

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 Sheikh 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:

1 3 6 13 15 16 21 40 41 43 47
49 51 56 57 58 61 63 69 72 74 76
81 84 99 101 104 116 122 129
131 142 143 146 156 158 170 177
186 195 201 202 204 205 209 225
227 228 232 242 243 245 259 266
268 284 289 298 303 314 315 321
323 344 350 357 359 361 362 391
397 400 401 407 416 426 439 442
448 451 468 478 481 483 486 492
504 519 526 533 -- 537 549 555
589 600 606 610 614 617 639 649
653 662 671 672 674 676 677 679
683 689 719 720 725 738 741 753
757 763 775 785 786 787 788 791
805 811 813 824 832 835 836 838
839 841 848 865 868 871 873 883
885 898 906 912 935 945 961 963
970 972 973 988 991 996 997 998
1002 1012 1034 1041 1043 1055
1058 1062 1074 1089 1099 1102
1105 1108 1110 1112 1113 1121
1125 1126 1135 1144 1152 1154
1156 1158 1172 1174 1178.

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 Chhatra 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 freshmen in front of the Arts Building yesterday.

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

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

Khaleda condole death of Begum Mustafa Ali

By Staff Correspondent. BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday condole 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 Morshed Mahmud, Dean of Commerce Faculty, and Dr Mamta Uddin Patwary, Associate Professor of the History Department, are the candidates for 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 Bangladesh Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agricultural University with effect from November 22, 1998.

The Rector of former IPSA Prof Dr A M Ashraf Kamal has become the first Vice-Chancellor of the University as per the articles of the Ordinance.

Foreign newsmen interview Hasina

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

The newsmen, 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 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, KTC Television, USA, Frankfurt Rudschau, Germany, Financial Times, UK, and BBC, Dhaka.

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 Chhatra 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 Myemensingh.

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 consoled 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 Baddhyabhum.

Nazmul Huq was the chief reporter of the then Pakistan Press International and resident representative of CBS (Columbia Broadcasting Company). Son of educationist Emdadul 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 Qurankh-wani and Milad Mahfil to observe the day.



Lions Int'l President due today

Kajit Habanananda, 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.

On 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.



Little Runa who lost her wrist in a bomb blast during a hartal received a donation of Tk 15,000 from Hannelore Lechner, former director of the Goethe Institut, Dhaka. Marlis Sander, a German national, and her husband Mamunur Rashid handed over the cheque to Runa's mother on behalf of Lechner at DMCH. —Star photo

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.

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 AL supporters. But the CEC said he would look into the accusations of ballot fraud and other incidents lodged by the BNP candidate who demanded re-polling in 11 centres.

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 driven away".

But he declined to comment further on the balloting before leaving for Dhaka by helicopter in the afternoon after visiting the centre on which the BNP had complained of violence, leaving their supporters off the polling booths by force and rigging.

Fast track voting

During visits to the constituency journalists of different newspapers including The Daily Star found the voting was on a faster pace, some centres reporting 50 to 70 per cent ballots cast by 2 pm which left the centres virtually empty barring the law keepers.

At Manikul primary school centre 350 votes were cast in 75 minutes in four booths since voting started at 8 am. AL candidate AK Khandaker was around the centre. He told the Star that he was confident of winning as felt that people were voting for him.

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, Ikram 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 Tatbandha high school centre's booth No. four for women 339 voters had cast ballot out of 623.

But Atoshi Khaton was beseeching people to allow her vote at 1-10 pm someone had already cast her ballot.

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

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 Mosammat Ayesha Khatun 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 bye-election.

Her card showed the husband's name as Fashuddin Khan. But the voters list showed her of ward number 4 and voter serial no 0027 and Mr Khan as Kashiuddin 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 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.

Clashes

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

Outside the near empty centre an angry crowd of his supporters were gathering 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 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 roaming 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 pounded 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 motorbikers some toughs were seen roaming around the constituency, particularly the one at Char Dulai, where Abul Kalam Azad, a notorious 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.

A festive look

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, sweets, meats 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 Tatbandha 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 Khatun, the AL agent said with Tohura Khaton, the BNP agent, nodding her approval with a smile.

Six dacoits caught in city

Police caught six dacoits from a minibus while they were looting valuables from the passengers in between Banglamotor and Kakrail crossing in the city yesterday morning, reports UNB.

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



BNP leaders complaining to the Chief Election Commissioner Abu Hena after workers of the ruling party allegedly beat up BNP activists at the Kuri Para Government Primary School polling centre in Pabna yesterday. —Star photo



RIGHT TO FRANCHISE: A crippled man making his way towards a polling centre during by-polls to cast his vote. —Star photo



BDR personnel on patrol around polling centres to ensure smooth voting in the Pabna-2 by-polls yesterday. —Star photo



Local people help activist of BNP who was allegedly beaten up by AL activists at the Kuri Para Government High School polling centre in Pabna. —Star photo

Khulna JCD observes hunger strike

KHULNA, Dec 10: Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal observed a "token hunger strike" here today demanding immediate arrest and trial of the killers of its leader Wahiduzzaman Chanchal, reports APB.

Local JCD leaders and workers joined the day-long hunger strike at Mahara Chattar.

Chanchal, president of Khulna city JCD, was killed on October 18. Police so far arrested three suspects in connection with the murder.

Death anniversary of Raju Ahmed today

The 26th death anniversary of Raju Ahmed, a prominent TV and film actor and artist of Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra will be observed today, says a press release.

On the occasion, a discussion meeting, drama and cultural function under the auspices of Raju Natym will be held in the city today.

A milad mahfil has also been arranged at the residence of his younger brother, Kh Rashidul Huq, Chairman, Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation.



Muktiuddha Mahila Committee brought out a procession in the city yesterday in protest of violence against women. —Star photo



Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK) brought out a procession in the city to mark Human Rights day yesterday. —Star photo



Some of the people arrested on charge of casting false votes in the Pabna-2 by-polls yesterday. —Star photo