

Metropolitan

Mohiuddin Ahmed hospitalised

Mohiuddin Ahmed, a veteran Awami League leader, was admitted to Suhrawardy Hospital in a critical condition yesterday, reports UNB.

He is undergoing treatment at the Coronary Care Unit (CCU) of the hospital as he suffered a cerebral haemorrhage on Sunday, family sources said.

Speaker hosts luncheon

Speaker Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury yesterday hosted a luncheon at the Sangsad cafeteria in honour of the working journalists covering the current budget session, reports BSS.

Deputy Speaker Advocate Abdul Hamid was also present.

President, PM greet Amir of Qatar

President Abdur Rahman Biswas has felicitated Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, the Amir of Qatar, on the occasion of that country's national day today, reports UNB.

In a separate message, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina greeted Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, the Amir of Qatar, on the occasion of his country's national day.

Tuition

BUET student wants to teach standard one - 'O/A' students of Scholastica/Mapple-Leaf/B.I.T./South Breeze/Green-Heard/Aga Khan/American Intl. School. Faruk-9334900 S-486



Jatiyatobadi Chhatra Dal brought out a procession in the city yesterday demanding release of acting JCD president Nasiruddin Pintu. Police picked up Pintu from city's Shishu Park area Sunday. —Star photo

JCD agrees to hold jt-meet to end stalemate at DU

By DU Correspondent

The leaders of Ganotantrik Chhatra Oikya (GCO) yesterday met the leaders of Jatiyatobadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) at Madhus canteen of the Dhaka University following the request from the Vice-Chancellor to mediate holding of a joint meeting of BCL, GCO and the university authorities.

Accepting the proposal of a joint meeting, the leaders of JCD said they would think of withdrawing the strike if the bona fide students of the residential halls, ousted by the BCL, were rehabilitated in their respective halls in presence of the student leaders of both parties, journalists, leaders of Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA) and the university officials.

Abdul Khaleq, Mosharraf Hossain and Monir Hossain represented the JCD while Abdullahi Kaum, Aslam Khan were present at the meeting on behalf of the GCO.

Chhatra League also accepted the proposal and said it was ready to sit across the table in a bid to end the ongoing crisis in the university.

GCO leaders talking to The Daily Star said that they were optimistic of ending the ongoing stalemate through the proposed meeting in a day or two.

Meanwhile, students of the university have been passing days amidst grave uncertainty, thinking whether their examinations would be held as per the schedule or not. The Honours and Masters degree final examinations under different departments are scheduled to begin from September 15.

The university authorities are yet to announce fresh schedule for the examinations, already postponed due to the volatile situation on the campus.

Meanwhile, JCD enforced the eighth day of its indefinite strike yesterday at the university. JCD called the strike on August 26, protesting the "police attack" on its activists, presence of armed outsiders in the residential halls, and demanding release of its arrested leaders and activists.

JCD brought out a procession yesterday on the campus and held a rally at the Aparajeo Bangla of the university. The JCD rally was addressed, among others, by Abdul Khaleq, Habibunnabi Shohel, Monwar Hossain Rana, ABM Mosarraf Hossain and Monir Hossain.

The JCD leaders demanded release of arrested activists, including its president Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anney and acting president Nasiruddin Pintu.

Meanwhile, the situation on campus remained unchanged till yesterday with the armed terrorists of JCD and BCL staying in the residential halls. Armed cadres, most of whom are outsiders, were seen guarding the entrance to the halls.

Most of the residential students have already left their dormitories fearing fresh clashes between the rival student groups. In some halls, canteens were closed due to the thin presence of students.

Police have been deployed in each hall of the university to avert untoward incident.

UNB adds: Female students belonging to Chhatra Union arranged a press conference at the teachers lounge in TSC to immediately arrest armed terrorists whose portraits are being published in different dailies.

It urged the administration to wipe out all terrorists and restore peace and academic atmosphere in all education institutions including colleges and universities.

It also urged the different political parties to prohibit armed cadres of their respective organisations.

Postponement of DU exams

All examinations scheduled to be held at the Arts Building and Karzon Hall centres of Dhaka University between September 7-12 has been postponed due to the prevailing unrest on the campus. Fresh schedule will be announced soon. Other exam schedules will remain unchanged, says a Dhaka University press release.

More than 9 lakh govt employees in country

Education Minister A H K Sadek told the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday that the total number of officers and employees as per record of the Establishment Ministry is 9,39,658, of which the number of officers is 1,20,700, reports BSS.

Replying to a question from Moulana Delwar Hossain Sadee (Jamaat-Pirojpur), he said the above number is 0.84 per cent of the country's population.

In reply to another question from Talukder Abdul Khaleque (AL-Bagerhat), the minister said 13 deputy secretaries were now working as officers on special duty (OSD).

Replying to a question from Jafrul Islam Chowdhury (BNP, Chittagong), the minister said the present government is discouraging contractual appointments. He, however, said there is no comprehensive plan to cancel all such appointments.

Discussion on tax reforms

By Staff Correspondent

The government officials failed to persuade the general people of the country that the financial sector reform was aimed at improving the economic performance of the nation.

