

More changes in Ctg police

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police headquarters yesterday transferred 20 more sub-inspectors (SI) from different police stations and the detective branch of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP).

This latest transfer order comes on the heels of the transfer of 300 police personnel including the

Installation

CU CORRESPONDENT

The installation ceremony of the Former Student Association (FSA) of Islamic History and Culture department of the Chittagong University (CU) will be held at the Public Administration auditorium in the port city today.

police commissioner, superintendent of police, assistant commissioners, officers in-charge and SIs, who have been transferred since the abduction of magnate Jamal Uddin Ahmed Chowdhury on July 24.

The order was issued on Tuesday and it came into effect yesterday, said Assistant Commissioner of Detective Branch of Police Shafiq Uddin Chowdhury. The SIs were posted to Rajshahi, Khulna and Barisal Ranges, he added.

Following Jamal's abduction and the failure to rescue him, the civil and business communities alleged the existence of a nexus between some police officials and criminals.

The home ministry is moving to shake up the CMP administration in the wake of these allegations.

JPC decision on membership protested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four members of the Jatiya Press Club managing committee protested the committee's decision to accept new membership, what they said, violating the constitution of the club.

In a statement yesterday, the four members said they also put forward specific proposal in line with the constitution of the club for generating new membership at the meeting of the managing committee held on Tuesday.

But the committee approved the new decision ignoring their proposal, they added.

The four members also demanded that their objection be registered in the proceeding of the committee but their demand went unheeded, they said.

They also termed the committee's decision unprecedented and demanded cancellation of the list of new membership.

The signatories to the statement are Aftab Ahmed, Yusuf Pasa, Mahmud Hasan and Rezwanul Haq Raza.

JPC renovated

BSS, Dhaka

The newly renovated reception lounge, members lounge, guest lounge, cafeteria and VIP lounge of the Jatiya Press Club (JPC) opened on Tuesday.

In his brief speech, JPC General Secretary Shawkat Mahmud said the Jatiya Press Club has been renovated with a view to increasing professional facilities for the members. The development works of the club would also continue, he said.

Later, a munajat was offered and sweets were distributed among the members.

New Age Editor A Z M Enayattullah Khan, Jugantor Editor Golam Sarwar, Managing Director and Chief Editor of BSS Amanullah Kabir, New Nation Editor Alamgir Mohiuddin and former presidents, general secretaries and other senior members were present on the occasion.

1172 more held

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested 1,172 people during their countrywide drive in the last 24 hours ending at 6am yesterday.

During the drive, they also recovered eight firearms, two other weapons and 14 rounds of bullet, and filed two cases against three persons under the Arms Act, says a police headquarters press release.

Live concert at Fantasy Kingdom

A live concert by Warfaze will be held at the Fantasy Kingdom in Ashulia this evening, says a press release.

The visitors will also have a chance to win free air trip.



Star employees' union executives

The Daily Star Employees' Union formed a new executive committee for 2003-2005 at a meeting on Tuesday, says a press release.

Ad hoc committee President Alim-Al-Rabbi presided over the meeting.

The members of the executive committee are Md Nazrul Islam - president, Md Shahidul Islam - vice-president, Tapan Chandra Das - general secretary, Md Aiub Khan - assistant general secretary, Md Sekendar Ali - treasurer, Md Mujibur Rahman - publicity secretary, Md Jalal Akon - cultural affairs secretary and Md Abul Kalam Azad - executive member.

Earlier, the union at a general meeting had abolished its executive committee and formed a three-member ad hoc committee on August 20.



UNFPA representative in Bangladesh Sunita Mukherjee presents the World Population Report 2003 at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.

Crime, corruption

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other at Banani (Hawa Bhaban).

The BNP leaders feel the absence of experienced and committed leaders like the late Mirza Golam Hafiz, Abdus Salam Talukder, ASM Mustafizur Rahman and Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury, Majid-ul-Haq and Oli Ahmed in the cabinet.

