

Manzur Elahi new president of East West University

By Staff Correspondent
Syed Manzur Elahi, a former Adviser of the caretaker government, has been made President of the East West University for four-year term, said a press release yesterday.

Prof Mohammad Musa has also been appointed Pro-Vice Chancellor of the university.

The founder Treasurer of the private university, Elahi, was unanimously chosen to succeed Dr Mohammad Farashuddin as the President of the Board of Directors. Earlier Dr Farashuddin resigned because of his appointment as Governor of Bangladesh Bank.

Syed Manzur Elahi took over as President of the University on December 22 while Prof Musa joined his new job yesterday, the release added.

Trial of all 'war criminals' demanded

By Staff Correspondent

Some 50 members of Dhaka Bar Association (DBA) in a statement yesterday demanded trial of all 'war criminals' including Golam Azam, Abbas Ali Khan and Nizami in a special tribunal.

Hailing the initiative of "Ekattore Juddhaporadider Bichar Andolan" (Movement for Trial of war criminals of 1971) to bring the 'war criminals' to book, the lawyers also called for trial of all political killings and of those who illegally captured state power, says a press release.

"It is a matter of regret that the demand for trial of those who opposed the liberation war, killed three million people, violated three lakh women and looted valuable, is being ignored," the statement said.

The signatories to the statement include Gazi Zillur Rahman, Mahbubul Rahman, Bejayet Hossain, Swarup Kanti Dev, Fazle Rabbi and Mashur Rahman.

Biennial meet of Press Club today

Press club meet: The 12th biennial general meeting of the National Press Club will be held in the morning today at the club premises, reports BSS.

Election to the managing committee of the club will be held tomorrow from 9:30 am to 5 pm with a break from 1 pm to 2 pm, a press release said.

RU admission seekers facing problems

RAJSHAHI, Dec 28: Hundreds of students may not be able to appear in the admission tests of Rajshahi University as the authorities have asked for submission of original or provisional certificates of HSC and SSC examinations along with admission forms, reports APB.

Admission seekers say the Rajshahi Education Board is not issuing HSC certificates of 1998.

When contacted, Board officials told APB that they were now issuing original certificates of HSC of 1995. And it will not be possible to issue so many provisional certificates in such a short time they added.

The last date for submitting admission forms is January 24.

Until last year, there was provision for submitting mark-sheets and testimonials along with admission form.

Attack on Janakantha reporters condemned

Bangladesh Crime Reporters' Association (BCRA) has condemned the attack on three reporters of daily Janakantha and demanded immediate arrest of the attackers, reports UNB.

In a statement yesterday, the BCRA president Zakaria Milon and General secretary Shamsul Salehin termed the attack as a threat to the freedom of press.

They alleged that the miscreants attacked Shankar Kumar Dey, Sunil Banerjee and snatched cash from them and tried to kill Kamrul Hassen, but police could not yet arrest any miscreants.

Pest attack on ready-for-harvest Amon crop in Naogaon

NAOGAON, Dec 28: Farmers' hopes for a bumper Amon crop have been dashed by a sudden attack of dragonflies in almost ready-for-harvest fields in five thanas of the district, reports APB.

The farmers are at a loss how to control this particular pest. They are in a helpless situation as the number of pests increasing day by day, and can do nothing but to watch their paddy being devoured.

The seven affected thanas are Porsha, Shapahar, Nayamatpur, Dhamuirhat, Mahaedpur, Patnitola and Badalgachhi.

Entomologists of Agricultural Extension Department told APB that nothing much can be done at the moment because if insecticides are used, the paddy will not be consumed.

Indiscriminate use of fertilizer, pesticides Land losing fertility

KISHOREGANJ, Dec 28: Soil fertility in 47 thanas of five districts in the greater Mymensingh district have been decreasing at an alarming rate due to indiscriminate and disproportionate use of fertilizers and pesticides here, reports APB.

The districts include Kishoreganj, Mymensingh, Sherpur, Jamalpur and Netrakona.

Crop production has also decreased following the fall of soil fertility in these districts. The use of chemical fertilizer has been going on in the districts without maintaining any proportionate ratio. At present only 16 to 22 maunds of crops have been produced in one bigha of land.

Besides the farmers are growing same crops like IRII paddy in the same piece of land for several years which also affects the fertility.

