

## BNP to wipe out corruption if voted to power again

### Tarique tells JCD grass-roots level workers

BDNEWS, Bagerhat

BNP has rooted out terrorism as per its commitment made prior to the previous election and it will wipe out corruption this time if voted to power, party Senior Secretary General Tarique Rahman said.

He urged the grass-root level workers and leaders of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) to play the role like that of the media to propagate the immense successes of the BNP from door to door.

He also told them to convey the BNP commitment to the people that it would eliminate terrorism if voted to power.

He was speaking at the Khulna divisional grass-roots level meeting of representatives of JCD at the Bagerhat Khanjahan Ali College ground yesterday where Environment and Forest Minister

Tariqul Islam was present as the chief guest.

Tarique inaugurated the meeting with JCD President Azizul Bari Helal in the chair.

Khulna City Corporation (KCC) Mayor Sheikh Tayebur Rahman, State Minister for Labour and Employment Amanullah Aman, State Minister for Water Resources Ministry Goutam Chakrabarti, Fazlul Haq Milon MP, Nazimuddin Alam MP and JCD General Secretary Shafiq Bari Babu also spoke at the meeting.

A total of 2,517 representatives from 12 organisational districts were present at the meeting aimed at boosting the morale of JCD leaders and workers.

No development took place during the tenure of Awami League in the Khulna division, he said, adding that BNP is the only party

that can establish rule of law and democracy and it has already proved it.

Blasting the AL, he said the party whose leader can buy government property only for Taka one can never rid the country of corruption.

Grassroots level representatives also spoke on the occasion. They in their speeches portrayed the present condition of the organisation and the problems they are facing.

They urged Tarique to resolve the groupings at different tiers of the organisation.

Tarique assured them of all out cooperation and asked them not to speak about nominations, as the party high command will take the decision regarding nomination.

He asked them to work for the person nominated by the party for the election.

## 2 of a family die after taking ayurvedic medicine

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Two of a family died and three others fell sick after taking ayurvedic medicine from four fake Ayurvedic practitioners at Konabari village under Kazipur upazila of Sirajganj on Wednesday night.

Police arrested the four fake practitioners in this connection.

The dead are Shohrab Ali, 50, son of late Pappu Fakir of Konabari village and his nephew Helal Uddin, 32.

The sick are Shohrab's wife Morzina, 35, his sister Kohinur Khatun, 20, and Helena, 18, are now undergoing treatment at Sirajganj General Hospital in critical condition.

Victims' family sources said the victims took the ayurvedic medicine as they have been suffering from rheumatism for long time. After taking the fake medicine, Shohrab and Helal died at night and three others of the same family fell sick.

Kazipur police rushed to the spot and recovered the bodies from the house. The bodies were sent to the hospital morgue for autopsy.

Police also arrested the fake practitioners Amir Ali, Motaleb, Abdus Sattar and Abu Taleb from their shop.

A case was filed with Kazipur Police Station in this connection.



Freedom fighters pose for photograph at a reunion at the Brac Inn Centre at Gulshan in the city yesterday. The FFs organised the social gathering under the banner of 'Bangladesh Amar Sadhonar Desh' on the occasion of the Independence Day.



Pakistan Minister for Food, Agriculture and Livestock Sikandar Hayat Khan Bosan made a courtesy call on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at her office in the city yesterday.

## Pakistan to help Bangladesh grow wheat, cotton

BSS, Dhaka

Pakistan will help Bangladesh to grow heat resistant wheat and sort duration cotton under an agriculture cooperation agreement between the two countries.

This was disclosed when Pakistan Minister for Food, Agriculture and Livestock Sikandar Hayat Khan Bosan made a courtesy call on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at her office yesterday.

The Pakistan agriculture minister has been visiting Bangladesh as a follow up of the agreement signed between the two countries during the last visit of Khaleda Zia to Islamabad.

Under the agreement Bangladesh will help Pakistan in fish and vegetable farming.

Cooperation in irrigation, water management, sugarcane farming and livestock development were also discussed in the meeting.

The Prime Minister welcomed the Pakistan minister and said exchange of such visits will make bilateral cooperation meaningful and effective.

She requested the minister to convey her best wishes to the President and the Prime Minister of Pakistan.

Agriculture Minister MK Anwar, Prime Minister's Principal Secretary Dr Kamal Siddiqui and Acting High Commissioner of Pakistan to Bangladesh Aiyaz Khan were present.

## 'Introduce mother language-based unified edn system'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Renowned educationist Prof Muzaffer Ahmad yesterday called for bringing massive changes to the education system, saying that it is creating discrimination among the people and not highlighting the spirit of the liberation war.

He also called for transforming the existing three systems of education -- general, madrasa and English medium -- into a mother language-based unified system to safeguard the national integrity.

