

Security stepped up in jails

UNB, Dhaka

Security at Dhaka Central Jail, Kashimpur Jail and other prisons across the country has been beefed up to foil any attempt to free JMB militants in the wake of the execution of their top leaders in March.

The authorities posted additional security at Dhaka Central Jail and intensified Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and police patrols after members of Rab-10 arrested three people from a blanket factory, Woolen Mills Ltd, inside the jail

compound during an operation on Thursday night.

The arrested were identified as Delwar Hossain, 28, Sahfiqul Islam, 30, and Kajol Mia, 25. The Rab team recovered 10 bottles of Phensidyl and 100 packets of ganja.

During the operation, the Rab noticed that the blanket factory is located adjacent to the boundary wall of the jail and across the boundary wall there are cells wherein arrested JMB militants were kept.

DIG (Prison) Major Haider told UNB that the JMB militants were

shifted to different cells yesterday and security inside the jail has been doubled.

He felt that the blanket factory run by a private company on a 55-year lease is a security threat to the central jail wherein not only militants, but also important political leaders are detained.

The DIG (Prison) said the factory where 350 people work should be shifted to somewhere else.

He said instructions were given to the Kashimpur Jail authorities and other prisons to remain alert.

GREEN ENERGY AWARDS

Bangladeshi project selected as a finalist

UNB, Dhaka

A Bangladeshi project has been selected as one of the 10 finalists to compete in the world's leading green energy awards with prizes to be presented in London next month.

Former US vice president Al Gore will give away five awards, the Ashden Awards for Sustainable Energy, from the finalists at Royal Geographical Society in London on June 21, says a press release yesterday.

The Bangladeshi finalist will compete with contenders from China, Ghana, India, Lao PDR, Nepal, Peru, the Philippines and Tanzania.

A prize money of over 200,000 pound sterling has been earmarked to help project expansion and replication in other communities, both locally and nationwide.

"The finalists will be in London next month for the last stage of the judging process," the release said.

Shidhulal Swanirvar Sangstha of Bangladesh was selected for building up a fleet of 88 boats that use solar energy to bring education, training and renewable energy supplies to over 400,000 people living in remote Chalanbeel area.

Hasina consoles members of bereaved families

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina yesterday spent a busy day meeting bereaved families of her husband Dr Wazed Mia's cousin ATM Ashrafuddowla and AL leader Ali Ahmad.

Party sources said Hasina went to the house of Ashrafudoula at Shajahanpur Railway Staff Quarters and consoled the members of the bereaved family.

Ashrafudoula, deputy tax collector, died on Thursday night at the age of 58. Hasina placed wreath on his coffin and prayed for peace of the departed soul.

In the afternoon, she attended chehlum of Ali Ahmad, former president of Ward-74 unit Awami League at the deceased's Nawabpur residence. Hasina consoled members of the bereaved family.

AL leaders Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim, Dr Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin, Advocate Kamrul Islam, Golam Kuddus and Sayeed Khokon were present.

In the evening, AL leaders of Narayanganj, Jessore and Thakurgaon district committees and leaders of Pabna District Bar Association met Hasina at Sudha Sadan residence and greeted her on her 26th homecoming day.

Some district leaders alleged that law enforcers at Sudha Sadan did not allow them to enter Sudha Sadan excepting presidents and secretaries of their committees.

Nizami for lifting ban on indoor politics

UNB, Dhaka

Jamaat Ameer Maulana Matur Rahman Nizami yesterday said the distance between the present caretaker government and the political parties would widen if ban on indoor politics is not lifted.

"If the government doesn't open the door for indoor politics, the gap between the government and the political parties would widen. And it would help little in creating an atmosphere for holding a free and fair election," he said in an interview with a private TV channel.

Nizami said, "If reforms have to be made within political parties, the government should allow them to hold meetings for their self-criticism and correction."

"The main task of the Election Commission is to hold a free fair and credible election. It's not their duty to fix what will be the characteristics of political parties or who will be included in their committees," Nizami said.

