

MUJIB BORSHO Ctg bus owners provide free service

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg Owners of buses plying different long routes on Chattogram-Rangamati and Chattogram-Khagrachari roads yesterday provided free service to passengers on the birth centenary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

More than 150 buses usually ply these routes, carrying around 20,000 passengers every day. Manjurul Alam Manju, president of Chattogram Road Transport Owners Group told The Daily Star, "We are providing free service to thousands today. Our main purpose is to show respect to our Father of the Nation."

People use these routes for commutes to Hathazari, Raozan, Fatikchhari, Rangamati, Matiranga and Khagrachari.

Passengers were able to travel freely from 7am to 11pm yesterday.



BNP mayor candidate Dr Shahadat Hossain shakes hands with a resident while campaigning in Pahartoli area on Monday.

Of hugs, handshakes and coronavirus concerns CCC polls candidates continue to hold gatherings, despite govt instructions

MOSTAFA YOUSUF and ARUN BIKASH DEY

At a time when the government has declared shut down of educational institutions and discouraged gatherings as precautionary measures against the possible spread of coronavirus in the country, candidates for the upcoming port city polls seem unperturbed by it and are continuing to hold rallies and public meetings.

On March 16, Sheikh Fazle Rabbi, civil surgeon of Chattogram, at a press conference urged residents to refrain from such activities and warned of possible outbreak if cautionary measures are not taken in this regard.

But that did nothing to deter the mayor and councillor candidates and their supporters, as they remain busy holding gatherings to woo voters.

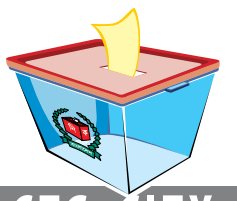
Some are even kicking it up a notch by not only shaking hands with residents but also embracing them, ignoring health experts' suggestion to avoid contact in light of the current situation.

Prof Dr Mahmudur Rahman, former director of the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR), told The Daily Star that the government has urged all to avoid gatherings and shut down schools, sporting events and movie theatres to contain the virus spread.

"We must take necessary steps so that it [coronavirus] cannot spread in a large scale", said Dr Mahmudur, also an epidemiologist.

While talking to candidates and their supporters, some seemed worried while most tried to blame the Election Commission for not postponing the polls, slated to be held on March 29.

Yesterday, Manjurul Alam Talukdar, general secretary of Swecchasebok



CTG CITY POLLS 2020

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Bangabandhu's 46 murals inaugurated

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A total of 46 murals of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman were inaugurated on as many union parishad compounds in Thakurgaon yesterday.

Of them, 21 murals of the Father of the Nation were inaugurated during a programme held at Thakurgaon Sadar Upazila Parishad.

The rest 25 were unveiled at different events held locally, DC office sources said.

At the Sadar Upazila Parishad programme, Ramesh Chandra Sen, lawmaker of Thakurgaon-1 constituency, unveiled the plaque containing the names of 21 union parishads.

The District Administration had taken the initiative to set up Bangabandhu's mural in each union parishad complex in the district, marking Bangabandhu's birth centenary.

Accordingly, the murals have already been installed at 46 union parishads (UPs) out of total 53. The rest seven are yet to be set up as the UPs do not have permanent compounds.

Respective union parishads spent money from their own funds to complete the project.

While addressing the meeting as special guest, Deputy

Follow ideals of Bangabandhu

Speakers urge youths

BSS, Rangpur

Academics yesterday urged youths to follow the ideals of Bangabandhu for building a prosperous "Sonar Bangla"

They made the call at an event, organised to celebrate the birth centenary of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and National Children's Day-2020 at Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur.

The university chalked out various programmes including placing wreaths at the mural of Bangabandhu, planting tree saplings and offering special prayers.

The university's vice-chancellor inaugurated the event as chief guest.

A unique tribute

Sylhet youth walks 100km from Tungipara to Dhanmondi 32

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A youth from Sylhet is walking from Gopalganj's Tungipara to Dhaka city's Dhanmondi 32, as a tribute to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on his birth centenary.

Kazi Sahi began his walk, which he termed "One day for Bangabandhu", on Monday afternoon, after paying homage at Bangabandhu's mausoleum. He reached Faridpur's Bhanga upazila yesterday noon, Sahi told this correspondent over phone.

"Although Dhanmondi 32 is around 150 kilometres away from Tungipara, I'll walk exactly 100 kilometres to commemorate Bangabandhu's birth centenary," Sahi added.

He will walk 99 kilometres from Tungipara, then take a ride to Dhaka, and will start walking again when he is one kilometre away from Dhanmondi 32, he explained.

