

Anti-hartal processions held

State Minister for Shipping and Dhaka City Awami League General Secretary Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, Birukram, yesterday said peace-loving pious Muslims will give a befitting reply to the anti-Islamic activities of the main opposition BNP and its anti-liberation and autocrat allies, reports BSS.

At a pre-hartal rally at the party central office Maya said BNP along with its anti-liberation and fundamentalist ally Jamaat-e-Islami is creating obstacles to the celebration of the biggest religious festival of the Muslims by calling hartals.

Different front organisations of Bangladesh Awami League yesterday brought out separate peace processions in the city protesting the six-hour countrywide hartal enforced by main opposition BNP and its allies.

Dhaka City Awami League, Bangabandhu Sainik League, Chhatra League, Awami Sechachha Shebok League, Krishak League, Jatiya Sramik League, Hawkers' League and Lalbagh Thana Awami League paraded different city streets and chanted anti-hartal slogans describing it as anti-people, illogical and irrational.

The procession paraded different city streets including Noor Hossain Square, Paltan, Topkhana Road, Jatiya Press Club areas and ended at the party central office. Among others joining the procession were Prof Fazlul Haq, Monir Hossain Khan, Akhtarul Alam, Fayed Uddin Miyan, Abdul Haque Sabuj, Salahuddin Badal and Mohammad Yunus Ali.

Maya said peace-loving people have taken vow to root out the vested quarters who are trying to destroy democratic atmosphere of the country created by this regime by calling frequent hartals.

Meanwhile, in a statement the city Awami League president, Mayor Mohammad Hanif, and the general secretary, Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, congratulated the city dwellers for rejecting the hartal call.

Minister for Science and Technology Lt General (ret'd) Noor Uddin Khan yesterday said that the main objective of the coordinated nutrition project is to eliminate malnutrition and create consciousness about the matter among the people, reports BSS.

He was addressing as chief guest a function at Monohardi meant to distribute honorarium to the organisers and social workers engaged in the movement for nutrition. Concerned officials attended the occasion.

The minister handed over Tk 1000 to each of the 22 organisers and Tk 500 to each of the 203 workers in addition to a radio set to everyone.

He also advised nutrition workers to fan out in the villages and make people conscious about the nutrition value of different kinds of vegetables and fruits.

The minister later distributed five kgs of rice and five kgs of wheat to the distressed women and elderly people in the Monohardi and Belabo thanas for the coming Eid-ul-Fitr. At the instruction of the prime minister, rice and wheat are being distributed to 900 poor people in every union on the occasion of the coming Eid.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will provide Taka 12 crore 87 lakh to help make the programme a success within five years.



Bangladesh Photojournalists' Association held a milad mahfil and iftar party yesterday in memory of photojournalist Belayet Hossain Belal and other journalists at their office premises.

JU teacher sustains bomb injuries

By Staff Correspondent Noted economist and a teacher of Jahangirnagar University (JU) Anu Muhammad sustained bomb injuries at Paltan crossing Sunday night, said a press release last night.

The incident took place when Anu Muhammad, also a member of Ganatantrik Biplobi Jote, was returning from Pura-rana Paltan central office of the party at about 8 pm Sunday, it said.

Splinter of a bomb hit his left thigh. Anu Muhammad was rushed to Holy Family Red Crescent Hospital where he underwent a surgical operation yesterday, it added.

BDR recovers Indian clothes

By Staff Correspondent A special team of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) has recovered smuggled Indian clothes from Chilmari area under Kushlia sector on December 27, said a BDR press release last night.

The recovered clothes include 1,896 pieces of Indian saris, 36 woollen wrappers and shawls, and 31 bed sheets and bed covers, it added.

Obituary

Valiant Freedom Fighter Yaseer Ali of Moulvibazar district died of cancer at his village home last month after a prolonged suffering from the deadly disease, according to a message yesterday. He was 60, reports BSS.

He left behind his wife, three sons and a daughter to mourn his death. After Namaj-e-Janaza, he was laid to rest at the village graveyard.

JCD, BCL hold rallies for, against hartal

By DU Correspondent Opposition BNP-backed Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and ruling Awami League's student wing Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) held rallies on the Dhaka University campus yesterday in favour and against the countrywide hartal respectively.

BCL leaders at their rally condemned the BNP-led four party oppositions alliance's calling of "illogical" hartals frequently, which they said is only ruining the country's flourishing economy.

"Such destructive political programmes are nothing but steps to ruin the economy and destroy the country's peaceful atmosphere," said BCL general secretary Ajay Kar Khokon.

He urged the opposition to refrain from unleashing any more hartals, he said adding that the people would not forgive them for their misdeeds.

