



Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed offers prayers after inaugurating the Airport Road-Rokeya Sarani Link Road in the city yesterday.

AIRPORT ROAD-ROKEYA SARANI LINK ROAD OPENS Plans taken to make city a better place to live in: CA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed yesterday inaugurated Airport Road-Rokeya Sarani link road, which will help ease traffic congestion in the city.

The 2.6 km-long and 18.5 metre-wide road from near the Chief Adviser's Office to Agargaon crossing was constructed at a cost of Tk 32.87 crore.

Prof Amin PSTU vice chancellor

BSS, Dhaka

President has appointed Prof Dr M Amin Uddin Mridha of the Department of Botany of Chittagong University as the vice chancellor of Pabna Science and Technology University (PSTU) for a four-year term.

The VC will draw his salary and allowances equivalent to his present post and enjoy other benefits, said an official handout yesterday.

The VC will stay on the university campus as the chief executive officer of the university.

The appointment will come into effect from the date of his joining, the handout added.

Appeal for help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Justice M Bazlur Rahman Talukdar, 72, who has fought against all kinds of injustice throughout his life, is now broke and seeking financial assistance from affluent people for his treatment, says a press release.

In his career as a lawyer in the High Court from 1966 to 1994, Justice Rahman always stood by the oppressed to establish their legal rights. From 1994 to 1997, he served as a justice in the Supreme Court.

Justice Rahman, a lifelong bachelor, has long been suffering from various diseases, including diabetes and kidney ailments.

Misfortune befell him in 2000 when he suffered a brain stroke. A few days later, he underwent a brain operation. While he was recovering from his illness, he suffered a massive cardiac arrest.

He is now almost paralysed and has spent his small savings on treatment.

As he has no family members, a domestic help, Russell, looks after him at a rented house at Rampura.

Justice Rahman now appeals to the president, chief adviser and generous people to extend a helping hand.

Contributions can be sent to the following account: Justice M Bazlur Rahman Talukdar, Savings Account No.-34001002, Sonali Bank, Bangladesh Supreme Court Branch.

Interested persons can also contact him at 134 Wapda Road, West Rampura. Phone: 01552363613.

Qulkhwani

METRO DESK

Qulkhwani of late Zakia Karim, wife of late Rezaul Karim and daughter of late Khan Bahadur AM Shahoodul Huq, will be held at Siddeshwari Boys' High School Jama Mosque in the city after Asr prayers today.

She passed away on December 7 at her Bara Maghbazar residence at the age of 75.

Her relatives and well-wishers are requested to attend the doa mahfil to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Heroic woman Gurudashi passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Heroic woman Gurudashi Mondal is dead.

She died unwept and unsung on Sunday midnight after living a solitary life at her home in a desolate place of Kapilmuni union under Paikgachha upazila of Khulna district.

She was 57.

A large number of freedom fighters rushed to Kapilmuni as her death news spread to different places of the district.

Draped with national flag, her coffin was taken to Kapilmuni High School ground for a joint guard of honour by the freedom fighters and the district administration.

Sheikh Abdul Kayyum, a regional commander of Mukti Bahini, commanded the guard of honour of behalf of the freedom fighters.

Additional Police Super Abdur Rouf Khan and Paikgachha UNO Md Sabur Ali were present on the occasion.

Swapan Guha, chief executive of Rupantar, was present at the funeral on behalf of non-government organisations of Khulna City.

Tears streamed down the cheeks of hundreds of men and women when her body was laid on the crematorium.

Regional Commander of Mukti Bahini and ex-lawmaker of Awami League SM Babur Ali said Gurudashi's house would be turned into a museum to perpetuate her memory.

Gurudashi and her husband Gurudas went to India in April 1971 along with their children when Pak occupation forces and their collaborators (Rajakars) unleashed a reign of terror by targeting members of minority community at Barhoaria under Paikgachha upazila.

But they returned to their native village in good faith as Pakistan government declared general amnesty for those who fled the country.

After returning from India Gurudashi and her husband Gurudas worked as informants of freedom fighters.

This enraged Rajakars who killed all the members of her family on the same day in June 1971.

The victims were Gurudash Mondal, a tailor by profession, two sons Anghshupati and Khokon, and two daughters Anjali and Parul.

Gurudashi was spared from being a victim of this massacre.

Rajakars kept her confined to a camp for obvious reason till she was freed by the freedom fighters on December 6, 1971.

Kapilmuni was liberated from Pak occupation forces after south Khulna including Paikgachha was liberated from Pak occupation forces on December 7.

Freedom fighters of Sector 9 executed 161 rajakars by gunning them down at Kapilmuni High School ground following a verdict of the People's court on the same day.

Engr A Latif

METRO DESK

Engr A Latif, former superintendent engineer of Roads and Highways Department, passed away at his Dhanmondi residence on Wednesday at the age of 91.

He was also the sponsor director of Pragati Insurance Ltd and chairman of Concord-Pragati Consortium Ltd.

