

AL to take part in polls even under emergency Says Mohiuddin

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg Chittagong City Corporation (CC) Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury yesterday said Awami League (AL) is an election-oriented party and it will take part in the election even if the polls are held under the state of emergency.

The mayor alleged that he was tortured during the detention and the government had proposed to his wife for his conditional release which he rejected instantly. "I was involved in politics knowing everything about detention, oppression and torture often unleashed on political leaders or activists," he added.

every development. Mohiuddin termed his arrest and cases a conspiracy 'against him and the people of Chittagong'. "A vested quarter that did not want development of the port city hatched the conspiracy to detach me from people and set the government against me," he added. He said none could prove any misappropriation of fund against him.



Family members greet Chittagong Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury as he returns home yesterday after 17 months in prison.

Ex-AL lawmaker Mirza Azam released on bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT Jubo League general secretary and former Awami League lawmaker Mirza Azam was released on bail yesterday evening. The former MP was released from the Dhaka Central Jail at about 7:00pm.

The vacation bench of the HC granted bail to Azam on October 5 in the EPR violation case. According to the prosecution, police had arrested Azam near GPO intersection as he along with his party men was trying to break the EPR section 16 (2).

DU Mourning Day today

DU CORRESPONDENT Dhaka University observes DU Mourning Day today commemorating the tragic deaths of students, employees and guests in a building collapse at the university's Jagannath Hall in 1985.

To mark the day, DU authorities have drawn up various programmes, including a mourning procession, placing wreaths at the memorial on Jagannath Hall premises, hoisting black flags at all buildings and offering special prayers. Teachers, students and officials of the university will take part in the procession that would be taken out from the foot of Aparajeyo Bangla at 7:00am.

Urs

Annual Urs of Hazrat Shah Abdur Rahim (RH) of Paribagh will be held on Friday at Paribagh Mazar premises, says a press release. Munajat will be held at 11:00am.

Quality edn a must for progress: Gen Moeen

BSS, Netrakona Chief of Army Staff General Moeen U Ahmed yesterday said a nation could not develop without quality education. He said the flourishing of standard education across the country is a must for steering the nation towards progress and prosperity.

General Moeen was addressing as the chief guest at the inaugural ceremony of a newly-constructed classroom building named 'Binapani Bhaban' of Krishna Gobinda High School on the school premises at Bangla village about five kilometres east from Netrakona town. The army chief called upon all to work together to spread the light of education to every nook and corner of the country for building Bangladesh as an educated nation and freeing the nation from poverty and terrorism.

Netrakona Deputy Commissioner Mufazzel Hussain presided over the ceremony while GOC of 19th Army Infantry Division Major General AKM Muyaheed Uddin, former member of National Board of Revenue Ashim Kumar Roy and headmaster of the school Ajit Kumar Singh.

General Moeen advised the students of the school to attend their classes regularly keeping their mindset ready for learning to make them as worthy citizens. He presented some books on the Liberation War to the school library and asked the students to read those books to acquire knowledge on the history of the war of liberation and the contributions of the valiant freedom fighters.

General Moeen formally handed over crests among the eight meritori-

Probe into extrajudicial killings demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT Speakers at a press conference yesterday called for impartial probe into extrajudicial killings by the members of law enforcement agencies. They also demanded withdrawal of all repressive cases against media people and human rights activists and the withdrawal of the state of emergency.

The press conference on 'Human Rights Report on Bangladesh' was organised by Christian Development Alternative (CDA) at Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium in the capital. The speakers said a total of 216 people were killed in the name of encounter or crossfire during the period between January 2007 and July 2008.

Of them, 186 people were killed in 2007, they said, adding that Rab had killed 94 and the police 64 people. The speakers said everybody has the constitutional right to seek justice in court. They said the constitution of the country does not support killing of any accused or suspect by the law enforcement agencies. They also alleged that the government is depriving the people of human rights by continuing the state of emergency which imposes invisible restriction on the media.

CDA Executive Director William Nicholas Gomez, President of Human Rights Congress for Bangladesh Minority Rabinath Tribedi and journalist Jahangir Alam Akash addressed the press conference. CDA also fined Banalata Sweets, Chaklader Varieties Store and Antaranga Store at Shah Ali Market Tk one lakh each for producing sweet items and selling milk powders that had no BSI seals. Muslims Sweets and Bakery and Rajdhani Mistanno Bhandar were fined Tk 50,000 and Tk 55,000.

WEATHER TODAY graphic with sun and cloud icons.

Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 24 hours as of 6:00pm today. Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said. Yesterday's highest temperature of 35.4 degree Celsius was recorded at Sitakunda and the lowest of 22.4 degrees at Jessore.

Table with columns: City/Town, Temperature in Celsius (Max, Min, Morning, Evening), Humidity in percentage (Morning, Evening). Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar.

Steps to be taken to bring back Subrata Bain: Adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Adviser Maj Gen (ret'd) MA Matin yesterday said the government would take initiatives to bring back dreading criminal Trimoti Subrata Bain arrested in Kolkata recently.

