



Abu Sayeed's anniversary of death today

METRO DESK

The 21st death anniversary of former president Justice Abu Sayeed Chowdhury will be observed today, says a press release.

On the occasion, Qurankhwan and mild mahfil will be held at Nagbari in Tangail after Juma prayers on Friday.

Relatives and admirers have been requested to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Justice Abu Sayeed Chowdhury National Memorial Council has arranged a memorial discussion titled "Values of democracy: Perspective Bangladesh" at National Museum Poet Sufia Kamal auditorium at 4.30pm on August 5.

Presided over by Prof Rafiqul Islam the function will be attended by Jute and Textiles Minister Abdul Latif Siddiky as the chief guest. Dr Shamsuzzaman Khan, Advocate AFM Mesbahuddin, Barrister Harunur Rashid and Secretary Md Musa will take part in the discussion as special guests.

Justice Mahmud Husain

METRO DESK

Today is the 27th death anniversary of former chief justice Syed A B M Mahmud Husain, says a press release.

Chief Justice Syed A B Mahmud Husain Smriti Sangsad will hold a discussion and mild mahfil at the auditorium of Supreme Court Bar Association at 4.30pm today, marking the day.

Former chief justice Mahmudul Amin Chowdhury will attend the programme as the chief guest. Bangladesh Press Council Chairman Justice Kazi Ebadul Hoque will present a paper on life of late chief justice. Judges of the Supreme Court and eminent lawyers will participate in the discussion.

Friends, relatives and admirers are requested to attend the programme.

Suraiya Begum

METRO DESK

Today is the sixth death anniversary of Suraiya Begum, an associate professor of the Department of Information Science and Library Management of Dhaka University, says a press release.

Suraiya, wife of late Tawfiq Aziz Khan, former executive editor of the Daily Star, was a life member of Bangla Academy, Library Association of Bangladesh, Institute of Library Information and Management and the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh.

She was also member of the Inner Wheel Club of Dhaka North West, an executive committee member of the Community Development Library and student adviser of the department.

Iqbal Majumder

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the eighth death anniversary of comrade Iqbal Majumder, former general secretary of Bangladesh Jatiya Sramik Federation and former secretary general of Gonotantrik Mojdoor Party, says a press release.

On the occasion, Gonotantrik Mojdoor Party leaders will place wreaths at his grave and a discussion will be held at the party office in the city.

Muazzem Ahmed Chy

METRO DESK

Today is the seventh death anniversary of Muazzem A. M. Chowdhury, a valiant freedom fighter and son of late Khan Bahadur Dewan Abdur Rahim Chowdhury of Sylhet, says a press release.

Muazzem was a Member of National Assembly (MNA) of Pakistan. He was also a close friend of Bangabandhu since his student life in Kolkata.

Unplanned urbanisation blamed for waterlogging

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday blamed land grabbers and corrupt officials of Rajuk, Dhaka City Corporation, Public Works Department and Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) for severe waterlogging in the capital.

A large part of the city goes under water whenever it rains due to unplanned urbanisation, causing immense suffering to city dwellers, they said.

Save the Environment Movement organised the seminar on 'Waterlogging in the capital: People's suffering,

damage, causes and duties' at its office in the city.

The speakers said that a group of developers with the connivance of corrupt officials have constructed high-rise buildings by filling up water bodies, lakes and canals, which resulted in waterlogging during rains.

Besides, unplanned construction of box culverts and roads as per suggestions of the World Bank also causes waterlogging, they added.

Chairman of Save the Environment Movement Abu Naser Khan, President of Bangladesh Institute of

Planners Dr Sarwar Jahan, Prof Zahid Uddin Chowdhury, Director General of Haor and Water bodies Development Board Maj Golam Kibria Khan, Engineer Shafuddin Sarker also spoke at the seminar presided over by Vice Chancellor of Buet Dr ANM Shafiqullah.

The experts also placed some recommendations, including effective steps to recover water bodies and canals, preparing a master plan for drainage system, long-term and short-term plan to remove waterlogging and utilise rainwater.

Meanwhile, Citizen's Rights Movement along with Sheba, Green Voice and Sundar Jibon also formed a human chain in Hatir Jheel area yesterday demanding removal of the BGMEA Bhaban from the heart of the Jheel.

