



Prof Muzaffer, Dr Matin elected Bapa president, secy

Prof Muzaffer Ahmad and Dr Md Abdul Matin have been elected president and general secretary of Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (Bapa) respectively for the next two years, says a press release.

The 37-member executive committee of Bapa was elected at the 8th meeting of its National Council in the city on July 20.

Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed, ASM Shahjahan, Prof Nazrul Islam (BEN), Prof Nazrul Islam (CUS), Prof M Feroze Ahmed, Prof Kazi Madina and Syed ANM Wahed were elected vice-presidents while Mohidul Hoque Khan was elected treasurer.

The elected joint secretaries are Taqem A Khan, JK Baral, Zakir Hossain, Iqbal Habib, Mihir Biswas, Sharif Jamil, Md Shahjahan Mridha and Mahbuba Nasreen.

And the members are AMA Muhith, Prof Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, Prof AM Muazzam Hussain, Prof Kazi Saleh Ahmed, Prof Badiul Alam Mazumder, Prof Khondaker Bazul Hoque, Kazi Md Sheesh, Dr SK Roy, Dr Shahidul Islam, Saifuddin Mahbub, M Sirajul Islam Molla, Zahedur Rahman, Dr M Nuruddin, Dr Mahbub Hossain, Dr Kamrul Hasan Khan, Salma A Shafi, Dr Mahbubur Rahman, Sanfuzzaman Sharif and Alamgir Kabir.

At the meeting, the National Council and newly formed executive committee of Bapa have reaffirmed their pledge to launch all-out efforts to step up countrywide movement to protect and improve the environment in cooperation with grassroots level people, policymakers, administration and experts.

Birth anniversary of Abdul Alim today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 76th birth anniversary of renowned folk singer Abdul Alim, says a press release. He was born in 1931 at Talibpur in

Murshidabad. He received a number of national awards, such as Ekushey Padak, Purbani Chalachchitra Puraskar and Bangladesh Chalachchitra Sangbadik Samiti Puraskar.

Bangladesh Folk Music Foundation will place wreaths at his grave and offer prayers in the morning.

Channel i will air a special programme titled 'Surer Pakhi' at 4:00pm today.

Third series of BBC Sanglap begins tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The third Series of the 'BBC Bangladesh Sanglap', an open discussion and debate programme to further strengthen the democratic practice and culture in Bangladesh, begins tomorrow.

Bangladesh Sanglap is a unique and interesting platform for debate about a variety of current issues affecting and confronting the country and society as a whole.

The discussions, involving a four-member panel and invited audiences of around 150 members of the public, will take place in the capital as well as different major towns and cities across the country.

The panel members, including advisers to the caretaker government, leaders of major political parties, members of the civil society, editors of national newspapers and business leaders, answer questions and debate issues raised by members of the audience.

The first edition of the Sanglap will take place on July 28 at the media centre of Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in Dhaka.

The event is recorded and then broadcast on radio and television. Last year, more than 17 million people tuned in to learn more about what is going on in Bangladesh politics and social affairs.

The ongoing Bangladesh Sanglap series is produced by the BBC Bangla Service in conjunction with the BBC World Service Trust. It will be broadcast on BBC Bangla radio at 8:00pm on Sundays and telecast on Channel i at 8:00pm on Mondays.

Amend constitution for balance of power

Speakers tell seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Political leaders and academicians at a seminar yesterday stressed the need to amend the constitution in order to ensure decentralisation of power and maintain balance of power.

The constitution should be amended to strengthen democracy, establish people's rights and eliminate corruption from all sectors, they said.

They also suggested forming a national constitutional reform committee to make recommendations regarding constitutional amendments, which will have to be passed in next parliament.

The Centre for Governance Studies (CGS) organised the seminar on 'Policy Debates on Reforms' at Spectra Convention Centre in the city.

CGS Chairman Prof Ataur Rahman said experts write constitution and it can be changed for the interest of the people.

The constitution needs amendment to maintain balance of power between the president and the prime minister, he said.

Former ambassador Waliur Rahman said the country could be run well under the existing constitution if honest people remain at the helm.

