



Shikhhak Karmachari Oikyajote stages a sit-in in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday demanding nationalisation of those teachers' jobs who work for non-government schools and colleges that do not get Monthly Pay Order from the government.

PHOTO: STAR

SYLHET STONE QUARRIES Contempt rule against 11 govt officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a contempt of court rule against 11 government high officials including four secretaries for not preventing the use of excavators and explosives to extract stones from the bed of three rivers in Sylhet. The rivers - Piain, Dwaki and Dhala - are flowing through the district's Goainghat and Companiganj upazila. In response to a contempt of court petition, the HC yesterday further ordered the officials to stop the use of excavators in stone quarries of the rivers and remove those to protect the ecosystem and livelihood of people in the area. The court on January 14, 2010 had issued the same order following a writ petition filed by Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA). Since the machines were still being used, BELA on June 17 this year filed the contempt of court petition. The officials are secretaries to the ministries of environment, land, energy and water resources, director generals of Bangladesh Water Development Board and department of environment, deputy commissioner of Sylhet, directors of mineral resources development bureau and of department of environment (Sylhet division) and upazil nirbahi officers of Goainghat and Companiganj. In the rule, the officials were asked why they should not be punished for contempt of court for not complying with the HC's earlier order.



Sufia Kamal's birthday today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 101st birthday of late Sufia Kamal, a renowned poet, social reformer and pioneer of women's rights movement in Bangladesh. President Zillur Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina gave messages recalling the poet's contributions. Bangladesh Mahila Parishad will hold a memorial lecture in the capital's Biam auditorium at 4:00pm paying tribute to Sufia Kamal, its founding president. Born in Barisal, the poet passed away on November 20, 1999.

Helpline for women, children opens

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A national helpline has been inaugurated yesterday to help women and children who fall victims to different forms of violence. The helpline has been established under the Multi-Sectoral Programme on Violence Against Women (MSPVAW) of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs. It will support the victims in times of crisis and guide them and other stakeholders for legal provisions and actions. It will also provide information about other helpline operated by government agencies and non-government organisations. Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) has awarded a short code 10921 to the MSPVAW for using as hunting number. The number will be accessible both from cell and land phones. The centre, located at the seventh floor, Department of Women Affairs, 37 Eskaton Garden Road, Dhaka-1000, will be open 24 hours seven days a week. Women and children victims, their families and other stakeholders will benefit with relevant information for various advice, services and support, which will be available throughout the country. Danish Ambassador Svend Olling and State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Dr Shirin Sharmin Choudhury inaugurated the National Helpline Centre for Violence Against Women and Children. Bangladesh and Denmark governments are jointly carry-

Two women 'commit suicide' in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two women allegedly committed suicide in two separate incidents in the capital's Agargaon and Wari areas yesterday. At Agargaon, Salma Begum, wife of Mohammad Rajib, 25, a rickshaw garage manager, allegedly committed suicide by taking poison following a family feud yesterday. Police detained Rajib in this connection. Rajib told The Daily Star that he and his parents made a quarrel with Salma on Monday night as she gave Tk 3,000 to her father without his concern. He said after the quarrel he went to his garage and returned early hours of yesterday. After another altercation, Salma drank

something poisonous and started vomiting, he added. She was rushed to Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital. Later, she was shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where the doctors declared her dead around 11:30am. In another incident, Samia Azmi, 26, allegedly committed suicide by hanging her with scurf from a ceiling fan in her bedroom at Wari yesterday. Mohammad Shakil, father of the deceased, said Samia's was mentally disordered since she was divorced by her husband, Md Shahjahan, four years back. "She and her six-year-old son Jisan have been living with me after the divorce. I don't know the reason behind her suicide. We were sleeping in two separate rooms that night," he added.

