrapped from the constitution through the fifteenth amendment.

## KILLINGS OF ADIVASI MEN, GIRL Trial of culprits demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of intellectuals and civil society members yesterday demanded quick trial for the killing of four indigenous men in Naogaon and an indigenous girl in Rangamati.

Adivasis are facing the worst form of repression and torture in the history of Bangladesh ever, which did not happen even in the Pakistan era, said columnist Syed Abul Moksud.

"These incidents make me ashamed of being a Bangladeshi", he said.

In the last eleven or twelve years, every accused of murder, rape and disappearance in the hill tracts has successfully escaped trial, the columnist said.

"It seems that we have achieved a 'repressive Bangladesh' in exchange of blood in 1971". Syed Maksud was speaking at a protest rally at Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) of Dhaka University.

Four Adivasi farmers were killed in a clash over land dispute in Manda upazila, Naogaon on May 4, while an 11-year-old Chakma girl was raped and then murdered in Rangamati's Longudu upazila on May 9.

The speakers demanded quick trial for the killings and compensation for the victim families within two to three weeks. If the government fails to meet the demand, they will go for tougher movement, they said.

## HC clears way to set up Ctg power plant

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday ruled that the proposed 1,300 MW thermal power plant in Chittagong can be set up after obtaining "no objection certificates" (NOCs) from three government bodies.

Delivering a judgement on a writ petition, the court said the power plant in Anwara area of the port city cannot be set up without NOCs from the environment and forests ministry, Chittagong Port Authority and Civil Aviation Authority.

The HC bench of Justice Naima Haider and Justice Farid Ahmed came up with the verdict after hearing on a rule issued earlier by the court.

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam told The Daily Star that there would be no legal bar to setting up the power plant in Chittagong if the government obtains NOCs.

Writ petitioner's counsel Manzill Murshid said they would go to the HC further to stop setting up of the power plant, if the project seriously damages environment in future.

Following the petition filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh, the court issued the rule on October 13, 2010 asking the government to explain why it should not be directed not to set up the power plant.



Communications Minister Obaidul Quader, also in-charge of the railways ministry, inaugurates a new express train on Dhaka-Sylhet route at Kamalapur Railway Station yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## New express train on Dhaka-Sylhet route

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Railway yesterday introduced a new express train on the Dhaka-Sylhet route to meet the increasing demand of commuters.

The 12-coach Kalni Express with 562 seats will run six days a week. It will stop at Biman Bandar, Kulaura, Shayestaganj, and Srimangal stations on its way to Sylhet.

The train is scheduled to start shuttling at Kamalapur Railway Station at 3:00pm and reach Sylhet at 9:15pm. On its way back, it is to start at 6:40am and reach Dhaka at 1:00pm.

Communications Minister Obaidul Quader, who is also in-charge of the railways ministry, inaugurated the service at Kamalapur Railway Station.

Tickets for the Kalni Express have been on sale in Dhaka since Saturday, while sales started in Sylhet on Sunday.

With the launching of the new train, the Jayontika Express on Dhaka-Sylhet route will start at 12:00pm from the capital instead of 2:00pm. Both the trains will keep their services of on Friday.

Abu Taher, director general of Bangladesh Railway, told The Daily Star, "All the twelve coaches of the Kalni Express were renovated locally".

Earlier, the railway introduced one additional train each on Dhaka-Rangpur, Dhaka-Narayanganj and Dhaka-Joydevpur routes.

Railway Secretary Fazle Elahi, Additional Director General (operation) Mohammad Shahjahan, Additional Director General (infrastructure) Khalilur Rahman, and other senior railway officials were present at the inaugural ceremony.

### CHARGES AGAINST KAMARUZZAMAN, ABDUL ALIM

## Hearing on discharge petitions continues

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Defence counsels of Jamaat leader Muhammad Kamaruzzaman and former BNP lawmaker Abdul Alim yesterday continued their arguments on the petitions that seek discharge of their clients from the charges of crimes against humanity committed in the Liberation War of 1971.

