

No environment of fair politics as govt patronises militants

Dr Kamal tells memorial meet on Mannan

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Speakers at a meeting yesterday paid rich tributes to the memory of Abdul Mannan, a former minister and central leader of Awami League.

The meeting was organised by Abdul Mannan Smriti Parishad to mark the first death anniversary of Abdul Mannan, an organiser of the liberation war, on the premises of Tangail Shaheed Minar in the afternoon.

With Parishad convener Shawkat Ali Talukdar in the chair, the meeting was addressed by Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain as chief guest and AL presidium member Tofail Ahmed and Chittagong City Corporation Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury as special guests.

Dr Kamal said the country needs a leader like Abdul Mannan at this critical moment of the nation.

He said as director of Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra, Mannan highlighted the cause of Bangladesh outside the country in 1971.

Dr Kamal said there is no environment of fair politics as the coalition government had patronised the militants to perpetuate their terrorist activities in the country.

He called upon the people to form strong unity for bringing back fair politics in the country.

Tofail said Mannan was an ideal leader who started politics from the grassroots level and became a central leader of the party.

"Politics in our country has



PHOTO: STAR

Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain speaks at a meeting in memory of Awami League leader Abdul Mannan on Tangail Shaheed Minar premises in Tangail yesterday.

changed a lot as some people have turned as national leaders within a short time after joining the politics," he added.

Mayor Mohiuddin Chowdhury said the common people are now losing their faith in politicians.

"It is a shame for a nation who earned its independence through a bloody war to be mentioned as champion of the corrupted nations in the world," he added.

The meeting was also addressed by Gono Forum central leader Mostofa Mohsin Montu, President of Tangail district unit AL Advocate Shamsur Rahman Khan Shahjahan, former president of

Tangail district unit BNP Hamidul Haque Mohan, former president of Tangail district unit AL Mirza Tofazzal Hossain Mukul, Secretary of Tangail district unit BNP Moniruzzaman Khan Bulbul, Secretary of Tangail district unit JP (Ershad) Advocate Abdus Salam Chakladar, wife of late Abdul Mannan Begum Hosne Ara Mannan, Harnunur Rashid, Ali Asgar Khan Daud, Shamsunnahar Shanti and Khorshed Alam.

Earlier, the leaders offered fataha at the grave of the late leader at Paradise Para in the town.

Jalil hospitalised, 14-party meet postponed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League General Secretary and 14-party opposition coalition coordinator Abdul Jalil was admitted to Labaid Cardiac Hospital yesterday with breathing problems.

His illness led to the postponement of a meeting of the opposition coalition leaders who were due to finalise a reply to the BNP secretary general's invitation for dialogue on electoral reforms.

Jalil, who has been suffering from fever for the last four days, was hospitalised at 7:00pm on doctors' advice after he developed serious breathing problems, said Ashim Kumar Ukil, deputy publicity secretary of the AL.

Jalil, also a cardiac patient, is now under the treatment of Prof Matiur Rahman. He is likely to be flown to Kolkata today for better treatment.

A number of opposition leaders and workers thronged the hospital after hearing the news last night.

The 14-party was due to hold a meeting yesterday to finalise a letter in reply to BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan's dialogue offer.

The AL-led opposition coalition has already drafted the letter describing its stance on the dialogue with the government.

In the draft of the letter, an opposition leader said, they have mentioned that the opposition would not join the dialogue if any anti-liberation element is included in the government side.



Hartal in Rajshahi for gas on April 17

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Rajshahi city dwellers yesterday staged a unique demonstration of 'live poster' and called a daylong hartal on April 17 demanding supply of gas through pipelines.

Organised under the banner of Rajshahi Gas Andolok Parishad, nearly one hundred people took out a procession with various slogans on their body demanding immediate supply of gas in the divisional headquarters.

They paraded different city streets with slogans like 'We want gas before election, otherwise we will not vote' on their faces and bodies.

Speakers at the rally said if the government fails to implement Rajshahi Gas Project, they would go for tougher agitation.

Ward Commissioners Rejaun Nabi Mamun, Siraj Uddin and city dweller Moniruzzaman addressed the rally.

Declare Apr 15 as Pahela Baishakh

Experts urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangla San Bastabayan Parishad (Committee to Implement Bengali Year) at a press conference in the city yesterday urged the government to declare April 15 as Pahela Baishakh, the 1st day of Bengali New Year.

"If April 15 is declared as the 1st day of the Bengali month Baishakh instead of April 14, the nation can observe Ekushey February on Falgun," said Muhammad Taqiyullah, a researcher on Bengali calendar, who scientifically formulated a calendar after a long research.

The researcher, who is a son of eminent linguist Dr Muhammad Shahidullah, further said it would also end the controversy over declaring Falgun 8 as the Language Martyrs' Day.

As 21st February is observed as the International Mother Language Day worldwide since 1999, it may not be easy to change the date, so the newly reformed Bengali calendar by Muhammad Taqiyullah, who would help the Mother Language Day remain on Falgun 8 and February 21 every year, said the speakers.

