

Metropolitan

BNP alleges AL conspiring to capture centres in UP polls

By Staff Correspondent

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan has alleged that the ruling party leaders were mounting pressure on the local administration for setting up polling centres for the forthcoming Union Parishad elections at places of their convenience.

In a statement issued Thursday the BNP leader further alleged that in some cases attempts were being made to transfer the Election Commission officials or harass them.

"As a result, fears of rigging and terrorism by the ruling party even in the local government elections are also surfacing," Mannan Bhuiyan said adding that such practices would also destroy the total electoral system and enable the ruling party to occupy the polling stations.

"This crucial polls would also be turned to another farce," he said.

Mannan Bhuiyan called on the ruling party to stop "the blueprint of capturing the polling centres by dint of terrorism or face resistance from the BNP."

He also reiterated the demand for resignation of the Chief Election Commissioner and said, "No fair polls could be held with the present CEC in power."

"We'll compel him (CEC) to resign if he does not volunteer his resignation. Because, by this time, he has proved that no poll is safe in his hands," he said.

New NGO formed

A new NGO has been formed to work in the field of nutrition and environmental awareness mainly among the country's distressed mother and children, reports UNB.

Headed by Shah Didarul Alam the NGO - 'Nutrition and Environmental Awareness Programme' (NEAP) will concentrate on developing educational videos on nutrition and publications on environmental issues, a press release said yesterday.

Ataul Karim, a former foreign secretary, is one of the five members at the NEAP's advisory committee, according to the release.

Fire at city garments factory

By Staff Correspondent

Some machinery and a large quantity of clothes were gutted in a fire in a garments factory at Banani in the city early Thursday.

The blaze that broke out on the third floor of the five-story Elegance Garments Ltd, spread to the entire floor within a short time, said Fire Service sources.

The cause of the fire could not be ascertained till Thursday.

Nine units of the Fire Brigade took around two hours to extinguish the blaze.

Gulshan police said, a general diary was filed by the Managing Director of the garments factory.

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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer (RHD)
Sylhet Road Division, Sylhet
Phone No: 716339

Tender Notice

1. Tender Notice : 59 of Sylhet Road Division, No 1996-97.
2. Name of works : Tender for construction of 97.56m long Bailey bridge on Sari River (in diversion road) at 37th KM of Sylhet-Tamabil road under Sylhet Road Division during the year 1996-97.
3. Head : 266 (Development).
4. Estimated cost : Tk 10,11,694/00
5. Earnest money : Tk 20,234/00
6. Estimate approved : Additional Chief Engineer, RHD, Comilla Zone, Comilla.
7. Time allowed : 20 (Twenty) days.
8. Name of offices where receiving the tender : Additional Chief Engineer, RHD, Comilla Zone, Comilla/Divisional Commissioner, Sylhet/Superintending Engineer, (RHD) Road Circle, Sylhet/Superintending Engineer, RHD, Monitoring & Evaluation Circle, Dhaka/undersigned/Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Moulvibazar/Sunamgonj & Hobigonj.
9. Name of offices where selling the tender : Divisional Commissioner, Sylhet/undersigned/Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Moulvibazar/Sunamgonj/Hobigonj/Planning & Design Division, Comilla/Planning & Programming Division, Dhaka/Sub-Divisional Engineer, RHD, Road Sub-Division, Sylhet/Golapgonj/Biswanath & Mechanical Sub-Division, Sylhet.
10. Last date of selling : 29-12-96 up to office hours.
11. Date of receiving : 30-12-96 at 12-30 PM.
12. Date of opening : 04-01-97 at 12-45 PM.
13. Date of lottery : 05-01-97 at 11-30 AM.
14. Eligibility of contractors : Under RHD Department A to C special category contractor and Sylhet Road Circle, D special category contractors.

Md Muzammel Haque
Executive Engineer, (RHD)
Road Division, Sylhet



Visitors at the Third Dhaka Book Fair in the city yesterday. — Star photo

Young man found dead in city

By Staff Correspondent

A young man, missing since Sunday last, was found dead at Khilgaon under Shahjibagh thana in the city yesterday morning.