His Qulkhwani will be held at his residence at House No 500G, Road No 8 (Old) at Dhanmondi in the city after Asr prayers tomorrow.

Nanibala Pal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nanibala Pal, mother of Advocate Taposh Kumar Pal, organising secretary of Awami

Swechhaseba League and general secretary of Mohanagar Sarbojaneen Puja Committee, passed away at her residence in Bagerhat on December 7 at the age of 67, says a press release.

She left behind her two sons. Her Shradha (funeral rites) will be held on December 22.

Bangladesh Hindu Buddha Christian Oikya Parishad President Major General (retd) CR Dutta, President of Bangladesh Puja Uddapan Parishad Prof Dr Neem Chandra Bhovmik, General Secretary Advocate Satyendra Chandra Bhakta and President of Mohanagar Sarbojaneen Puja Committee Kajal Debnath condole the death and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family members.

JP pledges 8 provinces

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party is elected to power. He also pledged to introduce upazila system with courts.

The JP manifesto has put population control high on its agenda and pledged to make available birth control materials free of cost. It will also give cash rewards to the parents who will adopt permanent family planning after having one or two children.

Ershad said poor people and slum-dwellers in each ward, union and upazila will be registered and given rice, pulses and edible oil for free. These poor people will also be given free medical treatment at community clinic, union health and family welfare complex.

Besides, landless people will be given government land on long-term basis through land reforms.

On food security, Ershad said necessary subsidy will be given to bring food prices within the buying capacity of the common people.

For energy security, the Jatiya Party will formulate policy to use coal in energy production and set up Rooppur nuclear power plant with foreign assistance.

On defence, Ershad said the army will be involved in the country's development activities. He said they will arrange housing for retired soldiers and policemen in each district. In the manifesto, JP promised to establish a society free from militancy and terrorism.

In education sector, JP will introduce free education for both male and female students up to HSC and increase salary of registered private school teachers to the level of government school teachers.

Ershad said girls' cadet school will be set up in each

division, including one at Pairabandi in Rangpur in honour of Begum Rokeya.

On public health, he said each doctor passed from a government medical college would have to serve at least two years at union health complex before getting chance of acquiring higher degree. He will introduce nurses' training college in each district.

In agriculture sector, Ershad said JP will ensure agriculture inputs at fair prices as well as fair price for agricultural produce. He also pledged to set up "Palli Bank" to help farmers.

On social front, JP will ensure allowances for elderly and incapable citizens from the state and re-establish "Pathakoli" Trust to impart education to child labourers.

In the communications sector, JP will construct flyovers

and new roads to ease traffic congestions in Dhaka and outside. A modern launch terminal will be set up at Pagla to relocate the central launch terminal from Sadar Ghat in the city.

Besides, Ershad pledges to construct Padma and Teest Bridges and deepsea port at Kutubdia.

In industrial and economic sector JP will encourage foreign investors to build industries in Bangladesh. Besides, incentives will be given for establishing fisheries and poultry industries and agri-industry in Monga-prone and underdeveloped areas.

If voted to power, his government will give priority to giving jobs to children of freedom fighters and increase allowances for the registered freedom fighters.

Two outlaws held with arms in Sirajganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested two outlaws with a pipe gun, a revolver and nine rounds of bullets in Belkuchi in the last two days.

The arrestees are Saiful Islam, 35, and Aslam Sheikh, 30. They are members of outlawed Purbha Banglar Communist Party (PBCP).

The elite force arrested Saiful, an accused in a double murder case, from his house during a raid on Harinathpur Guchchhogam in Belkuchi in the early hours of yesterday, Rab

members said at a press briefing.

Acting on his statement, the Rab members recovered the arms wrapped in polybags in a drain.

In a separate drive in Chakmokimpur village in the early hours of Wednesday, the Rab members arrested Aslam Sheikh, 30, from his house. Aslam is an accused in cases filed in connection with attack on Radhuniar police outpost, arms looting and killing of policemen.

Both of them were on the run but returned to their areas ahead of parliamentary elections, the Rab members said.

Dhaka still in holiday mood

FROM PAGE 16

of the Janata Bank's Mouchak branch.

Shop owners said they had to keep their businesses closed as employees went to their village home for several days after passing busy hours on the occasion of Eid.

Most of the town service buses were running with very few passengers on board, while three-wheelers were seen waiting for passengers for long.

Kamrun Naher Kazal, a resident of Malibagh, said, "It was a great experience travelling to Mirpur Zoo from Malibagh with my four-year daughter as we faced no traffic congestion except

somesignals."

Many families came out together to enjoy a rare glimpse of a different city, which wears this look only twice a year.

Earlier in the evening of Eid, it was found that thousands of poor people were selling pieces of meat they collected all day long from the rich.

Traders of the meat said people of low-income group usually buy it as they can neither afford to sacrifice animals nor go door to door for meat.

Office sources said as yesterday's work day was followed by two-day weekly holiday, most of the employees did not show up. Traffic policemen at differ-

ent key points were found discharging their duty in a relax mood as vehicular movement was very thin.

