



BNP leader Farida Rahman passes away

UNB, Dhaka

Farida Rahman, a vice-chairman of BNP and former MP, died of a cardiac arrest in the city yesterday evening at the age of 60.

Farida was rushed to hospital with severe pain in her chest at 6 pm, but she died on the way.

She is survived by her husband Habibur Rahman and two sons, both living in the USA.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has expressed deep shock at the death of Farida Rahman. She recalled her valuable contribution in nation-building as well as her role in the anti-autocracy and democratic movements.

She prayed for salvation of the departed soul and conveyed her sympathy to the bereaved family.

Later, the Prime Minister visited the Dhanmondi residence of Farida Rahman at 8.25pm and placed a wreath on her body as a mark of respect. She also consoled the bereaved family.

Khaleda was accompanied by party leaders Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Khandokar Delwar Hossain, Dr R A Ghani, Dr Moin Khan, Selima Rahman, Begum Sarwar and her political secretary Mosaddeq Ali.

Party sources said the namaj-e-janaza of Farida Rahman will be held at Dhanmondi Idgah Mosque after the Zohr prayers today. Later, the body will be taken to the BNP Central Office at 2pm where the second janaza will be held in the afternoon before burial at Banani graveyard.

Bhasha Parishad to commemorate declaration of Language Movement

UNB, Dhaka

The Bhasha Andolan O Jatiya Chetana Parishad has decided to observe September 15 as the day commemorating the declaration of the historic Language Movement.

A press release of the Parishad said the declaration in the form of a book titled 'Pakistaner Rastrabhasha Bangla Na Urdu' had been made on September 15, 1947, one month after the creation of Pakistan.

The book contained articles written by Prof Abul Kashem, Dr Kazi Motahar Hossain and Abul Mansur Ahmad on behalf of the sponsor organisation of the Language Movement 'The Tamaddun Majlish'.

The book gave specific guidelines for the movement on the basis of which the State Language Movement Council was formed and a democratic movement was launched.

The parishad press release said the declaration also gave indication of ultimate disintegration of Pakistan for the reason of apathy and negligence to the language of the majority population.

To commemorate the day, the Parishad will hold a discussion meeting at 16, West End Street, East Dhanmondi at 4 pm, the release added.

BFUJ, DUJ protest 'false case' against 11 journalists

UNB, Dhaka

The Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists and the Dhaka Union of Journalists have strongly condemned the filing of a 'false case' against 11 journalists, including four of now-closed ETV, in Barisal.

BFUJ president Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury and secretary general Akhter Ahmed and DUJ president Kazi Rafiq and general secretary Molla Jalal in a joint statement yesterday said the 'false case' has been filed to divert Friday's attack on the journalists by the 'ruling party hooligans'.



Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina visited injured party leader Abul Hossain at a city clinic yesterday. Abul Hossain was critically injured as he jumped onto the ground from his 2nd floor residence in the city during a raid by plainclothes police on Wednesday night.

Modernisation of ZIA Luxury hotels to be built in airport compound

UNB, Dhaka

Apart from modernisation and expansion of the Zia International Airport (ZIA), a project for construction of luxury hotels in its compound is underway under a massive plan for upgrading it to a most modern airport.

Under the project, one five-star and one three-star hotel, a golf course and a country club will be built on BOT (build, operate and transfer) basis.

The government, which has no investment in the project, will earn 3.25 lakh US dollars in lease rent a year, said State Minister for Civil Aviation Mir Nasir Uddin.

"Under a similar project, a five-star hotel will also be built at Chittagong Shah Amanat International Airport," he told a review meeting of the Civil Aviation Authorities in the city yesterday.

An international tender had

already been floated for the construction of the hotel on BOT basis, he said.

While reviewing the development programmes of the Civil Aviation Authorities (CAA), the state minister explained the on-going modernisation and expansion projects of ZIA.

"The government is firm to make air traffic in the country's airspace safe and turn the ZIA into a most modern airport with all facilities and total safety," he told the meeting.

He said the construction of international terminal building had almost been completed at a cost of Tk 55.10 crore.

