

ALCWC MEET TOMORROW

Holding of council to top agenda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) will hold an emergency meeting of its central working committee tomorrow where issues, including holding of a long overdue party council and election to a new central committee in April, expected to be discussed prominently.

cal office at Dhanmondi in the city where all members of the ALCWC have been asked to attend at 10:00am. The last ALCWC meeting was held over one and a half month ago.

Party leaders said the last council was held on December 26, 2002 where Hasina was re-elected AL president for the sixth time since 1981.

The next two triennial councils were supposed to be held on December 26, 2005 and 2008 according to the party constitution.

AL also must hold its national council within six months of the first sitting of the first session of ninth parliament to ratify the provisional changes it brought to its constitution in order to comply with the amended Representation of the People's Order.

Like all other parliamentary political parties, AL also got registered with the Election Commission before the December 29 general elections by bringing provisional changes to its constitution in order to meet the criteria for registration.

Publication of two books on works of Ahmad Safa

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a publication ceremony yesterday said Ahmad Safa was a pioneer of Bangla literature but he was ignored by the society and the state.

They said this at the publication of two books styled 'Ahmad Safa: Aparanher Surjo' and 'Swapna Nirman Proyash' by Zannat Aivy at the Alliance Francaise auditorium in the city.

Safa was the main inspiration to most of the established writers of the present time, they added.

Speaking as the chief guest, former adviser to a caretaker government Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman said Ahmad Safa was a very brave personality and so as Zannat who has written such a wonderful book on Safa in the last few days ago.

He further said that the society might not give due respect to Safa, but it would start doing so once we would advance to a higher intellectual level.

Prof Ahmed Kamal said Safa inspired the young writers of his time and most of the established writers of today are also inspired by the great writer.

Dr Salimullah Khan and Cynthia Walsh, trusts and foundations fundraising manager of Action on Disability and Development (ADD), also spoke.



Guests hold copies of two books styled 'Ahmad Safa: Aparanher Surjo' and 'Swapna Nirman Proyash' by Zannat Aivy at their publication ceremony at Alliance Francaise auditorium in the city yesterday.

ABU ZAFAR OBAIDULLAH AWARD CEREMONY Free thinking a must for progress Says Industry minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Industry Minister Dilip Barua at the handover ceremony of poet Abu Zafar Obaidullah Award 2009 yesterday said the country can be taken to a more advanced stage through the exercise of free thoughts and culture which Bangladeshis always practised at different times in its history.

He was speaking as the chief guest at the programme organised by Poet Abu Zafar Obaidullah Foundation at the Sufia Kamal auditorium at National Museum in the city yesterday.

"If we look back to our past, we will see we do possess such history that a country should really be proud of," he said while discussing the life and creations of the legendary poet and his achievements.

The poet's contribution to the progressive students' and cultural movement in the 1950s is remarkable, he added.

"Poets always take people to the land of dream and create an aspiration to fulfil those dreams, Dilip said, adding that Obaidullah was a great poet indeed to hold the wave of patriotism and spirit of nationality in his works."

Poet Zakir Ibne said Obaidullah was a great success in his life not only being a poet, he was a man of international repute for his being a bureaucrat, a minister and above all a language movement veteran.

This year sixteen distinguished persons were awarded in recognition for their outstanding contribution to their respective fields.

The awardees include Bangladesh Bank Deputy Governor Murshid Kuli Khan (Banking), country representative of the FAO Adv Spiker (Agriculture), scientist Dr MA Rahim (Science), Prof Col (ret'd) Dr Abdul Hai (Health Service), Asha International Chief Executive Enamul Haque (Microcredit), Khaled Bin Joenuddin and Tapankar Chakraborty (Child literature), Mustafa Habib (poetry), Pramathi Barua and Alhaj Abus Sattar Mian (Social Service), Firoz Mukul (Education), Md Saiful Islam (Tree plantation), Motiar Rahaman (Fine Arts), Shah Noor (Photography), Hakim Abul Kashem (Herbal research) and Sufia Hafiz Mukta (Literature).

Information Secretary ATM Karim and Chairman of the Foundation Arif Nazrul also spoke at the programme.