JCD brought out its procession from the Madhu's Canteen and held the rally at TSC road island. JCD's DU unit president Manir Hossain presided over the rally which was addressed among others by Munsif Bazul Basit Anjur, Mozaffar Hossain Zakir, Rafik Sikdar, S M Nuruzzaman, A B M Mosbar, Hossain and Sultan Selim Tuku.

At the rally, the JCD leaders condemned the ruling AL for its continuing repression on the opposition activists and urged Sheikh Hasina to immediately stop such activities.

At 4 pm at the residence of the deceased's youngest son deputy accountant general Dewan Sayeedul Hassan at "Prantik" 17/8 Circuit House Road.

Shahida Diwan was the wife of distinguished educationist and Professor of Dhaka University Md Rustam Ali Diwan.

Relatives, friends, colleagues, students and admirers have been requested to attend the milad mahfil and pray for her.

Death anniversary

The first death anniversary of Begum Shahida Diwan will be observed today, says a press release.

A milad mahfil will be held on the occasion of the deceased's youngest son deputy accountant general Dewan Sayeedul Hassan at "Prantik" 17/8 Circuit House Road.

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New study on Sirajganj reveals 91 pc of elected female UP members have political affiliation

A study on 'Roles and Perceptions of Elected Women UP Members and Linkages with Civil Society' has showed that the majority were mobilised by political parties despite a ban in use of political party identity in UP elections, reports BSS.

Almost 90.9 per cent of the elected women members claimed affiliation with political parties while 77.6 per cent are said to have connections with NGOs and 82.6 per cent with civil society organisations, the study said.

The party affiliation in the past and present reiterates the trend in local politics of elected members claiming affiliation with the party in power. Over 70 per cent is said to be connected with Awami League.

Zarina R Khan and Muntasir Mamoon of Dhaka University conducted the study in Sirajganj district on a wide variety of samples that suggest gender-specific policy support by the government for strengthening UPs and making women members more effective.

In order to assess the elected women members' (EWMs) understanding and awareness of local and institutional problems of the unions, the study found that 41 per cent listed infrastructural deficiencies as a local problem, while 26 per cent identified poverty as a problem.

Of those surveyed 43 per cent of EWMs perceived their role as to help the UP as well as general people. Nearly 99 per cent expressed optimism to bring qualitative change in UP performance, and 42 per cent wanted training first.

The study also revealed the traditional mindset of the elected representations in local council of the country as 45 per cent of EWMs acknowledged having expectations for acquiring both money and power by getting elected.

But 28.6 per cent of EWMs thought legal clarity, strong committee system and participation in a government/coordination system could ensure accountability of elected councilors.

A total of 39.6 per cent of EWMs thought dissemination of information, open bidding and regular consultations together could enhance transparency in the system.

There is lack of clarity among the EWMs on Gram Parishad, its role and relationship with the UP in general and EWMs in particular. This is due to the vagueness in GP Act that does not specify the role of EWMs (reserved seats) in UPs.

All EWMs were found to be literate with over 42 per cent having completed secondary level and 9 per cent higher secondary level education but 57.7 per cent of them lack knowledge of the existence of Village Court and Family Court.

Unlike the popular notion that NGOs mobilise awareness of grassroots poor women such a trend was not found to be strong in study area of Sirajganj area.

Sources of election funds were more or less fair — about 45 per cent came from husband/family and NGOs rather than from political parties. Election spending was also minimal, 62 per cent spent between Tk 20,000 to 60,000.

Over 60 per cent of EWMs complain that they faced difficulty in working with male councilors while 61 per cent reported they were denied equal status. About 41 per cent hoped that a positive social attitude can make them acceptable to UP councilors.

Training was considered vital (88 pc) and the areas for training identified were law, family laws, village court and role orientation (44 pc). A total of 65 pc are aware of resource position of UPs, but 83 per cent are not satisfied with UPs fund position. On civil society perception of local government and their roles, 75 per cent think UPs lack accountability and 83.8 per cent believe that UP accountability is a pre-condition for enhanced people's participation.

In the area of civil society's perception of UP functions, over 45 per cent thought the important function of UP is VGD card distribution and over 31 per cent perceived it to be road and culvert construction.

Surprisingly, 56 per cent civil society respondents do not have any idea of the existence of Village Court or Family Court. Interestingly 20 per cent of the NGOs and 80 per cent of community-based organisations perceive a role for themselves as Gram Parishad Chairman.

The study suggested enhancing cooperation and collectivism between civil society and EWMs by policy support and logistic support for serving the people as well as enjoying the trust and confidence.

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Rotary News

Weekly meeting

The regular weekly meeting of Rotary Club of Ramna will be held today at 4:00 pm at the clinic of Dr Ruhul Haque, Trauma Centre, Road # 15, House # 17, (old Road # 28), Dhanmondi, says a press release.

The meeting is being hosted by Rtn Dr Ruhul Haque. The guest speaker of the day will be Alhaj Moulana Golam Maula.

