

## Col Nazma gets UN award for leadership

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Army Col Dr Nazma Begum has been given a special UN award for her outstanding leadership in the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI).

The UN has thanked Bangladesh Army for this, says an ISPR press release.

Nazma, who served the UNOCI from February 27 to August 31, 2016 as the first female contingent commander in UNOCI's history, has also been selected for the "Military Gender Advocate of the Year-2016 Award".

Madam Aichatou Mindaoudou, special representative of the UN secretary general, at a programme conferred the honour to Nazma and her team on August 16. M'Baye Babacar Cisse, deputy special representative of the UN secretary general, handed over the award to her.



Col Dr Nazma Begum, first ever female contingent commander of Bangladesh Army to a United Nations peacekeeping mission, receives an award for her outstanding leadership in the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire from M'Baye Babacar Cisse, deputy special representative of the UN secretary general. PHOTO: ISPR

## SC asks for Somoy TV talk show video

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday asked to submit the records of a talk show aired by Somoy TV by September 4 to examine whether its content is contemptuous.

A bench headed by Chief Justice SK Sinha passed the order after Attorney General Mahbub Alam told it that some of the comments of the talk show on August 30 night on the trial proceedings of war criminal Mir Quasem Ali were contemptuous.

Justice AHM Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik, a former Appellate Division judge; Barrister Tureen Afroz, and journalist Swapan Das Gupta joined the talk show.

# Country's teachers declare battle against militancy

DUI CORRESPONDENT

Teachers' representatives from all levels and streams of education yesterday declared that they would not let terrorist ideologies spread in the country.

They said the educational institutions would intensify the campaign to promote the Liberation War spirit and prevent any activity that may encourage extremism.

Representatives of 23 teachers' associations came up with the announcements and a few demands and recommendations at the "National Education Convention against Militancy 2016".

More than 700 teachers from English and Bangla medium schools, colleges, universities, and madrasas gathered in the national museum auditorium in the capital.

The Federation of Bangladesh

University Teachers' Association (FBUTA), a platform of all public university teachers, organised the convention.

Prof Maksud Kamal, secretary general of FBUTA, said the educational institutions would regularly hold extra-curricular and co-curricular activities like games, debates, and cultural and scouting events.

The convention suggested that teachers behave in a friendly way with students, become more engaged in teaching, and inspire students towards humanity and patriotism.

It also urged the guardians to spend more time with their children and build up friendly relationship.

Speaking at the convention, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal said the "imaginary" Islamic State militant group was brainwashing the country's youths.

He alleged, "The defeated forces of the Liberation War of 1971 are patronising militant forces to prove Bangladesh as a failed state."

In his speech, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid said Alem-Ulema (Islamic scholars and leaders) should spread the true spirit and teachings of Islam to the youths so that the evil forces could not misguide them.

"Students from rich families, studying in English medium institutions and having efficiency in technology, are now more involved in extremism rather than the poor students from madrasas. We have to observe the activities of students more intensively," he said.

The minister urged the teachers to groom students as good human beings and give individualised attention to all of them.

## Papia quits BNP's new committee

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dissatisfied over the formation of new committee, BNP leader Syeda Ashifa Ashrafi Papia yesterday resigned from the central and district committees.

With her resignation, the number of leaders who have resigned so far reached four.

Papia was made assistant secretary for human rights affair of the newly formed central committee and the general secretary of the Chapainawabganj district BNP.

A BNP leader, close to Papia, told The Daily Star that she sent resignation letters to BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and its Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday. Though Papia cited in the letter she has resigned on personal grounds, insiders said she was annoyed with formation of the new committee.

## Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 13th death anniversary of Nurjahan Murshid,

one of the Liberation War organisers and first Health and social welfare minister of independent Bangladesh.

She died in Dhaka in 2003, says a press release.

She obtained her Master's degree from Calcutta University in the mid forties when very few Muslim women entered higher education.

Nurjahan Murshid was one of two women directly elected to the legislative Assembly in 1954 on a United Front ticket. She was the first president of Bangladesh Mahila Samity and general secretary of Mohila Awami League from 1969 to 1971.

She played a courageous role to reform Awami League after the brutal death of the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

To mark the day, Nurjahan Murshid Smriti Parishad, her family and NGO Brotee have chalked out different programmes including placing wreaths at her grave today 11:00am and food distribution among the destitute.

# Women, girls' health neglected in country

Says UNFPA rep Argentina Piccin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers yesterday underscored the need for cooperation among different government and NGOs to achieve health related targets of Sustainable Development Goals.

They also suggested the government improve primary healthcare services in rural areas.

In her speech, Argentina Matavel Piccin, UNFPA representative in Bangladesh, said health issues of women and girls are neglected in the country. Most of the women who work in tea gardens are deprived of basic health facilities and suffer from various problems, she said.

In many areas, women could not get medical facilities because of poor communication system, Piccin said, adding that poor women, at times, could not avail health services in want of money. Director of USAID Melissa Jones emphasised ensuring health facilities for all and skilled birth attendants for the pregnant mothers.

Director General of Directorate General of Health Services Mohammad Wahid Hossain said to achieve SDG targets ministries and organisations need to help each other.

State Minister for Health Zahid Malik said they are also trying to improve their IT-based service to take health services to rural and remote areas.

## NEWS IN brief

### ACC seeks wealth info from Falu, wife

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti Corruption Commission yesterday issued a notice to BNP chairperson's adviser Mosaddek Ali Falu and his wife Mahbuba Sultana to submit wealth statements before it.