Grabbing of temple land condemned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent citizens yesterday condemned the incident of grabbing endowed property of Kantaji temple in Dinajpur in the name of setting up a madrasa.

In a statement, they said some local land grabbers in connivance with some 'corrupt' officials of land administration have started constructing houses by hanging a sign-board of madrasa to grab a portion of the land of the temple which is an important archaeological and religious site of the sub-continent.

They urged the government to take legal action against the land grabbers and land administration officials who have helped prepare fake documents.

Signatories to the statement included Kamal Lohani, Dr Hamida Hossain, Khushi Kabir, Advocate Tobarak Hossain and Dr Abul Barkat.

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BMP) has also condemned the establishment of a madrasa on the land of Kantaji temple.

In a statement yesterday, the BMP urged the government to preserve the endowed property of the temple which was built 700 years ago.

They also demanded arrest of the people involved in land grabbing for punishment.

Bangladesh Jatiya Hindu Chhatra Mohajote formed a human chain in front of the High Court in the city yesterday to condemn the incident.

Addressing a rally on this occasion, the speakers said Kantojir Mandir is a part of the glorious history of Bangladesh.

They urged the government to recover all the properties of the temple.

The rally was addressed by Shashanka Roy Shanto, central president, and Gopal Mistri, general secretary of Hindu Chhatra Mohajote, and Shyamol Kumar Roy, president, and Advocate Govinda Chandra Pramanik, secretary general of Hindu Mohajote.

Body recovered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered a body of an unidentified man aged about 42 from the bank of a canal at Pallabani in the city yesterday.

The body was recovered at around 8:00am from Hujurer Tek area of Pallabani.

Police sent the body to Dhaka Medical College Morgue for autopsy but its identity could not be ascertained till filing the report at 7:30pm.

Police said the man could have been slaughtered at the dead of night and was dumped beside the canal.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 9th death anniversary of Md Abdur Rashid, one of the organisers of the Liberation War, former lawmakers from Laxmipur and a closed associate of Bangabandhu, says a press release.

On the occasion, Qurankhwani and milad mahfil will be held after Maghrib prayers at his residence (House-36, Road-1, Block-I, Banani) in the city and Laxmipur.

Begum Hamida Huq METRO DESK

Today is the 12th death anniversary of Begum Hamida Huq, a freedom fighter and wife of Rafiqul Huq Dadubhai, says a press release.

Hamida died on this day in 1997 at a hospital in New York during a business trip to the United States.

On the occasion, Qurankhwani, milad and doa mahfil will be held at her residences at Shantinagar in the city and Kamalakhna in Rangpur town today.

Nahidul Haque Khan

Today is the 13th death anniversary of Nahidul Haque Khan (Titu), says a press release.

Titu, a student of Rajshahi University, was shot dead on this day in 1996 by a gang of miscreants during the non-cooperation movement.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at his residence at 574, Uttar Shahjahanpur in the city after Asr prayers today.



Prof Emajuddin Ahmed speaks at a roundtable on 'Transit-Tifa-Taskforce: National Unity in Protection of Sovereignty' at the Cirdap auditorium in the city yesterday. On his left is Barrister Moudud Ahmed and on his right is Barrister Rafiqul Islam Mia.

Take more time to sign deals on Tifa, transit

Speakers urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday called on the government to take more time to take decisions before signing agreements on Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (Tifa), South Asian counter terrorism taskforce and transit to India.

They said this at the roundtable on 'Transit-Tifa-Taskforce: National Unity in protection of sovereignty' organised by Chirantan Bangladesh Central Council at Cirdap auditorium in the city with Prof Emajuddin Ahmed in the chair.

He said both India and Pakistan were formed through rounds of discussions, but Bangladesh was born through a sanguinary war of liberation.

A prestigious nation like Bangladesh cannot bow down its head to its powerful neighbours as well as it cannot tolerate powers exercised by its neighbours, he added.

He said India could be a friend to Bangladesh but not as a master, adding that since the country's independence in 1971, both the countries signed a number of treaties but India failed to pay respect to any of those treaties.

Citing example of Tin Bigha Corridor, Prof Emajuddin said following a treaty between Mujib and Indira Gandhi, Bangladesh handed Berubari enclave over to India, but India is yet to hand Tin Bigha Corridor over to Bangladesh.

