



AL leader Abdur Rouf Chowdhury passes away

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Dinajpur*

Md Abdur Rouf Chowdhury, former state minister and central leader of Awami League (AL), passed away at his residence at Bochaganj upazila in Dinajpur district yesterday at the age of 77.

According to family sources, he had been suffering from various diseases and living in his constituency since long.

He is survived by his wife, one son, five daughters and a host of admirers to mourn his death.

His son Md Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury is serving as personal secretary to AL President Sheikh Hasina.

Abdur Rouf was elected as MP from Dinajpur-1 constituency in 1996 and served successfully as state minister for post and telecommunication in AL government.

He also served as president of Dinajpur AL for many years.

As the death news of Abdur Rouf spread, thousands of political leaders, activists and supporters thronged his residence to pay their last respect.

Different political, social and cultural organisations including Dinajpur Press Club and Dinajpur Chamber of Commerce and Industry have expressed deep shock at his death.

Abdur Rouf will be buried at his family graveyard at Dhontoli under Bochaganj upazila after his namaz-e-janaza today.

Meanwhile, AL acting president Zillur Rahman has expressed deep shock at the death of Abdur Rouf, one of the organisers of the liberation war.

In a condolence message, he said the nation will remember the glorious contribution of Abdur Rouf in the liberation war.

In his death, the nation has lost a social worker and politician, Zillur Rahman added.

He also prayed for the salvation of the departed soul and expressed sympathy for the members of the bereaved family.

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) has also condoled the death of Abdur Rouf Chowdhury.

BCL President Mahmud Hasan Ripon and acting general secretary Shahinur Rahman Tutul in a joint statement expressed deep shock at the death of Abdur Rouf who was also a freedom fighter.

They also prayed for the salvation of the departed soul and expressed sympathy for the members of the bereaved family.

Rezaur Rahman
BSS, *Dhaka*

Rezaur Rahman alias Mamun Miah, former dean of the Faculty of Law of Chittagong University, founder principal of Comilla Law College and also a renowned lawyer, passed away due to a cardiac arrest at his Comilla residence yesterday at the age of 80.

He is the son of Khan Bahadur Siddiqui Rahman of Siddiqi Manzil in Comilla.

Rezaur Rahman, son of Khan Bahadur Siddiqui Rahman, left behind his wife, two sons - Justice Mamun Rahman and Dr Mashroor Rahman, and four brothers and two sisters to mourn his death.

Former foreign secretary Mohammad Mohsin and former election commissioner Justice Mahfuzur Rahman are his brothers.

His first namaz-e-janaza will be held at Comilla Judge Court ground at 11:00am and second namaz-e-janaza at Daroga Bariat 12:00 noon today.

He will be buried at his family graveyard after namaz-e-janaza at his ancestral home at Siddiqi Manzil in Comilla town after Zohr prayers today.

Abdur Rahman Matbor
A CORRESPONDENT, *Munshiganj*

Abdur Rahman Matbor, a freedom fighter of Khidirpur, Lohagunj, passed away due to Asthma on Saturday night at the age of 60, says a press release.

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

He was buried at a local graveyard with state honours yesterday morning.

President of Munshiganj-Bikrampur District Implementation Parishad M Mizanur Rahman Khan Mizan expressed deep shock at his death.

DHAKA TODAY

Discussion

Nirapad Sarak Chai (We Demand Safe Road) organises a discussion on the occasion of National Road Safety Day. Venue: National Sports Council auditorium. Time: 11:00am.

Rotary Dhaka

The weekly meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka will be held. Venue: Radisson Water Garden Hotel. Time: 6:00pm.

Balanced dev a must for sustainable progress

Speakers tell roundtable

BSS, *Rangpur*

Experts and scientists at a roundtable on Saturday underscored the need for balanced development to attain sustainable national progress and prosperity.

The roundtable titled 'Development, problems and prospects of northern region and role of media' was jointly organised by Communication Initiative for Social Change (CISC) and Zila Press Club Rangpur (ZPCR) auditorium.

