

Bangla Bhai men call counter rally to AL, 11-party
Police deployed to defuse tension
STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A large contingent of police was deployed in Bagmara yesterday after tension brewed up over the announcement of a Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh (JMJB) public meeting to counter the anti-terrorism rally called by Awami League (AL) and the left-leaning 11-party alliance today.

The fanatic followers of Bangla Bhai in Bagmara announced over loudspeakers they would hold a meeting at Goalkandi, 12km from the site of the opposition rally, at the same time, and called upon people to resist any move against the JMJB.

Villagers of Bagmara told newsmen the JMJB Islamist militants warned them of dire consequences if they support the anti-terrorism grand rally.

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No pay to 6,000 primary teachers for a year

MUSTAK HOSSAIN

Some 6,000 primary school teachers have not received salary for over a year now due to bureaucratic tangles.

The suffering teachers said they were initially hired by the Primary Education Development Project (PEDP) under the development budget with assurances that their services would be regularised under the revenue budget on completion of the project.

The project financed by the Asian Development Bank and

International Development Assistance of the World Bank was aimed at improving primary education.

When the project ended in June last year, the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education posted the teachers to different primary schools across the country and asked them to wait for clearance from the establishment ministry. But they are yet to get salaries.

Sources said the establishment ministry is still awaiting clearance from the finance ministry, resulting in the non-payment of teachers' salaries for such a long time.

"We are in a state of total uncertainty and passing our days in dire distress for over a year. But the government is yet to look into our plight," said one sufferer, Shamim Ahmed.

Many other teachers expressed similar frustrations.

When contacted, Jahan Ara Begum, adviser to the prime minister, said the proposal concerning these teachers was forwarded to the finance ministry in time.

"We have nothing to do in this

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AHSANULLAH MASTER MURDER
CID to submit charge sheet July 10

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) will submit the charge sheet in the Ahsanullah Master MP murder case on July 10.

The four-member CID team, which is probing the gruesome killing of the Awami League (AL) lawmaker, has already prepared a draft of the charge sheet.

Sources close to the team said some 25 people, including 15 of the 18 accused in the first information report (FIR), would be charged with the murder.

Ahsanullah Master, also the executive president of Shramik League, and a schoolboy named Omar Faruk Ratan were killed and at least five others injured on May 7 when some 20 gunmen opened fire on a rally of AL's volunteer wing Sechchhasabak League at Noagaon near the legislator's house in Tongi.

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Agro-based industry gets big boost

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will increase rebate on power tariff for agro-based industries to 20 percent from the present 15 percent from July 1.

Besides, exports of agro-based products will also receive 20-25 percent subsidy.

A high-powered committee with State Minister for Agriculture Mirza Fakrul Islam Alamgir has been formed to devise ways of granting subsidy on fertiliser.

According to a finance ministry circular, 13 types of agro-based industries will get the new power tariff rebate. These are: fruit by-

product industries, processed canned fruit industry, mushroom and spirulina processing industry, milk processing industry, potato by-product industry, aromatic rice industry and spice packing industry, salt, pulses, coconut oil, poultry feed, fish feed, seed processing industry and silk industry.

The finance ministry will directly give the subsidy to different power authorities for selling electricity at subsidised rates. The money will come from the Tk 600 crore agriculture subsidy allocation in the budget.

"We want to make our agriculture products competitive in the

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Fresh drive on against polybags

BSS, Dhaka

A team of the environment and forest ministry yesterday launched a fresh drive against polythene shopping bags in the city's New Market and Mohammadpur area as polybags resurfaces in the markets within two and a half years of a ban on its production and use.

The team led by State Minister for Environment and Forest Jafrul Islam Chowdhury was also included a mobile court, which fined a large number of polythene users during the drive.

The minister said the government has taken initiative to sell jute bags at a cheaper price as an alternative to polythene bags and about 20 to 30 lakh jute bags are now ready for marketing.

He said a simultaneous action programme against polythene shopping bags would continue along with the Tree Plantation Drive across the country, he sought cooperation of the shop owners in removing the menace of polythene shopping bags.

DHAKA-10 BY-POLLS

Observers demand result cancellation

EC hears Mannan's appeal for poll revocation tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Election observer groups yesterday demanded cancellation of the results of July 1 Dhaka-10 by-polls 'for the sake of democracy as well as free and fair elections'.

