

PDB employees beat up teachers in Jamalpur

JAMALPUR, Jan 1: PDB employees beat up trainee teachers leaving 25 of them injured when they went to the Executive Engineer's office yesterday to hand over a memorandum demanding restoration of power supply at the local PTI institute, reports APB.

Over one hundred teachers went there demanding restoration of the power line, snapped by a passing truck three days ago.

But the PDB employees allegedly locked the main gate and beat them indiscriminately with iron rods, sticks and bamboo, witnesses said. Female teachers were also not spared and some of them were assaulted, they alleged.

Eleven of the teachers were held by the PDB employees and handed over to police but they were later released, police said.

Birth anniversary of Jasimuddin observed

FARIDPUR, Jan 1: The 96th anniversary of birth of Palli Kabi Jasimuddin was observed today across the country in a befitting manner, reports UNB.

The day was observed at his birthplace at Gobindapur in Faridpur with daylong programme which include placing of wreaths and offering of special prayers at the *mazar* of the poet, poetry recitation, cultural function and discussion meeting.

President of Jasimuddin Foundation and DC of Faridpur AFM Abdul Haque Chowdhury and General Secretary Kazi M Mahabubul Haq laid wreaths and offered *fataha* at his *mazar* in the morning.

Members of the foundation were also present.

Ansarul High School, established by the poet, Jasimuddin Research Council, Bahurupi Shahitya Sangskritik Sangha, Faridpur Kabi Parisad and Faridpur Press Club also laid wreaths there.

In the afternoon, cultural functions and discussion meetings were held to mark the occasion.

Speakers at a discussion meeting, organised by the Palli Kabi Foundation at the Kabi Bhaban, urged the government to patronise Palli Kabi Jasimuddin Mela, organised every year in the district on this occasion.

They also asked the government to rename Faridpur Medical College as 'Palli Kabi Jasimuddin Medical College.'

AI concerned at Obaid's health

By Staff Correspondent

Amnesty International (AI) has recently expressed deep concern about the state of health of BNP lawmaker KM Obaidur Rahman and security of his wife, Prof Shaheda Obaid. AI Deputy secretary general Pierre Fane communicated the London-based international human rights body's sentiment to the Bangladesh Home Minister in a letter on December 3. A Home Ministry source confirmed the information.

In its letter, the AI wanted to know from the Home Minister about physical and psychological state of the BNP leader and requested him to provide appropriate medical treatment and other facilities to the opposition politician.

The letter also said that the investigation of the jail killing incident and trial of those involved in it was very important. 'But harassing anyone in the name of the trial would tantamount to injustice'.

Taking note of the 'attacks on Shaheda Obaid on November 19', the AI requested the government to ensure adequate security to her.

The AI wrote the letter in response to an appeal made to the human rights organisation by Shaheda Obaid.

Meanwhile, California Congressman of the US House of Representatives John T Doolittle has recently written a letter to the US Embassy in Dhaka, making queries about the case and state of the BNP leader's health.

The Congressman wrote to the embassy in response to a letter written to him by Shama Islam, Obaid's only daughter living in America.

Seminar on globalisation & Bangladesh held

By DU Correspondent

A seminar on 'Globalisation and Bangladesh', was held Thursday at Nat-Mandal on the Dhaka University campus to mark the biennial general meeting of International Students Association, Bangladesh (ISAB).

Organised by the ISAB, the programme was presided over by Prof Muzaffer Ahmed.

Alamgir Faruque Chowdhury, Commerce Secretary attended the programme as the chief guest.

The papers, presented at the seminar were 'Globalisation and Bangladesh: An Overview' by Dr Meghna Guhathakurta, 'Regionalism in South Asia and Bangladesh' by Dr MA Samad, Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 'Globalisation of Bangladesh Economy: Trade and Investment Issues' by Dr Munim Kumar Baral, 'Sub-regionalism and Bangladesh' by Ashraf Ibd Noor and 'Global Climate Change & Bangladesh' by Dr Mizan Rahman Khan. Research Director of BIUSS.

Anu Muhammed, a teacher of Jahangirnagar University also addressed the seminar.

Mannan Bhuiyan accuses govt of repression

By Staff Correspondent
BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday accused the government of misrule and repression, saying that life is not secure under the rule of this government.

The police are arresting BNP leaders and workers and filing false cases against them one after another while the Awami terrorists and accused in murder cases are freely moving, he said in a statement.

