

Sector Commanders' Forum organises a rally at Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday after the end of a march demanding trial of war criminals. (Story on Page 16)

Protect Lalbagh Fort

Archaeologists urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Archaeologists at a roundtable yesterday said Lalbagh Fort is under threat of encroachers and urged the government to protect the heritage site.

The speakers portrayed a grim picture of the famous Mughal-era palace cum fortress.

They said encroachers demolished the surviving walls on the west side, and many multi-storied buildings now stand

On the south side, encroachers have been using the fortress wall as a boundary for their buildings, they added. They said a pump house and a water

reservoir have been built inside the fortress boundary while garbage lies beside every wall outside the fort. They added that originally the struc-

ture was built on 22 acres of land of which only 18 acres remain. The roundtable was organised by Poribesh Bachao Andolon (Poba) at the

National Press Club in the city. The archaeologists said the blame does

Department of Archaeology for violating the laws. They said the department itself built a

not fall on the public only and blamed the

two-storied building inside the compound although the 1961 Archaeology Law clearly prohibits such construction in the territory of a heritage site.

The department also lacks professional archaeologists, restoration engineers and a proper funding, which led to the damage of the original design, they said. Presenting the keynote paper, Prof

Mainuddin Khaled said the department of

archaeology destroyed the site with their restoration projects, often damaging the original artwork and colour of the fortress. Khaled also pointed out that the recently enacted Reserved Areas for Tourism and Special Tourism Zones Act-

2010 might become a threat to the fortress as it made room for the takeover of heritage sites for tourism.

of Archaeology at Jahangirnagar University, said the root cause of this destruction is that people here do not take pride in historical sites and lack

compassion for them.

The department's Chairman Sufi Mostafiz said there has to be a buffer zone between a historical site and the adjacent neighbourhood, which the fortress lacks and this leaves a threat to its existence.

Mostafiz stressed that without creating empathy among the locals, it is not possible to restore the glory of the fortress. Involving the local community is necessary for that, he added.

Prof Samsuzzaman Khan, director general of Bangla Academy, Abu Naser Khan, chairman of Poba, and architect Samsul Wares also spoke on the occasion.

Construction of the fortress began in 1678. The credit goes to Prince Muhammad Azam. During his 15-month long vice-royalty of Bengal, he continued the construction but was recalled by the then emperor Aurangzeb before he could complete it.

The fortress is a witness to many his-Prof Dr AKM Shahnewaz, Department torical events. Many atrocities took place in the fortress during the Sepoy Mutiny of 1857. In 1953, Pakistan soldiers led by the then GCO Ayub Khan (later president) killed many police officers for mutiny.

Journo Rezaul Haque passes away

BSS, Dhaka

Veteran journalist Rezaul Haque Bachchu, son of former member of Legislative Assembly AT Mazharul Haque, passed away due to old-age complications at Shamorita Hospital in the city on Friday at the age of 74.

He left behind his wife, one daughter, one son and a host of admirers to mourn his death.

He is the father of noted Tagore singer Mita Huque and brother of cultural personality and famous journalist late Waheedul Haque. He was buried at his family

graveyard at Bhawal Monohoria village under Keraniganj upazila in Dhaka. Bachchu, a Language

Movement veteran who was arrested in 1952, worked for different English dailies including The Bangladesh Observer, The Morning News, The Waves and The Tide.

His qulkhwani will be held at his Dhanmondi residence at House No 31/B, Road No # 4 (Old) after Maghrib prayers on Monday, family sources said.

Meanwhile, leaders of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) expressed profound shock at his death.

BFUJ President Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury and Secretary General Altaf Mahmud and DUJ President Shah Alamgir and General Secretary Abu Zafar Surjo recalled his contribution to

They also conveyed sympathy to members of the bereaved family and prayed for salvation of the departed soul.

the field of journalism.

Call for policies to establish 'Remove billboards self-governed local govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a national convention yesterday called for decentralisation of power at every tier of administration to strengthen local government institutions and make them more functional.

They stressed the need for formulation of specific policies to ensure democratic decentralisation of administration to establish self-governed local government system for flourishing democracy.

They placed the demands while addressing the inaugural session of the national convention titled "Democratic Decentralisation National Convention- 2010" organised by Governance Advocacy Forum, an alliance of 31 organisations, at Biam Foundation in the city.

Speaking as the chief guest, Economic Affairs Adviser to the Prime Minister Dr Mashiur Rahman said decentralisation of power is essential to establish self-governed local gov-

ernment system to foster the country's development.

