

VERDICT ON BANGABANDHU MURDER CASE

Security beefed up

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police high-ups yesterday asked the rank and file to remain alert for their own security yesterday as tight security has been beefed up across the country centring the trial of Bangabandhu killing case.

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Nur Mohammad at a press conference said security of some individuals and key installations has already been beefed up for the last few days and it would be tightened more ahead of the announcement of the verdict on November 19 to thwart any untoward incident.

"It's a significant matter. We'll ensure tough security on that day," the IGP told the briefing at the police headquarters in the middle of the monthly crime conference where senior police officials attended.

Sources said alongside finding

ways for ensuring security of all, the senior police officials at the meeting also discussed the changing law and order situation, present security arrangement and security to their own and family members.

Replying to a query, the IGP said significant development has been made regarding the attack on Awami League lawmaker Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh and it would be disclosed later.

Asked whether any involvement of former state minister for home Lutfuzzaman Babar is found in connection with the August 21, 2004 grenade attack case, he said an investigation is going on following a court order and a charge sheet will be submitted.

The police chief said the meeting decided to instruct the field-level policemen not to stop any truck carrying sacrificial

cattle to the city, even though the particular truck or its driver does not have proper documents, ahead of the upcoming Eid unless they have any specific information of carrying any illegal things through it.

Police will take necessary steps so that no untoward incident centring the cattle hide can take place, he said, seeking cooperation from all concerned to stop toll collection and extortions.

Asked about the finance minister's recent remark that a part of the illegal small arms that are recovered went to the criminals again in subcontinent, the police chief blasted the minister for such comment.

He said, "You journalist better ask the minister, not me, about the base of his information," adding that there is no chance of going back the seized firearms to the

hands of criminals as those are shown as evidence in the cases filed after recovery.

Nur Mohammad noted that they have assigned uniformed police and civvies so that no unrest in garment sector can take place ahead of the Eid.

About the outlaw-infested southwest region, he said the situation has improved a lot and the improvement would be even more enough manpower and vehicle could be provided to the camps there.

Asked about the execution of Tuesday's High Court directive to him to stop within 48 hours earth filling and encroachment on the river Turag, the IGP said he is yet to receive the order, but already instructed his forces concerned to take steps out of social responsibility.



Law enforcers stand guard in front of the main gate of the High Court in the city yesterday as part of beefed-up security.

Indian foreign secretary due in city tomorrow

UNB, Dhaka

Indian Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao will arrive in Dhaka on November 14 on a two-day official visit at the invitation of his Bangladesh counterpart Mijarul Quayes.

Director-General (South Asia) of the Foreign Ministry Muhammad Imran told UNB that the Indian foreign secretary will discuss with Mijarul Quayes preparations for Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to New Delhi.

Hasina is likely to visit India in mid-December.

Nirupama Rao will also call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Foreign Minister Dipu Moni.

She is also expected to call on Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

SAFETY STANDARD OF CAAB

Dhaka seeks int'l pilot body's cooperation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh yesterday sought necessary cooperation from International Federation of Airline Pilots' Association (IFALPA) in improving safety standard of Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB), which faces lack of efficiency.

"We are concerned about the downgrading of CAAB to the significant safety concern marked by the International Civil Aviation Authority. We, therefore, seek necessary assistance from IFALPA to improve safety standard of CAAB," said Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister GM Quader.

The minister said this at IFALPA's three-day Asia-Pacific regional confer-

ence organised by Bangladesh Airlines Pilots' Association (BAPA) at Sonargaon Hotel in the city.

Quader's call came at a time when the International Civil Aviation Authority (ICAO) recently levelled CAAB as 'significant safety concern list' due to poor maintenance of aircraft and runways.

He, however, said the authority concerned has already taken steps to overcome the deficiencies of the civil aviation authority and improve the aviation safety.

"The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) of the USA earlier levelled CAAB as Category 2. By this time, we have improved a lot and CAAB will hopefully return to the Category 1 if it approaches

FAA," the minister told reporters after the opening ceremony of the event.

He also informed that the national flag carrier would soon resume its New York flight which was suspended in 2006.

