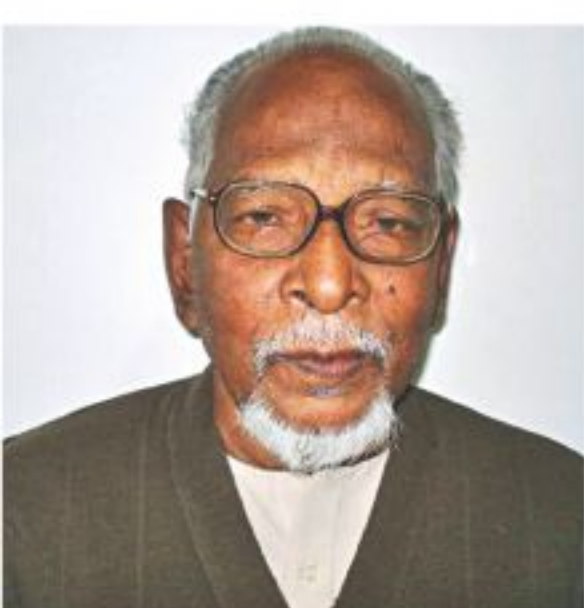




Rushing floodwater at Dholai in Kamalganj upazila of Moulvibazar yesterday. Some 50 villages were inundated by flooding in Kamalganj and Kulaura upazilas, as heavy downpour in the last two days caused the Dholai and Monu rivers to overflow. Inset, a flooded neighbourhood near Bhanugachh bazar in Kamalganj.

PHOTO: STAR



Sign UN convention to argue with India

Says Prof Anu over sharing of Teesta water

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Noted academician and environmental activist Professor Anu Mohammad yesterday asked the government to sign the United Nations Convention on Non-navigational Uses of International Watercourses, 1997, to strongly argue with India over an equal share of water of the Teesta river.

The convention allows the watercourse states to utilise an international watercourse in an equitable manner in their respective territories.

Addressing a roundtable at the Jatiya Press Club, he also urged the government to stand against river grabbing, and not to adopt anti-river policy in its own country to get moral boost to face India strongly.

Gono Sanghati Andolon organised the roundtable on "India's Aggressive Policy on Shared rivers: Bangladesh's Duty".

If the country signs the convention, it will be able to demand compensation from India for destroying rivers, said M Inamul Haque, chairman of the Institute of Water & Environment.

Abul Hasan Rubel, member of central coordination committee of Gono Sanghati, said since 1996 India had been withdrawing water from the Teesta one-sidedly after completing construction of Teesta and Gajoldoba barrages.

"The government should ask India to ensure transparency of its projects on shared rivers and to take consent of Bangladesh before implementing new projects", he said.

Mushtaq Khan, professor of economics at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, said increasing self-sufficiency on water resources would be an advantage for Bangladesh to bargain with India on shared rivers.

BNP LEADER DISAPPEARANCE

Police still clueless

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Sylhet police are yet to find any clues regarding the disappearance of Mujibur Rahman, former vice president of BNP, Sunamganj unit and his driver Rezaul Haque Sohel, both having gone missing on May 4.

After a general diary was filed with Sunamganj Police Station, police have launched several drives in all four districts of the division, said Mokbul Hossain Bhuiyan, deputy inspector of police, Sylhet range.

But, so far police have turned up with nothing, he said.

Mokbul further said police officers were looking into anything that might give them a clue about what is responsible for the disappearance, and more importantly what could lead to their whereabouts.

The police official said they do not think that the disappearance is politically motivated.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Handover of nat'l film award today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will hand over the National Film Award 2012 to a total of 23 film artists and technicians in 24 categories today, recognising their contributions to the industry.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to hand over the award through a programme at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the capital.

This time, veteran artist Khalil Ullah Khan will receive the lifetime achievement award.

Uttarer Sur of Faridur Reza Sagar (producer) won as best movie award for the year, while Humayun Ahmed was named best director for Ghetu Putro Komola.

Joya Ahsan was adjudged best actress for her role in Chorabali, while Shakib Khan won best actor for performance in Khodor Pore Ma.

The award for best actor in supporting role went to ATM Shamsuzzaman for Chorabali, while Lucy Tripti Gomez (Uttarer Sur) bagged the best actress award in supporting role.

Imon Saha won best music director for Ghetu Putro Komola.

Mamun was named best child artist award for his outstanding role in Ghetu Putro Komola, while Meghla (Uttarer Sur) bagged the special award in that category.

Shahnewaj Kakoli won best storywriter for Uttarer Sur. Humayun Ahmed was adjudged best screenwriter, while Redwan Rony won best dialogue for Ghetu Putro Komola and Chorabali respectively.