The groups -- Brotee, Democracy Watch, Fair Election Monitoring Alliance (Fema) and

Jatiyo Nirbachon Porjebekkhon Porishad (Janipop) -- in a joint statement made the demand as they claimed the by-election was seriously marred by massive irregularities, noticed and reported by all major election observation bodies.

The election observers said, "We urge, in the name of democracy and

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Mannan sues govt, army official for contempt

Seeks cancellation of Dhaka-10 by-polls, hearing likely today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDB) Secretary General Abdul Mannan yesterday sued three secretaries and the acting principal staff officer of the Armed Forces Division for contempt of court for not providing army in each polling centre during Dhaka-10 by-election.

In his contempt petition to the High Court (HC), Mannan pleaded for cancellation of the by-polls on the grounds that the High Court directives to ensure a free, fair poll were violated.

Mannan, who boycotted the prestige polls in the Ramna-Tejgaon constituency two and half an hours into the July 1 ballot, also sought a high-powered investigation into his allegations of massive rigging, and

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A recent drive against encroachers on Buriganga left this Zila Parishad Market built by government funds untouched although other illegal structures beside it were knocked down.

CJs should have no monopoly on chief adviser's post

AL's lawyer Amir-Ul Islam says during hearing on case challenging caretaker govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former chief justices (CJs) should not have a monopoly on the post of chief adviser to the caretaker government, eminent jurist Barrister Amir-Ul Islam observed yesterday in the High Court.

Barrister Amir said this while pointing out the drawbacks of the 13th amendment to the constitution, which the Awami League (AL) conceived of and hammered at in 1995-96 and the then ruling BNP framed.

During the hearing that began on June 29 on the writ petition chal-

lenging the 13th constitutional amendment making way for national election under caretaker government, the lawyer for one of the defendants, the AL, subscribed to the amendment but said it needs to be improved by incorporating changes.

The petition puts in the dock the government as an institution and AL, BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami as major political parties. The AL is the first defendant to submit its version in the latest round of hearing on the writ.

He suggested the changes may be

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Ministry tussle stalls manpower export to Greece

RAFIQ HASAN

A tussle between two ministries has stalled the process of sending Bangladeshi workers to Greece for marine sector jobs, sources said.

The Ministry of Expatriate Welfare and Overseas Employment and the Ministry of Shipping are at loggerheads over the procedure of sending workers to the European country as a recruiter gave newspaper advertisement for it.

The overseas employment min-

istry had earlier approved sending 159 workers in 25 categories in shipping sector to Greece. Some of the workers are in the categories of captain, engineer and official and the rest are labourers and cleaners, sources said.

On approval from the ministry, recruiting agency M/s Rabbi International advertised in national dailies for interview of intending workers.

But two days later, a government

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DEATH ANNIVERSARY

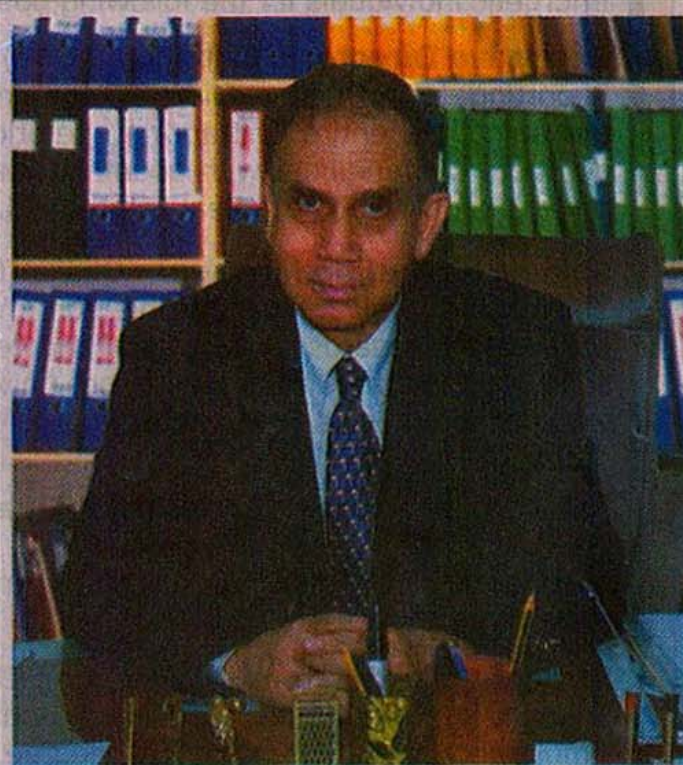


The 1st Death Anniversary of Saam Ruslan Anando will be observed on Wednesday 7th of July 2004.

