



Abul Bashar passes away

Jatiya Sramik Federation Bangladesh President Abul Bashar passed away at Heart Foundation Hospital in the city at 6:45am yesterday at the age of 78.

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

Bashar was also former president of Workers' Party of Bangladesh, a freedom fighter and a labour leader, an organiser of different labour movements and member of the advisory council of Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies (BILS).

Leaders of different political parties and labour organisations condoled his death.

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and party Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain, Industries Minister Dilip Barua, Labour and Expatriates Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Engineer Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, Communications Minister Syed Abul Hossain and Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan in separate messages said the nation will always remember Bashar for his immeasurable contributions to the War of Liberation and democratic movements in the country.

His absence would be a big blow to the movement for exploitation-free society, they said. They conveyed sympathy to members of his bereaved family and prayed for salvation of the departed soul.

Bangladesh Trade Union and Gono Forum leaders also condoled his death.

125 barred from flying to S Arabia in guise of hajj pilgrims

Immigration and detective personnel have barred 125 people from flying to Saudi Arabia in the guise of hajj pilgrims during the last one month.

Of them, 39, including seven foreigners, were sent to jail while the rest were taken under observation, said sources from police headquarters and immigration authorities.

A senior immigration official told The Daily Star that the seven foreigners are suspected to be citizens of Myanmar, who obtained passports using forged documents.

The official added that of the Bangladeshis apprehended, 32 obtained passports using fake identities while the rest were trying to go to Saudi Arabia for different purposes.

Case against Arafat Koko deferred till Jan 10

A Dhaka court yesterday deferred the hearing until January 10 of a tax evasion case filed against Arafat Rahman Koko, the youngest son of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

Judge Mohammad Zohurul Hoque of the Senior Special Judge's Court passed the order following a petition seeking an adjournment of the hearing.

In the yesterday's petition, Koko's lawyer prayed for the adjournment saying a High Court (HC) rule is pending that challenged the legal basis of the case.

The HC issued the rule on a writ petition submitted earlier, he added.

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) on March 1 this year filed the case against Koko for evading income tax for fiscal years from 2002-2003 to 2006-2007.

PRIVATE MEDICAL COLLEGE

Six more get govt's nod while many limp

ALPHA ARZU

The government has approved six more private medical colleges, including three homeopathic and one dental, while many are running without ensuring standard of education.

Before approval of the medical colleges, the government should scrutinise the teachers at the institutes, said Prof Pran Gopal Datta, vice-chancellor of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU).

Questioning the abilities of teachers in private medical colleges, he said this is a profession which can decide the life or death of a person.

Some private medical colleges are running with insufficient number of teachers, lab facilities, libraries and own campus, which are mandatory to establish medical colleges, said sources of the health and family welfare ministry.

In 2005-06, the medical education wing of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) identified

Table with 4 columns: Institutes and courses, Public, Private, Total Seats. Rows include Medical College (MBBS), Dental College, Institutes of Health Technology (IHT), and Medical Assistant Training Schools (MATs).

Source: DGHS

some 10 such private medical colleges and postponed their intake of students. But, some of the private medical colleges are admitting students after getting the High Court's orders filing writ petitions.

The government has also allowed 80 more seats at six private medical colleges, said a high official of the health and family welfare ministry.

Considering the demand of medical education, decrease of doctor to patient ratio and minimum standard of medical studies, the government has taken the decision of establishing more private medical institutions, said health and

family welfare minister AFM Ruhul Haque.

There are 3,350 seats at 43 private medical colleges and 2,366 in public medical colleges in Bangladesh. According to the number of candidates at this year's combined MBBS admission test, more than 42,000 students competed for 5,712 seats at both public and private medical colleges.

The ratio of doctor to patient now stands at 1:3,169, which indicates the poor state of doctor and patient ratio, said Md Maniruzzaman Bhuiyan, principal of Holy Family Red Crescent Medical College.

The newly approved medi-

cal colleges are---Popular Medical College and Hospital at Dhanmondi, MH Samorita Medical College at Panthapath, Patuakhali Homeopathic Medical College, Barguna Homeopathic Medical College and Rahanpur Homeopathic at Chapainawabganj and Mendi Dental College at Dhanmondi.

