

6th SAF Scout Friendship Camp begins Oct 12

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The weeklong 6th SAF Scout Friendship Camp will begin at National Scout Training Camp in Gazipur on October 12 with the slogan 'Scouting for peace and friendship'.

Organisers said that the camp would strengthen ties among the Saarc countries, paving the way for establishing a regular communication among them.

About 350 Rover scouts and leaders from eight Saarc countries are going to participate in the Friendship Camp, says a press release.

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed will be present at the inaugural ceremony on October 12 as the chief guest while President and Chief Scout Iajuddin Ahmed will be present at the Youth Parliament on October 16 as the chief guest.

A meeting of Saarc chief commissioners will also be held at Jamuna Resort on October 13 to discuss the development and spread of scouting in Saarc countries.

Besides, the chief commissioners will make a courtesy call on President Iajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban the next day.

The friendship camp programmes also include youth forum, country-based cultural programmes, Mahatabu Jalsa and International Night.

The previous SAF friendship camp programmes were held in Bhutan, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Pakistan.

Bangladesh Scouts now stands fifth in the list of world scouting and well known in the world for its activities regarding healthcare and social welfare. Earlier, Bangladesh held International Centenary Comedeca in Cox's Bazar in 2007.

Presently there are 10 lakh scouts in the country and the number is expected to reach 15 lakh by 2013.

The Daily Star, Channel i and Radio Today are the media partners of the event.

Suspected criminal beaten to death in police custody

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A suspected criminal and an associate of Dacoit Shahid was allegedly beaten to death under police custody at Sutrapur in the city at an early hour of yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Mohammad Rasel, 22.

Family members alleged that Rasel was beaten to death under the custody of Sutrapur police and then taken to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where on-duty doctors declared him dead at 2:20pm yesterday.

Police, on the other hand, claimed that they rescued Rasel from a mob's clutch while he was being thrashed at around 9pm on Wednesday. He, along with his other cohorts, was trying to flee after hurling a cocktail on a house at Rankin Street, they said.

As his condition was deteriorating he was taken to the DMCH where on-duty doctors declared him dead, they went on to say.

Officer-in-Charge of Sutrapur Police Station in a press release said five associates of one of the top criminals Shahid who has been on the run charged cocktails on Babuli Villa at Rankin Street.

After having extracted information from Rasel police also arrested four other criminals who were with Rasel during the cocktail attack. The four are Faruk, Rakibul Hasan Roki, Habibur Rahman Rubel and Ashik, said the press release.

Police said the five demanded toll from a Real Estate Businessman by calling the office peon over telephone and asked the businessman to make a phone call to an Indian phone number to contact Dacoit Shahid and give Tk 1 crore as toll.

The four arrestees told the police that they had been extorting money from different businessmen over phone.

Four cases were filed against them in this connection yesterday. The arrestees confessed to the police that they were involved in two mur-

ders and many others criminal offences.

Family members of Rasel, however, told the Daily Star that police arrested Rasel from the Rajdhani Super Market at Tikatuli on Wednesday evening and police took him with them and arrested four others from the Shamabagh area at the same night.

They claimed that there had been no case against Rasel and he was working in a workshop at Murgitola in the old part of the city. They also claimed that no incident of mob beating took place in the area.

President hosts reception for Hindus

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed and his wife Prof Dr Anwara Begum hosted a reception for members of the Hindu community at Bangabhaban yesterday on the occasion of Durga Puja, the biggest religious festival of the community.

Iajuddin and his wife welcomed the guests and exchanged greetings with them.

Special Assistant to the Chief Adviser for the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock Manik Lal Samaddar was present on the occasion.

Diplomats, including Indian High Commissioner Pinak Ranjan Chakravarty, Sri Lankan High Commissioner V Krishnamoorthy and Nepalese Ambassador Pradeep Khatiwada, also attended the reception.

Hindu religious personalities and community leaders, including Principal of Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission Swami Aksharananda Moharaj and Maj Gen (Retd) C R Dutta, different professionals, high civil and military officials also exchanged greetings with the president.



Hindu devotees gather at Patenga sea beach during the immersion of the images of goddess Durga in the Bay of Bengal on the occasion of Bijoya Dashami yesterday.

ACC finds no illegal wealth of VP Joinal

UNB, Dhaka

The Anti-Corruption Commission has decided to close the file of former BNP lawmaker Prof Joinal Abedin Faruk alias VP Joinal as it did not find any inconsistency in his wealth statement.

"The Commission has decided to close the matter as it did not find any disparity in the wealth statement submitted by the former MP," said a competent source.

