

Press Club election
Two candidates
tie for post
of president

Repolling for the post of President of the National Press Club will be held as the two candidates tied in the election held on Wednesday, reports UNB.

Khondoker Munirul Alam and Shaikur Rahman bagged 240 votes each.

However, the date of repolling was not announced.

Shapan Shah of BSS has been elected General Secretary with a margin of 22 votes over his rival Kamrul Islam Chowdhury of the same organisation.

The other office-bearers elected are: Senior Vice - president Badul Alam (Financial Express), Vice-President - Farid Hossain (AT), Joint Secretaries- Abdur Rahman Khan (Independent) and Bakhtiar Rana (UNB) and Treasurer - Abdul Baten (Ittefaq).

Members of the Managing Committee elected are: Kamaluddin Sabuj (BSS), Golam Sarwar (Ittefaq), Zahiduzzaman Farooq (Ittefaq), Parveen Sultana (Janakantha), Saiful Karim Sabu (BSS), Kazi Rownak Hossain (direct), Sehabuddin Ahmed Nafa (Daily Star), Ziaul Huq (Ittefaq), Shamsul Huq Zahid (Dhaka Courier) and Abdal Ahmed (Dinkal).

A total of 491 voters out of 504 cast their votes.

ICMAB closed sine die

Institute of Cost and Management Accounts of Bangladesh (ICMAB) has been closed sine die and authorities today put the institute under lock key following a brawl with the students, reports UNB.

A press release of the students, said that coming to the institute yesterday morning they found it under lock and key and a notice saying that the institute was closed for an indefinite period.

The institute was closed after the authorities signed an agreement with the students last Wednesday night accepting the students' demands, that includes withdrawal of enhanced fees.

The release said that the authorities declaring the date for examination abnormally raised the fees for form fill up, registration, library card, admission etc, which created a commotion among the students.

The students protesting the decision were brought across the table. After a series of discussion, the management accepted the demand of the students and signed an agreement of Wednesday night.

The students alleged that the authorities never considered the problems faced by the students.

BRTA explains new rules

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Road Transport Authority said yesterday that its new rule requiring all types of motor vehicles to display tax, fitness and route permit labels on windshields are applicable only to those vehicles which would take or renew their tax tokens, fitness certificates and route permits after January 4.

Clarifying what it said confusion in this regard, a BRTA press release said it is not mandatory for those vehicles to display labels whose tax tokens, fitness certificates and route permits were obtained before January 4.

The vehicles including those of the government that receive free tax tokens will also have to pay Tk 40 for the stickers.

Living cost up by 8.8 pc

Cost of living rose by 8.80 per cent in '98 due to soaring commodity prices, coupled with additional utility charges, reports UNB.

The Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB) said commodity prices soared by 6.58 per cent in the year that just elapsed, surpassing the previous year's marks. In 1997, rise of the two indices was 8.02 and 5.11 per cent.

The high costs "made public life a misery" in the past year, said the consumer-rights group.

The price hike of rice, induced by floods, has not yet stabilised despite traders claiming supply of the staple sufficient.

In its market survey report released at the year-end yesterday the CAB said the price of rice shot up 11.83 per cent in 1998 from 1.93 in the previous year.

It also pointed to an unusual price spiral of onion, up to Tk 60 per kg, and noted the prices did not come down to the extent even after the government made the spice import duty-free and new produce came to the market.

House rents marked an abnormal rise in the year 1998, with house-owners using excuse of price hike of essentials and enhancement of gas tariffs. Rent of all categories of houses rose by 14.09 per cent, the CAB report revealed.

The CAB also noted with concern that domestic market was awash with adulterated and shoddy commodities, be it local or imported.

"As there is no system of checking standard of imported goods, consumers are being cheated," said the consumers' association.

BNP opposes Dhaka-Calcutta bus service

BNP has strongly opposed the Dhaka-Calcutta bus service proposed to start early next year, reports UNB.

Speaking at an Iftar party yesterday, BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia accused the government of hatching conspiracy to destroy the country's economy by allowing movement of bus service between Dhaka and Calcutta.