Former BNP lawmaker Rustam

Ali Farazi said politicians have successes and failures, but the rate of failure is higher than that of success.

He suggested forming a supreme council to make proposals regarding constitutional amendments.

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal leader Shirin Akhtar said constitution can be amended for the welfare of the people.

Former Awami League lawmaker KM Jahangir, Communist Party leader Muzahidul Islam Selim, Dr Mustafizur Rahman, Zillur Rahman and Noor-e-Alam Siddique also spoke.

US\$3m SDC support to strengthen local govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) yesterday launched a technical assistance programme worth US\$3 million for local governance support project (LGSP) of the government.

The multi-year non-lending programme will be executed by the World Bank (WB) in close consultation with the government, civil society and other development partners.

Under the LGSP, the government channels bloc grants to union parishads (UP). Before this, no UP could use its annual allocation of funds without the approval of the local member of parliament.

At the launching ceremony of the programme titled 'Strengthening Local Governance in Bangladesh' at a city hotel, representatives of government, WB, SDC and experts expressed their hope that if implemented properly the non-lending technical assistance can facilitate good governance through decentralisation.

Emphasising the need to institutionalise good governance, Mohammad Anwarul Iqbal, adviser to local government, rural development and cooperatives ministry, said, "Local governments have an important role to play in strengthening our system of governance as a whole as they are more responsive to the needs of people living in village or town."

Dora Rapold, ambassador of Switzerland, described the role of local government in her country by saying, "The fundamental principles of the Swiss federal system are based on proportional representation, power sharing and regional and local autonomy. The combination of these features contributes to a peaceful co-existence of different groups."

Abdul Mueyed Chowdhury, chairman of Brac Bdmail Network Ltd and former secretary to the government, said, "The attainment of millennium development goals (MDG) by 2015 hinges to a large extent on improved governance...which in turn depends to a large extent on strong local

government system."

In his keynote speech, Mueyed appreciated the LGSP, which has expanded the availability and accessibility of resources to the lowest tier of local government institution.

Constance Bernard, sector director of South Asia Sustainable Development of WB, said strengthening of accountable governance at the community level will have long term impacts on the overall governance environment in Bangladesh.

He said accountability is a system of checks and balance that prevents abuse of executive authority and ensure that difficult decisions are made in a transparent way.

Mohammad Alhousseyni Toure, operation adviser of WB, chaired the programme which was also addressed by Safar Raj Hossain, secretary to local government division, Corinne Huser, deputy chief of mission of SDC, and Junaid K Ahmad, sector manager of social development unit at WB.

Illegal biscuit factory, Bonoful Co fined

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

A mobile court in separate anti-adulteration drives in the port city yesterday unearthed an illegal biscuit factory and fined Bonoful and Company Tk 30000.

Sources said the court in a drive unearthed an illegal biscuit factory at Nasirabad Industrial Area.

It fined Kishwan Snacks Limited Tk 1 lakh for producing around 10 brands of biscuits illegally without approval of Bangladesh Standard Testing Institute (BSTI).

The factory had a license from BSTI for producing only one brand while it had been producing ten brands of biscuits, including Kishwan Special Toast, Kishwan Crackers Biscuit, Kishwan Horlics Biscuit, Kishwan Ovaltine Biscuit, Kishwan Chocolate Cookies, Kishwan Butter Cookies, Kishwan Normal Toast Biscuit, Kishwan Tube Biscuit, Kishwan Special Cookies,

Kishwan Luxury Cookies and Kishwan Butter Crunch.

The court collected some samples of biscuits for laboratory test while it ordered the owner to collect licenses for all the brands immediately.

Meanwhile, the court fined famous Bonoful and Company Tk 30000 for producing and marketing substandard bread.

A team of the mobile court recently conducted a drive at the main showroom of Bonoful in Agrabad Chowmuhani area and collected some sample of bread it produced for laboratory test.

But the laboratory test, that was submitted to the court yesterday, showed Ph level of the bread was lower than required, said a press release.

Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) Magistrate Mohammad Munir Chowdhury led the drive with the help of BSTI officials.

Tornado lashes 2 upazilas in Comilla

A CORRESPONDENT, Comilla

A tornado lashed some nine villages under two upazilas in the district yesterday damaging over 147 thatched houses and uprooting a large number of trees.

