

**Indefinite bus strike in Rajshahi**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi**

Bus owners in Rajshahi yesterday evening enforced an indefinite strike to press home their three-point demand including ensuring safety of their vehicles.

They raised the demand as locals in Bhadra area in the city torched a bus and damaged another during a clash with bus labourers on February 23.

Buses and coaches would not ply any routes from Rajshahi or enter into the city from 7:00pm, said Manjur Rahman Pitar, general secretary of Rajshahi Sarak Paribahan Group.

They would not withdraw the strike until the authorities concerned meet their demands, he added.

**Obituary**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg**

**Bazul Karim Chowdhury**, freedom fighter and also a veteran politician, passed away at a private clinic in the port city yesterday at the age of 76.

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

His first namaz-e-janaza was held on Enayet Bazar Mosque premises after Zohr prayers and the second janaza was held at Hathazari after Maghrib prayers.

Later, he was buried at his family graveyard in Hathazari.

**Death anniversary**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The 8th death anniversary of **Marium Shamim**, former country manager of Bangladesh Biman (Nepal branch), will be observed today.

She died at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital on February 27, 2007, according to a press release.

She was renowned for her recital of poetry.

**Rokeya Hossain**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The second death anniversary of **Rokeya Hossain**, wife of late AKM Nurul Hossain will be observed today.

On the occasion, a milad and doa mahfil will be held after Maghrib prayers at her Gulshan residence in the city, said a press release.

Relatives and well-wishers are requested to attend the programmes.

**Roundtable**

SHUJAN will organise a roundtable; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:00am.

**Seminar**

Asia Arsenic Network will organise a seminar; Venue: Spectra Conference Centre, Gulshan; Time: 9:30am.

**Roundtable**

Bangladesh National Awami Party (Bhasani) will arrange a roundtable; Venue: Dhaka Reporters Unity; Time: 3:00pm.

**Discussion**

Human Rights Review Society will hold a discussion; Venue: poet Sufia Kamal auditorium, Shahbagh; Time: 4:30pm.

**Discussion**

Islamic Ain Bastabayan Committee will hold a discussion; Venue: the committee's Lalbagh office; Time: 11:00am.

**View exchange meet**

Karmojibi Nari will arrange a view exchange meeting; Venue: Engineers Institution, Bangladesh; Time: 11:00am.



**Chetonay Ekattor brings out a mourning procession from the Central Shaheed Minar, demanding punishment to the killers of army officers murdered during the BDR mutiny at Pilkhana on February 25-26, 2009.** PHOTO: STAR

**Border killings 'sad, tragic': Mozena**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi**

Terming the killings on the border between Bangladesh and India "very sad and tragic", US Ambassador to Bangladesh Dan W Mozena yesterday expressed the hope that India would be expeditious in holding the responsible people accountable.

Mozena was talking to newsmen at Puthia Rajbari premises as he arrived in Rajshahi on his five-day visit to the country's northern districts.

He said the US government very strongly encourages good relations between Bangladesh and India "because we think this would be good for the security and economic development of both countries."

Mozena said the US envisages "a new silk route" weaving through Bangladesh which would ensure security and economic development of the region.

"Can't you see this new silk route weaving through Bangladesh? I see that. And when I have the vision of the new Bangladesh, the Golden Bangladesh, I have a vision for a Bangladesh that is a major player in the region and in the world," he said.

**Ducsu polls demanded**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Students of Dhaka University yesterday urged the authorities to take necessary steps to hold the Dhaka University Central Students' Union (Ducsu) election to restore a democratic atmosphere in student politics.

A section of the students of different departments yesterday placed the demand at a press conference before Modhu's canteen.

Earlier, the students formed a platform titled "Dhaka Bishwabidyalaya Shikharthi Odhikar Mancha" to press home their demands.

**Ensure justice for acid victims**

**Speakers tell Gaibandha coference**

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha**

Speakers at a conference yesterday urged the government, non-government organisations and lawyers to ensure jobs and justice for victims of acid violence in order to rehabilitate them and end their economic and social deprivation.

Gaibandha unit of Brac, Acid Survivors Foundation and Manusher Jonno Foundation organised the regional conference of acid survivors at Gaibandha Zila Parishad hall room.

The speakers said though the number of acid violence victims throughout the country rose from 252 in 2001 to 370 in 2003, such acts saw a decrease with 84 victims in 2011.

The perpetrators are usually solvent and socially influential who slip past legal loopholes and continue to threaten the victims and their families. Most of these victims are poor and refrain from filing cases, they said.

Gaibandha saw 70 incidents of acid violence till date but only 19 cases were filed. Those accused attained bail and continue to threaten the victims and witnesses, added the speakers.

Moreover, only one from the 19 cases reached a verdict where each of the three accused were sentenced to 14 years rigorous imprisonment and fined Tk 50,000, said a lawyer of Gaibandha Judge Court, Anis Mostafa Totan.

The remaining cases are being delayed due to lax monitoring, he added.

A victim of acid violence, Rehana Begun, of Sadullapur upazila, said her attacker, an army personnel who is still in service, attained bail and continues to threaten her and the case witnesses.

The victims of acid violence present at the conference sought help and cooperation from all in ensuring exemplary punishment of the accused and jobs for their rehabilitation.

Acid Survivors Foundation gave each of the 19 victims Tk 30,000 as grant.

Earlier, the organisers brought out a rally which paraded the roads of Gaibandha town.



**Winners of First Gold Award of the Duke of Edinburgh pose for a photograph with British High Commissioner in Dhaka Robert W Gibson CMG and Mirza Salman Ispahani at the High Commissioner's residence on February 20. Participants from Dhaka University, Jahangirnagar University, Buet, AIUB, Bangladesh International Tutorial, Maple Leaf International School, Oxford International School and Mastermind received their gold award certificates.** PHOTO: COURTESY

**TB claims 64,000 a year**

**Says NTP report**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Around 64,000 people die due to tuberculosis while 3.3 lakh get infected afresh every year in Bangladesh, said a report of the National Tuberculosis Control Programme (NTP).

Of the total infected people, over 50 percent are female while 3.15 percent are children aged below 15 years, the report said.

NTP Consultant Dr Mujibur Rahman disseminated the information at the Annual Conference on Tuberculosis-2012 organised by the National Anti-Tuberculosis Association of Bangladesh (NATAB) at LGED auditorium in the city yesterday.

Dr Rahman stressed the need for involving community leaders and civil society members to raise awareness on the disease.

Law Minister Barrister Shafique Ahmed, while addressing as the chief guest, said more efficient coordination mechanism between the government bodies and non-government organisations is needed to address the issue.

He also urged the young generation to refrain from smoking to avoid getting infected with tuberculosis.

"Teachers, students and civil-society members will have to play a more responsible role to discourage young people from smoking," he said.

State Minister for Health Dr Mozibur Rahman Fakir said the government is working hard to ensure better treatment for people.

He said around 12,000 community clinics are active across the country to provide health care to rural people.

"We have already appointed 13,000 new health care providers to work in these community clinics," he added.

NATAB central executive committee Senior Vice President Muzaffar Hossain Paltu chaired the function while its Joint Secretary Khai Uddin Ahmed Mukul, among others, also spoke there.

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