

Killing in Turkey

Brig. Sharif's spouse, son buried

Kismet Ara Islam and Sirajus Saleheen, the wife and son of Brigadier Sharif Islam, Bangladesh Defence Attache in Turkey, were buried at Banani Army graveyard in the city yesterday, an ISPR press release said, reports BSS.

Their namaz-e-janaza was earlier held at the Dhaka Cantonment Central Mosque after the juma prayers.

Among others, Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant General Muhammad Mustafizur Rahman, Bir Bikram, Chief of Air Staff Air Vice-Marshal Jamal Uddin Ahmed, senior civil and military officers and relations of the deceased attended the namaz-e-janaza.

Kismet Ara Islam and Sirajus Saleheen were killed by their servant at their Ankara residence on July 12. Brigadier Islam was also seriously injured by the assailant.

The body of Kismet Ara Islam and Sirajus Saleheen were brought back home Thursday evening on board a Turkish Military Aircraft.

The Turkish government provided the aircraft to carry the coffins as a mark of friendly relations between the two countries. Turkish civil and military officers and members of the diplomatic corps in Ankara were present at the airport to show their respect and sympathy to the bereaved family. The goodwill gesture of the Turkish government was a mark of their cordiality for the government and people of Bangladesh.

Rotary News

Weekly meeting

The 745th regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka Central will be held today at 01:30 pm at 'FAMILY LOUNGE', Dhaka Club Rotarians are cordially invited to visit for make-up and fellowship, say a press release.

Nirmul Committee forms conference preparatory body

Ekatturer Ghatik Dal Nirmul Committee yesterday formed a 101-member Conference Preparatory Committee for holding 'South Asian Conference against Communalism and Fundamentalism' scheduled to be held in the city in January next year, reports BSS.

National Professor Kabir Chowdhury and Prof Jarina Zaman were made convenor and member secretary respectively of the committee.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the Central Executive Committee of the Nirmul Committee with its president Poet Shamsur Rahman in the chair.

Shamsur Rahman said collaborators of 1971 and terrorists of Jamaat-e-Islami were destroying commemorative documents and monuments of the War of Liberation at different places across the country.

"We can't be silent observers under these circumstances," he said.

Condemning the demolition of memorial monument of the Liberation War at Carmichael College in Rangpur and the monument of Ashwani Kumar Dutt at Erojomon College in Barisal by the Jamaat-Shibir terrorists, Rahman said the fundamentalist forces are trying to destroy the spirit of the War of Liberation and turn the country into Pakistan and Afghanistan.

He said it is very sad that "the pro-liberation government is taking no action against the terrorist activities of the fundamentalist forces."

Govt working to ensure healthcare for all: Yousuf

RANGPUR, July 30: Health Minister Alhaj Salahuddin Yousuf today said the government is committed to providing healthcare facilities to all by 2002 and to achieve the goal massive programmes are being executed across country, reports BSS.

The Health Minister was addressing the biennial session of "Swadhinata Doctors Parishad", Rangpur Branch at Rangpur Medical College auditorium. He told the gathering that at least four thousand health clinics would be constructed in phases in the country to provide healthcare to the common people.

He urged the doctors to work sincerely for the welfare of the people to turn the country into 'Sonar Bangla' as dreamt by Bangabandhu.

Earlier, the Health Minister inaugurated a Taka 2.40 crore extension work of RMC ladies hostel.

Parliament Member H N Ashekur Rahman and Anisul Haque Chowdhury spoke on the occasion.

Obituary

Prof Nurul Huda, Principal of Bakerganj Govt College, died of liver cancer at the Shomorita Hospital in the city on Tuesday. He was 57, says a press release.

Prof Huda started his career at Dhaka College and worked as Controller of Examinations of Dhaka Board, Vice-Principal of Chittagong Govt College.

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

He was buried at the Azimpur Graveyard (Old).



Dhaka City unit of Juba Dal held a protest rally yesterday demanding of the government to withdraw all 'false' cases against the leaders and activists of BNP.

What's on today....

Seminar: Centre for Development Research, Bangladesh (CDRB) has organised a seminar on 'Pakistani Historian and the Bangladesh War of Liberation'. Key-note speaker: Yvette C Rosser, Ph.D Candidate, Department of Curriculum and Instruction, University of Texas at Austin, USA and Research fellow of American Institute of Bangladesh Studies (AIBS). Venue: WVA auditorium, Road No: 27 (Old), Dhanmondi. Time: 4:30 pm.

