

Khaleda warns Huda over his comments

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia warned her party colleague Nazmul Huda not to make any more 'objectionable' comments about the party and its leaders.

Huda, a much talked about BNP leader and also a former minister, met Khaleda on Monday night in a bid to remove the gap created between them following some comments made by him in the media.

He expressed his regret for his recent remarks, if any of them hurt the chairperson.

When asked, Huda last night told The Daily Star, "I explained everything to madam (BNP chief) and I think I have made myself clear."

"It's true that a little gap was created but I believe she knows me very well. She also knows that BNP is my life," he said, hoping that he would continue as vice-chairman-2 of the party's central executive committee.

Huda recently told reporters that it could have been fair if chairperson Khaleda Zia addressed Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as "Bangabandhu".

He also said those who change party frequently are in better position in BNP and he is planning to meet Awami League President Sheikh Hasina.

Following those remarks, Huda was dropped from the party's central committee announced on January 1. However, two posts of vice-chairmen are still vacant.

Newly-wed college girl commits suicide

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A college girl committed suicide within three months of her marriage at her in-law's house at Azimpur Officers' Colony in the city yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Nusrat Jahan, 19, a student of Women's Federation College at Dhanmondi.

Nusrat committed suicide by hanging herself from the ceiling fan with a scarf in her bedroom at around 1:00pm. Her husband Rashed Mahmud Mithun, an A level student and locals rushed her to the Dhaka Medical College and Hospital where on-duty doctors declared her dead at 2:00pm.

Rashed told The Daily Star that he married Nusrat on October 15 last year. He said Nusrat might have committed suicide after being driven by emotion as he is still unemployed.

Meanwhile, elder sister of the deceased Israt Jahan Leon alleged that her sister was forced to commit suicide.

Appeal for help

METRO DESK

Kakoli Rani Bhadra, a staff nurse of ZH Sikder Medical College Hospital in the city, has been suffering from breast cancer.

Despite taking Bilateral Mastectomy, Chemotherapy and Radiotherapy, Kakoli, 24, is yet to recover from the prolonged illness that has also put her job at stake, says a press release.

Doctors have said Kakoli, who returned from an Indian hospital, must undergo advanced treatment immediately, which will cost Tk 10 lakh.

It is not possible for her father, who is a peasant from Jessore, to afford such an expensive treatment.

Other than the house they're living in, the poor family has lost everything for her treatment.

Hence, Purnima Rani Bhadra, mother of Kakoli, has urged the affluent people to extend financial support to help save the life of her daughter.

Contributions can be sent to Kakoli Rani Bhadra, Savings Account No 0007334066827, National Bank Ltd, ZH Sikder Medical College Branch, Rayer Bazar, Dhaka.

Interested persons can also call her or her family members at 01915-049662, 01913-285643 or 01722-509206.

Take stern action against lawbreakers

PM directs law enforcement agencies

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday directed the law enforcement agencies to bring all of those who will break the laws of the land to book, whoever they may be.

"Stern action will be taken against the lawbreakers, no matter whatever their political identity is," the PM said while addressing the inaugural ceremony of the Police Week 2010 and annual parade of the force at Rajarbagh Police Lines.

This year the police week with four-day programmes is being observed with the promise of building a 'liveable safe Bangladesh'.

"I want to say it very clearly you must bring all of those who are harmful to the country's law-and-order situation to law. In this regard, no negligence will be tolerated."

The premier in her address also advised the police members to attain confidence and trust of people providing best services to the patriotic people of the country.

"Without people's involvement and cooperation terrorism and crimes cannot be eliminated from society completely," she said.

Hasina reaffirmed her government's strong stand to eliminate extortion, terrorism, violence and all other criminal activities from the country.

She made it clear that the people who voted the present government is pledge-bound to fulfil their expectations.

"Every person of this land wants a



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina takes salute at the annual parade of police force at the inaugural ceremony of the Police Week 2010 at Rajarbagh Police Lines in the city yesterday.

safe life, peaceful environment, normal movement and guarantee of their livelihoods. They want to sleep in peace. And it is our sacred duty to fulfil all these aspirations of people," the PM said.

Hasina said as the members of law-enforcing agencies, police have the most important role to play in implementing the government commitment for ensuring happy life for the people.