"The domestic market is already flooded with Indian goods without direct bus service between the two countries. If the transport service started, people will tend to go for shopping in Calcutta," she said.

The BNP chief said the government has resorted to anti-people and anti-state activities to serve the purpose of its alien masters.

Weather
Night temperature may fall

Dry weather is likely to prevail over the country during the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

The Met Office said mild cold wave is sweeping over northwestern part of the country and likely to spread over northern and central parts during the next 48 hours.

Slight fall in night temperature is expected across the country during the period, it added.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 27.5 degree Celsius was recorded at Rangamati and Cox's Bazar and the lowest 9.7 degree Celsius at Satkhira.

The sun sets today at 5:22 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:42 am. Maximum and minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Table with columns: City/Town, Temperature in Celsius, Humidity in Percentage, Morning, Evening. Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi, Barisal, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar.



Chehlum

Chehlum of eminent science writer and educationist Dr Abdullah Al-Muti Sharafuddin will be held tomorrow after Johr prayers at his residence at "Deepabali", 22/4 Free School Street By-Lane, Sonaorgao Road, Hatirpool.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the milad majlis and pray for the departed soul.

The Daily Star TV Guide

Friday 1st January

All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme.

BBC WORLD

6:00 BBC World News 6:05 USA Direct 6:30 World Living: The Inter-Net 7:00 BBC World News: World Business & Asia Today 10:00 BBC World News 10:30 World Focus: World Review '98 11:30 World Focus: World Review '98 12:00 World News 12:30 World Living: Top Gear 1:00 World News 1:30 World Living: Hardtalk 2:00 BBC World News 2:30 World Living: World Review 98 3:00 World News 3:30 Hardtalk 4:00 BBC World News 4:30 World Living: The Net 5:00 BBC World Today 6:30 World Focus: World Review '98 7:00 BBC World News 7:15 World Business Report 7:30 BBC World Today - Asia & Pacific 8:30 World Living: Earth Report Euro Special 9:00 BBC World News 9:30 Hardtalk 10:00 BBC World News 10:30 World Living: Question Time India (Presenter-Prannoy Roy) 11:00 World News 11:30 World Living: Top Gear 12:00 BBC World Today 1:30 Hardtalk 2:30 World Focus: World Review '98 3:00 BBC World News 3:30 World Living: The Big Catch 4:15 Europe Direct 5:00 BBC News: Int. World Business Report/24 Hours

STAR WORLD

6:00 Jack Hanna's Animal Adventures 6:30 Brittas Empire 7:00 Today's Gourmet 7:30 The Wonder Years 8:00 M Mr Belvedere 8:30 Newhart 9:00 Walker Texas Ranger 10:00 Theatricals 11:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show 12:00 Santa Barbara 1:00 The Bold and the Beautiful 1:30 Today's Gourmet 2:00 Snowy River-McGregor Saga 3:00 Jack Hanna's Animal Adventures 3:30 Small Wonder 4:00 Brittas Empire 4:30 World News 5:00 Asia News Update 5:30 Home Improvement 6:00 Dr Quinn Medicine Woman 7:00 Heartbeat 8:00 Peak Practice 9:00 The Bold and the Beautiful 9:30 Home Improvement 10:00 Dr Quinn Medicine Woman 11:00 Heartbeat 12:00 Peak Practice 1:00 Home Improvement 1:30 Newhart 2:00 Brittas Empire 2:30 The Bold and the Beautiful 3:00 Mr Belvedere 4:00 Nanny and the Professor 4:30 World News 5:00 Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea

STAR MOVIES

7:30 Sci-Fi: Freejack 15 9:30 Thriller: Trial by Jury 15 11:30 Comedy: Canadian Bacon 15 1:30 Horror: Damien Omen II 15 3:30 Romance: Blaze 15 5:30 Drama: Vital Signs 15 7:30 Thriller: Light Sleeper 15 9:30 UK Top Ten 10:00 Friday Night: All Stars: Independence Day 15 12:00 Friday Fury: Magnificent Butcher 15 2:15 E! CP: Jane Seymour 4:00 Drama: Vital Signs 15 5:30 Horror: In the Mouth of Darkness 15

