

DONOR AGENCIES Saifur questions functions of their local offices

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday raised questions about functions of local offices of different donor agencies in the country when they frequently send missions before releasing any development fund.

"There are offices of both World Bank (WB) and International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Dhaka, but often we see their missions from headquarters in the name of assessment before taking any development project," Saifur told the journalists.

The finance minister was briefing newsmen after a cabinet committee meeting on purchase.

"Who bears the cost of these missions when we even see visit of 20 to 30 missions for a single project?" Saifur posed the question.

He returned from Singapore on Wednesday night after attending

the annual meeting of the WB and IMF.

Saifur was also critical of multi-lateral donor agencies as they recently said corrupt people deposit illegally earned money in the Swiss Bank.

"I have told them (WB and IMF) to ask the Swiss Bank first to stop such deposit," Saifur said.

On his return from Singapore, the finance minister told the journalists at the airport that he asked donors not to talk about corruption.

"Corruption is everywhere in the world. You have the charters of development and your objective is to reduce poverty. So, please ponder over your charters first," he said.

Asked about the release of the sixth instalment of the Poverty Reduction Growth Facility (PRGF), Saifur said there may be cut in the amount despite the government's success in many sectors.

"Yes, we have lapses in one or two sectors like oil price," he added.

PURCHASE COMMITTEE APPROVES 13 PROJECTS

The cabinet committee on purchase yesterday approved a total of 13 projects including a proposal to import two lakh metric tons of fertiliser.

Local fertiliser factories have failed to achieve production target due to power and gas crisis that forced the government to import fertiliser to meet the domestic demands, meeting sources said.

Another proposal was approved for building two 14-storey residential apartments for police officials in the city at a cost of Tk 26 crore.

Other projects include modernisation of police control room and appointment of consultant for secondary town integration protection project.

Hasina protests police attack during hartal

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina yesterday condemned police atrocities on hartal activists and warned that repression cannot desist them from their movement.

In a statement at the end of yesterday's countrywide hartal she said more than five hundred workers and leaders of the opposition combine were wounded in police action while more than 100 were arrested.

Hasina alleged that the government unleashed the BNP-Jamaat cadres inducted in the police to cripple the opposition. The assault on Mohammad Nasim MP, Saber Hossain Chowdhury and Asaduzzaman Noor MP was a calculated move as part of its heinous design, she said.

She demanded immediate and unconditional release of those arrested and withdrawal of 'false cases' against them.

The AL president asked the government to accept the reform proposals, which has assumed popular support.

She also congratulated the people for observing the hartal ignoring threats and repression.



Chittagong City Corporation dismantled unauthorised shops during an eviction drive at Jahar Hawkers' Market in the port city yesterday.

BAD WEATHER PM's visit to Jamalpur postponed

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's visit to Jamalpur district yesterday was postponed for inclement weather in the country for last two days.

She was scheduled to start for Dewanganj of Jamalpur at 3:30pm. "The visit was postponed in the wake of prevailing inclement weather caused by depression over the Bay," according to an official at the PMO.

Khaleda Zia was scheduled to inaugurate the newly built Pollakandi bridge and address a public meeting at Dewanganj.

A fresh schedule of her tour of the upazila would be announced later on, said the official.

The prime minister's visit to Laxmipur district was also postponed on Wednesday for the natural calamity.

Hasina's visit to Noakhali postponed

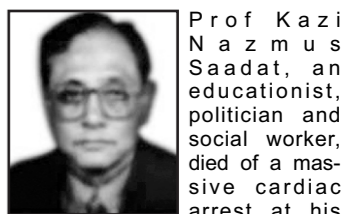
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leader of the Opposition and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina's visit to Noakhali district scheduled for today has been postponed for inclement weather caused by depression over the Bay in the country for last two days.

"The visit has been postponed in the wake of prevailing inclement weather," opposition leader's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad told The Daily Star.

Hasina was scheduled to address several rallies in Noakhali and roadside rallies in Comilla and Feni districts.

