



PHOTO: STAR

Police scuffle with non-government primary school teachers at Mukhtangan in the city yesterday as they try to proceed to submit a memorandum in procession to prime minister.

PBCP man on 7-day remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A Rajshahi court yesterday placed one Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP-Lal Pataka) member on a seven-day remand and sent four others to Rajshahi jail. They were arrested in the city areas on Saturday according to information from four remanded PBCP men in Dhaka. The Metropolitan Magistrate's Court placed Badrul Amin Pintu, 24, on the remand and rejected bail prayers of four others—Bhanu Begum, 30, Azizul Islam, 25, Shafi, 25 and Shahidul Islam, 27 and sent them to jail. Police sought 10-day remand for Pintu.

The district Detective Branch (DB) and Rajshahi Metropolitan Police jointly raided two PBCP hideouts, including Rajshahi regional headquarters of PBCP, on Saturday and recovered explosives, ammunitions and documents. Police also recovered diaries and notebooks used by top PBCP leaders, several thousand books and booklets, PBCP newsletters, bulletins and hundreds of leaflets claiming responsibilities of different sensational killings.

Police said the outlaws had been continuing their activities from here in the northwestern region for the last five years.

Seven bullets and a knife were recovered from the possession of Pintu, police said. He was involved in more than half a dozen murders, police added.

Police recovered several thousand leaflets that claimed responsibilities of the murders of BNP leaders Prof Abdul Wahed, Majedur Rahman of Natore, Mansur Mridha of Manda (Naogaon), Abdul Hamid Moru of Bagmara and deputy minister Ruhul Kuddus Dulu's nephew Sabbir Ahmed Gama and Awami League leader Alo Khondokar. Meanwhile, a Dhaka court on Saturday placed the four PBCP men—Abdur Razzak, 28, Ali Tareq, 35, Shafi Sarkar, 29, and Mahfuzur Rahman Jewel on a five-day remand for the second time.

Anjuman Ara's death condoled

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

State Minister for Cultural Affairs Begum Selima Rahman has condoled the death of noted singer Anjuman Ara Begum on Saturday.

In a message of condolence, the state minister said her death is an irreparable loss for the nation, says a press release.

She also expressed her sympathy for the members of the bereaved family.

Singers, lyricists and composers of Bangladesh Sangeet Parishad also deeply mourned the death of Anjuman Ara saying her contribution to music will be ever remembered.

Fake Bangla Bhai held while demanding toll

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

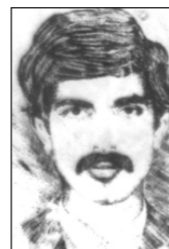
A youth was held while demanding toll from an NGO official, identifying himself as Bangla Bhai in Katnarpara in the town Saturday.

Police said Palash Chandra Pal, son of Basudeb Pal of Chalopara, demanded Tk 2 lakh as toll from Executive Director of Program for Eco-Social Development (PESD) Mafuz Ara Miva Saturday afternoon over telephone.

Miva said an unidentified person called her in the afternoon and demanded the sum, introducing him as Bangla Bhai. The caller also told her that he would turn up at her house that night.

Miva, meanwhile, informed her neighbours of the matter and caught Palash with their help as soon as he arrived at around 10.00.

Anti-fundamentalism, -communalism Day today



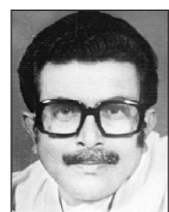
Anti-fundamentalism and -communalism Day will be observed today.

On this day in 1988, Shaheed Jamil Akhter Ratan, former president of Rajshahi Medical College unit of Bangladesh Chhatra Maitree was killed by Shibir cadres on the campus.

Ratan became the victim of Shibir as he was organising an agitation against the 'State Religion Islam Bill' introduced by the then autocratic ruler Ershad. Different student organisations have taken up elaborate programmes to observe the day. The programmes in the capital include hoisting of black flag at the central office of Bangladesh Chhatra Maitree at 7.00am, wearing of black badges, laying of wreaths at the Central Shaheed Minar at 9.00am, procession on Dhaka University campus at 11.00am and rally at the foot of Aparajeo Bangla.

In Rajshahi, an all-party citizens' rally will be held to mark the occasion. Leaders of different political, social and cultural organisations will address the rally. Similar programmes have also been taken at district and upazila levels.

Death anniversary



Today is the 8th death anniversary of Sayed Golam Kibria, former acting editor of the daily Azad and the Bhowre, says a press release.

On the occasion, milad mahfil, discussion and distribution of foods among the poor have been arranged at his residence at Badda in the city.

Qulkhwani

Qulkhwani of Maliha Khatun, daughter of late Khan Bahadur Mohammad Mahmud of Sylhet, will be held at the Baridhara DOHS (Road-5) residence of her son late Group Captain Mushir-ul-Mulk after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

Maliha died of old age complications on Thursday at the age of 83. She was buried at Banani graveyard in the city.

1758 more held

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested 1,758 people, including two listed criminals, during their countrywide drive on various charges in the last 24 hours till 6.00am yesterday.

NATIONALISATION OF JOB

Non-govt pry teachers begin hunger strike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Braving the storm, hundreds of non-government primary teachers yesterday began a 72-hour hunger strike demanding nationalisation of their jobs.

A total of 1,000 non-government teachers started the hunger strike at Mukhtangan in the city to drum up support in favour of their demand for nationalisation of their jobs which was an election pledge of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP).

"We hope that the government will pay heed to our demand as it was their election pledge," said a leader.

Earlier, Rashed Khan Menon, president of Workers Party, Shawkat Hossain Neelu, presidium member of Jatiya Party, Nurul Islam, leader of Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad and Principal Habibur Rahman Ripon, president of Sanjukta Shikkhak Parishad went to the Mukhtangan to express solidarity with the teachers.

Expatriate killed in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

An expatriate was killed by an armed gang at Satkania of the district in the early hours of yesterday.

The victim was identified as Nurul Alam Talukder, 34, son of one Siddique Ahmad of South Charati village under Satkania upazila.

Police quoting the FIR (first information report) said a gang of three to four armed men led by one Harun entered the house of Siddique at around 1.30am and

sprayed bullet on Alam through the window leaving him dead on the spot.

Alam, who returned home from Saudi Arabia two months ago, was sleeping at the time. Police suspected that the murder might be a sequel to an enmity between Harun and Alam that developed during recent union parishad election.

Monzur Ahmad, victim's uncle, filed a case with Satkania Police Station in this connection accusing Harun and others yesterday.

DHAKA TODAY

Drama

Under the auspices of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Somoy Sangskritik Gosthi will stage a drama titled 'Kabir' by Munir Chowdhury. It will be preceded by a discussion in memory of the author. Venue: Academy premises, Segun Bagicha. Time: 5.30pm.

Film show

Academy Film Society will screen an American film titled 'Lord of the Ring: The Return of the King' (2003). Venue: Society auditorium, Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.

Certificate awarding ceremony

Muslim Aid Institute of Technology organises its certificate awarding ceremony with Education Minister Dr Osman Faruk as chief guest. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10.00am.

Discussion

In observance of World No Tobacco Day, a discussion will be held with Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar as chief guest. Venue: VIP lounge of National Press Club. Time: 10.00am.

Seminar

A scientific seminar on 'Latest Development in lesion sterilisation and tissue regeneration therapy will be held with Dr Hoshino Etsuro of Japan as guest speaker. Venue: Auditorium of University Dental College and Hospital, Siddheshwari Outer Circular Road. Time: 10.00am.

Orientation

The 35th orientation programme of International University of Business Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT) will be held. Venue: Auditorium of Academy for Planning and Development, Nilkhet. Time: 3.00pm.

Condolence meeting

Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote organises a condolence meeting in

protest at the killing of lawmaker Ahsanullah Master. Venue: Bishwasahitya Kendra auditorium, Bangla Motor. Time: 4.00pm.

Jubo League conference

The triennial conference of Dhaka District Jubo League will be held with Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina as chief guest. Venue: Mohanagar Natya Mancha, Gulistan. Time: 11.00am.

Rally

Bangladesh Cancer Foundation organises a rally to create awareness about harmful effects of tobacco. Venue: Shahbagh Crossing. Time: 8.00am.

DHAKA TOMORROW

Photography exhibition

The opening ceremony of a photography exhibition titled 'Borders and Beyond' will be held. Photographs of ten photographers from Denmark, England, Mexico, Palestine, Russia, South Africa and Switzerland will be on display. Venue: Drik Gallery, Dhanmondi. Time: 5.30pm. The exhibition will remain open till June 21 from 3.00pm to 8.00pm daily.

Film show

Academy Film Society will screen a French film titled 'The Lacemaker' (1977). Venue: Society auditorium, Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.

Dialogue

A national dialogue on 'Standard-compliant production and processing options for sustainable shrimp sector in Bangladesh' will be held with Commerce Minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury as chief guest. Venue: IDB Bhaban, Agargaon. Time: 11.00am.



PHOTO: STAR

Awami League held namaz-e-janaza for Savar thana Chhatra League president Russel Ahmed Rajib who was shot dead on Friday night.

Indo-Bangla relations

FROM PAGE 1

Khaleda was the first foreign head of government to congratulate Sonia on her party's victory in parliamentary elections and Manmohan on his assumption of office.

Both the actions were viewed by official circles in New Delhi as Dhaka's keenness to reach out to the new leadership in India, said the sources, adding it is in the same light that Dhaka's decision to send Khaleda's special envoy is being seen.

The importance attached by the Congress-led alliance to relations with neighboring countries, especially SAARC countries, was reflected in its draft Common Minimum Programme (CMP).

But an important turn came on May 27 when the final version of CMP released to the media also said specifically that "outstanding issues with Bangladesh will be resolved."

This, diplomatic observers said, signaled New Delhi's readiness for a turn around in ties with Dhaka.

Significantly, it was on May 27 that the first high-level contact between the two countries was established -- over telephone -- when Morshed spoke to Natwar and India's National Security Advisor JN Dixit.

While India assured Morshed that outstanding issues with Bangladesh will be sorted out, the Bangladesh foreign minister in turn thanked Natwar for his statement for greater understanding among South Asian neighbours.

Morshed said Dhaka considered Natwar as a "tested friend" and recalled the meeting he had with him at the residence of Sonia during his previous trip to Delhi.

These apart, the remarks made by Indian Home Minister Shivraj Patil and Priyaranjan on two key irritants in India-Bangladesh ties -- illegal migration and interlink of rivers -- must have been music to Dhaka's ears, observers said.

The remarks, according to the observers, of both ministers indicated a subtle shift from the high-decibel approach of the previous BJP-led government to the two prickly issues in bilateral relations. Soon after taking charge of his ministry, Patil told reporters that the 'issue of illegal immigration from Bangladesh has to be dealt with a human approach because the immigration is largely prompted by economic considerations'.

"You cannot compare the illegal influx from Bangladesh with the infiltration happening across the Line of Control (with Pakistan) in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Bangladeshis come here mostly to seek employment and thus their deportation should be done with a human face, without causing them unnecessary harassment," Patil said.

His articulation of view on the issue is in keeping with the Congress party's known stand.

In his first formal press conference in Kolkata, also on May 27, Priyaranjan held out an assurance that India would not take up any plan that would be "detrimental" to Bangladesh's interest.

He also made it clear that the Indian government would not go for a 'hasty' decision on the interlink proposal without taking state governments concerned into confidence and considering international ramifications.

Priyaranjan also said the report of the taskforce headed by Suresh Prabhu and set up by the previous government on the interlinking of 30 rivers was not sufficiently exhaustive and the feasibility of the project has not been adequately studied. The Communist Party of India (Marxist) of Congress-led alliance is cautious in wording its stand on the interlink of rivers. It merely says it will examine the techno-economic feasibility of the project.

The cautiousness is but natural considering the fact the project lacks political consensus within India itself. Several Indian NGOs have also opposed the project and it is no secret that Congress governments in states like Kerala and Karnataka, Mulayam Singh Yadav-headed Samajwadi Party, which governs Uttar Pradesh state, Laloo Yadav's Rashtriya Janata Dal, which rules Bihar, and the left parties ruling West Bengal have reservations about it.

Although the BJP-led government had banded about the interlink project as a polls issue, it could not bring about a consensus even in more than a year.

Priyaranjan pointed out that the idea of interlinking of rivers was first put forward by then irrigation minister

WEATHER TODAY

Fall in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty to squally wind is likely at few places over Dhaka, Rajshahi, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Khulna and Barisal Divisions till 6.00pm today.

Day temperature may fall slightly over the country, Met Office said. Highest temperature 36.8 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and the lowest 20.4 degree Celsius at Sayedpur.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:41pm today and rises at 5:11am 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	35.1	26.8	78	90
Chittagong	34.0	26.2	76	68
Rajshahi	36.8	26.6	70	89
Khulna	36.0	25.2	75	67
Barisal	34.5	26.6	77	65
Sylhet	30.4	23.4	91	74
Cox's Bazar	33.7	26.0	76	78