

Case against ex-PSC chief, 8 others Order on charge-framing on November 13

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Special Court for Dhaka Division yesterday fixed November 13 for order on charge-framing against former PSC chairman Prof Mostafa Chowdhury and eight others in a graft case.

Judge Mohammad Azizul Haq passed the order after completion of hearing on charges against the accused.

The eight other accused are -- former PSC member Mohammad Forhad Hossain Khan, former PSC Controller of Examinations Kabirul Alam Khan, former PSC Director Sharfuddin Ahmed Khan, District Co-operative Officer Mohammad Nabirul Islam, his father Shahidul Islam, Magura District freedom fighters' commander,

Urs at Atrashi begins Jan 25

BSS, Dhaka

A four-day Urs at Biswa Zaker Monzil at Atrashi-Sadarpur in Faridpur district begins on January 25.

The devotees would pray to Almighty Allah for peace of the Muslim Ummah, development of the country and eternal peace for the late peer Shahib Hazrat Shah Sufi Khwaja Baba Faridpuri who died on April 30 last year.

Hundreds of devotees from different parts of the country are likely to attend the Urs.

Motia concerned over seed crisis

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League Agriculture Secretary Begum Motia Chowdhury yesterday expressed grave concern over the crisis of high yielding boro seeds that may seriously affect winter cultivation of paddy.

She said the government has failed to take necessary steps to meet the crisis of HYV boro seeds.

Former agriculture minister Motia Chowdhury said 55 per cent of country's rice production comes from HYV boro. The government should meet the demand for seeds on an emergency basis.

She demanded immediately procurement of HYV boro seeds for distribution among farmers at fair price.

Listed criminal held in joint drive in Rajshahi

BSS, Rajshahi

Eleven persons including one listed criminal, were arrested in the ongoing joint operation of the law enforcing agencies and army from different parts of the city on Friday night, police said.

The joint team arrested listed criminal Tutul, 35, son of late Momtaj Hossain from his residence in Sepoypara area under Rajpara thana in the city.

He was wanted in several cases including killing, police said, adding he went into hiding with the beginning of the joint drive.

Rly Safety Week begins in Ctg

BSS, Ctg

The Safety Week of Bangladesh Railway (BR), eastern zone, began yesterday.

The basic objective of the week is to improve standard of service, reduce the risks of rail accidents, ensure strict maintenance of train schedule and raise awareness about duties and responsibilities of the railway staff, a railway press release said.

Four separate taskforces led by senior railway officials have been formed to supervise and execute the programmes of the week.

Additional General Manager here FM Abdul Halim inaugurated the week at Chittagong railway station yesterday morning.



Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina speaks at a meeting of the newly floated Rickshaw Owners' League at the party office in the city yesterday.

Nov 7 day of national unity: Speaker

BSS, Dhaka

Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar yesterday said November 7 is the day of national unity.

"Bangladesh has been recognised as an independent and sovereign democratic country in the world through November 7," he said while speaking as chief guest at a discussion organised by Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Sangskritik Forum on "Solidarity Day: National Unity" at a city hotel.

Industries Minister MK Anwar, State Minister for Commerce Barkatullah Bulu, Information and Research Secretary of BNP Reza-budowla Chowdhury, former parliament member ATM Alamgir and Intiaz Hossain Chapal took part in the discussion.

Prof Shaheeda Obaid, convener of the organisation, was in the chair.

Sircar said all people living in the country including Hindus, Muslims, Buddhists, Christians and the tribals are Bangladeshis. November 7 has given us this na-

tional identity, he added.

The Speaker said though Bangladesh is a small country, it has sovereignty and multiparty democracy and it is the essence of November 7.

Industries Minister MK Anwar said the spirit of liberation war was rediscovered on November 7 and the national existence will be at stake if this day is discarded.

State Minister for Commerce Barkatullah Bulu said the spirit of November 7 is the modern Bangladesh.

Prof Shaheeda Obaid said the sepoys people organised a united revolution on November 7 and we got a politician Zia out of a soldier in this day.

Another report from Chittagong adds: Food Minister Abdullah Al-Noman yesterday said late President Zia would remain alive in the hearts of people of the country for his outstanding role in two historic events of the nation -- the Liberation War and the 7th November.

PM hosts Iftar for high civil, military officials

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia hosted an Iftar party in honour of high civil and military officials at Prodhmantrii Bhaban in the city yesterday.

Chief of three services, Cabinet Secretary Dr Sadaat Hossain, secretaries of various ministries and heads of different departments and divisions attended the Iftar party.

Chief Justice Mainur Reza Chowdhury, judges and former advisor of the caretaker government Barrister Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed also attended the party.

Besides, ministers M Saifur Rahman, Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Dr Khondoker Mosharrat Hossain, Nazmul Huda, and Aminul Huq, and PM's political secretaries Harris Chowdhury and Mohammad Mosaddek Ali were also present.

The prime minister exchanged pleasantries with the guests at the Iftar party.

ROK support in power sector sought

BSS, Dhaka

State Minister for Power Iqbal Hassan Mahmood yesterday called on visiting South Korean Prime Minister Kim Suk-Soo and sought South Korean support for power sector development in Bangladesh.

During the meeting at a local hotel, he discussed with the South Korean Premier matters of bilateral interest, especially the power sector of the country.

He informed the South Korean leader that the implementation of greater Khulna Power Distribution Project, assisted by South Korea, was progressing fast.

Mahmood sought Korean assistance to set up 450 megawatt (MW) Sirajgonj Power Plant and 150 MW Combined-cycle Power

Plant at Sylhet to meet the growing demands for power.

He also sought Korean assistance for the improvement and expansion of power distribution system.

The South Korean prime minister appreciated the development efforts and assured Mahmood of all possible assistance and cooperation for the development of the power sector in Bangladesh.

They hoped that the existing friendly relations between the two countries would be further strengthened in the years to come.

Power Secretary SM Shamsul Alam was present.

Legal aid programme reviewed

BSS, Dhaka

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed yesterday said the programme of the government for providing legal aid to the people has created huge enthusiasm among them.

Speaking at the 6th review meeting on extension of legal aid to the people held in the Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Ministry, Moudud Ahmed hoped that it would be possible to give the people a good news in this regard within next two to three months.

The meeting, held with the Law Minister in the chair, also gave the direction to submit reports on the legal aid programme from the respective districts on behalf of the district judges.

Law Secretary Alzal Hossain Ahmed and experts and officials of the ministry attended the meeting.

Businessman's house looted in N'ganj

UNB, Narayanganj

A gang of robbers looted valuables worth about Tk 3.5 lakh from the house of a businessman at Nitaiganj here on Friday.

Sources said four robbers posing as DB police entered the house of businessman Motilal Saha at noon. They confined the inmates to a room of the three-storied building.

The gang later broke open the almirah and looted 50 tolas of gold ornaments.

Another reports adds: Highway robbers stopped a bus and looted valuables from the passengers at Madaniganj of Shiddhirganj here the same day.

Passengers later caught three of the robbers - Shah Alam, Sajib and Alam - while they were fleeing with booty.

The robbers were handed over to police.

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Advertisement for Nov 7 day of national unity. Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar yesterday said November 7 is the day of national unity. Bangladesh has been recognised as an independent and sovereign democratic country in the world through November 7.

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