

Obituary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal
Soyambhu Sarkar, former teacher of Amrita Lal Dey College in the city and lead artist of Gono Shilpi Sangstha Barisal unit, died in National Heart Foundation Hospital, Dhaka on Thursday night. He was 48.
He left behind his wife, one son and one daughter. Sarkar was familiar with patriotic songs and songs for the masses.

Sumangala Mahathero
A CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban
Pandeeth U Sumangala Mahathero, the principal monk of Ujanipara Buddhist temple of Bandarban, passed away at the temple yesterday. He was 98.

Mahathero was awarded Upashompoda at the age of 21 years and sustained a sacred life for 77 years.
He was also given "Tritipok Scholar" title in his long life as a monk.



Artists at the inaugural ceremony of a six-day printmaking workshop at Galleri Kaya in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: COURTESY

6-day printmaking workshop begins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A printmaking workshop began in the capital yesterday with the participation of artists from Bangladesh and India.
On the occasion, the city's Galleri Kaya, where the event is being held, has been turned into an etching factory with zinc plates, acid jars, rollers and needles lined up along a large etching press inside the gallery.
Artists were seen working there on different stages of etching – a labour intensive method of printmaking – yesterday.
The six-day long workshop titled "Passion and Impression" is being organised by Galleri Kaya.
Indian artists Atin Basak, Jayanta Naskar and Ramendra Nath Kastha alongside Bangladeshi artists Anisuzzaman, Ashrafal Hasan, Nagarbasi Barman, Rafi Haque, Sheikh Mohammad Rokonuzzaman and Sujit Sarkar shared their ideas and techniques on printmaking on the first day of the workshop.
"Workshops like these will inform people about the potentials of prints and help popularise it in the country," said Gautam Chakraborty, director of Galleri Kaya, while inaugurating the workshop.
Refuting the notion that prints are not as original as paintings, he said, "Prints are not only as original as any medium of art, but also are intrinsically democratic and inexpensive."
Gautam thanked ABC Group for patronising the event.

What if Abul was included

FROM PAGE 1
detailed road map to the government regarding implementation of the Padma bridge project.
The road map said if the ACC started a fair investigation into the graft allegations, the bridge construction work would start.
The road map said the co-financiers would appoint an independent task manager within three to four weeks, who would have overseen the bridge construction work.
Four construction managers would have been appointed for different components, including bridge construction and river training, within one to two weeks.
The road map included a timeline by which the construction managers would complete the tasks of prepa-

ration of procurement document and awarding of work to the bidders.
The detailed plan in December envisaged that the bridge construction work would start in five to six months.
But the implementation of the road map had become uncertain as the ACC and the World Bank's external panel could not agree on including former minister Syed Abul Hossain in the FIR filed by the anti-graft watchdog.
On Tuesday, referring to the World Bank's road map, reporters asked Finance Minister AMA Muhith whether the work on beginning the bridge construction would have started in that month had the ACC agreed with the external panel.
Muhith said, "No, it is not true. It is a proposal. There is

no signal from the World Bank."
Muhith, however, said he had differences of opinion with the World Bank regarding the timeline of the road map. He said, "We want to start the project work the day the World Bank says yes."
The external panel in December last year said had Abul's name been included in the FIR, they would have given the green signal to the World Bank to finance the bridge.
Executive Director for Bangladesh of the World Bank Mukesh N Prasad reiterated this position in early January in Washington.
Last year, upon reviving the cancelled loan for Padma bridge, the World Bank came up with some documents stating that several people,

including former communication minister Abul, sought 10 percent of the \$50 million contract from Canadian company SNC Lavalin in exchange for making it the top bidder in the bridge construction supervision tender.
Abul's name was mentioned in connection with the bribe in Lavalin official Ramesh Saha's diary. Saha had been arrested by the Canadian police for corrupt practices in the project.
Abul, along with high officials, had allegedly held private meetings with Lavalin officials in 2011.
To qualify Lavalin as the top bidder, the Bridges Division had dissolved three tender evaluation committees and gave the fourth committee incomplete information about the actual lowest bidder.

Rights situation worsened

FROM PAGE 20
International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) and the BDR mutiny.
"Serious flaws in the laws and rules of procedure governing the trials of ICT have gone unaddressed, despite proposals from the US government and many international experts while flawed trials against the members of Bangladesh Rifles accused of mutiny in 2009 continued," said the report.
"The trials against the alleged mutineers and the alleged war criminals are deeply problematic, riddled with questions about the independence and impartiality of the judges and fairness of the process," said HRW Aisa Director Brad Adams in a statement.
He termed the situation tragic saying that those responsible for serious crimes could end up appearing to be victims of a miscarriage of justice. "By dismissing all criticism out of hand without any real inquiry into them, the government shows it is more concerned about winning votes than following the rule of law," Adams added.
The HRW, however, welcomed the decline in extrajudicial killing by Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), but said the number of killing remained very high.
"This government came to power promising the end of extrajudicial killings, a liberal environment for activists and critics, and an independent judiciary," Adams continued, "But the government no longer

