

No power plants could operate for corruption

Says B Chowdhury

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bikala Dhara Bangladesh (BDB) President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday said the government is nurturing terrorists and militants instead of curbing them.

Speaking at the first founding anniversary of Palli Chikitsak and Paramedics Dhara in the city, he said those who are involved in militancy must be brought to justice.

He castigated the BNP-led syndicate for unleashing anarchy in the market.

"Common people cannot feed their children properly owing to their limitless greed," he added.

The BDB president said due to corruption of the ruling alliance, no power plants could operate in the country. "They want money even from foreign investors," he lamented.

Criticising bagging of enormous

money by the prime minister's family, B Chowdhury told the audience "You have heard of monarchial system where a prince can have the throne, but our people are not block headed, they want an honest, credible and sincere prime minister (PM). PM's son cannot be a PM."

He slated the four-party alliance for its reluctance to activate parliament.

He said instead of giving nod to opposition's demand for electoral reforms, the government has appointed a chief election commissioner who is not wanted even by a single man."

About Jamaat's role in parliament he said the party brags that they want to establish the rule of Allah, but have they ever tabled any draft law in parliament that could be categorised as Allah's rule?"

He also criticised the government for politicisation of administration and police and urged Palli

Chikitsaks and paramedics to let the villagers know about various irregularities of the government.

The BDB chief also apprised the audience of the initiation of rural doctors society in 1978 and promised to set up a training centre for their intensive training at Uttara and establishment of training centres for doctors and nurses at union level if elected.

Major (Retd) Abdul Mannan, secretary general of BDB, criticised the withdrawal of cases against HM Ershad, the overthrown military ruler.

"The alliance government which is riding roughshod over the fate of the people wants to remain in power only," he said.

Firoze M Hasan, joint secretary general of BDB, in his brief speech ventilated the vision of the party in health sector.

National Prof Nurul Islam hospitalised

CU CORRESPONDENT

National Professor and founder of University of Science and Technology, Chittagong (USTC) Prof Dr Nurul Islam was sent to Combined Military Hospital (CMH) Dhaka from Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) by a private helicopter yesterday.

He felt headache at his USTC office at around 9:00am and went to the adjacent bungalow where his daughter Dr Nina Islam treated him, sources said.

Dr Islam, one of the country's most renowned and respected physicians, was immediately shifted to CMCH Cardiac Care Unit (CCU) and later to Intensive Care Unit (ICU).

Dr Islam's grandson Prof Hasan said he was responding well and nothing was found serious.

"We think he had suffered a cardiac arrest," he said.

Prof Islam had suffered cardiac arrests twice in the past, Hasan added.

USTC Pro Vice Chancellor Abdullah Al Ahsan said his (Dr Islam) condition was not critical and they were shifting him for better treatment in Dhaka.

Dr Manjur Morshed of CMCH said they also assumed a cardiac problem but it could be confirmed after diagnosis.

2 JMB leaders get 10 yrs' RI in Bogra

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

A Bogra Court yesterday sentenced two leaders of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) to 10 years rigorous imprisonment and fined Tk 50 thousand each, in default, to suffer two years more rigorous imprisonment.

Additional District Judge Abu Hena Rezaul Kamal gave the verdict.

The convicts are Saiful Islam, son of Reazuddin Sarker of Ghorapara and his associate Walilullah (whose party name is Abdul Hamid) of Joshrorboha village of Bholahat, Chapainawabganj who claimed themselves members of JMB to the DB police.

They were arrested on November 8 last year from Ghorapara village of Gabtoli Upazila.

Saiful Islam is now in Bogra Jail, while Walilullah is absconding.

3 killed in boat collision in Netrokona

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrokona

Three people were killed, 30 others injured in a head-on engine boat collision at Bamarchar in Kongsa river under Mohonganj upazila in the district at about 4:00pm yesterday.

The dead are identified as Abdul Jabbar, 65, of village Bamarchar, Titu Mia, 30, of village Singda and Gian Paul, 45, of village Gaglajur under Mohonganj upazila.

The seriously injured Aisha Akter, 45, Haradon, 35, and Lash Mia, 20, were sent to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital in a critical condition. Others injured were admitted to Mohonganj Health Complex.

Police and witnesses said the head-on collision occurred between a Mohonganj bound sand loaded engine boat and a Gaglajur bound passenger engine boat at Bamarchar and the passenger boat sank in the river leaving three people dead.

On information, local people rushed to spot and recovered the three bodies from the river.

EVE TEASING RU BCL leader stabbed by JCD cadres

RU CORRESPONDENT

A group of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) cadres stabbed a leader of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) of Rajshahi University (RU) unit yesterday for teasing a girl.

The BCL leader, identified as Arifuzzaman Roney, legal affairs secretary of RU BCL unit, was rushed to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) in a critical condition.

Sources said, Roney teased one of the female friends of JCD activist Real while they were roaming on the campus.

