

RECONSTITUTION OF PARTY

BNP meets to finalise convening committees

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Standing Committee of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) last night continued meeting to finalise the names of conveners and joint conveners of organisational district committees in a bid to reorganise the party.

Party leaders said a four-member special committee led by party Chairperson Khaleda Zia prepared a draft list of the conveners and the joint conveners of district committees and their names would be announced after approval of the standing committee.

Meeting was going on with Khaleda, also Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, in the chair during filing this report at 10:00pm.

ASK concerned over death of migrant workers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Human rights body Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK) yesterday expressed deep concern over the growing number of bodies of Bangladeshi workers being brought home almost everyday.

"Mostly, heart attack is shown as the reason for their deaths. The other reason shown is accident at workplace. Though death certificates are sent with bodies, in most cases autopsies were not done," said a statement signed by ASK Executive Director Advocate Sultana Kamal.

About the body of Iktiar Uddin which was flown home from Malaysia on Saturday morning, the family members alleged that he died following tortures by law enforcers in a detention camp in Malaysia.

When the wage earners return in the form of corpses, there is no end of suffering of their relatives.

"We know the poor and less educated people mainly go abroad to change their fates, but they are often cheated and many are employed in risky jobs. We do not know whether our missions abroad come to their aid in trouble times," the statement said.

"Recently, large numbers of migrant workers are returning. Though global economic recession is partly responsible for it, but Bangladesh missions' failures are also responsible for such consequences, she added.

"The arrival of increasing number of bodies has raised public concern," ASK said, urging the government to take effective measures immediately to address the problems.

Leather Tech College classes resume today

METRO DESK

Bangladesh College of Leather Technology authorities have decided to resume classes of all the academic years except 2008-09 from today.

The decision came following a coordination meeting of the teachers, students and representatives of Directorate of Technical Education yesterday.

The college was closed sine die on April 11 as its students went berserk and vandalised shops and damaged vehicles for realising their six-point demands, including reduction of examination fees.

