



Death anniversary of Maulana Bhashani today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 29th death anniversary of veteran political leader Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani will be observed today.

Born in 1880 at village Dhanpara in Sirajganj, Bhashani dedicated his life to establishing the rights of the oppressed and downtrodden.

President Iajuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia have issued separate messages, paying tributes to the leader of the oppressed.

To mark the day, different political, social and cultural organisations have drawn up various programmes across the country.

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and the National Committee to Observe Death Anniversary of Maulana Bhashani have jointly organised two-day programmes to pay homage to the legendary leader.

The programmes include placing of wreath at his graveyard at Santosh in Tangail and discussions in the capital.

Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani Parishad also organised three-day programmes, including photo exhibition, rally and discussion.

Bangladesh Krishak Sramik Mukti Andolon will hold a discussion at its central office today.

Our Tangail correspondent adds: Different organisations have arranged special prayers, food distribution among the poor, discussions, blood donation programme, spiritual song, handicrafts show and milad mahfil at Santosh.

Boropukuria plant goes into experimental production

BSS, Dhaka

The first ever coal-based 125 MW Boropukuria Power Plant went into experimental production on Tuesday night.

The electricity generated from the plant was synchronised with the national grid at 12.37am.

The plant, however, was shut down at 5:35am after five-hour operation with the capacity of 20 MW for mechanical test, a Power Development Board press release said yesterday.

The unit would be operated on experimental basis for two more times this month and the plant is expected to go into operation in full-swing next month.

The other unit of the plant, with the same capacity, is expected to be commissioned in February next year.

The plant, implemented at a cost of around Tk 1,660 crore, will use high quality bituminous coal of Boropukuria Coal Mine as raw material and thus save around 2000 million US dollars a year in fuel sector.

Cuet teachers observe strike

CU CORRESPONDENT

Teachers' Association of Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology (Cuet) yesterday observed a token strike protesting the appointment of a 'controversial' teacher as chairman of the BSC engineering first year admission test 2005.

All academic activities came to a halt during the two-and-half-hour token work abstention from 11:00am yesterday.

Later, a rally was held at the campus from where the association leaders called for a full daylong strike on November 22, demanding removal of Dr Shamsul Alam from the post of chairman.

The leaders cited several allegations against Dr Shamsul Alam and said he was once suspended for 'irregularities' while being a teacher at Rajshahi Bangladesh Institute of Technology (BIT).

"A High Court bench issued rule nisi against Dr Shamsul Alam's appointment to Cuet following a writ petition filed by the association," they added.

The leaders urged the authorities not to involve Dr Shamsul in any administrative activity of the university until the case is disposed of.

Association's President Dr Md Rafiqul Islam presided over the rally while Vice President Mohammed Ibrahim Khan, General Secretary Mir Md Saque Kawsar and Joint Secretary Kamrul Hasan spoke.

UK to help Bangladesh fight terrorism

British minister tells PM

UNB, Dhaka

The British government attaches importance to the relations with Bangladesh valuing it as a great country as it is one of the main development partners of Britain.

The United Kingdom will work together with Bangladesh to combat terrorism as well as provide support to Bangladesh to this end.

UK Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Dr Kim Howells MP said these during a courtesy call on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at her office yesterday.

Khaleda said her government has given top priority to poverty alleviation and spreading education as poverty and illiteracy breed frustration, which often might create terrorism.

She expressed the hope that the UK would provide cooperation in this initiative of poverty alleviation, spreading education and capacity building.

Dr Howells expressed shock at the killing of two judges and referred to terrorism in his country.

He rated the just concluded 13th Saarc Summit as very successful and congratulated her for successfully hosting and completing the event.

Dr Howells said Bangladesh one day would emerge as an economic power through proper utilisation of its natural resources.

He mentioned that there are half a million Bangladeshis people in the UK, who are hardworking and respectable citizens.

The two countries, he added, have historical relations that became deeper over the years through the expansion of many areas of cooperation.

Emerging from the meeting with the Prime Minister, Dr Howells told journalists that they discussed a wide range of issues, including trade,

DINAJPUR BY-POLLS Last day for withdrawal of nomination today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Today is the last day for withdrawal of nomination papers for by-polls in Dinajpur-1 (Birganj-Kaharal) constituency.