BRDB to launch poverty alleviation programme

RAJSHAHI, Jan 3: Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) will launch a massive poverty alleviation programme in over 350 villages of six unions of Tanore in Rajshahi district and 13 unions of Gaibandha district soon, reports BSS.

An official source said the main objective of the programme is to make the poor self-reliant including womenfolk in the area.

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Honorarium to nutrition workers distributed

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ADMISSION GOING ON NEWCASTLE Int'l School PLAY GROUP TO STANDARD 'V' House # 20, Road # 9/A, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka. Tel: 9349907, 018-216202

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Executive Engineer S.B. Nagar P.W.D. Division No. 1 Dhaka

Inviting PWD Tender Notice No 1189 Tender No: 21/1999-2000 Date: 01.12.99

Inviting PWD Tender Notice 1. Sealed tenders in Bangladesh Form No 2911 are hereby invited from the enlisted Special Class-I, Class-I (combined) & Class-I Bldg Contractors of PWD, Class-II Bldg Contractors of PWD Dhaka Zone, Dhaka, Class-III Bldg Contractors of PWD Circle-III, Dhaka for the undermentioned work and will be received by the undersigned & as well as by the Executive Engineer, SB Nagar PWD Divn II/III/Mohakhali PWD Divn, Dhaka and PWD Eden Bldg. Divn, Dhaka up to 12.00 Noon of 18.1.2000 and will be opened on the same day at 12.15 PM in presence of the intending tenderers who may like to remain present. Each tender shall be in a sealed cover with the name of work on it. No tender will be sold to the contractor/firm who has no VAT registration & TIN certificate.

BCIC Tender Notice বিসিআইসি'র পণ্য শিলায়নে জাতীয় অগ্রগতির প্রতীক

Managing Director, Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Ltd, Rangadia, Chittagong invites sealed tender in two-envelope system from bonafide manufacturers/suppliers against Tender Enquiry No. CUFL/PUR/99-2000/SC-56(13) dated 08-12-99 for purchase of 400 (four hundred) metre conveyor belt. Tender documents will be available at the cost of Tk. 100.00 (One hundred) only (non-refundable) per set up to 16.1.2000 during office hours in the following offices (1) BCIC, 30-31, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka, (2) BCIC Branch office, 06, Agrabad C/A, Chittagong & (3) CUFL Accounts Department, Rangadia, Chittagong. Tender will be received in the Purchase Department, CUFL, Rangadia, Chittagong up to 11.30 AM on 17-1-2000 and will be opened immediately thereafter. CUFL management reserves all right to accept or reject all tenders partially or wholly. Due to any unavoidable circumstances, if the tender can not be opened in the scheduled date, this will be opened on the next working day in the same time.

মংলা বন্দর কর্তৃপক্ষ মংলা, বাগেরহাট টেন্ডার বিজ্ঞপ্তি এতদ্বারা আমহী বাক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠানের জানানো যাইতেছে যে, মংলা বন্দর কর্তৃপক্ষের পুরাতন মংলায় অডিটরিয়ায় ডবলটি (১০০০ বর্গফুট) সিনেমা হল হিসাবে ব্যবহারের জন্য আনামী ১০ (দশ) কবর মেয়াদে সীলমোহরকৃত টেন্ডারের মাধ্যমে ইজারা/ভাড়া দেওয়া হইবে। উক্ত টেন্ডারে আমহী বাক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হইতে সীলমোহরকৃত টেন্ডার আবেদন করা যাইতেছে।

Bangladesh Power Development Board Re-Tender Notice

Description of work: Repairing and maintenance work of rest house at Zangalia under Distribution Division, PDB, Comilla. Eligibility of contractors: Ka, Kha, Ga and Gha classes of up-to-date enlisted bonafide contractors of Power Development Board. Estimated expenditure: 1.93.596/21 (Taka one lakh, ninety three thousand, five hundred and ninety-six and twenty-one paisa) only. Cost of tender: 200/- (two hundred) taka (non-refundable). Will have to be deposited in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order in favour of the Deputy-Director (Accounts), RAO, PDB, Comilla. Place where tender will be available with date: Chief Engineer, Distribution, Southern Zone, PDB, Chittagong/Superintending Engineer, Transmission and Maintenance Circle, PDB, Comilla/Manager, Sonali Bank, WAPDA Bhaban Branch, Zangalia, Comilla, and can be purchased till 17.1.2000. Date of receiving and opening tender: Chief Engineer, Distribution, Southern Zone, PDB, Chittagong/Superintending Engineer, Transmission and Maintenance Circle, PDB, Comilla/Executive Engineer Distribution Division, PDB on 18.1.2000 at 12-00 noon and tenders will be opened the same day at 12-30 pm before the tenderers present (if anyone remains present). Other terms and conditions and all rules and regulations must be followed properly.

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