

25 more JMJB cadres released on bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,
Rajshahi

Twenty five more cadres of the banned Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh (JMJB), including two close associates of Bangla Bhai, were released on bail from the Rajshahi Central Jail here on Wednesday night.

Rajshahi district and session judge Abu Bakkar Siddique granted their bail prayers following petitions from the accused after they had been rejected by a magistrate court in February.

The same court on April 7 granted bail to 42 JMJB cadres. They were arrested after several hundred JMJB cadres fought with police leaving eight policemen injured on January 24.

Those who were released this

Mujibur Rahman Khan new BEREC chairman

UNB, Dhaka

The government has appointed Mujibur Rahman Khan as chairman of the newly constituted Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) for a three-year term.

Rahman is a former chairman of Petrobangla and a former director general of the Geological Survey of Bangladesh (GSB).

According to sources, President Iajuddin Ahmed signed the appointment letter of Mujibur Rahman Khan on May 31. The president's order reached the energy ministry yesterday.

Earlier, the government had appointed two members of the BEREC and one of them was acting as chairman.

Sources said a proposal for appointment of two other members of the commission is now pending with the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) for approval.

time include Mustafizur Rahman Mustaque, Abdus Sattar Master, Hafez Abdul Momen, Abdul Mannan, Faruk, Saiful, Jonab Ali, Abdul Jalil, Abdus Subhan, Md Ali, Moyeen, Lokman, Belal, Rashid, Shafi, Siddik, Abdus Sattar, Matiur Rahman, Mofiz Uddin, Abul Kalam Azad, Fazlur Rahan and Khalekuzzaman.

On January 22, a huge mob lynched three JMJB cadres while their group was fleeing a foiled attempt of assassinating Awami League leader Mokbul Minha after bombing another Awami League leader Mahub to death on the same day.

Police said they were taken on remand thrice but denied to give out any information except for the fact that they were members of the JMJB.

Meanwhile, the JMJB cadres held showdowns in different groups at Taherpur Bazar, Hamirkutsa, Maria and Sikdari Bazar till last evening while a number of JMJB cadres from outside the upazila were seen roaming around the areas, said a source at Bagmara.

"The cadres who went in hiding since the last few months were roaming in public after the arrested JMJB leaders were released", he said.

Miniature art exhibition begins today

BSS, Dhaka

Shilparag Gallery will hold a month-long art exhibition titled "Miniature Art" on its premises here from today.

A total of 101 artists will be taking part in the exhibition where 200 pieces of art works, including paintings, sculpture, craft and ceramics, will be on display.

The exhibition will remain open from 11:30am to 2:00pm and from 4:30pm to 9:00pm everyday till June 30.



The newly elected commissioners of Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) pose for photograph with LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, State Minister Ziaul Haque Zia and Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury after taking oath at the LGED Bhaban in the city yesterday.

PCJSS man gunned down at Baghaichhari

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Rangamati

An activist of pro-peace accord Parbattya Chattagram Jono Sanghaty Samity (PCJSS) was gunned down by the armed activists of the anti-peace accord elements at Baghaichhari upazila here early yesterday.

United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) activists shot Sonadhon Chakma, 40, point blank near his residence at village Vuachhari at around 6:45am.

Sonadhon died on the spot. Baghaichhari police recovered the body and sent it to the Khagra-chhari morgue for autopsy.

PCJSS held a rally and took out procession in the upazila headquarters protesting the killing.

PCJSS sources said Sonadhon was a member of now-defunct Shantibahini, who back to normal life after signing of the CHT peace accord in 1997.

The armed activists of PCJSS and UPDF traded fire at Tholchhari reserve forest, some 50km away from the upazila headquarters of Baghaichhari on May 30.

NEW MOORING CONTAINER TERMINAL Infrastructural dev to be completed on schedule

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The infrastructural development of the New Mooring Container Terminal will be completed within the stipulated time.

With most of the preparatory and time-consuming works already done, the rest 87 percent work of the project will be completed by September next year.

This was stated by Shipping Minister Akbar Hossain at a meeting with the members of parliamentary standing committee on shipping ministry here yesterday.

The implementation of Tk 435 crore New Mooring Container Terminal project started in the middle of February 2004. Chittagong Port Authority is financing the project from its own fund.

On completion of the infrastructural development work, the operational and structural development of the project would be handed over to private sector.

When completed, the terminal with 1-KM jetty and backward linkage facilities will handle some 5 lakh TEUs of containers annually.

The terminal on some 22 hectare of

land would provide berthing for three container feeder vessels and two to three general cargo vessels at a time, sources said.

The 8-member parliamentary standing committee led by its chairman Golam Mohammad Siraj also inspected activities of the port and its other ongoing projects.

Committee members MA Matin, Talukder Abdul Khaleq, ABM Fazole Karim Chowdhury and Nasirul Haq Sabu were present at the meeting.

