

People yet to get economic emancipation: Hasina

PM's support for 12 families of Ansars for role in govt in exile

UNB, Dhaka

Each of the 12 families of Ansar members who had given guard of honour to the acting president of the government in exile on April 17 in 1971 received Tk 2 lakh as donation from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday.

The prime minister handed over the cheques to the Ansar members and their family members at a brief function at her office in the city.

Four Ansar members Md Liakat Ali, Md Hamidul Haque, Md Azimuddin and Md Sirajuddin received the cheques personally.

Cheques of the eight late Ansar members Saheb Ali, Yad Ali, Fakir Mohammad, Md Nazrul Islam, Md Asthir Mallik, Md Mofez Uddin and Md Mohiddun Sheikh were received by their family members.

The Ansar families of Mujibnagar police station in Meherpur were also given sarees, panjabees and dates as gift of the Eid-ul-Fitr.

Hasina said she feels proud to help the families of the Ansar members who gave guard of honour to the acting president of the first government of independent

Bangladesh.

She congratulated the Ansar and VDP force as it had the rare fortune to be an important partner of the historic moment of the oath-taking ceremony of the Mujibnagar government.

Hasina paid rich tribute to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, four national leaders and the martyrs of the War of Liberation and prayed for salvation of the departed souls.

She deplored that even after 39 years of independence, people are struggling to have their basic needs.

"People under the leadership of Father of the Nation fought for the liberation to establish such a country where people will have political and economic freedom. But, our people are yet to gain economic emancipation," she said.

Hasina said Bangladesh could not achieve development at the desired level, as democracy was not allowed to function uninterruptedly in the past.

She said the defeated force killed Bangabandhu and four national leaders following which the people could not change their fates.

"Now after long struggle, we have been

able to restore democracy. It is a great chance to work hand in hand to attain the development targets," she said.

On strengthening rural economy, Hasina said the government is implementing various development projects to bring about prosperity in peoples lives.

She said Ansar members could play a significant role in implementing the government's development projects including One House, One Farm project.

Meanwhile, a delegation of BCS Ansar Association called on the prime minister at her office in the morning. The association leaders apprised the prime minister about various problems they are facing. The prime minister assured of taking proper steps to address their problems.

Home Minister Advocate Sahara Khatun, Energy Adviser and ex-SDO of Meherpur sub division Towiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury, State Minister for Home Shamsul Haque Tuku, PM's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad, ex-SDOP Mahub Uddin Beer Bikram, Home Secretary Abdus Sobhan Sikder and DG of Ansar and VDP Maj Gen Chowdhury Hasan Sarwardy were present.



Vehicular movement on the link road from Mirpur Mazar Road to Sinnir Tek Beribadh has been disrupted for months due to the sorry state of the road.

ACC sues Khoka's daughter

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday filed a case against Dhaka City Corporation Mayor Saadeque Hossain Khoka's daughter Sarika Sadeque for non-submission of wealth statement within the given deadline.

Former assistant director of ACC Samsul Alam filed the case with Ramna police station under section 26 (2) (Ka) of ACC Act 2004.

The ACC issued a notice against Sarika asking her to submit the wealth statement along with those of her dependants.

On September 4, 2008 ACC served the notice to Sarika through pasting it on the wall of her house. The deadline for submission of wealth statement expired on September 15 the same year.

The first information report said ACC served the notice as ACC learnt that Sarika had amassed wealth beyond known sources of income.



Dr Farid made atomic energy body chairman

METRO DESK

Government appointed Dr Farid Uddin Ahmed, a renowned nuclear scientist, as the next Chairman (current charge) of Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC), on effect from September 24, 2010, says a BAEC press release.

Dr Ahmed was born in December 31, 1954 at Kathalia Upazila in Jhalakathi. He joined BEAC as a scientific officer on January 4, 1980.

Dr Ahmed worked as a director of physical science division and international affairs division of BAEC.

He contributed in research & development of various areas of BAEC for the last 30 years. He has been working as a member of Physical Science of BAEC since 2007.

