



A scene from 'Dorir Khela' staged yesterday at the Central Shaheed Minar as part of the Group Theatre Federation's 12th National Street Drama Festival. — Star photo

Tk 300 cr fishery project soon

The government will launch the country's largest fishery project involving Taka 300 crore soon, reports BSS.

Fisheries and Livestock Minister A S M Abdur Rob said this while addressing a discussion on 'Fish Farming in Open Water Bodies' in the city yesterday. A non-government organisation organised the discussion.

The minister said the work of third fishery project is now at the final stage and work on the fourth project, the biggest in the country, will begin soon. Stressing the need for launching massive motivational programme, Rob said any sort of development effort could be reinvigorated and made successful by educating the people through motivation.

Success of a development programme depends on effective motivational campaign, he said, adding motivation is needed in each sector to educate people.

The discussion was addressed, among others, by Fisheries and Livestock Joint Secretary (Fishery) D K Chowdhury and Director General of Fisheries Directorate Abdul Matin.

Govt plans project to get rid of professional blood donors

Health and Family Welfare Minister Salahuddin Yusuf yesterday said the government is contemplating to set up a project for collection of blood in addition to its transfusion unit to get rid of the professional donors, reports agencies.

"We want to ensure safe blood transfusion for people as the blood of professional donors is very injurious to health," he said.

The minister was speaking as the chief guest at a discussion organised by 'Sandhani', a voluntary organisation of the students of medical and dental colleges collecting and donating blood and cornea, to mark its 22nd founding anniversary at the National Press Club in the city.

The minister said health service is one of the fundamental rights of the people and the present government led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is striving for providing health services to the people despite its limited resources.

The discussion chaired by 'Sandhani' president Mohammad Wazed Ali Masum, was also addressed by Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh University Sheikh Mujib Medical University Prof M A Quadri as the special guest. Among others, 'Sandhani' advisers Dr Tosadde Hossain Siddiqui and Dr Iqbal Kabir spoke on the occasion.

Kanul Lal Saha, president, Sandhani, Dhaka Medical College unit, presented a future plan of the organisation on preparing a list of the regular voluntary blood donors.

Health Minister said the total annual demand of blood in the country was about three lakh bags.

He called upon other voluntary organisations to come forward side by side 'Sandhani' to fulfil the demand of blood in the country.

He said mass media, including newspapers, radio and television, can play important role to motivate the people in blood donation.

Yusuf said the country's total demand of blood could be fulfilled with only 1.5 lakh regular donors, each providing two bags of blood every year.

700 join AL in Rangamati

RANGAMATI, Feb 5: More than 700 tribal people of Barkal thana here today joined the ruling Awami League, party sources said, reports UNB.

The tribesmen, led by former Upazila Chairman Santosh Chakma, local Pahari Chhatra Parishad president Subir Chakma and Jano Sanghati Samity leader Laxmi Chandra Chakma, expressed allegiance to the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at a function at Shubholong Bazar in the morning.

Chairman of Tribal Refugee Rehabilitation Task Force Dipankar Talukdar MP and District Local Government Council Chairman Singu Raju welcomed the newcomers.

Proposed edn policy to be placed before JS soon

Education Minister A S H K Sadique yesterday said the proposed education policy was now in its final stage of placing before the Jatiya Sangsad after Cabinet approval, reports BSS.

"The draft policy was prepared through a long study keeping in mind the present day demands and future perspectives, accommodating proposals of different sections which were scrutinised by a learned and competent forum," he told a discussion on the proposed policy in the TSC auditorium in the city.

He added that the proposed policy suggested an updated and science-oriented education system as per election pledges of the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the light of Dr Kadrat-e-Khuda Commission report and UNESCO recommendations.

Bangladesh College-University Teachers' Association (BCUTA) and Bangladesh Foundation for Research Development jointly organised the programme.

Chairman of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education Nurul Islam Nahid, Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Prof A K Azad Chowdhury, BCUTA president Prof Akhtaruzaqman, Prof Rangalal Sen and Principal Shahjahan Mian, among others, spoke at the function attended by a large number of teachers.

Prof Montazuddin Patwari and Kamila Banu presented two papers.

The minister identified the lapses in the current education system as the main reasons for poverty and foreign dependence.

JU rejoinder

The Jahangirnagar University (JU) authorities have issued a rejoinder to a news item published in The Daily Star captioned 'Returned of the rapists at JU' on January 28.