Obituary



Prof Kazi Nazmus Saadat, an educationist, politician and social worker, died of a massive cardiac arrest at his home in Jessore

town on Wednesday at the age of 65, says a press release.

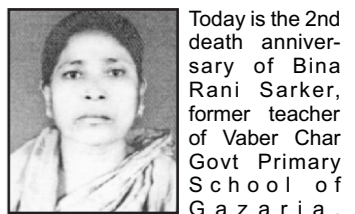
A former principal of the Government Sundarban College in Khulna, Prof Saadat also taught at Jessore City College and BL College in Khulna.

He was a member of Jessore Institute and adviser to the Political Science Association. He also contributed to national and regional newspapers.

Prof Saadat is survived by his wife, one son, three daughters and grandchildren.

His qulqhwani will be held at 27 RN Road after Asr prayers today.

Death anniversary



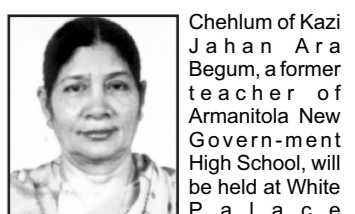
Today is the 2nd death anniversary of Bina Rani Sarker, former teacher of Vaber Char Govt Primary School of Gazaria, Munshiganj and

wife of Dr Sudhir Chandra Sarker, project coordinator of the Institute of Education Development of BRAC University, says a press release.

To commemorate the day, annual obsequies, religious functions and recital from the Gita will be held at her residence at Sahjanpur in the city.

Her son Debashis Sarker has requested all the relatives and admirers to attend the function.

Chehlum

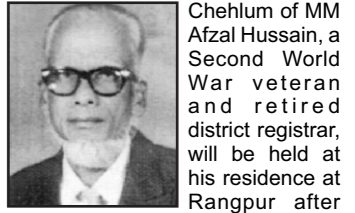


Chehlum of Kazi Jahan Ara Begum, a former teacher of Armanitola New Government High School, will be held at White Palace Community

Centre at Dhanmondi after Juma prayers today, says a press release.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the chehlum and pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

MM Afzal Hussain



Chehlum of MM Afzal Hussain, a Second World War veteran and retired district registrar, will be held at his residence at Rangpur after Juma prayers

today.

A milad mahfil and destitute feeding will be held on the occasion.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the milad mahfil for prayer for salvation of the departed soul.

SANITATION CONFERENCE ENDS S Asian countries pledge to achieve basic sanitation

ABDUL JALIL BHUYIAN from Islamabad

The Second South Asian Conference on Sanitation (SACOSAN-2) ended here yesterday with the participating countries reaffirming their commitment and political will to achieve the targets of basic sanitation in pursuance of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Dhaka Declaration of the first sanitation conference.

The two-day conference also adopted 'Islamabad Declaration' which reads sanitation being the basic human need is essential for

improvement of environment, health and quality of life.

It said half of the population in these countries have no access to proper sanitation and about one million men, women and children reportedly die annually due to water-and-sanitation-related diseases.

The declaration also calls for proper management of solid and liquid wastes, provision of proper sanitation facilities for maintaining hygienic environment and better urban planning for ensuring proper sanitation.

The conference at its concluding session decided to hold the

SACOSAN-3 in India in 2008, SACOSAN-4 in Sri Lanka in 2010 and SACOSAN-5 in Nepal in 2012.

Delegations from 11 countries Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, China, India, Cambodia, Indonesia, The Maldives and Myanmar took part in the conference.

The delegates included ministers, state ministers, senior civil servants, professionals, academics, civil society members and representatives of non-government organisations and development partners.



Hafiz Ahmad Majumdar, chairman of the Pubali Bank Board of Directors, unveils a CD titled 'Desh and Manusher Gan' at Biam auditorium in the city on Wednesday.

CD launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pubali Bank Limited launched a CD titled 'Desh and Manusher Gan' where 18 popular singers performed 31 songs aiming to promote Bangladeshi culture.

Hafiz Ahmad Majumdar, chairman of the Pubali Bank Board of Directors, unveiled the CD at Biam auditorium in the city on Wednesday where Pubali Bank Managing Director Khandakar Ibrahim Khaled was also present, says a press release yesterday.