Seminar on pain management

A scientific seminar on pain management was held in the city yesterday with the participation of a panel of leading health specialists and academics, says a press release.

The seminar on 'Managing pain minimising risk' was organised by Novartis (Bangladesh) Limited at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre.

The seminar featured three eminent physicians as keynote speakers-- Prof SN Samad Chowdhury (Anesthesiology), Prof CH Kabir (Surgery) and Prof TA Chowdhury (Gynaecology and Obstetrics).

Prof Rashiduddin Ahmed (Neurosurgery) and Prof Mohammed Tahir (Medicine) were present as panel discussants.

Prof MN Alam (Medicine) attended the seminar as chairperson.

The seminar uncovered latest information and featured practical medical solutions to pain management through sharing knowledge and hearing medical experts of their experience in treatment modalities.

The event, attended by more than 600 participants, reflected a longstanding need of the medical community of state-of-the-art information on pain management.

In his welcome address, Executive Director of Novartis Pharmaceuticals M Mansur Alam reiterated the commitment of Novartis to provide innovative global brands to the country and provide solutions to unmet medical needs to physicians in their endeavour to treat patients. Prof SN Samad said, "Inadequate and improper application of knowledge of pain management creates needless sufferings and in cases causes complications."

Iran to make film on poet Nazrul

BSS, Dhaka

Iran will take the initiative to make a film on the life of national poet Kazi Nazrul Islam.

Iranian Minister for Culture and Islamic Guidance, Ahmed Masjed Jamei told this to Prime Minister Khaleda Zia when he called on her at her office yesterday.

"The life of Nazrul was very colourful. It can be portrayed in a cinema and we will take the initiative to make a film on his life," Jamei said.

Earlier, the Prime Minister showed her keen interests on learning that the Iranian authorities will translate the literary works of Bangladesh's national poet in their own language to popularise those to their people.

The visiting Iranian minister told the PM that the Iranian Cultural Centre in Dhaka has already translated some of the works of poet Nazrul Islam.

Jamei is visiting Bangladesh with an official delegation to enhance cooperation in culture, education and tourism sectors between the two countries. The visit has yielded formation of a joint commission on cultural affairs, training of journalists and increase in the number of scholarships for students, the Prime Minister was informed.

Khaleda referred to the Bangladeshi nationals working in Iran and proposed that more manpower, including doctors and engineers, be recruited from here.

The Iranian minister appreciated the success of the leadership of Khaleda Zia in improving the echo-system in Bangladesh and development in other sectors. The success of Bangladesh in the environmental field was discussed in Iranian cabinet as a model to be followed, he said.

He conveyed the best wishes of Iranian President Mohammad Khatami and invited Khaleda to the function to declare the Iranian city of Isfahan as the 'Cultural Capital of Asia' in 2006.

Khaleda also requested the Iranian minister to convey her greetings to President Khatami.

Dhaka committed to implementing CWC

Gen Noor tells training course on chemical weapons convention

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh is committed to all UN Charters and Conventions in its quest for world peace, prosperity and justice.

Principal Staff Officer (PSO) of the Armed Forces Division and Chairman of the Bangladesh National Authority for Chemical Weapons Convention (BNACWC) Major General Mustafa Reza Noor said this while he was addressing the closing ceremony of a training course on Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) at Dhaka Cantonment yesterday.

The training course began on May 31. It was conducted by a three-member team of experts from the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) from the Hague, the Netherlands.

Some 24 representatives from different ministries and government agencies, including Bangladesh Armed Forces, who are involved in the implementation of the convention, took part in the course, says an ISPR release.

"We, in the framework of parliamentary democracy, are doing our utmost to see effective implementation of the CWC", Gen. Noor said.

He said, "We believe in a world free from terrorism, a world free from nuclear, biological and chemical weapons as well as a world free from all sort of weapons of mass destruction".

Gen. Noor thanked the OPCW for sending their experts to conduct the training course. He also distributed certificates among the participants of the training course.

The Chemical Weapons Convention is an arms control agreement, which outlaws the

production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons. It was signed in 1993 and entered into force on April 29, 1997.

The objective of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) is to rid the world of chemical weapons by prohibiting their development, production, acquisition, stockpiling, retention, transfer and use.

Bangladesh signed the Convention in 1993 and ratified the agreement in 1997.

Strike observed in educational instts in Sylhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Strike was observed in the educational institutions, including the Shahjalal University of Science & Technology (SUST) in Sylhet at the call of opposition backed student fronts.

The progressive Students Alliance, a group of the left leaning organisations, staged demonstration in the city and held a rally at the court point area in the afternoon. The rally demanded impartial inquiry into the DU campus violence and exemplary punishment to the attackers.

The speakers also demanded resignation of the Dhaka University vice-chancellor and proctor for their failure in ensuring safety and security of the students.