



PHOTO STAR

Although government offices opened yesterday, the holiday mood of Eid-ul-Fitr still persists as many employees are yet to return to their working place. Photo shows a room in the Secretariat where an employee is working alone.

Begum Rokeya Day today

BSS, Dhaka

The nation will celebrate the Begum Rokeya Day today commemorating the birth anniversary of Begum Rokeya.

Begum Rokeya was the pioneer of the movement for establishing rights of the women in the sub-continent.

On the day, the nation will recall with deep respect the contribution of Begum Rokeya, a legendary lady, especially in promoting education of the Muslim women in this part of the globe.

Besides official programmes, various socio-cultural and political organisations have chalked out elaborate programmes to celebrate the day in a befitting manner.

In a message President Iajuddin Ahmed called upon the conscious section of the society to come forward for expansion of female education and achieve their economic emancipation being inspired with ideals and spirit of Begum Rokeya.

While paying glowing tributes to the great lady, the president recalled that Begum Rokeya had realised that only education could show the neglected women the path for their development and attaining self-confidence.

In a similar message, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia said Begum Rokeya laid the foundation of rights and education of the Muslim women in the subcontinent and brought a change in the mindset of women.

Recalling the social superstitions during the period of British colonial rule, the prime minister said Begum Rokeya had brought

the womenfolk to light from the darkness.

She has said the movement, launched by Begum Rokeya for equal rights of men and women, now turned into a demand of the time and the women were demonstrating their capability in all spheres of national activities.

Meanwhile, the government has conferred Rokeya Padak 2002 to Dr Johra Begum Kazi and Begum Akhter Imam in recognition of their outstanding contributions in protecting and promoting the rights of the women, expansion of women education and for realisation of socio-economic emancipation of the women folk in the country.

The awards will be handed over at ceremony at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium on December 22. Prime Minister at Khaleda Zia is likely to hand over the awards to the distinguished recipients. The award was introduced in 1995 to encourage the women who have significant contributions for development of the women community.

To mark the day, Bangladesh Television and Bangladesh Betar have chalked out elaborate programmes while special supplements will be brought out by the national dailies highlighting the significance of the day.

The government has completed all necessary preparations to appoint 10,000 teachers including two thousand headmasters in the government schools across the country.

Besides, preparations to recruit another six thousand assistant teachers has been expedited under different projects, education ministry sources told yesterday.

According to the proposed system, one assistant teacher will be placed in each class as an additional teacher in every school.

The Education Ministry has already recruited 2,873 assistant teachers after taking the decision as these posts had been remained

vacant for long and educational activities were hampered for it, the sources added.

Sources said steps have been taken to improve the skills of the concerned officers and employees in the primary education department.

These steps include imparting computer training to 142 officers of Primary and Mass Education department, financial management to 680 employees and also on audit training to one employee of each upazila primary education office.

Data Entry operators of 45 district education offices are being provided with training on Data base access.

Mymensingh cinema blasts condemned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different political and socio-cultural organisations have condemned Saturday's series of bomb incidents in four cinema halls in Mymensingh that killed 17 persons and injured hundreds of others.

Expressing deep shock at the carnage that came hard on the heels of Eid-ul-Fitr, they demanded immediate investigation into the incidents and arrest of the culprits.

They said the bombings were planned to sabotage democracy in the country as well as the country's sovereignty.

BSS reports, BNP Secretary-General and Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan condemned the killing of innocent people in Mymensingh cinema explosions on Saturday.

"The incidents are utterly condemnable and barbarous. We don't find words to condemn the brutality. Those who staged the incidents are inferior to animals and insects of gutters," he said in a strongly worded statement.

The minister called for arresting the masterminds of the incidents and giving them exemplary punishment.

Bhuiyan said a quarter was scheming to destroy traditional harmony, image and stability of the country at home and abroad

100 houses gutted in Narayanganj slum fire

BSS, Narayanganj

About 100 dwelling houses were gutted and one person received burn injuries when a devastating fire broke out at Pagla Sakhina Slum areas on the night of Eid-ul-Fitr.

According to police, the burnt person was identified as Monir, 30. He was taken to Khanpur hospital for treatment.

The fire was caused by electrical short circuit, the source said. Fire brigade from Postagola extinguished the fire within half an hour.

A case has been registered with Pagla police station in this connection.

Arrest of Muntasir, Shahriar condemned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different organisations and individuals have denounced the arrest of Journalist-litterateur Shariar Kabir, columnist Professor Muntasir Mamun, and AL leaders Shafi Ahmed and Bazul Rahman, and demanded their immediate and unconditional release.

Terming such arrests as harassment in the name of interrogation, Citizen's Voice and Jatiya Sramik League demanded immediate end to this practice.

Senior teachers of Dhaka University strongly protested the arrest of Professor Muntasir Mamun, a senior History teacher and researcher of the university.

Mamun was arrested from his residence in the early hours of Saturday and taken on a three-day remand for interrogation.