NEW INDIA TV

7:00 Jagran 7:30 Zee News: Hindi 8:00 Help Line 8:30 Zee News: Hindi 9:00 Centre Stage 9:30 Zee News: Eng 10:00 Mystery Unfolds 10:30 Naye Nagmeen 11:00 Hum Zameen 11:30

Zee News Update

11:50 Zee Business News 12:00 Hourviva Quiz Zee Contest 12:30 Hasen Pal 1:00 Zee Countdown 1:30 Zee News: Hindi Bulletin 2:00 Ad Mad Show 2:30 Money Game 3:00 Teer Kaman 3:30 News Line 4:00 Aashiana 4:30 Hum Honge Kamyab 5:00 Naye Nagme 5:30 Zed it Pro 6:00 Purnushkhetra 7:00 Hasen Pal 7:30 Zee Sports Show 8:00 Zee Diplomacy Show 8:30 Zee News: English 8:50 Zee Face To Face 9:00 The Women 9:30 Zee News: Hindi 10:00 Disha Samvad 10:30 Zee News: Hindi 10:50 Zee Business News: Hindi 11:00 Session with Seshan 11:30 Zee News Roundup 12:00 Zee Countdown 12:30 The Dream Merchant 1:00 Vision Beyond-5:00 1:30 BQC 2:00 Zee News: Hindi 2:20 Zee Face To Face 2:30 Hum Zameen 3:00 Zee News: Hindi 3:30 Beech Shahr 4:00 Hindi Feature Film (B/W)

DD 7

10:25 Janmadin (Birthday Greetings) 10:35 Daily Sope: Shree Ram Krishna 11:00 Daily Sope: Dropadi 11:15 Classical/Folk Songs 11:30 Parliament Hour/Musical 12:30 TBA 1:00 Daily Sope: Aasha 1:30 Rupkatha 2:00 Daily Sope: Kanakajali 2:30 Daily Sope: Maha Prabhu 3:30 Serial: Mohini 4:00 Daily Sope: Bhangagar Khele 4:20 Daily Sope: Farama 5:05 Nepali Prg 5:30 News 5:35 Aainer Darpan/Shilpa Jagat/Health Prog/Drama 5:50 Pali Katha 6:10 Shilpi 6:40 Khas Khabar 6:50 Jannabhumi 7:30 Bangla Sambad 8:00 Beta Abela 8:30 Siddhanta 9:00 Jannabhumi 9:30 Daily Sope: Dropadi 10:00 Khas Khabar 10:10 Bengali Movie

DD CHANNEL-1

5:55 Vande Mataram & Thought of The Day 6:00 Serial: Aradhana 6:30 For The Universities 7:30 Samachar 7:45 Short Film 8:45 The News 8:50 This Morning's Business 9:00 Series J & K Reporter 9:30 Nayna 10:00 Serial: Arakhaneya 10:30 Serial: Tarang 11:30 Serial: Young

12:30 Serial: Aurat 1:00 Serial: Aparajita 1:30 Serial: Itihaas 2:00 Serial: Waqt ki Khatir 2:30 News in Hindi 2:40 News in English 2:50 Serial: Kooch Sahane 3:00 Serial: Aap Ki Shanti 3:30 Serial: Ujala 4:00 Tea Time Monorajan 4:30 Al-Jadein Aur Jadu Ka Chirag 5:00 Qawwali 5:45 Kaso 6:00 Sath Sath 6:30 Panjabi Darpan 7:05 Special 7:50 Tap Tap Topi Topi 8:20 Chitrahars 9:00 Samachar 9:30 News 10:00 Hindi Feature Film

