



Participants at a roundtable styled "Bangladesh-Russia Relations: New Openings & Challenges" jointly organised by The Daily Star and the Centre for Foreign Affairs Studies at The Daily Star Centre in the capital yesterday.

## Obituary

METRO DESK



AKM Shamsul Azam, a renowned philanthropist and chairman

of Shihab Jute Spinners Ltd, died at his Uttara residence in the capital yesterday. He was 72.

Shamsul was also president of The Gregorian Association (alumni association of the St Gregory's High School).

He left behind his wife and a son to mourn his death.

He was buried at Banani graveyard and his qulkhwani will be held at his residence on Tuesday after Asr prayers.

## Bangla should be language of higher court : Experts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Legal experts yesterday urged the authorities concerned for taking steps to bring into practice the use of Bangla language in the proceedings and verdicts of the higher court.

There should not be "ifs" and "buts" about the use of Bangla in the higher court, said former chief justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman.

If the constitution, which contains many complex matters, is written in Bangla, then why the court proceedings and verdicts could not be written in the language, he told a discussion, "Use of Bangla Language in Higher Court: Necessity and Limitations", in the capital's ICMAB auditorium.

"Lack of courage is our limitation," observed Justice Habibur, also former chief adviser to a caretaker government.

The discussion was jointly organised by Bangladesh Ainjibi Samiti (BAS) and Bangla daily Prothom Alo.

National Human Rights Commission Chairman Prof Mizanur Rahman said Bangla was not used in the higher court for opposition from some lawyers and judges. "One kind of ethnocentrism is in work within them. They want to create a distance from the litigants," he said.

Salimullah Khan, a professor at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB), said the language of the litigants should be used in the court.

He said the demand for recognition of Bangla as one of the UN official languages was "contradictory" when Bangla was not in use in the higher court of Bangladesh.

Supreme Court Bar Association of Bangladesh President Zainul Abedin and Prothom Alo Associate Editor Abdul Kaium, among others, spoke at the event.

## 6 killed, 12 hurt in road crashes

METRO DESK

Six people were killed and twelve others injured in road accidents in Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, and Kushtia yesterday.

Our staff correspondent from Chittagong reports, two persons were killed as a car ran them over in front of Ruby Cement Factory on Airport Road in the city yesterday morning.

The deceased Solaiman, 55, of Comilla, was an Imam; and Nur Alam, 36, of Khulna, was a Naval Academy employee. Alam succumbed to his injuries at Naval Hospital while Solaiman at Chittagong Medical Collage Hospital, police said.

Our staff correspondent from Rajshahi reports, two persons were killed and 11 others injured as a bus hit a human hauler at Binodpur of Rajshahi city yesterday morning.

Moksed Ali, 45, of Katakhal in Rajshahi, died at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital while the other unidentified on the way to a hospital.

The injured were admitted to the RMCH. A correspondent from Khulna reports, a young motorcyclist died instantly as a pickup hit him in Sachibunia area near Rupsha Bridge in Batiaghata upazila yesterday morning.

The victim was Tariqul Islam, of Khulna city.

UNB from Kushtia reports, a Brac employee was killed and his colleague injured as a truck rammed their motorbike at Chourhas in the town yesterday morning.

The deceased was Tapan Kumar, 32.

Injured, Satyen, 50, was admitted to Kushtia General Hospital.

## BNP condemns Cox's Bazar police firing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The main opposition BNP yesterday strongly condemned "indiscriminate firing by law enforcers on opposition leaders and activists" in Cox's Bazar and elsewhere in the country.

The reaction came against the back-drop of Friday's gunfight in Cox's Bazar town when at least three Jamaat-Shibir men were killed and 50 people, including policemen, were injured.

Jamaat-e-Islami called a countrywide dawn-to-dusk hartal for tomorrow to protest the deaths.

In a statement, BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir demanded exemplary punishment to "the police members involved in killing opposition leaders and activists".

"It is a constitutional right to hold rally or procession in a democratic country," he said, without naming Jamaat, a key component of BNP-led 18-party opposition alliance.

In a separate press release, Fakhru,

also spokesman for the BNP, claimed that some "identified government-backed people from Shahbagh issued threats to Amar Desh acting editor Mahmudur Rahman, Dhaka University professor Asif Nazrul, and Brac University's Prof Piash Karim".

Fakhru said, "A certain quarter was trying to use the nonpartisan youth's demand at Shahbagh Chattar in the interests of their party. People hope that the youths will remain vigilant against an conspiracy of the evil quarter."

The BNP leader also expressed "deep concern" over the killing of the anti-war criminal blogger and Shahbagh campaigner, Ahmed Rajib Haidar.

The killing of the blogger proves that an extreme level of anarchy is prevailing in the country at present, another statement quoted Fakhru as saying.

He demanded that the government finds out the killers and gives exemplary punishment to the perpetrators. Rajib was stabbed dead near his home in the capital's Pallabi Friday night.

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