

Khulna lawmakers vow to work together

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,
Khulna

Lawmakers in Khulna at a programme yesterday pledged to work together for ensuring peace and security in the district irrespective of their political affiliations.

Khulna Press Club organised the programme at the Club yesterday with a view to setting an example of non-violent politics in Khulna.

Five out of six lawmakers from Khulna were present on the occasion.

They are BNP leader Nazrul Islam Manju of Khulna-2 and Awami League leaders Nani Gopal Mandal, Molla Jalaluddin, Narayan Chandra Chanda and Advocate Sohrab Ali Sana of Khulna-1, 4, 5 and 6 constituencies respectively.

Apart from Narayan, the

rest of them are new faces in the Parliament from Khulna.

State Minister for Labour and Employment Munnun Sufian, an elected lawmaker from Khulna-3, was not present, but she expressed her solidarity with the initiative.

The lawmakers vowed to work together with dedication for the greater economic interest of the southwestern region shunning negative politics.

Each of them expressed determination to help contain unruly attitude at academic institutions discouraging politics of dominance.

They also vowed to ruthlessly contain terrorism and anarchy on the campuses so that nothing like this can vitiate academic atmosphere.

The lawmakers also reiterated their pre-election pledges to exert their influ-

ence in the Parliament to convince the government to reopen closed jute mills, Khulna Newsprint Mill, textile mills, supply of gas through pipelines, modernising Mongla port and installing a 210-megawatt power plant.

They also vowed to work together to contain price spiral of essential commodities sorting out real problems and monitor distribution of fertilisers if situation demands.

"I do not feel like an opposition MP sitting with my elderly colleagues of ruling party since all of us are committed towards the same goal of doing good works for betterment of the people," said BNP lawmaker Nazrul Islam Manju.

The meeting was presided over by President of Khulna Press Club AK Hiru.

NON-COMPLIANCE OF ORDER SC warns judge of special court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court (SC) yesterday warned a judge of the special court dealing with high profile corruption cases for not complying with its (SC) order that cleared the way for the release of Atiqullah Khan Masud, editor of the daily Janakantha.

Upon a petition filed by Atiqullah Khan, a three-member full bench of the Appellate Division headed by Justice Fazlul Karim asked Judge Tanzeena Ismail to be careful in future with regard to higher court orders.

Petitioner's counsel Barrister Shamim Haider Patwari yesterday told The Daily Star that the apex court recently cleared the way for the release of Atiqullah Khan Masud, who was jailed for 48 years in a number of cases, but the special court judge did not comply with the SC order.

A petition was filed with the Supreme Court on behalf of Atiqullah Khan seeking the court order to show cause as to why the contempt proceedings should not be drawn against the judge for not complying with its order.

Atiqullah Khan Masud was arrested by the joint forces on March 7 in 2007 during the tenure of the caretaker government.

KERANIGANJ UZ POLLS

Candidate brings allegations of obstacles to campaign

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An independent candidate in Keraniganj upazila election for the post of chairman yesterday alleged that his rival has been preventing him from carrying out election campaign.

At a press conference at the National Press Club, Md Nazim Uddin said the supporters of his rival Shaheen, a local Awami League leader, tore up his posters, prevented him from using loudspeakers during the campaign and threatened his supporters during the mass contact.

Nazim said he was elected Union Parishad chairman twice. He has resigned as the UP chairman before contesting the upazila election, but Shaheen has been trying to create various obstacles to his election campaign, he added.

He also alleged that Shaheen is an accused in a number of cases and has violated the electoral code of conduct.

Saying that most of the polling centres in Keraniganj are vulnerable, Nazim urged the authorities concerned to take necessary steps to hold a free and fair election.

He also called for immediate withdrawal of cases filed against his supporters.

He also urged the law enforcement agencies to ensure security of him and his supporters.

Replying to a question, Nazim said he is also an accused in a number of cases.

CRIMINAL CASE

Ilias Ali, 42 other Sylhet BNP men get bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday granted anticipatory bail for six months to 43 BNP leaders and workers of Sylhet, including former BNP lawmaker Ilias Ali, in a criminal case filed by the police.

Responding to a bail petition jointly filed by the accused, an HC bench of Justice Md Abdul Wahab Miah and Justice Md Delwar Hossain also issued a rule upon the government to show cause within four weeks as to why the petitioners should not be granted regular bail in this case.

The petitioners appeared yesterday before the HC bench seeking bail in the case.