In a statement, the DU teachers said the arrest was intended to harass Prof Mamun, violating his fundamental rights as a citizen. They demanded his immediate and unconditional release.

Obituary



Alhaj Ajmol Hossain, president of Narayanganj Club Ltd, died at BIRDEM hospital in the city yesterday at the age of 56.

He left behind his wife, three sons, two daughters and a host of admirers to mourn his death.

He was buried at Paikpara graveyard following his namaj-e-janaza at DIT mosque premises after Maghrib prayers.

Meanwhile, club members have condoled the death of Alhaj Ajmol Hossain and expressed sympathy for the members of the bereaved family.

Syed Zeaul Huq



Syed Zeaul Huq, a former executive officer of Sugar, Food and Allied Corporation, died of Viral Pneumonia at Bumrungrad Hospital in Bangkok on December 2, says a press release.

He left behind his wife Principal Jahanara Huq, one son, one daughter and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death.

through false, concocted and purposeful statements against the country.

They were hatching the conspiracies at a time when a peaceful atmosphere was created in the country with the sincere efforts of the government led by Khaleda Zia and the nation was progressing towards prosperity, he said.

The heinous incidents of Mymensingh are part of the conspiracy hatched at home and abroad against the country, he added.

Calling upon the people to stand up to the anti-state plot, Bhuiyan said: "There is no mercy for those who want to destroy the image and stability of the country killing innocent people."

He also cautioned the people and patriotic political quarters to remain alert against machinations to destroy the stability of the country.

The minister prayed for the peace of the departed souls and expressed sympathy for the bereaved families.

He asked the authorities concerned to ensure proper treatment for the injured and called upon party leaders and activists to stand by them.

Our Staff Correspondent adds, Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal and Left Democratic Front said their earlier demands for impartial investigation into the previous bombing incidents to find the terror groups responsible went unheeded by both the immediate-past and present governments.

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) has strongly condemned Saturday's bomb attacks in the four cinema halls at Mymensingh that left 17 people killed and some 200 others injured.

CPB President Manzurul Ahsan Khan and General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim in a press statement said the blasts at Mymensingh are part of a 'serial bombing conspiracy' being executed for the last four years.

"It's a threat to the state, public life, democratic system and social stability," they said expressing deep shock at the loss of lives in the bomb blasts and conveying sympathy to the members of the bereaved families.

The CPB leaders demanded full investigation into the attacks as well as arrest of and punishment to those involved in all bomb attacks over the last four years.

They said similar bomb attacks in the past have gone unpunished, and that the failure to find the culprits have been a total failure on the part of the contemporary governments. Both AL and BNP governments blamed each other but in reality both of them failed to uncover the truth behind the attacks, they added.

UNB adds: Condemning Saturday's serial bomb blasts in four cinema halls at Mymensingh, the Workers Party of Bangladesh has demanded a judicial inquiry committee to investigate the terrible bomb attacks.

Party president Bashed Khan Menon and general secretary Bimal Biswas in a statement yesterday said the attacks were made as part of a heinous conspiracy. They expressed profound shock at the loss of lives in the bomb blasts.

The Workers Party leaders demanded that the culprits be immediately arrested, tried and given exemplary punishment, and called upon the government to provide appropriate compensation to the families of the victims.

Jatiya Party (Monju) chairman Anwar Hossain Monju and secretary general Sheikh Shahidul Islam

propaganda in recent times have carried out the bomb attacks and called upon the countrymen to build up effective resistance against the evil powers.

The Jamaat leaders hoped that the law-enforcing agencies, as directed by the prime minister, would take appropriate legal actions against the culprits.

They prayed for salvation of the departed souls and early recovery of the injured. They also conveyed their sympathies to the members of the bereaved families.

Other organisations who sent in their condemnations include Communist Kendra, Sammilito Samajik Andolon, the Global Campaign Against Terrorism, Sammilito Sangskritik Jute, Bangladesh Federation of Film Societies, Citizen's Voice, Bangladesh Jatiyabadi Tati Dal, Bangladesh Udichi Shilpi Gosthi, Jatiya Sramik League, Left Democratic Front and Bangladesh Chhatra League.

Hasan made envoy to Sudan

BSS, Dhaka

The government has appointed Mahmood Hasan, the country's ambassador to Egypt, as the ambassador to Sudan also.

Hasan will serve concurrently in Sudan with residence in Cairo, a foreign ministry press release said yesterday.

1001 more held

UNB, Dhaka

Police in their ongoing country wide anticrime drive arrested 1,001 people, including two identified criminals, from different parts of the country during a 24-hour period ending at 6:00am yesterday.

Police also recovered five firearms and three rounds of bullets and filed three cases under the arms act arresting three people in this connection.



PHOTO STAR

Bangladesh Chalachitra Paribar took out a procession in the city yesterday mourning the death and condemning the bomb blasts at four cinema halls in Mymensingh on Saturday.

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