No government took any initiative to implement mother language-based uni-track education in the last three decades since the liberation war although the constitution calls for such system, Prof Muzaffer said while delivering a lecture on 'Education system: Aspect and achievement of the liberation war'.

The Liberation War Museum organised the lecture on its premises to mark the 10th founding anniversary of the museum.

Later, a cultural function was

also held as part of the anniversary celebrations where singers Subir Nandi and Rejwana Chowdhury Banyan performed.

## By-election in Gaibandha-4 on May 9

UNB, Dhaka

By-election in Gaibandha-4 will be held on May 9, according to an Election Commission announcement.

It said the last date for submission of nomination papers for the by-election is April 9 while nominations will be scrutinised on April 10. The last date for withdrawal of candidature is April 20.

The Deputy Commissioner of the district has been made Returning Officer while Gobindaganj Upazila Nirbahi Officer assistant Returning Officer to conduct the by-polls.

The parliamentary seat fell vacant following the death of M Abdul Motalib Akand on March 11 this year.

## DU teacher receives threat from extortionists

DU CORRESPONDENT

An unknown caller identifying himself as 'Kala Jahangir' issued a threat to Prof Md Selim Bhuiyan, a teacher of Dhaka University (DU), on Wednesday, saying that his family members would face serious danger if he does not pay money.

The proctor's office filed a case in this regard with Ramna Police Station after Prof Selim of management department informed the university authorities about the threat.

Prof Selim said he received a phone call at around 5:30pm from a youth who identified himself as Helal and asked him to talk to 'Kala Jahangir'.

'Kala Jahangir' then told Prof Selim to pay money but did not mention how much to be paid and when. He also gave a threat to Prof Selim that he would lose his family members if he does not pay.

Prof Selim along with Dhaka University Teachers' Association (Duta) General Secretary Prof Dr Mohammad Akhtaruzzaman yesterday met Vice-Chancellor Prof SMA Faiz and demanded security for his family members.

In a press statement yesterday, Duta condemned the threat and demanded punishment to the culprits.

Talking to The Daily Star, Prof Akhtaruzzaman said the teachers have been facing such threats frequently, but the university authorities remained indifferent.

"We asked the authorities to install caller identification device in telephones but no steps have been taken so far," he added.

## Cop killed in road accident

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A police constable was killed in a road accident near Nikunja in the city in the early hours of yesterday.

The dead was identified as Billal Hossain, 22, of the Armed Police Battalion.

Police and witnesses said a Dhaka-bound bus from Mymensingh ran over Billal while he was crossing the road after his VVIP duty near Lotus Kamal Bhaban at Nikunja.

He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where the attending doctor declared him dead.

His body was handed over to police after completion of autopsy.

Khilkhet police said no case has been filed in this connection.

## Obituary

Dr Joseph Gomes passed away due to sudden lung complications in Graz, Austria on March 20 at the age of 63, says a press release.

Khilkhet police said no case has been filed in this connection.

Dr Gomes, a Senior Scientific Officer at BCSIR, left for Austria in 1991. He was conducting and supervising research in the field of Enzyme Biotechnology at Graz Technical University.

He left behind his wife, two daughters and a son and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

Dr Gomes hailed from village Tuitul of Dhaka district.

## Appeal for help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shamsun Nahar Mahmuda, mother of a 13-year-old daughter, has sought financial assistance for her treatment as one of her heart valves has been damaged.

Shamsun Nahar, who hails from Dinajpur, has been struggling alone for her livelihood since her husband left her in 1998.

First she managed to earn a living by sewing clothes and through private tuition. Later, she got a job at an NGO and enrolled her daughter Sobhana Ahmed at Saint Joseph School.

But the sudden closure of the NGO rendered Shamsun Nahar jobless, throwing her into an uncertain future.

Recently, she was diagnosed with heart valve damage. Doctors have advised her to undergo operation. Otherwise, the other valve could be damaged.

But the poor mother is not in a position to afford her treatment. She even cannot afford three meals a day for her daughter.

She has appealed to generous people to extend a helping hand for her treatment for the sake of her little girl.

Contributions can be sent to Shamsun Nahar Mahmuda (Golap), Account No.-6213/38, Sonali Bank, Station Road, Dinajpur. Phone: 9355734, 0172-171517.

## Acute power crisis in Chittagong

### Aggrieved people lay siege to PDB office

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Frequent power outage in the port city for last few days is causing unbearable sufferings to city dwellers especially the students of ongoing Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations and hampering smooth production in industrial units amidst an average daily loadshedding of 150 megawatt.

Against the backdrop of such an acute power crisis, hundreds of people here yesterday laid a siege to Power Development Board (PDB) regional office demanding uninterrupted power supply.

The agitators gathered at Agrabad Badamtali intersection under the banner of Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB), Chittagong branch and then went to PDB Bhavan in procession chanting various slogans.