IFALPA President Carlos Limon said improvement of CAAB is imperative for safe and comfortable transport for passengers.

He said, "We are here to help you and work together to upgrade CAAB into Category 1."

The main objective of the conference is to address aviation safety issues as well as to work out solutions to the technical problems through discussions by aviation experts from home and abroad.

FM apprises US envoy of women empowerment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

US Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues Melanne Verwee called on Foreign Minister Dipu Moni at her ministry office in the city yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed President Obama's recent speech in Cairo and his reference to Bangladesh in relation to the empowerment of women, says a press release.

Dipu welcomed the idea expressed by President Obama in his Cairo speech that the US would work in partnership with any Muslim-majority country to support expanded literacy for girls and help young women pursue employment through micro-credit.

The foreign minister mentioned the first UN resolution on 'Women, Peace and Security' which was conceived by Bangladesh and was adopted unanimously at the UN in 2000.

Dipu expressed her happiness that Bangladesh had attained almost 100 percent achievement in enrolment of girls in primary education.

Women constitute the major workforce in our principal export-earning sector -- apparel industry.

She also said that the home-grown ideas such as micro-credit have changed the fate of ruler women and indeed the whole society -- making them primary bread earners of the family.

Prof Harun Kader passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Prof Harun Kader Md Yusuf of Microbiology and Molecular Biology department at Dhaka University passed away due to cancer at Square Hospital in the city early yesterday at the age of 63.

He left behind his wife, son, daughter and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

He was buried at Azimpur graveyard after his namaz-e-janaza.

Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, pro-Vice Chancellor Prof Harun-or-Rashid and Treasurer Prof Mizanur Rahman expressed shock at his death.

Consumers Association of Bangladesh also expressed shock at his death.

Mother passes away

Prof Harun's mother fell ill hearing the news of her son's death. Later, she was admitted to a city hospital where she passed away around 1:45pm yesterday.

Surayya Anis

METRO DESK



Surayya Anis, wife of Mir Anis-uzzaman, former governor of Rotary International District 3280 (Bangladesh), passed away due to cancer at Apollo Hospitals in the city at 7:00pm yesterday, says a press release.

Her namaz-e-janaza will be held at Gulshan Central Mosque after Juma prayers today.

She will be buried at her family graveyard at Bat-tail in Kushtia.

RESTORATION OF 1972 CONSTITUTION

Wait till SC verdict: Suranjit Let politicians decide: SQ Chy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League leader Suranjit Sengupta yesterday said there is no alternative but to restore the 1972 constitution to unite the nation, but it would be wise to wait for the Supreme Court verdict in this regard.

On the other hand, BNP leader Salaudhin Quader Chowdhury said the politicians, not judges, would have to take the decision on the issue, as people did not vote the lawmakers to implement the verdicts given by judges.

Both the parliamentarians, however, agreed that discussions should be held on some important issues concerning the constitution such as Article 70, which do not allow lawmakers to vote against their party in parliament.

"There are a lot of scopes to update the constitution. I am a parliament member but can't vote according to my own judgment," said Salaudhin.

Suranjit echoed his views, saying that such issues should be discussed.

The two lawmakers said this at the 'Meet the reporters' programme organised by Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU) at its auditorium.

Suranjit, one of the members of the constituent assembly that prepared the constitution in 1972 but did not sign it

over some difference of opinion, said that he would sign the constitution this time after restoration of the 1972 constitution with necessary changes.

Suranjit, also chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on law ministry, said independence is incomplete without the '72 constitution while Salaudhin, a member of the same committee, said those who framed the constitution were not elected in independent Bangladesh.

Suranjit said people voted to return to the '72 constitution, as it was his party's election pledge and that the court also declared illegal the fifth amendment to the constitution as well as the martial law.

Salaudhin said the government should restore the constitution with the first four amendments, as Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman himself brought those amendments.

But Suranjit said it is the Awami League and the grand alliance government who will decide on the issue.

Salaudhin said the four pillars of the constitution were not in the 1970 election manifesto of the Awami League.

Asked about the provision of caretaker government system, Suranjit said the Election Commission has become

independent and stronger and it can be strengthened further before scrapping the provision.