About his party reforms, Nizami said his party does not need any reforms in its constitution as Jamaat is a democratic party.

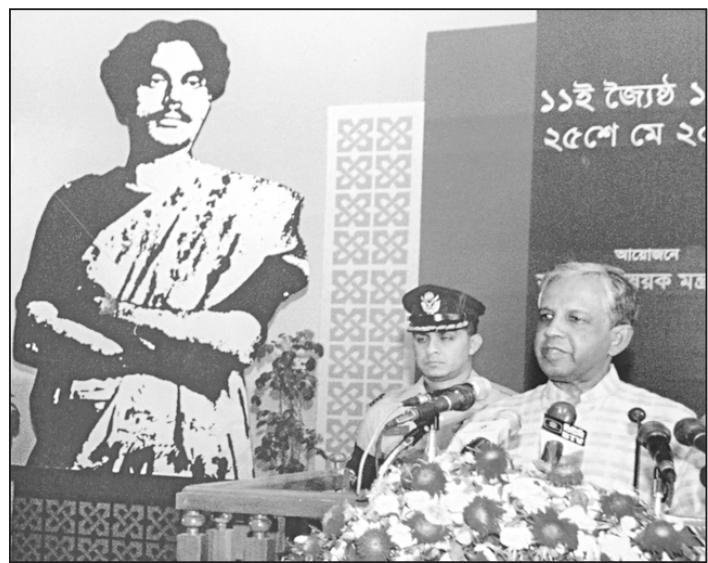


PHOTO: PND

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed speaks at a programme marking the 108th birth anniversary of national poet Kazi Nazrul Islam at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the city yesterday.

10 injured as mob attacks Ullapara Hospital

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

At least 10 people, including nurses, were injured in an attack by agitating people at Ullapara Hospital in the district yesterday.

The mob ransacked and damaged furniture, medicine, doors and windows of the 20-bed hospital protesting non-attendance of doctors at the emergency ward.

According to police sources, Rafiqul Islam of Kawak village admitted his son, Belal Hossain, 4, to the hospital at noon with serious burn injuries.

As the patient's condition was deteriorating, the guardians called for doctors for proper treatment of the child. But on-duty nurses informed them that there was no doctor in the hospital at that time.

Hearing this, relatives of the patients and locals got furious and attacked the office room of the residential medical officer of the hospital.

They also ransacked furniture, medicine, doors and windows in different wards of the hospital. On information, Ullapara police rushed to the hospital and brought the situation under control.



PHOTO: AL

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina consoles members of bereaved family of ATM Ashrafuddowla, cousin of her husband Dr Wazed Mia, at Shajahanpur Railway Staff Quarters in the city yesterday. Ashrafuddowla, inset, died on Thursday night.



Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at a few places over Dhaka, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Rajshahi and Khulna divisions in next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Mild heat wave, which is sweeping over Rajshahi division and the region of Chuadanga, may continue during the period, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 37.8 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sathkira and lowest 21.8 degree Celsius at Feni.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:39pm today and rises at 5:12am 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	35.0	22.5	79	70
Chittagong	31.5	27.4	77	77
Rajshahi	36.5	26.3	80	67
Khulna	36.0	26.5	77	68
Barisal	33.8	26.4	84	77
Sylhet	31.6	22.8	73	95
Cox's Bazar	32.4	26.5	80	83



Chief Election Commissioner Dr ATM Shamsul Huda speaks at a discussion titled 'Tune of Health and Mind' at Gulshan Tank Park in the city yesterday. Sitting on his right is former adviser to the caretaker government Dr Akbar Ali Khan. Gulshan Health Club organised the discussion.

BMTC team climbs Chulu West Peak

Members of Bangla Mountaineering and Trekking Club (BMTC) put their footprints on Chulu West Peak of the Himalayas on May 16, says a press release.

As unfriendly weather and bone-biting chill along with snowstorm stood in their way, the team was forced to think every moment that their dream of climbing the peak would remain unfulfilled.