Workshop: A two-day national workshop on 'Public Administration Reform' will begin today. President Shahabuddin Ahmed will inaugurate the workshop organised by the Association of Development Agencies, Bangladesh (ADAB). Venue: CIRDAP auditorium. Time: 10 AM.

Discussion: Nari Adhikar Andolon will hold a discussion on the occasion of Stratun Nabi. Prof Siddika Kabir, former Principal of Home Economics College will be the chief guest at the discussion. Venue: Iranian Cultural Centre. Time: 4 PM.

Seminar: A seminar on 'Good Governance' will be held Law Minister Abdul Matin Khasru and Chairman of Administrative Reform Commission ATM Shamsul Haque will attend the seminar organised by Bangladesh MBA Association. Prof Muzaffar Ahmed of IBA, Dhaka University will present the key-note paper. Venue: Auditorium of Academy for Planning and Development. Time: 4 pm.

Seminar: A CPE seminar, organised by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB), on 'Salient Features and Implications of Changes Made in Income Tax Ordinance 1984 by Finance Act 1999' will be held. Chief guest: Abdur Razzaq, Minister for Water Resources. Venue: ICAB Auditorium, Chartered Accountant Bhaban, 100 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue. Time: 10 AM. Md Jainul Abedin FCA, Member Council & past president ICAB will present the key-note paper.

Clinical meet: ZH Sikder Cardiac Care and Research Centre has organised a clinical meeting and scientific session on 'Anticoagulants in cardiology and cardiac surgery, Biochemical tests and coagulation profile and Surgical management of a bleeding post operative cardiac surgical patient'. Venue: Conference Hall (2nd floor) of the Centre, Monica Estate, Dhanmondi. Time 9 AM to 10 AM.

Dance programme: Sangbart Sangskritik Sanghatah has organised a solo Kathak dance programme. Moutushy Khondokar will perform at the programme directed by Shibli Mohammad. Venue: National Museum auditorium. Time: 7 PM.

Lecture: The 19th Monthly General Meeting of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh will be held Prof Aminul Islam, Department of Philosophy, University of Dhaka, will deliver a lecture on 'Humanitarian in Nazrul's Thought'. Venue: Seminar room of the Society. Time: 5 pm.

Meeting: The first meeting of the new Executive Committee of Bangladesh China Cultural, Economic & Mass Communication Centre (BCECMCC) will be held. Venue: GA-183/1, School Road, 1st Floor, Mohakhali. Time: 5 pm.



Bangladesh Khelafat Majlis staged a demonstration in the city yesterday in protest of allowing transit facility to India.



Former Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman addressing a press conference at the VIP Lounge of the Jatiya Press Club yesterday organised by the Naari Nirjatan Obhijog Cell.

Speakers stress pro-environment water management action plan

Speakers at a workshop yesterday underscored the need for formulation of a long-term people and pro-environment water management action plan through massive consultation with a cross-section of people, reports BSS.

They were addressing different sessions on the second day of the three-day workshop on 'Environmental Reporting' organised by the Forum of Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh (FEJB) with support from the Ministry of Environment and Forest and UNDP at National Press Club here.

FEJB Chairman Quamrul Islam Chowdhury presided while

IUCN Bangladesh Country Representative Dr Ainun Nishat, Director of the Department of Environment, Mohammad Rezauddin and general secretary of the centre for sustainable development Mahfuz Ullah were resource persons.

They said water policy has just been formulated but by whom and for whom that remains under big question mark.

They underscored the need for pursuing ecosystem approach in water management side by side looking at both water conservation and water quality issues.

Remains of human bodies handed over to Liberation War Museum

The Memorial Council of '71 handed over some remains of human bodies to the Liberation War Museum on Thursday, reports UNB.

SM Kaisar and Aminul Islam, Mintu of the council handed over three skulls and a number of bones to the authorities of the museum.

The skeletons believed to be evidences of the massacre by the Pakistan occupation forces here in 1971, were recovered during renovation work of Noori mosque at section number 12, Mirpur on Tuesday.

On Wednesday a representative of the museum with the help of the council officials also recovered one skull and 40 bones from the same place.

The Liberation Museum has taken steps to perform forensic test of the collected bones with the help of Dr MA Hasan, Director of Alberuni Hospital, to know the actual time of killing.

The Museum will start re-examination of a well of the Noori Mosque tomorrow in search of more evidences of the massacre, said a press release.

MA examinee electrocuted in Faridpur

FARIDPUR, July 30: A Master of Arts examinee of Government Rajendra University College was electrocuted yesterday morning in west Alipur area of the town, reports BSS.

