

JCD reunion tomorrow

DU CORRESPONDENT

A reunion of Jatiyatadabhi Chhatra Dal (JCD), the student wing of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), will be held tomorrow at the Dhaka University (DU) playground.

BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Tareq Rahman will speak as the chief guest at the reunion to be followed by an Iftar party organised by JCD central committee.

Sources said Tareq in his speech will give directions to the JCD leaders regarding the next general election.

DU unit General secretary Saiful Islam Firoz said 5,000 to 6,000 invited guests, including parliament members, chiefs of different political and student organisations, university teachers, editors of different newspapers and news agencies, are expected to attend the reunion.

District level JCD presidents and general secretaries from across the country are also invited to the reunion, he added.

Ershad doubts success of reform talks

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad has again expressed his doubt about the success of the dialogue between the ruling party and the opposition, saying that both the parties are determined to stick to their points.

The BNP would lose face if it agrees to meet even a single demand of the 14-party opposition

combine, he said at a meeting with the members of Rangpur Bar Association at his residence yesterday.

So, the BNP would not give up, he added. In such a situation, the people have nothing to do except seek divine blessings for a solution to the political impasse, said the JP chief.

BUS PLUNGE

Another body recovered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Body of an unidentified man was recovered yesterday by boatmen from Bangladesh river where a bus carrying garment workers plunged into the river on Friday.

Nobody claimed the body of the bearded man aged around 45 as of 8:00pm.

Emdad Hossain, manager of Arunima Sports Wear Ltd told The Daily Star last night that none of their workers is missing.

He said there were around 14

workers in the bus when it fell into the river, but all managed to swim to the shore.

Meanwhile, relatives of the missing bus driver Mofazzel Hossain Babu, 35, searched for his body in the river, but in vain.

Besides, the father of a missing garment worker was found wandering on the riverbank in search of his daughter.

Earlier on Friday night, the fire fighters pulled the bus from the river but did not find any body.

Hasina likely to go to US October 12

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League President and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina is likely to go to the United States on October 12.

She will fly to the USA by the British Airways, party sources said.

The opposition leader is likely to stay 10 days in America. She has extended Eid greetings to the people.

14-party calls hartal in Ctg for Oct 16

Reopening of mills demanded

UNB, Ctg

The Awami League (AL)-led 14-party opposition combine has called for a dawn-to-dusk hartal in Chittagong district on October 16 demanding payment of dues to workers and reopening of closed mills and factories in the industrial estate.

ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury, divisional coordinator of the opposition line up and Mayor of Chittagong, announced the shutdown and other programmes on completion of the proceedings of Janatar Adalat on the Shaheed Minar premises yesterday.

As part of the programmes, also aimed at ending the "misrule" of the alliance government, rallies will be held at the Shaheed Minar for seven days from tomorrow.

The opposition will bring out a truck procession and hold wayside meetings in the city on October 15.

The mayor also distributed Tk one lakh in cash to Reshma Begum, wife of police constable Abul Bashar Munshi who was killed during a blockade by 14-party alliance at Sonargaon upazila in Narayanganj about two months ago.

Withdraw decision to close PUST

Authorities urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The authorities of Pundra University of Science and Technology (PUST) of Bogra yesterday urged the government to withdraw its decision to close the institution.

At a press conference at the National Press Club in the city, they termed the government decision illogical as all the conditions for establishing a private university have been fulfilled.

In a statement Prof Dr Hosne Ara, vice-chairman of the university, said the university has an efficient board of directors, vice-chancellor, pro-vice-chancellor, adequate number of teachers and other infrastructures.

She said the first-ever private university in North Bengal was set up for spreading the knowledge of science and information technology in the region.

But its purpose will be upset if the university is not allowed to functioning, she added.

The university authorities also announced a month-long programme starting from tomorrow that includes roundtable, view-exchange meeting with different professional bodies, silent procession and sit-in in the capital to drum support for their demand.

Advocate Abdul Aziz Sarker, legal adviser, and MHM Shahjahan, chairman of the university, also spoke on the occasion.

Robber flees from police custody

A CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

A handcuffed robber has fled away from the custody of a police constable at Kaliganj Police Station on Thursday midnight.

The convicted Khalilur Rahman alias Mintu, 31, was arrested on Sunday from Palash at Narsingdi district. He was taken for two days of remand on Tuesday.