Petitioner's counsel Barrister Mahbubuddin Khokon yesterday told The Daily Star that Bishwanath police in Sylhet on January 14 filed the case against 50 local BNP leaders and workers, including Ilias Ali, on charges of creating obstacle to the police in discharging their duties on December 31 last year when the police went near Dohal Primary School, a polling station for December 29 parliamentary election, to recover some abandoned ballot papers.

He said six of the accused are now in jail, one has left for London before the December 29 election and 43 others have been granted bail from the High Court in this case.

Barrister Moudud Ahmed appeared for the petitioners.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina presides over a cabinet meeting at the Secretariat in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

Govt moves to stamp out terrorism

FROM PAGE 1

Returning to the ministry after the meeting, State Minister for Home Affairs Tanjim Ahmed Sohel Taj had a meeting with Home Secretary Abdul Karim, where he censured the home secretary for submitting an incomplete report to the cabinet.

The state minister instructed the home secretary to re-submit the report incorporating all aspects of terrorist activities during the BNP-Jamaat regime between 2001 and 2006.

At the cabinet meeting, Hasina, who is now under public pressure to fulfil her party's election pledges, stressed on forming an anti-terrorism taskforce and sought regional and international cooperation to that end.

"It's not possible to curb terrorism alone. United efforts are needed to tackle the problem," the prime minister was quoted as saying by her Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad while briefing reporters following the cabinet meeting.

Presiding over the meeting that started at 11:00am and ended at 1:35pm, the prime minister also directed the home ministry and other ministries and departments concerned to be vigilant, so no social unrest may flare up. She called upon all to beware of terrorism.

A number of grenade and bomb attacks took place during the BNP-Jamaat regime, the most devastating of which was the grenade attack on an AL rally on Bangabandhu Avenue in the

capital on August 21, 2004.

The rising capacity of Islamist terrorists in the country came into focus of the media when synchronised bomb blasts took place in 63 districts on August 17 the next year.

Bomb attacks also killed former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria, and severely wounded former British high commissioner Anwar Chowdhury, while a string of suicide attacks in several districts killed judges, lawyers and cops.

Now-banned Islamist terrorist organisation Jamaatul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) was held responsible for all the attacks other than the August 21 grenade attack in which Sheikh Hasina narrowly escaped with ear injuries, but 23 others were killed.

The erstwhile BNP-Jamaat government launched a crackdown on JMB and captured its lynchpins, some of whom were later tried and hanged.

But allegations are there that the Islamist terrorists were hanged hurriedly without allowing them to speak to the media, leaving many questions unresolved including who were the patrons.

There are also allegations that many BNP and Jamaat leaders were behind the rise of Islamist terrorism in the country. The allegations go even as far as claiming that the BNP-Jamaat government manipulated the investigation to save some of the masterminds, attackers, and their patrons.

"We want to know why the

then government was in the dark about the coordinated bomb attacks across the country on August 17, 2005, who were the masterminds, and whether there was any national and international link," Sohel Taj told The Daily Star after the cabinet meeting.

At the meeting, Hasina also told her cabinet colleagues to concentrate more on action than talk.

"She told us to work more and talk less," a cabinet minister told The Daily Star adding that Hasina once again laid emphasis on maintaining law and order, curbing of commodity prices, and ensuring smooth supply of fertilizer to farmers.

The prime minister's press secretary said the ordinances promulgated during the caretaker government regime also came up in the meeting's discussion. "The prime minister already talked to senior lawyers and decided to resolve those within a month of the first parliament session," he said.

The meeting of ministers also approved the speech of President Iajuddin Ahmed to be delivered at the inaugural session of the ninth parliament on January 25, following a long discussion and after cutting it short with some corrections.

The prime minister told the meeting that all preparations for the first session of the parliament are complete. She also finalised the parliamentary standing committees, said Azad.

Criminal Cap Sohel arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Criminal Investigation Department (CID) members arrested a notorious criminal, Cap Sohel alias killer Sohel, from bordering Benapole area yesterday evening.

Sohel, also a former JCD leader, is an accused in double police murder case.

CID sources said Sohel was arrested from Shikarpur village in Narkel Baria under Benapole police station. He is an accused in at least 12 cases.

A notorious gang, including Sohel, gunned down two policemen and injured as many people during a gunfight to evade arrest during a robbery at a currency exchange office at Motijheel in 2004.

