

News

President attends SC Bar Assoc luncheon

President Shahabuddin Ahmed attended a luncheon hosted by the Supreme Court Bar Association at the Supreme Court premises in the city yesterday, reports APB.

Chief Justice ATM Afzal, Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Abdul Matin Khasru, former vice-president Justice AKM Nurul Islam, former Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali, judges of the Supreme Court, former judges, Attorney General Mahmudul Islam and members of the Supreme Court Bar Association also attended the luncheon.

On his arrival, President Shahabuddin Ahmed was received by the president of the Bar Habibul Islam Bhuiyan, secretary Abdul Awal and members of the Bar.

The President exchanged pleasantries with the members of the Bar and enquired about their welfare.

NSU admission results

North South University has announced results of its admission test held on December 4, says a press release. Successful candidates are requested to contact NSU admissions office for admission formalities. Test pass numbers of successful applicants are:

136135162140414347
4951565758616369727476
818499101104116122129
131142143146156158170177
186195201202204105209225
227228232242243245259266
268284289298303314315321
323344350357359361362391
397400401407416426439442
448451468478481483484492
504519526533--537549555
589600606610614617363649
6536626716726746776779
683689719720725738741753
757763775785786787788791
80581181382483283583838
839841848865868871873883
885898906912936948961963
970972973988991996997998
100210121034104110431055
105810621074108910991102
110511081110111211131121
112511261135114411521154
11561158117211741178.

BCU elects new DU committee

Nadira Sultana Nodi and Anindyo Rahman were elected new president and general secretary of the Dhaka University unit of Bangladesh Chhatri Union at its 18th Convention on Wednesday, reports UNB.

Nodi is the first female president of the BCU Dhaka University unit.

Meanwhile, on the second day of its convention, Dhaka University unit BCU organised an orientation programme and cultural function for the freshers in front of the Arts Building yesterday.

The BCU slogan for the day was "Esho Sundar, Agami Janya Lor" (Come, let's fight for a beautiful tomorrow).

The function was addressed, among others, by central BCU president Hasan Haifuz Rahman, GS Manzur-e-Khoda Torik, former president of DU unit Sharifuzzaman Sharif, former GS Kalyan Kalol and newly elected president Nadira Sultana Nodi.

Khaleda condoles death of Begum Mustafa Ali

By Staff Correspondent

BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday condoled the death of Begum Syed Mustafa Ali, mother of late SM Ali, Founder-Editor of The Daily Star.

The opposition leader prayed for salvation of the departed soul and expressed sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

CUTA election tomorrow

From CU Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Dec 10: The election of the Chittagong University Teachers Association (CUTA) will be held on December 12. Two panels — Awami League-backed Pink panel and BNP-Jamaat-backed White panel — are contesting the election.

Professor Dr Monzur Moshed Mahmud, Dean of Commerce Faculty, and Dr Mamtaj Uddin Patowary, Associate Professor of the History Department, are the candidates for the post of president and general secretary respectively from the Pink panel. For these two posts, the white panel candidates are Professor Dr Mohammed Shamsuddin, Provost of the AF Rahman Hall, and Dr ANM Munir Ahmed of Chemistry Department.

The voting will be held at the Science Faculty Gallery from 9 am to 2 pm. A total of 502 teachers have registered their names on the voter list.

IPSA now Agri University

By Staff Correspondent

The Ministry of Education has reorganised the Institute of Postgraduate Studies in Agriculture (IPSA) through the Ordinance No 16 of 1998, according to an official notification issued on November 26.

The university will now be known as Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agricultural University with effect from November 22, 1998.

The Rector of former KAM Prof Dr A M Ashraful Kamal has become the first Vice-chancellor of the University as per the articles of the Ordinance.

Foreign newsmen interview Hasina

A number of mediamen belonging to various international print and electronic media yesterday met Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her Ganobhaban official residence, reports BSS.

