



Sher-e-Bangla's
136th birth
anniversary
today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 136th birth anniversary of renowned politician and social worker Sher-e-Bangla AK Fazlul Haque.

Leaders of different political and socio-cultural organisations will pay tribute by placing wreaths at his grave.

On the occasion, special doa and milad mahfil will be held at the residence of his grandson AK Faiyazul Haque Razu, assistant secretary of central sub-committee on international affairs of Awami League.

Relatives, friends and admirers are requested to join the programme.

MCCI award for investigative journalism on environment

METRO DESK

Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) yesterday announced its grant for an annual award to recognise investigative journalism on environmental issues, says a press release.

Every year, newspaper report/television programme/TV feature film will be given a cash award of Tk 1 lakh, yearly subscriptions of international magazines/reports/publications up to Tk 50,000 and a chamber's plaque with suitable citation.

In addition, an entrepreneur or an industry will be given a special award for having taken commendable programmes or measures for effluent treatment discharge control thereby reducing eliminating environmental pollutions, the release added.

An autonomous selection committee headed by Dr Akbar Ali Khan, former adviser to a caretaker government, and four other members - AHM Moazzem Hossain, editor of The Financial Express, Syeda Rizwana Hasan, executive director of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers' Association (BELA), Abdul Hafiz Chowdhury, president of MCCI and CK Hyder, adviser to MCCI Committee, will be in the selection process.

The committee has started the process of making the selections for the current year.

Babar to chair Asian CSR Award jury

METRO DESK

Mohiuddin Babar, columnist, researcher on CSR and a broadcaster, has been selected by the Manila-based Asian Forum on CSR to chair the jury for Asian CSR Awards for 2009.

The Asian Institute of Management in the Philippines organises the conferences of Asian CSR Forum in different Asian cities every year, says a press release.

Babar is heading the panel of judges drawn from academia, NGOs and think tanks from different countries in the region.

The Forum awards businesses in the region for remarkable practices and achievements in the field of CSR, including best workplace practices, health, education and environment.

A total of 132 business establishments from 14 countries are in the race for the prestigious regional award this year.

Earlier, Babar was made a judge for the awards in 2007 and 2008.

He is currently working on a project on Climate Change Adaptations and CSR.

Govt to fix price limit for food grains

Says minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will fix a price limit for food grains in the food procurement policy to make sure that farmers get due profits and produce adequate crops to cut dependency on food import, Food and Disaster Management Minister Abdur Razzaque said yesterday.

"We must help farmers keep their interest to grow more food grains. For this, we shall fix the highest and lowest price. If anyone crosses the limit, the government will make market intervention," he said.

Razzaque said this while presiding over a discussion at the ministry on domestic food procurement policy, procedures, problems and prospects.

Food Secretary Mokhlesur Rahman, Bangladesh Agriculture University Vice Chancellor Dr Abdus Sattar Mondal, Brac Executive Director Dr Mahabub Hossain, Centre for Policy Dialogue Head of Research Dr Uttam Deb, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies Research Director Dr Asaduzzaman, Directorate General of Food Plus Costa, Director General of Food and Disaster Management Minister Abdur Razzaque said yesterday.

"The food procurement policy will be amended before the next food procurement drive. In no way, there should be dependence on food import. Therefore, an improved management will be designed so farmers, consumers and traders all benefit," the minister said.

The minister, who is an agriculturist by

profession, said the farmers might be provided with more subsidies on agricultural inputs to encourage them to grow food crops. Besides, the government may also buy more food to increase prices to help them get just price, he noted.

This year, rice procurement price was more than the market price, but the farmers could not get the expected price, he said, adding that therefore new policy should be formulated.

The food minister said godowns could be set up at private level in the rural areas from where the government can procure rice at a fixed price or traders may buy certain amount of food from farmers at government-fixed price and then supply to the government.

Body to probe CMC clash: 3 Shibir men held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Police arrested three Islami Chhatra Shibir men yesterday following Saturday's clash between members of Shibir and Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) at Chittagong Medical College (CMC) while a five-member committee was formed to probe into the matter.

The arrestees -- two CMC students and an outsider -- Rusho and Rajiv Md Walullah, a fifth year and a third year student respectively, and Mashrur Hossain, a fourth year student of Accounting department of Haji Md Mohsin College were kept at the Panchlaish police custody.

Besides, a tense situation is prevailing at CMC as BCL activists rushed to the main hostel after being informed that a group of 10-12 Shibir

men attempted to capture few rooms yesterday carrying sticks and locks.

