Principal held for damaging Shaheed Minar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday arrested a madrasa principal from the Supreme Court premises few minutes after a High Court bench ordered for his arrest on charges of damaging a Shaheed Minar on February 21in Mymensingh.

Earlier during hearing a rule, the HC bench directed Officer-in-Charge of Gafargaon Police Station Omar Faruk to arrest Md Abu Taleb, principal of Chairbaria Fazil Madrasa at Gafargaon, and to implicate him with sedition charge.

OC Faruk and Principal Abu Taleb appeared before the HC bench yesterday morning as per its earlier order.

An HC bench, however, exonerated the OC from the charges of negligence in taking action against Taleb, as he (OC) told the court that he had already filed a criminal case against Taleb.

The bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik and Justice Jahangir Hossain Selim said Taleb had hurt the people's feelings for the independence and Liberation War of the country by damaging the Shaheed Minar.

Justice Manik said Taleb should be sent to Pakistan due to his anti-liberation attitude.

On February 22, the HC bench summoned the OC and the principal to appear before it yesterday following a report published in the Bangla daily Prothom Alo.

The report said the principal damaged a Shaheed Minar built on the madrasa premises on February 21.

Deputy Attorney General ABM Altaf Hossain had placed the report before the HC judges on February 22.



Journalists stage a hunger strike before Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday demanding proper investigation into the murder of all journalists, including Sagar Sarowar and Meherun Runi, and exemplary punishment to the murderers.



Zillur, Iqbal Mostafa president, gen secy of taxes bar assoc

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Zillur Rahman and Syed Iqbal Mostafa were elected president and general secretary of Dhaka Taxes Bar Association.

Sarder Akil Ahmed Farooque was also elected treasurer in the new 23member executive committee for the period of 2012-13, said a press release.

The committee was formed through an election held at the association's hall room on February 29.

Other elected members include Md Abul Kalam Azad and Md Abul Kashem Jinnah, vice presidents; Abu Nasar Mazumder Mazbah, assistant general secretary, Md Badiuzzaman, library secretary, Md Towhid Uzzaman Khan, sports and cultural secretary and Md Nur Ullah Bhuiyan, welfare secretary.

Zillur and Iqbal bagged 745 and 940 votes while Sarder Akil bagged 888 votes in the polls, the press release added.

LIBERATION WAR

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

including pro-vice chancellor of Dhaka University Prof Harun-or Rashid before it on March 5 in connection with a writ petition filed on charge of distorting history of the Liberation War.

Five others are Bangladesh Open University (BOU) Vice Chancellor Prof Aminur Rashid, Prof Shawkat Ara Hossain, Prof Sadiha Sultana, Mahfuza Chowdhury and HM Delwar Hossain.

During hearing of the petition, the HC bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik and Justice Jahangir Hossain Selim asked them to appear before it to explain their roles in distorting information on the Liberation War in two textbooks written by them under BOU.

Mahmud Hossain had filed the petition with the HC in January 2010 saying that Sociology 2nd paper and Civics 2nd paper of HSC under the BOU have termed late president Ziaur Rahman the declarer of the country's independence, although the HC in a verdict in 2009 ruled that Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was the declarer of the independence.

The books also said that Ziaur Rahman was the greatest son of the country and nation, although the HC termed Bangabandhu is the greatest Bangalee of thousand years.

The writ petition stated that the books were published suppressing the historical facts and incorporating false and fabricated information on the declaration of the Goshti.

concerned to stop publishing and circulating of the textbooks and also issued a rule upon them to show cause cations should not be declared illegal.

HC summons six for distorting history

The High Court yesterday summoned six academicians

Supreme Court lawyers Altaf Uddin Ahmed and

independence.

The HC on January 25, 2010, directed the authorities why the books should not be confiscated and their publi-

A truck set on fire by agitating locals near Chashara Shaheed Minar in Narayanganj yesterday after it hit and left an aged woman dead. PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Death anniversary METRO DESK

Today is the 12th death anniversary of Azizur Rahaman Chowdhury, brother of eminent poet late Shamsur Rahman.

He left behind his four sons and one daughter to mourn his death, said a press release.

On the occasion, a doa and milad mahfil will be held after Juma prayers at his third son Abidur Rahman Chowdhury's

Bakshi Bazar residence. Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to attend the programme.

