

Photojournalist Lal Bhai dead

BSS, Dhaka

Noted photojournalist Mosharraf Hossain Lal Bhai died of old age complications at the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD) here yesterday at the age of 75.

He left behind his wife, one son, three daughters and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death. Lal Bhai was the father of SM Gorkey, chief photojournalist of the daily Jugantor.

He was buried at Azimpur graveyard after his namaz-e-janaza at the Jatiya Press Club after Maghrib prayers and at Dhaka University Central Mosque after Esha prayers.

Lal Bhai, who started his career in photojournalism with the then Morning News and later worked as photo journalist in the Chitrali, the Purbadesh, the Bangladesh Observer and the Press Information Department (PID).

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia expressed her deep shock at the death of Lal Bhai.

In a message of condolence she also conveyed her sympathy to the members of the bereaved family and prayed for peace of the departed soul.

Awami League president and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina in a message of condolence expressed her profound sorrow at the death of Lal Bhai.

Principal Information Officer (PIO) Khondakar Monirul Alam and President of BCS Information Association Mohammad Abdul Mannan also expressed deep shock at his death.

PM unveils cover of book

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday unveiled the cover of a book portraying Bangladesh on the road to prosperity, development and production.

Mohammad Mosaddek Ali MP, ex-political secretary to the Prime Minister, edited and compiled the 411-page book titled 'Samriddhi, Unnayan O Utpadan Bangladesh'.

It contains important speeches of Khaleda Zia from October 2003 to October 2004. Mosaddek presented the book to the Prime Minister at her office.

He also edited and compiled similar books titled 'Bangladesh on the way of Prosperity (Samriddhir Pathe Bangladesh) covering speeches of the PM during the first year in power and 'Bangladesh on Prosperity and Development (Samriddhi O Unnayn Bangladesh)' compiling PM's speeches in second year.

Mosaddek, commonly known as 'Falu Bhai', who was elected MP in the bye-election from Dhaka-10 constituency, also wrote and edited a number of books on political and religious affairs.

Prime Minister's Political Secretary Harris Chowdhury and MAH Selim MP were present on the occasion.



Sammlita Sangskritik Jote organises a citizens' meeting in memory of writer Prof Humayun Azad at Central Shaheed Minar yesterday.

Jalil criticises PM for her remarks

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil MP yesterday sharply reacted to the prime minister's remarks about his party's demand for immediate election, saying that it is not Khaleda Zia but the people will decide at the next election whom they will vote to power.

In her nationwide speech, the prime minister questioned the reasoning behind the demand for her government's resignation and aired doubt about the Awami League's victory at the next polls.

"Her (PM) remark itself reflects her mindset—that she does not believe in people's strength, she believes in strength of conspiracy to capture power, as happened in the past," Jalil said.

He said AL asked for resignation of the Khaleda Zia government as she "completely failed in all sectors" in the past three years and people expressed their "no-confidence" in her government through spontane-

ous participation in "mass no-confidence wall", grand public rally and hartals".

Defending his party stand, Jalil said in a democracy a government steps down for its failure in governing the country and goes for fresh mandate when majority of the people lose confidence and withdraw support from that government.

"It's not an illogical demand in a democracy, and if the PM has any respect for democratic norms and values, she should immediately step down to seek fresh mandate," the AL leader said.

Referring to the PM's advice for the AL to practise democratic culture, Jalil noted that AL has grown up through practising democracy and fighting for democracy against all autocratic and military regimes.

Awami League does not require any lesson from Khaleda Zia who needs more schooling to know what is democracy and what is democratic culture," he said.

Jalil also rejected the PM's notion about power capture by undemocratic means, saying that Awami League does not believe in conspiracy or any unconstitutional means to go to power. Rather, he said, it is BNP that was "born through conspiracy and captured power at gunpoint".

The AL leader went on to make it clear that Awami League's politics does not aim at capturing power rather wellbeing of the people and establishing a "non-communal democratic country".

On the PM's remarks about 30 th April deadline, Jalil said the government had gone "mad" about that deadline and declared a "war" against the people by resorting to unprecedented "mass arrests and torture". Time is not far off when the people would "pull down" the government through a mass movement, he added.

Tributes to Gandhi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday paid rich tributes to Mahatma Gandhi describing him as one of the most outstanding personalities of the 20th century.

They said Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, who led the sub-continent to independence from colonial rule, devoted his life to the promotion of communal harmony.

The discussion was organised by Bangladesh-Bharat Sampriti Parishad at the TSC Auditorium of Dhaka University to mark the 135th

birth anniversary of Gandhi.

"Gandhiji believed that freedom would have no meaning until the security and well-being of every individual is ensured," said Veena Sikri, high commissioner of India.

Parishad President Justice KM Sobhan presided over the discussion addressed by

Prof Kabir Chowdhury, Prof Aminul Islam, Awami League leader Abdur Razzak, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal President Hasanul Haq Inu, Jatiya Party (Ershad) leader GM Kader and Prof Nim Chandra Bhaumik.