The three-member International Crimes Tribunal-2, headed by its Chairman Justice ATM Fazle Kabir, adjourned the proceedings against Kamaruzzaman till today and against Alim till tomorrow.

Placing his arguments, Abdur Razzaq, chief of defence counsels for the Jamaat leaders claimed that Kamaruzzaman was a 19-year-old higher secondary level student during the war, and the Jamaat-Islami assistant secretary general was being prosecuted for "political purpose", as Jamaat had not cooperated with the party in power.

He also argued against the first charge of "conspiracy to commit genocide", which said Kamaruzzaman delivered provoking speeches during the war, intending to destroy a "special group of people."

"What did they [prosecution] want to mean by the special group of people?" Razzaq asked, saying that the prosecution had failed to identify the group.

About one incident under count two, "Genocide", the defence counsel placed his argument over the statements of the three witnesses supporting the massacre.

According to the prosecution, around 120 people were killed in Shohagpur village of Nalitalbari during the war as per the instruction of Kamaruzzaman, he said, but none of the three witnesses mentioned Kamaruzzaman's name in this incident.

After the claim of the defence counsel, the tribunal drew his atten-

tion over the statement of another prosecution witness who said that he heard that under the instruction of Kamaruzzaman, Pakistani Army had committed the atrocities at Shohagpur.

Razzaq labelled that witness as a witness based on "hearsay". There is no "direct witness" in such a significant incident, he said.

When the tribunal asked if it is possible to have "direct witness" in the matter of instruction, Razzaq said someone should not be implicated in such a significant incident without any direct witness.

The court adjourned the case proceeding till 2:00pm today.

Kamaruzzaman, who is facing nine charges of crimes against humanity, was produced yesterday. At the beginning of yesterday's proceeding, the BNP leader's counsel Tajul Islam placed his factual arguments on charges of crimes against humanity that Abdul Alim is

seeking discharge from.

In many charges, the prosecution has failed to specify the date and time of the incidents, Tajul said, and therefore, as per the tribunal acts and rules of procedure, these charges could not be framed against Alim.

At one point of his argument, Tajul termed a charge "false" and said people, who brought the "false allegations", should be prosecuted.

Yesterday he concluded his factual arguments on 28 incidents. The court adjourned the hearing till tomorrow.

Alim, also a former minister, is facing 74 charges of crimes against humanity he allegedly committed in the 1971 war. He was present in court yesterday.

Meanwhile, tribunal-2 deferred the date on charge framing hearing against Jamaat Secretary General Ali Ahsan Muhammad Mujahid till today, following a time petition filed by the defence.

### Clarification

National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Chairman Dr Mizanur Rahman yesterday clarified his statement published in The Daily Star on Tuesday in the news item headlined: "HR boss questions PM's ratings in Gallup poll".

The HR boss said he was misquoted in the news and this is what he actually said: "Recently, the Gallup poll has revealed that our honourable PM's rating is about 77 per cent of the population in the country. This is welcome news for the ruling political party and the government. However, even in such a case, a few political leaders have questioned the accuracy of the survey and opined that it is manipulated by the government. How can someone from Bangladesh manipulate and influence the Gallup poll?"

## WEATHER TODAY

### Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at one or two places over Khulna, Barisal, Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions in 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Weather may remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, Met Office said.

Severe heat wave is sweeping over the regions Rajshahi, Dinajpur, Pabna and Kushtia and mild to moderate heat wave is sweeping over Rangpur and Khulna divisions and the regions of Tangail and may it continue.

Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

**The sunsets in the capital at 6:34pm today and rises at 5:15am tomorrow.**

Country's highest temperature 41.0 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and lowest 21.1 degrees Celsius at Sylhet.

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

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	35.4	29.0	77	67
Chittagong	32.4	26.5	68	80
Rajshahi	41.0	28.4	68	37
Rangpur	36.2	26.8	85	68
Khulna	37.2	29.0	88	78
Barisal	35.0	28.6	77	70
Sylhet	30.0	21.1	90	80
Cox's Bazar	34.0	28.0	86	78