The rejoinder claimed that the proctor's car was not used to bring the rapist to the university. The proctor has no car as has been mentioned in the story, rather he uses a microbus, it said.

The proctor denied that he issued any threat to the students agitating against authorities' measures to take examinations of the rapists found guilty of rape and abetting the act when the students were preventing the examination office from distributing the scripts to the departments, the proctor told the students. "If you have any programme, you can go ahead," the rejoinder said.

OUR REPLY We inappropriately used the word 'car'. Our story referred to the microbus that the rejoinder mentioned.

There are a number of students who corroborated our story and said that they had seen the proctor's microbus entering the campus through the Prantik gate at around 9:30 pm on January 27. Our report also carried allegations of students that the proctor warned them of stern action if they 'try to jeopardise the examination' of the said students (rapists).

The rejoinder does not contradict the main point of our story that the rapists, one of whom was expelled, are being allowed to give their examinations under special arrangement.

The International Centre for Sheikh Mujib Studies (ICSS) recently arranged a three-day long symposium in London on 'Bangladesh — past and present and the problems and future of the Bengalees in the UK'. From left are Dr Zayedul Hassan Zahid, Secretary General, All Europe Bangabandhu Parishad, noted writer Abdul Matin, Honorary Chairman of the All Europe Bangabandhu Parishad Lord Peter Shore 4th and Honorary Director of ICSS educationist Dr C Maprayil.



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Natore AL leader expelled

From Our Correspondent

NATORE, Feb 5: Chittaranjan Saha, publicity secretary of Natore district Awami League, was expelled from his party for his anti-organisational activities, said a press release of the district committee.

Saidur Rahman and Hanif Ali Sheikh, president and general secretary respectively of the district committee, in a statement announced the decision. However, they did not elaborate.

Meanwhile, the expelled veteran AL leader said he was expelled from the party as he did not withdraw his candidature in the upcoming municipal elections which his party colleague Kamrul Islam is also contesting.

"My effort for the party had been largely ignored by the district committee, while the party has allowed newcomer Kamrul to contest on behalf of the party," Saha told The Daily Star.

Saha said he was willing to contest the elections as an independent candidate.

Victim of hartal Rickshawpuller's family to be rehabilitated

Home Minister Rafiqul Islam will take necessary measures to rehabilitate the family of rickshawpuller Mohammad Ali, who fell prey to opposition brutality during a hartal last month and died of burn injuries after a week-long struggle for life, Home Ministry sources said yesterday, reports BSS.

The hartal activists' wrath came down on Ali as he tried to ply his rickshaw on the hartal day on January 26.

He was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital with serious burns after the activists torched him pouring petrol on his body.

He succumbed to his injuries on Tuesday. Ali was a member of Jatiya Rickshaw Samik League.

The minister earlier visited Ali in the hospital and donated Taka 4,000 for his treatment.

Hospital sources said Ali's treatment was hampered due to lack of blood despite the minister's directives to provide him with best possible treatment and care.

Vyas Puja Utsav begins in city

The three-day Vyas Puja Utsav of the Hindu community began at Sri Sri Madhwa Gaudiya Matha at Narinda yesterday, reports BSS.

Deputy Minister for Food Dharendra Debnath Shambhu inaugurated the festival.

Presided over by the principal of the Matha Sri Padmanav Maharaj, the function was addressed by general secretary of the Mandir Committee Chandan Kumar Ghosh, Madhusudan Maharaj, Samiran Dasgupta, Mukul Pada Mitra, Khokon Chandra Das and Shamsuddin Sujan.

Left parties to participate in municipal polls

Left-democratic parties yesterday announced they would participate in the upcoming municipal elections, reports UNB.

"We want a free, fair and impartial voting," Left Democratic Front and four other like-minded parties told a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

They said BNP and its rightwing allies would be held responsible if the elections are foiled due to their violent activities.

"At the same time, the onus will be on the government and Election Commission if they try to hold voterless farcical elections," the parties said in a written statement at the conference.

The 11 left-democratic parties also raised an eight-point demand for making the Feb 23-25 municipal elections meaningful.

Regarding resignation of the Chief Election Commissioner, they said the removal of an individual couldn't ensure an impartial vote.

The ruling party and local administrations at the order of ministers are influencing the election process. Terrorists are vitiating the situation, but the EC is silent," they alleged.