This was observed by Dr Sadaat Hossain, secretary, Internal Resources Division and chairman, National Board of Revenue on Saturday. He was speaking as the chief guest at a meeting on "Bangladesh Tax Reform: Current and Future Agenda" in a city hotel.

Hailing the fruits of a free market, he said, there was no second opinion within the major political parties about the open market policy.

The NBR Chairman said, the biggest weakness of the financial sector reform was the lack of public relations efforts on the part of the government. "Therefore misunderstanding and misgivings exist in the minds of the people about the intention and spirit of the reforms," he said.

Clean environment for healthy living stressed

Health and Family Welfare Minister Salahuddin Yusuf yesterday called upon all government agencies concerned with health and environment to come forward and join hands in ensuring a healthy environment in the country, reports BSS.

He said a clean environment was essential for healthy living and inter-sectoral coordination was a pre-requisite to achieving that.

The minister was speaking as the chief guest at the inaugural session of a two-day workshop on "health and environment" at a city hotel.

About 40 participants from

the ministries of Health, Environment, Agriculture, Education, Local Government, Industries, Commerce, the Department of Environment and Bangladesh Road Transport Authority are taking part in the workshop to draft recommendations for incorporation in an action plan to be prepared on health and environment.

Organised by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in cooperation with World Health Organisation (WHO), the inaugural session of the workshop was chaired by the director general of Health Services Prof A K Shamsuddin Siddiquey.

Health Secretary Muhammad Ali, WHO country representative Dr W Hardzotanojo and director of Primary Health Care Dr A M Zakir Hussain also spoke on the occasion.

The minister gave emphasis on giving health and environmental education to the people through different mass media to make them aware of the issues.

Referring to health and environmental hazards created by different industrial wastes, municipal garbage, noise, black smoke from automobiles and unhygienic sanitation, he said every citizen should be conscious of his responsibility in this regard.

Referring to his recent visit to the Sir Salimullah Medical College Hospital campus, Yusuf said the class four employees were there lying in slum conditions, creating an environment favourable to drug trafficking and other unhealthy activities.

Father, son die of arsenic poisoning

Health Minister Salahuddin Yusuf yesterday told the Jatiya Sangsad that two persons have died of arsenic poisoning in Laskar Union of Fakirhat thana in Bagerhat district, reports BSS.

Making a statement on a newspaper report on arsenic poisoning, the minister said that one patient was admitted to Khulna hospital with arsenic poisoning.

Yusuf said the victims were father and son. He said one victim was earlier taken to Calcutta for treatment and arsenic was found in his blood.

He said that reports of arsenic poisoning also came from Rampal thana of the district.

Yusuf said all the tubewells in the affected areas were sealed and the people instructed to take water from deep tubewells and to boil it before drinking.

He said a medical team from the NIPSOM would leave today for Bagerhat to assess the situation. The team will stay there for two weeks.

'Implement UN charter to end discrimination against women'

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad yesterday called upon the government to immediately adopt and execute completely the UN charter for abolition of all discrimination against women to end women's backwardness, reports BSS.

Addressing a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club of the eve of the 15th anniversary of declaration of the UN charter for abolition of all discrimination against women today, Mahila Parishad general secretary Ayesha Khanam urged Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to take appropriate steps for complete adoption and execution of this charter by the Bangladesh Government.

Ayesha Khanam regretted that a part of the charter, which was adopted by the government in 1984, was not being implemented and demanded a review, evaluation and proper action in this regard so that the adopted portion of the charter could be implemented countrywide for ending endless discrimination against women.



Birth anniversary

The 72nd anniversary of birth of former minister S M Shafiqul Azam will be observed today, says a press release.

In observance of the day the Shafiqul Azam Memorial Committee will award Shaful Azam literary award '96 to meritorious students of Dr. Muhammadul Haque Government Primary School and Latifa Khatun Furkhanis Madrasah at a function in Chittagong.

The Prize will be distributed by Begum Shafiqul Azam at a function to be held at Azam Club on September 7. Different socio-cultural organisations will hold discussion meeting in observance of the day.

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30% of the post will be reserved for the freedom fighters, 10% for the female candidates and 5% for the tribal people and district quota will be maintained. The candidates who are already in service should apply through proper channel. The candidates must submit postal order amounting to Tk 50/- (Taka fifty) only (non-refundable) in favour of Leather Research Institute, BCSIR, Dhaka along with their applications which should reach the undersigned on or before 15th September, 1996 during office hours.

The age of the candidates for the above mentioned posts will be calculated as on 31st August, 1996.

Dr Md Azizur Rahman
Director-in-Charge
Leather Research Institute
BCSIR, Dr Kadrat-E-Khuda Road
Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205

DFP-19511-31/8
G-1024



Salah Uddin Yusuf (3rd-left), Minister for Health and Family Welfare speaking at a seminar on "HIV/AIDS in Bangladesh," organised by Social Marketing Company in association with PSI Population Services International Hotel Purbani International, Dhaka. August 29, 1996. Funded by USAID.

Representatives of government, donors, UN organisations, NGOs, private sector and academicians attended the seminar. —SMC photo

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