

Ministers, lawmakers from Ctg pledge to work together

Build tunnel under Karnaphuli river, deep seaport, int'l conference centre

UNB, Dhaka

New ministers and lawmakers from Chittagong yesterday pledged to work together for faster development of the district as it was neglected for over decades.

They came up with their promises at a reception by Chittagong Journalists Forum Dhaka (CJFD) at Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

They told the function that they would sit together once in every month to prioritise development projects and place those before Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to turn Chittagong into a world class city.

They said the government is sincere enough to resolve the crises facing by the people of Chittagong.

Industries Minister Dilip Barua, Shipping Minister Dr Afsarul Amin, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Hasan Mahmud, lawmakers Akhtaruzzaman Chowdhury Babu, Engineer Mosharraf Hossain, ABM Fazle Karim Chowdhury, Nurul Islam BSc, Mainuddin Khan Badal, ABM Abul Kashem Master and Jatindra Lal Tripura addressed the function.

Their promises include making a tunnel under the Karnaphuli River, ensuring rail connectivity between Chittagong and Cox's Bazar, constructing an embankment from Karnaphuli to

Mirsrai coastal belt and a four-lane road on it, railway cord-line between Laksam and Dhaka for quicker communication, installing a deep seaport and taking

effective steps to remove waterlogging, power and gas crises in Chittagong.

They felt that a conference centre like Bangladesh China Friendship Conference Centre should be built in the port city of Chittagong to host international expositions to attract foreigners which will enhance the glamour of the city.

Industries Minister Dilip Barua said they are hopeful of development of Chittagong this time as the prime minister herself took its responsibility and pledged to work jointly for fulfilling people's demands.

He said priority would be given on agro-based industries, reopening of all closed industries and taking effective steps for boosting tourism sector.

Shipping Minister Dr Afsarul Amin urged all to monitor their work from time to time which will ensure transparency. "We're committed to development... we need your valuable suggestions and support to carry out any initiative."

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Hasan Mahmud said they would give priority to enhance the glamour of Chittagong through taking necessary

projects which will be enough to establish it as an important city.

"To make a commercial capital, it doesn't require any formal announcement, but it's not implemented even after formal announcement. Many pledges were also made in the past, but this time we'll come up with follow-up actions as our focus will be on 'talk less work more'," Hasan Mahmud said.

He said steps would be taken to set up a full-fledged TV centre and parallel headquarters of all important bodies in Chittagong apart from enhancing the efficiency of Chittagong port.

Akhtaruzzaman Babu said the country's overall development would remain incomplete if Chittagong is not brought under massive development projects.

Nurul Islam BSc said he would discuss in parliament how to utilise huge hilly areas in Sitakund, Mirsarai, Anwara and Patiya for tea gardening which might convert Bangladesh into a major tea-exporting country.

Presided over by CJFD President Shilabrata Barua, the function was also addressed by Bhorer Kagij Editor Shyamol Dutta, founder president of CJFD Enamul Haque Chowdhury, general secretary Shahin Ul Islam Chowdhury and current General Secretary Saif Islam Dilal spoke at the function.



PHOTO: STAR

Students of Daffodil International University take out a colourful procession in the city yesterday to mark its 7th founding anniversary.

BYLC distributes winter clothes

METRO DESK

The first leadership programme graduates of Bangladesh Youth Leadership Centre (BYLC) in Chittagong launched a winter clothes distribution campaign at Kuchumbagh on Friday.

The students distributed sweaters among the poor men and women in the local slum, says a press release.

President of BYLC Changemaker Forum Minhaz Morshed said, "Leadership is about serving others and we organised this campaign to help the underprivileged sections of our community who have been suffering a lot in the cold winter."

"Our hope is to continue such initiatives in future and also to encourage other young people in the port city to take such voluntary community-based initiatives," he added.

Originally developed at Harvard Kennedy School, BYLC is now being established as a premier youth leadership centre in Bangladesh.

BYLC works to bridge gaps in the society by uniting youths from diverse backgrounds, equipping them with leadership, problem solving and teamwork skills as well as engaging them in community service and active citizenship.

Training on HIV/AIDS stigma begins

METRO DESK

A two-day training on 'Reduction of stigma and discrimination against people with HIV/AIDS' began in Sylhet yesterday, says a press release.

Nari Unnayan Shakti (Women's Power for Development) has organised the training course for the media people and people with HIV. The programme is funded by South Asian Regional Development Marketplace 2008, World Bank.

The objective of the training is to discuss ways to reduce stigma and discrimination against the people suffering from the deadly disease.

Dr Ferdous Alam Shibib, programme manager, National AIDS/STD Programme, attended the inaugural ceremony as the chief guest. Afroja Parvin, executive director, Nari Unnayan Shakti, presided over the ceremony.

Under this programme, around 360 journalists from 64 districts will be trained in phases.

Labourer dies in earth collapse

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

An day labourer was killed yesterday as a large portion of earth collapsed on him while he was cutting earth on the west bank of the Jamuna river in Bearaghat area at Sirajganj Sadar upazila.