Demanding immediate release of two BNP leaders, Bhuiyan said police without any charge arrested Monwar Hossain Dulal and Sheikh Farid Bahar in Feni during Thursday's opposition-sponsored demonstration.

He said the government is creating an unstable situation at Feni through the arrest of the two leaders.

Bhuiyan said the ruling party held the entire Feni to ransom while the administration completely failed to control the prevailing situation in this district.

The BNP leader alleged that the Feni district administration has surrendered to illegal pressure of the ruling party. The government is using the administration in its party interests, he said.

He said the businessmen and traders could not run their business as the administration is giving protection to the terrorists instead of providing protection to the businessmen.

The BNP secretary general also alleged that AL terrorists in presence of police attacked on the agitating BNP activists in different parts of the country during Thursday's nationwide demonstration.

Ctg Press Club executives

CHITTAGONG, Jan 1: Abu Sufian and Faruque Iqbal were elected President and General Secretary respectively of the Chittagong Press Club at its biennial election held yesterday reports BSS.

According to official results announced by Election Commissioner Mainul Hasan Siddiqui, the election was held for ten posts of the club managing committee, while Abu Sufian was re-elected president unopposed.

Other office bearers are: Senior Vice-President — Helaudin Chowdhury, Vice President — Ali Abbas, Joint Secretary — Ashoke Chowdhury, Treasurer — Osmanul Haq, Cultural and Publicity Secretary — Papash Barua, Sports Secretary — Tapash Barua (Rumul). Members are: Shamsul Haq Haidari, Deebakar Ghose and Saifuddin Moshuk Khaled.

One killed in road accident

MYMENSINGH, Jan 1: The driver of an auto-tempo was killed and three police constables were injured in a road accident at Kazir Shimla in Trishal thana of the district today, reports UNB.

The accident took place on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway at about 4 am when a truck collided head-on with the tempo in the dense fog. Tempo driver Abdul Kalam (45) died on the spot.

Two of the injured constables Amir Hossain and Shamul Haque were admitted to Trishal Thana Health Complex.

The policemen were on patrol on the highway on board the tempo.

Police seized the truck, but its driver managed to flee. A case was filed with Trishal Thana in this connection.



Death anniversary

The first death anniversary of advocate Faiz Ahmad Chowdhury, former advocate of Dhaka High Court, will be observed today, says a press release.

Gurankhwan and milad mahfil will be held at Saif Ahmad's village home at Baitu, No 13 Jagannath Deghi in Comilla, after Asr prayers.

Prize distribution ceremony of Rupali Tarar Mela

Rupali Tarar Mela, a juvenile organisation, held a discussion meeting, cultural function and prize and certificate awarding ceremony at the Shishu Academy premises in the city yesterday, reports UNB.

Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Information DN Bepari distributed prizes and certificates among the winners of an art competition. He also handed over the Juvenile Literature Award '98 to Poet Mosharraf Karim, said a press release.

The speakers urged the well-off section of the society to come forward to help flourish latent talents of the children.

They also emphasised the need for united efforts of all juvenile organisations of the country in establishing the rights of the children.



Ajit Roy presenting a song along with his students at the launching ceremony of his audio cassette titled 'Ami Jeno Shei Batiwala'. The cassette features music composed by the renowned singer himself.

— Star photo

Hun Sen denies giving guarantee of immunity to Khmer Rouge leaders

PHNOM PENH, Jan 1: Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen today answered growing international criticism by denying he has given a guarantee of immunity from trial to defecting Khmer Rouge leaders, reports APB.

"I did not give any guarantee to anyone to be free from justice," he said in a statement, reacting to criticism of his warm welcome to defecting Khmer Rouge leaders Khiem Samphan and Nuon Chea.

"I also said even I cannot guarantee immunity to my wife and children from prosecution," he added.

Hun Sen argued that only 72 hours after the agreement of the defection Khiem Samphan, Nuon Chea and their families arrived in Phnom Penh, a dusty former rebel stronghold on the Thai-Cambodian border.

"To my knowledge, Pailin has no international aerodrome to bring these people from any other country to Phnom Penh. They came by car," he complained.

Although the strongman did not name Thailand directly in a concession to maintaining some diplomacy, he said: "I apologise for this, but I force myself to speak the truth for real morality, not artificial morality."

"But there is no change in my stand at all: my stand to try the Khmer Rouge continues," Hun Sen said.

"I am among those who support the investigation of the genocidal Pol Pot regime, but I am not an accuser of this or that person on behalf of the

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