

COUNTRYWIDE RALLIES ON JUNE 13 Launch social movement against stalkers: Nahid

BSS, Sylhet

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday urged all to join rallies at district and upazila level schools and colleges to launch a social movement against stalkers tomorrow.

He said the stalkers are criminals as they jeopardise lives of girl students.

He said this while he was addressing a meeting with members of the civil society in Golapganj of the district.

Nahid emphasised the need for creating a social campaign against stalking to ensure a congenial atmosphere in all educational institutions as well as in the society.

Girls and women are being harassed and victimised in various ways and it should be stopped forever by building a strong resistance and creating social awareness, he said.

Ministry of Education will observe 'Education Day' as the 'Stalking Resistance Day' on June 13 across the country to check this social menace that harasses girl students, he added.

The minister said huge gatherings will be organised in all schools and colleges at district and upazila levels with the participation of students, teachers, guardians, officials, civil society members, women organisa-

tions, human rights activists and celebrities.

Meanwhile, letters have been sent to the deputy commissioners (DCs) and upazila nirbahi officers (UNOs) to observe the day.

Nahid urged all including students, teachers, guardians, officials, political leaders and workers, cultural personalities, journalists and writers to participate in the rallies.

Sadar Upazila Chairman Iqbal Ahmed Chowdhury, upazila Awami League (AL) General Secretary Rafique Ahmed, Pourasabha AL General Secretary Syed Mesbah and organiser Ali Akbar attended the meeting.

Call to protect street children from violence

BSS, Rajshahi

Speakers at a roundtable here yesterday underlined the need for a concerted effort of all quarters to protect the street children from all sorts of violence, including sexual exploitation.

They said most of the street and other vulnerable group children are subjected to repression and various inhuman behaviours by their surroundings that led to their life into more endangered.

They were addressing a discussion titled "Role of Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) and Budget to protect the street children and the sexually exploited ones" organised by National Alliance for Combating Sexual Exploitation of Children at the Rajshahi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) conference hall.

Advasi Sangskritik Unnayan Sangstha (ASUS) and Incidin Bangladesh supported the meeting.

Rajshahi Mayor AHM Khairuzzaman Liton in his speech as the chief guest said concerted efforts of all government and non-government organisations concerned along with other stakeholders can transform the street children into worthy citizens.

He, however, said the RCC has undertaken some steps to rehabilitate the rootless children.

Similarly, community participation along with requisite financial help is very effective to pick them up from their vulnerable condition as they are the integral part of the society.

He said social elites and other richer class people have a great role to make the general people aware in this regard, as their social acceptability is more than other mass community.

He said crimes like terrorism, bomb blast, drug-addiction and stealing could be reduced to a greater extent if the rootless children could be made competent

for beneficial purposes.

Local unit coordinator of Bangladesh Legal Aid Services Trust Advocate Abdus Samad, Editor of Daily Sonali Sangbad Liakat Ali and its News Editor Akbarul Hassan Millat, Secretary of Shaw Unnayan Mustafizur Rahman Khan and Convener of Rajshahi Raksha Sangram Parishad Jamat Khan also spoke as the special guests.

The speakers unequivocally called for transforming the directives by the High Court (HC) into law to end sexual abuse and harassments.

They said the hopes and aspirations of the common people have been reflected in the HC directives and underlined the need for immediate step to execute the directives by enacting law in this regard.

Programme Manager of Incidin Bangladesh Rakibul Hassan presented a concept paper on the issue saying there are 6,79,728 street children in the country, including around 10,000 in Rajshahi.



The mother of Farzana Kabir Rita wails after Rita and her two children were found dead in their house in the capital's Jurain area yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

2 killed in road crashes

METRO DESK

At least two people were killed in separate road accidents in Chapainawabganj and Gaibandha yesterday.

Our correspondent from Chapainawabganj adds: A former headmaster of a high school and vice president of Shibganj upazila unit of Awami League was killed when a truck hit his motorcycl on Chapainawabganj-Sonamasjid highway at Nichudhumi in Chapainawabganj on Thursday night.

