

Improve law and order

President asks DCs

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday asked the deputy commissioners to be active, alert and courageous for the improvement of law and order and perform their duties without fear or favour.

He said the DCs have an important role in maintaining law and order as district magistrates and suggested them to avoid delay in settling criminal cases in their respective districts to check crime.

The president was addressing at Bangabhaban the DCs who are attending a three-day annual conference of Deputy Commissioners that began Sunday.

"District and upazila administrations are the main centre of field administration. Deputy Commissioners perform important responsibilities at field level as government representatives," he said.

He advised them to rise above all personal interest in performing these onerous responsibilities.

Iajuddin suggested the DCs to maintain the 'role model' image of their office and stand by the people.

He said they should take initiative to make the field-level officers

more active and dynamic.

He asked the DCs to ensure constant presence of the field officers and staffs at their workplaces as per government circular and take strict administrative measures against those absenting from work without permission.

"The officials of public administration these days should be honest, efficient and eligible workers to face the challenges of 21st century," he said.

He called upon them to build up own 'vision' and 'mission' at their respective workplace.

The DCs have an important role in rearing skilled administrators and developing the qualities of new officials.

The president said DCs perform the responsibility of land administration and management at the field administration and they should be active to recover the 'khas' land from illegal occupants and settle the khas land among the real landless people.

He asked them to strengthen the disaster management system in their districts to face natural calamity and stand by the disaster-affected people with courage,

patience and intelligence.

He said an independent anti-corruption commissioner has been established to ensure good governance and transparency in all sectors and initiative has been taken for establishing Ombudsman.

Besides, Value Added Tax Law has been amended and The Public Procurement Regulation 2003 was formulated to bring transparency in government procurement system.

He also asked them to try to establish their respective district as an ideal one and then Bangladesh would be developed with its limited resources.

Deputy Commissioners of all 64 districts were present at the conference and cabinet secretary ASM Abdul Halim conducted the programme.

Establishment Secretary Dr Mahbubur Rahman, Law Secretary Alauddin Sarder, President's Secretary Abu Md Moniruzzaman Khan and divisional commissioners of six divisions and other high officials were present.

Bhuiyan asks DCs to concentrate on birth registration

UNB, Dhaka

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday urged the Deputy Commissioners, the head of district administration, to concentrate on birth registration to avoid complexities in preparing voter list or getting jobs.

He made the call while addressing a meeting on the second day of the three-day Deputy Commissioners' Conference 2006 at the Cabinet Division conference at the secretariat.

Meeting sources said he called upon the DCs to expand the birth and death registration activities throughout the country.

Citing the importance of birth registration, Bhuiyan said it will help reduce complexities in preparing voter list and getting jobs, and to stop child marriage.

He underscored the need for strengthening vigilance by the DCs in implementing different projects of the LGRD Ministry.

Identifying the DCs as the prime executors of the government's initiatives, he lauded the success of the union councils in increasing tax collection over the last four years.

All the villages of the country except 479 have already been brought under the sanitation network, he told the meeting and expressed the hope that the entire country will be brought under the sanitation system by the year 2010.

New private security co launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With a view to providing all kinds of security service under one roof, a new private security company named 'Security and Management Services (SMS) International Limited' was launched in the city yesterday.

Addressing the launching ceremony at Kurmitola Golf Club at Dhaka Cantonment in the city Brig Gen (Retd) Danial Islam, SMS chairman and Managing Director of Pathfinder Group, said nowadays the businessmen, industrialists and the citizens of the country are very much worried about the security issue in their industries and even at their residence and vehicles as well.

The existing security companies of the country are just providing guarding service to the customers which is not enough, he said, adding, "We will provide all kinds of security service under one roof abiding by the country's law and order."

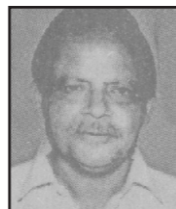
The SMS, a company of Pathfinder Group, will provide all the latest security equipments available in the world to the customers and the team of SMS will provide 24-hour service throughout the year, he added.

Managing Director of SMS Nazmul Huda Mehedi said SMS is the only and fully integrated security service in the country that will provide the total security solution for all people.

The company will not only provide the Guarding and Cash In Transit (CIT) service but also will provide hi-tech security services like Satellite Vehicle Tracing (SVT) Systems, Digital Video Surveillance Systems (DVSS), Electronic Alarm Systems (EAS), Fleet Management System (FMS) and other security services, he added.