Meanwhile, indiscriminate use of pesticides in the fields by the farmers is also causing some health hazard.

In the absence of organic and green fertilizer use, land productivity is declining fast in

BISS symposium date shifted

Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS) will hold a symposium on "Foreign Policy of Bangladesh" at its premises on January 4 instead of December 31 due to unavoidable circumstances, a release of BISS said yesterday.

Timbers worth Tk 60 lakh seized

RANGAMATI, Dec 28: Forest Department personnel seized illegally extracted valuable timber worth about Tk 60 lakhs while being smuggled out of the district during the last 15 days, reports APB.

They also arrested eight persons and seized seven mechanised boats and two trucks that were carrying the timbers, sources at the district forest office said.

Several incidents of exchange of fire between the Forest Department personnel and armed timber smugglers took place during the period, they said.

The timbers, totalling about 19,000 cft including 8,000 cft of segun, were seized in different areas including Kaptai Lake, Barkal and Bilaichhari. Fifteen cases have been filed.

JS body discusses Law Commission activities

A meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs yesterday laid stress on total recast of laws for gearing up country's economic activities and ensuring human rights condition, reports UNB.

The meeting, presided over by committee chairman Suranjit Sengupta, discussed the activities of Law Commission, matters relating to solving its various problems, especially increasing manpower of the Commission, for making it more effective.

It also stressed on strengthening the Law Commission for preparing recommendations aimed at upholding the judicial system, making the laws suitable for the present-time need and eliminating inconsistencies in the existing laws.

Committee members Adv Rahmat Ali, Adv Sheikh Md Nurul Haq, Barrister Md Anil Haq and Mohammad Khaezuzzaman were present at the meeting.

DMP instruction City restaurants, hotels to be closed by 11 pm

DMP has instructed the owners of all hotels and restaurants in the city to close their shops by 11 pm everyday.

However, hotels and restaurants could be kept open from 3 am to 5 am during the month of Ramadan, said a DMP press release yesterday.

Legal action will be taken if anyone violates the order, the release added.



The hawkers at the Baitul Mukarram Market yesterday clashed with the security guards who allegedly demanded toll from them. Some of the agitated hawkers seen standing on the footpath after the clash. —Star photo

Arafat greets PM

President of the Palestine Authority Yasser Arafat has greeted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on the occasion of holy month of Ramadan, reports APB.

Arafat said in a message of greetings, "I seize this blessed occasion to renew to your country our deep appreciation for your principled brotherhood and supportive stand towards our just cause to establish the independence state of Palestine with Al-Quds Al Sharif as its capital."

He said, "Our people who are celebrating the best month in the Palestine, the lands of Isra'a and Miraj, are looking for intensive support of the whole people of Islamic Ummah to re-establish their country and to fulfil the just and comprehensive peace."

The Palestine leader wished good health and happiness of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and more progress and prosperity for the brotherly people of Bangladesh.

Experts suggest that use of chemical fertilizer and pesticides at a proportionate rate, alternative crop production and use of organic and composed fertilizers are essential to increase productivity of land.

Meanwhile, indiscriminate use of pesticides in the fields by the farmers is also causing some health hazard.

In the absence of organic and green fertilizer use, land productivity is declining fast in

Pro-liberation forces urged to resist vested quarters

State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed yesterday called upon all pro-liberation and democratic forces to unitedly resist the caucus of the vested quarters who include the anti-liberation elements, autocrats and counter-revolutionaries, reports BSS.

He said when the evil forces are still active to jeopardise the independence of the country, private initiatives along with the government efforts are needed to restore the spirit and values of the War of Liberation.

The state minister was speaking as chief guest at a special projection ceremony of a documentary film on Liberation War — "Mukti Juddha Gan" directed by Shahriar Kabir — at the Mukti Juddha Museum in the afternoon.

He said, "The history of the War of Liberation is the most precious and glorious pride of the nation. But during the last 21 years the history of independence has been distorted with a view to misleading the young

Smuggled Indian goods worth Tk 27 lakh recovered in Comilla

COMILLA, Dec 28: Law enforcement agencies in separate operations in different thanas of the district recovered a huge quantity of smuggled Indian goods worth about Tk 27 lakh during the current month, reports APB.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, Food and Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury, Fisheries and Livestock Minister ASM Abdur Rab, political leaders including Jatiya Party chief and former President H M Ershad, Workers Party General Secretary Rashed Khan Menon, senior officials, heads of diplomatic missions, journalists and the elite of the city attended the reception at the Chancery of the Royal Nepal Embassy at Baridhara.