VP Joinal, who had defeated controversial Awami League leader Joinal Hazari in the last election in Feni-2, has already been notified about the Commission decision.

He was issued with notice in the first week of March this year directing him to submit his wealth statement. He complied with the ACC directive on 18th of that month.

After months of inquiry, inquiry officer Benzir Ahmed, an ACC deputy director, submitted the inquiry report in the second week of August.

Based on recommendations of the inquiry officer, the anti-corruption body decided not to move further and a letter signed by ACC deputy director Mubara Khanam on September 23 was sent to Joinal notifying him of the Commission's decision.

When contacted, Joinal confirmed that he received the letter from the Commission on September 25. "This proves that all politicians are not corrupt as some quarters are trying to prove," a relieved Joinal said.

27TH BCS EXAMS RESULTS

Judicial investigation demanded

DU CORRESPONDENT

The unsuccessful candidates of 27th BCS Examinations yesterday reiterated their demand for immediate removal of PSC chairman Dr Saadat Hussain protesting the publication of the second-phase results.

They also demanded a judicial investigation into the irregularities in publishing the results, and appointment of meritorious candidates and children of freedom fighters who came out successful as per previously published results.

To press home their demand, over 100 candidates formed a human chain at the foot of Aparajeyo Bangla of Dhaka University (DU) at around 11.30am.

They also held a brief rally there.

Addressing the rally, the candidates demanded cancellation of the new results, immediate steps to make the PSC free from the grip of personal and group-based influences, and appointment of honest, efficient competent persons in its administration.

They alleged that Dr Saadat is using the PSC as project centre of ADB and World Bank, rather than preserving the interests of meritorious students of the country.

They demanded immediate halt of all projects between PSC and World Bank and ADB.

Talking to The Daily Star, Mahfuzur Rahman Sarker, who secured first classes both in honours and master's examinations from the Institute of Social Welfare and Research of DU and topped the list of customs service as per the first-phase results but did not get any service in the second-phase result, alleged that Dr Saadat has done injustice

to a good number of innocent meritorious candidates.

The unsuccessful candidates will arrange a press conference at the National Press Club in the city at 3.30pm tomorrow to press home their demands.

Boycott anti-liberation forces in polls

Gen Ibrahim urges people

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Kalyan Party (BKP) Chairman Maj Gen (ret'd) Syed Muhammad Ibrahim Bir Pratik called on the countrymen yesterday to boycott the anti-liberation forces and those believe in militancy in the next general polls.

Now the people want a government of freedom fighters, BKP chairman added.

He was speaking at a view exchange meeting with freedom fighters at chairman secretariat at New DOHS in Mohakhali.