Vice-Principal of Rajendra College said, Tofazzal Hossain, 22, appeared in Master of Arts final examination in Sociology this year. He came in contact with a live wire yesterday morning in front of his house. The accident occurred when Tofazzal was trying to shift with a bamboo the live wire snapped earlier. He died on the spot.

Direct election of women representatives stressed

By Staff Correspondent

Women leaders on Thursday reiterated their demand for direct election of women representatives in every sphere of life from Union Parishad to the Parliament.

The demand was raised at a views programme of exchanging with News Editors of different national dailies organised by Bangladesh Mohila Parishad at the Jatiya Press Club.

Women leaders at the programme said we have been struggling for long to establish 'women's human rights in the society'.

"We have organised the meeting as you all are aware of the fact that the reserved quota for 30 women seats in the Parliament would be expired by the year 2000," one leader said.

We want to ensure the representation of women in the Parliament through amendment of the Constitution, they said.

They said our main focus is to ensure empowerment of women in the society.

They said we do not want to keep the reserved women seats in the Parliament for long, rather we want to ensure direct election of women representatives from Union Parishad to Parliament level.

They observed that by considering the socio-economic and political scenario and other fundamental situation of the country we want reserved

seats for women representatives in the Parliament for 15 more years or three terms.

We want to eliminate all discrimination against women and introduction of an uniform family code or an indifference family law to maintain parity with men.

They also made some recommendations that includes: Increasing reserve women quota, 64 women seats for 64 districts in Parliament, reconstruction of constituency, there should be two separate ballot boxes — one for general seats and another for reserved women seats, political parties should increase the ratio of nominations for women to 10 per cent from 5 per cent.

1138 arrested on 99th day of combing operation

A total of 1138 persons were arrested and 27 firearms and some ammunitions were seized on the 99th day of the country-wide combing operations yesterday by Police, BDR and Ansar, reports BSS.

The combined forces arrested 569 suspects from different parts of the country including the four metropolitan areas and recovered the said arms and ammunition from their possession.



Three human skulls and 40 bones, recently recovered from an abandoned well adjacent to Noorie Mosque in city's Mirpur area, were handed over to Liberation Museum on Thursday. Believed to be remains of people butchered by local collaborators of Pakistani occupation army in 1971, these skulls and bones triggered new interest among the Museum organisers. The Liberation Museum plans to excavate the mosque site at 9 am today. Meantime, the Museum authorities also arranged for forensic tests of the skeletons to determine the exact timing of the genocide.



Nargis Chowdhury, an exponent of Tagore Songs, enthralled the audience at the Indian Cultural Centre yesterday by her solo presentation.

IT: No thrust

From Page 1

lion dollar export-oriented industry.

To address this timely issue, APTECH Computer Education and The Daily Star will jointly organise a seminar titled 'Moving Forward with Declared Information Technology' today at 4:00 p.m. in Engineers Institution Auditorium.

A committee was formed by the Ministry of Commerce to look into the prospects of software export from Bangladesh which was headed by Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury. The committee identified the problems and prospects under four major categories — fiscal, human resource development, infrastructure and marketing. Nearly two years have passed since the publication of the JRC report published in September 1997. However most of the recommendations are yet to be acted upon.

Under the fiscal classification, only five out of 10 recommendations have been implemented. The recommendation to exempt computer hardware, software and other related equipment from all duties and taxes has already been implemented as a fiscal measure for 97-98. Tax holiday for five years, instead of 10 years as recommended, has also been implemented.

Other than these, the recommendations still awaiting implementation include 15 per cent domestic price preference for locally developed software, creating a special fund to provide interest-free loan to teachers and students, allowing export of software and data processing services through sales contract instead of letters of credit.

As regards human resource development, only one out of nine recommendations suggested by the JRC has been partially implemented in the last two years in the form of increased number of seats for computer related degrees and diplomas in the universities and other institutions.

Nothing has yet been done to upgrade the BCC to the level of a division to be managed by professionals, produce at least 1,000 trainers within 1999 by BCC, review course curricula every two years, empower BCC to develop a national examination/certification system to introduce 'Basic Computer Skills' as a compulsory subject for all students at graduation level, introduce compulsory education in computer studies at school and college levels and to strengthen linkage between the software firms and educational institutions.