Ikram Saigal, chairman of Pathfinder Group and Rajib Chowdhury, marketing manager of the SMS, also spoke on the occasion and Brig Gen (Retd) M Sakhawat Hussain, consultant of SMS was present.

Death anniversary

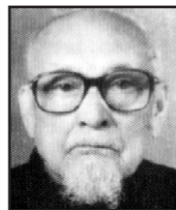


Today is the 9th death anniversary of Dr Ashiqul Alam, former general secretary of Dhaka Medical College Students' Union, says a

press release.

To mark the day National Democratic Front (NDF) has chalked out elaborate programmes, including placing of wreath at his grave at Mirpur Graveyard at 7:00am, discussion on Wednesday at NDF office, 8 Bangabandhu Avenue, Gulistan in the city at 4:30pm.

Dr Captain Abul Kashem



Today is the seventh death anniversary of Alhajj Dr Captain Abul Kashem, former Member of Legislative Assembly and Member of Parliament, says a press release.

On the occasion, Khatme Quran will be held at his grave and milad mahfil after Asr prayers at his Katalganj village under Panchnalish Police Station.



PHOTO: PID
Newly appointed High Commissioner of Australia Douglas Fuskett calls on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at her office in the city yesterday.

Kala Jahangir, others acquitted of attempted murder charges

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court on Sunday acquitted top criminals 'Kala' Jahangir, 'Killer' Abbas and five others on charges of attempted murder as the government failed to produce witnesses against the accused.

The judgement of the case had been deferred on six occasions.

In his order, Metropolitan Magistrate Jagannath Das Khokan said though charges against the seven were framed on April 29, 2002, the prosecution could not produce any witnesses including complainant Saifur Rahman.

So the proceedings were closed and the accused were acquitted, the order added.

The other accused are Mizan alias 'Peltkata' Mizan, Zillur Rahman alias Shimul, Naimur Rahman alias Arif, Zinnah, and Taj. Of them, Abbas and Zinnah are behind bars.

After recording statement of the recording officer [of the case], the court had issued summons, and bailable and non-bailable warrants for arrest of the witnesses.

According to the prosecution, a gang led by Jahangir and Abbas attacked Saifur and Moshir at about 8:45pm on December 16, 1998 when the two with 80 others were watching Victory Day programmes. Saifur was shot in the leg during the attack made because of previous enmity.

The case was filed the next day.

Radical change in BCL leadership likely

DU CORRESPONDENT

A dramatic change is taking place in student politics of the country, as young student leaders of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), student wing of the main opposition Awami League (AL), are going to hold positions in the fresh committee following election to be held today.

Former BCL leaders have already taken initiatives to elect student leaders whose ages are not more than 27 years old, though earlier, AL President Sheikh Hasina extended the age limit up to 29, AL sources said.

Sources added that this kind of radical change would usher in a new era in student politics.

It was decided that only those who passed SSC in 1995 or later could contest for the organisation's central positions.

AL sources said young leaderships have been brought to fore with the directions of three sons of Sheikh family including, Sajib Wazed Joy, son of Sheikh Hasina, Barrister Boby, son of Sheikh Rehana and Barrister Tapas, son of Sheikh Moni.

Joy, during his visit to Bangladesh last year, expressed dissatisfaction over the current trend of student politics, sources said.

Polls to elect next central committee leaders of BCL will be held today at the Institute of Engineers in

the city.

Around 900 aspirants have already submitted their CVs to the council preparations committee mentioning their years of passing the SSC exams.

Around 2600 councillors from all over the country will cast their votes, said election commissioner Balaram Poddar adding that all is set for voting.

Vote will continue from 9:00am to 5:00pm without any break.

Transparent ballot boxes will be used and each councillor has been provided identity card with photo.

The result of the polls will be announced after voting, Poddar said.

Meantime, in reaction to this qualitative change in the BCL committee, a JCD leader told The Daily Star that it might affect the next committee of Jatityabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), student wing of ruling BNP.

He said JCD should also take initiative to bring young leadership in its next committee to be formed in 2007.

Meanwhile, Hasina inaugurated the two-day reunion and national council of BCL that began yesterday with an indication that only students could do student politics.

She also emphasised that the brilliant students will get preference in the BCL leadership from now on.