"I believe you all will perform your respective duties properly and sincerely," she told the police.

The premier thanked all members

of the police department for their brave and bold role in combating militant and extremist groups in the first year of the present democratic government.

Police have to work very hard as the number of police members against the total population is not sufficient, the PM said.

"Even you do not have fixed working hours. But I can assure that our government is completely aware of every problem facing the police department and is taking necessary measures to solve the problems."

Hasina said the government,

since assuming office, has taken various measures to facilitate police for effectively discharging their duties and to ensure the police members' social dignity.

She also assured that the government is considering the matter of upgrading ASI, sergeants and sub-inspectors to second class and of inspectors to first-class ranks.

Besides, time-scale anomalies among the constables will be removed and a special project worth Tk 487 crore has been taken up for development of the police department, she informed the gathering.

TEN-POINT DEMAND

BNP didn't try to meet those while in power

Says Muhith

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday called for a change in the attitude of the political parties, saying that they forget their responsibilities while in power but become vocal about the same responsibilities when they are in the opposition.

"I carefully went through the 10-point demand of BNP. But they did not implement them when they were in power," he said, referring to the demands the BNP placed and asked the government to meet them for its return to parliament.

"After winning the polls, we just don't care [about public issues], but we talk much about those when we are in the opposition," the finance minister told reporters on the sidelines of a workshop

where he was present as the chief guest.

Both the parties [Awami League and BNP] have these problems, Muhith said, adding that strengthening of local governments is crucial for true democracy, but the process has slowed.

The workshop titled 'Rethinking Security, Sovereignty and Justice' was organised by the International Political Science Association and hosted by the Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh (PRIB) at the latter's auditorium in the city.

Prof Emeritus Zillur Rahman Khan of University of Wisconsin, USA, presented the keynote paper at the workshop.

He said the 'winners-take-all' mindset has been responsible for parliamentary dysfunction in the country.

He suggested introducing proportional representation electoral system in

which percentage of votes by different parties in the general elections would reflect the number of parliamentary seats.

For representational justice, there must be a process where elected representatives can be held accountable between general elections, and the ruling party with two-thirds majority can seriously consider the system of recall, Prof Khan said.

PRIB Vice-Chairman Dr Sadiq Ahmed said better regional cooperation could help accelerate growth and reduce poverty by supporting market integration and strengthening infrastructure.

PRIB Chairman Dr Zaidi Sattar and Executive Director Dr Ahsan Mansur also spoke. Political scientists from home and abroad attended the workshop.



Mark Field, member of the House of Commons of the UK, calls on BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia at her Gulshan office in the city yesterday.

Birth anniversary of Vivekananda today

METRO DESK

The 148th birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda will be observed today, says a press release.

The Ramakrishna Mission in the city has taken up daylong programmes to mark the day.

In the morning, there will be Mangalaraji, devotional songs, special puja and reading from the scriptures.

A cultural programme will also be held at 4:30pm and a discussion on 'Swami Vivekananda's Message in World Peace' at 6:30pm, with Justice Gour Gopal Saha in the chair. State Minister for Health Mujibur Rahman Fakir will be present as the chief guest.

A musical performance by eminent artistes will be held after the discussion.

WEATHER TODAY

Cold wave may continue

UNB, Dhaka

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

Prevailing mild cold wave over Rajshahi and Dhaka divisions and the regions of Jessore and Kushtia may continue from midnight till morning, Met Office said.

Moderate to thick fog may occur over the country during the period.

It also said night temperature may rise slightly over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:26pm today and rises at 6:43am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 26.5 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Teknaf and lowest 7.7 degrees Celsius at Dinajpur.

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	22.5	10.5	84	64
Chittagong	22.2	14.2	89	73
Rajshahi	21.0	08.5	100	81
Khulna	23.5	11.2	88	71
Barisal	23.2	10.5	93	81
Sylhet	21.9	13.6	99	84
Cox's Bazar	24.5	15.0	96	75

Ex-Lions Clubs Int'l president due today

METRO DESK

Mahendra Amarasuriya, ex-president of Lions Clubs International and immediate past chairman of Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF), will arrive here on a two-day visit today, says a press release.

Mohammadpur school reunion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A reunion of the students of Mohammadpur Government High School will be held on Friday, says a press release.

