



Sher-e-Bangla's 135th anniversary of birth today

Today is the 135th birth anniversary of legendary national leader Sher-e-Bangla AK Fazlul Haque. On the occasion, Sher-e-Bangla Smriti Academy will place wreaths at the grave of the great leader in the city at 8.00am, says a press release. A milad mahfil will also be held on the premises of his mazar. Besides, wreaths will be placed at the portrait of Sher-e-Bangla by the leaders and workers of the academy at 'Mia Bari' at Satura village under Rajapur upazila in Jhalakati. A milad will also be held there, the release added.

Outlaws shoot trader dead in Sirajganj

Members of outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (BPCP) shot dead a trader at a market in Tarash, Sirajganj, last night. The victim was identified as Abul Kalam Azad, 25, son of Rustom Ali of Paikora village. Police and local people said a gang of 20 or 25 outlaws equipped with firearms entered the shop of Azad at Katagari Bazar around 8:00pm and shot him after pushing a pistol into his mouth. The gang left the scene chanting slogans of BPCP. On receiving information, Tarash police rushed to the spot and sent the body to Sadar Hospital morgue. A case was lodged in the connection.

'Sangrami Narir Jibonalekhy' launched

The publication ceremony of a book titled 'Sangrami Narir Jibonalekhy', a biography of the first Bengali Muslim woman politician of the subcontinent, was held in the city yesterday. Begum Jobaida Khatun Chowdhury got herself involved with politics by joining Indian National Congress in 1928 and led the Sylhet Mahila Congress. She organised both Muslim and Hindu women for the movement against British colonialism. Born in an elite family she worked with and for the common people. She fought against every superstition and came out of strict parda system wearing no Burka. After the liberation war this great woman often shared her time with the Biranganas staying at the rehabilitation centres. They were neglected by the society and even by their families. Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association (BNWLA) organised the publication ceremony at Dhaka Reporters Unity auditorium with Advocate Fauzia Karim Firoz in the chair. Speaking as chief guest, eminent litterateur Selina Hossain said apart from narrating the life of Begum Jobaida, the book has also depicted the social structure of the then period. She said Begum Jobaida possessed that rare human quality that makes one a real human being. Former lawmaker Abul Mal Abdul Muhit said she was such a politician to whom issue was more important than party. Writer of the book Tajul Mohammad said Begum Jobaida was such a big stature of woman who cannot be covered with one book only. Publisher of the book Mofidul Haque said although the book lacks enough information about the great politician, one will get a clear conception about her from it. Dr Maleka Begum, a women's rights activist, said party politics was not a major concern of Begum Jobaida, and she did not work with that political party which was not pro-people and progressive. "She worked with different political parties in her lifetime depending on their issues, and this should be the policy of our politicians of today," Dr Maleka added. Journalist Baby Moudud, Awami League leader Dr Dipu Moni, BNP leader Begum Selima Rahman and BNWLA Executive Director Advocate Salma Ali also spoke on the occasion.

Keep reserved seats for indigenous people

BAOA urges political parties

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a press conference yesterday called upon the political parties to keep provision of reserved seats for indigenous people in their election manifestos. Bangladesh Adivasi Odhikar Andolon (BAOA) organised the press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity auditorium. The speakers also demanded incorporation of its 15-point demand to ensure their participation at national and local level election. While reading out a keynote paper, BAOA General Secretary Mesbah Kamal said a total of 30 lakh people belonging to 45 indigenous communities are living in hills and plain land in the country. "These people participated in the language movement in 1952 and in the liberation war of Bangladesh in 1971 including anti-British and anti-Jamindari movement in different times but they got no recognition for their contribution even after 37 years of independence," he added. The speakers also mentioned different aggressive incidents that included grabbing of 17 houses of

indigenous people at Potnitola upazila of Naogaon district and setting fire to 180 houses of Jummo community in Rangamati. Besides, deforestation is going on in the name of development projects uprooting indigenous people from their land, they added. The speakers also demanded constitutional recognition of the indigenous people, their rights to education in mother tongue, implementation of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Accord and implementation of the land commission. BAOA President HKS Arefin of the anthropology department of Dhaka University, President of Jatia Adivasi Parishad Anil Marondi and its Secretary Rabindra Nath Saran, Rakhi Mrong, Kerina Hasda, Chanchana Chakma and Parichingtham were present at the press conference.



