



Channel i Managing Director Faridur Reza Sagar describes Nazrul Mela, a programme sketched by the channel to celebrate the 112th birth anniversary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam today, at a press conference at its office in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Journo Banna no more

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Azizul Haque Banna, former acting president of Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) and assistant editor of the Dainik Sangram, passed away due to a cardiac arrest at a city hospital yesterday at the age of 62, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, three daughters and a son to mourn his death.

Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) President Ruhul Amin Gazi and acting Secretary General M Abdullah, Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) President Abdus Sahid and General Secretary Baker Hossain, Jatiya Press Club President Kamal Uddin Sabuj and General Secretary Syed Abdal Ahmed and BNP Acting Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir in separate messages expressed their deep shock at his death.

On the occasion, BFUJ and DUJ will organise a memorial meeting and doa mahfil at Jatiya Press Club auditorium on May 29.

Mirza Abul Kashem

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mirza Abul Kashem, father of Mirza Azam, whip of the Jatiya Sangsad, passed away due to old age complications at the Square Hospital in the city yesterday at the age of 82, says a press release.

He will be buried at his family graveyard in Balijuri village under Motherganj upazila in Jamalpur today.

Golam Mawla

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A H M Golam Mawla, a retired station superintendent of Bangladesh Railway of Narayanganj, passed away at his son's residence in the city on May 22, says a press release.

A resident of Feni, Golam Mawla, left behind his wife, daughters, sons, and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

Friends and well-wishers are requested to pray for salvation of the departed

Noor Mohammad

METRO DESK

N o o r Mohammad, a freedom fighter and former chairman of Laxmipur #11 Union Parishad, passes away at his residence on May 23 at the age of 68, says a press release.

He left behind his four sons and one daughter to mourn his death.

Noor Mohammad, father of Gazi Ibne Mohammad Khaled, managing director of Annex Communication Ltd, was buried at his family graveyard.

Well-wishers have been requested to pray for salvation of his departed soul.

LEFT PARTIES' LETTER TO JS BODY CHIEF Reinstate four principles of '72 constitution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Five left leaning parties yesterday sent a letter to the chairperson of the parliamentary committee on constitutional amendment urging the committee not to recommend anything, which would contradict the basic principals of the constitution of 1972.

In the letter, Workers Party of Bangladesh (WPB), Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD), National Awami Party (Nap), Bangladesh Shammobadi Dal (BSD), and Ganotantri Party, said the four principals of the original constitution of the country in 1972 were reinstated with the Supreme Court verdict.

The government had decided to amend the constitution following a verdict from the Supreme Court declaring the Fifth Amendment illegal and formed a 15-member parliamentary body on constitutional amendment making Sajeda Chowdhury, deputy leader of the House, as its chief.

The five leftists parties, which are also

component of the Awami League-led grand alliance, submitted the letter with their recommendation for changes in the constitution at the office of the chairperson of the parliamentary special committee at Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban yesterday, says a press release.

The letter reads, "It is clearly in conflict with the main principals and basic structure of the constitution to include Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim, giving chance to float religion-based political parties and making state religion with martial law proclamation."

The letter was signed by Anisur Rahman Mallik, general secretary of WPB; Sharif Nurul Ambia, general secretary of JSD; Amena Ahmed, vice president of Nap; Lutfar Rahman, member of secretary council of BSD; and Nurur Rahman Selim, general secretary of Ganotantri Party.

On April 25, the parties had given their views regarding constitutional amendments in a meeting with the special committee.

Tough action if bad seeds certified

Matia warns officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury yesterday warned of tough actions against the officials concerned if any negligence is found in testing and certifying the imported hybrid rice seeds.

"If anyone found involved in certifying imported hybrid seeds that perform bad would be brought to book," she said while addressing a workshop on achievements of boro this season, problems, potentials and future actions.

Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) organised the programme at its auditorium in the city.

Matia Chowdhury said farmers have been reportedly affected by cultivating some hybrid rice varieties this boro season. The agriculture ministry is probing the allegations, she said.

Average yield of hybrid rice varieties this boro season is 7.30 tonnes a hectare, while it potential is 9 tonnes. Productivity of milled rice is only 4.87 tonnes a hectare, said Anwar Faruque, director general of the agriculture ministry's seed wing.

This boro season farmers cultivated hybrid rice on 6.56 lakh hectares of land, which was 7.20 lakh hectares in 2009-10 and 9 lakh hectares in 2008-09.