Jahangir Kabir Nanak, state minister for LGRD, will attend the programme as the chief guest.

The programme includes discussion, blood donation and cultural programme.

Bangladesh ready to face climate change

Speakers tell discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday said Bangladesh is one of the few countries in the world to have devised a climate change adaptation and mitigation plan.

The cabinet-approved Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan 2009 is a proof that the country is prepared to face the challenges of climate change, they added.

They said this at the discussion of National Model Youth Parliamentary Session 2010 on 'Climate Change Copenhagen and Aftermath: Bangladesh Context' jointly organised by United International University (UIU) Debate Club and the United Nations of Youth and Students Association of Bangladesh (UNYSAB) at UIU auditorium in the city.

At the discussion, the speakers said the widely held view that the Copenhagen conference was a failure is not right.

"We have to remember that this is an ongoing process," said noted conservationist and climate expert Dr Ainun Nishat.

Pointing to consensus among majority of the countries at the conference that temperature rise should be limited below 2.0 degrees Celsius as a major achievement, he said how the countries offer to play their part in this agreement would be a major step forward in the climate issue.

He said the countries are supposed to submit reports on how they would play their role in keeping the temperature under control by January 31 this year, which would be a major success in the issue.

Noted economist Prof Muzaffer Ahmad said environment should not be taken as a

compromise and afterthought of personal gains.

"When we harm the environment, we harm the world of the future generation. When we resort to over consumption, we borrow from the future generation," he said, adding that this sort of perspectives needs to be changed.

Speaking as the chief guest, Industries Minister Dilip Barua called on the industrialists to come forward and carry out more CSR activities to give something back to the society as well as environment.

"The businessmen and industrialists should convert to green technology," he said, adding that mass awareness and a social revolution should be created in this connection.

The speakers said the term 'compensation' for environmental degradation is wrong, and the correct term would be 'adaptation and mitigation fund'.

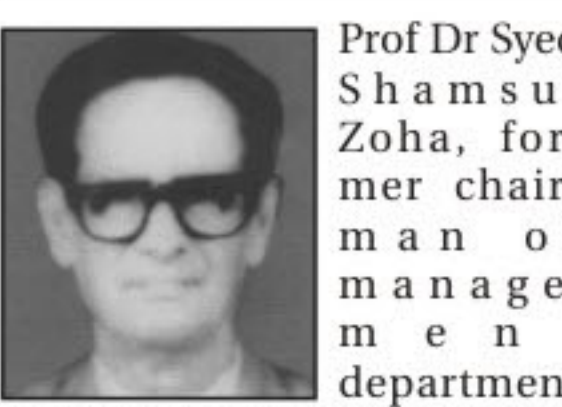
The country needs to actively participate in the upcoming environment conferences, they added.

Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers' Association (Bela) Executive Director Syeda Rizwana Hasan moderated the discussion where Rahimafrooz Renewable Energy Ltd Managing Director Munawar Misbah Moin, UN Information Centre Officer-in-Charge Kazi Ali Reza and UIU Vice Chancellor M Rezwan Khan also spoke.

Before the discussion, a youth parliamentary debate between UIU Debate Club and Dhaka University Debating Society was held on the topic 'Environmental harmony would not be possible without regional cooperation'.

Obituary

METRO DESK

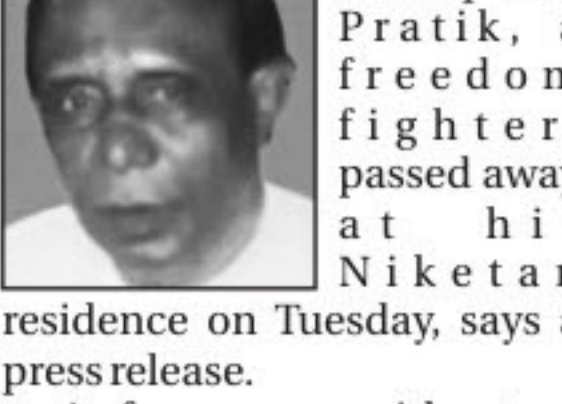


Prof Dr Syed Shamsuj Zoha, former chairman of management department and dean of commerce faculty of Chittagong University, passed away due to old-age complications on January 3 at the age of 85, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, two sons, five daughters and a host of relatives and well-wishers.

