

Bangladesh symbol of communal harmony Says president

UNB, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman said Bangladesh is a symbol of communal harmony where people of all religions have been living peacefully.

The president said this at a reception hosted by him for members of the Christian community at Bangabhaban in the city on the occasion of Christmas yesterday.

Archbishop of Dhaka, ambassadors and high commissioners from the USA, Canada, the UK, Denmark, France and Russia, representatives from other embassies in Dhaka as well as leaders of the Christian community attended the programme.

The president said, "We've to make further contribution to the country's socio-economic development utilising this relation and also build a prestigious and prosperous country."

Zillur welcomed the guests and exchanged greetings with them.

He cut a big cake marking the occasion while some children of Christian community sang Christmas carol during the reception.

State Minister for Religious Affairs Advocate M Shahjahan Miah, State Minister for Cultural Affairs Promode Mankin, Secretary to the Ministry of Religious Affairs and the secretaries concerned to the President's office were present.

Jahed confesses to killing Kafil

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

"I strangled Kafil and, later, cut the veins on his neck and right hand so that police could not suspect me as the killer," confessed the person who allegedly killed university student Mohammad Kafil Uddin in the port city last Monday.

The self-confessed killer, Md Jahed Mahmud, 20, son of Selim Mahmud, hailed from the city's Bagmonirama Lane area, was arrested on Saturday.

Police also recovered Tk 12,500 cash, a laptop and a school bag, all belonging to Kafil, from Jahed's residence.

Confessing his crime before the media at Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) headquarter yesterday, Jahed said, "I have killed Kafil by strangulating him and I should be punished for my crime."

Admitting his attraction towards detective serials and novels, he admitted to have cut Kafil's veins with an anti-cutter to avoid suspicion.

CMP Commissioner Abul Kashem, terming the murder pre-planned, said Jahed had greed for Kafil's money and laptop.

"He took part at Kafil's namaz-a-janaza at Anwara and also went to Kafil's house so that no one would suspect him as the killer," he said. Police said Jahed and Kafil were friends and worked as members of Destiny-2000.

On December 18, Jahed took Kafil to a cafe in Lalkhan Bazar and, later on, took Kafil to a spot adjacent to Jamiatul Falah Mosque to chat, said police.

Next day, police found the body of Kafil, a student of International Islamic University Chittagong, from the area.



HOMAGE TO A WAR HERO



(Clockwise from top) A contingent of police present a guard of honour to the late Awami League leader **Abdur Razzak** at South Plaza of Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban yesterday. President Zillur Rahman places a wreath on Razzak's coffin at the latter's Gulshan residence. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina consoles a family member and offers prayers for the departed. A wreath on behalf of the president being placed on Razzak's coffin on Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban premises. The first namaz-e-janaza being held on Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban premises. (Story on Page 1)

PHOTO: STAR, PID, PMO



Asaduzzaman's contributions recalled

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

The 18th death anniversary of Advocate Asaduzzaman, an Awami League (AL) leader and former lawmaker of Magura-2 constituency, was observed yesterday.

On the occasion, AL Magura district unit and its front organisations arranged various programmes to commemorate his life and works.

The programmes included rally, discussion, milad mahfil and distributing foods among the destitute.

AL district unit president Mohammad Altaf Hossain presided over the discussion.

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society Chairman Prof Dr Mohammad Serajul Akbar, MP, local lawmaker Advocate Biren Shikdar, Sadar Upazila Parishad Chairman Abu Nasir Bbalu, Assistant Personal Secretary (APS) to the prime minister Saifuzzaman Shikhor and district AL leader Advocate Shafikuzzaman Bachchu also spoke, among others, on the occasion.

Asaduzzaman, an organiser of the War of Liberation in the district, was elected member of parliament four times.



Death Anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 32nd death anniversary of **Abdur Rashid**, a freedom fighter.

On the occasion, Bir Muktijoddha **Abdur Rashid Smriti Udyog** will organise a doa and milad mahfil along with a destitute feeding programme at Kalapara in Kaliganj, says a press release.

A discussion will also be held around 11:00am in the area marking the death anniversary.

Relatives, friends and admirers are requested to attend the programme and pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Correction

In a report headlined "New method to purify groundwater" published yesterday on Page 3, we inadvertently mentioned that researchers at biomedical physics and technology department of Dhaka University had come up with a new method to purify "groundwater", which should read "surface water". We regret the error.

Plan to improve environment of govt primary schools

UNB, Dhaka

The government has taken an initiative to build improved infrastructures and facilities for primary schools and create an improved environment for students and teachers.

To achieve the objectives, Executive Committee of the National Economic Council recently approved a Tk 169.33 crore "Primary Education Development Project".

Directorate of Primary Education under Ministry of Primary and Mass Education will implement the project by June 2014.

Of the total cost, the government will provide Tk 32.53 crore while Tk 136.80 crore will come as project assistance from Islamic Development

Bank (IDB), said a planning ministry official.

The project also aims at enrolling all children at primary schools and provide teachers and students in the project areas with improved sanitation, safe drinking water and education related materials.

The project will cover 75 upazilas of 20 districts -- Naogaon, Pabna, Sirajganj, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Bagerhat, Jessore, Khulna, Gopalganj, Kishoreganj, Manikganj, Munshiganj, Sherpur, Chandpur, Chittagong, Comilla, Barisal, Jhalakathi, Sunamganj and Sylhet.

Under the project, a total of 180 buildings, including 160 two-storied buildings with a four-storey foundation, will be built in the plains and 20 three-storied buildings in flood-prone and low lying areas.

Besides, there will be separate toilets for male

and female students, arsenic-free tube wells, facility to preserve rainwater and solar panels.

The planning ministry sources said the government struck a US \$ 18 million loan agreement with IDB on July 2, 2011 for the project.

The loan carries an annual service charge of 2.50 percent, including a seven year grace period, with the principal amount to be repaid in 25 years.

They said two projects, including the government primary school construction project (second phase), completed in June 2009, were implemented under IDB's financial assistance.

Later, a survey carried out by Local Government Engineering Department found that a notable number of schools across the country are in dilapidated condition.

Trader cheats death, then dies

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Within minutes of cheating death twice, a vegetable vendor met his sad demise at Kalihati upazila in Tangail yesterday.

The deceased **Mohammad Ilias**, 35, hailing from Ghatnagar village under Gomostapur upazila in Chapainawabganj district, was travelling atop a tomato-laden truck with two other vendors.

As the truck entered the approach road of Bangabandhu Bridge at Dhalatengur area around 7:00am, a passenger bus slammed it from behind. Just as the vendors were recovering from the shock, the truck skidded and fell into a roadside ditch, said police.

Ilias, reeling from the accident, received a call on his cellphone, only to inadvertently walk onto an adjacent rail track and right in the path of Dhaka-bound train, which ran him over, killing him on the spot.

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