The mediamen, who attended the UNDP sponsored programme, interviewed the Prime Minister on various issues including post-flood rehabilitation and reconstruction, development programmes, particularly UNDP sponsored as well as Bangladesh measures against HIV and AIDS.

The Prime Minister gave her views on a wide-range of issues including poverty alleviation, empowerment of women as well as her programmes and policies on various development initiatives.

The organisations represented at the meeting included Christian Science Monitor, USA, Radio Deutsche Welle, Germany, Interpress Service, New Delhi, AFP, New Delhi, KCTA Television, USA, Frankfurter Rundschau, Germany, Financial Times, UK, and BBC, Dhska.

UNDP executives including Resident Representative in Bangladesh David E Lockwood were also present.

PM donates Tk 1 lakh to father of slain student

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday handed over family savings certificate worth Tk 100,000 to the father of a slain student, reports UNB.

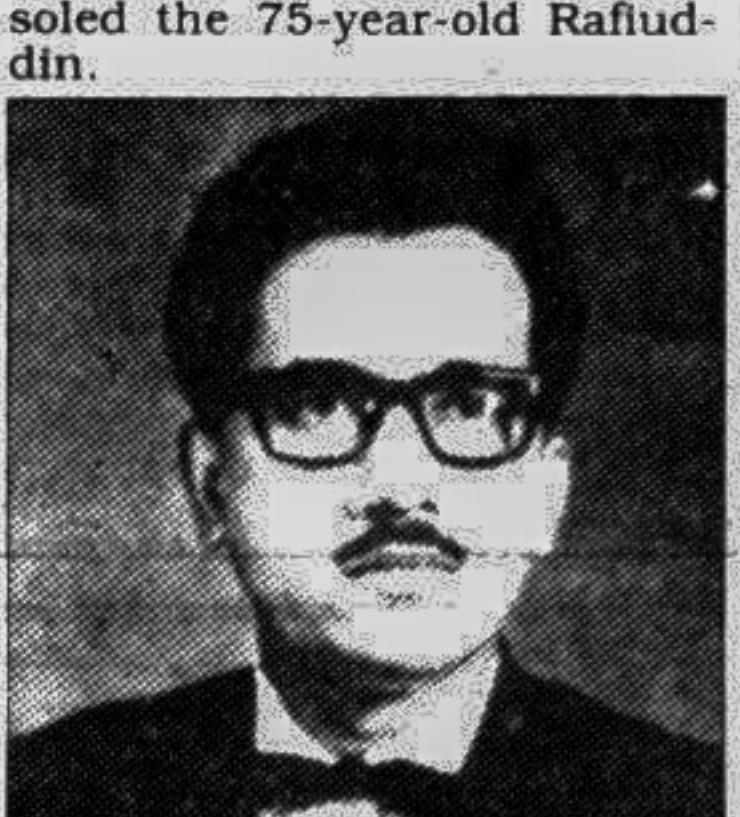
Agricultural University

Chhatri League leader Wali Sikdar, son of Rafiuddin Sikdar of Lauhajang thana of Munshiganj district, was killed in 1980.

Wali, common room secretary of the Bangladesh Agricultural University Central Students Union, was brutally killed, along with two others, Sawkat and Mohsin, reportedly by the armed student activists of the then BNP government on the university campus in Mymensingh.

Rafiuddin came to tell his sad story to the Prime Minister. With tears trickling down his eyes, he lamented, "I have not yet got justice".

Prime Minister Hasina condoled the 75-year-old Rafiuddin.



Death anniversary of Syed Nazmul Huq today

By Staff Correspondent

The 27th death anniversary of journalist Syed Nazmul Huq will be observed today.

Nazmul was picked up by the notorious Al-Badr Bahini on this day in 1971 and killed at the Rayer Bazaar Baddhyabuhi.