Terming the economical dependency of the local government on the central government the main barriers for establishing self-governed local government, Mashiur stressed initiating necessary measures to reduce this dependency.

He said the government is pledgedbound to strengthen the local government system but will not take any initiative that might weaken the central government.

Presiding over the meeting, Dr Qazi Khaliguzzaman Ahmad, chairman of Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF), said to disseminate the benefit of overall development of the country, political and economical decentralisation in parallel to the administrative decentralisation is very urgent.

Dr Khaliquzzaman, also president of the national committee of Democratic Decentralisation National Convention- 2010, said the process of

decentralisation of power is facing hindrance due to absence of specific policies that decelerates dynamism of the local government activities. So formulation of necessary policies is vital for strengthening local government, he said.

Local government expert Dr Tofail Ahmed suggested formulating a mother law for the entire local government system to make it more effective.

Workers' Party politburo member Fazle Hossain Badsha laid emphasis on more participation of people in the local government administration. Badsha opined to hold all sorts of local government elections on party basis to ensure effective interaction between local government representatives and local parliament members.

Addressing the function, Mohsin Ali, member secretary of the national committee of the national convention, placed a 19-point recommendation to establish decentralisation and selfgoverned local government system.

The recommendations include formulation of a policy for democratic decentralisation, formation of a government commission for proper implementation of the policy, drafting of development plan and necessary budgetary allocation, direct allocation of a portion of total national revenue for local government and others.

Upazila Vice Chairman Samonnaya Parishad President Jahangir Alam, Bangladesh Union Parishad Forum President Mahbubur Rahman Tulu, Municipal Association of Bangladesh International Affairs Secretary Hafizur Rahman Mollah, different NGO representatives and several hundreds of local government representatives were present at the inaugural session of the national convention.

In the technical session, the convention formed a taskforce comprising of representatives of local government, civil society members and local government experts to draft policies and to submit it to the policy makers.

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SUrprises

from city foot overbridges'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Dhakabashi, a socio-cultural voluntary organisation, yesterday demanded of the authorities concerned to remove billboards from foot overbridges in the city so that pedestrians can see and use those bridges, preventing road accidents.

Most of the bridges are covered with glittering billboards and crowded with hawkers, beggars, and snatchers, which make people reluctant to use those bridges, they said.

They were speaking at an awareness-building programme by the organisation near the foot overbridge at Bangla Motor in the city, to encourage the use of foot overbridges.

A press release said the leaders of Dhakabashi urged Dhaka City Corporation to construct foot overbridges at Russel Square, Dhanmondi 7, Jigatola, Azimpur and Palashi to prevent road accidents.

They also urged people of the city to abide by traffic rules to reduce road mishaps. The activists o

Dhakabashi, during the programme, offered tuberose flowers to pedestrians and requested them to use foot overbridges.

President of Dhakabashi Shukkur Salek, Vice President Hasanuzzaman Khan Palash and leaders Shrin Sultana, Lutfur Ahsan Babu, Humayun Ahmed Mantu and SM Mesbahul Islam were present at the programme.

BNP demand for midterm polls ridiculous: Sajeda

Undemocratic behaviour of

being pardoned and released,"

Delwar said during a human

cannot remain silent, he told

the human chain formed by

Natore district BNP in front of

National Press Club demand-

ing arrest and punishment to

the killers of Sanaullah Noor

Babu, Boraigram upazila

chairman and the party's

pated by leaders and workers

of BNP and its front and asso-

The human chain partici-

Dry weather likely

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the

The sun sets in the capital at 5:20pm today and rises at

Country's highest temperature 34.7 degrees Celsius was

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity

21.5

23.0

20.1

21.4

21.5

21.2

21.2

24.5

recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Temperature in

Celsius

Max

32.2

32.8

31.5

30.5

31.5

31.8

32.7

33.5

recorded yesterday at Sitakunda and lowest 18.5 degrees

over the country in next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

president of the upazila.

UNB, Dhaka

country, said Met Office.

6:05am tomorrow.

Celsius at Chuadanga.

City/Town

Chittagong

Rajshahi

Rangpur

Khulna

Barisal

Sylhet

Cox's Bazar

Dhaka

Under this situation BNP

AL to be resisted: Delwar

chain programme.

BSS, Dhaka

UNB, Dhaka

cratic' behaviour.

BNP Secretary General

Khandaker Delwar Hossain

yesterday said they along with

people will resist the ruling

party's 'unjust and undemo-

ning the country in fascist style.