Bangladesh Adivasi Odhikar Andolon General Secretary Prof Mesbah Kamal speaks at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium in the city yesterday.

Tributes paid to Modabber

DU CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday paid glowing tributes to renowned child organiser and journalist Mohammad Modabber for his pioneering role in organising the children to enable them to make a difference in their communities. Noted educationists Prof Anisuzzaman and Dr Rafiqul Islam also unveiled a memorial book at the discussion marking the birth centenary of Modabber, popularly known as 'Baghban Bhai', who led the historic 'Mukul Child Movement' in the country with a view to ensuring the rights of children and juveniles. Speakers at the discussion said Modabber was also a veteran anti-British movement leader and he was arrested several times and faced repression because of his involvement in the movement. He wanted to establish a democratic society where the rights of children would be protected, they

said, adding that Modabber believed youths could play the most important role in removing injustice and irregularities from society. Modabber's pursued his journalistic career from 1924 to 1945 and he always believed in authentic news, the speakers said, adding that those who learned journalism under his supervision became renowned journalists later. He was probably the first Muslim news editor in West Bengal, said Prof Kazi Madina. During the historic language movement, Modabber wrote some remarkable write-ups criticising the then government of Pakistan, she added. Modabber, born on October 6 in 1908 in West Bengal, also authored a number of books on journalism, history and literature. Mohammad Modabber's Birth Centenary Celebration Committee organised the discussion at Sufia Kamal Auditorium at the National Museum in the city.

Fake CID officer held at Benapole

UNB, Benapole

A fake criminal investigating (CID) officer was arrested at Benapole Bazar on charge of extortion yesterday. Enamul Haq was taken to custody at about noon upon a complaint to Benapole Police Station that he, identifying as a CID officer, held hostage at gunpoint fish trader Rafiqul Islam and extorted Tk 70,000.

Depression

FROM PAGE 1

sales at weekends saw a small number of buyers yesterday. People suffered as rickshaws, autorickshaws and taxis charged way more than usual rates. Pedestrians had trouble walking on sidewalks and roads and many found their clothes mud-splattered. Things were even worse in coastal areas. Launch services on Barisal-Bhola-Laxmipur-Chittagong route were suspended while those on inland water routes were restricted to short distances pending improvement of weather. Fishing boats and trawlers on northern Bay and deep sea have been advised to come ashore immediately. Around noon, the depression was about 870 km southwest off Chittagong port, 815 km southwest off Cox's Bazar and 735 km southwest off Mongla port. Maximum sustained speed of wind within 44 kms of the depression centre was about 40 KPH, rising to 50 KPH in gusts or squalls. The river port authorities in Barisal issued cautionary signal No. 2 in the morning while Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and Mongla ports have been advised to hoist local cautionary signal number three. Our Barisal correspondent reports: The local Met office recorded 63 mm rainfall in nine hours since 6:00am yesterday with wind speed up to 10 nautical miles an hour and humidity ranging between 95 and 100%. Rafiqul Islam, deputy director of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority, told The Daily Star that plying of vessels on inland waterways has been restricted to less than 65 feet on 76 routes including 28 inner routes of Barisal, 13 routes of Barguna and 14 routes of Bhola. Agriculture extension department officials said though rain gave people some relief from sweltering heat, it damaged seedlings of winter vegetables across the southern districts, much to the frustration of small growers. Our Noakhali correspondent quoting an agent at Nalchia Launch Ghat in Hati reported that the launch, MV Bahauddin, sank near Chairman Ghat at 10:00am. Fishing boats nearby went to the passengers' rescue immediately.