ICT-1 Mir Kashem's bail prayer rejected

Salauddin's counsel complete cross-examining Gouranga

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal (ICT)-1 yesterday rejected the bail petition of war crimes suspect Jamaat leader Mir Kashem Ali, stating that his physical condition was not critical enough to make him eligible for one. Afterwards, the ICT-1 noted the completion of the cross-examination of the fourth prosecution witness by the defence counsel of another war crimes accused, BNP lawmaker Salauddin Quader Chowdhury. On Kashem's bail, ICT-1 Chairman Justice Nizamul Huq said, "He may apply for benefit (special arrangements). We don't see any reason for bail." Adjourning the trial till July 5, the tribunal asked the investigation officer of the case to submit the investigation's progress report and the prosecution to produce Kashem on that day. Kashem was arrested on Sunday within two hours of an ICT arrest order following a petition submitted by the prosecution seeking his arrest. The tribunal later sent him to jail. The defence applied for Kashem's bail on Monday stating that Kashem had recently undergone knee surgery and needed regular physiotherapy. The tribunal said though the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act 1973 had no provisions of bail, the tribunal could grant a bail considering health conditions as it had in the case of another accused (former BNP lawmaker Abdul Alim). Kashem's health problems were "different

in nature" compared to that of the aforementioned accused, said Justice Nizamul, adding that the tribunal had earlier granted different types of facilities to different war crimes accused. Kashem, Jamaat-e-Islami Central Executive Committee member, was present at the dock during the order. SALAUDDIN QUADER CHOWDHURY The fourth prosecution witness, Gouranga Singha, was cross-examined by the defence on what he had said in his deposition on June 4. On June 4, Gouranga, based on what he had heard from an eye witness, said Salauddin shot two to three bullets at Nutan a few minutes after the Pakistani occupation army had sprayed bullets on the man. During the incident, Gouranga had hid in a bush behind Nutan's house and was able to hear gunshots, taking place in two intervals. Yesterday, Gouranga, who is Nutan's nephew, said they had kept the doors and windows of their uncle's house open so as to see and hear beforehand the arrival of the Pakistani army at the Kundeswari village. A member of the defence counsel, Ahsanul Huq Hena, suggested that Gouranga had not seen Salauddin arrive and come out of a military jeep with the Pakistani army. "I saw him," the witness said. The defence counsel said Gouranga had given a false statement as the investigation officer had influenced him to do so. Gouranga answered in the negative. The tribunal then adjourned the trial's proceedings till today.

**Celebrate the Unbelievable Offers !!
Luxury Home at Uttara**

Swan Orchid

3 Bedroom Apartments at UTTARA, Sector 3

Nearing handover, South facing, 60' Wide Road & much more...

Corporate Office: Gulshan Grace House : 08 (Apt. - 4W) (Beside Mobil House & Otol Centre) Gulshan South Avenue, Gulshan-01 Dhaka-1212, Bangladesh
Email : swaninfo@swan-family.com

Call for details
Mobile: 01811 418830
01811 486555
Tel : +880-2-9895758,
8824998, 9880335
9882502, 9886519

Sister Concerns of SWAN GROUP
SWAN FOAM++

As the festival of Eid approaches
The Daily Star is putting together

Star Fashion

eid album 2012

Ahead of the country's largest shopping season. If you wish to participate, send outfits and accessories you would like to feature in the album.

Last date of submission has been extended till **June 23, 2012**

Attention: Designers & Boutiques

Contact: (For submission of products)
Syeed Ahmed Chowdhury & Teresa Mustafiz Chaity
Phone: 9144330-1
Cell: 01711623905

For advertisement please contact:
Advertisement Department
Phone: 9144330
E-mail: advdept@yahoo.com

keep your eyes on **CHANNEL I** today at 7:50 p.m

**Tomorrow is the Grand Finale!
Tonight is the chance to relive the journey again**

The Daily Star
Spelling Bee
Brought to you by Champs21
Powered by Horlicks

Title Sponsor: The Daily Star

Powered by: Horlicks

Brought to you by: Champs21

Telesat Partner: CHANNEL I

Knowledge Partner: BRITISH COUNCIL

Co-Sponsor: MetLife Alico