Police recovered the body of Habib, 20, son of Chan Miah of East Hazipara, from a low lying area at Khilgaon at about 11 am. His hands and legs were tied when the body was found yesterday, said police adding that there was no major injury marks over the body.

Habib's mother, Morjina Khatun, filed a case on Tuesday alleging that her son was kidnapped by a gang. She accused six persons for kidnapping Habib, police said.

The reason behind the killing could not be known immediately. However, police suspected that the killing was a sequel to previous enmity.

None was arrested in this connection till last night. The body was sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

4 HR bodies demand jail reform

By Staff Correspondent

Four human rights organizations have urged the government to enter into a dialogue, at the initiative of the home minister and announce implementation of jail reform measures for resolving the 'jail revolt' problem.

In a joint statement yesterday, they also called upon the government to control its forces.

"We are deeply concerned at the attitude of the authorities and demand reconciliation, negotiation and jail reform rather than punitive action and retribution," said the statement.

They said that after a jail riot during the caretaker government of Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, a number of recommendations were made for various remedial measures and reforms. They observed that most of those remedial measures were not followed by the authorities.

The signatories to the statement include AF Hasan Arif of Odhikar, Fazlul Huq of Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust, AHM Lutfur Rahman Shahjahan of Jatiyao Aijibi Parishad and Saira Rahman of Ain-o-Sahih Kendra.

The statement said, "Extreme overcrowding, dismal hygienic conditions, poor dietary provisions, corruption and maladministration, non-availability of the Jail Code, physical abuse and random use of letters have turned the jail regime into a powder keg."

"The authorities are looking at it only as a law and order situation and is deploying paramilitary and police force to quell the revolt. This is an extremely dangerous attitude to take and may obscure very basic questions of fundamental human rights and unnecessary bloodshed," said the statement.

Prize distribution ceremony of London Grace School

By Staff Correspondent

The annual prize distribution ceremony of the London Grace School was held on Sunday last. ASM Abdur Rab, Minister of Shipping, was the chief guest according to a press release.

"Qualitative improvement in the education sector is the only alternative for us to bring the nation at par with the developed countries," the minister said in his speech adding that the contribution of the kindergarten schools in the educational arena was noteworthy.

Mafuda Khan Erin, chairperson of the school, presided over the prize distribution ceremony which was conducted by Wahida Ali Luna in coordination with Tahmina Hasan Lovel, and Samira, the release added.

Earlier, a week-long cultural and sports programmes was held at the school which was concluded with annual prize distribution ceremony.

The programme was inaugurated by the executive Editor of the Daily Janakantha, Borhan Ahmed.

Call to remain alert against anti-Liberation forces

State Minister for Information Prof. Abu Sayeed yesterday urged the people to remain vigilant against the intrigues of the anti-Liberation forces, reports BSS.

"The intrigues of the anti-Liberation forces are still on," Prof. Sayeed said at a function organised in observance of the Silver Jubilee of independence by Banghabandhu Parishad and Awami League at Kalatia College premises in Keraniganj.

The state minister said, "Now we will have to participate in another war of liberation against hunger and poverty."

Prof. Sayeed said the present government under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was pledge-bound to establish Sonar Bangla as dreamt by Banghabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to bring smiles on the faces of the downtrodden.

The state minister placed wreath at the smriti sandha in Keraniganj built in memory of 11 local freedom fighters and other unknown martyrs.

Presided over by Mr. Emdad Hossain the function was addressed, among others, by Mariam Begum MP, politician Kazi Arif Ahmed, Poet Shamsur Rahman, educationist Dr. Mustafa Nurul Islam, Journalist Ajoy Roy, architect Mazharul Islam, artiste Asaduzzaman Noor, columnist Wahidul Huq, Krisak League leader Sheikh Golam Kabir and freedom fighter Shamsul Arefin.