Indonesian team arrives today

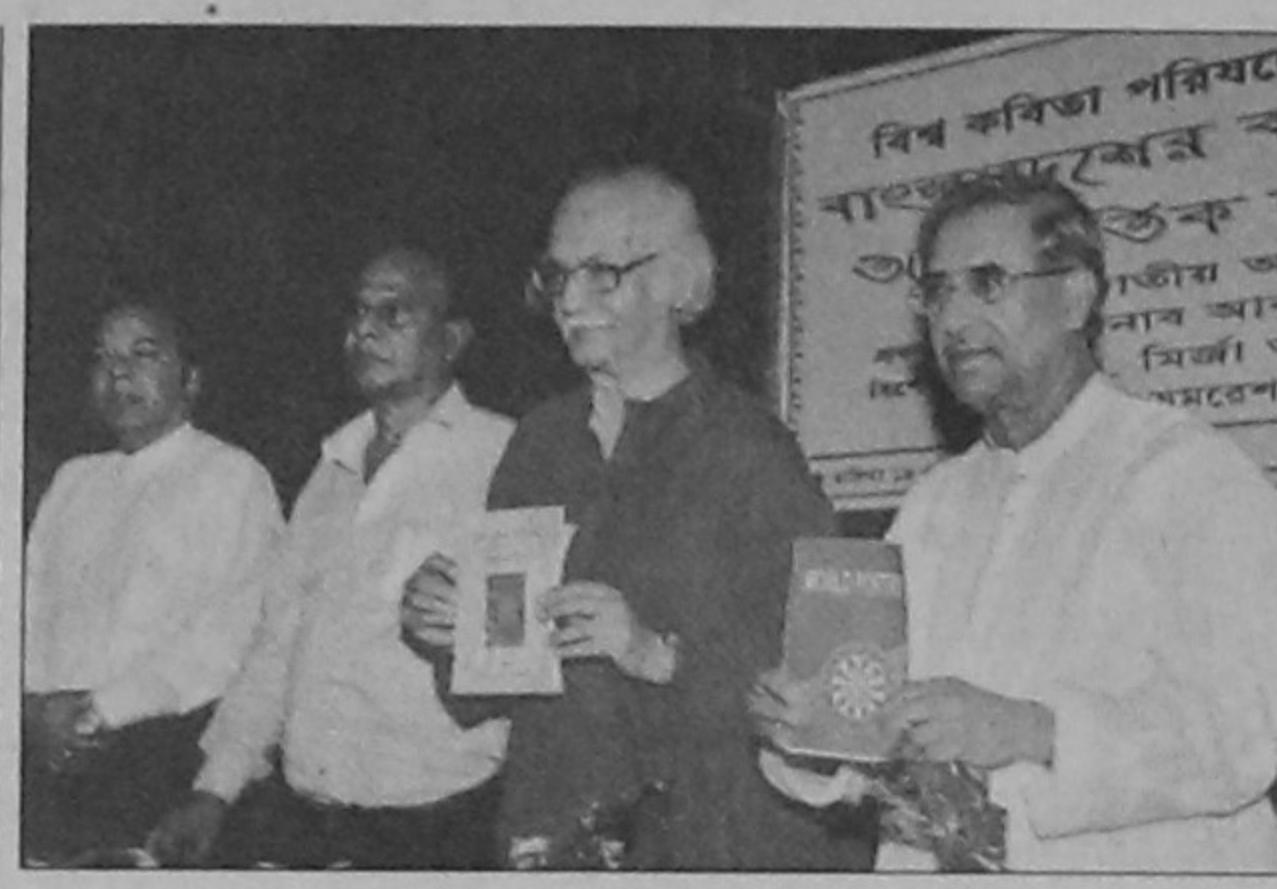
UNB, Dhaka

A six-member delegation of the Group of Bilateral Cooperation of the House of Representatives of Indonesia arrives here today on a three-day visit.

The delegation comprises the government coalition as well as of the opposition will visit here to renew and strengthen ties between the parliaments of Indonesia and Bangladesh.

The team members are looking forward to exchanging their views with their counterpart in the Bangladesh parliament, said an Indonesian Embassy release.

The delegation will also visit Grameen Bank, SK+F pharmaceutical and Ring Shine garment manufacturer.



(From right) Information Minister Abul Kalam Azad and Prof Kabir Chowdhury hold copies of a book at "Bangladeshi Poets' Grand Conference and International Poetry Festival 2009" at the National Museum in the city yesterday. The event was organised on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of Bishwa Kabita Parishad.

London discussion on Bangladesh today

ANA from London

A discussion on the prevailing situation in Bangladesh and the plans and programmes of the grand alliance government will be held at the British parliament today.

International Bangladesh Foundation (IBF) is organising the discussion.

Members of British and European parliament, representatives of international human rights organisations, civil society and politicians will take part in the discussion.

IBF has informed ANA that the participants would speak on the statements of some British and European MPs who visited Bangladesh recently.

IBF chairperson and vice-chairman of all party human rights group in British parliament Lord Avebury will preside over the meeting to be held at the no 3 committee room of the British Parliament Building from 11:00am to 1:00pm.

British MP Ann Maine, Baroness Pola Uddin and Jeremy Corbyn, European MP Charles Tannock, Human Rights Watch Asia Affairs Executive Director Brad Adams and Solicitor Samir Das, Bangladesh Awami League spokesperson Tulip Siddique and UK BNP Convener Alhaj Kamaruddin will take part in the discussion.

The government's role in handling Pilkhana carnage and cancellation of the lease of Khaleda Zia's Cantonment House would figure prominently in the discussion, it has been learnt.

Mild to moderate heat wave may continue over Khulna and Dhaka divisions and the regions of Rajshahi, Ishwardi and Bogra, Met Office said.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:22pm today and rises at 5:30am tomorrow.

Highest temperature 41.4 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 22.5 degrees Celsius at Sylhet.

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

City/Town Temperature in Celsius Humidity in percentage

Dhaka Max 37.3 Min 28.2 Morning 73 Evening 54

Chittagong 31.6 28.5 81 85

Rajshahi 40.7 26.0 74 30

Khulna 38.6 23.2 76 58

Barisal 34.8 27.3 81 47

Sylhet 32.8 22.5 84 64

Cox's Bazar 33.0 28.3 73 81

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius	Humidity in percentage
Dhaka	37.3	28.2
Chittagong	31.6	28.5
Rajshahi	40.7	26.0
Khulna	38.6	23.2
Barisal	34.8	27.3
Sylhet	32.8	22.5
Cox's Bazar	33.0	28.3
		73
		54
		81
		30
		58
		47
		64
		81

Centre for Development Research, Bangladesh and Bangladesh Friendship Education Society jointly organise a discussion on 'Cancer awareness, prevention and control programme in Bangladesh: Focus on cervical and breast cancer'. Venue: Dhaka Club, Time: 3:00pm.