On November 8, six candidates submitted their nomination papers for Dinajpur-1 by-polls, which scheduled to be held on December 5.

The aspirant candidates are Abdul Malek Sarker, Aftab Uddin Mollah, Nasirul Haque Rustom, Monoranjan Shil Gopal, Shibli Sadik and Krishak Md Sadek.

The nomination papers was scrutinised on November 9.

The Dinajpur-1 seat fell vacant on September 12 following the death of Jamaat-e-Islami lawmaker Abdullah Al Kafi.

economic and education cooperation, and international terrorism.

He said they have emphasised how important is the Bangladesh-UK relations, which has historical and economical link.

No country in the world is safe from terrorism, he said and added that the UK would support Bangladesh in many ways to strengthen police and intelligence forces as well as in capacity building through training and other supports.

He praised Bangladesh's stand against international terrorism and the government's steps to maintain domestic law and order.

Replying to a question, Dr Howells said they have also discussed the issue of changing educational curriculum of the country in order to compete globally as Bangladesh has large number of young people in its big population.

He said it is the only way Bangladesh will survive as well as to propel the economy through raising the education level, especially education of girls.

During the meeting, the UK side appreciated the achievements in girls' education of Bangladesh and assured of cooperation in education sector, particularly to girls' education.

Khaleda conveyed greetings to Tony Blair through Dr Howells.

British High Commissioner in Dhaka Anwar Choudhury accompanied Dr Howells.



Supreme Court Bar Association President Mahbubey Alam speaks at a press conference at the South Hall of the SC Bar Bhaban in the city yesterday protesting the killing of two judges in Jhalakathi.

DHAKA TODAY Roundtable, Memorial meeting, Silent rally, Roundtable, Memorial meeting, Seminar, Basket procession, Conference

NON-BALLOTTEE PILGRIMS 'Resolve crisis over flights'

CU CORRESPONDENT

Hajj Jatri Kalyan Sangstha Bangladesh yesterday called on the government to resolve the crisis over flights for non-ballottee Hajj pilgrims and fix the airfare for all ballottee and non-ballottee pilgrims at US\$ 950.

They formed a human chain in front of Chittagong Press Club in the morning to press home their demand for withdrawal of additional fare.

Later at a rally, Kalyan Sangstha Chairman HM Mujibul Haq Shukkur said the government has been treating 56,000 Hajj pilgrims as second class citizens as the state-run Biman Bangladesh Airlines decided to ferry only 4,000 ballottee pilgrims at \$950.

He also warned that pilgrims would refrain from pilgrimage if the demands are not fulfilled.

Advisors to the Sangstha Shamsul Islam and Martuza Ali Chowdhury, Vice-Chairmen Muhammad Ullah, Sirajuddin Tayeebi, Kazi Mohammed Jasim Uddin, Mohammed Yasin, Mohammed Saifuddin, Sorwar Javed and Mujibur Rahman joined the human chain.

Gen Rumi made Archery Assoc president

BSS, Dhaka

DGH Director General Major General M Sadik Hasan Rumi has been appointed president of Bangladesh Archery Association (BAA).

The government gave the appointment through a notification of Youth and Sports Ministry, an official handout said yesterday.



A large number of guardians through the Viqarunnisa Noon School and College in the city yesterday to buy application forms for admission tests for their children.

Unite to resist fundamentalist, communal forces

Speakers say at discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday called on all to be united to resist the communal and fundamentalist forces in order to uphold the spirit of the Liberation War and the Sepoy-people uprising led by Colonel Taher.

They also called on all to be imbued with the spirit of the upsurge of November 7, 1975 and topple the alliance government in order to establish democracy.

Colonel Taher Sangsad organised the discussion in the city to mark the 30th anniversary of the upsurge.

Kamal Lohani presided over the discussion while Dr Mushtak Hossain read out the keynote paper.

Speaking as chief guest, President of Workers' Party Rashed Khan Menon demanded fresh trial of the killing of Col. Taher.

He said the spirit of the Sepoy-people upsurge was buried under counter-revolution, which paved the way for communal politics.

General Secretary of Col Taher Sangsad Advocate Ruhul Kuddus, Prof Anwar Hossain and General Secretary of Jatia Shamajtantrik Dal Sayd Zafar Sajjad also spoke.