Singers include Khalid Hossain, Aijit Roy, Fahmida Khatun, MA Mannan, Molay Kumar Ganguli, Papi Sarwar, Bulbul Mohalanabish, Yakub Ali Khan, Ferdous Ara, Kanok Chapa, Yasmin Mushtari, Kiron Chandra Roy, Sunon Chowdhury, Bulbul Islam, Zannat-e-Ferdousi, Sharmeen Shathi Islam, Chhanda Chakrabarti and Pagla Bablu.

One killed in landslide in Kasba

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

A day labourer was killed and two others were injured in a landslide when the earth of a trench collapsed on them at Jethagram village under Kasba upazila of the district yesterday morning.

According to hospital sources, Rubel Mia, 25, Alamgir Mia, 24, and Jahangir Hussain, 22, were working for an under-construction bridge there.

In the morning, they were digging a trench at the foot of the bridge at Jethagram village.

As the soil became soft by rain, its upper part collapsed on them.

As a result, Rubel died on the spot and Alamgir and Jahangir were injured.

The two were admitted to Kasba Upazila Health Complex in critical condition.

FOOD ADULTERATION 2 Ctg factory owners sent to jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A mobile court here in its first night-drive against food adulteration on Wednesday unearthed two unauthorised bakery and ghee factories at city's Jalalabad-Kulgaon area under Bayezid Bostami Police Station, and sent the owners of the factories to jail with one-month rigorous imprisonment.

The two businessmen are M Mostafizur Rahman, owner of Atique Food Products (New Star Ghee) and M Abul Kashem, a former army man, of Payel Food Products, sources said.

The two were also fined Tk 50 thousand and Tk 1 lakh respectively.

Special Metropolitan Magistrate Munir Chowdhury of Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) during its five-hour drive from 9:00pm on Wednesday unearthed the two illegal factories built in three semi-pucca and tin-shed houses at Baluchhara in Jalalabad-Kulgaon.

For the first time, a mobile court conducted its drive at night, sources said.

The court seized two thousand tins of substandard ghee and huge quantity of contaminated oil, stale eggs, different kinds of flavour, and perfume from the two factories. The interiors of the factories were also very unhygienic.

SKS invites application for stipends

BSS, Dhaka

Sena Kalyan Sangstha (SKS) yesterday invited applications from the wives and children of ex-servicemen, released or retired personnel from armed forces, studying in degree and higher classes, engineering, medical, agriculture, veterinary, textile, leather, ICMA, CA, marine academy or marine fisheries academy etc.

People who got GPA 2.50 and above in graduate level and 45 per cent and above marks in post graduate level are eligible to apply for the session 2006-2007, said an ISPR press release.

No more than two members of a family can apply for SKS stipend at a time at all levels. Children born after retirement are not eligible to apply.

Prescribed application forms will be available from all District Armed Services Boards and Sena Kalyan Sangstha's head office at Sena Kalyan Bhaban, 195, Motijheel Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000 by producing their pension or discharge book. It will also be available at web site <http://www.senakalyan.org>.

The last date for submission of the application is March 20, 2007.

District Armed Services Boards will submit all the application forms to head office of Sena Kalyan Sangstha by March 31, 2007.

For renewal of stipends, stipend holders will have to submit their promotion reports or marksheets duly countersigned by the head of the department or principal by March 31, 2007.

Applications are also invited for incentive stipend from the students who have obtained GPA 5 at HSC and diploma and equivalent level examinations and those who have stood 1st class 1st, 2nd and 3rd at degree and higher levels at the universities.

Marksheets, testimonial, paper cutting, one copy of passport size photo and copy of kindred roll duly signed by the records concerned should be attached to the application.



PHOTO: STAR

Guests pose for photograph along with the students at the launching ceremony of 'Ascent Education Development Trust', set up by Scholastica, a leading English medium school and college. Sitting from left are former secretary Syed Marghub Morshed, Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed, Information Minister M Shamsul Islam and Scholastica Chairperson Yasmeen Murshed.