Finally, they raised the Bangladeshi flag at 21,049-foot high peak at 8:00am on the day. The team members included Shajal Khaled, Noor Mohammad and Musa Ibrahim.

Mountain Dew helped the team to make the adventure a success in every possible way.

Touchstone seized: 4 held

BSS, Rangpur

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested four people, including a touchstone smuggler, from various places of Gaibandha and Joypurhat districts on Thursday night and yesterday, Rab and police sources said.

The sources said a patrol team of Rab from the Joypurhat camp arrested touchstone smuggler Abul Hossain, 55, of Gandhakbari village under Gobindaganj upazila in Gaibandha from Chandipur in the same upazila on Thursday night.

Rab also seized a 3.5-kg touchstone statue worth over Tk five lakh from his possession while he was on his way to smuggle out the precious stone to the neighbouring country.

Rab filed a case with Gobindaganj Police Station and handed over the arrested to the police yesterday.

Rab also arrested absconding accused Moslem Uddin, 50, and Madhu Mia, 42, of village Telian under Shaghata upazila in Gaibandha from their respective houses on Thursday night.

In another raid, Rab arrested absconding warrantee Anwar Hossain Bulu, 35, from his village Roar under Akkelpur upazila in Joypurhat yesterday afternoon.

Youth killed in road accident

UNB, Habiganj

A young man was crushed under the wheels of a bus at Janatabazar in Nabiganj yesterday.

Police said Sheful Mia, 25, sustained critical injuries as the Dhaka-bound bus of Shyamoli Paribahan ran over him at about 12:30pm.

Sheful died on the way to Nabiganj Health Complex. The body was sent to morgue for autopsy. A case was filed with local police station.

Obituary



Monwar Hossain Manik, former president of Bangladesh Photographic Association and Bangladesh Photographic Society, passed away yesterday.

at the age of 56, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, daughter and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death.

Members of Bangladesh Photographic Association expressed deep shock at his death and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family members.

Md Nurul Islam Majumder



Md Nurul Islam Majumder, father of Mostafa Kamal Majumder, editor of The New Nation, passed away due to old-age

complications at his village home at Gulbahar in Kachua, Chandpur, yesterday at the age of 85, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, seven sons, two daughters and a host of relatives.

He was laid to rest at his family graveyard.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Shraddha

Shraddha (post-funeral rites) of Hridoy Kumar Saha, an office assistant of the Awami League, will be held at his residence at 2/2, Mohini Das Lane, Shyambazar in the city today, says a press release.

Relatives, friends and leaders and activists of the party are requested to attend the programme. Hridoy passed away on May 11.



Leaders of BNP, left, and Awami League, right, place wreaths at the grave of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam on Dhaka University campus yesterday, marking his 108th birth anniversary.



PHOTO: STAR

Tributes paid to Nazrul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tributes were paid to National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam on the occasion of his 108th birth anniversary yesterday.

Different political, cultural and student organisations chalked out separate programmes to mark the occasion.

Leaders of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) placed wreath at the grave of the poet on the premises of Dhaka University and offered fateha.

BNP Joint Secretary General Goyeshwar Chandra Roy, President of Dhaka City BNP and Dhaka City Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka, Office Secretary of BNP Mokul Hasan and Children Affairs Secretary Sirajul Islam Selim were present.

Jatityabadi Samajik Sangskritik Sangstha (Jasas) also placed wreath and offered fateha at the grave of the poet.

Jasas Central Joint General Secretary Advocate Mahfuzur Rahman Humayun, Central Information and Research Secretary Nahin Ahmed, Office Secretary Jahangir Alam Ripon and Anirul Rahman were present.

Leaders of Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal led by Comrade Khalekuzzaman placed wreaths at the grave to pay homage to the great poet.

Among others Bazlur Rashid Firoz, Jahedul Milu and Rajekuzzaman Ratan were present.