Rally Bangladesh National Commission for UNESCO will hold a rally marking the Global Action Week 2009, Venue: Banbeis Bhaban, Time: 8:30am.

Discussion Seminar Dhaka University Library organises a seminar on manuscript. Venue: DU senate building, Time: 12:00pm.

Drug peddlers still active at Agargaon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Drug peddlers are still running their business in the city's Agargaon area where they attacked a police patrol car and ransacked a police check post on Saturday night when a police team raided the area.

Four people including three police personnel were injured in the attack.

The injured police personnel were Sub-inspector Humayun Kabir and two constables of Mohammadpur Police Station.

Sources said the police team came under attack by over 200 drug peddlers and addicts when the team raided the houses of drug peddlers at around 7:00pm.

Humayun Kabir told this correspondent that the attackers used sticks and brickbats.

A case was filed with Mohammadpur Police Station but none was arrested.

4 hurt as sacks of bran fall on rickshaws from truck

A CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Four people, including a schoolboy, were injured when two sacks of bran fell from an overloaded truck on two rickshaws at Jamtola in the town yesterday.

The injured were identified as Mojahid, 10, Giasuddin, 26, rickshaw puller Selim, 42 and Swapna, 40.

Police seized the truck but the driver managed to escape.

Wasa gets temporary MD

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday assigned a joint secretary as the managing director (MD) of Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) as an additional charge.

GRD ministry assigned Shahjahan Ali Mollah, Joint secretary (water supply), to the position following a decision of the Wasa Board.

The Wasa Board at a meeting on Thursday decided to have someone from the ministry as the MD for the time being instead of proposing one from the Wasa, meeting sources said. The government normally appoints the Wasa MD as per proposal made by the Wasa Board.

The position of Wasa MD had been lying vacant since April 9 following resignation of the incumbent Major (retd) Raihan Abedin on April 8.

Wasa Board Chairman Abdullah Harun Pasha also resigned on the same day. Engineer Dr Golam Mostafa was appointed chairman on the next day.

Both the chairman and the MD resigned on the same day under government pressure as various allegations were raised against them, sources said.

The newly appointed MD went to Wasa Bhaban yesterday afternoon and held meeting with the officials.

Besides, 4214 candidates were absent.

Among the expelled students, 86 were under Bangladesh Technical Education Board while 13 under Dhaka Board, 10 under Dinajpur Board, nine under Barisal Board, seven under Madrasa Board, six under Jessor Board, five under Rajshahi Board, three under Chittagong Board and two under Comilla Board.

A teacher from Madrasa Board was also expelled, according to the board's exam control room.

Meanwhile, two students were expelled and 29 were absent in Diploma in Business Studies examination being held under Dhaka Board.

BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia visited injured pro-BNP physician Nazrul Islam and ailing noted folk singer Kangalini Sufia at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University and Hospital yesterday evening.

Later, she went to Metropolitan Hospital at Mohakhali in the city to see Azam Ali Biswas, Sujanagar Pourasava BNP convener, who was injured reportedly in attack by a group of local Awami League activists on April 14.

The award, which includes a cheque for Tk 30,000, a crest and a certificate, will be handed over to Saleha on April 22.

DAM initiated the award in memory of late Chand Sultana, a renowned social worker and educational material developer who died a premature death in April, 1999.

The award is being given every year since 2000 to an individual or institution for their outstanding contribution to the fields of non-formal education, materials development, cancer and HIV/AIDS.

Born in 1948 at Charmontaz union of Golachipa upazila under Patuakhali, Saleha lost her seven sons and daughters, including her husband in the devastating cyclone in 1974.

Saleha Begum popularly known as Saleha Chachi of Golachipa has been selected for Chand Sultana Literacy Award-2008 of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) in recognition of her multifaceted contribution to the field of education and social development, says a press release.

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