



A worker, hired by locals, cleaning a portion of Ramchandrapur canal in Nobody Housing area of the capital's Mohammadpur. Due to incessant dumping of garbage and sewage, the water body remains clogged at different points. Also, in the absence of maintenance by the authorities concerned, aquatic plants including water hyacinth are growing rapidly, obstructing the flow of water. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## Poet-journalist Sajjad Kadir dies

UNB, Dhaka

Renowned poet and journalist Sajjad Kadir died at a hospital in Dhaka yesterday. He was 70.

Kadir, a member of Jatiya Press Club, breathed his last at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital around 2:00pm after suffering a cardiac arrest, said his family.

His body was taken to the press club premises in the afternoon where journalists paid homage to the poet by placing wreaths at his coffin.

Later, his first namaz-e-janaza was held there after Asr prayers.

Jatiya Press Club president Shafiqur Rahman, general secretary Farida Yasmin, and leaders of the both factions of the Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) joined the janaza.

His body was taken to his ancestral home at Delduau village in Tangail.

Born on April 14, 1947 in Tangail, he completed his MA in Bangla from Dhaka University in 1970.

He began his career as a lecturer of Bangla at Government Saadat College in Karatia in 1972, but quit teaching four years later.

Kadir then joined the weekly Bichitra as a sub-editor on July 14, 1976 and emerged as a journalist and poet.

He worked for different newspapers in his long journalistic career. Kadir also worked as a director of Bangladesh Press Institute.

He wrote some 80 books including poetry, novels, and dramas.

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir expressed deep shock at his death.

In separate condolence messages, they prayed for salvation of the departed soul and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family.



## HC gives go-ahead to cadet Pollen murder trial

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday cleared the way for a lower court to resume the trial for the murder of cadet Sharmila Shaharin Pollen. Pollen, 18, a twelfth grader of Mymensingh Girls' Cadet College, was found dead in the bathroom of her dormitory on February 11, 2005.

Yesterday, Justice Farah Mahbub and Justice Mahmudul Hoque rejected a petition jointly filed by four accused challenging the trial. The court also lifted its earlier stay on the trial.

There is no legal bar to resuming the trial following the HC verdict, complainant's lawyer Khandker Mahbub Hossain told The Daily Star. In March last year, a Mymensingh court indicted five people in the case -- then adjutant Maj Nazmul Haque, then associate professor Abul Hossain, then sergeant Nawsher-uz-Zaman, then security guard Hena Begum, and then deputy adjutant general Maj Monir Ahmed Chowdhury. Maj Monir is absconding.

In June last year, the HC stayed the trial following a petition by the remaining four.

Pollen's father Abul Bashar Patwary, a retired air force officer, of Chandpur, says her daughter was tortured and strangled, and then her body was hanged inside the bathroom to pass it off as a suicide.

## Sylhet city mayor Ariful Huq resumes duties

Following SC clearance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday cleared the way for Sylhet city Mayor Ariful Huq Chowdhury and Rajshahi Mayor Mosaddek Hossain Bulbul to discharge their duties.

Chamber Judge of the Appellate Division of the SC Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain dropped from its hearing list two separate petitions filed by the government seeking a stay on the High Court orders that halted their suspension orders.

The apex court judge delivered the orders after Additional Attorneys General Murad Reza and Momtaz Uddin Fakir prayed to the court to drop the petitions from its hearing list.

Meanwhile, Ariful resumed his duties yesterday following the SC order and Bulbul resumed his Wednesday following a High Court order. They were suspended by the government after two courts accepted charges

against them in two separate criminal cases.

Contacted, Attorney General Mahbub Alam told The Daily Star that the two additional attorneys general made the prayers before the SC chamber judge as the government might move leave to appeal petitions before the apex court against the HC orders after receiving the full texts.

He said the HC orders that stayed the suspension of Ariful and Bulbul would remain in force until further orders from the SC, and the two mayors could discharge their duties if there was no other legal problem.

Following two separate writ petitions filed by Bulbul and Ariful, the HC on April 3 and April 4 respectively stayed the government suspension orders on the two mayors.

The government filed two petitions on April 5 and yesterday with the SC seeking a stay on the HC orders that halted their suspensions.



## Leo J Baroi passes away

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Leo J Baroi, a classical singer of Bangladesh Betar and Bangladesh Television, died of a heart attack on Wednesday evening. He was 66.

He was also a teacher of Bulbul Lolitokola Academy (BAFA) for a long time.

He is survived by his wife, a daughter and a son. He was laid to rest in Dhorenda area of Savar yesterday.

## SENTENCING OF SAYEDEE SC to hear opposing petitions on May 14

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday fixed May 14 for hearing the review petitions filed against its verdict that commuted death sentence of convicted war criminal Delawar Hossain Sayeede to imprisonment until death.

The government and Sayeede filed two separate review petitions with the apex court in January last year with different prayers. The government in its petition sought death penalty for Sayeede for his war crimes during the 1971 Liberation War, while Sayeede, a leader of Jamaat-e-Islami, in his plea prayed for acquittal of the war crimes charges.

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 on February 28, 2014, sentenced Sayeede to death for killing Ibrahim Kutti and one Bisa Bali in Pirojpur in 1971, even though it had found him guilty of eight charges.

After hearing two appeals filed by Sayeede and the government, on September 17, 2014, a five-member bench of the apex court, headed by the then Chief Justice Md Muzammel Hossain, delivered a short order based on majority views, commuting Sayeede's death sentence to imprisonment until death.

## Cricketer Sunny charged under ICT Act

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday charged cricketer Arafat Sunny in a case filed by a woman claiming to be his wife, under the Information and Communication Technology Act.

Mohammadpur police submitted the charge sheet to Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka.