Samajtantrik Chhatra Front also paid homage to the poet by placing wreaths at his grave.

Front leaders Khalekuzzaman Lipo, Nikhil Das, Janardan Dutta, Debashish Sarkar and Shampa Basu were present on the occasion.

Charon Sangskritik Kendra also placed wreaths at the grave and held a discussion and cultural function at RC Majumder auditorium of Dhaka University.

Kendra Coordinator Jahedul Haque Milu presided over the discussion.

Court asks Towhid Trust to hand over Kajla bldg to Galib

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A Rajshahi court on Thursday ordered an organisation named Towhid Trust to hand over its five-storey building at Kajla in the city to its ousted member -- detained militant kingpin and Ahle Hadith Andolon, Bangladesh (Ahab) chief Asadullah Al Galib -- within 15 days.

Galib, who is also a Rajshahi University Arabic teacher, was arrested in February 2005 after captured JMB militants named him as their spiritual leader.

Zahangir Alam Mollah, judge of Public Safety Tribunal and Second Special Sessions Court in his ruling turned down a lower court order that in 2004 adjudged Towhid Trust and its contemporary officio as tenant of the building.

Towhid Trust Chairman Abdus Salam, Secretary General (SG) SM Mahmud Alam, Assistant SG Rezaul Karim and their lawyers termed the judgment 'unilateral and biased' and said they would challenge it in the High Court.

Abu Bakar, a trust lawyer, said Galib founded the trust and established the building, but he was expelled from the trust in January 2002 following allegations of misappropriation of money and abetting so-called Islamist militants.

"The trust is an organisation, not a private property. The committee that will represent the trust would be the tenant as per rules of the land," he said.

Another lawyer Habibur Rahman said that Towhid Trust chairman Abdus Salam, the main defendant in the suit, was not called to the court during hearing on May 22 last.

Moreover, Towhid Trust lawyers

were not heard thoroughly and they were interrupted during delivering speeches, he said.

At a stage of heated debate in the open court, the judge said that the property belongs to Galib and it would be given to him, said advocate Abu Bakar.

The judge's comment drew instant flak from lawyers and the judge replied, "I am not going to hear any word against Galib."

Meanwhile, intelligence agencies in 2005 found evidence that Galib channelled huge Middle Eastern funds to the militants using Towhid Trust and its properties.

The court heard seven witnesses for Galib. Two of them -- Ahab second-in-command Abdus Samad Salafi and Organising Secretary ASM Azizullah -- were held along with Galib, but they were released sometime before the end of BNP-Jamaat rule.

Train derails in Lalmonirhat

BSS, Lalmonirhat

Four compartments of a Tista-bound passenger train derailed at Tokraihat Rail Station at around 6:30am yesterday, disrupting train communication on Tista-Rammaroute.

The accident took place due to lack of sufficient sleepers and proper maintenance of the rail track, railway officials said.

A relief train from Lalmonirhat reached the spot and has been carrying out rescue operations.

About 200 passengers remained stranded due to the derailment, the officials added.