The gangsters looted Tk 1.17 lakh from the shop, before police shot and arrested gang leader Idul.

Md Abdullah Aref, additional special superintendent of CID, told The Daily Star, "We arrested him in the afternoon following a tip-off that he was coming to Dhaka to commit crimes."

Pry asst teacher recruitment test result published

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

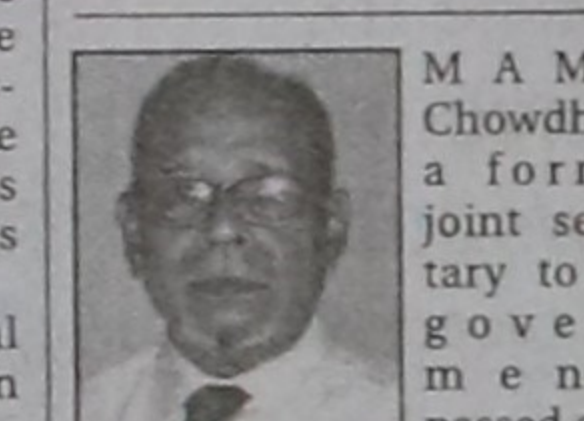
Directorate of Primary Education yesterday published the result of written examinations of Assistant Teachers Recruitment-2008, says a press release.

The examination was held on October 31 last year. The successful candidates now have to face viva-voce. The schedule of viva-voce will be displayed at notice boards of District Primary Education offices.

Candidates can also log on to www.dpe.gov.bd for schedules.

Obituary

METRO DESK



M A Mujib Chowdhury, a former joint secretary to the government, passed away

due to heart disease in Houston, USA on Saturday, says a press release.

He left behind his two daughters, two sons and grandchildren and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

He was buried at Houston Muslim Cemetery on Sunday.

Jinnatun Nisa

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Jinnatun Nisa, former registrar of Bangladesh Nursing Council, passed away at her village

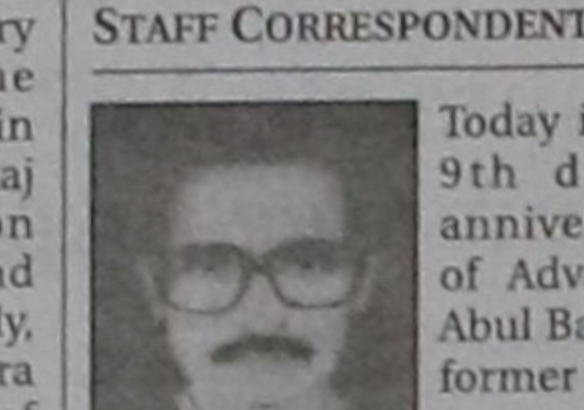
house under Sadar upazila in Faridpur on January 17, says a press release.

She left behind her husband, two sons and a host of admirers to mourn her death.

Her gulkhwani will be held today at her village home.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 9th death anniversary of Advocate Abul Bashar, former joint secretary of Brahmanba

ria District Bar Association, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at his Kawlati residence in Brahmanbaria.

Relative and admirers are requested to attend programme and pray for peace of salvation of the departed soul.

Badruddoza, Maj Mannan to remain in same posts

Says Mahi B Chy

DU CORRESPONDENT

Prof Nurul Amin Bepari and Mahi B Chowdhury will serve as acting president and acting secretary general of Biddhata Dhara Bangladesh (BDB) until the posts are filled up at the party's national council, which will be held within this year.

Meanwhile, Dr AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury and Maj (ret'd) Abdul Mannan, who decided to step down as its president and secretary general in the wake of national elections, would remain in the same posts but would not discharge any executive responsibilities, Mahi B Chowdhury said at a press conference yesterday.

"We would consult with them before discharging our duties," he added.

He also said the party would hold councils in different districts before holding the national council.

Replying to a question, Mahi said the election was held in a free and fair manner, but the candidates had violated the election code of conduct during campaign.

Even the Election Commission did not take any action against them, he added.

Mahi hoped that the new government would implement its 'Charter for change' for the welfare of the nation.

DU ADMISSION

HC starts delivering verdict in writ against rules

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday started delivering the verdict in the writ petition challenging the legality of admission rules disqualifying the Aleem graduates from admission in seven departments of Dhaka University.

A HC bench of Justice Mir Hasmat Ali and Justice Shamim Hasnain adjourned the delivery of the judgement later and fixed today for delivery of the remaining verdict.