Talking to reporters at the home ministry, he, however, said he was not informed of the arrest officially. The government would make all-out efforts to bring back Subrata Bain after it is informed officially, the adviser added.

Meanwhile, Criminal Investigation Department (CID) has already started making contacts with the Indian police in this regard, sources said. A top CID official said, "We have already contacted the Indian police and told them that we want to bring back Subrata Bain who is now on a two-week police remand."

Earlier, the CID chief and Additional Inspector General of Police Md Javed Patwary told The Daily Star, "Even though there is no extradition treaty between Bangladesh and India, we have brought back several criminals who went into hiding in India and that we will try to bring him back following the procedures maintained earlier."

The CID so far brought back eight criminals, including two top criminals -- Khandaker Tanveerul Islam Joy and Hares Ahmed -- who were hiding in India.

Sources said Indian Special Force arrested Bain in a midnight drive on Saturday at a flat on Park Avenue in Kolkata, adding that he had been hiding in India after the home ministry on December 27, 2001, published a list of 23 top criminals of Dhaka and declared bounties for their capture. Bain was in the top five on the list.

Police said Bain is accused in 17 cases, including murders cases filed against him in Ramna Police Station.



Scouts leaders from the Saarc countries pose with President Iajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban in the city yesterday.

62pc women can't buy healthy food due to price hike Survey reveals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Price hike of essentials has shown its adverse impacts on women and children's health, nutrition and education, a survey conducted by Steps Towards Development revealed recently. At a press conference at its auditorium yesterday, the speakers said price hike of essentials has already started to take its toll on the people, especially women as they are in charge of home management in our socio-economic perspective.

The NGO conducted the survey on 833 women of 10 districts in the country in August this year that shows 62 percent women cannot buy nutritious food for their families while 30 percent have to cut their treatment expenses.

Of the respondents, 53 percent women were from urban areas and 71 ones from rural areas. A total of 14 percent respondents answered that no longer they are able to save money now that increases their mental pressure. The report also revealed that 55 percent women are forced to buy little amount of food than that of previous time. Some 32 percent women have been taking loans further to bear the expenses of the family.

Steps Towards Development Executive Director Ranjan Karmakar said, "As prices have increased much, women have to cut their budgets in buying nutritious food that lead to increase malnutrition among the children. At the same time, reduced treatment cost to bring balance in family expenses increases the risk of maternal and child mortality."



Prof Muzaffer Ahmad speaks at a roundtable on upcoming elections and expectations of citizens at Cirdap auditorium in the city yesterday. On his right is Dr Badiul Alam Majumdar and on his left are Syed Abul Maksud, Sharmin Morshed and ASM Shajahan. (Story on Page 16)

S Asia has great development potential Iajuddin tells Scouts leaders

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday said South Asia has a great development potential in terms of its diverse cultural heritage and human resources as one-fourth of the world population live in this region. "We have a great scope to raise the living standards of people in this region and there are enormous opportunities to boost our socio-economic activities further to mutual benefit," he told a delegation of Scout leaders from Saarc countries.

The delegation, led by President of Bangladesh Scouts and Secretary of the education ministry Md Momtajul Islam, called on President Iajuddin at Bangabhaban. Welcoming the delegation, Iajuddin hoped that the Scout movement in the Saarc countries would be strengthened further through exchange of visits.

The delegation members included Scout leaders from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, the Maldives, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh. Secretary of the home ministry Md Abdul Karim, also the International Commissioner of Bangladesh Scouts, and Chief National Commissioner of Bangladesh Scouts Md Abul Kalam Azad were among the delegation members.

Govt appoints 19 asstt attorney generals STAFF CORRESPONDENT The government has appointed 19 new assistant attorney generals (AAGs) for moving the cases on behalf of the state in the higher judiciary. The president on Monday gave the appointments to the new law officers who are the practising lawyers at the Supreme Court. The law officers are Nahreen Amin, Nusrat Zahar, Marzina Raihan (Madina), AZM Morshed Al Mamun, Md Shahidul Islam Khan, Md Moniruzzaman, AKM Moniruzzaman, Syed Md Zayed Parwez, Hosne Ara Begum, Mostafa Zaman Islam, Nurunnabi Bulbul, Md Nusrat Alam Chishti, Dewan Abdul Naser, Ahsanullah Chowdhury, Md Afzal Hossain, Md Abdullah, AHM Azizul Huq, ATM Obaidul Hye and Md Zafar Ali Khan.

5-yr eye care project launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A five-year eye care project titled 'Dhaka Urban Comprehensive Eye Care' was launched yesterday for providing eye care to over 2.7 lakh visually impaired people in the city. The marginalised people living in the city will be the main beneficiaries of the services.

