



### Recording of testimony in Kibria murder case deferred

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

The Sylhet Speedy Trial Tribunal yesterday deferred till today the recording of witnesses' testimonies in former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria murder case as eight of the 14 accused did not appear before it.

Suspended Sylhet City Corporation mayor Ariful Haque Chowdhury did not appear as he is undergoing treatment under police custody in Dhaka, while the other seven, including former state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar, appeared before different courts in separate cases.

Today was the third day of recording, and three out of 171 witnesses, including the complainant lawmaker and Awami League Habiganj district unit's general secretary Abdul Majid Khan, have testified so far.

The then opposition lawmaker and Awami League leader Kibria and four others, including his nephew Shah Manzur Huda and local AL leader Abdur Rahim, were killed in a grenade attack on a rally in Habiganj on January 27, 2005.

The case was probed three times and the investigators pressed charges thrice against 32 people, including Babar, while the charge framing was deferred for nine times.



Singers perform at a cultural programme at Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday on the occasion of the 61st founding anniversary of the club.

PHOTO: STAR

## Correct data, political will must to ensure housing for urban poor

Speakers tell policy seminar in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Correct demographic data on slums and their dwellers, proper financing mechanisms and strong political will to back poor-friendly housing policies are needed to solve the housing problem of the urban poor, speakers observed at a policy seminar yesterday.

"Housing Solutions for the Urban Poor - Challenges, Opportunities and Way Forward" was hosted jointly by the Ministry of Housing and Public Works, Real Estate and Housing Association Bangladesh (REHAB) and Bangladesh Urban Forum (BUF) Secretariat at Brac Inn in the capital's Mohakhali.

Presenting the keynote paper, Prof Shahidul Ameen, Department of Architecture, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, pointed out the controversy about the number of slums and their dwellers.

He mentioned a 2005 slum census

by the Centre for Urban Studies (CUS), National Institute of Population Research and Training (Niport) and MEASURE Evaluation, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill which showed Dhaka's slum population to be 3.4 million.

In 2014, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) came up with a census showing it to be 1.06 million.

Noting a Central Intelligence Agency estimation that each year around 6 lakh people migrate to Dhaka, Ameen asked, "So where did all these people who migrated to the city go?"

UNDP Country Director Pauline Tamesis recommended ensuring security of land tenure (rights on the land) and improving housing finance mechanism to solve the housing problem of the urban poor.

Housing and Public Works Minister Mosharruf Hossain urged the urban rich to create accommodation for their

employees, including drivers and domestic helps, inside the apartment complexes they live in.

"If you had kept space on the ground floor of your luxury apartments for your drivers and domestic helps, the slums in Gulshan would not have sprung up," he said.

CUS General Secretary Prof Nurul Islam Nazem pointed out that economic opportunities alone would not prevent migration from rural to urban areas.

He referred to a study of 2001 which showed that out of 30 top officials, including government employees of Khulna, only the mayor lived in the city while the rest in Dhaka because of better facilities such as reputed schools and hospitals.

Referring to a comment of the minister proposing an IT park in Korail slum by relocating the slum dwellers elsewhere, Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon

### Obituary

CITY DESK



Sufia Rahman Ruby, wife of late foreign minister Mustafizur

Rahman, passed away at Apollo Hospitals Dhaka yesterday.

She left behind her son, a daughter and grandchildren, says a press release.

Sufia, who worked for many social organisations, was the president of Gulshan Ladies Club and vice president of Saarc Women's Association.

She will be buried at the capital's Banani graveyard following a namaz-e-ajanaza to be held at Azad Mosque in Gulshan-2 after Zohr prayers today.

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia last night condoled the death of Sufia and prayed for her departed soul.

### Syed Ahmed Kamal

CITY DESK



Syed Ahmed Kamal, son of Syed Anisuzzaman of Durmut village in Jamalpur,

died at his residence in Dhaka on Friday.

He was the Motawalli of Hazrat Shah Kamal (R) estate of Durmut, Jamalpur.

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

He was buried in Begum Bazar Nawab Bari Graveyard on Saturday.

His family members requested all relatives, well-wishers and friends to attend the doa mahfil to be held on October 30 after Maghrib prayers to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

### Death anniversary

CITY DESK



Today is the 10th death anniversary of M M Rezaul Karim, a

diplomat and a columnist, says a press release.

On the occasion, the family have organised prayers for the salvation of the departed soul.