Being infuriated, Real locked horns with Roney. At a stage of the altercation, JCD supporters Shovon, Rana, Mamun and Jewel launched an attack on Roney and stabbed him indiscriminately.

General students rescued Roney and rushed him to the university medical centre. As his condition deteriorated, he was shifted to RMCH.

Protesting the attack, BCL yesterday tried to ransack university administration building but police interrupted.

They have enforced a student strike on the campus today.

At a rally in front of the central library, BCL leaders threatened to launch an indefinite strike on the campus if the JCD activists are not punished.



Minor girl pays with life for witnessing extra-marital affair

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A four-year-old girl had to pay with her life for witnessing an extra-marital affair of a housewife in her neighbourhood.

Police recently unveiled the mysterious death of Sharmin, who went missing on August 11 and whose body was later found floating in a waterbody on August 13.

Investigating Officer (IO) Asaduzzaman of Pallabi Police Station told The Daily Star on Saturday that Sharmin was choked to death by Arzu Begum and her lover Mohammad Sumon.

Sharmin, daughter of a day labourer Abdul Kalam, went out of her house in the morning and peeped into Arzu's room.

Finding them naked, Sharmin shouted in fear which caused her death, the IO said adding Sumon pressed her mouth to stop yelling but choked her to death.

As she fell on the ground, the two tied her with Arzu's scarf and threw the body into the nearby waterbody.

After two days when the body floated, police found the scarf and enquired about its owner. The locals fingered at Arzu.

Police arrested three persons in this connection and the two admitted their crime on Thursday.

They also gave a confessional statement before a court.



Appeal for help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Family and well-wishers of Anika Haroon, a 16-year-old girl, have appealed for help in her battle against osteosarcoma, a malignant bone cancer.

Surgeons at Tata Memorial Hospital in Mumbai will make a desperate attempt on August 30 to eliminate the fast-spreading cancerous cells in the leg and lungs of Anika, a victim of misdiagnosis and wrong treatment.

A Class X student at Buet School, Anika was mistakenly diagnosed with juvenile arthritis by the doctors and put through painful sessions of physiotherapy for two months which not only aggravated her physical condition but also risked her recovery to a great extent.

But treatment at the Indian hospital has turned out to be too expensive and exhaustive for her parents, who have appealed to the affluent section of the society to help save the life of their daughter.

Contributions can be deposited to any branch of Brac Bank at account no 150 9800 74582 maintained by Md Ayub Haroon, the father of Anika.

Death anniversary

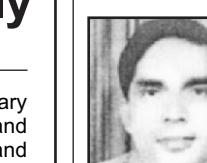


Today is the 7th death anniversary of Saiful Islam Khan, eldest son of former industries minister late Shamsul Islam Khan, says a press release.

Saiful passed away on this day in 1999 due to a cardiac arrest.

All have been requested to pray for the eternal peace and salvation of his departed soul.

Sharif Md Nurul Hossain



Today is the 9th death anniversary of Sharif Md Nurul Hossain, former additional district magistrate of Brahmanbaria, says a press release.

His wife and the only daughter asked all their relatives, friends and admirers to pray for the peace and salvation of the departed soul.

Qulhwani

Qulhwani of Dr A K Bakhtiar Hossein will be held at his Mohammadpur residence in the city after Magrib prayers today, says a press release.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the qulhwani to pray for salvation of his departed soul.



Information Minister M Shamsul Islam speaks at a seminar titled 'Cable television Bangladesh perspective: Solutions to problems and potentials' at PIB auditorium in the city yesterday. Cable Operators of Bangladesh organised the seminar.

Robbery at Tejgaon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) cadres looted valuables, including cash and gold ornaments from a residence at Tejgaon in the city yesterday.

Police said a total of 11 robbers managed to enter the room of the son of the owner at about 2:45am, cutting the grill of the collapsible gate.

The robbers forced the family members to open the doors of other rooms holding him at gunpoint.

They tied the hands and legs of family members and took away Tk 10 lakh and 25 thousand, 6 tolas of gold ornaments, 5 mobile sets and 6 wrist watches, police said.

Shafiu new Red Crescent secy general

M. Shafiu Alam, former additional secretary and chairman of Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC), has joined the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society as secretary general recently, says a press release.

WEATHER TODAY

Moderately heavy falls likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at many places over Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions and at a few places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy falls are also likely at places during the period, Met Office said, predicting nearly unchanged day temperature over the country.

Country's highest temperature 36.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rangpur and lowest 24.8 degree Celsius at Rangamati.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:27pm today and rises at 5:36am 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	33.0	26.4	76	90
Chittagong	32.0	26.0	77	86
Rajshahi	35.5	26.0	80	75
Khulna	32.5	25.5	84	85
Barisal	32.5	26.5	84	77
Sylhet	34.8	26.5	77	73
Cox's Bazar	32.0	25.5	76	85