Power supply in the areas was also disrupted.

The affected villages are Poranpur, Barapara, Donpur at Bagmara union under Sadar Dakshin upazila and Dollpur, Monohorpur, Jogotpur, Syedpur under Mohorgong upazila.

The tornado, that started at around 11:00am, lasted for only three minutes.

The district administration has started assessing the damage and sending relief to the affected people.



Circulation Managers' Assoc executives

Md Mosleh Uddin of the Daily Ittefaq and Md Billal Hossain of the Dainik Dinkal were elected president and general secretary of Bangladesh Newspaper Circulation Managers' Association recently, says a press release.

Other office-bearers of the 15-member committee are Vice-presidents: Wahid Murad of Jugantar and Md Abul Kalam Azad of Aiker Kagoj, Joint General Secretary: Md Abu Masud Bulbul of The Daily Star, Organising Secretary: Md Sarwar Hossain of Prothom Alo, Treasurer: Khondkar Emdadul Huq of Sangram, Literary and Cultural Secretary: Mir Md Abul Hassan of Bhorer Kagoj, Office Secretary: Debenda Majumder Debu of Sangbad and Publicity and Publication Secretary: Md Abdur Razzak of Naya Diganta.

Executive committee members are Abu Layas Mamun of Jai Jai Din), Md Harunur Rashid of Samakal, Reaz Shahi of Amar Desh, Md Sohel Ahmed of Inqilab and Md Ashrafal Alam of Janakantha.

Meanwhile, Newspapers Hawkers' Welfare Multipurpose Cooperative Society Ltd in a statement congratulated the newly elected committee.

200 RU teachers go no leave demanding Hasina's release

RU CORRESPONDENT

Some 200 teachers of Rajshahi University (RU) under the banner of Progressive Teachers' Society went on a day's leave en masse yesterday in an extraordinary move to demand the release of Awami League President Sheikh Hasina.

Earlier, the teachers submitted their leave petitions through respective department chairman.

Campus sources said most classes were not held yesterday, but the examinations were held as usual. The presence of students was also very thin.

Law enforcers were deployed at the entrances of faculties and different buildings on the campus.

Tarek, a student of 2nd semester of management department, said, "We were not aware that our teacher is on leave. We waited for long in our classroom, but the teacher did not turn up."

Meanwhile, pro-BNP and Jamaat teachers took classes in their departments.

"I had to take class on humanitarian grounds following requests from the students," said a pro-BNP teacher.

Some teachers who went on leave expressed their concern over the way the caretaker government is conducting its affairs, saying that it is avoiding its main responsibility of holding a free and fair election.

They also said the government has failed to curb crimes and control the price hike of essentials.

Campus sources said the university authorities have made a list of the teachers who took a day's leave yesterday and asked the department chairman to provide information about them.

When contacted, RU Vice-Chancellor Prof Altaf Hossain said, "We have made a list of the teachers at the direction of higher authorities."

Several teachers told reporters that intelligence officials have phoned them to inquire about the leave.

Progressive Teachers' Society convener Prof Abdus Sobhan said they would announce their next programme soon to press home their demands.

The demands include lifting the ban on politics, holding general elections at the earliest possible time and freeing educational institutions, including RU, from corruption.



Novera's first anniversary of death today

Today is the first death anniversary of Novera Deepita, a reporter of The Daily Star, says a press release.

She was also a brilliant student of the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, Dhaka University.

To commemorate her death anniversary, Novera Deepita Memorial Trust will award memorial scholarship to a student who secured the highest marks in the honours examinations of the journalism department. The scholarship giving ceremony will be held at the TSC at 4:00pm today.

Teachers, relatives, friends, well-wishers and colleagues are requested to attend the ceremony.

Her family has also taken up various programmes, including offering prayers at her grave in the morning and milad mahfil.

Doa will also be offered at Anandabazar mosque at Shewrapara after Juma prayers for the peace of the departed soul.

Md Salahuddin Faroque



Today is the 15th death anniversary of Md Salahuddin Faroque, former managing director of Modhumita Group, says a press release.