He played a significant role to develop a biological shielding (heavy concrete) for the 3MW TRIGA Mark-II research reactor of Atomic Energy Research Establishment (AERE).

DHAKA TODAY

Roundtable
Citizen Rights Movement will arrange a roundtable. Venue: National Press Club, Time: 11:00am.

Discussion
Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative will organise a discussion. Venue: Cirdap auditorium, Time: 3:30pm.

Award giving ceremony
Dhakabashi will arrange an award giving ceremony. Venue: Dhakabashi office, Hazaribag, Time: 12:30am.

Buet admission test on Oct 30

DU CORRESPONDENT

The admission test of BSc (Engineering) of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) under academic session 2010-11 will be held on October 30 this year.

The application forms will be available on www.ac.buet.bd from September 21. Admission seekers are requested to submit application forms after filling it properly by October 10.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the university's admission committee yesterday with its Dean of Engineering Faculty Prof Nasrul Haque in the chair, said Mohammad Shah Alam, assistant director of the publication cum information wing of the university.

Students having passed HSC examinations or its equivalent can participate in the admission test for 965 seats in its 16 departments.

Names of those eligible admission seekers will be posted at the website on October 24 and those who qualified in the test on November 15 on the website.

Students who secured a GPA [Grade Point Average] total of at least 19 in four subjects--Mathematics, Chemistry, Physics and English in HSC and its equivalent examinations will be allowed to participate in the test this year.

Students interested to attend the test under 'Ka' unit (engineering and urban and regional planning departments) will have to pay Tk 600 while Tk 700 for 'Kha' unit (engineering and architecture departments) as application and admission test fee the official added.

Three seats for the departments under Ka unit and one seat in Kha unit will be preserved for the students from indigenous communities this year.

Details about the application process and question patterns of the test will be available on the official website of Buet.

Conclude Janmashtami rally by 5:00pm

Sahara requests Hindu community

UNB, Dhaka

Home Minister Sahara Khatun requested the Hindu community yesterday to complete the rally on Janmashtami by 5:00 pm as it falls in the month of holy Ramadan.

The Minister gave the call at a meeting with leaders of National Puja Ujjapan committee at her Secretariat office at noon.

The members of the Hindu community will celebrate Janmashtami, the birthday of Lord Krishna, on September 1 with festivity and religious fervour.

The meeting, with the home minister in the chair, also discussed the security measures for the Hindu community to celebrate the Janmashtami programmes peacefully.

Briefing reporters after the meeting, Sahara said she urged

the Hindu community to celebrate the day's programmes at the same time all over the country.

She also requested them not to use mike or loudspeaker during Iftar and prayers including 'tarabi'.

Home Secretary Abdus Sobhan Sikder said 1500 additional police will be deployed in the capital for smooth celebration of Janmashtami on September 1.

State Minister for Home Affairs Shamsul Haq Tuku, Director General of Rab Hasan Mahmud Khandaker, DMP Commissioner AKM Shahidul Huq, and senior officials and leaders of the Hindu community were present at the meeting.

In Dhaka, a Janmashtami rally will be brought out from the Dhakeshwari Temple ending at Bahadur Shah Park after parading different city streets.

AL leader Kaiser shifted to Apollo Hospitals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Awami League (AL) President Member Ataur Rahman Khan Kaiser, who had been injured in a road accident, was shifted to Apollo Hospitals in Dhaka from Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) yesterday.

Kaiser and three others were injured in a road accident on Chittagong-Cox's Bazar highway at Ramu in Cox's Bazar on Saturday afternoon.

After the accident, Kaiser was admitted to ICU of CMCH having suffered injuries to his brain, eyes and face and fracturing his left hip joint.

"The veteran AL leader is out of danger and his condition is improving. But, he is to be shifted to Dhaka, as per decision of a medical board, for a surgery for the fracture on the hip joint," said In-Charge of CMCH ICU Assistant Professor Dr Shahjahan.

"He needed to be shifted to a hospital where all types of treatments including cardiology are available since he underwent heart bypass earlier," he said.