The nation has been observing Pahela Baishakh on April 14 since 2002 for having a fault in counting the Bengali leap year in 1400 and so this year the government should fix April 15 as the 1st day of Baishakh, they added.

Former education adviser of caretaker government Prof Dr Muhammad Shamsul Haque presided over the press conference where language movement veteran Abdul Matin, Prof Mirza Mazharul Islam, Rowshan Ara Bachchu and Mahinur Rahman were also present.

Jaitya Protibandhi Forum takes out a colourful procession at Manik Mia Avenue in the city yesterday to mark the National Disabled Day.

PHOTO: STAR

FLOOD MANAGEMENT

WMO for community-based approaches

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) will soon put forward a proposal to Bangladesh to adopt 'Community-based approaches to flood management' in order to increase capacity building and reduce vulnerability through effective rehabilitation programme.

It will also make similar suggestions to India, Nepal, Pakistan and China as these countries have similar geographical and meteorological features.

"This approach is more effective as it mobilises people to identify their needs before and after floods to protect themselves from devastating damage and empowers them through capacity building," said Wolfgang E Grabs, head of Water Resources Division, WMO, at a press conference in the city yesterday.

The press conference was held at the end of a three-day workshop on 'Community-based approaches to flood management' organised by Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad (BUP) in association with WMO at the Cirdap auditorium.

BUP Chairman Dr Qazi Khaliquzzaman Ahmad said some pilot projects with community-based approaches have been implemented in Bangladesh, Nepal and India, which proved better than traditional approaches.

Under the community-based

approach, he said, a flood management committee will be formed with local Union Parishad chairman as its head. It will collect information from the people in flood-prone areas, analyse them and prepare a manual containing precautionary measures to be taken before floods and rehabilitation efforts.

The committee will also communicate with the government and non-government organisations for necessary resources and share their views on their findings, which

DHAKA TODAY

Seminar on social compliance

Club. Time: 3:30pm.

Discussion

Sheba Bangladesh will hold a discussion on ways to prevent road accident with Communication minister Nazmul Huda as chief guest. Venue: Press Institute of Bangladesh. Time: 10:00am.

Seminar on Bangla songs

Samannita Sangkrit Sangsod organises a seminar on 'Impact of contemporary Bangla songs in creating national value' with Poet Al Mahmud as chief guest. Venue: National Press

Blue for Peace songs

Family of slain former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria will form a human chain and march silently as part of their Blue for Peace Programme demanding trial of the killers of former minister. Venue: Muktangan. Time: 3:30pm.

100 PERCENT SANITATION

Children campaign to attain goal

MONJUR CHOWDHURY, back from Jamalpur

Rabul, an eight-year-old boy, whistles whenever he notices someone defecating on open space to prevent him from doing so at his village Chandpur.

Like Rabul, other children of the villages under ward number-4 of Digpathi union in Jamalpur sadar upazila do the same to prevent others from discharging excrement on open spaces.

Besides whistling, the children also work in a group to motivate local people in using sanitary latrines.

They stage skits on the courtyard of different homesteads to deliver message on installing sanitary latrines.

The group also brings out processions chanting rhythmic slogans to build awareness among the villagers.

During a visit to the ward comprising Matarpara, Tararvita and Chandpur villages recently, the inhabitants said they are now more conscious about their health and help poor households to install sanitary latrines by collecting subscription from the affluent households.

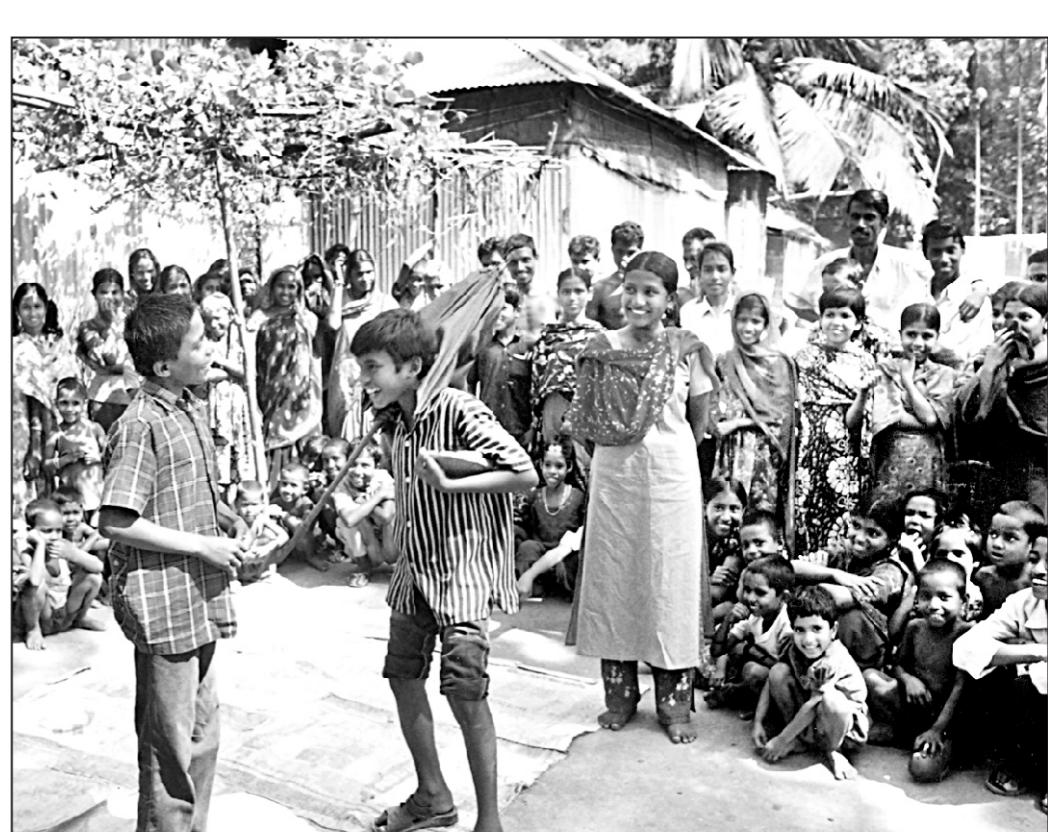
They even persuaded other households to install it saying that discharging excrement on open space will not only hurt him alone, it will also hurt all of them.