7 alleged dacoits held in city

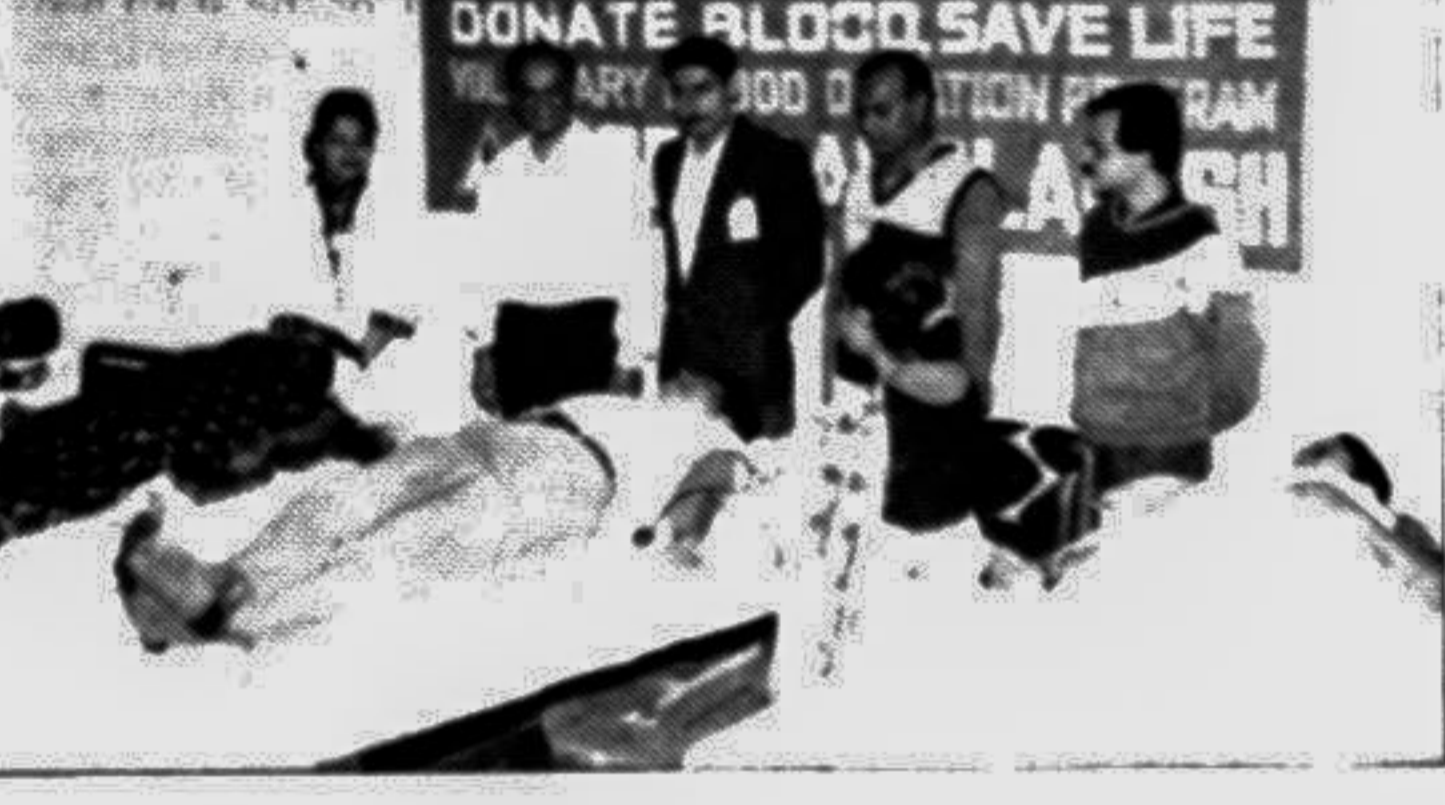
Police arrested seven persons on charge of dacoity from gabtoli Inter-District Bus Terminal in the city Thursday night, reports BSS.

A team of Mirpur police, acting on a tip off, arrested seven alleged members of an inter-district dacoity gang from a Satkhira bound night coach at 9-30 pm. Police also recovered four daggers and one knife from their possession.