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

Giyasuddin Ahmed Badal

Today is the first death anniversary of Giyasuddin Ahmed Badal, a jute trader and former vice president of the Rotary Club of Narayanganj, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil, doa and Qurankhwani will be held at his residence at 132, SI Road, Nabiganj.

Relatives, admirers and friends are requested to attend the programmes.



PHOTO: STAR

Sanjib Drong, general secretary of Bangladesh Adibashi Forum, speaks at a press conference at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.

Constitutional rights of indigenous people demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a press conference yesterday demanded constitutional recognition of indigenous people.

They said the United Nations recognised indigenous people's rights in 1994, but the reality is a bit different in Bangladesh.

The press conference was organised jointly by Bangladesh Adibashi Forum and Bangladesh Adibashi Odhikar Andolon at the National Press Club in the city.

The speakers demanded immediate implementation of Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord, recognition of their traditional ownership of land, and cancellation of setting up eco-parks in places where indigenous people live.

They urged the government to recognise indigenous people's right to have their primary education in mother tongue.

In a written statement, General Secretary of Bangladesh Adibashi Forum Sanjib Drong said the rights of indigenous people are recognised by every country of the world.

"With high hopes, leaders of indigenous people signed the peace treaty with the government in 1997, now ten years have passed and it is yet to be implemented," he lamented.

He said to establish good governance in Chittagong Hill Tracts, there is no alternative to fullest implementation of the treaty.

Demanding cancellation of establishing eco-parks in Madhupur forest area and other parts of the country, Sanjib said indigenous people's right to live peacefully should not be sacrificed under any circumstances.

He also urged the government to observe the International Indigenous Day on August 9 nationally and announced their eight-day-long programme to observe the day.

The programme will be inaugurated at the Senate Building of Dhaka University on August 3 with a rally on the campus.

On August 4, they will organise

cultural programme and exhibition of indigenous arts, crafts and foods.

On August 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 19, they will organise seminars and view exchange meetings with different professional groups.

This year, the theme of the day is 'Indigenous people's right to their mother tongue and culture'.

General Secretary of Bangladesh Adibashi Odhikar Andolon Prof Mesbah Kamal, General Secretary of Jatiya Adibashi Parishad Rabindranath Soren, former president of Hill Women's Federation Chaitali Tripura and Prof Shourav Tripura of linguistics department at Dhaka University were also present.

Two robbers arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested two accomplices of Shahin Shikder, a notorious gang leader of robbers, with bullets and lethal weapons from Kafrul in the city early yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off, a Rab team arrested Fakhru Islam alias Prince alias Don and Sirajul Islam alias Siraj during a raid on Purbo Baishteki Basti area at 1:00am.

The team also recovered five bullets, four machetes and two knives.

Meanwhile, the police arrested two members of an 'Aggyan' Party from Kafrul area on Wednesday night.

Acting on a tip-off, a police team arrested Anwar and Abdur Rahman during a raid on Shewra Para bus stop area at around 8:00pm.

BNP leader murdered in Jessore

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A BNP leader was stabbed to death at Sheikhhati in Jessore town on Wednesday night.

Abdar Faruque, joint secretary of Jessore BNP, came under attack by unidentified criminals at around 10:15pm when he was returning home by a rickshaw, witnesses said.

A four-member medical board declared him dead when the BNP leader was taken to the operation theatre of Jessore General Hospital.

This was the third attack on Abdar Faruque, who was also a central leader of Jubo Dal and former chairman of Noapara Union Parishad. He had survived the first

armed attack in front of his residence in 1997 and a bomb attack near Jessore Polytechnic Institute in 2001.

High officials of joint forces, Rapid Action Battalion and the police visited the spot soon after the murder.

OC MA Matin of Jessore Kotwali Police Station said the murder might be a sequel to previous enemy.

Jessore Police Super Iqbal Bahar said five special teams of law enforcing agencies have launched a hunt for the killers.

However, none was arrested in this connection as of last night.

# WEATHER

## T O D A Y

**Rain likely**

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at most places over all the divisions of the country in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy to heavy rainfall is also likely at places over the country, Met office said predicting nearly unchanged day temperature during the period.