Faruque said hybrid needs high care, its seed price is high, but its demand and price is less and so farmers are losing interest in it. The seed certification agency failed to ascertain the quality of hybrid rice seeds, he noted.

Matia Chowdhury said as per the rules, any imported hybrid rice seeds have to go through two years of trial in the country. After that, Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI) and Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC) will test them before the seed certification agency releases the varieties, but this system is not being followed.

Those of you reluctant to the issue may join private jobs, she said.

Agriculture Secretary CQK Mustaq Ahmed chaired the workshop. BARC Executive Chairman Dr Wais Kabir, BRRI Director General Dr Abdul Mannan, BADC Chairman Dr Nazmul Islam, Department of Agriculture Extension Director General Habibur Rahman among others spoke at the event.

Youth shot dead in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A youth was shot to death and another one injured as unidentified criminals opened fire on them at Khilgaon in the city yesterday.

The deceased, Niazul Islam, 25, a resident of East Goran, was a pick-up van driver with a van of his own.

Helal Uddin, officer-in-charge of Khilgaon Police Station, said a gang of four criminals fired shots at Niazul as he was talking to his companion Nasir Gazi near Nurani Mosque lane in Bhuiyanpara around 12:45pm.

Niazul was shot in the chest. He was declared dead at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Nasir Gazi sustained a bullet injury in the leg and is undergoing treatment at DMCH.

Shariful Islam, brother of the deceased, claimed that local drug peddlers, Selim, Monir, Murad and Azam, shot his brother to death over personal enmity.

JAPAN DISASTER

Bangladesh ready to help

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni yesterday said Bangladesh is ready to help Japan for its massive reconstruction and rebuilding of their devastated economy, says a press release.

"Bangladesh and Japan enjoy excellent friendly relations, and Japan has been a consistent friend and a reliable development partner of Bangladesh," she said.

"Our government is committed to help Japan the way we can..."

The foreign minister stated this as Japanese Ambassador in Dhaka Tamotsu Shinotsuka made a courtesy call on her at the foreign ministry yesterday.



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'Saptahik Industry' warned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Press Council has rebuked and cautioned the Saptahik Industry, a weekly magazine, for publishing some fabricated and false reports against Basic Bank Limited and its Deputy Manager Shahabuddoza.

The council in a verdict on May 19 said that Saptahik Industry has done yellow journalism and tarnished the image of the bank and its deputy manger before the public by publishing some one sided reports without collecting information.

It came up with the verdict in response to an application filed by Sheikh Manzur Morshed, acting managing director of Basic Bank Limited, against Enayet Karim, the editor of Saptahik Industry, which is published from 62/1, Purana Paltan, Dhaka.

The petition said that the weekly has published a series of false and fabricated reports on different dates last year bringing financial irregularities and corruption against the bank and its deputy manger.

The five-member council headed by its Chairman BK Das also directed the Saptahik Industry authorities to publish the full text of the verdict on the weekly within 14 days after receiving it.

None was present on behalf of the weekly magazine during hearing of the petition.

BNP to press for midterm polls

Says Mirza Alamgir

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League-led government should quit the power right now for holding a midterm election as it has failed to implement its electoral pledges, said BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday.

"Prime Minister promised the nation in her election manifesto that extra-judicial killing would be stopped but they are now trying to branding Limon as a criminal after shooting the college student to disability by using Rab," Mirza Alamgir was speaking at a protest rally in front of the party's central office in Nayapaltan.

BNP, the main opposition party, organised the rally as part of its countrywide demonstration demanding withdrawal of cases filed against party leaders and release the arrested leaders. Leaders and workers of different thana and ward units of the party attended the rally.

Alamgir said BNP would forge a tough movement to force the government to realise the demand of midterm election.

He said the prime minister is carrying out a "steamroller of torture" and on the other hand she is going to France to receive an award for her "so-called" contribution to establishing democracy in the country where now the opposition has no right to speak.

Referring to HT Imam's comment against Khaleda Zia, he said some advisers are making "audacious" statements.

"Adviser HT Imam asked to opposition leader to apologize but finally he will have to beg pardon for his activities." Party leaders Rafiqul Islam Mia, Aman Ullah Aman, Moazzem Hossain Alal, among others, spoke at the rally with city convener Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka in the chair.

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