14 shot in Khulna clash over shrimp enclosure

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Fourteen people were shot during a fierce clash between two rival groups on Sunday afternoon at Dhangmari under Dakop upazila in Khulna.

Six were admitted to Khulna Medical College Hospital in critical condition.

Police recovered two guns and 14 live cartridges from the place of occurrence. Five people were arrested yesterday in this connection.

The clash took place over the possession of a shrimp enclosure at Dhangmari area, police said. Both

the rival groups traded gun shots for over half-an-hour during the clash.

Police said the criminals hired by Dakop BNP leader Omar Faruque launched the armed attack on the men of Kamrul Islam, owner of the shrimp enclosure.

Most of the injured are supporters of Kamrul Islam. Police could not arrest anyone in this connection.

Two separate cases were filed with Dakop Police Station naming 15 injured and five arrestees as accused.

RESIGNATION FROM JUGANTOR

Abed Khan clarifies his position

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Abed Khan, who recently resigned from the Jugantor as its editor, has given a clarification about his resignation from the daily.

In a letter yesterday, he said, Nurul Islam Babul, the owner of Jugantor, invited him to his residence on March 2 and told him that former editor Golam Sarwar had expressed his willingness to join the daily again.

At this, Abed told Babul that as he has already taken the decision, he (Abed) has no alternative but to resign from the daily.

Then Babul and his wife, the publisher of Jugantor, requested Abed to stay with the Jamuna Group and join the Jamuna Television (JTV) as its executive director.

Abed requested them to give him some time for thinking about the proposal.

"As my contract with the Jugantor expires on April 30, I can get the time up to that period," the letter quoted him as saying to them.

But Babul asked Abed to give his decision within Friday the March 31 as Golam Sarwar wants to join the daily on April 1.

Abed then agreed to March 31 deadline for considering the proposal of joining the JTV.

He also told Babul that he would inform him after discussing with his family.

Accordingly, on Friday night Abed told Babul over telephone that he would consider the proposal if he is given due honour and honorarium suitable for an editor of a national daily to join an electronic media.

In reply, Babul told Abed that he would send Shajahan Sarder to finalise the matter after discussing with him.

Shajahan went to Abed on that night and informed him that Jamuna Group authorities have not accepted his proposal on joining the JTV.

Shajahan also told Abed that if he resigns from the post of the editor he will be given all dues, otherwise unwanted administrative complexities might arise.

Abed Khan said to Shajahan, "As I do not want to be an obstacle for Jugantor, I will send my resignation letter as well as the car provided to me within 9:00am tomorrow."

"That is the real picture of my resignation," said Abed in his letter, adding, "I think the post of editor of a national daily is very honourable and he is to act as a representative of the fourth pillar of the state."

If the person who holds such position is defeated by any interest or pressure then the entire institution would collapse, he said.

"I have tried my best with my little strength and ability to preserve the dignity of the post of an editor from being disgraced or dishonoured," added Abed.

Celebration of Francophonie begins in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A weeklong festival began at Alliance Francaise in the city yesterday to celebrate Francophonie, a forum of world wide cultural and linguistic unity.

The forum's motto is equality, complementarity and solidarity.

At a press conference on Francophonie at the Alliance Francaise, Linda Bourdreau of Canada said this will remind that French is used in many countries for domestic and official purposes.

The language, she said, was to promote human rights, peace and justice.

Ambassador of France Jacques-Andre Costilhes spoke at length about Leopold Sedar Senghor of Senegal who began Francophonie.

Deputy Chief of Egyptian Mission Sherif El Gammel said the spread of French in his country began with Napoleon's conquest of Egypt and his country takes part in the festival by providing books and films.

Ambassador of Switzerland Dora Rapold said French is one of the official languages of her country and in Switzerland it is compulsory to study French.

Ambassador of Vietnam Ngo Van Hoa spoke of unity through dialogue of a common language like French.

He said his country is all out to be friends with French speaking countries and places where French is understood.

Houror, ambassador of Morocco, also spoke on the occasion.

1,103 more held

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested 1,103 people on various charges from different parts of the country in the last 24 hours ending at 6:00am yesterday.

During the drive, the law-enforcers also seized seven firearms, two other weapons and 31 bullets, said a police headquarters release.



PHOTO: STAR
Nadi Sangskar, Pani Shasan O Babohar Sangram Parishad forms a human chain at Shahbagh in the city yesterday demanding cancellation of Tipai Mukh Dam Project and River Linking Project by India.