In the current cabinet, Saifur Rahman, Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Tariqul Islam and Dr Khandaker Mosharrif Hossain are showing experience in running the administration as well as carrying out political activities.

But the majority of others have failed to show their capacity in the past two years.

Due to lack of experienced politicians in the cabinet, the government depends much on the bureaucracy, the majority of whom are on contractual service.

Many consider the present civil administration less competent than under the past BNP government.

Weakness in both political leadership and bureaucracy has brought in serious sluggishness in state affairs and slowed down the pace of decision-making. The bureaucracy seems to be taking full advantage of the weakness of the political leadership.

There was a mini-cabinet under the previous BNP administration and Khaleda took important decisions in consultation with senior colleagues, but there is no such entity currently.

The premier now takes important decisions in consultation with a 'mini-secretariat' comprised of five top bureaucrats.

Some allege that top secretaries and some influential officials at the PMO as well as Hawa Bhaban-based youngsters influence government decisions in their favour to advance individual, group business interest.

Inexperience and incompetence of both politicians and bureaucrats came to light when 19 out of 20 project proposals placed in a recent Ecnec meeting were rejected because of gross faults and violation of rules and regulations.

Most proposals and projects were sent back from the cabinet and Ecnec meetings for further scrutiny in the past two years, as they were faulty, full of gross mistakes and not placed properly although they made their way to the meetings crossing several steps.

A Tk 25 crore project for the facelift of Dhaka city was placed at an Ecnec meeting last month without pre-Ecnec approval and work on the project started ahead of approval.

The Security Exchange Commission has been running without its chairman for several months because of the indecision of the PMO. The finance ministry recommendation for the appointment long back.

Similarly, several Bangladesh missions abroad, including in the Maldives, Bhutan and Nigeria, have been functioning without heads for the last two years due to indecision of the government. Many other posts still remain vacant.

Appointments to a number of

foreign posts have been made recently, after long and inexplicable delays.

The declared policy of the government for promotion in the civil administration was grossly violated and recommendations of the Superior Selection Board (SSB) were ignored on many occasions allegedly under the influence of a section of junior and mid-level officials at the PMO.

The cabinet committee on law and order, some key ministers and officials concerned held a dozen of meetings and took a raft of decisions to check the crime spate, but they are yet to be implemented.

The government received a huge amount of aid and loan for the health sector, but a long-running conflict between the minister and the former secretary delayed implementation of the funded projects.

In most cases, bureaucrats in the name of feasibility study unnecessarily delayed the implementation.

The health ministry has reportedly turned into an extension of pro-BNP Doctors Association of Bangladesh (DAB). The finance minister at a recent meeting expressed serious dissatisfaction as benefits of investment in the sector were not reaching the poor.

There was no major purchase in the public sector in the past two years because of faulty proposals and clear violation of rules. Most purchase proposals were rejected at the meetings of the cabinet committee on economic affairs.

Most ministries are not even capable of preparing their tender documents for development projects and purchases in which international bidders may take interest.

Foreign bidders, especially the internationally renowned companies, do not participate in official tenders for supply of equipment as most specimens and quotations of the documents remain faulty.

Besides, repeated cancellation of tenders discourages foreign and reputed local firms.

The government miserably failed to purchase urgently needed equipment for Bangladesh Television, Chittagong Port and some other organisations because of faulty tender documents, lack of response by reputed foreign companies and cancellation of bidding.

The government also feels the shortage of skilled negotiators who can handle national and international issues properly.

There is virtually no tangible achievement of the government in bilateral, regional and international negotiations.

The government's current "Look East" diplomatic approach and economic diplomacy have fallen flat although countries like China, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and Myanmar came up with huge trade concessions.

Due to lack of proper and timely follow-up, East Asian countries take a little interest to grow economic ties with Bangladesh.