Meanwhile, another private medical college and 39 medical assistant training schools and 13 institutes of health technologists are under consideration of the health and family welfare ministry, sources at the health ministry said after attending a meeting on approval of private medical, dental, homeopathic

medical college and IHT/MATS' chaired by the health minister recently.

Director of Medical Education, Prof Khandaker M Shefayet Ullah said, "We have brought some major changes in the set-up criteria for private medical college to improve the standard of medical education."

Most of the private medical colleges earlier were established without functioning hospitals, which is mandatory for at least two years to get permission to establish a private medical college.

According to the medical education policy approved in 2004, the teachers and employees of the colleges have to be authenticated by the Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council.

As per the rule, no private medical college can be established in a rented facility. A 50-seat medical college must have its own building on 2.5 acres of land or one lakh square feet of space in metropolitan areas while five acres outside the metropolis.



PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

This bus runs into the private car in front of Suhrawardy Hospital in the city yesterday. Reckless driving by the city's bus drivers causes such type of accidents everyday.

Recover 20,000 acres rly land by July

JS body asks communications ministry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary body yesterday set July 2011 as deadline for the communications ministry to recover around 20,000 acres of Bangladesh Railway land occupied by different influential individuals and organisations.

The standing committee on communications ministry also asked eviction of slums erected beside railway lines and stations across the country in phases after rehabilitating the residents.

The House body also suggested that the railway authorities amend its law, if necessary, to achieve this goal.

"Bangladesh Railway has about 63,312 acres of land and different influential individuals and parties are occupying around 20,000 to 23,000 acres," Sk Mujibur Rahman, chief of the House watchdog, told reporters after a meeting held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

Rahman, also a ruling Awami League MP, said the committee has also asked the ministry to submit monthly progress reports on recovery of railway land.

Despite the body's earlier directives to recover occupied land, no progress was evident in this regard.

"This time we have set a time frame for the job," said the committee chief, adding that the government will be able to create 20,000 jobs by constructing differ-

ent structures, including IT firms, shops and markets, once the recovery is complete.

About the necessity of amending related laws, Rahman said whenever efforts were made to recover occupied land, railway officials faced difficulties with age-old laws.

Asked about some influential political bigwigs who grabbed railway land, he said BNP standing committee member Mirza Abbas occupied around four acres of land near Kamalapur Railway Station when he was in charge of housing and public works ministry during the last BNP-Jamaat alliance rule.

Talking to The Daily Star on November 8 last year, Abbas denied the allegation.

Country needs enthusiastic people to achieve success

Says Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed

UNB, Dhaka

Every man and nation has a hidden superpower that remains unexplored for lack of opportunity and it needs to awaken this power to "conquer the unconquerable one," eminent educationist Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed said yesterday.

The educationist said the country needs some "exceptional people with great energy or enthusiasm" like the mountain climbers to bring success in all fields.

Prof Sayeed was addressing a press conference at the National Press Club in the city.

Referring to Nobel Laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus, Prof Abu Sayeed said that the country got very little from politics. "It is the enthusiasm and initiative of the people that basically has been driving the country towards development and success."

He, however, felt that the nation's enthusiasm and politics should combine to reach the goal.

recently conquered a virgin Himalayan peak jointly with Nepalese mountaineers. The peak was named as 'Nepal-Bangladesh Friendship Peak' on October 25.

Greeting the victorious mountaineers, Abu Sayeed, founder of the Biswa Sahitya Kendra, said: "It's a big achievement. I realise (after seeing the slide show) how dangerous each and every step in reaching the peak was. It's more surprising that two girls were also in the team."

Termining the mountaineers as abnormal and mad people in a positive way, he said, "We need some great mad people like you for more success in other fields as well."

Earlier, leader of Bangladesh team MA Mohit narrated each and every thrilling step of reaching the virgin Himalayan peak through a slide show.

Other members of the six-member team are Nishat Mazumder, Nur Mohammad, Sajal Khaled, Kazi Bahlu Manzu and Sadia Sultana Shampa.

Cosmos Group Director Masud Khan, Paragon Group Managing Director Moshir Rahman and BMTC founder Enam Ul Haque were present.