Smith new Dy Sec Gen of C'wealth

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Ransford Smith, a senior public servant from Jamaica, has been appointed Deputy Secretary General (Economic) of the Commonwealth.

He will succeed Winston Cox of Barbados, and becomes the first Jamaican to serve as a Commonwealth Deputy Secretary General, according to a Commonwealth press release issued yesterday.

Smith is currently Permanent Representative of Jamaica to the Office of the United Nations and its specialised agencies in Geneva, Rome and Vienna. He is also Ambassador of Jamaica to the World Trade Organisation, and serves as Ambassador to a number of European countries.

Commonwealth Secretary General Don McKinnon said, "I am delighted to have Ransford Smith join our team at this time of growth and challenge in the Commonwealth's economic, trade and development work".

"Last year, Commonwealth Governments pledged to substantially increase their commitments to our aid programmes. They have also mandated the Secretariat to strengthen intra-Commonwealth trade and economic linkages, in order to influence the Doha Round of world trade negotiations. Mr Smith brings all the skills and talents required for this important and sensitive work," said McKinnon.

Smith is expected to assume office in July 2006.

"I am excited at the prospect of joining the Commonwealth team and for the opportunity to contribute in areas of importance for members, especially development co-operation and the strengthening of trade performance," said Smith. "I welcome this new challenge, and very much look forward to taking up the post."

Smith is a career diplomat of nearly 30 years standing in the Jamaican Public and Foreign Service. He previously served as Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Commerce and Technology, and also Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Industry and Investment. His diplomatic career has included postings at the Jamaican Embassy in Washington DC and the Jamaican Mission to the United Nations in New York.

5 killed in road crashes

STAR REPORT

At least five people were killed and nine others injured in separate road accidents in Gazipur and Narayanganj yesterday and Sunday night.

Our Correspondent from Tangail reports: At least four people were killed and another was seriously injured in a collision between a truck and a private car on Dhaka-Tangail highway at Kharajora area under Kaliakoir upazila in Gazipur on Sunday night.

The victims were identified as Mohammad Azizul Haque, 32, son of Mohammad Mohiuddin of Foliarghona village, Abdul Malek, 25, son of Aferuddin, Joinal Abedin, 28, son of Jinnat Ali, and Chanduddin, 28, son of Shahidul Alam of Bagbari village under Sadar upazila in Tangail district. They were all travelling in the private car.

Kaliakoir police said the accident took place at around 1:00am when a Dhaka-bound private car from Tangail collided head on with a Tangail-bound speedy dry chilly-laden truck on Dhaka-Tangail highway at Kharajora area leaving four private car passengers dead on the spot. The driver of the private car was injured seriously.

Local people and highway police recovered the injured private car driver Shaheen, 25, and sent him to

Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) in a critical condition.

Kaliakoir police rushed to the spot and recovered the bodies and took them to the police station.

Police seized the killer truck but its driver managed to escape.

A case was filed with Kaliakoir Police Station in this connection.

Medicine trader Mohammad Azizul Haque, one of the dead, was going to the Zia International Airport (ZIA) in Dhaka along with his three relatives by the private car for seeing off his American expatriate sister Dr Shefali, her husband Ashraf Hossen and their children.

Our Correspondent from Narayanganj adds: One person was killed and eight others were injured when a truck hit a pick-up van and tempo on Dhaka-Narayanganj Link Road yesterday.

Movement of vehicles were disrupted for three hours following the accident.

The accident took place at Jalkuri area of Link Road yesterday morning while the truck driver was driving the truck recklessly and rammed a pickup van and later the tempo.

The tempo driver Aman Bhuiyan, 35, died on the spot. Critically injured pickup van driver and seven others were admitted to different hospitals at Narayanganj.

WEATHER TODAY

Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty/squally wind is likely at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Jessore, Kushtia, Noakhali and Comilla in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met office said.

Highest temperature 35.3 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and lowest 16.4 degree Celsius at Sylhet.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:16pm today and rises at 5:47am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	33.9	25.8	76	64
Chittagong	32.0	23.8	67	75
Rajshahi	35.3	25.2	76	57
Khulna	33.2	26.2	77	65
Barisal	30.5	24.9	--	69
Sylhet	27.5	16.4	77	91
Cox's Bazar	32.5	24.2	67	71