They also demanded immediate steps to recover 43 canals in the city to get rid of waterlogging problem.

In a statement yesterday, Wasa said it had taken enough preparations and removed waterlogging from the city within a short time on July 27 following record rainfall.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

Correct wrong info in textbooks

Speakers tell roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday protested incorrect information about and wrong representation of indigenous people in school textbooks.

They also demanded that a special committee comprising indigenous people and experts be formed to correct such wrong information.

Development Initiative for Inclusive People (DIIP) in association with Shikkha Shasthya Unnayan Karjakram (SHISUK) organised the roundtable on 'Ethnic minorities, indigenous people's lifestyle: Our perspective' at the National Press Club.

Presenting the keynote paper, DIIP General Secretary Chowdhury Ataur Rahman Rana pointed out that the book 'Paribesh Parichay' for the students of class four and five is full of mistakes about indigenous people.

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday protested incorrect information about and wrong representation of indigenous people in school textbooks.

He said that incorrect names of several indigenous communities and the places where they live have been printed in the books. There are discriminatory and stereotyped comments about the lifestyle of the indigenous. The illustrations in the books are also discriminatory.

Apart from the textbooks, 'Bangladesh at a Glance' published by the Department of Films and Publications, journals published by Parjatan Corporation and even the Banglapedia have wrong information, he said.

He also said the government has taken initiative to change the name of Tribal Cultural Institute to Indigenous Cultural Institute.

Prof Sadeka Halim, Narayan Chandra Chanda MP, Dr Sheikh Abdus Salam, Dr Rubaiyat Ferdous, Shaymol Dutt, editor of the Bhoror Kagoj, and Marul Chinni, executive editor of the Amader Shomoy, also spoke.

'Lease out water bodies to poor fishermen'

UNB, Dhaka

Speakers at a seminar here yesterday emphasised a common system for leasing out government water bodies among poor fishermen to create employment opportunities in rural areas.

They said it is necessary to adopt a poverty focused and environment-friendly policy on government water body management system through inter-ministerial coordination.

They were addressing the seminar titled 'Government water body: Potential source of poverty reduction, nutritional food supply and increase rural employment' at Cirdap auditorium in the city.

They also called for creating a database of water bodies, as those are being misused or grabbed for lack of inter-ministerial coordination.

Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdul Latif Biswas and Land Minister Rejaul Karim addressed the seminar jointly organised by Fisheries Department and Bangladesh Shrimp and Fish Foundation.

Abdul Latif said if the country's 28000 water bodies could be properly used through fish farming, those would be the most effective sources to cut rural poverty.

The minister, however, expressed his concern that the production of spawn and fry are declining due to the changing environment in water bodies due to filling up of riverbanks by encroachers.

Land Minister Rejaul Karim said the government has adopted a fresh fish policy to increase the production so that the country could export fish meeting the local demand.

He also emphasised on inter-ministerial coordination to properly manage the government water bodies.

Principal Secretary to Prime Minister's office Abdul Karim, Land Secretary Ahsanul Fattah and BSF Chairman Syed Mahmudul Haque, among others, addressed the seminar.

Appeal for help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

at the university.

It was revealed at the meeting that 50 incidents of women repression in July and 54 incidents in June were recorded while the number was not over 36 in previous months.

The modes of repression include torture and murder for dowry, rape, abduction, and acid attack.

The incidents of repression were recorded from five local and national dailies. Out of 50 incidents in July, the highest 29 incidents occurred in Rajshahi while eight in Chapainawabganj, seven in Natore and six in Naogaon.

The most appalling aspect is that the oppressors are easily managing corrupt police, court officials and doctors to influence the investigation and trial in their favour.

M Liakat Ali, editor of local Bengali daily Sonali Sangbad, at the programme opined that social awareness and united movement against women repression are needed to change the situation.

The BMP demanded proper investigation into the murder of RU student Nima Parvin, a student of Management department, and immediate arrest of the killers.

Contributions can be sent to Inu Chakma, Savings Account No 4795, Bangladesh Krishi Bank, Khagrachhari Branch, Khagrachhari, Chittagong, Bangladesh. Cell phone numbers 01553740456 and 01925845334.