Assistant Commissioner of Panchlaish Police Station SM Nurul Huda denied the incident saying the Shibir men failed to enter the hostel when additional force chased them.

CMC Principal Prof Dr Gofranul Hoque said the committee, led by Vice Principal Prof Dr Amin Uddin A Khan and consists of Prof Anwar Hossain, Prof Mohibullah, Dr Jilur Rahman and Dr Saroj Kumar Majumder, was asked to submit its report within fifteen days.

All the academic activities, including MBBS and BDS course examinations, regular classes and ward duties, were suspended for indefinite period, said the sources.

However, the admission process for the first year MBBS

course is going on amid tight security after two platoons of police were deployed there.

Earlier, three male hostels of CMC were evacuated after the authorities, in an emergency meeting on Saturday, declared the college shut for indefinite period following the clash that left at least 20 students, including a policeman, injured.

Only the foreign students were allowed to stay at particular blocks of the hostels.

Meanwhile, Additional Superintendent of Police (Hathazari circle) Babul Akhter said eight platoons of police in assistance with the Chittagong University authorities raided Shah Amanat Hall and Suhrawardy Hall yesterday on information that outsiders were gathering there, known as dens of Shibir activists.

However, police found none there.

Eviction drive after river survey by Nov

Says Shipping minister

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ngan

Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan yesterday said survey of the rivers are going on as per the High Court order and after the completion of the task by November drive would be conducted to dismantle illegal installations and evict grabbers.

He said dredging would be done to expand river routes and four firms have been given the work of dredging rivers.

He said these at a discussion while visiting Ananda Shipyard and Shipways Ltd at Sonargaon Meghnaghat in Narayanganj yesterday.

The shipping minister said like garment sector the shipyard-building sector has huge potentials. He said shipyard would play an important role in invigorating the economy of the country.

Terming Bangladesh's shipbuilding industry as a promising sector, Holger Michael said the German delegation Pete Kalson and Director of the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) AKM Monzurul Haq were present.

BSS adds: Shahjahan Khan said the government is contemplating formulation of a policy for the promising shipbuilding industry in view of its economic prospect, as the sector is becoming a thrust one in the country.

Delegation of OAV-German Asia Pacific Business Association visited Ananda Shipyard and

participated at a discussion on "Ship building industry in Bangladesh" on the Shipyard premises.

Chairman of Ananda Shipyard and Shipways Ltd naval architect Dr Abdullahe Bari presided over the programme. Executive director of the firm Afroza Bari, German Ambassador Holger Michael, head of German delegation Pete Kalson and Director of the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) AKM Monzurul Haq were present.

BSS adds: Shahjahan Khan said the government is contemplating formulation of a policy for the promising shipbuilding industry in view of its economic prospect, as the sector is becoming a thrust one in the country.

Terming Bangladesh's shipbuilding industry as a promising sector, Holger Michael said the German government is ready to provide Bangladesh with all-out technical support to boost the sector.

One shot by extortionists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Criminals yesterday afternoon shot an employee of an underconstruction building and stabbed a construction labourer in the city's East Kazipara area under Kafrul Police Station as the owner refused to pay toll.

A gang of three criminals shot Belal Uddin Pradhan, 35, caretaker of the building, on his thigh and chopped Alamgir Hossain, 25, a construction labourer, in different parts of his body with a machete at around 4:30pm.

The injured were rushed to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital.

Abdul Awal, owner of the building, told The Daily Star that four months ago one Ripon demanded toll from him over phone as he was constructing the building. When he refused to pay the toll, three to four days later they shot a security guard of his building.

Develop professional skills to reduce disaster risks

Journalists urged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a consultation meeting emphasised on enhancing professional skills of media men for reduction of disaster risk across the country.

They made the remark while addressing the workshop on 'Promoting the role of media in disaster risk reduction' organised by Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CDMP) under the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management at Biam Foundation auditorium in the city yesterday.

Dr Akhtar Hossain, consultant of the CDMP, urged the policy makers as well as the media men to include the disaster risk reduction programme in the mainstream development activities.

Dr SM Moshed, consultant of the CDMP, call for collective efforts to reduce the disaster risk in the country.

Around 20 reporters of different print and electronic media attended the workshop.

CU teacher dismissed for unsocial activity

RAKIB AHAMMED

Chittagong University (CU) syndicate yesterday dismissed a lecturer of international relations department from service for his involvement in unsocial activity.