SONY TV

7:30 Jeevan Mulya 8:00 Risiprasad 8:30 Yaadon Ki Baraat 9:00 Kabhi Yeh Kabhi Woh 9:30 Cine Clips 10:00 Star Year Kalkar 11:00 Pop Pouri 11:30 Bhanwar 12:00 Movers & Shakers 12:30 Yeh Sadi Nahi Ho Sakti 1:00 Chamatkar 1:30 Cine Clips 2:00 Boogi Woogi 2:30 Kabhi Yeh Kabhi Woh 3:00 Ek Mahal Ho Sapno Ka 3:30 World Cricket 4:00 Cine Matinee-Hindi Feature Film: Mohra (Akshay Kumar, Ravina Tandon, Sunil Shetty, Nasiruddin Shah) 7:00 Shrikant 7:30 Battle of Bollywood 8:00 Cine Clips 8:30 Toofan Mail With Guest 9:00 Just Mohabbat 9:30 Heena# Ep-2 10:00 Harmony With Guest 10:30 Movers & Shakers 11:00 Ek Mahal Ho Sapno Ka 11:30 Cine Clips 12:00 Thoda Hai Thoda Ki Zaroorat Hai 12:30 Dekh Bhai Dekh 1:00 Chamatkar 1:30 Coca-Cola: Pappadam Show 2:00 Saaya 2:30 Kabhi Yeh Kabhi Woh 3:00 Cine Nite Show-Hindi Feature Film: Akashdeep

DD METRO

3:00 Jharokha 3:10 Sports Time 3:30 Dhali Sham Ki Suraj 4:00 Ank Ajooba 4:30 Sports Hour 5:30 Jaldi Jaldi Game 6:00 Mickey And Donald 6:30 He Man & The Masters of Universe 7:00 Chip And Dale 7:30 Tele-soccer 7:50 Entertainment Now/ Cinema Cinema 8:00 Light Ashtic/Mazhab Nahi Shikha 8:30 Shreemam Shreemam 9:00 All The Best 10:00 Eshaas 10:30 Aaj Tak 10:50 Road Watch 11:00 Jharokha 11:05 Journeys To Art 11:30 Feature Film in English

DD INT'L

9:30 Opening & News in English 9:45 Business Plus 10:00 Chitrahar (meet the film star) 10:30 Asian AM 11:00 Light Music 11:15 Suravi (Renuka Sahani) 11:45 Gul Gulshan Gulam (Serial) 12:15 Bharat Samachar (News in Hindi) 12:30 TBA 1:00 Hindi Film 10:10 Hindi Film (Rpt) (Uderrun Closed)

ATN

7:00 Drama Serial 7:30 Drama Serial 8:00 Drama Serial 8:30 Henolux prog. 9:30 Drama Serial 9:00 Alif Laila-Ep-8 10:00 Special Prog. 3:30 Indian Programme 5:00 Ramadan 6:00 Ruposhi Bangla 7:00 Special Prog. 7:30 Aabaas Chariey 8:00 Drama Serial 8:30 Motomot 9:00 Magazine, Prog-Polthim 9:30 Bangla Film: Abirab, Razzak & Kobori 12:30 Film Songs 4:00 Ramadan 1:00 Close Down



Baren Majumder



Abdul Matin



Binod Bihari



Ataur Rahman



Safiuddin Ahmed



Emdad Hossain



Rani Sarkar



Kakon Bibi



Sukumar Barua



Abdur Rashid

Ten noted personalities who were nominated for Janakantha award.

Baren Majumder, Abdul Matin get Janakantha Award

Eminent musician Baren Majumder and Language Movement hero Abdul Matin have been selected for the Janakantha Guniyan Sammanona '98, reports UNB.

The awardees will receive Tk 1,00,000 each and Tk 5,000 per month (lifelong), said a press release.

The nomination committee has also named eight personalities of the country for the Janakantha Protiva Sammanona '98.

They are Binod Bihari Chowdhury (Teaching), Ataur Rahman (poetry), Safiuddin Ahmed (journalism), Emdad Hossain (art), Rani Sarkar (performance), Kakon Bibi (freedom fighter), Sukumar Barua (rhyme and literature) and Abdur Rashid Sinha (Literature).

The recipients of the Janakantha Protiva Sammanona '98 will get Tk 25,000 each and Tk 5000 per month (lifelong), said a press release yesterday.