Under the influence of active monsoon over the country, heavy to very heavy rainfall is likely at places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Sylhet, Chittagong and Barisal divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Highest temperature 32.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 23.3 degree Celsius at Majdee Court and Rangamati.

**The sun sets in the capital at 6:44pm today and rises at 5:26am 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	28.0	24.0	97	87
Chittagong	27.7	24.2	93	92
Rajshahi	30.2	24.8	96	88
Khulna	29.0	25.5	92	85
Barisal	28.6	25.0	92	92
Sylhet	26.3	23.7	99	96
Cox's Bazar	29.0	24.0	87	85

Orbis Student Ambassadors leave Dhaka

DU CORRESPONDENT

Orbis Student Ambassadors, a delegation of Orbis International, left Bangladesh yesterday after a three-day visit.

Orbis International is a nonprofit organisation working for eliminating avoidable blindness and restoring sight in the developing countries.

Orbis Hong Kong office, one of the fundraisers of the organisation, every year sends students of the three best fundraising schools and colleges to sight-saving trip to one of Orbis' programme countries to see its activities, Taskina Huq, media consultant of Bangladesh Country office, said at a press conference yesterday at Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU) in the city.

This year an 18-member team led by young celebrity Stephy Tang joined the sight-saving trip in Bangladesh.

During their visit from July 23 to 26, the team visited Orbis supported sight saving activities in Khulna and Dhaka. They have experienced Orbis' frontline work in hospitals, surgery observations and participated in community eye screening programmes and took interviews of doctors and patients.

On returning to Hong Kong, the visitors said they will share their experiences of the sight-saving trip with their classmates, friends and families and organise various activities to raise public concerns on sight-related problems in the world.

They have also taken video footages of the trip to make documentation to broadcast on various TV channels and put on display at shopping malls to raise fund.

Obituary

Md Atiqul Islam Bir Pratik, a freedom fighter and son of late Abdur Razzak of village Satmura in Nabiganj in Brahminbaria, passed away due to a cardiac arrest at LabAid Hospital in the city on Wednesday at the age of 53, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, two sons and two daughters to mourn his death.

He was buried at a graveyard at Mirpur Section 10 after Asr prayers.

M A Razzak

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

M A Razzak, president of Kushtia press club and freedom fighter, passed away due to a cardiac arrest yesterday at the age of 56.

He left behind his wife.

Razzak was taken to Kushtia General Hospital when he felt serious pain in his chest at about 9:00am. Doctors declared him dead at about 9:30am.

He was the Kushtia correspondent of the Daily Amar Desh.

Begum Jamila Akhter

Begum Jamila Akhter, mother of BNP leader Ruhul Kabir Rizvi Ahmed, passed away due to age complications at the PG Hospital on Wednesday at the age of 75, says a press release.

BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia and Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday expressed deep shock at her death.

In separate condolence messages, they conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family and prayed for salvation of the departed soul.

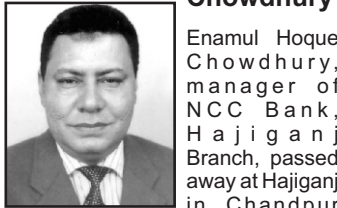
Nurul Haq Khan

Mohammad Nurul Haq Khan, father of labour leader Nur Khan Liton, passed away due to old age complications at his residence yesterday at the age of 88, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, three sons and four daughters.

Nurul Haq was a retired director of Crescent Jute Mills, Afil Jute Mills and Qawami Jute Mills.

Enamul Hoque Chowdhury



Enamul Hoque Chowdhury, manager of NCC Bank, Hajiganj Branch, passed away at Hajiganj in Chandpur

yesterday at the age of 42, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, one son and two daughters.

He was buried at his village at Narayankara under Chowddagram upazila in Comilla.

Qulkhwani

Qulkhwani of Zannatul Ferdous, daughter of late Maj Mahbub Rahman, will be held at her Rajarbagh residence in the city after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

She passed away due to brain haemorrhage at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) in the city on Wednesday night at the age of 35.

Ferdous was the sister of Awrangajeb Mahbub, Special Superintendent (SS) of Special Branch of Police.