

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Bimalendu Das alias Sadhu Babu, former chairman of the then Sylhet municipality, passed away at Kumudini Hospital in Mirzapore on Friday due to old age complications at the age of 92.

Bimalendu Das, a social, cultural and sports activist, left behind his one son, two daughters and a host of relatives, friends and admirers to mourn his death.

His cremation took place at the Chalibandar crematorium ground in the city yesterday.

Finance Minister AMA Muhib, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid and Sylhet City Corporation Mayor Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran condoled his death.

Death Anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 15th death anniversary of Dr Sofia Hasna Jahan Ali, former professor of Department of Economics of Dhaka University, says a press release.

Sofia, wife of Dr Shaikh Maqsood Ali, was the president of Lioness Club in Dhaka. She was also a sportswoman and a sports event organiser.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to pray for her departed soul.

Badaruddin Chowdhury

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 24th death anniversary of Badaruddin Chowdhury, father of Mahbubuddin Chowdhury, secretary general of National Association of Unesco Clubs in Bangladesh, says a press release.

On the occasion, a qurankhwani, a milad mahfil, and special prayers will be held at Faridabad residence in Old Dhaka after Zohr prayers.



Ctg rickshaw pullers protest embargo

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The embargo on rickshaw plying from Barik Building to Bahadherhat road intersection in the port city from January should be halted until separate lanes for rickshaws have been made.

This was among the eight-point demand put forward by the leaders of Chittagong Metropolitan Rickshaw Driver-Owner Coordination Action Council at a press conference in Chittagong Press Club yesterday.

The leaders said, if the decision is not halted before December 29, they will go for stronger movement and will call a human chain along with rickshaws in the area.

Meanwhile, Chittagong Metropolitan Police passed an order resisting rickshaw moving from Barik Building to Bahadherhat intersection from January 1.

PESHAJIBI PARISHAD
Mesbahuddin, Quamrul new president, secy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Justice AFM Mesbahuddin and Prof Dr Quamrul Hasan Khan were elected president and secretary general of Peshajibi Samannaya Parishad at a meeting on Wednesday.

Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, Prof Engineer SM Nazrul Islam, Advocate Mahbubey Alam, Journalist Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury and Prof Abul Barkat, among others, were elected to the 16-member presidium, said a press release.

Road crashes kill 6

METRO DESK

Six people were killed and six others injured in separate road accidents in Comilla, Manikganj and Sirajganj yesterday.

UNB from Comilla reports: Four people were killed and five others injured as a bus hit a truck on Comilla-Noakhali Highway in the Sadar upazila yesterday.

Identities of the deceased could not be known immediately.

Police and witnesses said the accident occurred at around 4:00am as the driver of a Laxmipur-bound bus from Dhaka failed to see the truck due to the poor visibility triggered by dense fog and hit it at Syedpur of the upazila.

Six injured were whisked off to Comilla Medical College Hospital where one of them succumbed to his injuries.

In Manikganj, motorcyclist Kohinur Islam, 35, of Arua village, was killed and another Ainal Hoque injured in a collision between two motorbikes on Rupsha-Machain road at Khanpur in Shibalaya upazila yesterday.

Ainal were rushed to Shibalaya Health Complex.

Our Sirajganj correspondent adds: A schoolboy was crushed under the wheels of a truck on Sirajganj-Kazipur road at Chilgachha village in Sadar upazila yesterday morning.

Police and eyewitnesses said a sand-laden truck crushed Akash, 7, son of Bipu Talukder of the village, in the morning while he was crossing the road.

Police sent the body to Sirajganj General Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Make Bangladesh home for people of all faiths: Hasina

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged all to continue their support to make Bangladesh a livable land where people of every religion would enjoy their religious freedom and rights.

She said everybody should be careful so that the existing atmosphere of enjoying religious rights by the people of every religion exists in the future and none can create anarchy like the one in 2001.

Hasina said this when a delegation of Bangladesh Christian Association called on her at her Gano Bhaban residence in the evening on Christmas Eve.

Expressing her firm commitment to uphold the rights of people of every religion, she said, "We believe that all of us are the sons of the soil and we have

earned freedom with immense sacrifice by the people of all religions."

In the past, competent public servants from minority communities were deprived of promotion. But her government gave utmost importance to competent civil servants by providing promotions and appointments in public services, she said.

The government is also looking into areas where the minority communities are less represented, she said, adding that the government has been taking every effort for the welfare of all religious communities.

