



Dr Ibrahim's death anniversary today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 21st death anniversary of national professor Dr Mohammad Ibrahim, also founder of the Diabetic Association of Bangladesh, says a press release.

The association and Birdem Hospital including different organisations have chalked out programmes to mark the day.

The association leaders and activists are to offer prayers and place wreaths at Ibrahim's grave in Banani Graveyard at 9:00am.

Doctors and diabetic patients will hold a meeting for exchanging views at Birdem auditorium at 11:00am.

A milad mahfil will also be arranged at the outdoor of Birdem at 4:00pm and special food will be distributed there.

The hospital authorities will set up a heart camp on its premise to provide free consultation to heart patients from 9:00am to 4:00pm.

The diabetic association has been observing the day as 'Service Day' for the last few years.

Dr Ibrahim died from a cardiac arrest at his residence in 1989.

Death anniversary METRO DESK



Today is the 14th death anniversary of late Prof Mohammed Noman, an eminent educationist and former vice-chancellor of Jahangirnagar University, says a press release.

He was a former Principal of Dhaka College and recipient of Ekushe Padak and President Gold Medal.

On the occasion, Khatme Quran and milad mahfil will be held and foods will be distributed among the orphans. Prof Noman Smriti Foundation has also chalked out elaborate programmes marking the day.

All are requested to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Tohin Ahmed Bhuiyan METRO DESK



Today is the 6th death anniversary of Tohin Ahmed Bhuiyan, son of Mostaque Ahmed Bhuiyan, principal officer of Bangladesh Krishi Bank, says a press release.

Tohin died in a bus accident at Jangal Police Fari, Sonarganj, Narayanganj.

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

Obituary METRO DESK



Mizanur Rahman, former income tax commissioner and economic minister to Bangladesh embassy in Belgium, passed away on September 3 at United Hospital in the city due to old age complications at the age of 68.

Hailing from Narail, Mizanur left behind his wife, a daughter and a son to mourn his death. He was buried at Banani Graveyard.

On the occasion, a doa mahfil will be held at his Uttara residence after Asr prayers on September 7.

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

Mohan Das STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Noted social worker Sree Lal Mohan Das of Sukhchhari Rajshahi under Lohagora upazila passed away on August 30 in Chittagong at the age of 90.

Lal Mohan founded Sukhchhari High School and was involved with different development activities in the area, says a press release.

On the occasion, prayers will be offered at his residence in Sukhchhari on September 14.

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

AL rejects demand for interim polls

Claims grand alliance government still enjoys majority public support

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ruling Awami League yesterday turned outright the main opposition BNP's demand for holding interim general election, claiming the grand alliance government still enjoys majority public support and is committed to complete its 5-year tenure.

Referring to The Daily Star-Nielsen's August 29 survey, it said 41 percent voters would vote for AL while only 20 percent would choose BNP if the elections were held tomorrow.

"The survey revealed that Awami League has been able to maintain its vote bank in last one and a half years in power. On the other hand BNP's support has marked a slide during this period," said AL Acting General Secretary Mahbul Alam Hanif while addressing a press conference at the party president's office in Dhanmondi.

He posed a question about why the popularity of BNP declined although the repute of

main opposition in Bangladesh increase generally.

Talking about BNP Hossain's recent demand for interim general elections, Hanif said in parliamentary democracy, election is not held in any party or person's personal interest. BNP would rather have to wait for a certain period.

The AL leader, also a special assistant to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, urged the BNP leadership to assess the outcome of the survey and not to save the 'corrupt' members of Khaleda Zia family including Tarique Rahman and Arafat Rahman Koko.

"Don't try to save Tarique, Koko and other corrupts by causing public sufferings in the country," Hanif said asking the opposition party not to create any obstacles in the way to the trial of war criminals.

AL leaders BM Mojammel Haque, Ahmed Hossain, Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury, Mrinal Kanti Das, Faridunnahar Laily, Afzal Hossain and Aminul Islam Amin, among others, were present at the press conference.

Bribe makes unfit launches fit

Says shipping minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan yesterday slammed the ship surveyors for taking bribe in exchange for giving fitness certificates to unfit launches, without checking faults or lapses in structural designs in person.

The minister was addressing as the chief guest a meeting on "Role to Prevent Riverine Accidents: Responsibility of the Authority and Public Awareness," at the National Press Club.

Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) organised the meeting with its vice-president Justice Awlad Ali in the chair.

The minister stressed the need for more human resources, especially ship surveyors and inspectors in the Department of Shipping (DoS), to ensure safety of water vessels through regular checking of fitness.

The government has taken the initiative to buy two more salvage vessels, each with a lifting capacity of 250 tonnes, and will introduce waterbus service on Dhaka-Chandpur route soon, he said.

"We hope to start river dredging massively from next November or December under a project, which is awaiting the planning ministry's approval," said Shahjahan.

The minister also sought cooperation from launch owners, workers, and passengers to avoid further accidents in waterways.

Abdul Malek Miah, chairman of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA), mentioned the initiatives taken by BIWTA to ensure passengers' safety and reduce their sufferings ahead of the Eid.