Diplomatic ties with major countries, including next door neighbour India, are passing through trying times.

Police HQ on retirement report

BSS, Dhaka

Police headquarters yesterday issued a statement regarding a news item carried in several newspapers on Thursday.

"Retirement is a continuous process in police department for lack of physical fitness, inefficiency and activities contrary to service discipline," the statement said adding that action had been taken against some policemen as they broke service rules.

It also said the decision of forced retirement of 30,000 policemen is "fabricated and imaginary".

Various newspapers Thursday published a report on '302 police personnel sent to forced retirement and 30,000 policemen to retire in phases for lacking fitness'.

Death anniversary

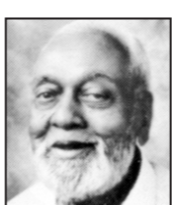


The third death anniversary of Professor Muhammad Touhidul Anwar, former director of Bangladesh Press Institute and teacher of mass communications and journalism department of Dhaka University, will be observed today, says a press release.

A milad and doa mahfil will be held at his family residence at 59/H Isha Khan Road, Dhaka University Residential Area after Asr prayers.

Relatives, friends, colleagues and students have been requested to attend the mahfil.

Dr Sultan Ahmed



The fifth death anniversary of renowned paediatrician Dr Sultan Ahmed Chowdhury will be observed today, says a press release.

Dr Sultan Ahmed Smriti Sangsad has taken up elaborate programmes to mark the day.

He was awarded gold medal at the 15th conference of Bangladesh Medical Association for his contribution to health sector.

Qulkhwani



Qulkhwani of Hemayet Uddin Ahmed, a political associate of Bangabandhu and former vice-president of Dhaka City Awami League, will be held at his family residence at 19/B, Sheikh Saheb Bazar Road, Azimpur today, says a press release.

He died of a cardiac arrest on Wednesday at the age of 74.

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina expressed deep shock at his death.

Chehlum

Chehlum of Dewan Fazlur Rahman Manik, a social worker, will be held at his village home at Rouha, Dhamrai, after Juma prayers today, says a press release.

Adoa mahfil and food distribution among the destitute have been arranged on the occasion.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers have been requested to attend the chehlum.

Amirunnesa Chowdhury



Chehlum of Amirunnesa Chowdhury, wife of late Azad Ali Chowdhury, a retired government official, will be held today, says a press release.

A milad mahfil will be held at the WVA auditorium in Dhanmondi after Asr prayers.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the chehlum.

Amirunnesa died on August 27 at the age of 75.

Firm manager shot, robbed of Tk 1.50 lakh in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An official of a private firm was shot and robbed of Tk 1.50 lakh at Daulatpur yesterday.

Bidyut Thakur, 38, manager of Akunji Brothers, a jute trading firm, withdrew the money from Daulatpur branch of Sonali Bank at noon. He hired an autorickshaw and was returning to his office.

Fulkuri Asar's founding anniversary today

CU CORRESPONDENT

The 29th founding anniversary of Chittagong unit of 'Fulkuri Asar' will be celebrated here today.

Elaborate programme has been chalked out to mark the occasion.

The programme will be inaugurated with a colourful rally at the Laldighi Maidan at 9.00am.

Later, a discussion and prize giving ceremony will be held at the Muslim Hall at 10.30am.

Vice-Chancellor of Chittagong University Professor AJM Nuruddin Chowdhury will attend the discussion as chief guest.

Prof Jamal Nazrul Islam, a noted scientist, and Ashfakul Mowla, director of central 'Fulkuri Asar' will be present as special guests.

In the evening, a cultural function and a drama titled 'Nikhoj' will be staged at the same venue.

When the autorickshaw neared the jute trading firm, a gang of six robbers approached and asked Bidyut to give the money. As he refused to give in to their demand, the robbers exploded crackers, shot him in the head and took away the money. They also beat up a raw jute supplier, Tipu Hawlader, as he tried to resist them. Both were admitted to Khulna Medical College Hospital in critical condition.