LEAGUE MAN KILLING Mourning procession attacked, SI hurt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of youths attacked a mourning procession by locals protesting Saturday's murder of Swachhchasebak League, ward 82 unit leader Deen Islam Dela at the city's Gandaria yesterday.

Cadres of detained Shariful Islam Sharif, president of the party's unit and the prime accused of the killing, launched the attack around 2:30pm leaving a policeman injured, said locals and police.

Sub-Inspector (SI) Subhas Kumar Pal of Gandaria Police Station was hit by a brickbat during the attack. He is taking treatment at a local hospital for head injury.

Witnesses said the attackers hurled a homemade bomb and rained brickbats from the rooftop of Shariful's four-storey building at Loharpool of Sutrapur when the procession of several hundred people was passing through the road in front of the house.

The bomb fell on a police vehicle in front of the procession and blasted dispersing the demonstrators.

The police picked up one of the suspected attackers from the house.

Zaved Ahmed, Deen Islam's younger brother who was in the procession, said two bullets were also shot during the attack.

However, Officer-in-Charge Faruk Ahmed of the police station denied the allegation of firing.

The OC said Gandaria police are trying to catch the others involved in the attack.

VIQARUNNISA NOON SCHOOL

Rush of admission seekers on first day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sale of admission forms for class I of Viqarunnisa Noon School began yesterday with many parents of admission seekers returning empty handed due to a huge rush of applicants.

A large number of guardians through all four branches of the school from early morning with many failing to get an admission form despite standing in long queues for hours.

Many expressed anxiety and fear of not being able to obtain a form.

"I came here at 5:00am and could not manage to obtain a form till 11:00am despite waiting in the queues," said Abdus Sobhan, a guardian who came at the school's main campus at Siddheshwari.

The school authorities however said forms would be available for four days and the huge number of people was due to the first day of sale.

"This is why we kept four days to sell forms and I hope all would be able to obtain one," Husne Ara Begum, principal of the school, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Forms will be distributed from 8:00am to 11:00am for morning section and 1:30pm to 4:00pm for day section till November 10 against 1,568 seats for class I in four branches of the school. The school will admit students on lottery system.

CHARGES OF FRAUDULENCE

8 students get bail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The eight students arrested on charges of committing fraud by sending answers for multiple-choice questions via SMS to freshmen aspirants during Dhaka University (DU) admission tests were granted bails.

The news of the bail order has triggered a mixed reaction among the lawyers and others present on the court premises.

After a three-day of their arrest, Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Ismail Hossain on November 2 granted bail to the students upon a bond of Tk 2,000 with two guarantors.

The magistrate also rejected the remand prayer for seven days submitted by Investigation Officer of the case Sub-Inspector Ahsanul Karim without showing any logical grounds in support of the rejection.

The accused are Aminul Islam, a former BBA student of DU, Anwar Hossain Johnny, a BBA final year student of Marketing Department at DU, Mohammad Nazrul Islam, a master's student of Political Science at DU, Shahjada, a BA student of BM College of Barisal, Bachhu Mia, a third year student of Gurodolo Govt College of Kishoreganj, Shahdat Hossain Liton, a student of English department of Jahangirnagar

University, Mohammad Shohel Rana, a master's student of political science department, and one Mohammad Jamal Uddin.

During the hearing, General Recording Officer (GRO) Mohammad Shahfiqul Alam of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court did not raise any objection against the bail petitions submitted on behalf of the accused, according to the case file.

In his order, Ismail said the case was filed after a long time and all the accused are students. One of them is a union parishad candidate. Moreover, they are not involved with leaking out answer scripts. They are victimized. So, they are granted bails, the magistrates said.

Talking to The Daily Star Advocate Pran Nath said such bail order would encourage the offenders to commit such offences. If it is not stopped, many meritorious students will be deprived to get admission into a good university.

Earlier, on October 29, the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested the eight accused and filed a case against them with New Market Police Station on the same day.

The arrestees were charged with the crime of sending answers for multiple-choice questions via SMS to admission seekers during the admission test to DU.

DHAKA TODAY Human Chain Meeting Seminar Seminar Seminar Seminar Discussion

WEATHER TODAY No change in temperature UNB, Dhaka Rain or thundershowers followed by temporary gusty wind is likely at one or two places over Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions in next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.