He further said at 50 to 60 Bangladeshis are killed annually by Indian Border Security Force (BSF) in the Indo-Bangladesh border areas.

Prof Emajuddin, also the former VC of Dhaka University, also criticised the Indian government for not keeping its promises, including its pledge to

provide five lakh tonnes of rice after devastating cyclone Sidr but did not provide a little, saying, "Instead of fulfilling the promise, India increased price of rice when Bangladesh need rice badly."

Criticising the AL government, he said the government passed only a month in power but it is going to sign treaties on Tifa, transit and counter terrorism with the US and India, adding: "It seems that the government is in a hurry to sign the treaties as soon as possible."

As transit, Tifa or task force issues are not only related to business or economy, but also are inextricably linked with the security and sovereignty of the nation, the government should consider the interests of the country and the people first.

He cautioned the AL government that if it does any wrong against the sovereignty, people would come out to protest its wrongdoing to save the country's sovereignty.

Stressing on the security and smuggling issues, former director general of Press Institute of Bangladesh Rezwana Siddique said if Bangladesh provides corridor to India, it will invite danger to the country by the regional armed groups active in the Indian provinces known as seven sisters.

Providing corridor to India will also increase smuggling rate, he added.

Former law minister barrister Moudud Ahmed, Jamaat leader Muhammad Kamruzzaman and former minister barrister Rafiqul Islam Mia also spoke.

Equip with IT, patriotism Menon urges students

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The students and the younger generation have to equip themselves with information technology and patriotism to face challenges of the 21st century, said Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon, MP.

He was speaking at a prize giving ceremony of Ideal School and College in the city yesterday.

Menon said those who prevent the women from moving forward are creating obstruction in the path of change and progress of the country.

The youth and the women who gave their verdict for changes during the election must play the leading role in the march towards a better future with patriotism and principles.

GRAFT CASE SC asks ADT chair Anwar to surrender in trial court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court (SC) yesterday directed SM Anwar Hossain, chairman of Advanced Development Technologies (ADT) Limited, to surrender within two weeks to the trial court to face the proceedings against him in a case filed on charge of illegally selling 18 abandoned government houses at lowest prices.

The full bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice MM Ruhul Amin passed the order by staying the High Court (HC) order directing the law enforcers not to harass or arrest Anwar in connection with this case filed by the Anti-corruption Commission (ACC).

ACC counsel Advocate Khurshiduzzaman Khan yesterday told The Daily Star that Anwar will have to surrender before the special judge's court No-3 in Dhaka, where the case is pending.

He said the HC on September 14 last year upon a petition filed by Anwar, directed the law enforcers not to harass or arrest him in connection with the case.

The HC also issued a rule upon the ACC and government to show cause as to why the proceedings against the petitioner should not be declared illegal, he said.

The ACC recently filed an appeal with the Supreme Court (SC) against the HC order and responding to the ACC's appeal, the SC yesterday passed the order, he said.

DHAKA TODAY

Scientific conference The inaugural ceremony of the 12th annual scientific conference of the ICDDR, B will be held. Venue: Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre. Time: 4:00pm.

View exchange meeting PKSF organises a view exchange meeting on overseas employment for the extreme poor. Venue: PKSF auditorium. Time: 10:00am.

Seminar Centre for Advanced Research in Humanities of Dhaka University organises a seminar on 'Standard of secondary education, mental development and language efficiency'. Venue: Centre for Advanced Research in Humanities. Time: 4:00pm.

Symposium A symposium of eminent gynecologists on the occasion of launching ceremony of cervical cancer vaccine will be held. Venue: Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre. Time: 12:00pm.

Cops clash at Shahbagh police station: 4 injured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of Shahbagh police injured a four-member team of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Oversight Service (DOS) yesterday afternoon when the DOS team went to probe into the irregularities at the police station.

Of the injured DOS members, who work for counter intelligence, critically injured Subedar Mozammel and constable Fariduddin were admitted to Rajarbagh Police Line Hospital.

DMP Commissioner Naim Ahmed formed a three-member committee to investigate the incident.

Witnesses said Shahbagh policemen also held the DOS men hostage for over one hour and the entire activities of the police station remained suspended during the period.

