

GCO calls strike at DU July 23

By DU Correspondent
Gananatrik Chhatra Oikya (GCO) yesterday called a strike at the Dhaka University campus on July 23 demanding removal of Prof M Shamsul Haq, treasurer of the university.

The students' front was demanding the treasurer's removal as he, in his last budget speech, proposed that each student of the university should pay Tk 10,000 a year as educational expenses instead of Tk 2,600 now.

Besides, the GCO alleged that Prof M Shamsul Haq was also masterminding to turn the Dhaka University as a private institution.

Terry Fox Run '98 October 30

The annual Terry Fox Run for 1998 will be held on October 30. This was decided at a meeting of the Bangladesh Terry Fox Run Organising Committee recently in the city, says a press release.

The Terry Fox Run, the largest fund raising event for cancer research in the world, has been held every year since September 1981. In Bangladesh there have been three very successful runs so far with the active help and support of the Rotary Clubs of Bangladesh and the Bangladesh Cancer Society.

This year the run will be held in the city and some other cities as well. Several thousand school children and their parents are expected to take part in the run.

Samphe Lhalungpa, Chairperson for the 1998 Run says he looks forward to welcoming handicapped children and working children to participate. Terry's message of determination and hope is crucial one for these groups.

Terry Fox was a young Canadian who lost a leg to bone cancer. He set out to raise funds for cancer research by attempting to run across Canada on an artificial leg. He died in 1981 before he was able to complete his task. In his memory and to raise funds for cancer research, a Run known as Marathon of Hope, now takes place each year in more than 50 countries across the globe.

New Bar Council office-bearers meet PM

The newly-elected office-bearers of the Bangladesh Bar Council led by Barrister M Amir-ul-Islam president of the executive committee of the council called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her Jatiya Sangsad Office yesterday, reports BSS.

The council members discussed various matters relating to law and justice. The Prime Minister said that the lawyers had a great role in establishing the rule of law in the country. She urged them to ensure justice and quick disposal of cases in the interest of the people.

Sheikh Hasina said that the government was not interfering in the judicial matters and law was following its own course.

The delegation included Advocate Sudhangshu Shekhar Halder, Advocate Abdul Basat Majumdar, Barrister Shafige Ahmed, Advocate Mohammad Ozaer Faruq, Advocate Sayed Rezaur Rahman, Advocate Serajul Islam, Advocate Syed Ahmed, Advocate Abul Kalam Azad, Advocate Tabarak Hossain, Advocate Mohammad Abdus Salam Talukdar, Advocate Golam Amir Tipu and Advocate Mohammad Nazrul Islam.

Law and Justice Minister Advocate Abdul Matin Khasru, Awami League Law Secretary Advocate Shahara Khatun and Office Secretary Advocate Abdul Mannan Khan were present on the occasion.

Appointment, transfer

General secretary of District Gazetteer Mahbub Talukder has been transferred to Agriculture Ministry as additional secretary of the ministry, said an official handout yesterday, reports BSS.

Joint-secretary of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Ministry Mohammad Azharul Islam has been appointed Wakaf administrator on deputation, the handout added.

Fierce clash over a love affair

JESSORE, July 6: An affair between a Muslim girl and a Hindu boy led to a fierce clash at Chutipur in Zikargacha thana forcing the local police to set up a camp in the area today, reports UNB.

Police said, Muslim youths attacked the houses of a number of Hindu families after Palash, son of Dulal Das, eloped with his Muslim fiancée Laili, daughter of Nasiruddin, on Friday.

The attackers also looted some of the houses and set fire to them, police said. Police arrested five persons in connection with the incident.



Students of Tejgaon College brought out a procession in the city yesterday protesting the removal of a professor of the college. — Star photo

Action plan by '99 to reduce disaster toll

Formulation of an action plan to reduce human and economic costs of disaster will be completed by June 1999, reports UNB.

There will be 416 separate disaster action plans for 340 unions in 60 thanas of 16 districts covering cyclone, flood and drought prone areas of the country.

This was disclosed at a workshop on 'Local Level Disaster Action Plan' held at UNICEF conference room at Hotel Sheraton yesterday.

Organised by Disaster Management Bureau (DMB), Disaster Management and Relief Secretary Azad Ruhul Amin inaugurated the day-long workshop.

DMB director general Dr Kshanada Mohan Das chaired the opening session while MH Khan Chowdhury, disaster preparedness specialist, presented the draft of Local Level Disaster Action Plan at the working-session.

