

Upazila vice chairmen warn of tougher movement

Announce month long programmes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Leaders of Bangladesh Upazila Vice Chairmen Samannaya Parishad here yesterday urged the government to immediately strengthen and make upazila parishads (UP) effective bodies for the development of people at grassroot level.

The leaders warned of waging tougher movement if their specific duties, post status and proper use of power are not ensured by November 30.

They were addressing a press conference organised by Chittagong unit of the parishad at Chittagong Press Club auditorium.

Parishad central Vice President Rasheda Akter presided over the press conference while Chittagong unit President Noor Mohammad read out a

written statement.

The leaders also announced month long programmes to press home their demands.

The programmes include view exchange meeting and human chain from October 11 to October 25, rallies at divisions and submission of memorandum to the prime minister on October 30.

No step was taken within the last 20 months to make the UP strong and effective, they alleged.

"Different quarters are spreading propaganda to split us. We are aware not to involve ourselves with anything that violates rules," Nur Mohammad read in the statement.

"The upazila nirbahi officers (UNOs) are not following laws and gazettes sent to them from time to time by the cabinet and

LGRD secretaries. They are trying to keep the elected representatives inactive," he alleged.

Chairman parishad's Chittagong unit General Secretary Ehsanul Haider Chowdhury Babul said the government should not neglect the UP chairmen and vice chairmen, as the next national election will be held during their tenure.

Vice chairman parishad's Chittagong unit General Secretary Muhammad Jasim Uddin, Banskhalia upazila Vice Chairman Noor Hossain, Central Finance Secretary Jafrul Islam Chowdhury, Feni unit General Secretary Jannatul Ferdous and Kaptai upazila Vice Chairman Jirgar Hossain were present at the press conference.

Later, the parishad leaders formed a human chain in front of the Chittagong Press Club.



People from different indigenous communities bring out a rally from Dhaka University yesterday on the occasion of Jatiya Adivasi Chhatra-Jubo Convention 2010.

MJF condoles death of Aminul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) yesterday expressed deep shock at the sudden demise of Md Aminul Alam, a member of the governing body and executive director of Brac International.

In a condolence message, Executive Director of Manusher Jonno Foundation Shaheen Anam said Aminul was a well-known development activist under whose able guidance Brac extends its poverty reduction programme to other countries.

Aminul's early death is an immense loss for the entire nation and he will be profoundly missed by his friends and the development communities, she added.

The foundation prayed for salvation of the departed soul and conveyed sympathy to members of the bereaved family.

Aminul Alam passed away due to a cardiac arrest on Saturday night at the age of 61.



Mohammad Salem, left, suspected to be Pakistan-based militant group Lashker-e-Taiba's coordinator in Bangladesh, along with two of his Pakistani associates was arrested by the Detective Branch of police from a hotel in the city on Saturday. (Story on Page 16)

President calls for Algerian investment in Bangladesh

UNB, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman yesterday urged Algerian investors to invest in Bangladesh for strengthening the bilateral relations between the two countries by increasing trade and investments.

The president made the call when newly appointed Algerian Ambassador to Bangladesh, Ahmed Benflis, presented his credentials to him at Bangabhaban.

During the meeting, Zillur said Algeria could import quality products of Bangladesh, including jute and jute goods, leather and leather goods, and ceramics, at competitive prices.

Describing Algeria as a brotherly country, he recalled that Algeria was the first to recognise Bangladesh among the countries in Arab regions.

"The then president of Algeria had sent his personal aircraft to carry Bangladesh president Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to join the OIC conference in 1974," Zillur said.

The president assured his all-out support and cooperation with a view to increasing the trade and investment between the two brotherly countries.

The new envoy said Algeria is keen to recruit manpower from Bangladesh.

Benflis said he would take necessary steps to expand the trade and commerce between the two countries.

He also expressed hope that mutual cooperation between the two countries would increase gradually in the coming days.

Secretaries of office and senior officials of the foreign ministry were present.

Earlier, the new Algerian ambassador was given a guard of honour by a contingent of President Guard Regiment.

