

## Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Mominul Haque Khoka, one of the liberation war organisers, died at a Singapore hospital on Friday. He was 81.

He left behind his wife, a son and a daughter, says a press release.

Mominul is a cousin of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

His namaj-e-janaza will be held at Eidgah ground, adjacent to Dhanmondi Satmasjid Road, after Johr prayers today. He will be buried at Banani graveyard.

## Death anniversary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

The 3rd death anniversary of Alhaj Mirza Abul Kashem, a local pioneer of women's education and father of Mirza Azam, State Minister for Textile and Jute, was observed at Nurunnahar Mirza Kashem Girls' (Degree) College in the district's Madarganj upazila yesterday.

He was born in the upazila's Sukhnagari village on October 8, 1929 and died in 2011.

## Barisal cook-off

FROM PAGE 5

Shawkat Osman, renowned author and a food columnist of Star Lifestyle, and Kanishka Chakraborty, another food columnist of the supplement, along with Rahima Sultana Kazal, executive director, AVAS; Jahan Ara Begum, professor of Government BM College; Shukla Rani Halder, associate professor of the college; and Sonia Al-Aqsa, a cultural activist, judged the dishes at Barisal Club.

Registration for auditions in Rajshahi, Chittagong and Dhaka is still open. More information is available at 09612777888. Next week, the audition round will be held in Rajshahi.

## Victim families

FROM PAGE 5

Terming the building collapse a planned killing, she demanded punishment for the people responsible for the incident.

Survivors of the worst-ever industrial disaster also spoke.

Multi-storey Rana Plaza building, which housed five garment factories, caved in on April 24, 2013, leaving over 1,100 workers dead and several hundred injured.



Nature Conservation Initiatives of Jahangirnagar University organised a daylong nature festival on the campus yesterday marking International Day for Biological Diversity-2014. The programme included an art competition for children, a seminar, a documentary on the Sundarbans, and a photography exhibition.

PHOTO: STAR

## Malaria prevalence in CHT

FROM PAGE 5

programme shows that till April this year, only 157 malaria patients took treatment from community clinics in Bandarban district -- 54 in Rowangchhari upazila, five in Ruma, 40 in Thanchi, 16 in Lama, and 42 in Alikadam upazila.

A total of 4,555 malaria patients received treatment from the satellite clinics in Bandarban in 2007, but the figure declined to 1,964 in 2013.

About 17,782 malaria cases were detected in Bandarban district in 2008, but the figure came down to 9,320 in 2013. Eleven people reportedly died from malaria in the district in 2008 whereas only three died from the disease in 2013.

Official data show that over 57,500 malaria cases were detected in the CHT region in 2008, but the figure dropped to 19,425 in 2013 (up to November). A total of 88 people died from malaria in the CHT in 2008 while only 12 people died in 2013.

Dr Ching Swe Phru, Bandarban district medical officer of CHTDF-UNDP, said there

were 54 malaria patients in Muruga Bazar last year.

The epidemic of malaria depends on the intensity of rainfall -- if rainfall increases, people suffer more from the disease, he said, adding that the incidence of the disease had declined significantly in the region.

"Community health workers are holding focus group discussions with communities to make them aware of malaria, providing treatment, and suggesting each to be fully clothed during jhum cultivation and to use pesticide-mixed mosquito nets supplied by the government," he said.

Biplob Chakma, chief of Community Empowerment, CHTDF in Rangamati, said: "About 13 percent of all patients that we treated under the health programme were detected to have malaria infection in 2006, but it came down to only about 2 percent in 2013."

In the past, the prevalence of malaria in the CHT region was one of the major health threats to the CHT population, especially those in the remote areas.

## Political use of security agencies

FROM PAGE 3

as demanded by the BNP against the backdrop of the alleged role of some of its members in the recent killing of seven people in Narayanganj, most speakers stressed its reform.

"Members of the Rab come from different forces. Is there enough coordination among its members who trained differently in their respective forces?" asked Information Commissioner Sadeka Halim, highlighting the need for the force's reform.

Businessperson and former Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and

Industry (FBCCI) president Anisul Huq said, "No reform would work unless the political mindset changes. Politicians must come to agree that they won't use violence for political gains."

Referring to the rule of law, barrister Tania Amir, moderator of the discussion, highlighted the need for judicial reform which includes providing proper incentives to the underpaid public prosecutors.

Maj Gen (retd) Md Abdur Rashid, executive director of the ICLDS, read out the concept paper of the roundtable at the beginning of the programme.

## Govt can't deny responsibility for 7 murders

Ershad tells N'ganj rally

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

The government cannot deny its responsibility for the recent murder of seven people in Narayanganj, Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad told a commemorative rally for the recently deceased JP lawmaker Nasim Osman in Narayanganj's DIT area yesterday.