Foyez Ahmed was dismissed at a regular meeting of the syndicate with Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Abu Yusuf in the chair.

Syndicate member Prof Kamrul Huda told The Daily Star that the meeting decided to terminate the service of Foyez since the university authorities had certified copy of the court order that awarded financial punishment to the teacher for his involvement in unsocial activity.

"According to the service rules of the university none can continue job if he faces any conviction," said Prof Kamrul.

Earlier, Foyez was also issued a show-cause notice, but he didn't reply on time that pushed his answer beyond the consideration of the syndicate, he added.

Mentionable, Detective Branch (DB) police of Chittagong Metropolitan Police arrested Foyez with five girls from the ninth floor of an apartment at the city's Chittagong intersection on August 20.

He was released on the following day when police produced him and made prosecution submission before a court under section 76 of Metro Ordinance.

The injured were rushed to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital.

Abdul Awal, owner of the building, told The Daily Star that four months ago one Ripon demanded toll from him over phone as he was constructing the building. When he refused to pay the toll, three to four days later they shot a security guard of his building.

Death Anniversary

DU CORRESPONDENT

METRO DESK

Today is the 18th death anniversary of Shaheed Ahmed, former general secretary of Dhaka University Students' Union (DUCSU).

On the occasion, Fateha will be offered and wreaths will be placed at his grave at 7:00pm today.

A milad mahfil will be held at House # 6, Block A, Road no 18, Banani in the city after Maghrib prayers on October 20, says a press release.

Relatives, friends and admirers are requested to join the programmes and pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Abdul Awwal

METRO DESK

Today is the 20th death anniversary of Janab Abdul Awwal, a veteran of the Language Movement, says a press release.

Janab Abdul Awwal was elected MLA from Sonargaon in Narayanganj in 1954.

He was a close associate of Sher-E-Bangla AK Fazlul Haque, Hussain Shahid Suhrawardy and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

He was also one of the founding members of the Awami Muslim League.

Relatives, friends and associates are requested to pray for salvation of the departed soul.



Home Minister Sahara Khatun visits injured journalist FM Masum at a hospital at Moghbazar in the city yesterday. On her right is State Minister for Home Affairs Shamsul Haque Tuku. (Story on Page 1)

Hizb ut-Tahrir student body active at DU

RAKIB AHAMMED

Chhatra Mukti, the student body of banned Islamist political party Hizb ut-Tahrir Bangladesh, has recruited secretly a good number of Dhaka University (DU) students as its members in the last couple of years, and started its activities on the campus by giving programmes on different issues.

Chief Coordinator of Hizb ut-Tahrir Mohiuddin Ahmed declined to mention the exact number of Chhatra Mukti activists at DU considering the present crisis period of the organisation.

The government on Thursday banned all activities of Hizb ut-Tahrir on charge of carrying out anti-state, anti-government, anti-people and anti-democratic activities for long in the country.

Talking to The Daily Star, Mohiuddin, also an assistant professor of the Institute of Business Administration (IBA) at DU, said, "We are observing the situation and would disclose later about the student body."

He said Chhatra Mukti started its organisational activities in 2005 and it has many members.

Mahfuzur Rahman, a DU student, is the convener of the student body, said Mohiuddin while talking to The Daily Star over phone recently.

He said students are the main force of the organisation and Chhatra Mukti has become successful in establishing its network in most of the public universities in the country as well as private universities and colleges in the city.

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Members of Chhatra Mukti held demonstrations on DU campus in last couple of years on different issues including

cancelation of quota system in government services and punishment to a DU teacher.

The student body used both organisational and the banner of general students to hold such programmes which were participated by several hundred students in most of the times.

The organisation also distributed subversive leaflets among the students on different issues.

He also said a case was filed against several Chhatra Mukti activists in connection with the distribution of subversive leaflets.

DU Proctor Dr KM Saiful Islam said, "There is no room for any reactionary student body at Dhaka University and Chhatra Mukti will be listed as reactionary organisation."

He said the Paribesh Parishad, a body formed by the representatives of students and authorities, will take final decision in this regard.

Obituary

METRO DESK

Colonel (Retd) Dr Abdul Matin Choudhury passed away at his residence on Oct 21 at the age of 82, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, two sons, two daughters, grandchildren and hosts of admirers to mourn his death.

His namaz-e-janaza was held at the DOHS (Banani) Jame Mosque after Esha prayers the same day.