The arrested persons are: Biplob, Matiar Rahman, Sayed Shaikh Alias Alal, Nasim Hawlader, Abdus Sattar Hawlader Alias Jalil, Mohammad Shajahan and Babul.

Police said, the arrested persons are said to be members of an inter-district dacoity gang. They boarded the coach in disguise of passengers to commit dacoity on way to Satkhira.

A case was registered with Mirpur police station in this connection.



UCEP-Bangladesh organised a voluntary blood donation programme at its head office at Mirpur, and the other division offices at Chittagong and Khulna Thursday as a part of its observance of UCEP Week '96. Prof. (Dr.) Ahmadullah Mia, Director UCEP-Bangladesh formally inaugurated the programme in the city. UCEP employees and teachers took part in this programme and about one hundred bags of blood were collected through this campaign. In order to promote voluntary blood donation programme and to fulfill the increasing demand in the country, UCEP-Bangladesh has been organising such blood donation programme for the last few years. —UCEP photo

Palli Parishad under consideration: Zillur

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman has said government is considering to set up Palli Parishad (village council) as an organ of local government body with a view to eradicating poverty and illiteracy, reports UNB.

"The objectives of independence are to remove poverty, hunger and illiteracy from the country," he said, while inaugurating a poverty eradication and employment generation project in Bhairab yesterday.

The minister said the Government is implementing projects in the dry season to build up infrastructure at village level by involving the rural poor.

A total of 114 projects have been undertaken in Bhairab for the next dry season for poverty alleviation and employment generation.

It is not possible to remove poverty without expanding education rapidly, Zillur said, mentioning that the government has made highest budgetary allocation for the education sector.

The private sector will have to come forward in eradicating illiteracy and alleviating poverty alongside government efforts, he said.



Shipping Minister ASM Abdur Rab attended as chief guest in the annual prize giving ceremony of London Grace School in the city recently.

Russia welcomes water treaty

The Russian Federation has welcomed the Indo-Bangla Ganges water sharing treaty, saying that it had paved the way for solution of other outstanding issues between the two countries through negotiations, reports UNB.

"Russia regards the signing of the Ganges water-sharing treaty as an example of constructive solution of contentious issues between neighbouring states, bound by common history," said a press release issued by the Russian embassy in the city Thursday.

The accord on sharing the Ganges water between Bangladesh and India was signed by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her Indian counterpart H D Deve Gowda in New Delhi on December 12.

The press release said the 30-year agreement had removed the problem, creating difficulties for many years in the relation between the two countries and also hampering their steady development.

"In Moscow, we proceed from the belief that other problems, existing between states in South Asia and beyond, can also be solved through negotiations on the basis of goodwill and taking into account each other's interests."

Khasru arrives in Delhi

A six-member delegation led by State Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Abdul Matin Khasru, arrived New Delhi yesterday morning on a six-day study mission to India, reports BSS.

The delegation, during its stay, will study the functioning of the National Human Rights Commission, Lok Adalat System as well as the NGOs dealing with human rights matters.

Obituary

Humaira Chowdhury, wife of Justice Shah Abu Sayeed Mominur Rahman of High Court division of the Supreme Court died yesterday in a Bangkok hospital at 11:30 am. She was suffering from lung cancer from long. She was 50, says a press release.

She left behind her husband, a son, a daughter and a host of well wishers and relatives to mourn her death. Her body will arrive in the city tomorrow by a Biman flight at 11:30 pm. Her *namaz-e-janaza* will be held on Monday at Kakral Mosque after Zohr prayers and she will be buried at Banani Graveyard.

The *qudhu'ani* of Humaira will be held at her Farmgate residence on Tuesday, after Asr prayers.

Kutubuddin's photographic show begins in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Dec 20: A four-day photographic exhibition of photo-journalist Kutubuddin Chowdhury of the Daily Nayabangla began at the newly constructed Chittagong Press Club today, reports BSS.