Traffic movement on the Khulna-Jessore Highway at Daulatpur was disrupted for an hour following the incident. Officer-in-charge (OC) of Daulatpur Police Station said a combing operation has been launched to nab the robbers.

Obituary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Freedom fighter SA Siddiquee Baby died Wednesday night here after a prolonged illness at the age of 64.

SA Siddiquee, also younger brother of former minister Major General (rt'd) M Majidul Huq, was buried with state-honour at Magura poura-graveyard after namaz-e-janaza at 'Nomani Manda' after Jhor prayers yesterday.

He left behind his wife, one son, two-daughters and a host of relatives and friends to mourn his death.

Condolence meet

In memory of Sultana Islam, founder president of National Women's Federation, Bangladesh, a meeting will be held at WVA auditorium, House-20, Road-16 (Old-27), Dhanmondi at 4.00pm today, says a press release.



Rise in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at most places over all six divisions with moderately heavy to heavy falls at places till 6pm today.

Day temperature may rise slightly over the country, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 30.8 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Srimangal and the lowest 21.6 degree Celsius at Sayedpur.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:37pm today and rises at 5:54am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	29.5	24.2	83	92
Chittagong	30.0	24.5	--	85
Rajshahi	26.7	23.3	97	97
Khulna	30.0	24.6	87	97
Barisal	30.4	24.0	90	--
Sylhet	28.5	23.2	97	96
Cox's Bazar	29.5	24.0	97	95

DHAKA TODAY

Movie show

Alliance Francaise will screen a movie titled 'Tatie Danielle' directed by Etienne Chatiliez (1990). Venue: Alliance Francaise auditorium, Dhanmondi. Time: 10.30am and 6.00pm.

Film show

Academy Film Society will screen two films titled 'The quick and dead' and 'Anger Management'. Venue: 21/C, Jigatola. Time: 3.30pm and 6.30pm.

NORAD seminar

The inaugural session of NORAD fellows network seminar, organised by NTNU and NORAD alumni association in Bangladesh, will be held. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 9.00am.

Civically

Bangladesh Environment Movement in collaboration with the Society for Assistance to Hearing Impaired Children organises a civic rally with a call to stop the use of hydraulic horn by trucks and buses which is the main cause of sound pollution. Venue: Mohakhali intersection. Time: 10.30am.

Science fair

The inaugural ceremony of the annual science fair of Bangladesh International School will be held with Dr Naiyyum Chowdhury, former chairman of Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission, as chief guest. Venue: New DOHS, Mohakhali. Time: 9.00am.

Founding anniversary

The seventh founding anniversary of Sargam, a monthly magazine on music, will be held with Dr Muhammad Moniruzzaman, an

eminent educationist, as chief guest. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 4.00pm.

Discussion

Bangladesh-China Friendship Centre will hold a discussion on the occasion of the 54th founding anniversary of the People's Republic of China. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 4.00pm

Foundation laying ceremony

The foundation laying ceremony of Shaheed Zehad Square will be held with City Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka as chief guest. Venue: Dainik Bangla crossing. Time: 10.00am.

AL meeting

Bangladesh Awami League organises a meeting with party chief Sheikh Hasina as chief guest. Venue: Hotel Purbani. Time: 3.00pm

IP DHAKA FROM TOMORROW

A presidential meeting of Jatiya Party will be held with party Chairman Anwar Hossain Manju in the chair. Venue: 7/10/A, Block-D, Lalmatia. Time: 6.00pm.

Meeting

Annual General Meeting and get-together of Kranti, a socio-cultural organisation, will be held. Venue: Bangladesh Shishu Kalyan Parishad auditorium, Topkhana Road. Time: 10.00am.

Film show

Academy Film Society will screen a film titled 'AFS Cinema Closed'. Venue: 21/C, Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.