The angry people set the killer truck on fire.

The dead was identified as Faizur Rahman Bishu, 70, former headmaster of Binodpur High School in Shibganj upazila and a resident of Ghontola village of the same upazila.

Anwar Hossain, Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Shibganj police station and locals said, a Chapainawabganj-bound

speedy truck from Sonamasjid hit him, killing him on the spot at around 7:30 pm.

Following the accident, locals set fire to the truck. However, driver and the helper managed to flee. The mob also blockaded the road for two hours.

Our correspondent from Gaibandha reports: One person was killed and three others injured when a BRTC coach knocked them at Thutiapukur on Rangpur-Bogra highway yesterday.

Highway police said, some pedestrians at Thutiapukur on Bogra-Rangpur highway were crossing the road. Meanwhile, a Gaibandha-bound BRTC coach knocked them.

Shafiqul Islam, 32, of village Dayerpara was crashed under the wheel and three others sustained injuries.

Soon after the incident the bus fled away. A case was filed with Palashbari police station.

WEATHER TODAY

Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions in next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:47pm today and rises at 5:10am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 37.7 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and lowest 23.8 degrees Celsius at Sylhet.

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

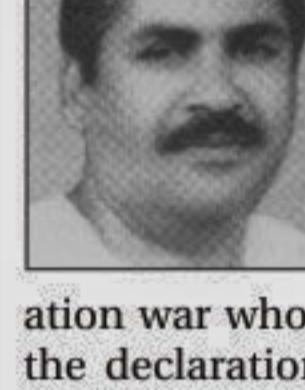
City/Town	Temperature in		Humidity in		
	Celsius	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka		35.5	28.5	69	61
Chittagong		33.4	26.7	72	80
Rajshahi		37.7	27.5	76	57
Khulna		36.0	27.5	69	74
Barisal		34.0	27.2	70	77
Sylhet		34.3	23.8	96	69
Cox's Bazar		34.0	27.4	67	78



CPD Executive Director Mustafizur Rahman speaks at a media briefing on the national budget 2010-11 at Brac Centre Inn in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

Death anniversary
of MA Hannan
today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 36th death anniversary of MA Hannan, one of the organisers of the liber-

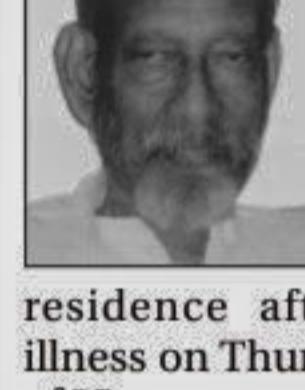
ation war who first broadcast the declaration of independence on behalf of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman from Kalurghat Radio Station in Chittagong in 1971, says a press release.

On the occasion, a ziafat will be held at Katalganj Kisholoy Community Centre at Chakbazar in Chittagong at 12:30pm.

MA Hannan, who was the president of Chittagong Awami League, died in a road accident in 1974.

Obituary

METRO DESK



Brig General (Retd) Moazzem Haidar Chowdhury passed away at his Gulshan residence after prolonged illness on Thursday at the age of 85, says a press release.

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

His namaz-e-janaza will be held at Gulshan Azad Mosque in the city after Asr prayers tomorrow (Sunday).

Moazzem, former managing director of Bangladesh Machine Tools Factory, hailed from Gopalpur Chowdhurybari at Begumganj in Noakhali.

PM condoles
death of
Badal Rahman

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday expressed deep shock at the death of renowned film director Badal Rahman.

In a message of condolence, she recalled the contribution of Badal Rahman in establishing rights of the masses apart from producing films. The film industry would remember his contribution forever, she said.

The death of Badal Rahman is an irreparable loss to the nation, she added.

The prime minister conveyed sympathy to members of the bereaved family and prayed for eternal peace of the departed soul.