ADIVASI CHHATRA-JUBO CONVENTION HELD

Constitutional recognition to Adivasis demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at the Jatiya Adivasi Chhatra-Jubo Convention yesterday urged the government to give constitutional recognition to the indigenous communities and satisfy their other democratic demands.

They also called upon the indigenous people to continue movement to realise their rights during the period of the incumbent government.

Youths from different indigenous communities organised the convention at the base of Aparajeyo Bangla of Dhaka University.

The speakers said a vested quarter is interested to create chaos all the time in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) to gain their political and economical benefits.

Justice Ghulam Rabbani cited his own definition of Adivasi -- people who are out of the influence of Bengali culture but belong to different cultures -- and recommended inclu-

sion of this new definition in the constitution.

Rashed Khan Menon, chairman of the parliamentary caucus on indigenous affairs, said indigenous communities will be named as Adivasi instead of "ethnic minority groups" in the constitution.

Jatindra Lal Tripura, chairman of CHT Refugee Affairs Taskforce, asked the indigenous people to continue movement until their democratic demands and rights are fulfilled.

DU teachers Prof Dalem Chandra Barman, Prof Mezbah Kamal and Prof HK Arfin, among others, spoke at the session.

Students of tribal communities also brought out a colourful procession with banner, festoons and placards and marched through the campus.

At least 16 tribal youths' organisations participated in the convention. They also organised a separate discussion at DU Teachers Students Centre (TSC) auditorium on the rights of indigenous people.



Journalist Profulla Kumar Vhakta passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Profulla Kumar Vhakta, noted journalist and senior staff reporter of the daily Bhorer Kagoj, passed away on Sunday night in the city after suffering from kidney disease for a long time at the age of 60.

Profulla died on way to the intensive care unit at a hospital of Lalmeta, as his physical condition worsened. He was undergoing treatment at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University.

He left behind his wife, son and daughter to mourn his death, said a press release.

His body was kept in the morning at the Bhorer Kagon office premises and at the National Press Club to pay last tribute.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid, prime minister's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad, President of Communist Party of Bangladesh Manjurul Ahsan Khan, General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim, among others, were present at the press club.

Later his funeral was held at the Postagola crematorium in the city at noon.

During his long professional life in journalism, he worked as senior reporter in the Daily Sangbad as senior reporter for 30 years and in Bhorer Kagoj for the last 4 years.

Bhorer Kagoj will organise a commemorative meeting at its office today at 4:00pm. All of his co-workers, relatives and well-wishers are requested to join the function.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed deep shock at the death of Profulla and recalled his significant contribution to journalism, saying the country has lost a dedicated newsman, reports UNB.

Gono Forum Presidium member Pankaj Bhattacharjee also expressed condolence at Profulla's death.

Profulla was born in 1950 and started his journalism career with the Daily Sangbad in the 60s.

Five killed in road accidents

METRO DESK

At least five people were killed in separate road accidents in Khagrachhari, Magura and Natore on Sunday and yesterday.

Our Correspondent from Khagrachhari reports: At least two people were killed in two road accidents at Manikchhari and Ramgorh upazilas in of the district yesterday.

Police said Ayesha Khatun, 45, wife of Mohammad Sona Mia of Juggachhola area of Manikchhari upazila was

killed when a speeding Chandergari (a local vehicle) crushed her.

In another accident, Nubin Kumar Tripura, 43, son of Horipodo Tripura of Balturum Tila of Ramgorh upazila died when his motorcycle collided with a passenger jeep.

Locals rushed him to the Ramgorh Upazila Health Complex where doctors declared him dead.

Our Magura Correspondent adds: A driver of a

human-hauler was killed in a road accident on Arpara-Kaliganj Road at Dhawkhali village in Shalikhia upazila yesterday.

The dead was identified as Ershad Hossain, 21, son of Mashur Rahman of Kotbagh village in the same upazila.

Police said the accident occurred around 9:30am as the driver lost control over the steering and the vehicle rrammed into a roadside building.

A correspondent from Natore says: At least two people were killed and three others injured in a road accident at Amritopara in Lalpur upazila on Sunday.

