

Villagers eagerly wait for Musa's return

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Villagers are now relieved to know that Musa Ibrahim, an illustrious son of their village who has brought glory to the country by conquering the Mount Everest on May 23, has safely come down to plains.

At a local mosque at Gandhomaruya Basintari village in Aditmari upazila, Lalmonirhat, villagers and Musa's relatives joined a special prayer session yesterday noon for his safe return home.

"We, the villagers, came to know from newspaper reports that Musa came down from the Mount Everest safely. He is now out of danger. As Musa is a son of this village, we prayed for his safe return home," said Abdul Motaleb Miah, a villager.

Basin Khandker, 82, said, "Now we are eagerly waiting for the arrival of our



Musa Ibrahim

Musa in the village. Musa's grandfather late Shafiuddin sarker was my friend. About 13 years ago when Shafiuddin

was alive, he said that his grandson would bring glory to the village in the future, which will earn accolades from everybody."

Musa's grandmother Nabiron Nesa is waiting to see her grandson. She was all smiles when she heard the news that Musa has come down from the mountain safely.

"I could not sleep well even on a single night after my grandson left home for the expedition. I have always prayed for his safe return. Now I'm happy and proud," she said.

Gandhomaruya Basintari is only half a kilometre away from the border with India. People from adjoining villages in India are also coming to Basintari village to visit Musa's house, locals said.

Lalmonirhat district administration has also taken preparations to accord a reception to Musa.



Prof Kabir Chowdhury speaks at an anti-militancy convention organised by the Platform against Communalism and Militancy at the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh in the city yesterday. On his left is Prof Ansuzzaman and on his right are Dr Mosharraf Hossain, Dr Debabrata Goswami, Farooq Tariq and Prof Ajoy Roy. (Story on Page 16)

Agriculture to get highest priority in budget: Muhith

BSS, Dhaka

Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith said the agriculture would get highest priority in the upcoming budget side by side with increasing subsidy to the sector.

"In recognition to the sector's huge contribution to the economy, subsidy on agriculture will be raised to a great extent in the upcoming budget in comparison with the past," he said while Director of Channel-i Shykh Siraj was presenting a 44-point recommendation on the development of agriculture to him on Friday night.

The recommendations were placed to the government as part of the pre-budget activities on the agriculture sector titled 'Krishi Budget Krishaker Budget, arranged by 'Mati o Manush', a programme of Channel-i.

Muhith said special attention would be given to agriculture research and agriculture sub-sectors in the next budget as the agriculture sub-sectors are truly lagging far behind.

Referring to the sorry state of the

poultry industry, he said the banking sector is responsible for not using Tk 100 crore incentives given to the poultry sector by the government. "The government is actively considering providing more assistance to the poultry farmers this year," he said.

Mentioning the sincerity of the present government in solving the existing problems of the fisheries sector, he said special emphasis will also be given to this sector in the upcoming budget.

Agreeing with most of the recommendations of Shykh Siraj, the finance minister said overall development of the country depends on the uplift of agriculture as well as rural lifestyle.

Praising the agriculture budget activities of 'Mati o Manush', he said through this programme the rural people of the country are now much aware of their rights. "Those who could not speak in the past can speak without any hesitation," he said mentioning that it is a great achievement.

About placing separate agriculture budget, Muhith said a separate budget

structure could be made merging three sectors -- agriculture, rural development and water resources.

He, however, said a separate budget is not the last word. An accurate planning and development policy is very important to this end, he added.

He said this year's budget would not be mere descriptive, adding preparation is being taken to place the budget in bullet form and through power point presentation so that it becomes brief but easily understandable.

The 44-point recommendations formulated by Shykh Siraj included river dredging and increasing sources of surface water, ensuring uninterrupted power facility, raising tax on tobacco products, encouragement of alternative fuel like biogas and other sources, increasing food warehouses, introduction of crop insurance, specific allocation for agriculture research, ensuring organic method to check pesticides, construction of more cold storages for preserving potato and making the Department of Agriculture Extension time-befitting.