(Main story on Page 9)

Air chief's
service
extended by
two years

BSS, Dhaka

As a freedom fighter, the service of Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal SM Ziaur Rahman has been extended by next two years with effect from June 13, 2010 in public interest, an ISPR press release said here yesterday.

Air Marshal SM Ziaur Rahman took part in the War of Liberation in 1971 under sector No 2 during his student life, it added.

'Textbook incorrectly describes Agartala Case'

BSS, Dhaka

Deputy Speaker Shawkat Ali yesterday said the background of the historic Agartala Case was "incorrectly" described in the school textbooks.

He urged the education ministry to take steps for its correction.

"Two textbooks for class 9 and 10 carried a nearly identical description of the case from which it appears that the Agartala case was merely a political event related to Bangabandhu's historic six-point movement," he told BSS on the sidelines of a discussion on the historic event.

Shawkat added: "But as a matter of fact, several military officers and civil servants were involved in the case as we wanted to liberate the country from Pakistan through an armed revolution under the leadership of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman" which was not directly linked to the six-point.

He added that as part of the plan called as "the Agartala Plot" navy steward Mujibur Rahman and educationist Mohammad Ali Reza went to Agartala to seek the Indian support for

Bangladesh's independence.

Agartala case was not related to the six-point movement... had it been so the accused like ours -- the military and civil government officials -- would not have the scope to get involved, though we had wholehearted support for it," said Shawkat who was a captain of Pakistan army at that time and was arrested to face the trial.

Earlier, speaking at the discussion organised by Oithishik Agartala Mamla Mulyan Parishad, the deputy speaker urged the textbook board authorities to evaluate equally bullet-wounded flight sergeant Fazlul Haque along with martyred flight sergeant Zahur Haque.

The Pakistani troops shot them simultaneously as they awaited trial in military custody in Dhaka cantonment.

The Agartala Case, popularly called Agartala Conspiracy Case, which had set a new course in the history of the country's independence struggle, was filed in early 1968 implicating Bangabandhu and 34 other Bengali civil servants and army, navy and air force officers and politicians for hatching a "plot".

Budget draws mixed reactions

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of different political, social and professional organisations yesterday expressed mixed reactions to the national budget announced on Thursday.

In a statement, Comrade Khaleuzzaman, president of the Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal (BSD), said the budget will accelerate discrimination between the rich and poor and expand corruption because of weakness in administration and unaccountability of the people's representatives.

Leaders of the Bangladesh National Awami Party (NAP) said the budget would stand against people's interest because of reducing subsidies for the agriculture sector and increasing expenditure on defence sector.

Meanwhile, President of the Jatiya Karanjibhi Samity

greeted the government, and said if the budget is implemented, the country's development will be accelerated.

Cultural organisation Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote brought out a procession and held a rally in the city to express greetings to the prime minister and the finance minister for announcing a "people-oriented" budget.

Addressing the rally, the jote leaders said the budget would play a vital role in reducing poverty and flourishing industry of the country.

'Govt encouraging media'

BSS, Dhaka

Information and Cultural Minister Abul Kalam Azad yesterday said the government is encouraging expansion of print and electronic media for ensuring free flow of information.

The minister said this as the chief guest at a two-day workshop on ICT application, organised by Unesco and Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) Road Show here.

Azad said the government is working relentlessly to reach the media at the doorsteps of the people.

He emphasised increasing the use of information technology in media and also urged all concerned follow ethics in journalism.

Managing Director of Multimedia Development and Communications Centre (MDCC) Humayun Chowdhury chaired the session while Upali Arambewale of ABU spoke on the occasion.

Bangladesh team visits hydro instts in India

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Bangladeshi delegation visited a number of water-related institutes and research centres in India from June 2 to 8 to explore the scope of training and higher studies for Bangladeshi water resources professionals at those institutes, says a press release.

The five-member team led by Shaikh Md Wahiduzzaman, secretary to water resources ministry, visited different centres in New Delhi, Roorkee and Pune.

They examined the possibilities of forging collaboration between various hydro-

logical institutes in Bangladesh and India on technology transfer and information sharing.