'No credible polls possible under emergency'

UNB, Dhaka

Jamaat Amir Maulana Matur Rahman Nizami yesterday said no credible election could be held in emergency situation and warned against attempt to leave out any political party from the election fracas by creating artificial deadlock. Addressing party workers at Ukhiya and Chakoria in Cox's Bazar he called for national unity to resist any conspiracy to foil the election set for December 18. He urged the government to ensure participation of all parties in the election. Political leaders should be set free and emergency lifted. They should be allowed to meet freely with the voters and similarly voters meet them without the fear of falling under the mischief of emergency rules. Recalling the past Nizami said election set for January 22 last year was frustrated by the 'logi-baita' under the blue print of turning the country to a vassal state. The present government did not take any action against those terrorists. The Jamaat chief asked the party rank and file to see that logi-baita forces could not again raise their head.

Leaders of Dalit (deprived) community yesterday urged the government to enact a law to remove the discrimination between the so-called minority and the majority. They made the call at a seminar titled 'Human rights situation of deprived community' at the Women Voluntary Association auditorium in the city. Bangladesh Dalit and Excluded Rights Movement (BDERM) and Nagorik Udyog jointly organised the seminar to mark the second death anniversary of BG Murti, founder president of Bangladesh Dalit's Human Rights (BDHR). Speaking on the occasion, Advocate Babul Rabi Dash of Jyapurhat Bar Council, shared his bitter experience saying that some of his colleagues have asked him not to touch their glass and plate at bar council canteen as he comes of a cobbler community. BDHR General Secretary Milton Das alleged that they are deprived of their basic and human rights and they are the victims of racism. "Often people treat us in inhuman way. As Bangladeshis we also have the right to enjoy equal rights like others," he added. "Public and private organisations are interested to recruit us only as cleaners with low salaries and wages," he said. The speakers alleged that around 80 percent children of Dalit community are facing discrimination in education sector. To ensure their higher educa-

DU deans

FROM PAGE 16

departments are being blatantly influenced," observed Blue Panel convener Prof Harun-or-Rashid. "The conditions regarding admission were fixed as admission criteria in the seven departments after discussion with different bodies concerned and the matters were unanimously accepted by those bodies," Prof Harun said. "The threat of boycotting the admission process by a group of White Panel teachers led by Prof Sadrul Amin is clear violation of the 1973 order of the university and direct influence on departments' academic freedom," Prof Harun said. "It was politically motivated." Noted educationalist Prof Serajul Islam Chowdhury, also the emeritus professor of DU, told The Daily Star it would be observed as an influence on academic freedom, if any department faces pressure from any group to change their academic decisions. "As far as I know, the 1973 order of the university authorises departments to fix their requirements for admission; it is their academic rights," he observed. The Blue Panel teachers also raised questions to the legality of Prof Sadrul's involvement in the probe committee formed to identify vandalism at the VC office. They said they (White Panel) are serving purpose of the vandals ignoring the departments' academic rights. Prof Sadrul Amin after the deans committee meeting told reporters they have taken the decision to discuss with the departments concerned from the academic point of view. Asked why the last meeting of the deans committee accepted admission conditions of the seven departments, he said, "It was not approved in the last meeting too; we kept it under observation." However, VC Prof Faiz earlier told reporters several times that the changes in the admission criteria was finally accepted by the deans committee saying that before the deans committee it was approved in the academic committees of the departments and endorsed in the units' committee.

Death anniversary

METRO DESK

Today is the 19th death anniversary of Abdul Awal, a Language Movement veteran, says a press release. He was elected member of the Legislative Assembly from Baider Bazar (Sonargaon) in 1954. He was also on the founder members of the Awami Muslim League. Friends, relatives and admirers are requested to pray for eternal peace of the departed soul. Abdul Hoque Chowdhury STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg Today is the 14th death anniversary of Abdul Hoque Chowdhury, a historian and researcher. On the occasion, Abdul Hoque Chowdhury Smriti Parishad organises a discussion at Chittagong Press Club auditorium at 4:00pm. The parishad leaders will also place wreaths at his grave and milad and doa mahfil will also be held. Different educational and socio-cultural organisations also chalked out programmes to observe the day.