Five DU admission seekers including Ibrahim Khalkil, who secured GPA-5 in Madrasa Education Board Examinations, jointly filed the writ petition with the HC on October 26 last year.

JCD OBSERVES ZIA'S BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

BCL takes steps to ensure peace at DU

DU CORRESPONDENT

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), student front of BNP, observed the 73rd birth anniversary of late president Ziaur Rahman in a peaceful environment on the campus of Dhaka University (DU) yesterday.

With the presence of top JCD leaders, several hundred JCD men brought out a procession and held a rally on the campus at noon.

Earlier, JCD leaders placed wreath at the grave of Ziaur Rahman in the city.

JCD is now demanding a peaceful coexistence and security to their men on the campus and in the halls. They have already submitted a memorandum to DU Vice-chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique to press home their demands.

Earlier leaders and activists of JCD and Islam Chhatra Shibir left the residential dormitories on the polling night of the ninth parliamentary election and yet to return fearing attacks from the cadres of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL).

JCD leaders at a press conference last week alleged that several hundred leaders and

activists of JCD have been beaten by BCL cadres on DU campus and at the dormitories.

Meanwhile, DU unit leaders of BCL, student front of ruling Awami League, have taken some initiatives to ensure a congenial atmosphere on the campus and at the residential halls.

BCL leaders have formed four teams for monitoring the activities of their activists at the halls.

General Secretary of BCL DU unit Sajjad Saqib Badsha told The Daily Star that the main responsibility of these teams would be to conduct continuous monitoring in halls and on the campus to avoid any untoward incidents.

"We want to ensure a congenial atmosphere on the campus at any cost. We have already warned our activists of not being involved in anti-organisational activities," he said, adding that stern action would be taken against the responsible persons," said Badsha.

Top leaders of both JCD and BCL with their fellows gathered at Madhu's Canteen at noon and conducted their organisational activities in a peaceful environment seating around separate tables in the canteen.

Try war criminals under Int'l Crimes Act

Stockholm seminar urges govt

METRO DESK

Speakers at a seminar on Sunday in Stockholm, Sweden demanded trial of the war criminals in Bangladesh under International Crimes (Tribunals) Act 1973.

Sweden chapter of Ekatturer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee organised the seminar marking the 17th founding anniversary of the committee, says a press release.

Ekatturer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee central member Sabir Khan participated at the seminar through online. He focused on the ways of trying war criminals.

Sabir said the 1973 Act gave the responsibility of trying the war criminals on Bangladesh government. As per the law Bangladesh government can form one or more than one tribunals for the purpose by issuing gazette

notification.

General Secretary of the committee Chitra Paul said people through vote gave their verdict in favour of trial of the war criminals.

Businessman shot in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Members of notorious Sahadat Group yesterday shot and injured a businessman in the city's Kafur area as he refused to pay Tk 10 lakh in toll.

The victim, Abdul Majid Majumder, 50, owner of Majumder Enterprise at Senpara-Parbata in Mirpur, was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital with a bullet wound in his thigh.

The gang attacked him at about 8:00pm in front of his residence.

WEATHER TODAY

Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain 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 from late night till midnight, Met Office said predicting nearly unchanged night temperature over the country.

Highest temperature 29.9 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 10.7 degrees Celsius at Srimangol.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:37pm today and rises at 6:43am 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	28.0	15.3	72	55
Chittagong	27.0	13.8	82	81
Rajshahi	26.4	12.4	100	76
Khulna	28.3	14.5	97	76
Barisal	28.0	14.0	95	76
Sylhet	28.5	14.6	81	58
Cox's Bazar	29.9	15.5	77	72

The publication ceremony of the book 'Rokeary Uttarsur' by Prof Majeda Sabar will be held, Venue: National Press Club, Time: 3:00pm. RDERS will publish the book.

DHAKA TODAY

Art exhibition

The inaugural ceremony of a group art exhibition of five young artists will be held, Venue: Shilpangan Gallery, Time: 5:30pm.

Book launching

The launching ceremony of the book 'Grass Roots Politics' by Morshed Alam will be held, Venue: Sheraton Hotel, Time: 4:00pm.

Cartoon exhibition

Unman, a monthly satire magazine, organises a cartoon exhibition in protest of Israeli genocide in Gaza. Venue: National Press Club ground, Time: 10:00am.

Publication ceremony

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