The disaster action plan is one of the parts of the 61 components of a project titled Support to Comprehensive Disaster Management.

The entire project will involve an expenditure of Tk 21 crore which will be jointly financed by Bangladesh government, UNDP and UNICEF.

Identifying the tropical cyclone, drought and flood as major natural calamities in Bangladesh, MH Khan said only a single cyclone can affect the whole coastal zone and cause a massive loss to the national economy.

Giving a data of 1947 to 1986, he said out of 4,00,000 deaths occurred due to cyclone in Asian countries, 3,00,000 died in Bangladesh in 1970 cyclone alone.

About flood, the disaster specialist said, nearly 75 per cent land was under water during 1988 flood while the figure is 30 per cent during normal floods.

MH Khan, said that some 42 per cent land and 43 per cent population were affected during drought in the country in 1979.

Some 10 major tornadoes during 1969-91 had claimed thousands of life in Bangladesh.

Presenting the draft, MH Khan said the objectives of the action plan include increasing awareness of the risks during natural calamities and practical possibilities for reducing human and economic risks through action at households, community union and thana levels.

Promoting the implementation of risk reduction (protection and proofing) measures as much as possible through local initiative and resources.

The objectives are also to improve local warning dissemination system in relation to cyclone and flood, and establishing and practicing local plans for evacuation, rescue, relief and initial rehabilitation measures.

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From Apr to June 405 women raped, 43 victims of acid throwing: ASK survey

By Staff Correspondent

At least 405 women were raped, 43 women were victims of acid throwing, six became victims of Fatwa and 86 suffered torture for dowry during the last three months from April to June this year.

This was revealed in a survey conducted by Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK) based on 10 national newspapers, says a press release.

Of the 405 rape incidents, 182 cases were single rape, 154 gang rapes and the type of rape was not mentioned in four cases. Forty-four other women were victims of rape attempt and two of them were made by police personnel.

Among other rapists, doctor, teacher, student, imam, chairman, member, engineer, father, father-in-law, businessmen, retired army official, political activist and terrorist were on the list.

A total of 19 women were killed after rape or after failed attempt, the release said. Two hundred and seventy-one cases were filed of the total 405 rape incidents and 21 cases were solved by village arbitration. It is mentionable that arbitration is entirely unlawful according to the current law in this regard.

A total of 50 women out of 86 tortured for dowry were killed during this period, the survey said.

Barisal-5 by-polls Acting CEC meets representatives of contesting parties

Acting Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Abidur Rahman yesterday exchanged views with the representatives of different political parties contesting the upcoming by-election for Barisal-5 constituency, reports BSS.

The acting CEC urged the leaders of political parties to create a congenial atmosphere for peaceful holding of the by-election. "It's the responsibility of all leaders and workers of political parties to follow the code of conduct and maintain law and order at any cost," he added.

The political leaders assured him of cooperation to the Election Commission and law enforcing agencies to hold the election peacefully.

Muzaffar Hussain Paltu, Abidur Mannan and Abidur Mannan Khan from Bangladesh Awami League and M. Anwar MP, Hafiz Uddin Ahmed MP, and Abid Mannan MP from Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) held talks with the acting CEC separately. Advocate Fazle Rabbi MP, Shah Muhammad Abu Zafar and Prof Humayan Kabir Hifur represented Jatiya Party.

Rice distributed in UP in Rangamati under VGF

RANGAMATI, July 6: Rice weighing 7.04 metric tons was distributed yesterday among 440 distressed families of Balukhal Union Parishad in sadar thana of the district under the government ongoing Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) and general relief programmes, reports BSS.

Each of distressed families received 16 kilogram of rice. The distressed families were affected by May 20-21 cyclones and flash flood this year. Mayadham Chakma, chairman of Balukhal Union Parishad said.

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Govt portion of salary of non-govt edn institutions for May sent

The government portion of the salary of the teachers and employees of non-government school, college, madrasa and vocational training institute for the month of May was released yesterday, reports UNB.

Directorate of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education yesterday transferred the salary cheque amounting to over Tk 89.90 crore to the concerned banks.

The concerned heads of the institutions were requested to draw the money from the banks by July 30.

Meanwhile, those educational institutions and teachers could not raise their salaries of June '97 to April 1997-98 fiscal due to unavoidable circumstances, would now be able to draw their salaries by July 30.

2 killed in road accident in Narsingdi

NARSINGDI, July 6: Two people were killed and 5 others injured in a road accident on Dhaka-Sylhet highway, near Marzal in Raipura thana here today, reports UNB.