Kaiser was flown to Dhaka by a helicopter from Sergeant Zahurul Haq Air Base of Patuna in the port city at around 4:00 pm, Dr Shahjahan added.

The accident on Saturday occurred as Kaiser's microbus skidded off the road while heading for Cox's Bazar district stadium from Chittagong to attend namaz-e-janaza of former AL MP Osman Sarwar Alam Chowdhury.

Death anniversary

METRO DESK

Today is the 3rd death anniversary of Moksud Alam, a sports organiser, says a press release.

He was the former chairman of Rajshahi University Student Association and the former CEO of Swanirvar Bangladesh.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Alhaj Shamsul Hoque

METRO DESK

Today is the 2nd death anniversary of Alhaj Shamsul Hoque Mojumder, a social worker and retired PWD engineer, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at Amjad Hat of Fulgazi in Feni after Asr prayers.

Friends, relatives and well-wishers are requested to attend the milad mahfil and pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Shafique admits errors in Local Govt Act

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Shafique Ahmed yesterday said there are some errors and contradictions in the Local Government (Paurashava) Act, 2009 to the constitution as the law was formulated quickly.

The minister assured that the government would remove those contradictions in the law, which was passed in the parliament in October 2009.

Monzur Hossain, secretary to the LGRD and cooperative ministry at a seminar, disclosed that the ministry has proposed the government for increasing honorarium of mayors of Paurashava to Tk 20,000 from existing Tk 5,000 and Tk 5,000 for councillors from existing Tk 2,000.

Municipal Association of Bangladesh (MAB), supported by USAID and Promoting governance, accountability, transparency and integrity (Progati), organised the seminar titled 'Local Government (Paurashava) Act 2009: present state and actions ahead' at NILG auditorium in the city's Agargaon.

The law minister said the act was formulated in line with the ordinance promulgated by

the past caretaker government.

"Besides, the law was formulated quickly. So, there are some errors and contradictions remaining in the law to the constitution," said Shafique.

Azmat Ullah Khan, president of MAB and its General Secretary Shamin Al Razi pointed out several inconsistencies and contradictions in the law that includes that a mayor or councillor will be sacked if any complaint is lodged in any court or police station against them.

The councillors participating in the seminar started shouting when they heard of the big difference between the honorarium of mayors and councillors.

The LGRD ministry secretary assured the councillors that he would place their demand to the authorities concerned.

Land Minister Rezaul Karim Hira and Chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on the land ministry AKM Mozammel Huq, among others, spoke at the seminar.

AKM Mozammel Huq lambasted the LGRD ministry for not increasing honorarium of mayors and councillors of municipality.

'Bury infected animals to curb spread of anthrax'

A RU CORRESPONDENT

There is nothing to worry about anthrax disease as it is curable and the treatment is available in the country, said experts at a seminar at Rajshahi University (RU) yesterday.

They said penicillin or ciprofloxacin would be more effective to cure the disease.

The spread of the disease can be stopped by burning or burying the infected animals at least seven feet below the ground otherwise the bacteria can survive for even a century, they added.

Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Science department of RU organised the seminar

and animals, they added. They also said there are effective vaccines against anthrax and some forms of the disease responded well to antibiotic treatment.

RU Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof Muhammad Nurullah, Treasurer Prof M Abdur Rahman, Dean of Agriculture Faculty Sohrab Ali, Prof Ananda Kumar Saha of Zoology department, Prof Ismat Ara Begum and Syed Sarwar Zahan of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Science department and Chief Medical Officer of the University Medical Centre Dr Mirza Wazed Hossain Dr spoke at the seminar.

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6 killed in Jhenidah road crash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

At least six people were killed and 35 injured in a road accident in Moheshpur upazila of Jhenidah yesterday morning.

The deceased were identified as Ritab Ali, 50, Sunil, 45, Tahazzel, 35, Jamela, 27, Hanu, 25, and Ripon, 12.