Among others, Shahidullah Chowdhury of CPB, Khalequzzaman of BSD (Zaman), Nirmal Sen of Samik Krishok Samabadi Dal, Dilip Barua of Samyabadi Dal, AFM Mahbubul Haq of BSD (Mahbub), Iqbal M. Mammad of Ganotantrik Majdur Party and Haidar Akbar Khan Rono of Workers Party, Saifuddin Ahmed Manik of Gono Forum, Azizul Islam Khan of Ganotantrik Party, Abdus Samad of Gano Azadi League and Ajoy Roy of Communist Kendra were present.

'People will resist attempt of evil forces to foil polls'

KISHOREGANJ, Feb 5: LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zilur Rahman today sought cooperation of people for peaceful holding of the forthcoming poushabha elections scheduled for February 23-25, reports BSS.

"People will unitedly resist the attempt of the evil forces to foil the local body elections," he told a rally organised by Nikali Thana Awami League.

Chaired by president of Nikali Thana Awami League Mohammad Karar Giasuddin the rally was also addressed, among others, by local leaders of Awami League, Jubo League, Chhatra League and Krishak League.

Rahman, who is also the general secretary of Awami League, said the Opposition BNP is enforcing hartal one after another at a time when the government is involved in a post-flood rehabilitation programme.

Their target of calling such hartals is to create obstacle to the development activities of the government as well as to plunge the country into chaos and anarchy by destroying democracy, he said, adding people are fide up with the hartal programme of BNP.

Rahman said no one could go to power depending on the politics of hartal. If some people thing so their dream would be dashed into pieces, he added.

Earlier, the minister inaugurated several roads including Sarachar-Hilchila Road and Bajitpur-Bighirpar Road.

Death anniversary of MR Siddique today

The 7th death anniversary of MR Siddique, the first Commerce Minister of Bangladesh, former ambassador, president of greater Chittagong Awami League and the father of Lionism in Bangladesh, will be observed today.

On the occasion, a *quran-khuani* and *milad mahfil* will be held at his graveyard in the morning.

Also, discussions on late Siddique will also be held at Latifa Siddique Girls' College in Kumira and Masjidul High School ground in the evening, says a press release.

Symposium on Bangladesh held in London

The International Centre for Sheikh Mujib Studies (ICSS) recently arranged a 3-day symposium in London on 'Bangladesh — Past and present and the problems and future of the Bangladesh living in the UK,' says a press release.

The All-Europe Bangabandhu Parishad, Tower Hamlet Council and the Race Equality Council, London, cooperated in organising the symposium. Eminent scholars, researchers, politicians, social workers, from the UK and different parts of Europe attended the symposium.

A photo exhibition on Sheikh Mujib and a cultural show was also organised on the occasion.

Among others, Lord Peter Shore, honorary chairman of the All-Europe Bangabandhu Parishad, Mayor-Councillor Al Asad, Dr Zayedul Hassan Zahid, Secretary General, All Europe Bangabandhu Parishad, honorary Secretary General of the International Centre for Sheikh Mujib Studies, Dr Cyril Maprayil, Prof John Eu of London University, writer Abdul Matin, journalist Abdul Gaffar Chowdhury, Home Office representative Bob Wright and Press Minister of the Bangladesh High Commission Syed Badrul Hassan addressed the symposium.



Visitors at the Rose Festival '99 held at the Sultana Kamal Women's Complex at Dhanmondi yesterday. Bangladesh National Rose Society organised the event. — Star photo

Key dates in King Hussein's life

These are some of the key dates in the life of Jordan's King Hussein:

— 1935: Hussein was born in Jordan's capital Amman on November 14 to Prince Talal bin Abdullah and Princess Zein al-Sharaf bint Jamil, reports AP.

— 1951: The young prince witnesses the assassination of his grandfather, King Abdullah, at the Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem by a Palestinian nationalist angered by Jordan's annexation of the West Bank, which Palestinians view as their territory.

— 1952: At age 16, he is proclaimed King after his father abdicates because of mental illness. He assumed full constitutional rule in May 1953.

— 1956: Hussein survives the biggest coup attempt against his rule. It was led by senior army officials loyal to Egyptian Arab nationalists opposed to the king's moderate policies.

— 1967: Hussein's darkest hour is the loss of the West Bank and Jerusalem to Israel during the six day war.

— 1970: In what became

known as "Black September," army troops loyal to the king put down a revolt by Palestinian guerillas, who had become almost a state-within-a-state in Jordan and demanded Hussein's ouster.

