

Fire at temple
Arrest of
culprits
demanded

CU CORRESPONDENT

Members of the Hindu community in the port city yesterday observed a hunger strike at the local press club demanding immediate arrest of the culprits responsible for the fire incident at the Gangabari Temple premises at Patharghata in Chittagong on the midnight of January 24.

They also demanded the arrest of the Deputy Commissioner (north) of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) Meah Lutfar Rahman Chowdhury and Awami League-backed local Ward Commissioner Jalaluddin Iqbal accusing them of masterminding the incident to meet the interest of a vested group.

Hindu leaders also urged the government to take immediate initiatives for the reconstruction of the damaged temple.

They also held a rally at the same venue.

Speakers at the rally alleged that the police created obstructions for the devotees who were coming from Patharghata and Kotwali to observe the hunger strike at the press club and snatched their banners.

They also demanded the withdrawal of "false" case against the Sebayet (custodian) of Gangabari Temple Shyamal Sadhu along with other devotees.

The speakers also demanded immediate release of Nibaran Das who was arrested in connection with the incident.

Govinda Das, Kanchan Biswas, Nidhu Kumar Biswas, Jhuntu Kumar Das, Swapan Das, Dibakar Das, Gopal Jaldas and Jagadish Das addressed the rally.

Bangladesh Biman
Essential
services
ordinance to
remain in force

UNB, Dhaka

The Essential Services (second) Ordinance, 1958 will remain in force for a further period of six months from today in respect of all services under Bangladesh Biman Corporation.

The government made the announcement as the need for application of the Ordinance still exists in Biman, said an official handout yesterday.

The applicability of the Ordinance in respect of all services under Biman expired yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR

President Iajuddin Ahmed offers Eid prayers at the National Eidgah in the city on Eid day.

47 audit reports submitted
to Khaleda

BSS, Dhaka

Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) Asif Ali called on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at her office yesterday and submitted 47 audit reports to her.

The audit reports include 30 annual reports of fiscal 2001-02, 16 special reports, and one appropriation report.

Receiving the audit reports, the prime minister appreciated the recent steps taken by the CAG to enhance the quality of audit through modernisation.

She stressed the need for continuation of the modernisation process by making the reports concise and easy to ensure accountability, transparency and discipline in financial sector.

Khaleda also underscored the

need for training of audit officials and immediate construction of Audit Bhaban and Financial Management Academy (Fima).

She suggested that the CAG office can accelerate its activities in international forums to enhance the country's image abroad.

The CAG said the Department of Commercial Audit settled 94,703 audit objections, out of 1,40,224 in banking and financial sector, under a crash programme from April 17 to November 11 in 2003.

He said the CAG office received letters of appreciation from the World Bank, UNDP and ADB for the standard of its audit.

Asif Ali also informed the prime minister that the 'value for money audit' or performance audit has been introduced in phases in place of traditional audit to determine

volume of failure or success of the expenditure of budget money in an audited organisation.

All BCS cadre officers up to director generals are going to the field level for auditing, he added. A total of Tk 10 crore has been saved following a real audit, at the request of finance ministry, in the allocation for advertisement in information ministry, he added.

He said internal training has been established as a regular system in all offices under the CAG.

The CGA office extended all-out cooperation to Public Accounts Committee which had seven meetings and recovered about Tk 100 crore so far, he said.

The CAG told the prime minister that the construction of Audit Bhaban will begin in March under a Tk nine crore project and it was expected to be completed by December 2005.

The process of establishing Fima complex on its own land in Mirpur is also under way, he added.

Obituary



B e g u m Badrunnesa, wife of late Eskendar Ali, member of the then Bengal Legislative Assembly, died of old-age complications in the city on February 1 at the age of 92, says a press release.

She is survived by one daughter. Rotarian AR Khan, chairman of Bangladesh Welding Electrodes Ltd., is her son-in-law.

She was buried at Banani graveyards.

SKH Reza

SKH Reza, director of Uttara Bank and Islam Group, died at Central Hospital in the city on February 2 at the age of 78, says a press release.

He is survived by two sons and three daughters.

His namaz-e-janaza will be held at Baitul Mamun Mosque at Bara Maghbazar after Johr prayers today and the second janaza at Gulshan Azad Mosque in the afternoon.

His qulhwani will be held at 157 Bara Maghbazar tomorrow.

