

Satkhira admn denies attack on Ahmadiyyas

BSS, Satkhira

The district administration of Satkhira yesterday denied that there had been any incident of attack on the Ahmadiyyas at Shyamnagar as published in a section of national and other newspapers on Wednesday.

The news published by the Prothom Alo, Jugantar, Janakantha, The Daily Star, Bangladesh Observer and other national and local papers on the alleged attack and repression on the Ahmadiyya sect was not objective and based on fact, the administration said in a press release.

Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Eliyas and Police Superintendent Mohammad Abdur Rahim said no incidents of attack and looting did take place as reported by those newspapers. They said law and order is quite normal and no untoward incidents had happened in the last two days.

No families belonging to the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat had fled the area and that the Sunni and the Ahmadiyya sects are living together peacefully, the press release said.

The fact is that a committee was formed in coordination with the supporters of Khatme Nabuwat Movement and the local elite to ensure peace in the area so that the Ahmadiyyas could move freely and live there without any fear.

Garments worker killed in road accident

BSS, Chittagong

A female garments worker was killed when a speedy truck ran over her in the AK Khan Gate area under Pahartali thana here yesterday morning.

The victim was identified as Parul Akter, 30, wife of Farhad Hossain of Feroj Shah Colony under Bayezed Bostami thana in the city, police and Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) sources said.

Police said a speedy truck ran over Parul when she was going to her place of work. Local people rushed her to CMCH where attending doctors declared her dead.



PHOTO: STAR

Students of kindergarten schools observe a token hunger strike at Muktangan in the city yesterday demanding textbooks free of cost.

Govt has made country safe haven for fundamentalists

Speakers tell rally

DU CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a rally yesterday said the BNP-led alliance government has made the country a safe haven for the fundamentalists.

They also blamed the government for wide spread corruption, and law and order slide.

The speakers were addressing a rally after a three-hour token hunger strike, organised by Shaheed Sentu Smriti Foundation, at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city.

They demanded trial and punishment to the killers of AL leaders Ivy Rahman and Mostak Ahmed Sentu who were killed in August 21 grenade attack.

The speakers vowed to oust the 'anarchic' government through a mass upsurge.

AL Presidium Member Amir

Hossain Amu said an elected democratic government would be in power soon to give punishment to the killers.

He said the coalition government would not publish the probe report of August 21 grenade attack as the investigation would found the government's involvement in the attack.

Dhaka University Teachers' Association (Duta) President Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique said it is high time to rise against the repression and misrule of the coalition government.

AL leaders Nazma Rahman, Mirza Azam, Duta General Secretary Prof Dr M Akhtaruzzaman, Prof Hossain Mansur, Prof Borhan Uddin, Prof Imran Kabir Chowdhury, Jubo League Chairman Jahangir Kabir Nanak, BCL General Secretary Nazrul Islam Babu, Khan Moinul Islam Mostak, Marufa Akhtar Popy, Rafiqul Islam Kotwal and Delwar Hossain also spoke on the occasion.

Presided over by Shaheed Sentu Smriti Foundation President Mostafizur Rahman Nilu, the rally was conducted by DU unit BCL General Secretary Hemayet Uddin Khan Himu.

BSMMU signs MoU with Japanese varsity

DU CORRESPONDENT

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) between Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) and Hamamatsu University School of Medicine (HUSM), Japan has been signed for academic exchange and co-operation.

BSMMU Vice-chancellor Prof MA Hadi and HUSM President Toshihiko Terao signed the memorandum at the HUSM campus in Japan recently.

The main objective of the MoU is to strengthen the co-operation between the two universities on academic and research works.

Henceforth, students, teachers and researchers of both the universities could exchange their visits, scientific materials, and publications, and help each other in organising the workshops, said a BSMMU press release. Speaking at the signing ceremony, Prof Hadi said a new dimension has been added to the development of the country's healthcare system. He said the deal would help teachers, students and researchers and overall medical education and health care system of both the countries. A number of world-renowned teachers and researchers from different countries were present on the occasion.

Water is a question of life and death for Bangladesh

Hafiz tells United Nations

BSS, New York

Water Resources Minister Major (ret'd) Hafizuddin Ahmed on Wednesday told the United Nations that "As a lower riparian country, water is a question of life and death for Bangladesh."