— 1974: An Arab summit decides Hussein is no longer the spokesman for the Palestinians. It names the Palestine Liberation Organisation, headed by Yasser Arafat, as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

— 1988: Soon after the start of the "Intifadeh," the Palestinian uprising against Israel, Hussein renounces rights to the West Bank. But he retains his role as guardian of Jerusalem's Muslim holy places, the Dome of the Rock and the Al Aqsa Mosque, the third holiest sites in Islam.

— 1990-91: Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and the subsequent Gulf War upset Hussein's traditional ties to the West when he remains neutral in the conflict because of his country's economic ties to its oil-rich neighbour, Iraq. Some accused him of being pro-Saddam, but he later

denounced the Iraqi ruler.

— 1994: Hussein realises a long-sought goal — Jordan and Israel sign a peace treaty.

— 1998: The king has his second battle with cancer. He had surgery on a cancerous kidney in 1992, and in the summer of 1998 began six months of chemotherapy of non-Hodgkins lymphoma, a cancer of the lymph glands.

— 1999: Hussein returned to Jordan in mid-January — pronounced cured by Jordanian officials — but was ordered back to the United States by doctors for more treatment a week later. In his few days at home, he changed the line of royal succession, naming his oldest son, Abdullah, now 37, as crown prince to replace his brother, Hassan, 51, who had held the post for 34 years.

— February 2, 1999: Hussein has a bone marrow transplant at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.

— February 4, 1999: Doctors say the transplant operation has failed. Hussein flies back home to Jordan.



JCD activists demonstrate on the Dhaka University campus demanding punishment to those responsible for rape incidents on the Jahangirnagar University campus. The demonstration was staged yesterday when Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina came to the Bangla Academy to inaugurate the Ekushey Book Fair. — Star photo

Govt plans to create 3000 new posts for doctors

By DMC Correspondent

Minister for Health and Family Welfare Salahuddin Yusuf has said the government is planning to create more than three thousand posts for doctors at various hospitals across the country.

Addressing the inaugural session of the Sixth Annual Convention of Bangladesh Gastroenterology Society (BGS) at BCPS auditorium in the city yesterday, the minister said the proposal was awaiting approval of the Finance Ministry.

With BGS president Prof A K Azad Khan in the chair, the convention was also addressed by State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Prof M Amanullah, Vice Chancellor of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) Prof M A Quadri, Prof VC Prof Mahmud Hasan and chairman of Hepatology at BSMMU Prof. Mobin Khan.

Explaining the government's policy on health, State Minister Prof Amanullah said MBBS doctors would be appointed in all union health complexes to extend health care to all. He said the government would also set up 13 thousand community health clinics across the country.

Prof Mobin Khan told the convention that there was no department or post in medical college hospitals for the gastrointestinal tract (GIT) and liver-related diseases, though their rate was alarmingly high.

Prof A K Azad Khan said some special instruments, including endoscopy, for treating GIT and liver diseases were available but lying useless at the medical college hospitals want of required specialists.

Qulkhwan

The *qulkhwan* of Brigadier (retired) Abdul Muhith Chowdhury will be held at his 82, DOHS, Dhaka Cantonment residence, after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

Relatives, friends and admirers are requested to attend the *qul* and pray for the departed soul.

Scout Leader Advance Course held

The 170th Scout Leader Advance Course was held at the National Scout Training Centre, Mouchak, Gazipur from January 27 to February 2, says a press release.

Organised by Bangladesh Scouts, the course was attended by 17 scout leaders from Bhutan and 28 from Bangladesh.

Prasanna Sree Vastava from the Asia Pacific region was among the 10 trainers.

Manzoor Ul Karim, Chief National Commissioner, Bangladesh Scouts, attended the closing ceremony as chief guest and distributed certificates among the participants. Abul Kalam Azad, Deputy National Commissioner (Training) was the course leader.

BSU confce begins

The three-day 11th Annual Conference of Bangladesh Society of Ultrasonography (BSU) began in the city yesterday, reports UNB.

National Professor and chairman of USTC Dr Nurul Islam formally inaugurated the conference in the morning as chief guest, said a press release.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof Islam said ultrasonography is an appropriate method for diagnosis of diseases.



The Sixth Annual Convention of Bangladesh Gastroenterology Society (BGS) was held at BCPS auditorium at Mahakhali in the city yesterday.