It is imposing section 144

undemocratically wherever

the opposition party arranges

its programmes. Killing inci-

dents are taking place fre-

quently as murder accused are

DHÁKA

Society of the Deaf and Sign

Language Users will organise a view

exchange meeting on the rights of

hearing-impaired people. Time:

10:00am, Venue: National Press

Journalism Training & Research

Initiative (JATRI) will organise a

roundtable on new media. Time:

10:00am, Venue: JATRI premises,

Bangladesh Women Chamber of

Commerce & Industry will hold a

seminar on anti-corruption reform

efforts for women. Time: 11:00am.

Dhaka Public College will form a

human chain protesting stalking.

Time: 11:00am, Venue: Dhaka

Tere des Hommes Italis will jointly

organise a daylong workshop on

safe migration to Italy. Time: 9:00am.

Venue: Dhaka Sheraton Hotel.

Human Chain

Public College premise.

Venue: Cirdap auditorium.

Workshop

TK Bhaban, Karwan Bazar.

Meeting

Club.

Roundtable

Seminar

"The government is run-

Awami League Presidium Member Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury termed BNP's demand for to conspiracies against the government. midterm elections ridiculous. "Envious, BNP has raised the demand, as

the government has been working for the welfare of people." The countrymen do not support their demand, she said. Sajeda, also Deputy Leader of the House,

ised by Awami Jubo League at Muktangon in the city.

was speaking as the chief guest at a rally organ-

Court verdict on the cantonment house of Khaleda Zia, she said, calling upon people including the party leaders and workers to remain alert

Sajeda said all war criminals would be brought to book after searching every area of the country.

With Jubo League Acting Chairman Omar Faruk Chowdhury in the chair, the rally was also addressed, among others, by the AL wing's General Secretary Mirza Azam, MP, and central leaders Harun-Or-Rashid, Majibur Rahman Chowdhury, Faruk Hossain, Átaur BNP wants to misguide people over the High Rahman and Manzurul Alam Shahin.

11:00am.

ciate organisations was con-

tinued about an hour from

by Awami League terrorists at

Bonpara of Boraigram in

ment's move to evict BNP

Chairperson Khaleda Zia's

Dhaka cantonment residence,

Delwar said what the govern-

ment is doing over the resi-

dence is state terrorism. He

condemned the government's

Humidityin

percentage

Evening

66

72

78

78

79

90

64

77

Morning

62

79

84

77

75

71

57

76

such activities.

Natore district on October 8.

Babu was killed allegedly

Referring to the govern-

Pro-govt docs' panel sweeps BSMMU deans' polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pro-Awami League Swadhinata Chikitshak Parishad (SCP) sweeps the deans' election of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) yesterday.

The SCP-backed panel secured all the four faculties -medical, surgery, basic medicine and dental. BSMMU Vice Chancellor

Prof Pran Gopal Datta told The Daily Star that the vote was held at the Milton Hall from 9:00am to 2:00pm.

He said most of the teachers from the faculties cast their votes.

Prof ABM Abdullah won the medical faculty with 89 votes while BNP-backed Doctor's Association of Bangladesh (DAB) leader Prof ASMA Raihan got 62 votes, he added.

Dr Kanak Kanti Barua won the surgery faculty, securing 100 votes while DAB leader Dr Md Saiful Islam got 70.

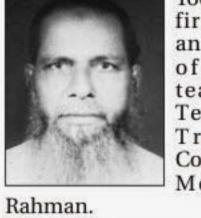
Dr Iqbal Arsalan was elected basic medicine dean, getting 26 votes against DAB leader Dr Kamrul Hasan Khan's 12.

Dr Shamsul Alam won the dental faculty with 10 votes while his rival Dr Majibur Rahman Hawladargottwo votes. The election is held every

two years.

Death anniversary

BSS, Dhaka



Today is the first death anniversary of former teacher of Teachers' Training College Prof Moksedur

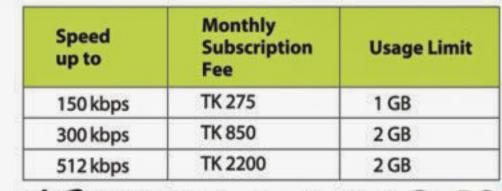
He was teacher of Dhaka Government Laboratory School, Barisal Residential College, Comilla Teachers' Training College, Feni Teachers' Training College and Ahsania Mission

Teachers' Training College. Educationist Moksedur Rahman, father-in-law of former general secretary of Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) Omar Faruque, was born in Solna village under Sadar upazila of Barisal district.

Students, friends, relatives and admirers have been requested to pray for eternal peace of the departed soul.

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