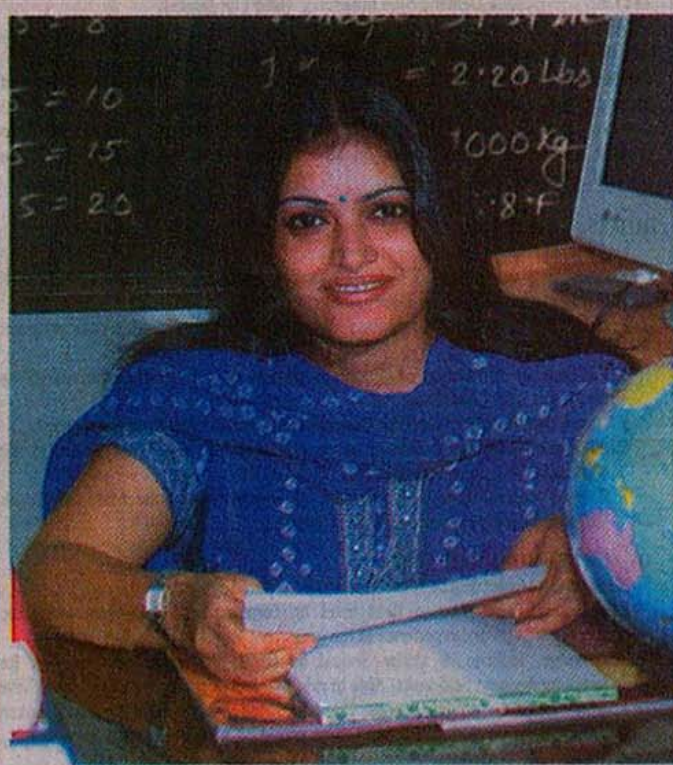
Saam Ruslan Anando only beloved son of Mr. Fazle Selim, Managing Director of Ranks ITT Ltd. and Mrs. Rukhsana Selim (Swapna) and beloved brother of Shahneela Nawsheen & Rudmeela Nawsheen met with a tragic accident near Oregon-Nevada border in the USA on early morning of 7th July 2003. He was a student of Grade IX in European Standard School. He was a good singer and earned prominence at this young age participating in various functions. He left behind a lot of friends and admirers. Relatives, friends and well wishers are requested to attend the prayer session to all mighty Allah for salvation of the departed soul.

Anando...
Without you no morning
Without you no living
No elegance of rainbow
As the nights never move.

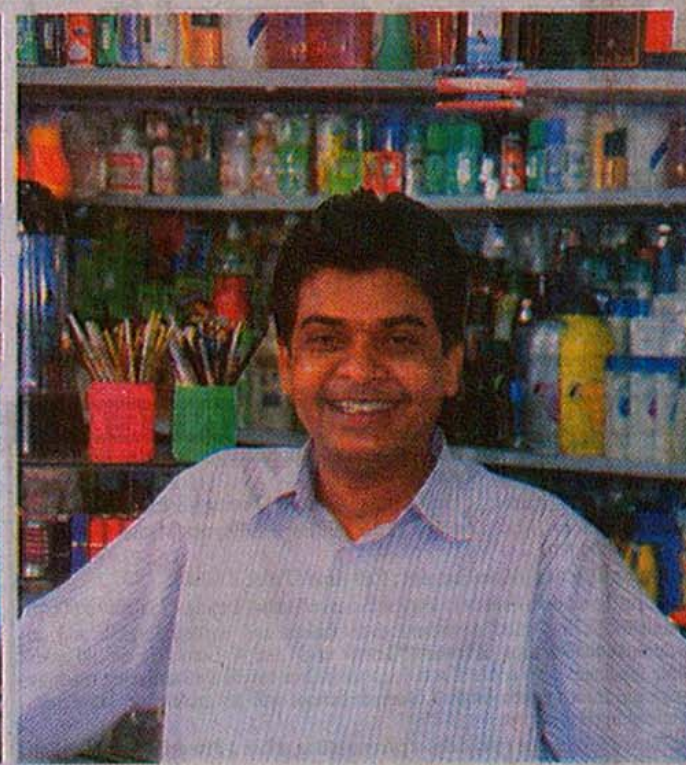
Bereaved Parents & sisters of Saam Ruslan Anando
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