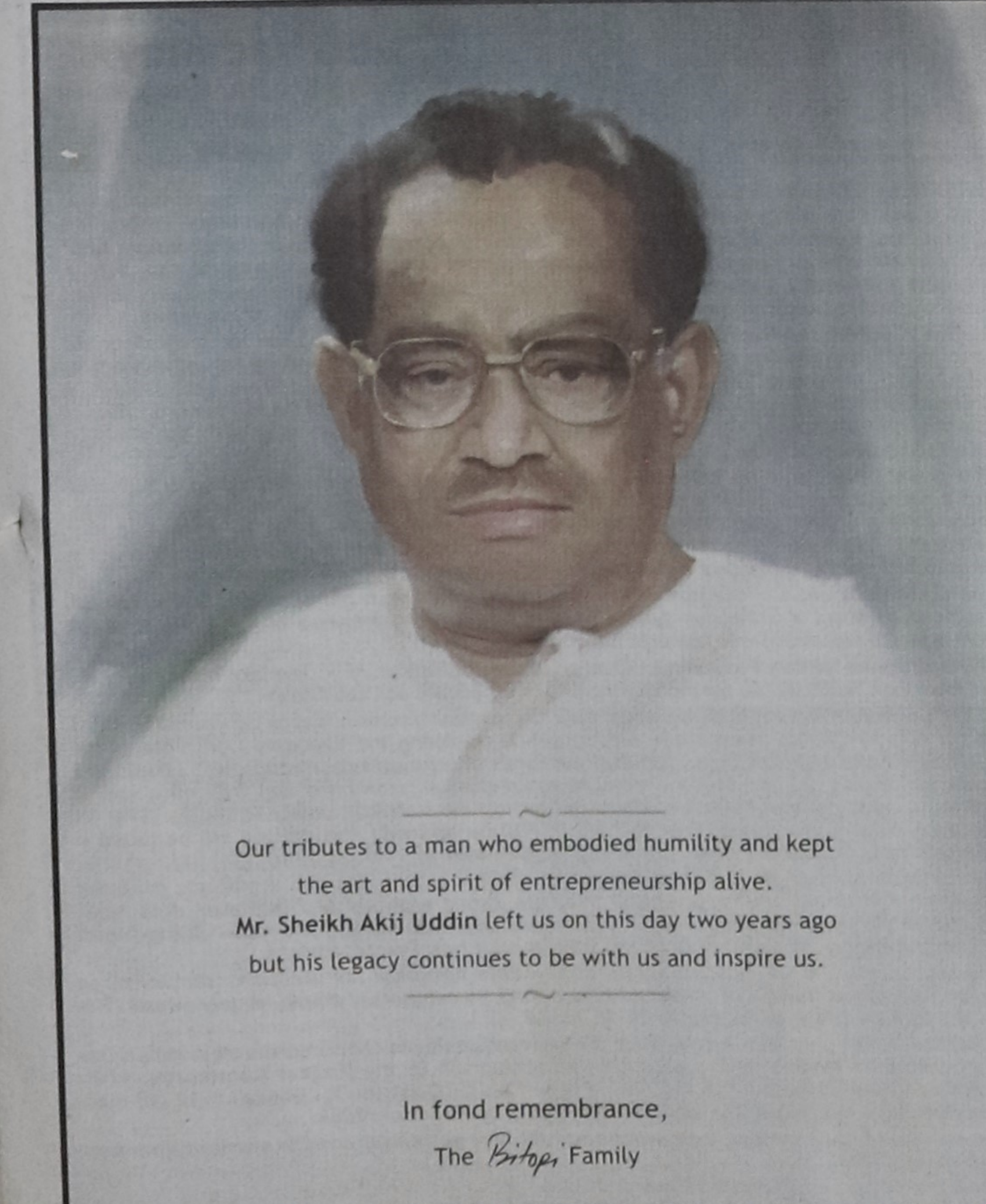
Syed Ibrahim said the irony of fate is that freedom fighters either are still dying from starvation or earning their livelihood by pulling rickshaw, but the anti-liberation forces and war criminals are waving flags on their cars being ministers.

Appreciating the laudatory role of many Alems and ulemas (religious leader) during the liberation war, he said they believed in the spirit of liberation war will build a unity and will stay beside the freedom fighters in the polls.

BKP central leaders and a number of freedom fighters also took part in the meeting.



The unsuccessful candidates of the 27th BCS Examinations form a human chain at the foot of Aparajeyo Bangla at Dhaka University campus yesterday demanding immediate removal of PSC chairman and protesting publication of the second-phase results of the examination.



Our tributes to a man who embodied humility and kept the art and spirit of entrepreneurship alive.
Mr. Sheikh Akij Uddin left us on this day two years ago but his legacy continues to be with us and inspire us.

In fond remembrance,
The *Bitopi* Family

World Mental Health Day today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 16th World Mental Health Day, a day for global mental health education, awareness and advocacy.

The day was first celebrated in 1992 at the initiative of World Federation for Mental Health, a global mental health organisation with members and contacts in more than 150 countries.

United Nations decided the theme of the day this year as 'Making mental health a global priority: Scaling up services through citizen advocacy and action'.

National Institute for Mental Health under the authority of health and family welfare ministry has taken extensive programmes to observe the day.

Special programmes will be observed in four model upazilas of Sonargaon, Dharmal, Kaliganj and Keramiganj. Leaflets, posters, folders and banners will be distributed at the discussions and rallies.

The institute will organise a discussion tomorrow at its conference hall at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar with

President of National Forum for Psychiatry, Prof AKM Nazimuddaula Chowdhury in the chair.

DGHS Director General MA Foyez will be present at the programme as the chief guest while Dr Md Faruk Alam will present a keynote paper and Prof Dr AHM Firoz will deliver the welcome speech.

With the support of National Forum of Organisations Working with the Disabled (NFOWD) and ActionAid, Welfare Society for Mental Health and Rehabilitation is going to organise a roundtable at the National Press Club at 3:00pm today.

Director General of the Department of Social Service Dr Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury will be present as the chief guest at the programme.

Disability Bangladesh and Bangla Chalachitra Sangsad will jointly organise a two-day film exhibition today and tomorrow at Alamgir Kabir Film Centre at 62, Science Laboratory Road, Dhanmondi.

'Girls Interrupted' and 'A Beautiful Mind' will be screened on the first day and 'Forest Gump' will be screened on the last day. The films screening will be opened for all.

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