Sources said the DOS team, led by Subedar Mozammel, went to the police station at

around 2:15pm and found an outsider working as a writer which is totally prohibited. Sub-Inspector (SI) Firoz assigned him violating the DMP directives.

When the DOS men captured a video footage and asked the SI about the violation, Firoz and some other policemen locked into a brawl. At one stage, they attacked the DMP probe team.

Later, another DOS team rushed to the spot and rescued their men and admitted them to the hospital.

Termed it a misunderstanding, Shahbagh Police Station Officer-in-Charge Rezarul Karim said, "I am looking into the matter."

ADC M Masudur Rahman of DMP's public relations department said a three-member committee led by ADC of Detective Branch (North) Mahbub Alam has been formed to investigate the matter.

CHINESE CREW Bodies yet to be handed over

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cig

The bodies of three Chinese crew found in a foreign tanker on Saturday are yet to be handed over as their relatives have not arrived to receive those.

RY Shipping Limited, local agent of the tanker Zhong YE-6, under its supervision kept the bodies at the freezers of the Forensic Medicine Department of Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH).

RY Shipping Assistant General Manager (AGM) Aminul Alam said it might take few more days to hand over the bodies since their relatives need some days to get visa to come here.

The bodies of Chief Officer Tan Weifeng, Third Engineer Zhou Ling Sheng and Fitter Xu Zhi Bin were retrieved from the Panamanian flagged tank when it was berthed at Chittagong Drydock jetty on Saturday.



Gonosanghati Andolon stages a demonstration at Mukttangan in the city yesterday protesting the visit of Indian Foreign Minister Pranab Mukharjee and move to sign a transit agreement with India.

Raise awareness among youths to prevent HIV/AIDS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a programme yesterday underscored the need for raising awareness on HIV/AIDS among the young generation to prevent the deadly disease.

Though the HIV prevalence is low in Bangladesh, the country it is still considered as a high-risk country, they said adding that the country would not be able to afford the cost if the disease spread epidemic.

They also said HIV/AIDS is not only a big problem to the public health it is also big obstacle in the way of development. It is imperative to know and disseminate the correct information about the HIV/AIDS among young generation to prevent HIV infection.

Matra, an advertisement firm, organised the programme titled 'Janar Angkar Jananor Angkar' at a city hotel to present the progress and achievement of the project titled 'Prevention and control activities among the vulnerable and highly vulnerable young people'.

Save The Children, USA, with the financial assistance of Global Fund, is implementing the project as managing partner. The project is a part of the National AIDS/STD Programme.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr AFM Ruhul Haque was present as the chief guest while Sheikh Alraf Ali, secretary of the health ministry, ATM Fazlul Karim, secretary of the information ministry, Prof Dr Shah Monir Hossain, direc-

tor general of Directorate General of Health Services, Rajat Gupta, chair of Global Fund Board, and Kelland Stevenson, country representative of Save The Children, USA, also spoke at the programme.

Dr AFM Ruhul Haque said though HIV prevalence is low in the country we need to study the percentage as the HIV prevalence is high in the neighbouring countries.

Praising the initiative and the campaign, he said apart from preventive activities treatment of the HIV/AIDS positive patients needs to be ensured as well.

He urged all the stakeholders to come forward in raising the awareness on the disease.

Obituary



Rehana Hossain, wife of late Muazzem Hossain, former chairman of Bangladesh Steel and Engineering Corporation, passed away at a city hospital on Saturday, says a press release.

Rehana, also daughter of late Dr CM Beg, left behind her three sons to mourn her death. She was buried at Banani graveyard after namaz-e-ajanaza at Gulshan Azad Mosque after Zohr prayers yesterday.

Her quikhwani will be held at her Mohammadpur residence on February 10 after Maghrib prayers.



No change in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Dry weather will prevail over the country in next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Light fog may also occur over the country during late night till morning, Met Office said in a forecast.

It said that night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

Highest temperature 32.0 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 11.2 degrees Celsius at Srimongal.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:50pm today and rises at 6:35am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Table with 4 columns: City/Town, Temperature in Celsius (Max, Min), Humidity in percentage (Morning, Evening). Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar.