



PHOTO: STAR

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the member collection campaign of Awami Swochhashebak League at the National Press Club auditorium in the city yesterday.

Play effective role to create politics of consensus

Information minister urges newspapermen

BSS, Dhaka

Information Minister M Shamsul Islam yesterday called upon the newsmen as well as members of the newspaper industry to play an effective role in creating an atmosphere of politics of consensus instead of confrontation.

"Lack of consensus is one of the major obstacles towards development," he said adding that interest of the country should be placed above all.

He said this while he was talking to a delegation of the Sangbadik Samik Karmachari Oikya Parishad (SSKOP) at the conference room of the ministry.

The SSKOP is comprised of BFUJ, DUJ, Sangbadapatra Karmachari Federation, Federal Union of Newspapers and Press workers.

The minister said Bangladesh achieved a number of successes in various sectors including agriculture and health. Media should highlight these success stories to brighten the image of the country at home and abroad, the added.

Placing a seven-point charter of demand the SSKOP leaders urged the minister to constitute the 6th Wage Board and announce 60 percent dearness allowance immediately.

They said the 5th Wage Board Award was declared eight years back and cost of living has gone up manifold. So, it has become urgent to constitute the 6th Wage Board to protect journalists, newspaper workers and members of the electronic media from the onslaught of price-hike.

The SSKOP also demanded strict measures against the owners of the newspaper, who have not implemented the 5th Wage Board Award, but enjoying government facilities including increased rate of advertisement.

They urged the government to formulate a policy for the newspaper industry.

The minister assured them of considering their demands.

Information secretary AMM Nasiruddin, Principal Information Officer Khandker Manirul Alam, Oikya Parishad co-convenors Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury and Fazle Imam, member secretary Rubul Amin Gazi, Matiur Rahman Talukdar, Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul, Altaf Mahmud, Abdus Shahid, Shah Alamgir, Abul Hasem and Khairul Islam were present.

5,000 sacks of Indian cement seized in N'ganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Detective police seized 5,000 (five thousand) sacks of Indian cement along with a local ship from a jetty of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) on Saturday night.

Police also arrested four crew Abdul Razzak, 45, Ahad, 50, Sagor, 35, and Rivadh, 25, of the ship MV Shamim Rabbi as they could not show any valid documents regarding the goods.

The DB men, quoting the arrestees, said the ship, loaded with 12 thousand sacks of cement

from Kolkata port seven months ago, was booked for Asam. But it anchored at Narayanganj port after crossing Khulna, Ashuganj and Demra for reasons not known to the crews.

They said the crew sold seven thousand sacks of cement on the way.

Police is looking for one Ashraf Ali, owner of the ship and Gazi Imdad who owned the goods.

A BIWTA official, on condition of anonymity, alleged that the police arrested the crew failing to get bribe from them.

SQ Chy 's remarks unfortunate: Ershad

UNB, Dhaka

Former president and Jatiya Party chairman HM Ershad described as 'unfortunate' Prime Minister's Parliamentary Affairs Advisor Salauddin Quader Chowdhury's remarks after his defeat at the OIC ballot.

In his reaction after the defeat in the election to the post of OIC secretary general SQ Chowdhury dubbed the voting results as an outcome of "machinations of pro-Israeli bloc" within the forum.

Ershad, who returned to Dhaka yesterday morning from Saudi Arabia after heart treatment, told newsmen that Egypt also has relations with Israel, but that does not mean that they belong to Israeli lobby.

"He did not do the right thing by saying so," he said, adding that he (SQ Chowdhury) also should not put the blame on others (opposition) for his failure to secure the top job of the 57-country Organisation of the Islamic Conference.

The ex-military ruler also interpreted his defeat as a "serious failure of the foreign policy of Bangladesh".

When the prime minister had sought support of Malaysia for the Bangladesh candidate it was very embarrassing for Malaysia so it put up its own candidate, headed.

Referring to Awami League's opposition to SQ Chowdhury as candidate for the post, he said, "Although the AL supremo opposed SQ Chowdhury's candidature, but once he was nominated he became the candidate of Bangladesh. AL should have supported the candidate," he said. "It was the defeat of Bangladesh, after all."

At the same time, Ershad brushed aside the notion that SQ Chowdhury was defeated following negative campaign of AL.

Asked whom he will lend support in the forthcoming by-election in Dhaka-10 constituency, he said they were yet to take a decision.

To a question the JP chief said his health is "fine and there is no complaint".

Bidisha Ershad, JP Secretary General Ruhul Amin Howlader and other senior JP leaders went to airport to receive him.



PHOTO: PID

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan visited ailing journalist and columnist MR Akhter Mukul at the BirDEM hospital in the city yesterday.

Sundarbans has 362 tigers

Tariqul tells parliament

BSS, Dhaka

The Sundarbans has some 362 tigers according to the official survey conducted in 1993.

Environment and Forest Minister Tariqul Islam told the House yesterday in reply to separate questions from Jamaat member Mia Golam Parwar and BNP member M Nurul Islam.

He said in a recent survey conducted with the assistance of UNDP, 1,546 pug marks were found in the Sundarbans assuming that the number of tigers would be more than the figure of 1993.

He said three sanctuaries, Sundarbans East, Sundarbans West and Sundarbans South, are being created for conservation of tigers and other wild animals. Besides, rearing and breeding centres have also been established for deer and crocodiles at Karamjal along with sweet water ponds at different points of the Sundarbans to facilitate the wild animals to drink water.

He said a project has been taken to train field workers of the Sundarbans on bio-diversity conservation. He said that the Coast Guard and the Forest Department

were working jointly for protecting bio-diversity and preventing illegal hunting there while steps had been taken to involve BDR with the efforts.

On the revenue income from the Sundarbans, Tariqul said the government has earned revenue of Tk 16.67 crore till May this year since it took over the office. The revenue was over Tk 4.49 crore in 2001-2002 fiscal, over Tk 7.33 crore in 2002-2003 and Tk 4.84 crore in 2003-2004, he added.

Replying a question of Jamaat lawmaker Azizur Rahman Chowdhury, he said constitution of a Forest Court is under process for quick disposal of the cases relating to timber pilferage in the Sundarbans.

He said during the last six months 23 officials and employees were suspended for their involvement in smuggling timbers and departmental actions taken against 257 people.

Separate payscale for varsity teachers demanded

BSS, Dhaka

A delegation of Bangladesh Agricultural University Teachers Association met President Iajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday.

The delegation apprised the president that 25,000 students graduated from the university and they have been contributing to modernise the agriculture system in the country.

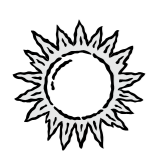
The delegation members said there is no alternative to the development of the agriculture for attaining progress in the economic

field.

The hailed formation of the national pay scale and urged the government to constitute separate pay scale for the university teachers. They also demanded construction of a dormitory for the teachers of The Agricultural University.

President Iajuddin urged them to contribute more to agricultural research and ensure high standard of education.

Dr Muhammad Shahidul Haque, Prof Dr Morshed Alam and Prof Dr Mohammad Abdul Quddus were present.



WEATHER

T O D A Y

Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over the country with moderately heavy to heavy falls at places over Chittagong, Sylhet, Rajshahi and Dhaka divisions till 6.00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 33.3 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Bogra and the lowest 24.4 degree Celsius at Rangamati.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:49pm today and rises at 5:12am 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	30.6	25.5	89	87
Chittagong	27.5	25.4	95	83
Rajshahi	32.2	26.0	86	92
Khulna	29.2	25.5	93	--

Yellow cab carjacked

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

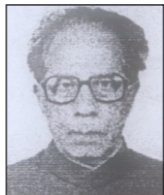
A gang of three, posing themselves as passengers, carjacked a yellow cab after hiring it from Jatrabari bus terminal at around midnight on Saturday.

The three took the cab (Dhaka Metro-Pa-14-4547), owned by Transparent Impex Limited Cab, at about 11:30pm to go to Kanchpur Bridge, said Mohammad Fayeaz, manager of the cab company.

Driver of the cab, Mujibur Rahman Soheli, was forced at gunpoint to take the route to Daudkandi of Comilla. On crossing the Daudkandi Bridge, the miscreants deserted him on the road and made off with the car, Fayeaz added.

No case was filed till 7:15pm.

Obituary



ATM Shamsul Alam, former Mafussil Editor of the now defunct Dainik Bangla, died of cancer at his Nurjahan Road residence at Mohammedpur in the city yesterday at the age

of 75, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, two sons and a daughter.

He will be buried at Gaibandha graveyard today.

Death anniversary



Today is the second death anniversary of Dr Azizur Rahman, gynecologist and former Professor of Sher-e-Bangla Medical College, says a

press release.

DHAKA

T O D A Y

Academy film show

The Academy Film Society will screen an Australian film titled 'Dead Calm' (1998). Venue: Society auditorium, 21/C Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.

Memorial meeting

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy organises a meeting in memory of noted musicians of the subcontinent Ostad Alauddin Khan and Ostad Ayat Ali Khan. It will be followed by a musical function. Venue: Academy premises, Segun Bagicha. Time: 6.00pm.

Seminar

A seminar on 'International Year of Rice 2004: Meeting the challenge of tomorrow' will be held with Agriculture Minister M K Anwar as chief guest. Venue: BARC auditorium, Farmgate. Time: 10.00am.

Discussion

State University of Bangladesh organises a roundtable on 'National Budget 2004-05' with Education Minister Dr M Osman Faruk as chief guest. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 4.00pm.

Workshop

The inaugural session of a workshop on 'International trade tools and incoterms 2000' will be held with Law Minister Moudud Ahmed as chief guest. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 10.15am.

FBCCI seminar

The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) organises a seminar on 'Maximising your profits using e-trading'. Venue: Federation conference centre, Motijheel. Time: 10.00am.

Child workshop

The inaugural session of a workshop on child rights, organised by Bangladesh Shishu Odhikar Forum in cooperation with the Unicef, will be held. Venue: Bangladesh Shishu Academy Auditorium. Time: 10.00am.

Blood donation

Quantum Foundation organises a voluntary blood donation camp. Venue: Ahsanullah University Campus, Karwan Bazar. Time: 10.00am to 5.00pm.

DHAKA

T O M O R R O W

Academy film show

The Academy Film Society will screen a Japanese film titled 'Freezer' (2002). Venue: Society auditorium, 21/C Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.

Memorial meeting

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy organises a meeting in memory of noted dance artiste Bulbul Chowdhury. It will be followed by a cultural function. Venue: Academy premises, Segun Bagicha. Time: 6.00pm.

Roundtable

The Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) organises a roundtable on 'Development of agri-business in Bangladesh' with Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdullah Al Noman as chief guest. Venue: DCCI Auditorium, Motijheel. Time: 11.00am.

Rotary meeting

Weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Ramna will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 5.30pm.



Winners of the HSBC World Environment Day 2004 photography competition pose with HSBC Chief Executive Officer in Bangladesh David J H Griffiths, fourth from left.



Nari Unnayan Shakti, a national NGO, organised two-day Training of Trainers (TOT) on 'Drug Abuse Prevention' on June 18-19 at Alkaran in Chittagong City. Twenty-five NUS staff participated at the training programme from its field offices in Chittagong.