The minister was addressing the high-level meeting of the UN Commission for Sustainable Development at its 13th session.

He said that international water courses feed the people of the entire basin and any unilateral withdrawal of water by the upper riparian gravely affects agriculture, fishing, navigation, bio-diversity and the whole eco-system at the other end. Any water infrastructure build in the upstream must take into account the economic, social and ecological impact down stream, he said.

Hafiz suggested formulation of international rules and standards in

this regard and their implementation particularly on trans-boundary flow of water to ensure equitable and fair distribution of this precious resource.

He also highlighted the plight of the people due to trace of arsenic in shallow aquifers in Bangladesh which further contributed to the pollution of water. Salinity intrusion due to lean flow of rivers in dry season was another threat to freshwater supply along the coastal regions, he added.

He stressed the need for further international assistance, both technical and financial, for purification and desalination efforts, as well as for preservation of bio-diversity of the country.

The current session is being attended by a large number of high-level participants, including cabinet ministers from both developed and developing countries.

The session will conclude today.

Political parties urged to include agenda on environment

BSS, Dhaka

Experts yesterday called on the government to 'mainstream environment in the national budget' of 2005-2006 fiscal to create a healthy environment for children who are susceptible to environment pollution.

They also urged major political parties to include concrete agendas on environment and sustainable development in their election manifestoes before the next general election for a national consensus on green issues.

The experts made the call at a seminar on 'Earth Day' in the city, organised by the Forum of Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh (FEJB) with support from the Ministry of Environment and Forest, UNDP and Unicef.

State Minister for Environment and Forest Jafrul Islam Chowdhury

addressed the seminar as chief guest while Environment Secretary Jafar Ahmed Chowdhury was present as special guest.

Mohammad Qamar Munir, project director of the ministry, and Barbara Keary, economic affairs officer of the US embassy, also addressed the seminar, with FEJB chairman Quamrul Islam Chowdhury in the chair.

Jafrul Islam said the government would phase out two stroke three wheelers from the big cities, including Chittagong, by 2005.

He also said the donor agencies, including the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and Global Environment Facilities are yet to provide sufficient assistance and grants for the projects to protect environment.

To mark the Earth Day today, FEJB will take out a procession from the National Press Club at 8:00am.



PHOTO: STAR

Shaheed Sentu Smriti Foundation observes a token hunger strike at Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday demanding trial of the culprits responsible for the August 21 grenade attack.

NBCP leader killed in West Bengal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

West Bengal police on Tuesday recovered the body of a top leader of outlawed New Biplobi Communist Party (NBCP).

The police recovered the rotting body of Rajprashad Roy alias Kalu Kasai, 40, chief of the NBCP's killing squad, from Malikapur village in Barasat.

When contacted, the Khulna superintendent of police said Rajprashad was a listed top criminal of the southwestern region. The SP said he has information about the NBCP cadre's murder in India.

Another officer of Khulna Metropolitan Police said party rivals have killed Rajprashad. Rajprashad, son of Anil Krishna

Roy of Jalma union in Batiaghata upazila, fled the country to West Bengal in India in November 2003 following the launch of an anti-crime operation in Dumuria and Batiaghata upazilas.

30PC QUOTA FOR WOMEN

'Govt decision will defile Madrasa edn'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government decision to preserve 30 percent of the teachers' quota for women will 'defile' the attributes of Madrasa education, said the leaders of Bangladesh Jamiat-E-Talaba-E-Arabia at a convention yesterday.

They said working of men and women in close proximity goes against the spirit of Madrasa education.

The national convention of Jamiat-E-Talaba-E-Arabia was organised in observance of its 75th anniversary at the National Press Club in the city.

The Jamiat leaders demanded an Islamic Arabic university to retain the continuity of Madrasa education to the highest level and to ensure the recognition of Fazil and Kamil degrees alongside the general education degrees.

Mufti Fazlul Haq Amini MP, chairman of Islami Oikya Jote, Former principal of Madrasa-E-Alia, Dhaka Maulana Noor Muhammad, Asian University Vice-chancellor Prof Abul Hasan Muhammad Sadeq and Dr KM Saiful Islam Khan also spoke at the convention chaired by Jamiat President Muhammad Wallullah.