There are 1069 households in the ward and the villagers have installed some 18 public sanitary latrines at different bazaars, mosques and village roads besides installing latrines on their homesteads.

President of BMA Dr MA Hadi and secretary general Dr AZM Zahid Hossain condoled the death of Dr Aftab.

President of Doctors Association of Bangladesh (DAB) Dr AKM Azizul Haque and secretary general Dr AZM Zahid Hossain also expressed deep shock at the death of Dr Aftab.

He said installation of sanitary latrines started when leaders of



Children stage a drama at Chandpur village at Digpathi union of Sadar upazila to create awareness about sanitation.

Dishari (Decentralised Total Sanitation Project) came here and told us about the importance of using sanitary latrines.

Later they organised a six-day training programme in Bogra where a good number of union parishad chairmen and members took part, he added.

"After having the training, we started working together forming different committees to create awareness about the importance of sanitary latrines among the villagers.

Local Ward Member Mojibur Rahman told the journalists, even two months back it was difficult to walk through the village without pressing a handkerchief on the nose due to smell of human excrement, but now anyone can walk without being disturbed by any stink.

He said installation of sanitary latrines started when leaders of

"Then we will go for safe drink-

ing water programme and total sanitation programme," he added.

Sufia, Hawa and Monwara, housewives of the village, said they are now fully conscious about using hygienic latrines and know how to install and maintain them.

A hygienic latrine can be installed at a cost of only Tk 69 of which Tk 17 goes for buying a pan, Tk 13 goes for band pipe and Tk 39 for delivery pipe.

It needs a storage tank of eight feet deep and four feet wide to be filled up in five years.

Rezaul Quaiyim, training officer of Dishari, said his organisation works for raising awareness among the people through training programme and give technical and maintenance support whenever needed to install sanitary latrines.

He said Dishari has taken Digpathi as a model union under a

three-year project jointly developed by Dhaka Ahnsa Mission, Plan Bangladesh, Water Aid Bangladesh and Sanitation Programme of World Bank to achieving sustainable total sanitation in the country, is to end in June 2007.

BDNEWS, Dhaka

The newly elected office-bearers of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) will told newsmen at his office yesterday that the Supreme Court lawyers would form a human chain and a meeting in support of their demands for establishing rule of law and justice in the country, and separation of judiciary from the executive on the SCBA premises tomorrow.

"We will discuss on the case management system and development of communications between the annex buildings and the original building of the Supreme Court with the Chief Justice," he said.

It was decided at the first meeting of SCBA with Barrister Amir-Ul Islam in the chair.

SCBA leaders to meet CJ today

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty to squally wind is likely at one or two places over all the six divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may rise slightly over the country, Met office said. Highest temperature 36.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and lowest 18.5 degree Celsius at Comilla.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:17pm today and rises at 5:45am 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
Dhaka	33.7	20.7
Chittagong	31.8	25.5
Rajshahi	36.5	22.6
Khulna	34.4	26.5
Barisal	33.0	23.2
Sylhet	28.0	18.8
Cox's Bazar	32.8	25.8
	68	70

Yakub HC to Kenya

Another report adds: Bangladesh High Commissioner to Sri Lanka AM Yakub Ali has been appointed the HC to Kenya.

A career diplomat, Yakub joined the BCS (Foreign Affairs) cadre in 1981.

During his diplomatic career, Yakub served in Bangladesh missions in Paris, Rabat and Washington DC.

UNB, Dhaka

The government has decided to appoint Major General ALM Mustafa Reza Noor as Ambassador of Bangladesh to Kuwait.

Mustafa Reza Noor was commissioned in the Bangladesh Army on January 11, 197