Five JMB men sent to jail in Sylhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The Sadar Magistrate's Court here yesterday sent five Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) men to the jail yesterday after completion of three-day remand in connection with the August 17 serial bomb blasts in Sylhet.

The JMB men include Akhtar Hossain, Abu Bakar Siddique, Juber Ahmed and madrasa teachers-Mohsin Khan and Abdul Hal.

The investigation officers could not extract any new information from them, an official said.

Earlier, JMB operative Akhtar Hossain, also the bomb thrower on the Sylhet Divisional Judge had confessed his involvement with the activities. He gave confessional statement before a magistrate stating his 'Jihad' performance after he was caught red handed during the bomb attack in Sylhet on October 18.

Mohsin and Hal also admitted their link to the bomb attacks as JMB operatives on the Sylhet Judge's court and at the city's Ambarkhana area on August 17.

A police official yesterday said the unexploded bomb, recovered from Akhtar, was of similar nature with which was thrown on Jhalakathi Judges on Monday.

Sylhet Police will now finalise charge sheet in the three more cases and submit those to the court next week, he added.

1,406 more held

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested 1,406 people, including four listed criminals, on various charges from different parts of the country in the last 24 hours ending at 6:00am yesterday.

During the drive, the law enforcement agencies also seized six firearms, 84 bullets and four explosives, says a police headquarters press release.

Shoe factory gutted at Shyampur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A shoe factory was gutted and ten people were injured in a devastating fire at Shyampur in the city yesterday.

A rolling steel mill adjacent to the factory was also damaged partially in the fire that started at around 12:50pm.

The cause of the fire could not be known.

"I heard a bang while working at the factory and then saw a ball of flame flying in. Soon the sheets of rubber caught a fire, which also engulfed my body," said Rafiqul Islam, a worker of the factory, Famous Rubber Industries. He is now undergoing treatment at the

Dhaka Medical college Hospital (DMCH).

Other injured are workers Rafiqul Islam, 35, Kashem, 32, Alamgir, 28, Rubel, 22, Hosne Ara, 20, Kakoli, 28, Nurul Alam, 32, Jamal, 28, and Firoz, 46, and security guard Siraj Miah, 45. Five of them were admitted to the DMCH.

Fire Brigade personnel from Postogola, Sadarghat and Fulbaria rushed to spot and brought the blaze under control at around 3:15pm.

Shoe factory workers suspected that the ball of flame flew in from the adjacent steel mill.

No case has been filed as of 8:00pm yesterday.

Two bombs found at JU hall

JU CORRESPONDENT

Panic gripped the Jahangirnagar University (JU) campus after two homemade bombs were recovered from Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Hall yesterday morning.

One of the bombs wrapped in red tape were found on the false ceiling of the bathroom and the other on the ceiling of the balcony on the third floor of 'A' block of the hall at 9:00am.

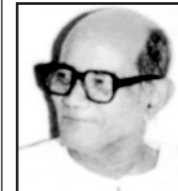
A sweeper first noticed a small container with wires attached to it and informed the hall authorities.

Hall Provost Prof Md Nurul Huq and Proctor Prof Kamrul Ansh immediately rushed to the spot and informed the Savar police who recovered the bombs and sent them to Savar Cantonment for examination.

Somebody might have put the bombs there to create a panic among the students, said Prof Nurul Huq.

WEATHER TODAY Dry weather likely UNB, Dhaka. Table with temperature and humidity data for Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar.

Death anniversary



Today is the fourth death anniversary of Nikunja Bihari Chowdhury, a renowned Congress activist.

Gandhian leader and founder-general secretary of Sylhet District Tea Sramik Union, says a press release.

Religious programmes have been arranged at his home at Kulaura on the occasion.

Shamima Parveen

BSS, Dhaka

Today is the 2nd death anniversary of Shamima Parveen, a social worker and founder of Dr Shamsuddin-Salema Memorial College.

She was the wife of AFM Mostafizur Rahman, former director general of Bangladesh Railway.

On the occasion, a doa mahfil will be held at her residence.



Members of Rapid Action Battalion run a metal detector in a room of the Judge Court in the city yesterday as part of beefed-up security following the killing of two judges in Jhalakathi.