Sightsavers International in association with the Standard Chartered Bank has taken the initiative with an aim to develop six primary healthcare centres as sub-centre for eye services and three low vision centres to train 2,000 staff on primary eye care and case identification. The objectives of the project include reducing the prevalence of cataract, increasing the use of refraction and low vision services, encouraging preventative eye care measures and increasing the capacity of the partners to provide counselling services.

The whole operation will be directed with the support of four partner hospitals, Islamia Eye Hospital (IEH), National Society for the Blind Eye Hospital, Ad-din Hospital and Salauddin Specialised Hospital Ltd. Standard Chartered Bank will invest \$20 million to fund the development of sustainable eye care services in less advantaged areas of 20 cities across the world, including Dhaka. LGRD Adviser Md Anwarul Iqbal inaugurated the programme at Islamia Eye Hospital in the city. He said that due to poverty and lack of awareness, a lot of people are suffering from visual impairment every year.

White Cane Safety Day today

DU CORRESPONDENT

World White Cane Safety Day will be observed today in a bid to raise social awareness among general public to make a smooth movement for the visually handicapped people and to make them more conscious of the white cane as a mobility aid. To mark the day, National Forum of Organisations Working with the Disabled (NFOWD), Ministry of Social Welfare, Directorate of Social Welfare and National Foundation for the Development of the Disabled have jointly chalked out a series of programmes, including processions, a discussion and distribution of white canes among the people with disabilities. Sight Savers International will provide necessary assistance to arrange the programmes on the occasion.

The discussion will be held at the social welfare auditorium at 10:00am today highlighting the significance of the day. Chief Adviser's Special Assistant (Brig Gen (ret'd) MA Malek is expected to attend the programme as the chief guest. NFOWD Director Dr Nafeesur Rahman said this at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium in the city yesterday.

38 rebels killed in Lanka

AP, AFP, Colombo Scattered fighting in northern Sri Lanka killed 38 rebels and three soldiers as the government pressed ahead with its offensive against the Tamil Tigers, the military said yesterday. The defence ministry said its troops fought pitched battles and beat back rebel assaults along several fronts in the north on Monday. It said three government soldiers died in the fighting. There was no comment from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), who are battling a government push to dismantle their northern mini-state. Having wrestled the east from the Tigers in July 2007, Sri Lanka now says it is just two kilometres (1.2 miles) from Kilinochchi, the LTTE's administrative hub. The fiercest of Monday's battles took place in the Kilinochchi region, where 11 rebel fighters and two soldiers were killed in a wave of confrontations, military spokesman Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara said. Fighting in Jaffna, Vavuniya and Mullaitivu killed nine other rebels, he said. With nearly all communications to the north severed, rebel spokesmen could not be contacted for comment.

97th anniversary of birth of Zohra Kazi today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 97th birth anniversary of Dr Zohra Begum Kazi, who was the first female Muslim doctor in undivided Bengal, says a press release. Zohra Begum Kazi Udjapan Parishad has chalked out elaborate programmes to mark the day. The veteran doctor served as the head of the department of Gynaecology of Dhaka Medical College for long and also worked for different government and non-government organisations. In recognition of her outstanding contribution to medical services and language movement, she was awarded Tamgha-e-Pakistan, Begum Rokeya Padak, Ekushey Padak and BMA Gold Medal.

View exchange meeting

Bangladesh University Grants Commission (UGC) organises a view exchange meeting on draft policy on sexual harassment in educational institutions. Venue: UGC auditorium. Time: 11:00am.

BCAB talk

Diplomatic Correspondents Association Bangladesh (BCAB) organises a talk with EC Head of Delegation Dr Stefan Frowen on Bangladesh-EC relationship. Venue: Lakeshore Hotel. Time: 10:30am.

Child rights week

The inaugural ceremony of the National Child Rights Week will be held. Venue: Ramna Restaurant Complex. Time: 9:30am.

Workshop

Bangladesh University organises a workshop on 'International trade and finance in the 21st century'. Venue: Bangladesh University auditorium. Time: 6:30pm.

Seminar

Bangladesh National Commission for Unesco in cooperation with Unesco Dhaka Office will organise a seminar on the occasion of the World Teachers' Day. Venue: NAEM conference room. Time: 9:00am.

Obituary

METRO DESK

Engr Emdadul Haque, former additional chief engineer of Public Works Department, passed away due to a cardiac arrest at a city hospital yesterday at the age of 62, says a press release. He left behind his wife, two daughters and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death. He will be buried at the Banani graveyard after namaz-e-janaza tomorrow (Thursday).

Comrade Abul Bashar

DU CORRESPONDENT Comrade Abul Bashar Khan alias Badsha Mia, Munshiganj district secretary of Workers Party of Bangladesh, passed away yesterday at the age of 70, says a press release. Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon and General Secretary Bimol Biswas in a joint statement expressed shock at the death of Badsha Mia.

Amirul Islam

BSS, PARBOTIPUR, Dinajpur Amirul Islam, a freedom fighter of Chalk Krishnapur village in Dinajpur, passed away due to prolonged illnesses on Sunday at the age of 55. He was buried with state honour at his family graveyard.