His qulkhwan will be held on January 8 at his Chandgaon residence after Asr prayers.

AKM Ishaq Bir Pratik



Engr AKM Ishaq Bir Pratik, a freedom fighter, passed away at his residence on Tuesday, says a press release.

A former president of Bangabandhu Prakashale Sangsad, he was elected the VP of Buet Students' Union twice.

Ishaq left behind his wife, six sons and a host of friends and admirers to mourn his death.

He will be buried at Mirpur Martyred Intellectuals Graveyard with state honour today after a namaz-e-janaza at Amtali Mosque at Banani in the city after Zohr prayers.

Mohammad Abdullah

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Sardar Mohammad Abdullah, a freedom fighter and former chairman of Panchbagh Union, passed away due to a cardiac arrest on Sunday at the age of 60, says a press release.

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

He was laid to rest at his family graveyard at Lamkain village in Mymensingh with state honour on Monday.

Mohammad Milon

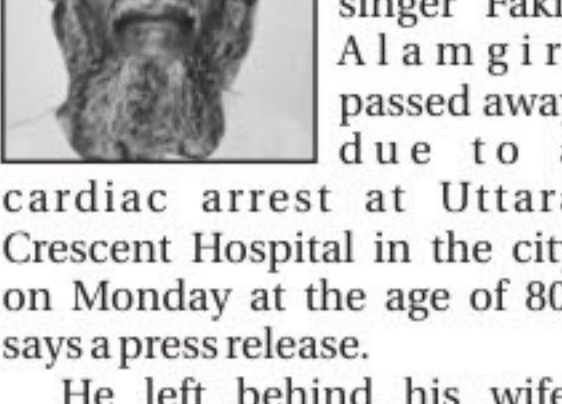
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mohammad Milon, a member of the central committee of Imarat Nirman Shramik Union Bangladesh (INSUB), passed away due to a cardiac arrest at his residence at Sabujbagh in the city yesterday at the age of 47, says a press release.

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

Fakir Abdul Kader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Fakir Abdul Kader, elder brother of popular singer Fakir Alamgir, passed away due to a cardiac arrest at Uttara Crescent Hospital in the city on Monday at the age of 80, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, three sons and two daughters to mourn his death.

His Qulkhwan will be held at his village home after Asr prayers tomorrow.

A doa mahfil will also be held at Anarkoli Bhaban at 259 B Khilgaon in the city on Friday.

SQ Chy's case against Sahara dismissed

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday summarily dismissed a case filed by BNP standing committee member Salauddin Quader Chowdhury against Home Minister Sahara Khatun for calling him war criminal.

SQ Chowdhury filed the case with the Executive Magistrate's Court at around 11:00am and was admonished by a group of pro-Awami league lawyers during the hearing for filing the case who termed him 'razakar', 'Al Badar', and 'Al Shams' when he was standing in the court.

Meanwhile, a group of pro-BNP lawyers who stood on behalf of SQ Chowdhury expressed their anger towards the opponents.

Police came forward to bring the situation under control when a chaotic situation was created in the courtroom.

Lawyers of SQ Chowdhury moved the case at 1:00pm and appealed to the court to draw proceedings against Sahara Khatun for making such a

comment.

After hearing, Magistrate Al Amin dismissed the case, saying there were no elements that would breach peace and discipline on the part of the defendant.

SQ Chowdhury left the court premise under the police protection following the order.

In the case statement, the complainant said the home minister, in a programme at Bangabandhu Memorial Museum on December 17 last year, said all war criminals, including SQ Chowdhury, would be tracked down and brought them under trial.

The complainant also said that the defendant, an influential minister, made such a comment about him without placing any evidence. Moreover, none filed any case against him for committing any activities during the War of Liberation in 1971.

Meanwhile, the BNP leader faced several defamation cases for making derogatory remarks about Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman last year.

DHAKA TODAY

Meeting

The 13th Biennial General Meeting of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh will be held. Venue: Osmani Memorial Auditorium. Time: 11:30am.

Seminar

Centre for Development Research, Bangladesh organises a seminar on 'Global recession: Two years after' will be held. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 5:00pm.