Police and witnesses said a Bhaiyab-bound speeding bus crashed two fruit traders at about 12 noon killing them on the spot.

The identity of the dead could not be known immediately. The injured were sent to Raipura Thana Health Complex.

Police seized the bus but the driver managed to flee the scene.

A UD case was filed with local police.

Col Taher's death anniversary July 21

The 22nd anniversary of death of Colonel Abu Taher will be observed on July 21, reports UNB.

Elaborate programmes have been taken up by various organisations including Colonel Taher Sangsad to mark the day.

The programmes include drawing competition for the children and juvenile, essay competition, rally and discussion.

As part of the programme, a drawing competition for the children and juvenile will be held on July 17 at TSC premises of Dhaka University.

A discussion will be held at 5 pm at TSC auditorium on July 20.

Secretary General of BDRCS Maj. (Retd) Ali Hasan Quorashi and Bangladesh Country Manager of Kuwaiti Airways Hisham Al-Radi attended the function as the chief guest and special guest respectively.

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Nepali business team to visit this month

A Nepali business delegation will visit Bangladesh in the current month to inspect the use of Chittagong Port and its transit facilities, reports UNB.

Nepali Ambassador to Bangladesh Lok Bahadur Shrestha informed Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad when he made a farewell call on the minister at his office yesterday.

During the meeting, the Nepalese Ambassador expressed his gratitude for the co-operation of the government in discharging his duty here.

He said he has acquired rare experiences during his tenure and was amazed at noticing the general election under the Care-taker Government system and huge women participation in the last election.

Shrestha also praised the government's success in signing Ganges Water Sharing Treaty and CHT Peace Accord and holding Indo-Pak-Bangla Business Summit and constructing the Jamuna bridge.

195 tonnes of rice released for former tribal rebels

RANGAMATI, July 6: Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief has released 195 tonnes of rice, the quota for the month of June last, for distribution among the former tribal rebels staying in the three hill districts after depositing their arms, reports BSS.

The relief is being given as per government commitment towards their rehabilitation, officials said.

The ministry has instructed relevant authorities to expedite early distribution of rice among former insurgents returned to normal life. Of them 938 have settled in the hill district of Rangamati, 985 in Khagrachari and 31 in Bandarban, officials added.

Blood donation

The Kuwaiti Airways in Dhaka and Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) yesterday jointly held a blood donation session at the society's blood centre in the city, reports BSS.

Officials and employees of Kuwait Airways donated 50 bags of blood during the session.

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Bangladesh Consul General in New York Kamrul Hasan Sheikh inaugurated the New York branch of Shiri Shishu Shahitya Kendro recently.

Naval delegation leaves for Russia

A four-member naval delegation led by Chief of Naval Staff Rear Admiral Mohammad Nurul Islam left city Sunday night for Russia and Ukraine on a two-week official visit to those countries, reports UNB.

The delegation is expected to return home on July 19, said an ISPR press release.

Shiri Shishu Shahitya Kendro opens NY branch

By Staff Correspondent

A cultural evening was organised at Astoria in New York, USA, recently marking the inaugural of a branch of the Bangladeshi children's organisation, Shiri Shishu Shahitya Kendro (SSSK) in New York, according to a message received in the city yesterday.

The opening ceremony was well attended by a large number of Bangladeshi expatriates in New York. Consul General of Bangladesh in New York Kamrul Hasan Sheikh attended the function as chief guest while Abidur Rahman, adviser of SSSK, New York was special guest.

The founder of SSSK, Hasanur Rahman, explained the objectives of establishing the New York branch of the organisation.

The ceremony was jointly conducted by Parveen Rahman, acting director of SSSK and writer Nasreen Chowdhury.

Afzalur Rahman gets Rotary award

By Staff Correspondent

A Bangladeshi Rotarian, Afzalur Rahman, has been awarded the Rotary International President's 'Service Above Self Award' for the year 1997-98, says a press release.

Afzalur Rahman hails from Raipura village of Narsingdi district and is a prominent member of Rotary Club of Dhaka Buriganga.

Rotary International President Glenn W Kinross in a letter to Afzalur Rahman recently informed him about the award and praised his commendable social services.

About 150 Rotarians from across the world get the award every year for their social services.

Improved variety of dhaincha imported from Africa

SHARIATPUR, July 6: An improved variety of dhaincha — a plant used as fertiliser and fuel — has been imported from Africa to augment production of natural fertiliser at a minimum cost, reports UNB.