Rickshaw-pullers earned a hefty income in the last three days as most city dwellers preferred riding rickshaws in an almost deserted city.

A calm situation prevailed in most inter-district bus terminals, railway stations, and launch terminals as there was no rush of porters, transport operators and passengers.

Those who stayed in the city and enjoyed a comfortable life for a few days say the city of traffic jam and crowds is likely to get back its old image on Sunday.

Dipjol held after 2yrs in hiding

FROM PAGE 1

He has been convicted and sentenced to 45 years imprisonment in four cases, two cases filed under Arms Act and one each filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission and the National Board of Revenue.

Dipjol went into hiding after January 11, 2007, and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab-4) arrested him Tuesday at a house in Adabar in the capital.

After his arrest, Rab personnel handed him over to Darussalam police who produced him before the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Moazzem Hossain. The magistrate, showing the accused arrested in six cases and convicted in four, ordered him to be sent to jail.

A few supporters of Dipjol chanted slogans demanding his release when he was being taken to court from the police station Wednesday.

Earlier, during a press briefing at the Rab-4 headquarters Major Mahmud Hossain said, "Apart from the cases, over 50 general diaries (GDs) had been filed against Dipjol."

He said, "Dipjol is facing numerous charges including terrorism, extortion, illegal grabbing of government land, tax evasion, murder and illegal arms possession."

"Acting on a tip-off from intelligence department, we arrested him Tuesday and later raided different places following his information," Major Mahmud said.

"Our investigations are going on," the Rab-4 official said.

Rab-4 Assistant Director Captain Mohammad Moshul Alam told reporters that Dipjol was arrested at flat D-4 of Ena Garden in Adabar, Mirpur.

Dipjol, who was produced before reporters during the press conference, said, "I am innocent and false cases have been filed against me seizing my licensed arms." He claimed he was preparing to surrender before the court.

Asked if he had fled the country after January 11, 2007, he said he was in Dhaka all the time.

Major Mahmud, however, dismissed his claim and said, "He was not in the country. He is lying."

Replying to a question, Dipjol said, "All the cases filed against me are false and I myself would go to Baitul Mukarram mosque and hang myself if those are proven true."

His wife Romana Monwar has also been convicted in a number of cases but she is now out on bail.

Police and local sources said while in hiding Dipjol had been carrying on extortion, terrorism and other criminal activities through his accomplices including Raihan and Abu Taher.

Local sources said Dipjol grabbed several hundred acres of land from the Department of Agricultural Extension near Gabtoli Bus Terminal and he had been running fish farms there for years.

He also grabbed land of Roads and Highways Department near Mirpur Dam and set up several slums. He collects money from the slum dwellers, sources said. They said he also collects toll from Gabtoli Bus Terminal and the cattle market there.

Another source said Dipjol purchased a large piece of land in Malaysia and has been trying to establish a dairy farm.

According to locals, Dipjol owned huge areas of land and properties after his maternal grandfather died. He has no maternal uncle. The Parbat theatre in Gabtoli was the property of his grandfather.

He became involved with the business of cinema and film making and played several villain roles in films. He became involved in real life crimes too.

Hasina visits

FROM PAGE 1

of Hazrat Shah Jalal, Hazrat Shah Paran and Hazrat Burhanuddin Shah.

Hasina entered the Shrine of Hazrat Shah Jalal at 12:35pm amid tight security and spent there about half an hour to offer prayer before visiting the shrines of Shah Paran and Burhanuddin Shah.

After lunch she exchanged views and greetings with the local party leaders at the district circuit house.

AL Presidium member Suranjit Sengupta, Advisory Committee member Abul Mal Abdul Muhith and former whip Abdus Shahid accompanied Hasina at the circuit house.

Media men were not allowed to cover Hasina's address to the local leaders.

Earlier, Hasina was welcomed at some 25 spots in Narayanganj, Narsingdi, Kishoreganj, Brahmanbaria, Habiganj, Moulvibazar and Sylhet on her way to the city of shrines.

During the long journey Hasina took a nearly one-hour stop at the rest house of Manikpur gas field in Habiganj where she talked to several candidates of the upcoming parliamentary election.

At places like Rupganj in Narayanganj, Shayestaganj in Habiganj and Sherpur in Moulvibazar, Hasina's convoy had to slow down because of thousands of cheering people. The AL chief waved at the crowd through the car window.

She left the circuit house at 5:00pm for Dhaka.

Hasina will formally declare her party's election campaign at Hotel Sheraton at 10:00am today by announcing the AL election manifesto.

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Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Light to moderate fog may occur over the country's river basins during early morning.

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 30.4 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sandwip and lowest 14.5 degrees Celsius at Srimangol.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:13pm today and rises at 6:32am 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	28.8	17.8	77	70
Chittagong	28.8	19.2	87	70
Rajshahi	28.5	18.8	93	80
Khulna	28.5	18.8	93	80
Barisal	29.5	17.5	91	91
Sylhet	29.4	18.3	83	69
Cox's Bazar	30.3	20.0	77	71