

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Abul Hossain, deputy secretary of parliament secretariat, died of cardiac arrest at National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases in the city on Sunday night at the age of 52.

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

He was buried at his village home in Madaripur. Speaker of the parliament **Abdul Hamid**, Deputy Speaker **Shawkat Ali**, Deputy Leader of the house **Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury**, and acting Secretary of parliament secretariat **Md Mahfuzur Rahman** in separate messages expressed deep shock at his death.

In his condolence message, the Speaker said with the death of **Abul Hossain** the country has lost a skilled and experienced government official.

Shafiqul Islam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Mohammad Shafiqul Islam, assistant controller, office of the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports, under the Ministry of Commerce, passed away at a Mumbai hospital yesterday due to colon cancer at the age of 35.

He left behind his parents, brothers, sisters, a host of relatives, colleagues and well-wishers to mourn his death.

Shafiqul, son of **Golam Mostofa of Matibhanga** village of **Najipur** in **Pirojpur**, studied International Trade under Koicha scholarship in Korea.

Humayun Kabir

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Freedom fighter **Humayun Kabir**, an employee of Jahangirnagar University Security Unit, died of cardiac arrest on Sunday early morning at the age of 57, says a press release.

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

He was laid to rest after namaz-e-janaza with state honour at the university graveyard yesterday.

Jahangirnagar University Vice Chancellor Sharif Enamul Kabir expressed deep shock at his death and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family.



The Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) President Nurul Huda presents a gift to Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia at IEB's 53rd convention at the IEB auditorium in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

CLASSES REMAIN SUSPENDED
Shibir vandalises 3 Sust buses

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Academic activities at Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (Sust) remained suspended for the second day yesterday while four of the university were injured and three university buses were vandalised in attacks allegedly by **Islami Chhatra Shibir** activists.

The injured are **Badrul Alam**, a Bangladesh Chhatra League activist and a student of economics department, **Ahmed Zamil** of business administration and **Sust** officials **AKM Ferdous** and **Nazim Uddin**.

Shibir enforced an indefinite strike on the campus from Sunday demanding withdrawal of cases filed against its activists and release of those arrested after **BCL** and **Shibir** clashed on January 11, leaving 20 injured.

Badrul, admitted to **Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital**, claimed that **Shibir** men attacked him in **Tukubazar** area of **Sylhet** city.

Meanwhile, witnesses said some **Shibir** activists arrived on motorcycles and began pelting stones at three **Sust** buses which were on their way from **Alampur** to the campus.

During the vandalism, shards of glass breaking off the windows left **Ahmed**, **Ferdous** and **Nazim** injured. The activists then snatched keys of two buses and fled before police arrived, they added.

Sust Officers Association yesterday met the vice chancellor and demanded security of the employees.

Dredge rivers all year round: JS body

UNB, Dhaka

A parliamentary committee has suggested that the Ministry of Shipping continue capital dredging all year round to keep rivers navigable.

The suggestion came from the 57th meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Undertakings, held at **Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban** with the committee chairman **ABM Golam Mostafa** in the chair.

The meeting also expressed concern at the fast disappearance of rivers and shrinking of waterways.

The meeting was told that since around 30,000km waterways of the country had been reduced to only 3,500km in the last few decades it is necessary to continue dredging activities all year round to check further shrinking of river routes and keep them navigable.

Recommendations were made to take immediate steps to stop dumping and funneling of wastes into the river **Buriganga** through 138 selected sewage lines and different points.

It suggested the **National Board of Revenue (NBR)** take necessary steps for auction in six months of goods dumped at different sheds at **Chittagong Port** in the last five years or take measures for proper management of the same.

The committee also strongly recommended for steps to modernise the ports under **BIWTA**, launch automation programme and strengthen motivational programme.

BIWTA gets 3 new dredgers tomorrow

UNB, Dhaka

Three new dredgers are going to be added to the fleet of **Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA)** after 36 years in a bid to revitalise the country's river ways.

Prime Minister **Sheikh Hasina** will formally inaugurate the three locally made world-class computerised dredgers tomorrow at the old ferry ghat under **Aricha River Port** in **Manikganj**.

With the new inclusion of energy-efficient computerised dredgers, the capacity of the **BIWTA** dredging fleet will enhance by 20 lakh cubic metres to 50 lakh cubic metres. These three dredgers will also be able to move beneath the low-height bridges in remote areas of the country.

EC FORMATION

Govt to follow president's suggestions: Hasina

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister **Sheikh Hasina** yesterday categorically said her government had no intention to remain in power by snatching the voting rights of the people.

"We believe in people's empowerment and they (people) would decide who would go to power and who wouldn't," she said when the Canadian high commissioner to **Bangladesh Heather Cruden** called on her at her official **Gono Bhaban** residence in the city in the evening.

After the meeting, Deputy Press Secretary to the Prime Minister **M Nazrul Islam** briefed reporters.

The prime minister said her government would reorganise the Election Commission as per the suggestions of the president.

"The government has taken initiatives to strengthen further the EC to ensure the voting rights of the people and we will accept the suggestions of the president to this end," she

said.

Hasina highlighted the bitter experience of the caretaker government and said the last interim government overstayed in power illegally for two years instead of three months.

She said all elections under the present government were held in a free, fair and transparent manner and the government did not make any interference in the polls. "Many opposition candidates won these elections," she said.

The prime minister also listed the government's successes in the fields of agriculture, education, women empowerment and health.

Hasina sought more Canadian assistance in different sectors of the country.

The Canadian envoy praised the government's successes in different fields including education, health, agriculture, women empowerment and food security.

Ambassador-At-Large M Ziauddin and **Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Abdus Sobhan Golap** were present on the occasion.



Director of **SIMCL** of **Summit Group Azeza Aziz Khan**, fourth from left, hands over a cheque worth **Tk 15 lakh** to **SEID Trust Director Dilara Satter Mitu** at a function in the trust's therapy centre in **Kamrangir Char** yesterday.

PHOTO: COURTESY



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STRIKE AT REGISTERED SCHOOLS
No class held on second day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Teachers of non-government registered primary schools continued their strike for the second day yesterday by locking up classrooms across the country demanding nationalisation of their job.

They will abstain from taking classes for three days starting from today to press home their demand.

The teachers have been staging the demonstrations called by **National Non-Government (registered) Primary Teachers' Oikya Parishad**, a platform of four organisations of non-government primary teachers.

This closure in academic activities put a negative impact on the education of several lakhs students of such 24,000 schools at the very beginning of the academic session as many of them are yet to get admission and receive textbooks.

The leaders of the parishad said they will come to the schools today, sign in the attendance sheets and do other activities like student admission or distributing books, but will not take classes.

They, however, urged all teachers to take extra classes to fill the gap created due to the two-day strike.

In favour of their demand, the parishad will hold a series of programme, including submitting a memorandum to all 345 members of parliament from January 20 to February 20 and to the Speaker in parliament on March 14 and lay siege to the Prime Minister's Office on April 10.

More than 98,000 teachers are working in around 24,000 non-government registered primary schools across the country. There are over 87,000 primary schools of different types in the country.

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