Rafique Sarker presented the keynote paper on the subject that was prepared by Secretary of CISC Abdur Rouf Sarker.

Eminent personalities, experts, elite, professionals, socio-cultural and human rights activists, business community leaders, politicians, journalists, women leaders, government and NGO officials and experts participated in the conference.

Speaking on the occasion, Zaglul said that no nation could attain sustainable national development without ensuring balanced development in all areas and regions and the present govern-

ment is working sincerely for bringing order to every sector.

He said most of the problems, including seasonal 'monga', backwardness and others, could be resolved substantially through ensuring supply of natural gas to the region that would accelerate the process of industrialisation and create huge job opportunities.

"For flourishing talents and making the future generations as worthy citizens, the setting up of a public university in Rangpur is very important, and the proposed RDRS University might be one of the most quality educational institutions for higher education of all eight districts in greater Rangpur and Dinajpur," he added.

Zaglul asked the media people to build a greater unity among themselves and their concerted efforts to focus huge prospects on various sectors of the region and provide guidelines for the present caretaker government.



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Potholes on Chittagong-Banskhali-Cox's Bazar highway cause immense suffering to the commuters. The picture was taken from Jaldi area on Saturday.

Six robbers held in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A team of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) arrested six robbers from the city on Saturday night.

They were identified as Darfan alias Kanchan and his accomplices Akkas, 27, Shamim alias Sabuj, 32, Mujibur alias Majid, 35, Yousfur Younus, 28, and Kamal, says a DMP press release.

Acting on a secret information, the police team led by Syed Mohsinul Huq raided Shirin Tower in West Merul Badra at 10:00pm and arrested them.

Police also seized a private car without any number plate from a garage owned by one Suman.

Police said the arrestees are active members of an organised gang of robbers who had been committing robberies in different jewelry shops, pharmacies and shopping malls in the capital for long.

Legal actions against them are underway.

Meanwhile, police arrested a total of 101 people during the last 24 hours on various charges.

Of them, 43 were arrested under regular cases, 11 under arrest of warrant and the rest under other charges.

Two docs sued for death of newborn

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

"The boy was given an injection at around 9:00pm and his body began to swell and he died at once," the grandfather told *The Daily Star*.

The body was sent to Sir Salimullah Medical College Morgue for autopsy.

Investigation Officer Afzalur Rahman told *The Daily Star* that they have talked to the doctors who informed them that the boy had died before pushing the injection.

"We will go for action after getting the postmortem report," he added.

But as he became sick on Friday night, the parents were desperately looking for a doctor but in vain.

On Saturday morning Dr Dilip visited the boy and gave medicine. But as his condition worsened in the afternoon, the doctor instead of attending the patient, asked the parents over telephone to bring him to his chamber.

But the parents took the boy to the chamber of child specialist Dr Ahsanullah Baki of Matuaill Maternal and Child Health Institute in the evening.

He referred the ailing boy to Matuaill Institute where the authorities admitted him after dillydallying for long an hour.

Production in Jamuna Fertiliser Factory suspended

UNB, *Jamalpur*

Production in Jamuna Fertiliser Factory was suspended yesterday for its overhauling.

Officials said the factory would remain closed for 35 days for its repair and overhauling.

Overhauling of the factory was last done in 2005 at a cost of about Tk 12 crore.

Minor girl drowns during immersion of Durga images

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Satkhira*

The festive joy turned into sorrow when a four-year-old girl drowned in the bordering river Ichhamati during the ceremonial immersion of the images of the goddess Durga yesterday.

The tragic incident took place near Debhata upazila head quarters when the ill-fated girl all on a sudden fell into the river from a boat.

She was identified as Ratna Ranj, 4, of Gava village under Sadar upazila.

Local people were trying to recover the body but failed as of writing this report about 7:00pm.

Like other years, it was indeed a unique union of jubilant people from two neighbouring countries who forgetting the barriers of international border, caste, creed and religion assembled there to see the immersion of the images of Durga.

The law enforcers tried to resist crossing the border but failed to check the stream of people.