Job seekers through the National Career Fair 2008 at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city yesterday. North South University organised the event.

Enact law to remove discrimination

Dalit leaders call on govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

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'New climate deal possible in 2009'

AFP, Beijing

A crucial global pact on climate change is possible by next year, European Commission chief Jose Manuel Barroso said here yesterday following two days of talks between Asian and European leaders. Barroso said he had emerged from the two-day Asia Europe Meeting optimistic about concluding the global warming deal that has been beset by differences between rich and poor nations. "I really believe that after the very good exchanges that we had today, it's possible to reach an agreement," Barroso told reporters. The proposed deal, the most ambitious environmental pact ever attempted, would take effect from the end of 2012, when the current provisions of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, known as the Kyoto Protocol, expire. The new pact is due to be agreed in Copenhagen in December next year. Negotiations over the pact have hit diplomatic obstacles, with developing nations saying the responsibility for global warming lies historically with rich countries, who are best placed for cutting it. They have said they want the rich nations to come up with detailed proposals as to how they intend to reduce their greenhouse-gas emissions post-2012. But many rich nations want to see how emerging giants such as China and India -- set to be the biggest sources of greenhouse gases in the decades to come -- intend to deal with their own fast-growing pollution.

2 JMB men arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, C'naabganj

Two activists of outlawed Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) were arrested at Abbas Bazar village at Shibganj in the district early yesterday. They were identified as Rafiqul Islam, 27, and Hajrat Ali, 22. The two militants confessed to police that they were active members of JMB. Police also recovered some party documents from this spot. Abul Kalam Azad, officer-in-charge (OC) of Shibganj Police Station, said that acting on a tip-off, they raided the house of one Ekramul at about 1:30am and nabbed the outlaws. However, four others managed to flee, he added.

Leaders pledge finance reform

FROM PAGE 16

come (up) with concrete and important decisions," he said in an interview after the summit in Beijing. Ban said the Washington meet must address the need for change and joined chief executives of key UN institutions in calling for considered but large-scale reforms. "The market and regulatory failures that have led to this crisis must be addressed as a matter of urgency," a joint statement from the UN summit said. "We reaffirm the need for meaningful, comprehensive and well-coordinated reform of the international financial system and pledge our support to this end." Stock markets provided a grim backdrop to the ASEM meeting, plummeting Friday after a raft of pessimistic corporate and economic news. Tokyo's dizzying 9.6 percent slump split over into Europe, where London's FTSE plunged 5.6 percent. The Dow Jones Industrial Average slumped 312.30 points (3.59 percent) to close at 8,378.95. capping a week when the US blue-chip index dropped more than five percent. The Saudi stock market, the largest in the Arab world, opened trading on Saturday with a sharp drop of more than nine percent to its lowest point in four years. The plunge came as finance and economy ministers and central bankers from oil-rich Arab states in the Gulf met for emergency talks in Riyadh to forge a common front to battle the global economic crisis. Giants of the auto, airline and technology industries took emergency action against the global financial crisis on Friday. France's PSA Peugeot-Citroen and Renault ordered huge production cuts, while Japan's electronics giant Sony Corp. and Europe's biggest airline Air France-KLM issued profits warnings. Chrysler LLC, the number three US automaker, said it would cut up to 5,000 white-collar jobs by the end of the year as prospects in the sector grow dimmer. New figures showed industrial confidence in both France and Italy had fallen to the lowest level since 1993. In Spain, the unemployment rate jumped to 11.33 percent -- the highest in more than four years. Britain's economy shrank by 0.5 percent in the three months to September compared with the previous quarter, official figures showed, marking the first contraction since 1992. German Finance Minister Peer Steinbrueck predicted the financial crisis would last until late 2009 in an interview to be published Sunday. "The risk of collapse is far from over. It would be wrong to lift the alarm," he told the Bild am Sonntag weekly. The 480-billion-euro (610-billion-dollar) rescue package for banks approved by the German government last week would "certainly be needed" through next year and it would take until between 2010 and 2013 for Germany to determine the real costs of the plan, he said.