A brief rally was also held with Cab leader Nazir Ahmed in the chair before submitting a memorandum to the chief engineer of PDB Southern Region.

Speakers at the rally alleged that the city dwellers would not have suffered from acute loadshedding

had the major portion of total power generated at different plants in Chittagong not been taken away to Dhaka through the national grid line.

They said power shortage is seriously hampering the preparation of SSC examinees.

Giving a seven-day ultimatum to PDB authorities, the Cab leaders said they would go for continuous movement if their demand is not met by that time.

Chittagong has a daily demand of 470 MW power but presently the PDB could supply around 320 MW causing average loadshedding of 150 MW, sources said.

PDB Chief Engineer Aminul Islam admitted to having an erratic power supply and frequent loadshedding in the port city.

"We could not give enough power to city dwellers due to inadequate power generation. The crisis exists as some of our plants are not functioning properly," he told this correspondent in the afternoon.



Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB), Chittagong stages at demonstration in the port city yesterday protesting frequent loadshedding.

## 20 hurt as AL, BNP workers clash in Narsingdi

UNB, Narsingdi

At least 20 people were injured in a clash between Awami League and BNP supporters at Ghorashal Urea Fertilizer Factory yesterday over the transfer of its two workers.

Witnesses said the clash erupted at about 10:00am when pro-BNP workers laid a siege to the pro-AL CBA office, demanding cancellation of the transfer order.

At one stage, the CBA leaders and BNP workers locked in the clash that left 20 people injured from both sides.

The pro-BNP workers blamed the CBA leaders for the transfer of the two workers.

On information, police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

Of the injured, CBA President Amir Hossain Bhuiyan, Salam Sharif, Alamgir, Harun-ur-Rashid, Omar Farruk, Al Azad, Aminul Islam and Jinnat Ali were sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for treatment.

### DHAKA TODAY

**Speech contest**  
The 30th Japanese Language Speech Contest, organised by Dhaka Japanese Language Institute Alumni Association in cooperation with Embassy of Japan and Japanese Language Department of Dhaka University, will be held with Japanese Ambassador Matsushiro Horiguchi as chief guest. Venue: Hotel Abakash, Mohakhali. Time: 4.00pm.

**Art competition**  
Nazrul Institute organises an art competition for the children to mark the Independence Day. Venue: Institute premises, Dhanmondi. Time: 10.00am.

**JSD discussion**  
Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal organises a discussion. Venue: Bangabandhu Avenue. Time: 4.00pm.

**Workshop**  
Bangladesh Occupational Safety, Health and Environment Foundation organises a workshop on 'Towards a national policy for hawker of Bangladesh'. Venue: Hotel Sunderban. Time: 10.00am.

**Bapa rally**  
Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon organises a rally demanding cancellation of Fulbari Coal Extraction Agreement. Venue: Shahbagh intersection. Time: 10.30am.

**Story-reading session**  
Kathasahitya Kendra organises a session of reading stories on the liberation war. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 4.30pm.

## Dr Mushtaque honoured

Dr Mustaque Chowdhury, deputy executive director of BRAC and dean of James P Grant School of Public Health of BRAC University, has been awarded the 'Social Innovator of the Year' award recently, says a press release.

Brigham Young University, USA, presented the award to him in recognition of his contribution to making reading glasses available at an affordable price for the poor in rural areas of Bangladesh.

A pilot project in this regard has already started in Narsingdi. He is the first non-US citizen to receive this prestigious award.

Speaking at the award giving ceremony, Dr Chowdhury announced that the cash component of the award would be used in making glasses available free of cost to several thousands of ultra-poor women.

Dr Chowdhury is also a professor of population and family health at Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University, New York.

## WEATHER TODAY

### Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Jessore, Kusthia and Comilla in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, Met Office said in a forecast.

It said day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

Highest temperature 36.1 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 17.2 degree Celsius at Rajshahi and Ishwardi.

**The sun sets in the capital at 6:11pm today and rises at 5:58am tomorrow.**

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	34.0	24.2	81	25
Chittagong	32.2	22.7	80	79
Rajshahi	34.5	17.2	45	30
Khulna	34.2	23.4	73	39
Banshal	34.8	24.2	83	65
Sylhet	32.0	19.2	79	32
Cox's Bazar	31.8	22.0	75	75

## Death anniversary

Today is the second death anniversary of Ln Aminul Islam Miah, former chairman of Bangladesh Lions Foundation, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad and doa mahfil will be held at 25/17, Khiljee Road, Mohammadpur after Ashr prayers today and at Lions Bhaban, Agargaon at 7:00pm on March 27.

## Qazi Nurul Islam

Today is the 9th death anniversary of former joint secretary Qazi Nurul Islam, says a press release.

Islam died at Akron City Hospital in Ohio, USA on this day in 1997.

On the occasion, Quran-khawani and doa mahfil will be held to pray for the eternal peace of the departed soul.