



## AL leader Abdur Rouf Chowdhury passes away

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinaipur

Md Abdur Rouf Chowdhury, former state minister and central leader of Awami League (AL), passed away at his residence at Bochaganj upazila in Dinaipur 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 Dinaipur-1 constituency in 1996 and served successfully as state minister for post and telecommunication in AL government.

He also served as president of Dinaipur district 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 Dinaipur Press Club and Dinaipur Chamber of Commerce and Industry have expressed deep shock at his death.

Abdur Rouf will be buried at his family graveyard at Dhontola 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 Siddique Rahman of Siddiq Manzil in Comilla.

Rezaur Rahman, son of Khan Bahadur Siddique 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 Bari at 12:00noon today.

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

**Abdur Rahman Matbor**

A CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

Abdur Rahman Matbor, a freedom fighter of Khidirpara at Louhaganj, 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 honour yesterday morning.

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

# 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).

Noted journalist, columnist and Chief Editor and Managing Director of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) Zaglul Ahmed Chowdhury attended the function as the chief guest.

Deputy Commissioner Khondker Atiar Rahman, Police Super Hasib Aziz, President of RCCI Mostafa Azad Chowdhury Babu, Pourashava Chairman Abdur Rouf Manik, renowned agri-scientist and Principal

Scientific Officer of BRRI, Dr Abdul Mazid, Director Livelihood of RDRS Dr Samsuzzaman were also present.

President of ZPCR Rafique Sarker chaired the roundtable held in the Rangpur Chamber of Commerce and Industries (RCCI) 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, businessmen, 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 Dinaipur," 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.

## 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, Yousuf alias 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 Badda 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

A murder case against two physicians was filed with Shyampr Police Station yesterday following the death of a newborn baby.

Grandfather of the newborn Ayub Ali filed the case against the doctors of Matuail Maternity and Poly Clinic of Narayanganj for their sheer negligence in handling the sick boy.

Ayesha Akhter, 22, gave birth to the boy by caesarean at Poly Clinic on Wednesday night.

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 Matuail Maternal and Child Health Institute in the evening.

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

"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 post mortem report," he added.

## 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.



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.

## Minor girl drowns during immersion of Durga images

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sakthira

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 Rama Rani, 4, of Gava village under Sadar upazila.

Local people were trying to recover the body but failed as of writing this report at about 7:10pm.

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.

On contact, Debhata Officer-in-charge (OC) Humayun Kabir confirmed the incident.

## 9 boys rescued from traffickers in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

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

The two groups locked horned 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.

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

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 Tarabo in Narayanganj.

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

## 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 Abdul Malek and Managing Director of Bangladesh Overseas Employment Services Limited (BOESL) Mahbubur Rahman.

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.

## WORLD RELIGION MEET Pope for 'reconciliation'

AFF, Naples

Pope Benedict XVI yesterday urged "reconciliation among peoples" ahead of a religious summit in Naples.

"With respect for the differences between the various religions, we are all called to work for peace and ... reconciliation among peoples," Benedict said in the meeting with leading Muslim, Jewish, Buddhist, Anglican, Orthodox and other Christian figures.

The meeting is the largest interfaith dialogue he has held as pope.

"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.

## 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 Avo Mitra Ghat of Firingibazar area.

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

Mohanagari 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 law-maker, one of the organisers of the Liberation War

and a close associate of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, says a press release.

On 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.



## Rise in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at one or two places over Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and weather may remain dry elsewhere over the country in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may rise slightly over the country, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 33.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 20.0 degree Celsius at Sirimongal.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:27pm today and rises at 5:59am 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	31.8	21.5	60	72
Chittagong	30.8	23.0	76	73
Rajshahi	31.8	20.8	88	77
Khulna	32.5	22.8	79	80
Barisal	32.0	21.5	79	83
Sylhet	30.3	21.5	70	77
Cox's Bazar	31.8	23.0	83	64

## Malaysian astronaut returns to Earth

AFF, Moscow

Two Russian cosmonauts and the first Malaysian in space returned to Earth yesterday after leaving the orbiting International Space Station, Russian mission control announced.