EC seeks update on defaulter list

FROM PAGE 1

Economic Council auditorium yesterday. The rest 32 will join the training next Tuesday. CEC Huda also directed the DCs to scrutinise applications strictly so that no unwanted individual can become eligible for contesting the parliamentary polls. He said the number of contesting candidates could have been reduced by half if their applications had been scrutinised properly. A few loan defaulters contested general elections in the past either by submitting false statements or taking advantage of the loopholes in the electoral laws. According to the latest revised Representation of the People Order (RPO), an individual with loan defaulting records must reschedule their loans 15 days before filing application as a candidate. Previously loan defaulters could reschedule their loans anytime before filing applications seeking candidacy. At the workshop, Huda told the DCs that the only objective of the EC is to present the nation a free and fair election. "This is a unique opportunity for you all. You have to work without fear from the day of announcing the polls schedule through to the post-election days," he said. He said the EC has already sent a letter to the caretaker government, asking it to reshuffle administration at the field level for holding the polls in a free and fair manner. "Once the election schedule is announced, you will be working under the Election Commission. There will be nobody to give you any directive except the commission, not even the chief adviser," CEC Huda said, asking the DCs not to care for directives from individuals or agencies. He said elections were never held in a free and fair manner in the past as allegations mainly on flawed voter lists were always raised after the polls. "But this time, no such allegation can be raised because of the new voter list with photographs which is flawless," he said. Emphasising the need for proper scrutiny of nomination papers, he said the EC might this time fix more money in the election schedule for the task. The CEC asked the DCs to reject applications containing incomplete information on the applicants. About candidacy of persons convicted under the Emergency Power Rules (EPR), he said they cannot be qualified for contesting the upcoming polls. "They will remain disqualified for contesting the polls even if they file appeal against their conviction," he said. In case of conviction under the existing laws, the convicts can qualify by filing appeals against the convictions, Huda said. Election Commissioner Muhammed Sohel Hussain said this time the EC is very strict about loan defaulters and utility service bill defaulters. "You will have to scrutinise the applications for candidacy carefully to keep unwanted persons away from the polls," Sohel said. Election Commissioner Brig Gen (ret'd) M Sakawat Hussain asked the DCs to work neutrally. Meanwhile, over 271 NGOs applied to the EC as of yesterday to get registered as poll observers. More NGOs might apply, said sources.

WEATHER TODAY Thundershowers likely UNB, Dhaka Moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporarily gusty or squally wind is likely at most places over Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions and at many places over Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Rajshahi division in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today. Moderately heavy to heavy rainfalls are also likely at places over Khulna, Barisal, Dhaka and Chittagong divisions, Met Office said in a forecast. It said day temperature may fall by 1-2 degree Celsius over the country. Highest temperature 29.3 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and lowest 20.5 degrees Celsius at Srirongal. The sun sets in the capital at 5:23pm today and rises at 6:02am 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 23.5 21.8 91 94 Chittagong 25.8 23.4 94 93 Rajshahi 29.3 22.2 93 77 Khulna 26.5 23.0 91 98 Barisal 24.5 22.0 92 98 Sylhet 23.0 21.8 91 97 Cox's Bazar 28.2 23.5 97 86

DHAKA TODAY Discussion Forum for the Rights of the Elderly, Bangladesh organises a discussion on rights of elderly people. Venue: VVA auditorium. Time: 10:00am. Workshop Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association organises a workshop on 'Ill world congress against sexual exploitation of children and adolescent'. Venue: Sheraton Hotel. Time: 3:00pm. Discussion on capitalism The weekly Ekota organises a discussion on crisis in capitalism. Venue: Mukti Bhaban. Time: 3:30pm. Album launching The launching ceremony of the album 'Manush Manusher Janno' by Emon Ali Emon will be held. Venue: Public Library auditorium. Time: 3:00pm.