BIWTA is set to check overloaded vessels, deploy law enforcers at Sadarghat launch terminal, stop movement of sand laden cargos at night, and provide uninterrupted electricity supply to the terminal, he said.

Bazlur Rahman, director general of DoS, also announced to keep a close watch so that no unfit launch can ply ahead of the Eid.

A standing committee has been formed to monitor the activities of dockyards across the country, he said.

Farida Yasmin, deputy director of BLAST, in her keynote paper recommended placing buoys and setting up lighthouses in different waterways to prevent accident.

Mohsin Ali Khan, executive director of BLAST, Kazi Faruk, president of Consumer Association of Bangladesh, among others, spoke at the meeting.



People leaving the city for their homes to celebrate Eid. The photo was taken from Gabtoll Bus Terminal yesterday noon.

PHOTO: STAR

CUJ seeks PM's intervention

BSS, Chittagong

Chittagong Union of Journalists (CUJ) sought Prime Minister's intervention for implementation of the 7th wage board award.

In a message faxed to the PM yesterday CUJ President Shahidul Alam and General Secretary Nazim Uddin Shyamal said the Daily Azadi, The Daily Purbokone, Bir Chattagram Munch and the Daily Peoples View did not implement the wage board till to date.

Qulkhwani

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Qulkhwani of Dr Kamruzzaman will be held after Asr prayers at his first son's residence at Street no.124 in Gulshan today, says a press release.

Dr Md Kamruzzaman, a former director of Directorate General of Health Services and principal of Sir Salimullah Medical College, passed away around 5:45pm at his Gulshan residence at the age of 93 on September 3.

He left his two sons, two daughters and grandchildren.

Trained attendants can cut newborns' death risk

Experts tell seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The death risk of newborns could be reduced significantly in Bangladesh if the birth attendants are given proper training on stimulation to breathe and other cares at their birth, experts at a seminar said yesterday.

To ensure normal breathing of a neonatal, such trainings under a pilot project titled "Helping Babies Breathe," led by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU), have already been given to doctors, nurses and birth attendants.

BSMMU organised the dissemination seminar and stakeholders' consultation on the pilot project at a hotel in the city.

Addressing the programme as the chief guest, Health Minister AFM Ruhul Haque said the project will be extended at district level soon.

"The government will take necessary steps to implement it as soon as possible," he

added. According to the Bangladesh Demographic Health Survey in 2007, each year 1.2 lakh newborn babies died within 28 days. Of which, 24,000 neonates died due to respiratory complexities at birth.

Principal Investigator of the project Pro Vice-chancellor of BSMMU Prof Mohammad Shahidullah said a total of 212 persons, including doctors, nurses of BSMMU, Azimpur Maternity and Banshabari Clinic of Urban Primary Health Care and community skilled birth attendants (CSBAs) of Habiganj, were given training on the cares at neonatal birth under the project.

They were then assigned to apply the system at the field level, he said adding, "Almost every trainee have applied the system successfully and helped save the lives of neonates at birth."

Directorate General of Health Directorate Shah

Munir Hossain said that family welfare assistants are being used as skilled birth attendants for the safe delivery though it is not their job. As a result, a chaos is being created in this regard, he added.

"Choosing and managing the programme is now a great concern and we should rethink how will go for the maternal and neonatal programme," he said.

Health Secretary Humayun Kabir, Mission Chief of United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Denise Rollins, country representative of Unicef Carel Rooy, director of Maternal and Child Health Integrated Program (MCHIP) under the international flagship programme of USAID Koki Agarwal, among others, spoke. USAID.

BSMMU gave technical support to the pilot project while USAID financed it and Save the Children provided managerial assistance.

EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLING New Rab boss denies allegation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Newly appointed Director General (DG) of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) Md Mukhlesur Rahman yesterday denied all the allegations of extrajudicial killing and violation of human rights by the law-enforcers.

At his first media briefing at Rab Headquarters in Kurmitola, the Rab DG said Rab members never violate human rights but rather ensure its safety for others.

But when Rab or any other law-enforcers face attacks or bullets, the Rab members should not step back but fight the criminals, said the Rab DG.

He said Rab forces always remain aware of the human rights and have no scope of committing extrajudicial killing.

He, however, said if any

allegation is found against any Rab member or himself for violating human rights or for involving in criminal activity, that member must not be spared.

Replying to a query, Rab DG said it is not possible to fully uproot criminal activities and militancy, but they are both now under the control of law-enforcing agencies.

He also said Rab is planning to purchase two helicopters for conducting drives at the remote areas where criminals have their hideouts.

Rab ADG (operation) Col SM Matiur Rahman, ADG (admin) Col Jahangir Alam, and Legal and Media Wing Director Commander Mohammad Sohail were among others present at the occasion.



Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over Chittagong, Barisal, Khulna and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Dhaka, Rajshahi and Rangpur 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 6:12pm today and rises at 5:42am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 36.0 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and lowest 24.9 degrees Celsius at Sylhet.

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

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	32.6	27.8	78	73
Chittagong	32.2	26.2	74	79
Rajshahi	36.0	27.0	80	73
Khulna	34.2	28.8	80	87
Barisal	32.4	27.0	78	92

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