Nazmul Huq was the chief reporter of the then Pakistan Press International and resident representative of CBS (Colombia Broadcasting Company). Son of educationist Endamul Huq of greater Barisal, Nazmul also served as the city editor of the Dhaka Times.

Nazmul Huq Smriti Sangsad has chalked out elaborate programmes including Gurankhawani and Milad Mahfil of Krishak Mukti Andolan.

At Sujanagar Pilot School centre by 12 noon 2534 ballots had been cast out of 4500. A young boy who hardly had his adolescent streaks of moustache and beards had just finished voting. Iram said he is 22 but the voters list showed him a lad of 19. He cast vote at booth number 2 of the school. No one challenged him although agents of two main contenders were there along with Krishak Sadek of Krishak Mukti Andolan.

At 1:33 pm at Tatibandha high school centre's booth No. four for women 339 voters had cast ballot out of 623.

But Atoshi Khatoon was

begging people to allow her

to vote at 1:10 pm someone had

already cast her ballot.

At Dulai High School centre at 1:55 pm 1834 people out of

Lions Int'l President due today

Kajit Habanamanda, President of the International Association of Lions Clubs, will arrive in the city today on a 3-day visit, says a press release.

During his visit, he will call on President Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

In Kajit will also exchange views with the Lion leaders of Bangladesh and will visit Eye Hospital of Bangladesh Lions Foundation at Agargaon, Lions Blood Bank at Bally Road, and some other project of Lions Clubs International Foundation.

German businessmen keen to invest in Bangladesh

Director General of German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development Bernhard Schweiger has assured of greater assistance to Bangladesh, reports UNB.

The assurance came when Schweiger called on Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria at his office yesterday.

Schweiger also apprised the Finance Minister that German entrepreneurs are willing to invest in Bangladesh.



Donation for Runa

By Staff Correspondent

Hannelore Lechner, former director of the Goethe-Institut, Dhaka has donated Tk 15,000 to young Runa who is undergoing treatment at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Marlis Sander, a German national and her husband Mamunur Rashid handed over the amount to the Fatema, Runa's mother on behalf of Hannelore Lechner at DMCH on Wednesday.

They inquired about the condition of Runa whose one wrist was blown off and the other hand badly damaged in a bomb blast during a hartal on October 18.

Lechner who is now living in Germany, sent the money after reading a news item on Runa published in The Daily Star on October 20.

—Star photo

Prestige vote goes without major violence

From Page 1

Razzak Reza from BNP, had to seek help from a magistrate and police, reporters who visited the centre told the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Abu Hena who made a whirlwind trip to the constituency, accompanied by journalists.

He was told that the agent in mortal fears finally sought asylum from the newsmen who helped him to travel in their vehicle to disappear from the EC. She had voted even during the UP election with the card, she said. But her husband's name appeared slightly different than what had been carried on the computer printed voters list, updated for the by-election.

The CEC told reporters before leaving for Dhaka in the afternoon that polling was peaceful barring some reports of stray incidents. He said he travelled to 8/9 centres where the BNP candidate had complained of trouble.

But there were no incidents inside the centres. Whatever had happened took place outside the restricted zones, 800 yards off two to three polling stations, he said.

Magistrates and police rushed in and took control of the situation, Abu Hena said.

The CEC said BNP candidate A K M Selim Reza Habib "could not provide me the names of agents at Satbaria centre where he alleged his agents were admitted."

But they remained steadfast in their stand not to allow her to vote.

When CEC was told about by reporters he was annoyed at officials and said they could have sorted out such trivia. They have been authorised to do so. I do not understand why they did not.

2680 voters had cast their votes in six booths. Magistrate Mir Zahurul Islam explained that many centres had helped people cast ballots quickly.

ID card

Citizen Mosammam Ayesha Khatoon was pleading with officials to permit her to vote at Chinakhera centre at 1:35pm. Her problem started with a voter ID card provided by the EC. She had voted even during the UP election with the card, she said. But her husband's name appeared slightly different than what had been carried on the computer printed voters list, updated for the by-election.