Police recovered the looted valuables from Fatullah of Narayanganj on the second day of remand and took him back to the police station. As soon as they reached the police station gate, Mintu suddenly ran away from the Police Constable Shafiqur Rahman and disappeared in a nearby market.

Mintu was involved in a robbery case at a house at Mukhtarpur village in Kaliganj on September 28.

Police is yet to nab him again. Admitting the incident, Police Super Shafiqul Islam of Kaliganj Police Station said steps have been taken against the concerned police officials and constables for their irresponsibility.



People throng to collect water from WASA tank lorry at Mitail Road in Rayer Bazar in the city yesterday as there is no supply of water for 15 days in the areas.

24-hr SKOP strike Oct 15

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad (SKOP) and different garment workers organisations yesterday called a 24-hour strike across the country on October 15 protesting the new labour law and proposed pay structure for the workers.

SKOP in a statement also urged all workers to observe a four-hour siege programme on the same day.

Ignoring the views of SKOP, the Minimum Wage Board proposed a pay structure that does not match with the expectations of the workers, it said adding that the law was passed hurriedly without giving an opportunity for discussion.

Jatiya Sramik League rejected the pay structure recommended by Minimum Wage Board for the readymade garment workers, urging all to launch a greater movement.

Terming the final recommendations unrealistic and a betrayal with the garment workers, it said the government was forced to pass the law in the face of strong opposition from the garment owners.

It is a farce that the export-oriented garment industries will give a basic salary of Tk 1,100 only to their workers, it mentioned.

An alliance of 16 garment workers organisations also urged the government to take action against the owners, as they did not implement the tripartite agreement signed in

June. "Owners make commitments, sign deals but do not implement them. The government should take action against this kind of cheat," said the alliance in a statement.

Bangladesh Garments Sramik Karmachari Federation (BGSKF) also rejected the proposed wage for the garment workers, saying it would not help maintain a congenial environment in the readymade garment (RMG) industry.

Housewife killed for dowry

UNB, Habiganj

A newly married woman was slaughtered allegedly by her husband for dowry at Kaurikandi village in Baniachang on Friday night.

The victim was identified as Yasmin Akhter, 20, wife of Shamim. They got married only one and a half months ago.

But her husband and in-laws always tortured her asking her to bring dowry from her father.

On Friday night, Shamim tortured her again and at one stage slaughtered her as she refused to comply, local people said.

Help save cancer patient Lina Appeals Try Foundation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Try Foundation, a voluntary organisation, has appealed to the generous people to provide financial assistance for the treatment of a college girl, who has been suffering from blood cancer.

Lina, a BA first year student at BAF Shaheen College, has been undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital since December 2005.

The organisation, which works for underprivileged people, made the appeal at a press conference in the city yesterday.

Doctors have suggested taking her to Tata Memorial Hospital in Mumbai for better treatment, which involves Tk 40 lakh, said her brother Shahed Ahmed Chowdhury, a student of English department at Dhaka University.

Try Foundation has also taken up a programme to share the joy of Eid

with the poor and deprived people.

Under the programme, it will distribute packets of milk, Shemai, sugar and lentil among the floating people in different areas of Dhaka and some other districts before the Eid.

"The objective of the programme is to inspire the well-off people to give out some money from their own Eid expenditure to underprivileged people," said Abida Ali, a member of Try Foundation.

She also urged the people willing to contribute to the programme to contact Try Foundation by Ramadan 22.

Interested persons can contact the organisation at House # 666 (New 28, 1st floor), Road 33 (New 11), Dhanmondi. Phone: 8124453. E-mail: tryfoundation2004@yahoo.com.



Secretary general level meeting of ruling 4-party alliance was held at Mintu Road in the city yesterday.

FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF QUAKE TODAY Pak group helps disabled quake victims find hope

REUTERS, Mansehra

Embarrassment is the least of 18-year-old Rozina Rehman's problems after her back was broken a year ago in the earthquake that killed 75,000 people and scarred the minds and bodies of many, many more.

The first anniversary of the quake is today, but the young woman remains too self-conscious to go back to school in a wheelchair, so she stays home with her parents.

"I am scared what people will say, I can't get out of this wheelchair now for life," says Rozina, who was dug out from the rubble of her home in Balakot, in Pakistan's North West Frontier Province, one of the towns hit hardest by the disaster.

The government said more than 700 people suffered serious spinal injuries resulting in partial or complete paralysis.

Milestone, a private Pakistani aid agency affiliated to Disabled Persons International, says the number is more than three times higher at around 2,500.

