

Matin was Chhatra Sangha man Says Amu

UNB, Dhaka Awami League leader Amir Hossain Amu MP yesterday confirmed that Investigation Officer for probing crimes against humanity Abdul Matin was an activist of Islami Chhatra Sangha, the student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan.

Amu was elected Vice-president of BM College students union in 1963 defeating Matin, a nominee of Islami Chhatra Sangha, in the election. "He (Matin) was very much involved in Islami Chhatra Sangha activities," Amu told UNB.

Staff correspondent adds: Agair refuting allegation of his past affiliation with an organisation widely accused of crimes against humanity in 1971, Abdul Matin said the investigation process is being hampered due to the poor logistic support.

"Due to shortage of logistic support we cannot go to the crime scenes in and outside the Dhaka city to carry out investigation. An old microbus has been given two to three days ago but fuel has not been provided."

Matin said this to reporters at his office at Old High Court Building yesterday afternoon.

Rebutting the statement of a Jamaat leader of Barisal district that he had contested for vice president of BM College central students union election in 1963 from Islami Chhatra Sangha, which later became Islami Chhatra Shibir, Matin once again said he was an independent candidate in the election.

"The records of the BM College will say whether I was a neutral candidate in 1963 and whether any students' organisation named Islami Chhatra Sangha was there at that time," he said.

Mahilul Islam, the then Chhatra Sangha leader and also present Rukon of Jamaat, on Monday told a daily that Matin had contested the election under the banner of Chhatra Sangha. He had also said that the records of the college would prove that.

Asked whether he would resign for the allegation, Matin said, "The government appointed me, so I am discharging my duties."

In reply to another query Matin said he has never promised before the law minister that the investigators will submit probe reports on the allegations of crime against humanity within May.



North Bengal Sugar Mills to observe Shaheed Day today

METRO DESK

North Bengal Sugar Mills will observe 'Shaheed Day' today in memory of those who embraced martyrdom on this day during the liberation war in 1971.

The Pakistani occupation forces killed Language Movement veteran and freedom fighter Lt Md Anwarul Azim, the then administrator of the sugar mill at Gopalpur in Natore, along with more than 150 officers and employees of the mill beside a pond on its premises and later dumped the bodies into the pond.

With this, the Pakistani army took revenge on Lt Azim, who with his fellow freedom fighters handed them a crushing defeat at Gopalpur Rail Station gate.

Moreover, he had ordered that the Ishwardi Airport be blown up. In recognition of his role in the liberation war Gopalpur Rail Station was named Azim Nagar at the instruction of Bangabandhu in 1974 while a commemorative stamp was published in 1994. The pond was named Shaheed Sagar.

On the occasion, Qurankhwani, milad mahfil and discussion will be held while a barefoot silent procession will also be taken out to mark the day. The wife of martyr Azim and family members of the other martyrs will also attend the programmes.



Action on Disability and Development forms a human chain in front of the National Press Club in the city yesterday demanding an increase in budgetary allocation for the persons with disabilities.

Govt gives high priority to N-power generation

FM tells IAEA director general

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni said the government has given high priority to nuclear power generation to resolve the energy crisis facing the country.

She said this during a meeting with Director General of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Yukiya Amano in New York on Monday, according to a message received here yesterday.

Dipu Moni was also due to make the country statement at the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference yesterday.

During the discussion with Amano, she reviewed the existing cooperation between Bangladesh and the IAEA, particularly with regard to the technical assistance projects.

She thanked the IAEA official for helping Bangladesh in capacity building to run its first-ever Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant.

They also discussed unanimous adoption of a resolution by Bangladesh parliament in support of the 2010 NPT Review Conference.

IAEA official Amano said he was impressed with the consensus Bangladesh enjoyed at the national level on disarmament and non-proliferation issues.

The foreign minister mentioned that Bangladesh would like to be represented in the IAEA Governing Board in the near future to play a greater role in global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

She also urged Amano to ensure representation of Bangladesh in the senior management of IAEA.