The accident occurred around 10:00am when a Kaliganj bound bus skidded off the road and toppled over a roadside ditch after hitting a rickshaw-van on Jibonagar-Kaliganj road.

All the victims died on the spot, said Mamunur Rashid, officer-in-charge (OC) of Moheshpur Police Station.

The number of dead may rise as the condition of five of the injured was critical, the OC added.

Of the injured, eight were rushed to the upazila health complexes of Moheshpur and Jibonagar.

Mirza Abbas gets bails in two cases

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Two Dhaka courts yesterday granted bails to BNP standing committee member Mirza Abbas in two cases filed for torching vehicles on June 26, the day before the countrywide general strike.

Metropolitan Magistrate Ismail Hossain granted him bail in the case filed with New Market police station while Metropolitan Magistrate Kamrunnahr Rumi gave him bail in the case filed with Mirpur police station.

Sex workers want recognition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Sex Workers Network of Bangladesh, an alliance of different organisations of sex workers, yesterday demanded the state's recognition of their profession to protect their rights and develop life standards.

They placed the demand at a press conference at the Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU) auditorium in the city yesterday.

They organised the press conference protesting the Election Commission's (EC) decision to not include their occupation in the application form for voters.

Reading out a written statement, the alliance President Jaya Sikder said the EC took an initiative to include their profession like other professions in the voter application form where

voters fill in their occupation.

But later the EC discarded the initiative for unknown reasons that drove the situation into darkness, she added.

"We have to face harassment and torture at every stage of society due to absence of the state's recognition of our profession. So, the state's recognition has become urgent for our survival," she said.

She also urged the civil society, donor agencies and human rights activists to extend their cooperation for the rehabilitation of sex workers.

Alliance General Secretary Hena Akhtar, Treasurer Evan Ahmed Katha, former president Momtaz Begum, former general secretary Shahnaz Begum, among others, were present at the press conference.

INTIMIDATION TO PM Cases against Shah Moazzem, Rafiqul stayed

UNB, Dhaka

The High Court yesterday stayed for six months a dozen of identical cases being filed by BNP leaders Shah Moazzem Hossain and Barrister Rafiqul Islam Mian for criminal intimidation to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Passing the interim orders upon a petition, a vacation division bench comprising Justice Moyeenul Islam Chowdhury and Justice MA Samad also issued rule asking the government to explain in four weeks why the cases similar in nature filed against the accused-petitioners at different places of the country should not be quashed.

According to the case, the accused, at a protest meeting at Muktangan in the city on July 25, reportedly said the prime minister would face the same fate as her father.

The identical cases were filed in the courts of Dhaka, Khulna, Panchagarh, Bhola, Chittagong, Narail, Manikganj, Munshiganj, Kushtia, Jessore and Sirajganj.

Emerging from the court, Rafiqul Islam Mian told UNB that they jointly filed the petition that challenged the validity of the identical cases filed against one person as the article 35 (2) of the Constitution put bars on such action.



Prof Nazrul new Buet VC

DU CORRESPONDENT

Prof Dr SM Nazrul Islam of Mechanical Engineering department of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) has been appointed the vice chancellor (VC) of the institution.

A reliable source at the education ministry confirmed The Daily Star yesterday that procedure of appointing Prof Nazrul to the post has been completed.

A letter regarding the appointment will be sent to the Buet authorities this morning, according to the source.

Buet officials said the new vice-chancellor is expected to take over the office from the outgoing vice chancellor Prof AMM Shafiqul today or tomorrow for a four-year tenure.

One of the senior most professors of Buet, Nazrul Islam is the incumbent president of the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh.

The outgoing VC Prof Shafiqul will complete his five-year tenure today. He took over the charge on August 30, 2006, said Buet officials.

Completing BSc and MSc degrees from Buet, Prof Nazrul did his PhD from University of Windsor in Canada. His research fields include renewable energy, turbulence, computational fluid dynamics and fluid machinery, says the official website of Buet.

Prof Nazrul told The Daily Star that he has been informed about the appointment and he will start office after getting the official order.