Salaudhin said all the parties first have to be respectful to each other.

DRU president Shamim Ahmed presided over the programme while its general secretary Pathik Saha gave a welcome address.

New NU exam timing

METRO DESK

The second year honours examinations-2008 under National University (NU) will begin at 10:00am instead of 1:00pm on November 16, says a press release.

Earlier, the university authorities set the beginning time of examinations at 1:00pm aiming not to disturb class teaching in the colleges where examination centres were set up.

Principals, guardians and students of different colleges across the country raised objections about the new timing and demanded its change.

Considering their demand the university authorities reset the timetable of examinations at 10:00am instead of 1:00pm. Rest of the schedule will remain unchanged.

Death anniversary

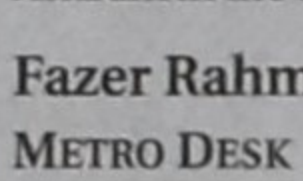
METRO DESK



Today is the 2nd death anniversary of Prof Matilal (ML) Chowdhury, secretary general of Bangladesh UK Friendship Society, founder of Khila College Netrakona and vice-principal of Bangabashi (Tejgaon) College, says a press release.

On the occasion, a religious programme will be held at Loknath Brahmachary Ashram in the city.

Fazer Rahman METRO DESK



Today is the first death anniversary of Fazer Rahman, a freedom fighter and social worker, says a press release.

On the occasion, a doa mahfil and quikhwani will be held at Pirgachha Annada Nagar Nabuchalunia residence in Rangpur district.

UNICEF REPORT

40pc children suffer from malnutrition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Most of the world's chronically undernourished under-fives -- 8.3 crore children -- are in South Asia, according to a Unicef report titled 'Improving Child and Maternal Nutrition', released yesterday.

More than 40 percent of young children are undernourished in Afghanistan, Nepal, India, Bangladesh and Pakistan, the five countries hit hardest by the problem, it said.

The report presents recent survey-based data on global prevalence of under-nutrition (stunting, wasting, underweight) but highlights stunting in particular as it is closely linked to child mortality, chronic disease in adult life and a predictor of a child's brain development.

Some 43 percent of the under fives in Bangladesh are moderately or severely stunted, 49 percent in Nepal, 48 percent in India, 42 percent in Pakistan and 59 percent in Afghanistan.

South Asia makes up nearly 8.3 crore undernourished

children in total and rest of the world 7.2 crore.

The report also said breastfeeding within one hour of birth and exclusively for at least six months, is the single intervention with the largest impact on child survival, potentially reducing under-five child mortality by 12-15 percent in developing countries.

Across South Asia, harmful cultural and traditional practices such as child marriage lead to many women giving birth young. They are told to eat less during pregnancy -- for easier delivery -- they're anemic and undernourished, and as a result have low birthweight babies who may survive but not thrive, the report said.

It called for equal attention to proper care and feeding of children between six months and two years. This is not just about food. It is about giving the right kinds of food and care at the right age -- promoting immediate and exclusive breastfeeding, the report added.

Qulkhwani

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

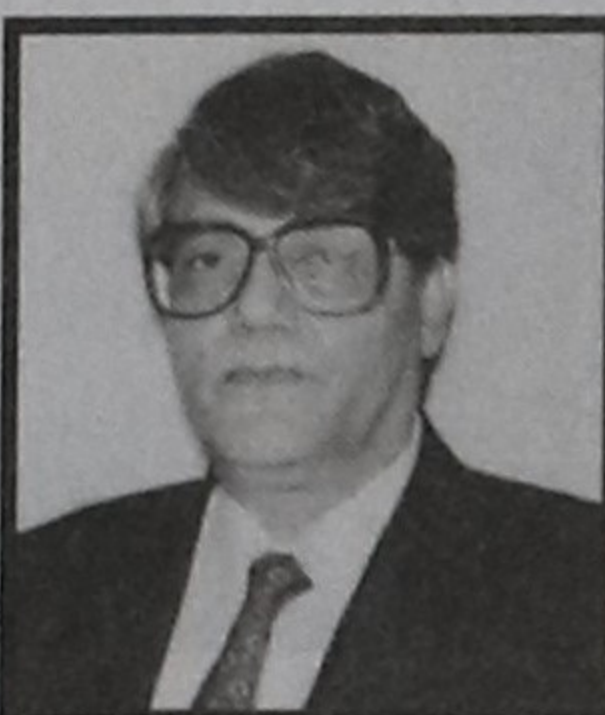
Qulkhwani of Tania Jesmin (Moni), daughter of Alhaj Mohammad Sirajul Islam, will be held at her father's residence at 12/13 Lalmoahon Poddar Lane at Faridabad in the city after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

