

Infant's body found floating in Dhanmondi lake

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday recovered a floating body of a newly born baby boy in city's Dhanmondi Lake.

Locals saw the body of the baby, wrapped in red cloth, at around 10:30am near Dhanmondi No 8 Bridge and informed the patrol police, who later recovered it from the lake.

The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College Morgue (DMCH) for autopsy. DMCH morgue said the body that bore red marks was left in the lake 2-3 days back.

CU opens today

CU CORRESPONDENT

Residential students of Chittagong University (CU) started returning to their dormitories yesterday as the academic activities will resume today after a 20-day vacation on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha.

The administrative activities of the university resumed on January 6.

The Eid vacation was scheduled to begin on December 30, but the authorities advanced the date of vacation to December 26 following a clash between Bangladesh Chhatra League and Islami Chhatra Shibir on the campus.

Some 30 students and a photojournalist were injured in the clash that took place on December 24.

Emergency not a solution Says 11-party

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The state of emergency is not a solution to the country's crisis over holding the polls and forming an independent, neutral and trustworthy election commission (EC) is one of the tasks necessary to resolve the crisis, 11-party leaders said yesterday.

At a meeting of the central committee of the 11-party, the leaders said the EC should be overhauled by eliminating controversial officials from it and the voter roll should be made public as per regulations after updating it according to the Supreme Court (SC) directive to ensure a free and fair election.

The state of emergency was evident due to the volatile situation caused by President Iajuddin Ahmed who created new obstacles one after another to free and fair polls. Now the BNP-Jamaat alliance is attempting to prolong the state of emergency to impede any free and fair election and this is why they have been coming up with

issues against the new caretaker government (CG), added the speakers.

The 11-party leaders also demanded reshuffle at the higher and grassroots level administration of the government, recovery of illegal arms and arrest of criminals, terrorists, militants, corrupt, black money holders and the people spreading religious fanaticism.

The speakers also called upon the new CG for taking necessary measures to realise their demands and upholding the people's fundamental democratic rights including freedom of assembly and the press.

Presided over by Pankaj Bhattacharya, president of the Gonoform presidium, the speakers also stressed the need for activating an independent Anti-Corruption Commission and separating the judiciary from the executive body of the government.

Rashed Khan Menon, Bimal Biswas, Nurul Islam, Dilip Barua, Haji Abdus Samad, Zakir Hossain, Ashit Baran Roy and Motiul Islam were present among others.

Meanwhile, the court in the same drive also fined and realised Tk 30 thousand from an under-construction building, Halima Bhaban, for illegal setting up of a deep tube-well at Halishahar area.

Chittagong Port Authority Magistrate Munir Chowdhury led the drive.



PHOTO: STAR

Jamal Khan Road in Chittagong remains gridlocked for long almost everyday as there is no parking lot for four schools nearby.

Contribution of Ranesh Dasgupta recalled

The 95th birth anniversary of Ranesh Dasgupta, an eminent litterateur and journalist and one of the founders of Bangladesh Udichi Shilpi Gosthi, was observed yesterday, says a press release.

Dhaka city committee of Udichi organised a discussion and cultural function at its central office in the city to mark the day.

Writer and columnist Shahriar Kabir, Udichi central committee Vice-President Prof Badur Rahman, General Secretary Mahmud Selim and Assistant General Secretary Manzar Chowdhury took part in the discussion presided over by Prof Kazi Madina.

The speakers said Ranesh Dasgupta, through his writings, has showed the freedom loving people the right path during different movements such as anti-British movement, language movement and the War of Liberation.

His ideals will always inspire the people struggling to establish a society free from all forms of exploitation, they said.



PHOTO: STAR

Spoil and building materials block a footpath at Maddhya Badda in the city, causing suffering to pedestrians, but the authorities remain indifferent.

Faiz meets Iajuddin
UNB, Dhaka

Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof. Dr SMA Faiz met President Iajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday afternoon.

Sources close to the VC told UNB that he stayed at Bangabhaban for nearly one hour.

When contacted, Dr Faiz said he went there because of his personal relations, as Prof Iajuddin is also the chancellor of Dhaka University.

"He is the Chancellor of this university. I often meet Iajuddin. He was also my colleague in the university," said Dr Faiz.

4 injured in boiler explosion in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least four workers were critically injured when a boiler exploded at a factory in Shyampur in the capital yesterday.

The injured are Sulaiman, 28, Al Amin, 30, Farook, 35, and Ahmed Ali, 30.

The incident took place at Salam Steel Mills, a Iron Factory at Dholeaswar Road, around 11:00am

1,618 more held

UNB, Dhaka

Police and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested some 1,618 people on various charges from across the country in the last 24 hours ending at 6:00am yesterday.

During the drive, the law-enforcers also seized seven firearms and 71 bullets, according to a Home Ministry release.

Six cases have been filed under Arms Act against 13 people for possessing the firearms during the period. The law enforcers also seized 86 motorbikes and filed 260 cases under Motor Vehicle Act.