Her card showed the husband's name as Fashiuuddin Khan. But the voters list showed her of ward number 4 and voter serial no 0027 and Mr Khan as Kashiuuddin Pramanik. Something the magistrate, presiding officer and police are not ready to accept.

Some 27 such card holders were unable to vote, including five others from her family, she complained of the possible error by the EC in preparing the latest voters roll. Someone in the computer room or who had read the proof or who had recorded the names had misspelled the names, the officials admitted.

But they remained steadfast in their stand not to allow her to vote.

Despite stray violence the scenes at other polling stations were far from panicky at Satbaria, Kachori, Kuripara, Ahmedpur and Char Dulai.

Scores of people, even children, were camping out on the open space. Vendors with food stuff found a brisk business with the crowd, who were camping well after the balloting was over, awaiting eagerly the results as counting started in the evening amidst tight security.

Feroze Mia at Dulai said he was having good business since morning selling food, sweetmeats and snacks.

He was hoping to make more profit in the evening when people would gather to hear the results. Women were seen travelling in rickshaw vans in scores in the morning and late afternoon to the centres to cast vote.

We had to our husbands and children and then vote, said Amena at Tatibandha school.

Agents from AL and BNP were also happily watching the proceedings as female Ansars let one by one in.

Why should we fight, we are neighbours, Jahanara Khatoon, the AL agent said with Tohra Khatoon, the BNP agent, nodding her approval with a smile.

Clashes

These correspondents met Khandaker again at Satbaria Girls High School. A team from Fair Election Monitoring Agency (FEMA) was also visiting.

Outside the near empty centre an angry crowd of his supporters were gazing beside a rickshaw van. It carried two women. They told reporters that BNP supporters beat them trying to keep them away from the polling centre.

But not far from the centre at Kuripara a government primary school tension gripped the area. At a close distance on the other side of the school on the yards of a home youngsters were robbing around.

About 200 yards away an agitated crowd of BNP supporters were watching the dirt road leading to the centre.

Rabul Islam was writhing in pain as he lay on the dirt road. He said when he was coming back from the polling station he was beaten with a sledge hammer by league supporters who also beat Yunus Ali Sheikh.

UP member Ansar Ali said two BNP agents for the centre — Habib and Saidul — had been missing as they were driven out of the centre earlier. A number of voters from Kachori, the scene of December 5 violence were not allowed to proceed for voting he complained.

Feroza, a woman came forward and complained that she also failed to approach the cen-

tre as young men with hammers and slings asked her not to proceed. But no policemen bothered to help them, she said.

Earlier when we approached Satbaria from the main road something was wrong with a number of empty rickshaw vans. Groups of youngsters rode on the dirt road below on vans. A group of people scanned our micro-bus before allowing passage.

Ansar Ali said they had been scanning the voters and allowing only people of their choice to come to the polling centre.

But there were no BDR or Army patrol around. Only police was seen inside the polling centres. Despite the ban on motorbikes some toughs were seen roaming around the constituency, particularly the one at Char Dulai, where Abul Kalam Azad, a boisterous League supporter said the area is devoid of BNP supporters. We don't have them for the past 23 years, he said proudly of the missing BNP agents from the centre.

Some 200 yards away an agitated crowd of BNP supporters were watching the dirt road leading to the centre.

Rabul Islam was writhing in pain as he lay on the dirt road. He said when he was coming back from the polling station he was beaten with a sledge hammer by league supporters who also beat Yunus Ali Sheikh.

The arrested were identified as Shahidul Bashar, 28, Rahim, 24, Jewel, 20, Mukul, 30, Abdul Khaleq, 20 and Shafiqul Islam, 30.

Police said, the arrested were committing dacoity inside the bus at about 7:45 am. On information, police stormed into the bus and arrested them.

A case was filed with Ramna thana in this connection.

—Star photo