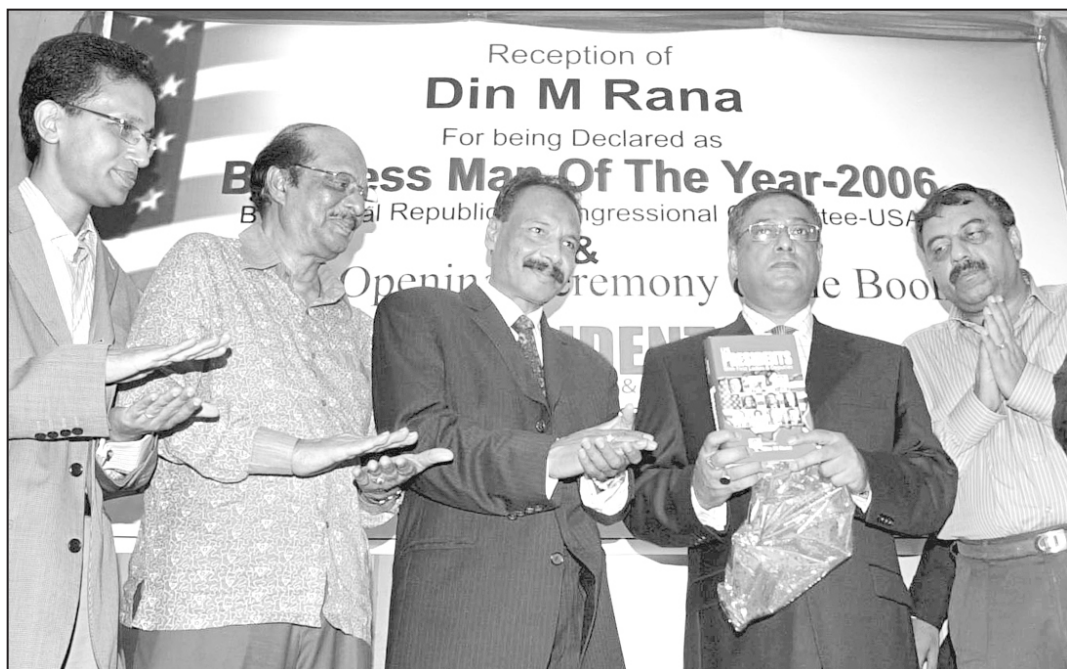


PHOTO: STAR

Lt Gen Masud Uddin Chowdhury launches a book titled 'US Presidents with First Ladies and Deputies' at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city yesterday. On his right are author Din M Rana, Saiful Bari and Dr Kazi Saifuddin Munir and on his left is SM Shafiuazzaman. (Story on Page 1)

Father hands over unruly son to police

BSS, Chittagong

A helpless father handed over his unruly son with a gun to the police at Patiya in Chittagong on Thursday night, a police source said yesterday.

The police picked up Niamat Ali, 20, from his home at Lalarkhin village in Kharana after his father Noor Ahmed requested them to arrest his son who has long been engaged in crimes, sources said.

Noor Ahmed had been trying to dissuade his son from carrying out unlawful activities, but to no avail. Finally, he was compelled to call in the police.

During the raid on his home on Thursday night, Patiya police recovered a light gun from the cowed.

Seminar

Bangladesh Grameen O Nagar Federation and Nagonik Uddog will hold a seminar on Non-institutional economy and urban poverty to mark the International Hawkers Day. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:00am.

Seminar

The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Saarc Chamber of Commerce and Industry will hold a seminar on 'Trade liberalisation under Sata'. Venue: Hotel Sonargaon. Time: 10:00am.

Talk

Asiatic Society of Bangladesh organises a talk on 'Income system in Bangladesh and the responsibility of the taxpayer' by Begum Rahela Choudhury, commissioner of taxes, National Board of Revenue. Venue: Society seminar

room. Time: 4:30pm.

Seminar

Oil-Gas, Mineral Resources and Power-Port Protection National Committee, Dhaka University unit, will hold a seminar on 'Political economy of Tata's investment and Bangladesh'. Venue: Commerce faculty auditorium. Time: 3:30pm.

Certificate giving ceremony

The certificate giving ceremony of a course on leadership by Institution of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh (IDEB) will be held. Venue: IDEB auditorium. Time: 5:00pm.

Rotary meet

The regular meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka Central will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 1:30pm.

Zia Uddin Ahmed



Today is the 18th death anniversary of Group Captain Zia Uddin Ahmed, former Base Commander of Bangladesh Air Force, says a press release.

A Qurankhwani and doa mahfil will be held at House # 480, Road # 32, New DOHS, Mohakhali.

Ziauddin Ahmed Chowdhury



Today is the 4th death anniversary of Ziauddin Ahmed Chowdhury, former president of Lions Club of Dhaka Central and zone chairman of Lions District 315/B-2, says a press release.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to pray for the departed soul.