It also estimates about 15,000

persons suffered amputations due to injuries suffered in the quake.

Asim Zafar, Rozina's counsellor from Milestone, is himself a paraplegic, and wheelchair bound. He tells Rozina that if she can overcome her fears then she can become less dependent on others and find a useful role in life.

But not everyone who has suffered such horrific injuries is willing to listen.

Gulnaaz Bibi, a mother of five from Katchhilli village near Balakot, has so far refused to be moved from her bed to use the wheelchair provided.

But Nadia Bibi, 27, shows Milestone isn't spreading false hopes.

She was six months' pregnant when a falling rock broke her back at her home in the mountain village of Ganool, near Balakot.

Paralysed from the waist down, the muscles on her legs have wasted away, but she gave birth to a healthy baby girl, who she now tends for herself.

"She is a fighter and I am proud of her, though she has suffered so much at a young age," her father-in-law, Malik Farzaman, said.

With the help of other international relief agencies, Milestone has

distributed about 1,500 wheelchairs in Mansehra district. Nadia is the latest beneficiary.

"I feel more comfortable in my old wheelchair," she protested meekly but was finally shifted to her new sleek one in her in-law's quake-damaged home.

Umer Farooq, a health programme coordinator with the U.S. based Mercy Corps, said one of the biggest problems for people who suffered severe spinal injuries was passing urine and stools. Without proper help and hygiene, they will get bed sores.

"It is a psychological problem for them and puts a burden on their families who don't know how to deal with them," he said.

Zafar said there were hundreds of people in hospitals in Islamabad and Abbottabad who were not getting enough help, counselling, or resources to adapt to their disability.

Milestone plans to set up centres in the quake zone so that severely disabled people can support each other and earn a livelihood.

**WEATHER TODAY**

Light to moderate rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over Barisal, Chittagong, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Rajshahi and Khulna divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said in a forecast.

Highest temperature 35.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Mongla and lowest 23.0 degree Celsius at Bogra.

**The sun sets in the capital at 5.39pm today and rises at 5:53am 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	33.3	24.0	69	63
Chittagong	33.2	24.8	79	74
Rajshahi	33.8	24.6	83	81
Khulna	32.5	25.6	88	57
Barisal	32.0	25.0	80	86
Sylhet	33.8	23.8	70	69
Cox's Bazar	32.2	24.2	73	--

Depression over east central Bay remains stationary

UNB, Dhaka

The depression over east central Bay and adjoining area remained practically stationary yesterday.

It centred about 645 km south of Chittagong Port, 555 km south of Cox's Bazar Port and 665 km south-southeast of Mongla Port in the morning.

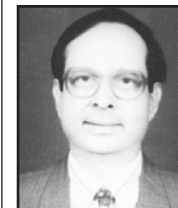
"It is likely to intensify further and move in a west-north-westerly direction", said a special weather bulletin of Met office.

Maximum sustained wind within 44 km of the depression centre is about 40 kph rising to 50 kph in gusts or squalls. Sea will remain moderate.

Maritime ports of Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and Mongla have been advised to keep hoisted local cautionary signal number one.

All fishing boats and trawlers over north Bay and deep sea have been advised to come close to the coast and proceed with caution till further notice.

Death anniversary



Today is the fifth death anniversary of Engineer Md Abdur Rahman, former member of (Planning) Bangladesh Water Development Board, says a press release.

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

Qulkhwani



Qulkhwani of Begum Rezia Alim, wife of late Alimuddin Biswas, former Customs Super, will be held at Prity Home, Flat-C 1/1, House 56, Road # 27, Dhanmondi R/A in the city after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

Rezia passed away on October 6 at the Central Hospital in the city at the age of 78.

She left behind her 2 sons and 4 daughters to mourn her death. She was buried at Azimpur New Graveyard in the grave of her husband.

**DHAKA TODAY**

**Launching ceremony**

The launching ceremony of 'The state of the poorest 2005-2006: Chronic poverty in Bangladesh' organised by Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) will be held. Venue: 11:00am.

**Photography**

The opening ceremony of a photography exhibition titled 'A portrait of South India' will be held. Venue: BTA Tower, NSU. Time: 11:00am.

**Iftar mahfil**

Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists and Dhaka Union of Journalists will hold an Iftar mahfil with Prime Minister Khaleda Zia as chief guest. Venue: National Press Club.



Jatiya Bastohara Jote forms a human chain at Mukhtangan in the city yesterday marking the World Habitat Day.