Hasina Khatun

Hasina Khatun, wife of renowned pathologist Prof. Ghulam Muazzam, died in the city yesterday at the age of 68, says a press release.

She is survived by her husband, two sons and one daughter.

Her daughter Dr Naima Muazzam is a professor at Dhaka Medical College and her youngest son Dr Faisal Muazzam is a surgeon and director of Japan-Bangladesh Friendship Hospital.

Nurul Islam
BSS, Dhaka

Mohammad Nurul Islam, former district public relations officer of the Department of Mass Communications, died of a cardiac arrest at a city clinic on Sunday at the age of 81.

He is survived by two sons and one daughter.

His qulhwani will be held at his Uttara residence after Maghrib prayers today.

Friends, relatives and well-wishers have been requested to attend the qulhwani.

Jubo League leader,
college student
gunned down

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A city Jubo League leader and a Tongi College student were shot dead while the body of a police informer was recovered in last five days.

Jubo League leader Golam Mostofa alias Labu, 32, a resident of Madhya Monipur in Mirpur, was shot dead at West Shewrapara on Saturday night, Kamal Uddin, a first year HSC student, was shot dead at Tongi yesterday, and the body of Biplob was recovered at Karwan Bazar on Sunday morning.

Mirpur police said someone informed Labu's brother-in-law Rafiq over cellphone that his body was lying abandoned in the area.

Later, they recovered the body from there.

Rafiq filed a case in this regard.

On July 29 of last year, six gunmen opened fire at Labu's wedding reception at Kazi Community Centre at Kazipara killing a pregnant woman Najma Akhter, sister of his bride Afroza Akhter Doli, and injuring 12 others.

Locals caught two attackers-Amir Hossain Babu and Shahed Ali who told the police that they went there to kill Jubo League Tejgaon Thana unit General Secretary Shabbir Alam Litu.

However, Labu's relatives could not ascertain the reason for his killing and its link to July 29 incident.

Meanwhile, Kamal Uddin, a first year HSC student, was standing in front of their house at Maddhya Arisapur in Tongi when some unidentified youths opened fire on him, said his father Abbas Uddin.

Kamal was rushed to Tongi Hospital in a critical condition.

As his condition deteriorated further, Kamal was shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where the

doctors declared him dead.

Tongi police said Kamal, a listed criminal, has been chargesheeted in two cases.

No case was filed or no one was arrested till filing of this report at 7.00pm yesterday.

The slaughtered body of police informer Biplob alias Japani Biplob was recovered from Karwan Bazar fruit market in the morning of February 1.

Locals alleged that Biplob was killed as a sequel to feuds among the two groups of criminals controlling drug trade and extortion at Karwan Bazar.

Biplob, a resident of a slum at Tejgunipara, was slaughtered near Janata Tower on Saturday night, they added.

Tejgaon police said they arrested two youths in connection with the killing.

702 more held,
5 firearms
recovered

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested a total of 702 people, including three listed criminals, during their ongoing countrywide drive in last 24 hours till 6.00am yesterday.

They also recovered five firearms and 11 rounds of bullets and filed four cases against seven people under the Arms Act, said a press release issued by the police headquarters.

Hasina
condoles
death of Hajis

BSS, Dhaka

Awami League President and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina yesterday expressed her deep shock at the death of 244 Haj pilgrims, including 10 Bangladeshis, while performing the Haj rituals in the holy city of Mina.

In a message of condolence, she also expressed her profound grief at the death of 22 Bangladeshi Hajis, who died due to illness.

She said the incident took place at a time when the entire Muslim Ummah was celebrating the holy Eid-ul-Azha.

Death anniversary



The seventh death anniversary of Dr AR Mallick, a noted educationist and former finance minister, was observed yesterday, says a press release.

The founding vice-chancellor of Chittagong University, Dr Mallick was the Professor of South Asian History at the University of Pennsylvania, USA.

During the liberation war, he represented Bangladesh at the UNO and also delivered lectures to universities across the USA to mobilise support for the independence.

He was also the first education secretary and the first high commissioner of Bangladesh to India. Dr Mallick was elected chairman of Asian Development Bank in 1975.

The 'British Policy and the Muslims in Bengal' and 'Amar Jibon Kotha O Bangladesher Mukhti Sangram' are amongst his important publications.