Different kinds of fishes put on display at the Matsya Fair 2009 that kicked off on the Shishu Academy premises in the city yesterday.

Withdrawal of army from CHT a positive step

Speakers say at BBC Sanglap

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

the problem for the sake of the country.

About the withdrawal of army from the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) to implement the CHT Peace Accord is a positive step, and civil law enforcers should keep the law and order situation under control, said the speakers at a BBC Sanglap yesterday.

Commenting on the council's seminar titled 'Government water body: Potential source of poverty reduction, nutritional food supply and increase rural employment' at Cirdap auditorium in the city.

They however hoped that intra-party democracy would be ensured gradually.

Regarding the Tipaimukh Dam issue, Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith said four out of five names proposed by BNP as special were not specialists at all.

They also raised the question why Awami League could not implement the accord during their tenure from 1997 to 2001.

The finance minister alleged that BNP and Jamaat are now trying to make Tipaimukh a political issue instead of trying to solve

the decision to deploy army should be taken basing on the need for security. If needed army should be there and if not they should not be there," he

added.

Poet Asad Chowdhury said nothing should be imposed on anybody.

"The hill people are also the part of Bangladesh. So why army should be deployed there?" he posed a question.

About the AL council Muhith said though none contested for the post of general secretary it was not the best way.

He hoped proper democratic norms would be maintained in all the tiers of the party.

He however said AL President Sheikh Hasina and General Secretary Syed Ashraful Islam formed the committee after discussing with the party leaders and activists.

Moyeen said proper democratic principle was not followed in the AL council.

He hoped that his party would select leadership through election.

The dialogue on the contemporary issues of the country was organised by Bangla Service of BBC.

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS MEET THIS WEEK

South Asian bodies to display ideas to improve nutrition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Importantly, it will highlight the need to empower women within their families and communities to address the socio-cultural determinants of under-nutrition.

A number of prominent organisations have partnered with WB to support the South Asia Regional Development Marketplace, including Unicef.

The development marketplace (DM) competition is hosted by World Bank (WB) and is designed to showcase and fund such innovative approaches, focusing especially on children under two years of age and pregnant women.

The event styled 'Family and Community Approaches to Improve Infant and Young Child Nutrition' will bring together 60 civil society organisations from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka which will compete for 20 grants of up to \$40,000 each to implement their ideas.

"The scale of the under-nutrition problem in South Asia is alarming," said Isabel M. Guerrero, vice-president of WB.

He called upon all to plant and take care of plants to make tree plantation campaign across the country a success.

Department of Forest, Chittagong north and district administration organised the fair at Chittagong Outer Stadium as part of the National Tree Plantation Programme and Tree Fair 2009.

A total of twolakh saplings of different species of fruit, medicinal and timber yielding trees were sold at the fair where government, non-government and private nurseries set stalls.

The DM was launched in February 2009 by reaching out to communities across South Asia seeking proposals for local, small-scale projects with the potential to be scaled up and replicated.

In just over three months, almost 1,000 civil society organisations from across the region submitted their proposals.

Later, the minister gave away certificates and crests among the participants at the fair.

Aronyak Nursery secured the first prize while Cosmo Nursery and Banorupa Nursery received second and third prize respectively among the participants at the fair.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prof ANM Abdul Mannan Khan of Arabic department of Dhaka University passed away due to diabetes and old-age complications at Combined Military Hospital in the city yesterday at the age of 66, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, four sons, five daughters and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

His namaz-e-janaza was held at DU Central Mosque after Asr prayers yesterday and later his body was taken to his village home for burial.

DU Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique expressed profound shock at his death. He also prayed for salvation of the departed soul and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family members.

Abul Mansur Ahmed Khan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Abul Mansur Ahmed Khan, nephew of Mohiuddin Khan Mohon, deputy publicity secretary of BNP, passed away due to a cardiac attack in United Arab Emirates on July 26 at the age of 28, says a press release.

In a condolence message, BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain expressed deep shock at his death and conveyed sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.



'Incidents of women repression on rise in Rajshahi region'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,

Rajshahi

Rajshahi University (RU) unit of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BMP) yesterday expressed concern over the rise of women repression in

four districts -- Rajshahi, Chapainawabganj, Natore and Naogaon -- in the northern region in recent months.