Nothing has been done to ban use of pirated software in public and private sectors, to encourage all public sector organisations to replace manual system of record keeping through locally developed software, to send marketing missions abroad on regular basis, to arrange seminars and meetings in selected locations like Silicon Valley, California, USA, projecting incentives offered by Bangladesh government to the non-resident Bangladesh IT professionals so as to mobilise their support to help the country's entrepreneurs, to set up permanent liaison offices in the US and UK by EPB, to create a database of all organisations and institutions engaged in outsourcing of software and data processing services, to create special ports to clear goods within 24 hours, to allow private sector to set up own satellite communication links and to make video conferencing facility available through VSAT.

CBA, Non-CBA leaders demand 30pc DA

CBA and Non-CBA leaders in the banking sector yesterday demanded 30 per cent Dearness Allowance (DA) without changing daily office schedule and weekly holidays, reports BSS.

In a joint statement here, the trade union leaders urged the government to meet the legitimate demands of the unions, which include introduction of 30 per cent DA considering the continuous price hike of the essentials, reinstatement of the employees, promotion to all grades and regularization of all temporary posts.

They said the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina immediately after coming to power had announced Pay Scale for the government offices, which was implemented fully from this month.

"It is very much logical to keep the present office schedule and two-day weekly holidays unchanged for pursuing additional income generating activities of the low income employees of the government, non-government and autonomous bodies," they observed.

They urged the government to accept their demands through discussion.

The signatories to the joint statement included presidents and secretaries of Sonali Bank Employees Union, Janata Bank Ganatantrik Karmachari Union, Janata Bank Karmachari Parishad, Agrani Bank Employees Union, Rupali Bank Karmachari Sangsad, Bangladesh Bank Employees Association, Uttara Bank Ltd Employees Union and Bangladesh Krishi Bank Karmachari Union.

15,509 criminals held in 3 months from 16 N dists

RAJSHAHI, July 30: As part of the countrywide combing operation, police arrested 15,509 alleged criminals from 16 northern districts in last three months, reports UNB.

Under the infrastructure classification, three out of 14 recommendations have been implemented over the last two years.

Fates of many major recommendations are still uncertain. They include:

Internet code in the country, creation of a Central Resource Centre at BCC, encouraging firms involved in software development and data processing services to form an association in line with NASCOM, setting up of a IT village and ISDN/HDSL/ADSL lines and a fibre optic backbone, setting up of a communication hub and formation of a standing committee to formulate and implement policies, strategies and action plans for promotion of software and data processing services.

Under the marketing classification, only one out of 12 recommendations has so far been implemented. That is to empower EPB to ensure regular participation in all major international exhibitions and fairs on IT products and services.

Other than this, IT industry members were encouraged through seminars to take steps for ISO 9000 and SEI certifications. BASIS has been exploring the possibilities of obtaining the business on subcontract basis from other countries and BCC is preparing database of IT professionals of Bangladesh, but no concrete results have yet been achieved.

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No new BCL body in CU for five yrs

From CU Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, July 30: Resentment prevails among the leaders and activists of the ruling party's student front in Chittagong University (CU) as no committee has been formed since '94.

The five-year-old committee is still running the CU unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) backed by ruling Awami League.

Formation of a new committee is long overdue while most of its leaders including president and general secretary have already passed out from the varsity.

Resentment is brewing among the BCL leaders and activists making the organisation virtually paralysed and creating a great deal of frustration among its activists.

The last 41-member executive committee was formed in June '94 with Shahajahan Chowdhury and Mohammad Kalim as president and general secretary respectively. During this period 32 leaders of the old committee have already left the campus after completing education.

It has been a tradition that two top posts of the CU BCL, president and general secretary, should come with the blessing of two top Awami League leaders Aktaruzzaman Babu and Mohiuddin Khondhury, activists said.

There were some incidents of disturbances in the past arising out of regionalism at the time of formation of committee.

Campus sources said that with both of its rightist and leftist rivals — Islami Chhatra Shibir, Bangladesh Chhatra Union and Samatantrik Chhatra Front — functioning more or less in a disciplined manner having new committees in place on a routine basis, but the BCL is very badly poised having no new committee for five years.

Amu pledges to solve problems of teachers

Awami League Presidium member Amir Hussain Amu yesterday assured members of Bangladesh college-university Teachers association that he would try to impress upon the government for due consideration of their demands, reports BSS.

Inaugurating the 5th biennial conference of the association's Dhaka unit in the TSC auditorium, he said the present government was doing everything possible for the speedy development of the education sector and the teachers as a whole.

In this respect, he asked the members of the association to take into consideration the country's limited resources from where the government had to provide all expenses of the development plans.

Speaking about the last three years of the present government, Amu said the campus was now free from violence and the universities were not suffering from session jam as in the past.



The Alliance Francaise de Dhaka held a concert by Trio at its auditorium yesterday.