Palash bagged the best male singer award for his play-back in Khodor Pore Ma. Among the female contestants, Runa Laila won best singer for her song in Tumi Asbe Bole.

Emon Saha won best composer for Pita, while Milton Khandokar bagged the best lyricist award for his song in Khodor Pore Ma.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

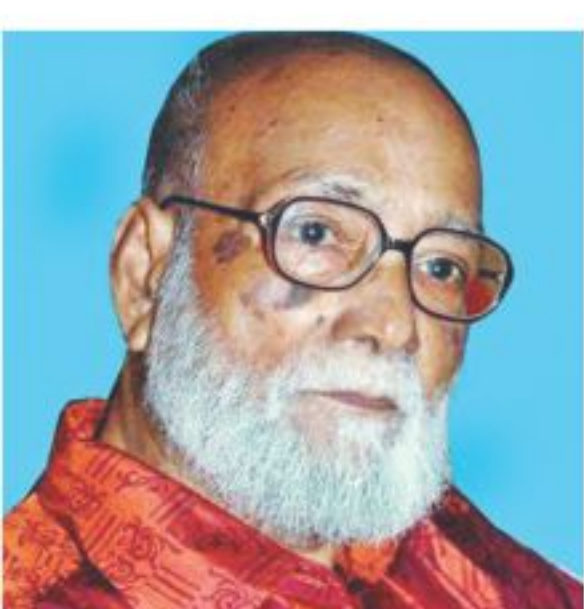
Language hero Safiar dies

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Safiar Rahman, a Language Movement veteran, died of old age complications at his Nilphamari residence yesterday, aged 82.

He left behind his wife, two sons, and grandchildren.

He joined the 1952 Language Movement and was sent to jail. A cultural and social activist, Safiar served as an officer in the district collectorate office. Cultural affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor consoled the death.



AKM Azharuddin

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

AKM Azharuddin, a freedom fighter and a Language Movement veteran, passed away at the capital's Birdem hospital Thursday. He was 82.

He left behind his three daughters and five sons.

Born at South Alekanda of Barisal city in 1932, Azharuddin participated in the historic movement in 1952.

He founded Kishore Majlish, a juvenile voluntary organisation, in his area in 1953. He was a retired official of Water Development Board.

BID TO STOP RIVER ACCIDENTS

Check graft in mastership test

Press conference told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of a national committee to protect river, road and rail sector yesterday demanded that the government end corruption in the "mastership test", which is held to provide certificates to drivers of water vessels.

Ashish Kumar Dey, convener of the Nou, Sarak O Rail Khat Rokkha Jatiya Committee, made the demand at a press conference in the city's Moni Sing-Farhad Smriti Trust auditorium, said a press release.

As the unskilled drivers are mainly responsible for most accidents in waterways mainly in launch services, the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

45 teachers join training in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A daylong refreshers' training aiming to develop skill of schoolteachers in delivering English lessons was held at European College of Law and Business in Chittagong city yesterday.

A total of 45 teachers from 25 secondary schools of Chittagong city participated in the training programme which is a part of the Robi-The Daily Star event "English in Schools-EIS". Mahfuzul Bari Chowdhury, EIS training consultant, and Shireen Hasan and Shiwa Forkan, EIS page developers, conducted the programme where Dr Salehuddin Ahmed, managing editor of The Daily Star and Mohiuddin Babar, consultant, CORA (Corporate and Regulatory Affairs), Robi, among others, were present.



Ctg city embankment in bad state

Coastal residents living in danger, industrial setups at risk of damage; influential people grab embankment

MINHAJ UDDIN, Ctg

The embankment built to protect Chittagong city from storm and tidal surges from the Bay of Bengal is itself in a vulnerable condition, thanks to massive illegal occupation, plundering of embankment trees, and lack of vigilance of the authorities.

This has left the lives of thousands of

residents in the city's coastal areas-- Patenga, Halishahar and Kattali--at stake.

Besides, industrial settlements, including the Oil Refinery, Chittagong EPZ, Karnaphuli EPZ, Shah Amanat International Airport, and numerous other private establishments would suffer irreparable damage if the dyke collapses.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Participating teachers at Refreshers' Training, a part of The Daily Star-Robi programme "English in Schools", at European College of Law and Business in Chittagong city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

NEWS IN brief

Three cops closed for beating youth

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Three policemen of Mithapukur Police Station in Rangpur have been closed on the charge of beating a youth before his father.

Rangpur Superintendent of Police Md Abdur Razzak issued the order on Thursday noon.