seems to be even trying to achieve these goals."
The report also said the practice of disguising extrajudicial killing as "crossfire" had continued in Bangladesh, as had disappearances of opposition members and political activists. A prominent labour activist had been kidnapped and killed while other labour activists threatened.
"While the government and Rab officials claimed that they held abusers accountable, it is still a fact that no Rab or senior official has ever been held criminally accountable for any of the well-documented abductions, torture, or killings carried out by Rab," Adams said.
"Even in the highly publicised case of shooting of a schoolboy, Limon, no one has been charged, yet the authorities continue to proceed with a flawed prosecution against him."
The HRW also mentioned increased pressure and monitoring on civil society as one of the most disturbing trends in 2012. "Non-governmental organisations, including human rights groups, reported increased threats, harassment and intimidation," said the report.
"Several human rights groups, particularly those openly critical of the government, reported problems with registration and government blocking funds for their projects. Several leading labour rights activists continue to face criminal charges, some of which

carry a possible death sentence."
It said the government had drafted a bill regulating foreign donations which had the potential to legalise the already arbitrary and non-transparent process, by which the government regulated the receipt of foreign funding.
Although not yet passed, NGOs reported that many of the cumbersome mechanisms in the bill had already been put into practice, added the report.
In August 2012, the government had announced plans to establish a new commission charged solely with regulating NGO activities, in addition to the already existing NGO Affairs Bureau, which continues to be accused of routine corruption by NGOs, the report continued.
The HRW said although Bangladesh had a strong set of laws to tackle violence against women, their implementation remained poor.
"Violence against women including rape, dowry-related assaults, and other forms of domestic violence such as acid attacks, sexual harassment, and illegal punishments in the name of "fatwas" continue."
Workers in the lucrative tannery industry continued to suffer physically from terrible work environment, causing both acute and long-term hazardous health situations, while regulations to ameliorate these conditions had gone unheeded, said the report.

Dhirendranath rises for Bangla

FROM PAGE 1
Pakistan. And when Pakistan came into being, it was Urdu and English that came in as the languages in which parliamentary business was to be conducted.
It was Dhirendranath Dutta, the quintessential Bangalee, who first demonstrated the sagacity to ask that Bangla be adopted as one more language in the conduct of parliamentary proceedings. He went further, to demand that Bangla be the lingua franca of the state of Pakistan.
His reasoning was based on the reality on the ground. Bangla, he reminded the Pakistan

Constituent Assembly on 25 February 1948, was the language of the majority component of Pakistan's population.
While submitting his motion in the assembly, Dutta made it clear that he was not approaching the question from a provincial point of view. And then he moved on:
"Out of six crores and ninety lakhs of people inhabiting this state, four crores and forty lakhs of people speak the Bengali language. So, Sir, what should be the state language of the state? The state language of the state should be the language

which is used by the majority of the people of the state, and for that, Sir, I consider that the Bengali language is a lingua franca of our state...."
Dutta developed his argument as he went along. Referring to the travails encountered by a Bangalee who did not know Urdu, Dutta told the Chair:
"A poor cultivator, who has got his son, Sir, as a student in the Dacca University and who wants to send money to him, goes to a village post office and he asks for a money order form, finds that the money order form is printed in [the] Urdu language. He cannot send

the money order but shall have to rush to a distant town and have this money order form translated for him and then the money order, Sir, that is necessary for his boy can be sent."
Dhirendranath Dutta's motion was rubbished by Prime Minister Liaquat Ali Khan, who went on to offer the spurious logic that "Pakistan is a Muslim state and it must have as its lingua franca the language of the Muslim nation." He continued, "Urdu can be the only language which can keep the people of East Bengal or eastern zone and the people of [the] western zone joined together."

DHAKA TODAY

Roundtable
Save the Environment Movement will organise a roundtable, "River commission law (draft) analysis and recommendations"; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:30am.

Human chain
Amadeyr Ain will form a human chain to raise awareness on preventing torture and rape of women and children; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 11:00am.

Discussion
United Nations Association of Bangladesh will organise a discussion marking International Mother Language Day; Venue: Scout Bhaban Auditorium, Kakrail; Time: 4:30pm.

Seminar
Law Commission will organise a seminar on legally realising the citizens' rights of Dalits; Venue: Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban, Dhaka University; Time: 9:30am.

Celebration
World Water Forum of Journalists, Forum of Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh, and Bangladesh Poush, and IUCN Bangladesh will jointly celebrate World Wetlands Day 2013; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 2:00pm.

National conference
Bangladesh Legal Aid Trust; ICDDR, B; Marie Stopes; Amrai Pari Campaign; Nari Moitree; and Population Council will jointly organise a national conference, "Collecting Medical Evidence in Rape Cases: Morality, practices and procedures"; Venue: International Centre for

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Fact At A Glance

- More than **1050** booths
- Leading brands from **31** countries and regions

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