Police said, among the injured, Billal Sikder, 35, was admitted to Khulna Medical College Hospital and Asha, 9, daughter of Anisur Rahman, was admitted to Narail Sadar Hospital in a critical condition.

9 boys rescued from traffickers in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police rescued nine boys allegedly meant for trafficking from Jatrabari and picked up three

Clash leaves 50 injured in Narail

BSB, *Narail*

Over 50 people were injured in a clash between two groups at Karfa village under Lohagardi upazila in the district on Saturday.

The two groups locked horns with sharp weapons over establishing supremacy in the village.

On information, police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

Police said, among the injured, Billal Sikder, 35, was admitted to Khulna Medical College Hospital and Asha, 9, daughter of Anisur Rahman, was admitted to Narail Sadar Hospital in a critical condition.

people including a woman in this connection last night.

Lovely Begum, 20, and her two accomplices Sadek, 24, and Saddam, 20, were picked up from in front of a patrol pump at Jatrabari by a traffic sergeant at around 8:00pm suspecting their whereabouts.

The boys were identified as Nesar, 12, Hiron, 11, Reaz, 11, Saleh Ahmed, 10, Farid, 8, Habib, 9, Jashim, 12, Rahman, 9, and Rahman, 10.

Jatrabari police said after primary quizzing they came to know that the boys were brought from Chandpur saying that they will be trained at Jamdani shari factory at Taraboi in Narayanganj.

Police were interrogating them as of filing this report at 9:00pm.

PROBLEMS OF WORKERS

Team goes to Kuwait today

UNB, *Dhaka*

A three-member Bangladesh delegation will leave for Kuwait on a three-day official visit today.

Secretary of the expatriates' welfare ministry Abdul Matin Chowdhury will lead the delegation. Other members of the delegation are Director General of Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET) M Abdur Malek and Managing Director of Bangladesh Overseas Employment Services Limited (BOESL) Mahbubur Rahman.

The meeting is the largest interfaith dialogue he has had as a pontiff.

"In the face of a world torn by conflicts where violence is sometimes justified in the name of God, it is important to reiterate that religions can never become vehicles of hate," said the 80-year-old pontiff.

"To the contrary, religions can and should offer precious resources to build a peaceful humanity ... especially where tensions are strongest, freedom and respect for others is denied and men and women suffer the consequences of intolerance and incomprehension," he said.

During the visit, the delegation will discuss the issues relating to problems of Bangladeshi workers there. They will meet with Kuwaiti Labour Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khalid Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and other officials.

They will also exchange views with leading employers.

The visit is part of the drive on part of the ministry to examine ways and means of improving working conditions of the Bangladeshi workers abroad.

Bijoya Dashami celebrated in Chittagong

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Chittagong*

Thousands of Hindu devotees celebrated Bijoya Dashami in the port city on the last day of the five-day Durga Puja yesterday with the immersion of the goddess' idols in a befitting manner.

Necessary security measures were taken at Patenga Sea Beach, the main centre for the immersion in the city, where a number of members of different law enforcement agencies, including Police, Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) and Bangladesh Rifles, were deployed to avert any unexpected incident, sources said.

People from different portion in the city carrying the idols started coming to the Patenga Sea Beach since the morning while the immersion started at around 1:00pm and continued till sunset.

Durga idols from most of the city's around 250 puja mandaps were immersed at Patenga while some were immersed at river Karnaphuli at Avoy Mitra Ghat of Firingibazar area.

Acting Mayor of Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) M Manjur Alam was present at Patenga to monitor the immersion programme.

Mohanbar Puja Committee leaders thanked the law enforcing agencies for their cooperation during the five-day Durga Puja celebration.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 13th death anniversary of Dr Wali Ahmed, former lawmaker, one of the organisers of the Liberation War and a close associate of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, says a press release.

During the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at Shukrabad residence on October 26 after Magrib prayers.

All relatives, friends and admirers are requested to attend the milad mahfil and pray for the salvation of the departed soul.



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Visitors gather on the Cox's Bazar Sea Beach during the Eid and Durga Puja holidays. The picture was taken yesterday.

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