Sahi finished his walk around 11pm yesterday and paid tribute at the portrait of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in front of Bangabandhu Memorial Museum at Dhanmondi 32.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

5 killed in road accidents

STAR REPORT

At least five people were killed and 19 injured in road accidents across the country in the last two days, report our correspondents and a news agency.

In Faridpur, a man was killed and 15 were injured after a bus of Mallik Paribahan collided with a truck in Maligram Kolatola area of Bhanga upazila around 12:30am yesterday.

The deceased was identified as bus driver Masud Mia (50). Quoting locals, police said Masud died on the spot.

The injured were taken to Faridpur Medical College Hospital, police said, adding that they seized the bus.

In Jamalpur Sadar upazila, an elderly man was killed and four were injured after a CNG-run auto-rickshaw carrying them overturned in Nandina Kharkharia area of the upazila around 1pm yesterday noon.

The deceased was identified as Fazlur Rahman (62).

The accident took place after the front wheel of the auto-rickshaw got detached, leaving Fazlur dead on the spot, said police.

The injured took first-aid from local hospitals.

The auto-rickshaw driver fled the scene after the incident, but police seized the vehicle, they added.

In Dinajpur, Sadeka Begum (55) was killed after a tractor hit her in Hakimpur upazila yesterday.

Police said the accident occurred when Sadeka was walking home.

As she arrived at Singrapara village, a tractor hit her from the back, leaving her critically injured.

She died while being taken to Rangpur Medical College Hospital, according to law enforcers.

The driver and helper fled with the vehicle, they added.

In Jashore Sadar upazila, two youths were killed on the spot after their motorcycle hit a roadside tree in Rajapur-Danga Boyra area around 8:30pm on Monday, said law enforcers.

The deceased were identified as Sumon (21) and Sabuj Hossain (19), reports news agency BSS.

A case was filed in this connection.



To prevent the spread of coronavirus, the month-long Chattogram International Trade Fair at port city's Railway Pologround was indefinitely postponed. This left the premises virtually deserted, with stalls remain set up but unattended. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

3 'Allahr Dal' members held

BSS, Khulna

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested three members of "Allahr Dal" in Khulna city on Monday night.

The arrestees were identified as Rakib Hasan (24), assistant nayek of the banned militant outfit in Jashore; Ashikuzzaman Ashikul (36), and Shafiqul Islam (39).

Acting on a tip-off, a team of Rab-6 conducted the drive in Food Ghat-4 Jame Mosque area under ward-21 around 11:30pm and arrested the three, said a Rab press release yesterday.

Rab also seized a huge number of jihadi books, leaflets, a mobile phone and a SIM card from their possession.

During interrogation, they said they used to attend the militant outfit's clandestine meetings regularly and raise fund for running their activities, the release added.

Income tax officials vow to enhance revenue for dev

BSS, Rangpur

Income tax officials at a discussion in Rangpur yesterday vowed to deliver best services to taxpayers and enhance revenue earning in order to accelerate the national progress.

They pledged this at an event arranged by Tax Commissioner Office of Taxes Zone-Rangpur at its Bangabandhu Corner.

The programme was organised to celebrate the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and National Children's Day-2020.

Tax Commissioner for Taxes Zone-Rangpur Abu Hannan Delwar Hossain presided over the discussion.

The event was attended by officials and employees of his office as well as invited guests.

On the occasion, former professor of Bangla at Rangpur Carmichael College Mohammad Shah Alam discussed the life and works of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Additional Tax Commissioner of Taxes Zone-Rangpur Sheikh Md Moniruzzaman and Vice President of Rangpur Taxes Bar Association Advocate Dipak Kumar Saha addressed the event as special guests.

Moderated by Deputy Commissioner of Taxes (Headquarters) Sumon Kumar Barman, commissioners of Taxes Md Nazrul Islam, Mahmudul Hasan and Nur Mohammad and Tax Inspector Mahibul Islam also spoke.

Earlier, led by Tax Commissioner Abu Hannan Delwar Hossain, officials and employees of the office placed wreaths at the mural of Father of the Nation on Bangabandhu Square in the morning.

The speakers discussed lifelong struggles and sacrifices of Bangabandhu and his unparalleled leadership that united and inspired people to fight the Liberation War.

Prof Shah Alam urged everyone to carry the ideals of Bangabandhu in conscience, thought and mind to realise his dream through building a developed "Sonar Bangla" to pay due respect to the great leader.

The tax commissioner urged income tax officials and employees to put sincere effort to increase revenue earning.

Later, a doa mahfil was arranged seeking divine blessings for the departed soul of Bangabandhu and continuous prosperity of the country under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

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