

# 'AL activists' attack Jhenidah book fair

## 3 cultural workers injured, fair postponed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Jhenidah Deputy Commissioner postponed an eight-day Ekushey Boi Mela 10 hours after his inauguration following an attack on the fair allegedly by the ruling Awami League men that left three cultural activists injured.

"The fair was postponed for today (yesterday) following the attack. We will take a decision after a meeting tomorrow (today)," DC Shafikul Islam told The Daily Star over cellphone.

Witnesses said activists of ruling AL, Bangladesh Chhatra League and Jubo League attack a cultural event at the fair around 7:30pm and vandalised its chairs, table and dais.

They launched the attack blaming that the DC had helped the pro-BNP candidate in February 19 upazila polls, sources said. However, the DC denied the allegation.

In the election, AL-backed Sadar upazila chairman candidate Kanak Kanti Das was defeated by pro-BNP Abdul Alim.

After the defeat, AL men, at a press conference at Jhenidah Press Club, declared to boycott programmes attended by the DC and demanded his immediate removal and re-election in the upazila.

Contacted, Jhenidah district AL Secretary Azizur Rahman said no AL activist was involved in the attack.

# NEWSINbrief

## SCBA election on March 12-13

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 14-member executive committee of Supreme Court Bar Association will be elected by 4,044 Supreme Court lawyers through an annual poll on March 12-13.

The nomination paper submission will continue till February 27 and the deadline for withdrawal is March 3, SCBA Superintendent Nimesh Chandra Das said yesterday.

Probable candidates from the ruling Awami League-backed Bangladesh Sammilita Ainjibi Samannay Parishad to run for president are former law minister Abdul Matin Khasru, AL presidium member Yusuf Hossain Humayun, Munsurul Hoque Chowdhury and Rabia Bhuiyan.

Their rivals from pro-BNP Bangladesh Jatiyatobadi Ainjibi Forum are expected to be former SCBA presidents Khandker Mahbub Hossain and Zainul Abedin and former state minister for law Shahjahan Omar.

## Alphabet fair for children held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Paying tributes to the 1952 language movement martyrs' sacrifice, a daylong "Bornomela" (alphabet fair) for children was held in Dhaka and Chittagong yesterday.

For the fifth successive year, the Prothom Alo organised it in Sultana Kamal Women's Sports Complex in the capital.

In one of the Dhaka stalls, tiny tots diligently tried to spell in a competition while in the next stall others joined words using suffixes and prefixes to make something new.

## Brussels fixes language memorial spot

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The mayor of Ixelles in Brussels confirmed on February 20 a place in Gordon Bennet Course, a public park close to the Bangladesh embassy, for building a memorial for the 1952 language martyrs.

The embassy today will organise a ceremony marking International Mother Language Day, stated a foreign ministry press release yesterday.

## Wife 'kills' man in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A woman allegedly suffocated her husband to death at their house in the capital's Sabujbagh yesterday.

The deceased Nuru Mia, 48, a staff of Rajmoni Cinema Hall, used to live with his second wife in Bashabo.

Kawser Ahmed, victim's son, said his stepmother Aleya, who is involved in drug peddling, along with her accomplices killed his father. The body was hanging from a ceiling fan with the legs touching the bed which indicates that he was first suffocated and then hanged, said Sabujbagh police. Police arrested Aleya and four others in this connection.



### DHAKA TODAY

#### Human chain

Bangladesh Sadharan Chhatra Parishad will form a human chain demanding an increase in age limit during entering into government job; Venue: in front of National Museum, Shahbagh; Time: 11:00am.

#### Reception

Green University will accord a reception to language movement veterans; Venue: Bangabandhu International Conference Centre; Time: 3:00pm.



Grn Ajay Kumar Sarker, Grn Osman Ali Khan, Grn Tanbir Ahmed Siddique, Headmaster of St Gregory's High School Brother Pradip Placid Gomes, Grn Munadir Islam, and Grn Shameem Hussain at a doa and discussion session for late Grn AKM Shamsul Azam and Grn Shafiqur Rahman at the school in the capital's Laxmi Bazar recently. The Gregorian Association organised the programme, which was participated by its members and eminent personalities.

PHOTO: COURTESY



## TRIBUTES TO LANGUAGE HEROES

1) Awami League President Sheikh Hasina and the party leaders pay their respects at the Central Shaheed Minar in the capital in the early hours yesterday marking International Mother Language Day. 2) Chiefs of the armed forces follow suit. 3) Foreign diplomats in Bangladesh. 4) Sometime later, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and the party leaders pay theirs. 5) Central Shaheed Minar at its full glory and grandeur. 6) A tiny tot brought to join the crowd paying tribute. 7) Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor AAMS Arefin Siddique. 8) Sector Commanders Forum. 9) School children wait their turn near the monument. 10) Maimed Liberation War veterans honouring the Language Movement martyrs.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ, ANISUR RAHMAN, PALASH KHAN

## Hizb-ut Tawhid men clash with locals in Rangpur

### 15 injured; 23 held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Activists of banned militant outfit Hizb-ut Tawhid clashed with locals in Purbo Shalbon area of Rangpur city Thursday night, injuring at least 15 people from both of the sides.

Police fired three rounds of gunshots, ten rounds of rubber bullets and charged baton on them.

Around 23 persons were held on the spot.

Md Abdul Qader Jilani, officer-in-charge of Rangpur Kotwali Police Station, said the Tawhid men had been continuing their organisational activities for 20 days from a rented house.

They distributed leaflets and jihadi books along with a daily, the "Deshar Patra" among the people, he said.

One Afzal Hossain claimed that they were spreading divisive remarks about Islam through the books and leaflets.

On information about the remarks, local elite asked them to stop their activities which the Tawhid men defied, the OC said.

The clash erupted around 10:00pm when locals prohibited them from holding a meeting in the house.

During the clash, Tawhid activists attacked the locals with sharp weapons.

## Death anniversary

CITY DESK

Today is the fourth death anniversary of Golam Rahman Negaban, a freedom fighter and a social worker.

On the occasion, a religious sermon will be held and food will be served at his village home Char Gojalia in Noluta of Bakerganj in Barisal.

All his relatives and well-wishers are requested to participate.



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