In another operation at West Pankura area in Debaidwar thana on Dec 11, BDR patrol team recovered 684 kg sugar, cumin, milk powdered and 14,400 bombs worth about Tk

72,700. They also seized five rickshaws and by-cycles engaged in carrying the smuggled goods.

Meanwhile, BDR recovered a substantial quantity of smuggled goods including sugar, cumin, milk powder, wine, phenesidyle, timber, bamboo, crackers, still-made utensils and by-cycle in separate drives at Sadar, Cosba, Moinpur, Salda river, Nayapur, Khabera, Barajola, Bidhara Bazar, Barura Bazar, Jashpur, Mathurapur, Shiber Bazar, Amanganda, Satghoria and Chowddagram frontier lines from December 4 to 20. The value of the recovered goods was estimated at Tk 8.15 lakh.

All the recovered goods were deposited with the local Customs office.

Legal action against owners of 'Eishan' demanded

CHITTAGONG, Dec 28: Chittagong Union of Journalists (CUJ) today called upon the government to take legal action against the owners of the "Daily Eishan" published from here for violating the agreement signed between the management and the CUJ, a press release said.

During their talks, Sengupta lauded the strong and dynamic leadership of South African President Nelson Mandela. He referred to the theory of consensus followed by Mandela for consolidating national unity in trouble-torn South Africa, said a press release.

In a joint statement Anjan Kumar Sen and Nurul Amin, president and general secretary respectively of the CUJ condemned the "Eishan" for not paying the salaries of the working journalists and employees of the daily.

The leaders demanded immediate payment of the arrear salaries and issuance of appointment letters to the journalists and other employees which was guaranteed in the agreement.

Additional Secretary of Law Ministry and other concerned officials were present on the occasion.

Poultry training course ends

PATUAKHALI, Dec 28: A two-day training course on poultry and cattle rearing, organised jointly by BARD and UNDP, concluded at Kalapara thana recently, reports APB.

Thirty-five farmers from different areas of the thana participated in the course.

The thana livestock officer, a veterinary surgeon and officials from Community Empowerment Project imparted them training on proper methods of cattle and poultry rearing and preventive measures against various diseases.

He also pointed out the

Agreement said in unambiguous terms that Bangladesh and India are desirous of sharing

the waters of the international rivers flowing through the territories of the two countries and of making optimum utilisation of the water resources of their region in the fields of flood management, irrigation, river basin development and generation of hydro-electric power for the mutual benefit of the people of the two countries.

Meanwhile, water resources

ministry officials and JRC experts in Dhaka termed as pure speculation press reports that there would be shortage of the Ganges water in the next dry season due to scanty rainfall in the upper catchment of the river.

It is simply absurd to expect more than occasional rainfall in winter an official pointed out and expressed the hope that Bangladesh would receive its share of the Ganges water, at least the quantum provided for in the Agreement.

After the partition, Sarker joined the underground communist movement in the then East Pakistan. Later he got involved with the politics of Revolutionary Communist Party (RCPB)-ML.

His body was brought to the office of Srimajibhi Mukti Andolok at Jhenidah town where party followers and people gathered to have a last glimpse of the late leader.

He will be cremated at Puleahal cremation ground at Jessor on Wednesday, party sources said.

Obituary

Gazi Abdul Gani, former Assistant Director, National Security Intelligence (NSI), died of a heart attack on Sunday at his residence. He was 77, reports BSS.

He left behind his wife, three sons and a daughter.

Late Gani hailed from an aristocratic family of the village Shologhar under Srinagar thana of Munshiganj (Kirknupur) district.

He was buried at the Banani graveyard after his *namaz-e-janaza* held at the Tejkunpara Mosque after Asr prayers.

His *qurkhwan* will be held tomorrow after Asr prayers at his residence at 143, Tejkunpara near Aulad Hossain Market, Tejgaon.

The hawkers at the Baitul Mukarram Market yesterday clashed with the security guards who allegedly demanded toll from them. Some of the agitated hawkers seen standing on the footpath after the clash. —Star photo

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