The deceased were identified as Abdul Jalil, 45, and Akhter Ali, 55, of Amritopara village.

Of the injured, Kabil Uddin and Abdur Razzak were admitted to the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

The accident occurred when an Ishwardi-bound private car hit some people standing on roadside.

Officer-in-Charge of Lalpur Police Station Tariqul Islam said local people caught the car driver Shohan and passengers Najmul and Sohail and handed them to police.



Managing Director and CEO of Eastern Bank Limited Ali Reza Iftekhari hands over ten computers and Tk 5 lakh as donation to the authorities of Adarsha Degree College at Churain in Srinagar upazila of Munshiganj, at a function in the city's UTC Building yesterday.

Fruit traders fined for using chemicals

BSS, Dhaka

Six shops in the city were fined Tk 35,000 today for using harmful chemicals on the fruits and cheating buyers in weighing.

A team of National Consumers Rights Protection Directorate (NCRPD) led by the deputy secretary drive led by Anti-Secretary of Commerce Ministry M Abu Taleb at shops on Mirpur Road, Panthapath and at Kalabagan area, said a press release.

During the drive, the team found formalin on the grapes displayed for sale at six shops. The shops are Fatema Fruit Store, Samrat Fal Bhandar and Pizza Fast Food and Confectionary on Mirpur Road and Deen Mohammad Ali Fruits, Ma Moni Fal Bitan and Bhai Bhai Fruit on Panthapath.

The shops were fined Taka 30,000 while 50 kg grapes of formalin were destroyed. Deen Mohammad Ali Fruits was also fined Taka 5000 extra for cheating in weighing.

WEATHER TODAY

Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at one or two places over Rajshahi, Rangpur, Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions in next 24 hours till 6:00pm today.

Next may remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, Met Office said.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:42pm and rises tomorrow at 5:52am.

Country's highest temperature 37.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 24.5 degrees at Rangamati and Srimongal.

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	35.7	27.3	63	65
Chittagong	34.6	26.2	77	70
Rajshahi	35.0	26.6	77	79
Khulna	35.6	28.0	72	70
Barisal	35.6	26.8	77	87
Sylhet	35.6	26.4	69	78
Cox's Bazar	36.0	27.0	83	77

Written test for JNU lecturer posts Oct 18

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Written examinations for the posts of lecturer of 28 departments of Jagannath University will be held on October 18 at 4:00pm, said a press release.

The university authorities have already mailed admit cards to the eligible candidates and requested all to contact the register office, if anyone has not received admit card.

Remark against Zafar Iqbal protested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK) yesterday expressed grave concern over the threatening remark to Prof Muhammad Zafar Iqbal of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology by a pro-Jamaat teacher.

In a press release, ASK strongly protested and condemned the remark that Dr Zafar Iqbal and his wife should be ousted from the university.

Different newspapers published reports on the incident on Sunday.

EYE PROGRAMME LAUNCHED

Four lakh children to be given basic education in 3 years

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shafiqur Rahman was only 10 when acute poverty forced his family to move to the capital from Barisal in 2001. Shafiqur used to work in a rickshaw garage along with his father to earn living at an age he was supposed to go to school.

However, a few months later he and his colleagues learnt of an education facility run by the Society for Under-privileged Families (SUF) NGO. Motivated by a teacher, his parents enrolled him in that school.

Continuing his work in the garage, he completed grade VIII in four years, took training on sewing and embroidery and joined the production house of SUF for a monthly salary of Tk 2500.

"But, I wanted to own a factory and today I am successful. My monthly income is now Tk 35,000," said the 19-year-old Shafiqur, who now runs a 6-employee tailoring factory in the city's Rampura.

He was sharing his happiness while speaking at the launching of a three-year phase of Save the Children, Sweden-Denmark's Education and Youth Employment (EYE) programme at Cirdap auditorium in the capital yesterday.

Salma Akhter, 17, has a similar story. She used to work as a domestic worker, but after completing grade VIII with the help of SUF, she trained in electronics and is now working as a technician in an electronic company.

"I dream to be the owner of an electronic company in the future," she said.

