



81st anniversary of birth of Jahanara Imam today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 81st birth anniversary of Shaheed Janani Jahanara Imam, the crusader against war criminals, fundamentalism and an eminent litterateur.

Born in Murshidabad in India in 1919, Jahanara Imam is mostly remembered for her role in bringing the issues of war crimes to the forefront.

The author of the 'Ekattur Dinguli' (The days of 1971), she is one of the founders of Ekattur Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee, the platform that waged war against the collaborators.

She breathed her last in USA in 1994 after struggling with cancer for long.

Press Freedom Day today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The World Press Freedom Day will be observed in the country as elsewhere across the globe today with the theme 'Freedom of Information: The right to know.'

In a statement on the occasion, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon yesterday welcomed the global trend toward new laws, which recognise the universal right to publicly held information.

Ittefaq ownership goes to Manju

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ownership of daily Ittefaq has gone to Anwar Hossain Manju while his elder brother Mainul Hossain has got the ownership of the building and the press and Tk 10 crore, ending a simmering rift between them.

Manju and Mainul, two sons of the newspaper's founder Tofazzal Hossain Manik Mia, signed an agreement in this regard at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel yesterday, sources said.

'43pc city buildings vulnerable to quake'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

About 43 percent of buildings, including hospitals and schools, in Dhaka city are vulnerable to ravages of any moderate or strong earthquakes, experts said at a seminar yesterday.

According to a study conducted in 2008 by Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CDMP), 1.40 lakh buildings, out of 3.26 lakh, in Dhaka city, 70,193 buildings, out of 1.82 lakh, in Chittagong, and 30,996 buildings, out of 52,000, in Sylhet, are prone to damage during an earthquake.

ASM Maksud Kamal, earthquake and tsunami expert of CDMP, said this while presenting the keynote paper at the seminar on 'Sharing the

experience of Haiti earthquake and Bangladesh perspective' at Cirdap auditorium in the city.

Bangladesh Geological Society in cooperation with Robi organised the seminar.

Speaking as the chief guest, Health Minister AFM Ruhul Haque said special attention should be given to the healthcare system and water supply system, which are vulnerable to collapse during a massive earthquake.

An emergency cell should be established immediately to address the issue, he said.

Col Mohammad Delowar, who led a medical team from Bangladesh to quake-ravaged Haiti recently, said they provided treatment to 5,236 people during their 37-day stay there.

MEMBERSHIP COLLECTION City AL faction begins separate drive in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A section of Chittagong city unit of Awami League separately started distribution of application forms for fresh and renewal of membership.

Senior AL leader Bilkis Begum, also the wife of late AL leader MA Hannan, inaugurated the distribution of forms at a press conference at Chittagong Press Club yesterday.

A number of senior leaders, including lawmaker Nurul Islam, more than 15 ward councillors and AL president and general secretaries of many wards were present.

Addressing the press conference, AL leader Nurul Islam Bsc alleged that president and general secretary of the executive committee of the city AL, whose tenure has already been expired, were distributing centrally provided forms to some opportunists ignoring the interest of the party.

He said they were forced to print and distribute membership application forms separately, as many dedicated leaders and activists of the party were being deprived of the renewal of membership.

The AL leaders said 40,000 forms were printed in the first phase. A total of two lakh forms would be printed and distributed for new members and renewal of membership.

Channel 1 files writ with HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The authorities of Channel 1, a private satellite television station, filed a writ petition with the High Court yesterday, challenging the government action of shutting down the TV channel.

Prof Majidul Islam, director of Channel 1, filed the petition stating that the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) has illegally cancelled the allocation of frequency for the channel.

The BTRC had not issued any show cause notice to the channel before its action, he said.

An HC bench of Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain and Justice Gobinda Chandra Tagore fixed Monday (today) for hearing the petition.

May Day: Pay hike, safety at workplaces demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Historic May Day was observed in the country as elsewhere around the world on Saturday demanding safety at workplaces and pay hike for

labourers at every sector.

Different organisations held colourful rallies and cultural programmes and honoured the labourers for their backbreaking toil to build the nation.

They also called for amend-

ing Bangladesh Labour Act, 2006 in line with a standard placed by International Labour Organisation (ILO).

The organisations demanded ensuring workers' right to form trade unions,

which would ensure their power of negotiation to realise the demands.

Leaders of Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad (SKOP) at a gathering at Muktagong said deaths at

workplaces have become a regular matter with about 313 fatalities taking place last year. These fatalities need to be prevented with increased safety measures at the workplaces, they added.

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