The victim was identified as Osman Gani, 40, of Charnalshapara hamlet in Sirajganj town.

Sources said the incident took place at around 11:30am when he was cutting earth on the west bank of the river for a construction firm.

The dead was identified as Azimuddin, 55.

Police said the clash began

LAND DISPUTE One killed, 13 injured as villagers clash

UNB, Sirajganj

One person was killed and 13 others were injured in a clash between two groups of people at village Kharkharia in Tarash upazila yesterday over establishing supremacy on a piece of disputed land.

The dead was identified as Azimuddin, 55.

Police said the clash began

at about 9:00am when the supporters of one Mojaher went to capture the land and the supporters of Azimuddin tried to resist them.

Both the groups used lethal weapons during the clash that left Azimuddin dead on the spot and injured 13 from both the groups.

Of the injured, seven were rushed to Sadar Hospital and different clinics.

Public health edn at pvt universities to continue

METRO DESK

Newly appointed Director General of Health Services Prof Shah Monir Hossain vowed to patronise the non-government initiatives in order to continue public health education at private universities, says a press release.

"It is not only the concern of the government, but also of the private entrepreneurs," he said, adding that private initiatives in the health education will be one step ahead in the field of medical science.

He said this as the chief guest at the orientation ceremony of the students of Master of Public Health (MPH) at Northern University Bangladesh (NUB) at Dhanmondi campus in the city on Friday.

NUB Vice Chancellor Prof M Shamsul Haque said Shah Monir is one of the pioneers in decentralisation of health sector in the country.

Former director of Health System Development (WHO/SEARO) Dr Sultana Khanam, Adviser to the department of Public Health at NUB Dr GU Ahsan, Director (HRD) Md Lutfur Rahman and Head of MPH programme Dr Shahanaz Chowdhury also spoke.

Trader murdered in Kushtia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A trader was murdered by unidentified criminals in the town on Friday night.

The victim was identified as Abul Hossain Khokon, 30, son of Alauddin of Haripur village under sadar upazila in the district.

He was the owner of a grocery shop in the town.

According to relatives and night guards of the area, Khokon opened his shop at Thanapara area on Friday at about 3:00pm and ran business as of 11:30pm.

He closed his shop and started for home at about 11:45pm.

Police suspect the miscreants attacked Khokon on his way home at about 12:00pm and stabbed him indiscriminately.

Later they slaughtered him and threw his body to the river.

The killers also looted his watch, mobile phone set and money.

SARA Int'l School orientation

METRO DESK

The orientation programme for the freshers of SARA International School and College was held on the institution premises at Dhanmondi in the city on Friday.

Editor of the daily Ittefaq Rahat Khan was the chief guest on the occasion while Nazrul Islam Sikder, the chairman of the school committee, presided over the programme.

Renowned poet Asad Chowdhury, Principal of Ideal College Prof Shah Mohammad Farhad and former DG of Social Welfare Directorate Lt Col (Retd) Gazi Sirajul Islam were present as special guests, says a press release.

Rahat Khan said that everybody should learn English besides Bangla in order to face the global competition.

Principal of the institution Group Capt (Retd) M Shahjahan also spoke.



PHOTO: STAR

Students of Jagannath University stage a demonstration on the university premises in the city yesterday demanding construction of residential halls for them. (Story on page 16)

9 burglars held, huge gold ornaments seized in Ctg

CU CORRESPONDENT

Police arrested a gang of nine burglars and recovered huge looted gold ornaments from different parts in the port city yesterday.

The arrestees were identified as Kamal, Ripon, Nasir Uddin, Saidul Islam, Delwar Hawlader, Abdul Latif, Abdul Malek, Anwar Hawlader and Rustam.

Sources said a group of the burglars took away 30 tolas of gold ornaments and Tk 80,000 in cash from PC Gold House in Chakbazar area on the night of January 16.

Following the incident, a case

was filed with the concerned Kotwali Police Station.

Acting on a tip off, a squad of the police arrested Kamal and Ripon from Chittagong Shopping Complex area yesterday morning.

According to the arrestees' confessional statements, police arrested their seven accomplices from in front of Chittagong Club and Hotel Al Karim under the Kotwali Police Station in separate drives yesterday.

Police also recovered 81 golden nose rings, seven rings, two necklaces, six ear rings and a maduri and some equipment used in the burglary, said the sources.

The arrestees confessed to

their involvement in burglary in Chittagong, Dhaka and Bagerhat for over five years, they added.

Correction

ABMG Kibria, president of Anjuman Mufidul Islam, has received blankets from Aktel officials for distribution among the poor people. The photo of the event was published in The Daily Star on Page 5 on January 21. But the caption has inadvertently identified him as Relief Committee Chairman Abdus Samad.



Editor of the daily Ittefaq Rahat Khan speaks at an orientation programme of SARA International School and College on the institution premises in the city on Friday.

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