The Soyuz craft with Sheikh Muszaphar Shukor, who carried out experiments for Malaysia's Genome Institute, and Russians Yuri Yurtshikin and Oleg Kotov returned to the Baikonur space base in Kazakhstan at 10:43 GMT, it said.

The Malaysian astronaut, whose trip was paid for by the Malaysian government, left on the mission on October 10 with American Peggy Whitson, the new commander on the space station, and a Russian Yuri Malenchenko.

The decision to include a Malaysian in a space mission was made four years ago, when Russia sold 18 Sukhoi 30 fighter jets to Malaysia for several billion dollars.

A practising Muslim, the Malaysian celebrated the end of the holy month of Ramadan aboard the ISS.

## Myanmar exiles fight for democracy

AFF, Rockville

A picture of Myanmar democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi, gazing into the distance with determined eyes, hangs on nearly every wall in Sein Win's modest office in this Washington suburb.

From this third-floor office nestled in the forested suburb of Rockville, Win and a small group of Myanmar exiles fight for democracy in their homeland -- a cause that gained new urgency since its military rulers violently repressed peaceful protests last month.

As the prime minister of Myanmar's self-proclaimed government in exile, the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma (NCGUB), Win has met with international leaders and collected awards on behalf of his first cousin, Aung San Suu Kyi.

He hopes one day he can return to a free Myanmar and personally deliver all the democracy awards to his cousin, whom he last saw in 1989 on the day soldiers surrounded her home in Yangon home and placed her under house arrest.

"It will be a very, very happy

occasion after so many years," Win told AFP in his office's small conference room, where a bust of Aung San Suu Kyi, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991, sits atop a bookshelf.

But in the meantime, he has to wait until the military regime, which has kept Aung San Suu Kyi under house arrest for the better part of the last 18 years, changes its attitude.

Win, a bespectacled former university professor of mathematics, was disturbed by the regime's recent crackdown on protests led by Buddhist monks, which left 13 people dead and sparked worldwide outrage against the junta.

"We are calling for a smooth transition and we are calling for dialogue, and they are beating the monks, saying no to everybody," said Win, who had already witnessed the regime's brutality in 1988, when it crushed pro-democracy protests led by students in a crackdown that left more than 3,000 people dead.

Win is concerned that some of the protesters arrested in the most recent crackdown were tortured. He describes the military junta as

"brutal," "uncivilized," "stubborn." Still, he believes the regime should be involved in a democratic transition.

"Let's talk, let's have a dialogue," said Win, who was elected in 1990 in elections that the junta refused to recognize. "You will be part of the transition, part of solution, and right now they are part of the problem."

Since 1993, Win has led his battle for democracy from the United States, while other coalition ministers are based in India and Thailand. His supporters describe the salt-and-pepper-haired mathematician as a modest man who lives in a two-bedroom apartment with his family.

"Humbleness in Burmese culture goes a long, long way," said Jeremy Woodrum, the director of the US Campaign for Burma.

"He doesn't flaunt himself, he's not a flashy dresser, he doesn't wear gold watches," said Woodrum, who has worked with Win for eight years. "He's not a self-promoter."

Aung San Suu Kyi, meanwhile, has become the symbol of the opposition's struggle to bring democracy to a country that has been led by the

military since 1962.

"She is a rallying point for all of us," Win said.

Win and his cousin are the scions of two key figures of Myanmar's independence. Win's father, U Ba Win, was a political leader and the elder brother of Aung San Suu Kyi's father, General Aung San, the architect of the country's independence.

But their fathers were assassinated in 1947, before the country's independence from Britain.

Win entered politics after the 1988 crackdown. Two years later, he was among the winning candidates of the National League for Democracy (NLD) that swept the May 1990 elections, which were ignored by the junta.

Win and other NLD members formed the NCGUB in ethnic Karen territory on December 18, 1990. The junta outlawed the group in August 2005.

"They don't like us to be here, to do the work we are doing," Win said. "They want to link us with terrorists, they want to link us with narcotics activities. They are trying that. But they are not successful."

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