



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina along with foreign guests poses for a photograph at Gono Bhaban in the capital yesterday. The premier accorded a reception to the 1971 war veterans of India and Russia and their spouses who joined Bangladesh's 47th Victory Day celebration.

PHOTO: PID

# NEWS IN brief

## Two shot in Gazipur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Two men were shot in their knees in Pallibidyut area of Sreepur upazila of Gazipur on Sunday night.

Rubel Ahmed, 30, a grocery shop owner, and his employee Md Hasnain, 26, were returning home on a motorbike when one from inside a car opened fire on them on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway, said Sreepur police.

The two are undergoing treatment at Mymensingh Medical College and Hospital.

## Syed Manzoorul new president of Pen Bangladesh

UNB, Dhaka

Eminent fiction writer and literary critic Syed Manzoorul Islam and litterateur Mohammad Moheuddin were elected president and secretary general of executive committee of Pen Bangladesh for the next three years.

The election to the committee for 2018-2020 was held at the 45th annual general meeting of Pen Bangladesh at a hotel in the capital, said Mohammad Moheuddin yesterday.

Rabindra University Vice Chancellor Biswajit Ghose, writer Ahmed Reza and Maleka Ferdousi were elected vice presidents while Ferdousi Mahmud and Lovely Bashar were elected joint secretaries general of the committee.

Syed Manzoorul Islam, also a professor of English department at Dhaka University, said, "This is my first and last term as the president. I wish to build PEN as a platform for the young generation."

## Death anniversary

CITY DESK

The third death anniversary of Khawja Zain Niaz, son of Niaz Moinuddin and Sajida Niaz, will be held today.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at his father's Gulshan residence in the capital after the Maghrib prayers, says a press release.

His relatives and friends have been requested to attend the programme.



# Ensure child-friendly features during city planning

Urban planners urge policymakers at roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Green activists and urban planners yesterday at a roundtable said children are nation builders of future and therefore policymakers need to put emphasis on child-friendly features during urban planning for Dhaka.

Proper mental and physical growth of children are linked to the sustainable prosperity of a country and adequate open spaces such as playgrounds and parks are essential to children's growth, they also said.

The Daily Star and Save the Children in association with Bangladesh Institute of Planners (BIP) organised the roundtable titled "Child Sensitive Urban Planning" at Planners Tower in the capital's Bangla Motor.

Green activist and architect Iqbal Habib during his speech said air pollution in Dhaka is worse than that in New Delhi of India and Shanghai in China.

Green activists have been vocal about this issue, but the authorities are not paying heed. They might be thinking that nothing will happen

and air pollution will not affect their children, he said, adding that amenities for poor and destitute children were ignored in the current urban planning policies.

"Guardians need to raise their voices to save their children."

He also advised children to read

Mahmud said vested quarters who wield the power have been grabbing public spaces for their own benefit and thus depriving the common people of their due rights.

Children, the leaders of future, need to start thinking about their dream city, he also said.

Moinul Islam, an urban planner currently employed at Narayanganj City Corporation, said by 2030, the world population will consist of near about 60 percent children, but Bangladesh is yet to prepare a suitable plan in this regard. "It'll be a pity if children cannot grow up with an enchanting memory."

Presenting a paper, Moinul said 400 students from eight schools in Dhaka and Narayanganj participated in a workshop arranged by Save the Children and BIP in August through November.

At the workshop the participants learned about child-friendly features a city should have and the importance of expressing their opinions when a city lacks such features.

Ten of the children who participated at the workshop also spoke at the yesterday's roundtable.

Recalling the memories of 1971, General Bhagban recalled the days of trauma and atrocities which lingered in the then East Pakistan for nine months.

"But the Mukti brothers with their bravery made a platform and created an environment so that we could come to your assistance in the war for liberation," he said.

"The relationship between Bangladesh and India is cemented with blood and sweat. I'm sure the strong structure of the relationship will create everlasting friendship between us," he said.

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# PM accords reception to Indian, Russian war veterans

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina accorded a reception to the 1971 war veterans from India and Russia on the occasion of Bangladesh's 47th Victory Day celebration.

Twenty-seven war veterans of India and their families, and four of Russia along with their spouses attended the reception at Gono Bhaban yesterday.

Addressing the reception, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said Bangladesh will never forget the contributions made by India and Russia to liberate Bangladesh.

"We always remember your contribution. We have liberated the country under the leadership of our great leader Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, and you have given all kinds of support," she said.

"You yourselves fought for our liberation, which we will never forget," the prime minister said.

Leader of the Indian delegation Lt Gen Jai Bhagban Singh Yadava said it was a great opportunity to visit Bangladesh to rejoice this historic occasion.

During their stay the delegation observed remarkable progress in the security and defence forces under the guidance of Sheikh Hasina.

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Participants at a discussion on "Child Sensitive Urban Planning" at Planners Tower in the capital yesterday. The Daily Star and Save the Children organised the event in association with Bangladesh Institute of Planners.

PHOTO: STAR

## Walton Group chairman passes away

STAR REPORT

SM Nazrul Islam, the founder and chairman of Walton Group, died on Sunday. He was 93.

Nazrul left behind his wife, five sons and two daughters, says a press release.

Nazrul breathed his last at a Dhaka hospital around 9:40pm. He was the pioneer of the country's electrical and electronic industries.

His first namaz-e-janaza was held at the corporate office of Walton Group in Bashundhara residential area and the second one at Chandra in Kaliakair, Gazipur.

He was buried at his family graveyard in Tangail's Gosajoiar after the third janaza.

Walton group members mourned his death and expressed their sympathy to the bereaved family members.

## SC stays Apan owners' bail till Dec 21

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday stayed till December 21 a High Court verdict that granted bail to three Apan Jewellers owners -- Dildar Ahmed, Gulzar Ahmed and Azad Ahmed -- in three separate money laundering cases.

Chamber Judge of the Appellate Division Justice M Imaan Ali passed the order following three separate petitions filed by the government seeking a stay on the HC verdict.

Deputy Attorney General Motaher Hossain Sazu told The Daily Star that Dildar, Gulzar and Azad cannot get released from jail following the SC chamber judge's order.

The government will file three leave-to-appeal petitions with the SC by December 21 challenging the HC verdict, he said.

Following three bail petitions, the HC on December 14 granted bail to the three owners in the money-laundering cases and kept two bail petitions of Dildar in two other cases in waiting for hearing.

On August 12, Customs Intelligence and Investigation Directorate