Tania, wife of Talat Imam, passed away at the Apollo Hospitals in the early hours of Tuesday at the age of 41.

She left behind her husband, a son and a host of relatives to mourn her death.

On the occasion, a doa mahfil will also be held at the Banani Chairmanbari Mosque after Asr prayers tomorrow (Saturday).

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the doa mahfils and pray for salvation of the departed soul.



মরহমের বিদেহী আত্মার মাগফেরাত কামনার উদ্দেশ্যে আজ ১৩ নভেম্বর শুক্রবার বাদ-আসর বারিধারা জামে মসজিদে (রোড নং-০১ বৃটিশ হাইকমিশন-এর নিকটে) দোয়া-মাহফিল অনুষ্ঠিত হবে। উক্ত দোয়া মাহফিলে তাঁর সহকর্মী, বন্ধু-বান্ধব ও সকল শুভানুধ্যায়ীদের উপস্থিতি থাকতে বিশেষ ভাবে অনুরোধ করা হচ্ছে।

ঢাকা স্টক এক্সচেঞ্জ লি:

দোয়া-মাহফিল

ঢাকা স্টক এক্সচেঞ্জ এর সাবেক চেয়ারম্যান ও ইমতিয়াজ হোসেন সিকিউরিটিজ লিমিটেড এর প্রতিষ্ঠাতা চেয়ারম্যান মরহম ইমতিয়াজ হোসেন গত ২৯ অক্টোবর '০৯ সন্ধ্যা ৬৮ বছর বয়সে হৃদরোগে আক্রান্ত হয়ে ইন্তেকাল করেছেন।

মরহমের বিদেহী আত্মার মাগফেরাত কামনার উদ্দেশ্যে আজ ১৩ নভেম্বর শুক্রবার বাদ-আসর বারিধারা জামে মসজিদে (রোড নং-০১ বৃটিশ হাইকমিশন-এর নিকটে) দোয়া-মাহফিল অনুষ্ঠিত হবে। উক্ত দোয়া মাহফিলে তাঁর সহকর্মী, বন্ধু-বান্ধব ও সকল শুভানুধ্যায়ীদের উপস্থিতি থাকতে বিশেষ ভাবে অনুরোধ করা হচ্ছে।

ঢাকা স্টক এক্সচেঞ্জ লি: এর পক্ষ থেকে

DHAKA TODAY

Seminar

Multiplan Centre Shop Owners Association organises a seminar on role of ICT in building digital Bangladesh. Venue: Multiplan Centre. Time: 4:30pm.

View exchange meet

Sector Commanders Forum organises a view exchange meeting on Liberation War and war criminals. Venue: Dhaka University Senate Bhaban. Time: 4:00pm.

Human chain

National Front of Teachers and Employees will form a human chain demanding incorporating them in the new national pay scale. Venue: Mukhtangan. Time: 11:00am.

Roundtable

The weekly Ashey Din Jai organises a roundtable on 'One house one farm in building digital Bangladesh'. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:00am.



Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Light to moderate fog may occur over the river basins of the country during late night till morning, Met Office said.

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

The sun sets in the capital at 6:13pm today and rises at 7:13am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 33.4 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and Jessore and lowest 17.2 degrees Celsius at Srirangal.

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

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	32.3	20.7	64	59
Chittagong	31.5	20.7	70	60
Rajshahi	32.2	18.4	89	85
Khulna	32.3	20.8	64	79
Barisal	32.0	19.6	79	91
Sylhet	30.9	19.7	73	76
Cox's Bazar	33.4	22.0	67	56