The newly constructed terminal building will have the capacity to handle 8 million passengers a year. Besides, a multi-storied car park has been built at a cost of Tk

9.55 crore.

The minister also listed other projects for setting up the instrument-landing system on the runway, lighting system and re-carpeting of taxiway and procurement of new radar.

He called upon the officials and staff of the CAA to discharge their duties with sincerity and honesty.

Civil Aviation and Tourism Secretary M Shafiqul Islam, CAA chairman Air Commodore Lufur Rahman and other high officials were present in the meeting.

Seminar on IT today

Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS) is organising a daylong seminar on "Information Technology and Youth Enterprises in Bangladesh" as a part of its young scholars seminar series at BISS auditorium today, says a press release.

L K Siddiqi, Minister for Water Resources, will attend the seminar as chief guest and Mahmudur Rahman, Executive Chairman of Board of Investment, will be the special guest at the inaugural session.

Ambassador Muleh R Osmany, former Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh and chairman, Board of Governors, BISS, will preside.

The seminar aims at engaging the young scholars of the country in the mainstream of intellectual brainstorming and giving them a necessary exposure to national issues like information communication technology (ICT).

The day-long seminar is divided into two working sessions.

In the first working session, there will be papers on "IT Sector in Bangladesh: Infrastructure and Investment" by Dr Md Haider Ali and Maria Wahid Choudhury, Assistant Professors, Dept of Computer Science and Engineering, Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, Sylhet; "Youth Development in Bangladesh--Relevance of Information Technology" by Tanzimuddin Khan, Research Officer, BISS, and Bakhtiar Rana, Lecturer, Dept of Business Administration, Jahangirnagar University; and "Dotcoms in Bangladesh: Dwarfed by Poor Infrastructure, Little Investment" by Khawza Main Uddin, Staff Correspondent, the Bangladesh Observer and M Al-Amin, Sub-Editor, The Daily Star.

Newspapers urged to build movement against violence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion meeting in the city yesterday urged the newspapers to publish news objectively for the betterment of the society.

Terming the newspaper as the mirror of the society they said the newspapers should build up a movement against crime and violence.

The speakers also blamed the opposition Awami League for sponsoring violence in the society to embarrass the BNP-led four-party alliance government.

The discussion meeting titled "Role of Newspapers in Resisting Terrorism" organised by the Swadhinata Forum, a BNP-backed organisation, was held at the National Press Club.

Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Barrister Moudud Ahmed was present at the meeting as chief guest while State Minister for Commerce Barkatullah Bulu as special guest.

Abu Naser Mohammad Rahmatullah, president of the forum, presided over the meeting.

Barrister Moudud said at present the press is enjoying full freedom. But the freedom does not mean that the newspapers can write whatever they like. They must have some self-imposed guidelines, he added.

The minister said the newspapers should be cautious in publishing news which is harmful for the country.

He noted that the newspapers never appreciate the positive side of the government rather portrait the negative side of the government which he termed 'Negative mentality'.

Barkatullah Bulu said some

newspapers in the country are engaged in "Information terrorism" by depicting the country as Taliban, Islamic Fundamentalist which undermines the image of the country both at home and abroad. The expatriate Bangladeshis also face problems due to negative portrait of the country in the newspapers, he added.

Moazzem Hossain Alal, MP, said most of the newspapers publish the news of rape and killing in such a manner that creates fear in the public mind.

New committee of Rahmate Alam Islam Mission

A 21-member executive committee of the Rahmate Alam Islam Mission has been elected with Abdul Mannan MP and Mia Mohammed Golam Kibria as president and general secretary respectively, says a press release.

The biennial general meeting and election to the executive committee of Rahmate Alam Islam Mission and Islam Mission orphanage was held at its office on Friday.

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Sale of 15 Tax free Purchased Old UNHCR Vehicles The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Dhaka invites sealed offers from interested buyers for 15 unroadworthy different types of vehicles" as is where is basis" (7 Toyota Landcruisers, 3 Toyota Pick-ups, 3 Pazer Jeps, 1 Toyota Dayana Truck, and 1 Mitsubishi Microbus).

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