Greeting the community members on Christmas Eve, she said, "December is a very glorious month for us. It is when we earned our independence and Lord Jesus was born."

The delegation greeted the prime

minister with a bouquet of flowers and Christmas card. Hasina cut a Christmas cake and inaugurated the Christmas programmes.

State Minister for Religious Affairs Advocate M Shahjahan Mia, the association President and State Minister for Cultural Affairs Advocate Promode Mankin, Bishop Linus Nirmal Gomez and the association Secretary General Nirmal Rozario spoke on the occasion.

The association leaders expressed their firm resolve to cooperate with the present government in its efforts to build a secular Bangladesh and extend their full support to the government for the trial of war criminals.

On the occasion, a Christmas tree was decorated at Gano Bhaban. The prime minister entertained the delegation members with cakes and sweetmeats.



Children take part in a drawing competition organised by Swadhinata Sangsad on the Public Library premises in the city yesterday, marking the 40th anniversary of independence.

PHOTO: STAR

Plot on to foil war crimes trial
Says Afsarul Amin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Primary and Mass Education Minister Afsarul Amin yesterday said some quarters were trying to foil the process of war crimes trial to save the criminals.

"Those who did not want independence of the country are now plotting to foil the trial process and save the Razakars and Al-Badrs," he said adding that the present government would complete the trial with the support of the countrymen.

The minister was speaking as the chief guest at the 9th conference of Bangladesh College University Teachers' Association (BCUTA) at Chittagong Muslim Hall.

Federation of World Teachers' Association (FWTA) President Prof Mahfuza Khanam, BCUTA central President Prof Nur Mohammad Talukdar, Prof MM Akash of Dhaka University, FWTA General Secretary Bala Bijoy Kumar, BCUTA Adviser Prof Ranjit Kumar Dey and BCUTA central Secretary Mohammad Jahangir spoke as special guests on the occasion.

BCUTA Chittagong district President SM Iqbal presided over the conference.

DHAKA TODAY

Christmas party

Ruposhi Bangla Hotel will organise a children's Christmas party. Venue: Ruposhi Bangla Hotel, Time: 9:30am.

Discussion

Muktijuddher Itihas Sangrakshan Parishad will hold a discussion. Venue: BSMMU auditorium, Time: 11:00am.

Roundtable

Shushil Forum will hold a roundtable. Venue: Dhaka Reporters Unity, Time: 11:00am.

Discussion

Zia Parishad will hold a discussion. Venue: Jatiya Press Club, Time: 3:30pm.

Programming contest

Bangladesh University will hold a national programming contest. Venue: 15/1, Iqbal Road, Mohammadpur, Time: 9:00am.

Award

Rapport Bangladesh Limited will arrange an award giving ceremony. Venue: Dhaka Club, Time: 10:00am.

300 maunds of govt wheat recovered

UNB, Bagerhat

The Coast Guard members in a drive recovered 300 maunds of stolen government wheat from two trawlers in the Pashur River in Chalna, Dakope upazila, Khulna early yesterday.

Lt M Hasanuzzaman, staff officer of Mongla West Zone, said that on a tip, a team of Coast Guard chased the two trawlers in the area.

The smugglers and boatmen, however, jumped into the river and fled as the team approached, he said.

Hasanuzzaman said the smugglers stole the wheat from the Mongla port government food godown and were heading to Khulna and will sell it on the black market.

Speaking yesterday at a press briefing, city BNP president Nazrul Islam Manju demanded

31 JCD-Shibir men held for vandalism in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

unconditional release of the arrestees.

The BNP leader claimed police attacked the JCD men without any provocation, who were preparing to bring out a procession to welcome the admission seekers.

The police had also misbehaved with the parents of the accused during the pre-dawn drive, he alleged.

Meanwhile, in apprehension of subversive activities, police will remain alert at 26 points in the city identified as most vulnerable.

Friday's brawl broke out around 11:00am when some members of BCL and JCD were receiving newcomers who took admission test to enroll in the first year honours class under the National University.

Later the supporters of both the organisations resorted to vandalism which erupted from Commerce College Road to PTI Road damaging at least 20 cars and auto rickshaws.

A chase and counter chase ensued, during which the activists vandalised some shops and broke windowpanes and doors of Sandhani Clinic located opposite to the college.



The National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power, and Ports stages a rally before the National Museum yesterday in support of the committee's programme of besieging the energy ministry on December 29.

PHOTO: STAR