Allegation of extortion against Khulna JP leader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Project Director of Destiny Group Nurul Huda lodged an FIR accusing Khulna city Jatiya Party President Abdul Gaffar Biswas and his son Shibli Biswas of demanding Tk 10 lakh as toll from the Destiny Group.

In the FIR lodged with Khulna Sadar Police Station on Wednesday night, he also sought security of his life.

The complainant said the accused have also threatened that they would halt the group's construction work if the money is not paid.

OC Munirul Giash said that the FIR would be recorded as a regular case after a proper investigation into the allegations.

When contacted, JP leader Abdul Gaffar Biswas dismissed the allegations of demanding toll as false.

'Cadaveric organ transplant soon'

BSS, Dhaka

In a major breakthrough in the country's medical science, Bangladeshi doctors are going to start first-ever cadaveric organ transplantation soon.

"We have taken all preparations for cadaveric organ transplantation in the country and are hopeful that it will start within six months," Prof Harun Ur Rashid, president of Society of Organ Transplantation, told BSS yesterday.

He said initially cadaveric kidney and liver transplantation will be done at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU), Kidney Foundation Hospital and Birdem.

"Though Bangladesh has achieved remarkable success in organ transplantation, it is lagging in cadaveric organ transplantation," said Prof Harun, also an eminent nephrologist.

He said live kidney was transplanted to 800 kidney failure patients in the country so far. In the same way, live heart and liver transplantation was done in the country but there was no example of cadaveric kidney, liver or heart transplantation as the system is yet to be introduced here.

"If the system is introduced in the country, a dead man can save life of five patients by donating his or her kidneys, liver, heart and lung," he said.

He said the Jatiya Sangsad has passed a law

in this regard. Quoting a survey conducted in two intensive care units (ICUs), Prof Harun said 16 percent relatives of dead persons had agreed to donate organs of the dead after they were declared brain dead.

Prof Harun also said the country has experienced doctors for cadaveric organ transplantation. "But at this moment, taking necessary initiatives to this end is very essential," he said.

For this, he said, 'brain dead committees' will have to be formed in those hospitals where ICUs are available. Besides, 'organ procurement committee' could be constituted, and 'organ central bank' be set up, he said, adding that the health sector will witness a revolution if the initiatives are taken by both public and private sectors.

Prof Harun said superstition and wrong social beliefs are the major obstacles to promoting cadaveric organ transplantation in the country.

Stressing the need for creating mass awareness about cadaveric organ transplantation, he said religious leaders could be engaged to this end. "Only awareness against superstition and wrong social beliefs about the cadaveric organ transplantation could help save thousands of lives in Bangladesh," he added.

He said Bangladesh started kidney transplantation from live persons in 1988 and transplantation of kidneys of 100 patients are done each year in eight hospitals in the country.



Awami League-backed and Nagorik Committee mayoral candidate ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury, left, launches election campaign after Juma prayers at Shah Amanat Mazar in the port city yesterday while BNP-backed and Nagorik Unnayan Andolon mayoral candidate Mohammad Manjur Alam Manju, right, at the same place after Ashr prayers.

New policy to bring major change in edn sector

Nahid tells Sylhet rally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid on Thursday said the government would implement the draft education policy for bringing a major change in the education sector.

He said the government would go ahead with the visionary education policy prepared by a competent committee with leading educationists for initiating major change in the sector.

He said, "We are lagging behind in different fields mainly due to the absence of an appropriate education policy that could not be prepared even in 40 years since the liberation."

Nahid was addressing a rally at Mirganj Bazar of Golapanj upazila. Upazila Chairman Iqbal Ahmed Chowdhury and Upazila Vice Chairman Humayun Islam

Kamal and Nazia Begum Shila also spoke at the rally.

He said the reasons behind the dropout of 42 percent children before completion of their secondary education and non-enrolment nine percent children in school were mentioned in the draft education policy. To achieve the goal in minimum time, implementation of the draft education policy is needed, he added.

He said the government had successfully distributed textbooks among the students free of cost up to class ten at the beginning of the year, a challenge for the government. The minister said they had to face difficulties in printing 19 crore books in phases but succeeded.

The government exchanged views with noted educationists and other concerned on the draft education policy, Nahid said.

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