

'2nd Padma Bridge to be built at Aricha point'

BSS, Dhaka
Communications Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda yesterday said survey would start soon to establish second Padma bridge at Aricha-Daulotdia point.

He said the bridge would be constructed within next five years to develop economy and communications for people of greater Faridpur, Kustia and Satkhira districts.

Addressing a huge public meeting at Daulotdia as the chief guest, he said the people of Faridpur remained neglected during the past five-year rule of Awami League.

Disaster Management and Relief Minister Chowdhury Kamal Prof Kabir Chy turns 80 today

UNB, Dhaka
National Professor Kabir Chowdhury turns 80 today.

To mark the day, his family will arrange a get-together at his residence from 4 pm to 6 pm.

Country's civil society leaders are expected to join the programme.

Staff Correspondent adds: Leaders and activists of Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee as well as well-wishers of Kabir Chowdhury will visit his residence at 4 pm to greet and pay respect to him.

ibne Yusuf and lawmaker Akmal ibne Yusuf spoke on the occasion. Later, the minister visited the Munshirbazar-Rajbari bypass road site to see the progress of work. He said construction of proposed Faridpur town-Padma-C and B ghat road would start soon.

Barrister Nazmul Huda laid foundation stone of Hatgazaria bridge over the river Bhubenaswar and opened the newly constructed building for Roads and Highway Department.

Injured Barisal BCL leader dies in city

UNB, Dhaka
Saidur Rahman Farooq, vice-president of Barisal district unit of Chhatra League, succumbed to his wounds at a city clinic on Thursday.

Farooq, also former VP of Barisal College, was kidnapped on January 24 and brutally tortured allegedly by local JCD activists. He was brought to Dhaka and admitted to a private clinic where he died at about 5pm. AI office sources said.

Earlier in the morning, Awami League President Sheikh Hasina visited Farooq at the clinic.



Awami League president and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina offering munajat after placing wreath on the coffin of Barisal BCL leader Saidur Rahman Farooq in front of the Awami League office in the city yesterday.

Steps to increase export

BSS, Dhaka
The government has taken a number of steps to increase the country's export, which has been declining for last few months due to the current global recession, Commerce Ministry officials said.

The steps include special incentives to potential sectors, diversification of export items, exploring alternative markets and reducing interest rate on export loan.

The National Export Council headed by Prime Minister Khaleda Zia would meet soon to decide the modules on giving special package incentives for export of some potential items, including information technology (IT), agriculture processing, vegetables and leather products, the officials said.

During July to November 2001, the country had exported goods worth about 2459 million dollars, which is 10.9 per cent less than the corresponding period of the previous year in the wake of the current worldwide recession.

The price index also decreased by 2.1 per cent than the same period of the previous year, an Export Promotion Bureau official said.

With the export volume declining, the government laid emphasis on diversifying the export items. The World Bank financed two separate projects under the Commerce Ministry have been working for diversification of export products.

The government has already reduced the bank rate and interest on export loan to help the exporters overcoming their set backs.

Meanwhile, the government has taken special move to explore alternative markets for Bangladeshi products, especially in the regional markets including China, India, Pakistan and Myanmar, the officials said.

Commerce Minister Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury is expected to lead a business delegation to Myanmar next month to exhibit local products there in "Bangladesh Week." Commerce Ministry sources said.

We are optimistic that the export basket will be increased in near future following the recent initiatives taken by the government," a Commerce Ministry official said.

port products. The Governing Council for Export Promotion would also meet next week to review the situation while the Task Force on Export headed by Commerce Minister Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury held several meetings recently in fixing strategy to help the exporters.

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Be accurate in diagnosis

President tells docs at int'l seminar in city

BSS, Dhaka
President A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday urged the physicians to be accurate in diagnosis of different diseases reminding them that negligence in detection of illness could not be acceptable to the society.

"You, the doctors, deal with human beings. So always keep it mind that there is no other alternative but to be accurate in diagnosis," he said.

The president said that millions of patients, whether poor or rich, of the country depend on the physicians with a dream to get rid of different health related troubles.

"I do hope that your target would be to provide world class medicare services to the patients," he said while inaugurating the 14th Annual Conference and International Seminar of the Bangladesh Society of Ultrasonography here in Osmani Memorial Auditorium yesterday morning.