Rights activist advocate Sultana Kamal lauded such successes and said, "Your achievements generates hope. Replicating your successes, we can go forward."

Officials of Save the Children Sweden-Denmark said their programme on child labour earlier focused on protection of child workers. However, this new phase of the programme has some added special features.

"Child labourers will be provided with basic education either in formal or informal arrangements," said Save the Children Sweden-Denmark's Programme Coordinator Sabrina Karim Murshed.

"Thus, they can be more skilled and have technical education, which is not possible if they don't have basic education," she added.

In the three-year-phase, the foreign NGO targets to provide education to over 4 lakh children across the country through its partners, Murshed informed.

According to official statistics, there are 7.4 million children engaged in child labour and nearly 1.3 million of them work in hazardous conditions.

Labour and Employment Joint Secretary Arun Kanti Aich said, "Child labourers could turn into employed citizens provided that they have basic education and some vocational training".

"The government policy on child labour elimination goes very much in line with the EYE programme", he added.

Danish Ambassador to Bangladesh Svend Lundbak said, "Bangladesh has immense potential of improvement, because the people here are very resilient and have entrepreneurship quality".

Save the Children Sweden-Denmark Country Director Birgit, its Education Adviser Bo Tovby Jorgensen and Programme Director Shahida Begum also spoke among others.

Reprinting constitution to start soon: Law minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will soon start reprinting the constitution containing the articles restored following the Supreme Court verdict on the fifth amendment.

Law Minister Shafique Ahmed said this yesterday while talking to journalists after a meeting with Svend Olling, Danish ambassador to Bangladesh, at his secretariat office.

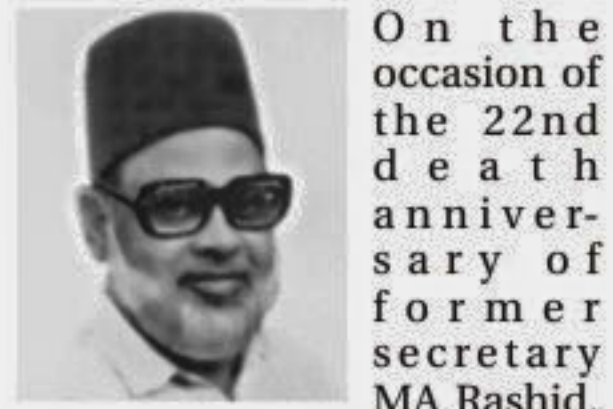
The minister agreed with Chief Justice ABM

Khairul Haque's observation that the articles of the original constitution were automatically restored on February 2 when the SC pronounced its verdict on fifth amendment to the constitution.

The Jatiya Sangsad is entitled to bring any change in the constitution keeping its basic features unchanged, Shafique said.

Replying to a question, he said the Election Commission will decide whether religion-based political parties can run in the country.

Death anniversary



METRO DESK

On the occasion of the 22nd death anniversary of former secretary MA Rashid, a Doa Mahfil will be held at his second son's residence at Gulshan in the city after Maghrib prayers today.

The third death anniversary of late Sultana Rashid, wife of IMA Rashid will also be observed today. Relatives, friends and well wishers are requested to attend and pray for the eternal peace of their departed souls.

Hosne Ara Begum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 4th death anniversary of Hosne Ara Begum, former head of the department of Islamic History and Culture of Kabi Nazrul Government College and wife of Farid Ahmed Chowdhury, assistant general manager of Uttara Bank Ltd.

Hosne Ara left behind her husband, sons, daughter and a huge number of students and co-workers to mourn her death, said a press release.

Members of the bereaved family requested all to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.



President of Inner Wheel Club of Dhaka Midtown Hasina Karim hands over a cheque of Tk 1.20 lakh to Khalequzzaman for his treatment of Hepatitis C at Gulshan in the city recently. Inner Wheel Club of Dhaka North, West Gulshan, East and South also contributed to the fund organised by past district chairman Zeenat Akhand. From right are Maliha Parveen, Mohsena Reza, Hasina Karim, Khalequzzaman, District Chairman Tahera Muzaffar, Zeenat Akhand, Rokeya Shaheed and Kishwar Banu.