According to the case filed January 5, Sunny opened a fake Facebook account on last June 12 and sent an indecent photo of the woman, Nasrin Sultana, 23, through Facebook. He reportedly did the same on November 25, 2016. Nasrin claimed she had been in a relationship with Sunny for seven years and they got married on



A group of workers of Fashion Network Limited block a portion of the capital's Elephant Road in front of the garment factory yesterday demanding due salaries.

PHOTO: STAR

## RMG workers block road for arrears

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Workers of a garment factory blocked Elephant Road in Dhaka yesterday demanding due salaries.

They said they are yet to be paid the salaries of March. In addition, the workers demanded the salaries of the current and two more months as compensation fearing shutdown of the factory.

They said the owner was "closing down" Fashion Network Ltd, located on the road, and subcontracted all the deals to other units.

There will be no recruitment in other factories ahead of Eid, they said. So, they raised the demand for the salaries as a lay-off compensation, said Shilpi Akhter, who was in a leading position during their demonstration.

Around 600 workers are working in the factory, she said.

Fashion Network Managing Director Syed Shahjahan Ali Jewel told The Daily Star that they are shifting the factory to Gazipur where the agitating workers will not be allowed to work.

Later in the evening, the workers, the MD and BGMEA officials held a meeting in its auditorium where the owner assured them of paying the salaries of March and April, which the workers accepted, said Shilpi Akhter.

The five-hour blockade starting around 11:00am ended through a rally at BGMEA office.

## ACC sues ex-Padma Oil

FROM PAGE 3

project director (PD) Md Ali Hossain, and Padma Oil's MD Abul Khair.

Through installing only 1,256 meter out of scheduled 2,400-meter hydrant line, the three with mutual connivance misappropriated the money, said the ACC official.

The corruption was detected when the work was cross-checked by independent engineers, he added.

Another case was filed against five people including Khair for misappropriating around Tk 33 lakh during construction of a three-storey office of Padma Oil at Doulatpur in Khulna in 1996. The money was embezzled by not doing the work as per schedule, said ACC official Sirajul.

The five accused in the case are: Padma Oil Co Ltd's MD Abul Khair, its PD Md Nurul Amin, deputy managers engineer Saleki Ahmed Inul Abbasi, engineer KM Abdur Rahim, and construction firm Md Yunus & Company's MD Anisur Rahaman.

## Mark original boundaries

FROM PAGE 4

constructed within the fort's boundaries and submit a report to it by May 25.

The DG has also been asked to take assistance from a teacher of archeology department of Jahangirnagar University and the DG of the Directorate of Land Records and Survey (DLRS) in conducting the survey and inquiry.

The SC issued the order during hearing a petition filed by SC lawyer Advocate

Manzill Murshid.

The lawyer moved the petition seeking a review of its earlier verdict that stayed a High Court order issued for demolishing the structure built by Abul Hashem.

Following a writ petition, the HC on October 10, 2010 ordered the government to protect and preserve Lalbagh Fort and remove all structures constructed by individuals inside it.

ORPHANAGE GRAFT CASE

## Khaleda's self-defence April 13

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday shifted to April 13 for placing BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's self-defence statements in connection with the Zia Orphanage Trust graft case.

Judge Kamrul Hossain Mollah of the Senior Special Judge's Court passed the order after Khaleda's lawyer Jamiruddin Sircar submitted a petition seeking an adjournment of the hearing.

In the petition, Sircar said his client Khaleda could not appear before the court yesterday due to "restriction on vehicular movement".

Earlier, two other accused placed their self-defence statements claiming themselves innocent and they sought justice.

On March 8, the High Court ordered to transfer the Zia orphanage case to the court from the Special Judge Court-3 after Khaleda filed a writ petition.

## Conspiracy

FROM PAGE 3

farmers in the field while the government introduced modern technology-based agriculture system to ensure food security.

She said her government provided Tk 41,000 crore as subsidy to the farmers from 2009 to June 2013, aiming to reduce production costs.

Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury and AL Organising Secretary AFM Bahauddin Nasim also spoke on the occasion.

## EIGHT-DAY WORKSHOP DU research centre awards certificates

DU CORRESPONDENT

An eight-day training workshop titled, "Research Paradigms and Advanced Methodology in Arts and Social Sciences", organised by the Center for Advance Research in Arts and Social Science of Dhaka University, ended at DU yesterday.

Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique handed over certificates to the participants as chief guest at the centre.

CARASS Director Prof Sheikh Abdus Salam chaired the programme, which was addressed, among others, by DU arts faculty dean Abu Md Delwar Hossain and Prof Mansur Ahmed of the mass communication and journalism department.

## SC upholds withdrawal

FROM PAGE 4

OC Ziaul Morshed seeking a stay on the HC order.

Following a writ petition filed by SC lawyer Rana Kawsar, the HC on March 29 directed the IGP to withdraw OC Ziaul and Sub-inspector Mahtab Hossain of the police station on the same charge.

Citing newspapers, Rana Kawsar earlier told reports that SI Mahtab went to Lakkhiganj of Madaripur on March 12 to probe into a land-related case.

Over a trifling matter during the investigation, Mahtab had an altercation with one Ponir Hossain, son of Khalek Bepari, and ransacked his house.

Police then forcibly took wives of Ponir and his elder brother to the police station leaving their three-month-old and 18-month-old babies behind. After 13 hours of detention, police released them.

## RU student returns

FROM PAGE 4

had lost 1 lakh taka from their shop."

Yesterday, Sumi returned the cash to Usha Fashion owner Ashrafur Alam Setu at her department corridor, in presence of a few teachers and students.

"I'm very happy...I will be grateful to this woman for her honesty," Setu said after getting his lost money back.

"We tried to give her 10,000 taka as reward, but she declined to take it," he said.

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