Karim, also a Rotarian and a social worker, defected from the Pakistan high commission in the UK and galvanised support for the Bangladesh cause during the 1971 Liberation War.

He received Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman when the latter arrived in London in January in 1972 after his release from Pakistan prison.

During the post-liberation period, Karim worked as a Bangladeshi ambassador in a number of countries.



People are forced to use this rickety bridge in Kamrangirchar's Rasulpur, a fall from which could leave them struggling in heaps of a myriad of garbage below. Moreover, the stench is a nuisance for locals. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

## SCALING THE SUMMIT IS NO EASY TASK!

FIND OUT WHO ARE WINNING TONIGHT!

**Nayeemul Islam**  
St. Joseph Higher Secondary School, Dhaka

**Chowdhury Nabila Tasnim**  
Cardiff International School, Dhaka

**S.M Azmain Awsaf**  
Ideal School & College, Dhaka

**Md. Tausif Hossain**  
Mirzapur Cadet College, Tangail

**Rafat Itmam Choudhury**  
Anandaniketan, Sylhet

**Raiyan Zannat**  
Joypurhat Girls' Cadet College, Joypurhat

# NEWS IN brief

### 3 businesses fined Tk 1.60 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A mobile court yesterday fined three businesses Tk 1.60 lakh in Bibirhat area of Chittagong city.

Abdullah Al Mansur, executive magistrate of Chittagong District Administration, fined Lily Plastic Factory and Atique Metal Workshop Tk 30,000 each for not having renewed trade licence and environment clearance certificate.

Court also fined Taher Shah Enterprise Tk 1 lakh for giving less gas than the actual weight in gas-cylinders.

Officials of the Department of Environment (DoE) and members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab-7) were also present during the drive.

### 10 illegal power connections snapped

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A mobile court in Chittagong yesterday snapped 10 electricity connections and fined persons over Tk 10.67 lakh for having arrears and illegal connections.

The court, led by a senior judicial magistrate of Power Development Board, conducted the drive in Bandartila, South Halishahar and Patenga and cut three connections for not paying bills of Tk 4.28 lakh and cut seven illegal connections.

Besides, the court filed seven cases accusing 13 persons in connection with these misdeeds.

### Stone trader robbed in Sylhet

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Some 12 robbers beat up a stone trader before snatching away Tk 3 lakh from him at Alipur village in Osmaninagar upazila of Sylhet on Tuesday night.

Shutar Miah, 30, was returning home with the money in a bag when the gang attacked him, said Osmaninagar police. Locals admitted Shutar to Sylhet Osmani Medical College Hospital.

## Reclaim road width

FROM PAGE 3

transportation, infrastructure and peace-building department of Jica, said the government should view Dhaka's eastern fringe as a preferential development area for diversion of population settlement with planned transportation development.

"And to do so, coordination with private developers is very vital for a planned urban development there," she said.

The revised STP has proposed five metro rails (mass rapid transit or MRT), two rapid bus service (bus rapid transit or BRT) systems, three ring roads around the city and six expressways. Construction of one MRT, one BRT and one expressway are underway.

While construction work of MRT-6 is set to begin in February, feasibility options of MRT-1 and MRT-5 are to soon follow with Jica assistance, said Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader.

Mega transport projects like MRT, BRT, expressways and the Padma bridge would hardly help change the traffic situation unless people change their behaviour, he said, if the lawmakers and ministers break the law by driving on the wrong side of the road, general people would not abide by it.

The route alignment of MRT-1 stretches from the Shahjalal international airport to Kamalapur through Kuril, Progoti Sarani and Rampura while that of MRT-5 stretches from Gabtoli to Bhatara across Mirpur, Kemal Ataturk Avenue and Madani Avenue.

The revised STP is to be finalised by December and is expected to have cabinet approval by March next, said the officials.

On another note, Obaidul said the government has taken "adequate security measures" to ensure safety of foreigners.

"I state this boldly and emphatically that full security is there and the foreigners have no reason to be anxious over security either at home or workplaces so that no development project is hampered," he said.

DTCA Executive Director Md Kaikobad Hossain and Jica Chief Representative Mikio Hataeda also spoke.

## 96 BNP men sent

FROM PAGE 3

activists created anarchy in Kishoreganj and its adjoining areas. Later, police filed 11 cases in this connection.

The sources said a total of 103 BNP men surrendered yesterday but only seven were granted bail and the others, including Shariful Alam, were sent to jail.

**Spelling Bee**  
Season 4

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