CU ADMISSION FORM Student bodies to protest price hike

CU CORRESPONDENT

Different student bodies are preparing for agitation against the decision of Chittagong University (CU) authorities to increase the price of admission form.

Samajtantrik Chhatra Front (SCF) would announce their programme tomorrow against the hike, said SCF CU unit President Kanchan Sarkar.

"We would meet leaders of Progotishil Chhatra Jote, an alliance of the left-leaning student organisations, today and would decide our programme," he added.

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) CU unit would also protest the decision, said its General Secretary Ershad Hossain, adding that they would wage tougher agitation along with the general students.

At a meeting of the admission committee on Monday last, the university authorities decided to increase the price of admission form to Tk 300 from the previous year's Tk 250, sources said.

Reunion of JU English dept today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Department of English of Jahangirnagar University (JU) will hold its reunion on the campus today.

The day-long event is designed to act as a platform for the old students to meet the new and offer an opportunity for the incumbent students to showcase their talents.

Highlights of the day include staging of Sukumar Ray's Haw-Jaw-Baw-Raw-Law in English, performed by the students under supervision and direction of Prachyanaat, Dhaka. To mark the occasion, the department will launch its website as well as its language lab.

Former students of the department and their guests can register at the New Arts Faculty building between 11:00am and 12:00noon.

The department will be kept open house for the guests to enjoy the paintings and photographs displayed by the students. There will be a themed cultural programme 'Tutorial' (pop n quiz) in the afternoon, a reminiscences-session, and a meeting of the alumni body. The day will end with the performance of Haw-Jaw-Baw-Raw-Law at university amphitheatre Muktamancha.

ATTACK ON JURNOS Duja announces 4-day agitation programme

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University Journalists' Association (Duja) yesterday announced a four-day agitation programme demanding security of the journalists on DU campus and punishment to the culprits responsible for the attack on journalists at Modhur Canteen on September 16. Duja finalised the decision at an urgent general meeting on Wednesday night.

As part of the agitation, Duja will form a human chain in front of Aparejevo Bangla at 11:00am tomorrow and submit a memorandum to the Vice Chancellor on Sunday demanding permanent expulsion of the culprits from the university.

Since police failed to arrest any of the attackers even a week after filing of the case, Duja will lay siege to the Ministry of Home Affairs on Monday.

Prominent journalists, teachers, writers, intellectuals, cultural activists and students will hold a rally at Aparejevo Bangla on Wednesday to express solidarity with Duja.

At the meeting, members of the organisation expressed grave concern over the failure of the DU authorities and the police to take any actions against the Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists.

Duja filed a case against 12 BCL activists on September 17 for attempting on the lives of journalists and carrying illegal arms. Later, four small bombs were exploded in front of Modhur canteen and Duja office at TSC on September 18 and 19.

Duja president and general secretary is repetitively receiving threats over mobile phone to withdraw the case.

Earlier, DU authorities expelled four BCL activists temporarily for their involvement in the attack on journalists.

Meanwhile, Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), student wing of the ruling BNP, yesterday demanded immediate arrest and punishment of the BCL leaders who beat up the journalists and blasted several crackers in the last few days on DU campus.

In a statement JCD DU unit President Hasan Mamun and General Secretary Saiful Islam Firoz also demanded immediate expulsion of the culprits from the university.

While talking to The Daily Star, Firoz said if BCL wants to damage the congenial atmosphere of the campus, JCD along with general students would declare BCL unwanted on the campus.

WEATHER TODAY

Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at most places over the country in the next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy to heavy falls are also likely at places during the period, Met Office said, predicting that day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 28.5 degree Celsius was recorded at Jessore and Cox's Bazar and the lowest of 21.8 degrees at Feni.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:55pm today and rises at 5:48am tomorrow.

The 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	25.0	24.2	95	96
Chittagong	26.5	23.7	98	89
Rajshahi	26.0	24.3	99	80
Khulna	28.0	24.5	97	95
Barisal	28.0	24.8	100	100
Sylhet	27.7	24.2	96	85
Cox's Bazar	28.5	23.8	96	96