Release of JCD leaders demanded

By DU Correspondent

Leaders of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) yesterday demanded immediate release of its president Habib-un-Nabi Sohel and general secretary Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu and other activists.

They also announced a series of programmes to press home their demand at a press conference.

The programmes include demonstration at DU campus and submitting memorandum to the DU Vice Chancellor on January 4. They will also submit memorandum to the District Commissioners across the country on January 7 and to the Home Minister on January 10.

Held at the Modhu's canteen on the Dhaka University campus, the press conference was attended by the central leaders of JCD.

Strike programme called off

All Party Action Council of Registration Department has decided to call off its movement and strike programmes from Sunday, reports UNB.

The decision was taken yesterday following a fruitful discussion between the leaders of action council and authorities concerned with Law Minister Abdur Matin Khasru in the chair.

Bulu's qul today

The qulhwani of senior photo journalist Mozammel Hossain Bulu will be held after Asr prayers today at Gazi Bhaban, 41, Naya Paltan here, reports BSS.

Relatives, journalists and well wishers, have been requested to attend the qulhwani.

Obituary

Fatema Khatun, wife of late Principal M A Quddus and mother of noted theatre personality and Director General of National Institute of Mass Communication Abdullah Al-Mamun, died at her Jamalpur residence yesterday. She was 82, says a press release.

She was buried beside the grave of her husband at their home.

She left behind two sons, two daughters and a host of relatives to mourn her death.

Mozammel Huq, Principal of Tongi Govt College, died of liver cancer yesterday. He was 58, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, two daughters, a son, and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

60 died in jail, police custody in '98

By Staff Correspondent

Sixty people died in jail and police custody across the country during 1998, a study by Odhakar, a human rights organisation, revealed yesterday.

According to the study 20 people died in Dhaka Central Jail, four in Chittagong district jail, three in Khulna district jail, two in Jessore Central Jail and one in Rajshahi district Jail. Seven other people died in police stations and DB office.

The rest died in various district jails.

Two people also died in court premises.

Those who died were aged between 22 and 60.

Health chiefs caught

From Page 1

in the irregularities and the officials did not inform their higher authorities about disbursement of the funds, the report said.

The report was prepared after five months' investigation by a sub-committee headed by Tajul Islam.

The report was submitted to the Chairman of the Standing Committee Dr. Kazi Abu Yusuf last week and its findings were the main topic of discussion at its Wednesday's meeting, sources said.

The Committee recommended that the persons involved be suspended immediately, misappropriated funds refunded and inquiry started by the Anti-corruption Bureau and the health ministry.

Investigation against eight more civil surgeons on purchase of hospital equipment are going on now, the sources said.

The report also said that such irregularities had been going on at least for the last 15 years but could not be detected despite repeated allegations because earlier reports by parliamentary standing committees were often found "biased" as those were headed by the health minister.

Among the six, Naogaon district civil surgeon allegedly misappropriated the highest amount of Tk 7.56 crore, according to the report.

The funds, as shown by the civil surgeon's office, were used for purchasing new furniture, wall painting and repair work. In one lot, price of a 400-taka steel tray was shown at Tk 17,000 in the voucher and the contractor was Messrs Prema Enterprise of Rajshahi, the report revealed.

The security money deposited was only Tk 10,000 whereas as per rules at least five per cent of the contract value is to be deposited as security money.

The report also mentioned that the civil surgeon, after spending the amount, had asked for an extra MSR (Medical and Surgical Requisition) allocation of Tk 7 crore. It was

however, refused later on.

For Lalmonirhat district, the extra amount allocated was Tk 4.19 crore. The contractor who supplied the items was Tashim Uddin of Shehab Bazar, Rajshahi.

The contractor had supplied 4-inch leucoplast medicated dressing to the Civil Surgeon's office at the rate of Tk 480 each whereas its retail price in the market is only Tk 35.

A saucapan was shown to have cost Tk 7,400, which normally costs not more than Tk 400.

In Gaibandha, steel racks worth Tk 3,000 each were purchased at the rate of Tk 24,000, 80-taka buckets at Tk 450 and 25-taka 60-watt ordinary bulbs at the rate of Tk 1852 each.

