

Ban on use of polybags all over country from Mar 1

BSS, Dhaka

Environment and Forest Minister Shajahan Siraj yesterday said the government will now ban use and marketing of polyethylene shopping bags thick up to 20 microns all over the country from March 1.

"The government will not only ban use and marketing of polybags from Dhaka city, but also across the country from March 1 and then will make a law in the next session of the parliament to stop its production," he told a workshop.

Shihab, Nasir get Kabyokala Award

Two renowned poets of the country, Shihab Sarkar and Nasir Ahmed, will be honoured with the Kabyokala Award 2001 at a function at the Begum Sufia Kamal Auditorium at the National Museum in the city at 6:00 pm today, says a press release.

Poet Abul Hossain and poet Abdul Mannan Syed will be present as chief guest and special guest respectively with poet Shahed Rahman in the chair.

The award was announced early last year by Kabyokala, an organisation of poets and poetry lovers. Shihab Sarkar and Nasir Ahmed are working with The Independent and The Janakantha respectively as assistant editors.

Each award carries Tk 50,000, a gold medal and a citation.

Jointly organised by Department of Environment, Ministry of Environment and Forest and SMEC (Bangladesh) Limited, the workshop on draft final report of a study on "Control and Management of Polyethylene Bags in Bangladesh" was held at the LGED Bhaban.

Chaired by Environment and Forest Secretary Sabihuddin Ahmed, the workshop was addressed, among others, by State Minister for Environment and Forest Jafar Islam Chowdhury, former advisor to the caretaker government Abdul Mueyed Chowdhury, Director General of the Department of Environment Mohammad Hedayatul Islam Chowdhury and Dr Rafiqul Islam.

Siraj said the government would not bow down to any pressure to withdraw its decision on banning use and marketing of polybags. He also pointed out that crores of polybags are being thrown out in Dhaka metropolis pushing city life under serious threat.

The drainage system of the city is about to be collapsed as about 5 to 6 feet layers of polybags have developed at the bottom of the river Buriganga, he said.

The Environment and Forest Minister sought cooperation of all concerned to stop use and marketing of polybags from today mentioning that the polybags caused a serious environmental degradation.



Awami League brought out a procession in the city yesterday protesting price hike of fuel, gas and electricity.

Price hike of gas, fuel, electricity A design to destroy economy: AL

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League leaders yesterday said the government increased fuel, gas and electricity prices with a design to destroy country's economy and urged the people to build up a resistance against its "evil move."

"The government of Khaleda Zia is presenting price hike of fuels as the new year's gift. They have taken this anti-people decision to destroy the economy," party General Secretary Zillur Rahman told a discussion meeting organised by Krishak League.

Krishak League, a front organisation of Awami League, organised

the meeting at party central office at Bangabandhu Avenue as part of its Victory Day celebrations.

Asking the government to cancel the decision of a raise in prices of fuels, he said this is a "disastrous decision" that would badly hamper production, particularly agricultural production.

He said during its five-year rule Awami League had made the country a food-surplus one from a food-deficit predicament. But again this government will make Bangladesh a food-deficit country under its plans to create sufferings for the people. Zillur apprehended that with the increase of fuel and gas rates prices of all essentials and foodstuff increase, factories would close down and the economy face a disaster. He urged the people to build a movement against this move.

Awami League Presidium Member Suranjit Sengupta told the meeting that there is a total lawlessness prevailing in the country.

Advocate Rahmat Ali said the farmers would be prime and major victims of the fuel price hike, and urged the people to build movement against this "anti-people" decision.

Indian engineer killed in blast

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

One Indian engineer was killed and two others injured in an explosion in a ship near a ship breaking yard at Sitakunda here in the early hours of yesterday.

The dead was identified as Jashoyant Singh, third engineer of the ship. Sources said, the explosion took place in a vessel brought for breaking near Kabir Steel Ship Breaking Yard at Madambirburi at around 2.30 am.

The vessel, Sea Splendour, weighing about 52 thousand tonnes exploded when it was being beached with some speed during the high tide.

The injured, also Indian citizens, were rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital in critical condition.

36th Biswa Ijtema from January 19

BSS, Ctg

The three-day 36th Biswa Ijtema of Tablig Jamaat, the second largest congregation of the Muslims after the Holy Hajj, begins on January 19 on the bank of the River Turag at Tongi.

The Akheri Munajat will be held on January 21 at 10 am.

The Ijtema committee and the

Bank official's body recovered from Buriganga

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The body of Salman I Raihan, an official of Standard Chartered Bank was recovered from the river Buriganga yesterday.

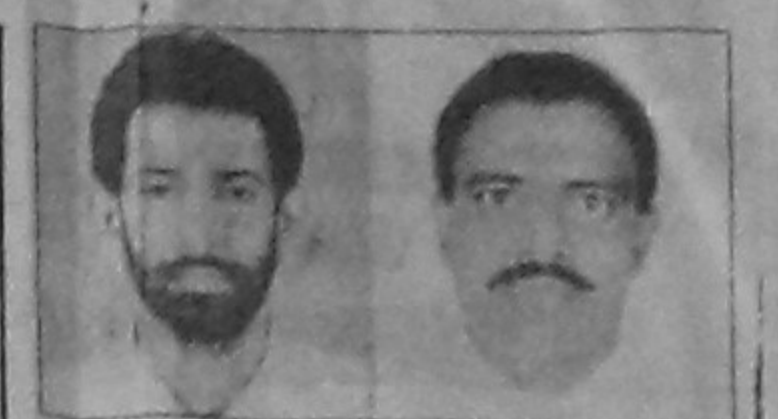
Raihan had been missing since December 27 following a collision between a mechanised boat and a motor launch in the river Buriganga, family sources said.

They said Raihan was going to a nearby village with a bridal party to attend marriage ceremony of his friend.

He was on board with the bridal party on the mechanised boat owned by one Shamsur Patkajor village. It is alleged that the launch Lucky-7 owned by Messrs Abdur Rahim Bepari and Co registration no M-3928 hit the mechanised boat in the river Buriganga.

The master of the launch Lucky-7, which ply on Khulamura-Swarighat route, was repeatedly requested to stop the launch to avoid the incident.

It is also alleged that Fire Brigade rushed to the spot after about 12 hours of the incident. "The loss of lives could be avoided if the Fire Brigade conducted search and rescue operation promptly," victim's family members said.



Election of The Daily Star Unit of DUJ held

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) and election of The Daily Star Unit of Dhaka Journalists' Union was held at The Daily Star office yesterday.

Biswadip Das was re-elected unit chief and Mohammed Elia deputy unit chief, unopposed, in the Unit.

Inam Ahmed, chief election commissioner, and Nazmul Ashraf and Monirul Islam Majumder, election commissioners, conducted the election.

Workshop on faculty dev

A Workshop on Faculty Development was held at BRAC University (BU) from December 23 to 31, says a press release.

The sessions focussed on the 'Concept of Online Teaching'. The workshop was conducted by Dr Abdullah Shibli, Instructional Technologies Specialist, Harvard University, USA.

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ArcAAB Elections 2001

Elections to the ArcAAB Executive Committee shall now be held on **Friday 25 January 2002** at the Seminar Hall, Auditorium Complex, BUET from 9 AM to 12.30 PM. Nomination papers should be filed from 3-5 PM on **13 January 2002** at the Department of Architecture, BUET. For Nomination Papers and further details please contact the office of the Department of Architecture, BUET.

(Signed) Architect ASM Ismail
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ArcAAB, 29 December 2001

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