He urged the doctors to reach the remotest corners of the country since it is the most modern, affordable and easily movable medical system to diagnosis different diseases more accurately. "But again remain alert that low standard machinery could create confusion about detection of diseases, so use the sophisticated technology and equipment in ultrasonography," he cautioned the ultrasonographers attending the two-day conference and seminar.

He asked the physicians to inform the government time to time about import of low-standard ultrasonography equipment and aware the authorities concerned of the importance of minimum standard machinery.

President Chowdhury, the physician turned politician, also laid emphasis on advanced training for accurate diagnosis of diseases.

Vice-chancellor of Bangladesh Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) Prof Dr M A Hadi and President of the World Federation for Ultrasonography in Medicine and Biology Prof Hiroki Watanabe addressed the inaugural session as special guests while Society's President Dr Haider Ali Khan chaired the function.

Secretary General of the Society Dr Firoz Ahmed, Vice-president Dr Kanu Bala, Dr Almas Begum and Dr Mizanul Hasan also addressed the function.

The President distributed certificates among the successful students of the 11th Ultrasonography Course being offered by the society.

Two reputed physician Dr M A Karim, Director and Chief Medical Officer of the Institute of Nuclear Medicine of BSMMU and Dr Kanu Bala, Vice-president of the Society, were awarded in the ceremony for their outstanding contributions in popularising and development of ultrasonography in Bangladesh.

Speaker urges lawyers Come forward to establish rule of law

BSS, Ctg
Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar has urged the lawyers to come forward in establishing rule of law through rendering their professional services with utmost sincerity and transparency.

"Lawyers are the inseparable part of the judiciary who could play vital role by assisting the judges to deliver a fair judgement as they are the most enlightened and educated members of the society," Sircar said.

The Speaker was addressing as the chief guest here a discussion on "Strengthening Parliamentary Democracy and Rule of Law" before the traditional annual dinner-2001 organised by the Chittagong District Bar Association (CDBA) at the bar library auditorium yesterday evening.

State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin spoke the function as special guest with CDBA president Advocate Safiqul Islam in the chair.

"Opposition is the important part of the parliament and they have to play significant role to make the parliamentary democracy effective," the Speaker made his observation quoting the long history of the parliamentary democracy of Great Britain.

Referring to opposition Awami

League's continuous boycott of the 8th parliament, he said "what they actually want to do bypassing the parliament and people's will?"

"You cannot ask the government to non-cooperate the people who got the mandate of the majority and it is the people only who will decide finally the performance of the government," he said. It is not the real spirit of the parliamentary democracy that a party in power wants to remain in power and stay in power forever.

Responding to the demand of the lawyers and judges regarding the Chittagong court building issue, the Speaker said as the case is pending in the higher court so that there should be a compromise between petitioner and the respondent to reach an amicable settlement as the matter needs urgent attention.

He called upon the lawyers, judges and judicial officials to work hard with vision to ensure justice to the neglected people in the society through timely disposal of the cases as innumerable cases have been pending in the higher court to lower courts in the country.

Chittagong District and Session Judge Ali Asraf Khan Lodi said smooth functioning of the judiciary depends on healthy relation between bench and bar.



JCD leader Sajal's death anniversary today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 3rd death anniversary of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal leader Sajal Chowdhury will be observed today.

Sajal, a leader of Dhanmondi thana unit of BNP-backed JCD, was killed on February 9 in 1999 during the four-day non-stop hartal called by the BNP-led opposition alliance against holding of municipal elections.

In observance of the day, a mourning procession will be brought out from Dahnmondi Eadgah ground and offer *fataha* at the grave of 'Sajal'. A memorial plaque will be laid at the Science Laboratory crossing where Sajal was killed.

Besides, a day-long Qurankhwani will be arranged at Sajal's residence at 301 West Dhanmondi. A discussion meeting and milad mahfil will also be arranged there.

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IN REMEMBRANCE

With profound sorrow and grief, we remember with a heavy heart LATE DR. AMIRUL ISLAM, Ex-Vice Chancellor of Agricultural University, Mymensingh, Founder Director of BIRI, Gazipur, Ex-Chairman of BARC, Dhaka, Ex-Trustee of Member of IRRI, Philippine, whom we lost one year back on the 9th of February 2001. We request all relatives, friends, colleagues and admirers to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Mrs. Hosne Ara Islam
Sons, daughters, grandchildren
and other relatives.

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