Dipu Moni extended an invitation to the Amano for visiting Bangladesh, which he accepted, and said that he might visit Bangladesh in December 2010 or in January 2011.

In the evening, Dipu Moni attended a reception hosted by the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the United Nations in New York and introduced Bangladesh candidate to CEDAW (Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women) elections, Ambassador Ismat Jahan, to the New York-based delegates of UN Member States.

She spoke about the commitment to and achievement of Bangladesh in women's empowerment and sought support of CEDAW States Parties to the candidacy of Ambassador Ismat Jahan.

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Call to help try war criminals

BSS, Dhaka

"Khetabprapta Muktiyoddha Foundation - 1971", an organisation of the gallantry award recipient freedom fighters yesterday expressed its total solidarity with the ongoing process of the trial of war criminals.

"We congratulate the present government and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for taking the bold decision to try the perpetrators of crimes against humanity who were involved in genocide, killing, arson, looting and other offences during the War of Liberation," says a Foundation press release signed by its General Secretary Major (Retd) Wakal Hasan, Bir Protik.

The foundation called upon the people as well as individuals to help hold the trial of the war criminals by supplying necessary documents, information and evidence against those collaborators of the Pakistani occupation forces who were involved in crimes against humanity.

It said although 38 years have elapsed, the trial of the war criminals would be a bright example of Hasina's government of materialising the election pledges. By holding the trial, the nation would be freed from one of its worst stigma, it added.

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PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES Sufficient budgetary funds demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Organisations working on the rights of the people with disabilities demanded sufficient allocation in the coming budget for the welfare of the disabled that accounts one percent of the country's total population.

They also called upon the government to spend 10 percent of the total allocation of the education sector to improve the education quality of the physically challenged.

Action on Disability and Development (ADD), Jatiya Trinamul Protibandhi Sangstha and Jatiya Nari Protibandhi Parishad made the demands from a human chain in front of National Press Club in the city.

The organisations' leaders also demanded Tk 500 as stipends for a disabled student in primary school level, Tk 1000 in secondary school level, Tk 1,500 in higher secondary level and Tk 2,000 in graduation and post graduation level.

The government should allocate separate funds to provide treatment to the physically challenged, provide free education materials to the disabled students and provide Braille books, talking books and computer software to all academic libraries for them.

They also urged the government to increase the allowance for the disabled from Tk 300 to Tk 500. They also called for an allocation of Tk 10 crore to provide legal aid to disabled women and Tk 50 crore to provide wheel chairs, scratches, artificial legs, white canes, spectacles and hearing machines to the physically challenged.

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Mirpur OC, 2 cops sued for taking bribe

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Mirpur Model Police Station Officer-in-charge (OC) and his two Sub-Inspectors (SIs) yesterday were sued for taking Tk 2.5 lakh as bribe from a local landowner for giving him security.

Metropolitan Magistrate AKM Emadul Haque took the charge into cognizance and directed the additional inspector general of Criminal Investigation Department to submit a probe report by July 15.

The accused are--OC Zakir Hossain Mollah and two SIs Abdul Aziz and Mohammad Bakar.

One Monjurul Islam of 91/2, West Mirpur, filed the case against the accused.

Monirul said he sought police help to save the land when a group of local land grabbers attempted to grab it and threatened him to leave.

He said one Jahangir Alam gave him a power of attorney to look after the land on which he raised a two-storied building.

Monirul said the accused demanded Tk 5 lakh for providing him security. He, however, gave them Tk 2.50 lakh as bribe.

Monirul said the gang still attempted to occupy the land forcefully despite paying half of the bribe. At this, he rushed to the police once more for help.

He added that the law enforcers together with the local hoodlums stormed into his house on April 25 this year and assaulted him.

Monirul said they also ransacked and looted valuables from his house as he refused to pay the rest of the money.