Vice-Chancellor of Chittagong University Prof Abdul Mannan inaugurated the exhibition as chief guest while Press Club President Mohammad Idris presided over the inaugural function.

President of Chittagong Union of Journalists Akhterun-Nabi, President of Chittagong Photographic Society Murtaza Taufiqul Islam, Secretary of Chittagong Press Club Helaluddin Chowdhury and General Secretary of Chittagong Photo-Journalists Association Tapash Barua were, among others, who spoke on the inaugural ceremony.

Confce of Mohila Parishad held

By Staff Correspondent

The 9th conference of Bangladesh Mohila Parishad Dhaka metropolitan unit demanded direct election in reserved seats for the women in the Jatiya Sangsad and expansion of women participation in all local bodies.

At the conference, Syeda Shamsa Ara and Sharaban Tahura have been elected president and secretary respectively of the parishada. Dhaka committee for next three years.

Besides, a 31 member executive committee was also elected at the conference.

The other members include vice president Kazi Aziza Idris, Rawshan Ara Begum, Nahar Ahmed, Joint Secretary Umme Salma, treasurers Anjuli Tajukder, organising secretary Nishat Sultana and legal aid secretary Jahanara Begum.

The conference also congratulated Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Indian government for signing the 30 years water treaty for resolving a long standing problems between the two countries.

Urs

The 78th Urs mubarak of Peer-e-kamel Dinohin Hajrat Syed Abdun Nur Hussainy Chisti (R) will be observed at Darber-e-Mustafa at Sultanshi Haveli under the district of Habiganj today with due religious flavour, reports BSS.

Thousands of devotees are expected to participate in the *Quran Khwani*, *milad mahfil*, religious discussion and other programme arranged on the occasion, a press release said.

Akhbari *munajat* will be conducted by eminent Islamic scholar Syed Hasan Imam Hussainy Chisti.

CJ distributes certificates among participants in workshop on law

Chief Justice of Bangladesh Justice ATM Afzal yesterday evening handed over certificates among the participants of an "Intensive trial advocacy workshop" at a function held at the Old High Court Building, reports BSS.

Nearly one hundred practising lawyers and would be advocates attended the week-long workshop which was organised by Legal Education Committee (LEC) of Bangladesh Bar Council in collaboration with Australian Bar Association.

Presided over by Attorney General of Bangladesh KS Nabi, the function was addressed among others by Charles Stewart, Australian High Commissioner, Barrister Amirul Islam, and Brian Donovan QC, one of the members of the Australian Teaching Faculty to the workshop.

While lauding Australia for assistance to upgrade legal education in Bangladesh, Justice Afzal expressed the hope that such help would continue in future. He said despite some differences, the two countries though far apart physically have many commonalities like faith in democracy, tradition of common law and also commitment to rule of law.

Visiting Bosnian military team leader calls on Mahbub

The leader of the visiting Bosnian military good-will delegation, Brig Gen Vahid Karavelle, called on Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant General Muhammad Mahbubur Rahman at the Army Headquarters yesterday, an ISPR press release said, reports BSS.

The high-power delegation includes four other Brigadier Generals and a Lieutenant (interpreter) who were present on the occasion.

Brig Gen Karavelle stayed with the chief of army staff for some time and discussed matters of mutual interest.

Earlier, Brig Gen Karavelle and members of his delegation visited the Infantry Brigade at the Dhaka Cantonment along with the Turkish Military good-will delegation and witnessed demonstration of training manoeuvres exhibited by different units of the brigade.

175 arrested

Dhaka Metropolitan Police arrested 175 people from different parts of the city during the last 24 hours, police sources said, reports BSS.

Of them, 21 people were taken in under warrant of arrest and 53 others on charges of killing, dacoity, snatching and extortion, the sources added.

Confce postponed

The seventh Bangladesh nutrition conference has been postponed due to unavoidable circumstances, says a press release of Nutrition Society of Bangladesh. The three-day conference was scheduled to begin from today.

The next date of the conference will be announced later on.

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