Ershad, a special envoy to the prime minister, urged Narayanganj residents to vote for the JP in the June 26 by-election to Narayanganj-5 constituency (Sadar and Bandar), fallen vacant after Nasim's death on April 30, without disclosing any candidate's name.

He also met the families of the slain seven, including Nazrul Islam's father-in-law Shahidul Islam.

## Law enforcement in

FROM PAGE 3

the 16 crore people, not with the president, prime minister, justice or any other government officials, referring to the fact that the people are denied their rights and justice.

It is the very common people who are helping Bangladesh survive, maintain the GDP growth over 6 percent by their hard-earned incomes and remittances, it is not the rich, he said.

So, the people's concerns should be taken into cognisance in every decision, the jurist said. "But, things are going from bad to worse."

In an emotional voice, Khairul Haque called upon the people to speak up, be vocal against injustice and make everybody accountable.

He suggested that the government conduct a detailed survey of the resources in the Bay of Bengal and immediately start work to best utilise the untapped potentials of the sea.

Ending a dispute with Myanmar over the territory of the Bay in 2012, Bangladesh established its sovereign rights to a full 200 nautical miles exclusive economic zone, and to a substantial share of the "outer continental shelf" beyond 200 nautical miles. Bangladesh also won right to 12 nautical miles around St Martin's Island in Cox's Bazar.

The victory unleashed immense opportunities for Bangladesh for the marine resources, including fish, oil, gas and waterways, but no visible action has yet been taken to best use the resources, the speakers said.

They also stressed prevention of sea pollution, which is caused by wastes from both land and sea.

"The fishermen of Bangladesh fish only within 60 to 70 kilometres of the sea from the coast, whereas it is possible to fish in the high seas," said Rear Admiral (retd) Khurshed Alam, secretary of Maritime Affairs Unit, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Bangladesh could earn huge sums only by operating ships used for some \$60 billion trade through sea vessels, but the country has only 60 to 70 ships, he said.

Law Commission Member Prof Shah Alam suggested establishing a "Maritime Authority" and framing a maritime policy to monitor and coordinate all the relevant agencies working to best use the marine resources and prevent pollution.

Bangladesh Navy's Commodore SM Hakim and Captain Shahadat Hossain; Dhaka University's geography professor Shahidul Islam; Chittagong University's marine science professor Maruf Hossain; and Poba's engineer Abdus Sobhan presented articles, while Poba Chairman Abu Naser Khan chaired it.

## NEWSIN brief

### 2 arrested with undeclared foreign currencies at Dhaka airport

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Customs intelligence at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport seized undeclared US\$ 1,000 and 1.51 lakh Saudi Riyal last night, and arrested two people in this connection.

Himel and Jahangir, two passengers of a Kuala Lumpur-bound Bangladesh Biman flight, were carrying the currencies in their shoes and luggage, said a customs official.

### Activist of banned Hizb ut-Tahrir arrested in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

An activist of banned Islamist organisation Hizb ut-Tahrir was arrested with 81 jihadi books from his Anderkillah resident in Chittagong yesterday, a day after seven activists of the organisation were detained Friday afternoon.

On information, gleaned from the seven, police detained Atikur Rahman, 26, an MBA student of Chittagong University. He hails from Hathazari upazila. A case was filed under anti-terrorism act, 2009, police said.

### Body recovered in Gazipur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Police recovered a half decomposed body from a forest in Rajedrapur area under Sreepur upazila of Gazipur yesterday.

The male body has not yet been identified, said Sub-Inspector Harun-ur-Rashid of Hotapara Police Outpost. Police also found a bottle of insecticides beside the body.

The body was sent for an autopsy. A case was filed.

### NSU summer orientation held

CITY DESK

North South University held an orientation programme for the students of summer-2014 semester at its own campus in the capital's Bashundhara yesterday.

Over 1,500 newly enrolled undergraduate students of BBA, ETE, EEE, Economics, Environmental Science, Architecture, English, Computer Science, Computer Engineering, Computer Science and Engineering, Pharmacy, Microbiology and Biochemistry departments participated in the programme.

Dr Amin Sarkar, vice chancellor of NSU, chaired the ceremony, while Ragib Ali, chairman of Board of Trustees, NSU, was present as chief guest.

### Green University holds roundtable on educational development

CITY DESK

A roundtable on "Qualitative Educational Development" was organised by Green University in its auditorium in the capital on Friday.

A total of 40 principals and teachers from 14 colleges of Mirpur, including Harun Mollah College and SOS Hermann Gmeiner College, attended the discussion organised to exchange ideas about challenges for ensuring quality education.

Vice Chancellor Prof Golam Samdani Fakir presided over the discussion while former Bangladeshi ambassador to the US M Humayun Kabir was the chief guest.

## Allegation of

FROM PAGE 3

Begum, chairperson of Dhaka education board, yesterday told The Daily Star that they were yet to receive any such allegation of mathematics question leak.

She termed it a "rumour".

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