The civil surgeon of Kurigram spent an extra amount Tk 1.2 crore.

In Munshiganj, the extra amount for MSR was Tk 3.74 crore. Four lakh pieces of blood testing slides were bought at the rate of Tk 13 each against the price of only Tk 2 and 30,000 pieces of hand gloves at the rate of Tk 140 each against the market price of Tk 15 only. The contractor was Tofazzal Hossain of Rajshahi.

The names of the civil surgeons are Dr Shamsuddin Ahmed of Kurigram, Dr Abdus Samad and former civil surgeon Sheikh Abdul Jalil of Lalmonirhat, Dr MD Shahidullah of Gaibandha, Dr Abdullah Hashemi of Naogaon, Dr Binod Bihari Chahai of Chapai Nawabganj and Dr Azizur Rahman of Munshiganj.

Meanwhile, APB reports from Sherpur that the Civil Surgeon of the district has been suspended on charges of irregularities and misappropriation of Tk 8.8 crore.

The suspension order against E R Chowdhury was issued by the Health Directorate on December 28, official sources said.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Health and Family Welfare took the decision following allegations published against Chowdhury in different print-media.

VACANCY

A Dhaka based well established Maternal and Child Health organization seeks to appoint an Administrative Officer.

REQUIREMENTS: Should be a graduate with at least five years' experience in handling administrative and personnel matters, also should have some knowledge and experience in accounting. Computer skill in MS-Word, Excel etc. is required.

JOB DESCRIPTION : will be responsible for (a) Dealing, including conduct of correspondence, with all personnel matters e.g. staff salary and allowances, provident fund etc. (d) Filing and custody of all official documents, and (c) Compilation of statistics and reports relating to functioning of the organization.

A candidate should apply with detailed CV supported by attested copies of supporting documents, and a passport size photograph. Female candidates are encouraged to apply.

Applications should be addressed to P.O. Box-8080, Mirpur, Dhaka-1216. Last date of receiving application is 10th January, 1999.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEE

The Containerised Cargo ex. M.V. "HYUNDAI FEDERAL" V-315W from Hakata, ex. M.V. "NOL CRYSTAL" V-306E from Genoa, Barcelens, ex. M.V. "WAI HAT- 216" V-5057 from Taichung, ex. M.V. "NED. COLOMBO" V-7398G from Durban ex. M.V. "SINAR PADANG" V-017 from Karachi, ex. M.V. "NED TAICHUNG" V-04079 from Yokohama, Kobe have been relayed to M.V. "SIN HAI" V-025, Import Rot. No. 1243/98, which is due to arrive Chittagong on or about 2-1-1999 from Singapore.

Consignees are requested to take delivery of their cargo from FCL Containers within 5 days free time from the date of landing. If the cargo is not cleared within 45 days from landing then the disposal of the cargo will be Governed by the relevant Customs Act.

Agents : BIRDS BANGLADESH AGENCIES LIMITED 103, AGRABAD COMMERCIAL AREA CHITTAGONG. PHONES : 716342, 716341, 502645, 712908.

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

BRAC Applications are invited from suitable candidates for the following positions who are willing to develop their career in BRAC and ready to work in the rural areas of Bangladesh.

- 1. Medical Officer : A recent MBBS followed by completion of Internship.
2. Family Welfare Visitor (Female) : Diploma in Nursing/Diploma in FWV or certificate in Paramedics from any recognised non-government institution. Candidates with certificates in Paramedics must have 2/3 years experience in the relevant field.
Interested candidates may send their CV's along with two copies of recent passport size photographs to the following address latest by January 15, 1999. Please clearly indicate the position applied for on the envelope.

Personnel Department, BRAC, BRAC Centre 75 Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212 WOMEN ARE ENCOURAGED TO APPLY

New boundaries to cross. New horizons to look beyond. It's a new year once again.

Standing proud at the threshold of a New Year, Rahimafrooz Batteries take this opportunity to extend its warmest greetings to its wellwishers and partners.



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