They will have to reply in seven days. ACC sources said an enquiry found that Falu amassed properties worth Tk 177.36 crore between 2008 and 2016, and his wife Tk 5.14 crore.

### Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 7th death anniversary of writer and former additional secretary Khurshid Alam, said a press release.

On this occasion, food will be distributed among orphans. Khurshid was an official of BCS (admin cadre) of 1982 batch. He wrote 19 books and his first publication was "Shet-Kopoter Dana". His other books are "Digomborir Prem Nei", "Vangoner Podaboli", "Poribesgh, Shomaj O Shamajik Bikash", "Unoshotturer Koishor", "Shikkhoker Shomudro Jatra".

### Seminar on wheat blast held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A seminar on wheat blast was held at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agricultural University (BSMRAU) yesterday.

Dr Tofazzal Islam, head of the Biotechnology department of BSMRAU, presented the keynote speech depicting plans to develop blast-resistant wheat varieties.

BSMRAU Vice-Chancellor Prof Mahbubar Rahman, former VC Prof Abdul Mannan Akanda, Treasurer Prof Ismail Hossain Miah, Research Director Prof Khurshed Alam Bhuiyan, Head of Biotechnology of Bangladesh Rice Research Institute Dr Anamul Haque and Director of Outreach Activity of BSMRAU Prof Moynul Haque were present.

## TARAPUR TEA ESTATE 715 more structures recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Sylhet District Administration yesterday handed over the authority of 715 illegally built structures on the grabbed land of Tarapur Tea Estate to the shebayer or caretaker of the estate, which is an endowment property.

As per the Supreme Court January 19 order, Meer Mahbubur Rahman, upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) of Sylhet sadar handed the properties over to Pankoj Kumar Gupta.

The structures had illegally belonged to Abdul Hai, son of businessman Ragib Ali.

Following the SC order, the local administration recovered 323 acres of land of the total 422.96 acres of the estate on May 15 primarily.

Some other structures including Jalalabad Ragib-Rabeya Medical College Hospital, hostels, and a mosque are yet to be handed over.

Mahbubur said, "We are hopeful to recover all other lands soon."

## Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Manju Banerjee, the eldest daughter of Swadeshi Movement veteran

Krishna Banerjee, died in Dhaka on Tuesday, aged 73.

Manju was diagnosed with ovarian cancer in January, says a press release.

She founded a school, Scholars Special, in Mohammadpur.

Manju, who was an active member of the Communist Party of Bangladesh and Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, donated her body to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University.

## Dhaka, Delhi for regional stability Says Shringla

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Terming Bangladesh an invaluable partner in the fight against terrorism, Indian High Commissioner Harsh Vardhan Shringla yesterday said India and Bangladesh are now on the "same page" in ensuring peace and stability in the region.

"This is manifested in the excellent co-operation that our security forces enjoy -- whether it is in the form of sharing information or apprehending criminals," he said.

Delivering a lecture to defense officials in Dhaka, the Indian envoy quoting Narendra Modi said, "Bangladesh is not alone in its fight against terrorism. We fully support Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's policy of zero-tolerance towards terrorism and stand by Bangladesh."

The Indian envoy was addressing on "Contemporary India, its Foreign Policy and Security Strategy: Implications for Bangladesh" at the Defense Services Command and Staff College.

## Luxury car surrendered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The owner of an unregistered luxury car left his vehicle near the Customs Intelligence office in the capital's Kakrail area, apparently being unable to pay the taxes.

The officials found the red Mercedes-Benz SLK 230 outside their office Tuesday night with an unsigned letter, which read: I have surrendered the car...to comply with the law. The car, however, has broken down. The officials suspected the vehicle might have been brought under carnet de passage facilities. Earlier on April 20, another owner left his car, the 2007 Lexus RX 350, in front of the customs office in Sylhet.

## ASI arrested over bribery

FROM PAGE 4

Court sources said Sadequ went to the residence of the justice in the capital's Dhanmondi on Tuesday for verification of his two daughters' passports and demanded Tk 2,000 from his wife. Sadequ identified himself as sub inspector Salam.

As she refused to give the bribe, ASI Sadequ declined to verify the passports. Justice Abu Taher afterwards informed the matter to his senior colleague Justice Quazi Reza-Ul Hoque who later asked the police headquarters to bring the ASI before his bench yesterday.

## Prosecution moves


FROM PAGE 3

charges proved against the eight Razakars.

Miron, now 61, took part in the Liberation War, spied on Razakars and supplied information to freedom fighters. One day Razakars shot him and took him to their camp at Chingra in Jessore. They also tortured him to glean information about the freedom fighters. But Miron would not give in. At one stage, Shakhawat, commander of the Razakar camp, twisted his left leg until it broke. After independence, no-one remembered Miron. He had to beg to run his family in Jessore. The story came to the tribunal's notice on March 2 when he testified in the case.

In its August 10 verdict, the special court hoped that the prosecution would take the matter to the authorities so "Miron Sheikh can have proper recognition and grace to spend the rest of his life in honour." "We are shocked and surprised. It is not understood why the society and the government machinery concerned have shown inaction to recognise his contributions and sacrifice," it said. "...it is the holy desire of this tribunal that the Ministry of Liberation War Affairs shall take a necessary step to include the name of freedom fighter Miron Sheikh.... in the list of freedom fighters."

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