The closed cops are Mominur Rahman and Kawser Ali, assistant sub-inspectors; and Habibur Rahman, constable.

The three beat Shovon Islam, 25, son of Jatiya Party Pirganj upazila unit President Nure Alam Jadu, over drug peddling at the police station on May 4, police sources said.

Robber beaten to death in Tangail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A mob beat a robber to death at Huga village in Sadar upazila of Tangail early yesterday.

Mohammad Yunus Ali, 35, hailed from Norsinghapur in the upazila.

Tangail Model police Officer-in-Charge Mohammad Aktaruzzaman said around five robbers stormed into the house of one Bisha Miah.

Locals rushed to the spot and caught Yunus with a foreign made pistol and two bullets but the others fled, he said.

They beat him and, later, he died at Tangail General Hospital.

Workshop for teachers in Ctg today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A daylong workshop on Andragogy Practicum for school teachers will be held in Chittagong city today.

Chittagong Independent University (CIU) along with The Daily Star is organising the workshop titled "The Daily Star-CIU Train-The-Trainers (TTT)" at the CIU auditorium.

The Daily Star Managing Editor, Dr Salehuddin Ahmed, and CIU Pro-Vice Chancellor, Dr Irshad Kamal Khan, will be present.

Teacher held over molesting schoolgirl in Jhenidah

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Police yesterday afternoon arrested a teacher over molesting a class III schoolgirl of Baghdadanga Kindergarten School in Moheshpur upazila of Jhenidah.

The arrestee is Khalid Hossain, 40, son of Md Sujauddin of Baghdadanga village in the upazila.

Moheshpur police Officer-in-Charge Shajahan Ali said Khalid called the girl to his office and tried to rape her on Tuesday.

Later, Khalid fled the scene when the girl cried out, he said.

Worker dies from electrocution in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A mechanic died from electrocution at Bhatiyari of Sitakunda upazila in Chittagong early yesterday.

Md Alauddin alias Alamgir, 26, of Rangunia upazila, worked at SA Pulp and Paper Factory.

He was electrocuted when he came in contact with a live electric wire while he was repairing a machine at the factory around 2:00am, said the factory guard Md Yasin.

Alauddin was declared dead at Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

Ershad slams Khaleda

FROM PAGE 3

interview with Samoy Television.

Ershad said he did not want to blame Khaleda, wife of Ziaur Rahman, for this remarks, as he believed "frustration over her party has led her to make this kind of comment".

While speaking at a programme in the capital on May 4 Khaleda called Ershad the "killer" of her husband Zia and Maj Gen MA Manzur, who were assassinated in Chittagong two days apart in 1981.

This was for the first time in many years that Khaleda accused Ershad of killing her husband, said BNP leaders.

"Ershad has to be tried. Why the verdict [in the Manzur murder case with Ershad being one of the main accused] was postponed?" said Khaleda, adding that the deferment aimed at keeping Ershad with the government.

In his yesterday's interview, Ershad alleged that after 1990, he could not carry out his political activities freely due to the Manzur murder case. The case was filed about 14 years and nine months after the incident only to harass him politically, he said. They have succeeded in this, the JP chief said, adding that the case had been running for 19 years, and 22 to 23 judges had been changed so that it could not be finished.

Ershad alleged that the incumbent and former governments did this so that he could not make himself free from the case.

4kg of gold seized

FROM PAGE 3

arrested four people with around two kilograms of gold. They are Salauddin, Hafizur Rahman, Mizanur Rahman and Alamgir Molla. They landed in flights from Singapore and Kuala Lumpur on Thursday night.

বিনিয়োগকারী আবশ্যিক

বাংলাদেশের সুপ্রতিষ্ঠিত প্রথম সারির রিয়েল এস্টেট কোম্পানীর ব্যবসা সম্প্রসারণের জন্য প্রকৃত বিনিয়োগকারী আবশ্যিক। আকর্ষণীয় মুনাফা প্রদানের ভিত্তিতে সর্বনিম্ন ৫০ লক্ষ থেকে ৭ কোটি টাকা বিনিয়োগে সামর্থ্যবানদের যোগাযোগ করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

* অগ্রহী বিনিয়োগকারীগণকে ঠিকানা, ফোন নাম্বার ও প্রয়োজনীয় তথ্যাবলী নিম্নোক্ত বক্স নাম্বারে পাঠানোর জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

যোগাযোগ: বক্স নং ৪-০৩, দি ডেইলি স্টার

৩৪-৩৫, কাজী নজরুল ইসলাম এ্যাভিনিউ, ঢাকা-১২১৫.