Corruption at Sylhet **BRTA** alleged

3-member committee formed STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Communications Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday formed a three-member committee to look into the alleged corruption in the regional office of Bangladesh Road

Transport Authority (BRTA). Communications ministry's parliamentary standing committee member Md Abu Zahir was made its convener while lawmakers Imran Ahmed and Shofiqur Rahman

Chowdhury members. The committee was asked to report in 15 days.

Meanwhile, the minister made a surprise visit at the office and talked to some people. They raised allegation of corruption against the staffers of the office.

Obituary STAFF CORRESPONDENT

MA Wahab,



former governor of Rotary Internation al and president of

Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FBCCI), passed away yesterday at the age of

His namaz-e-janaza was

held at his Narayanganj village home, said a press release.

Wahab, former director of Pubali Bank Ltd and Rupali Bank Ltd, also established many schools, madrasas and colleges.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 12th death anniversary of advocate Altaf Ali Hasu, a freedom

fighter and former general secretary of Wrishiz Shilpi

On the occasion, a milad mahfil and destitute feeding programme will be held at his village home at Patitapara in Bogra, said a press release.

The organisation will hold a memorial discussion and award giving ceremony at the Liberation War Museum in the capital on March 5.

Reza A Karim

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the fifth death anniversary of Reza A Karim Choudhruy Chunnu Miah, a Language Movement veteran and Liberation War organsier.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held to pray for the salvation of the departed soul, said a press release.

A victory award as a freedom fighter was conferred on him in 2000.

Chunnu, founder of Borhanuddin College in Bhola, was elected an Awami League lawmaker in 1970 in the then East Pakistan.

Human chain

Bharatia Parishad will form a human chain; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 11:00am.

Rally Sammilita Torun Peshajibi Parishad will organise a rally; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 3:00pm.

Mourning meeting

Bangalee Sangskriti Mancha will hold a mourning meeting; Central Shaheed Minar; Time: 4:00pm.

Memorial meeting Gonomuktir Ganer Dal will arrange a

PM has to pay tax and Privileges) Act 1975 and Ministers, STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two bills were placed in parliament yesterday seeking to repeal provisions from two laws that exempt the prime minister, ministers, state ministers, and deputy ministers from paying taxes on their salaries for about the last 38

Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury, who is also in-charge of the cabinet division in the parliamentary business, placed the bills to amend the Prime Minister's (Remuneration Ministers of State and Deputy Minister (Remuneration and Privileges) Act 1973 to this effect. Both the bills, which were sent to the parlia-

mentary standing committee on the law ministry for scrutiny, will take effect from July 1 2011. On Wednesday, parliament passed two bills

scrapping "discriminatory" provisions from two laws that exempted the speaker, deputy speaker, and MPs for around 38 years from paying taxes on their remunerations.

10 deaths in road crashes

METRO DESK

Mundupasha.

Ten people died in separate road accidents in Barisal, Sylhet, Natore, Chapainawabganj and Thakurgaon yesterday and on Wednesday. Our Barisal correspondent reports: Five

people died in four separate road accidents in

Barisal yesterday. The deceased are Md Shahid of the city's Sagordi area, Alam Majhi of Gabkhan Boidarapur, Ridoy Khan of Rajapur,

Mainuddin of Boirkathi in Jhalakathi and

Badhan Sardar of Morakathi in Uzirpur. Motorcyclist Shahid died when a jeep hit his motorcycle at Dudhal Mou of Bakerganj on Barisal-Patuakhli highway. Motorcyclists Alam Majhi died instantly while Ridoy Khan sucmotorcycle on Barisal-Dhaka highway at yesterday.

Begum died after a truck ran them over at Morakathi on Barisal-Dhaka highway. Motorcyclist Mainuddin died while trying to save a stray dog at Sreerampur on BarisalJhalakathi highway. Our Sylhet correspondent adds: A speeding

truck collided with an auto-rickshaw in Moiarchar on Sylhet-Badaghat road yesterday leaving Jalal Ahmed of Katipur vilage dead on the spot while Ershad Miah of Kalinagar village in Derai upazil of Sunamganj succumbed to his injuries after-Our Natore correspondent reports: A three-

year-old boy, Tuhin Ali, son of Asatul Ali of the village, died in a road crash in Mominpur village of Natore sadar upazila on Wednesday morning. Our Chapainawabganj correspondent

reports: A bank manager, Shamsul Alam, 45, died after being run over by a truck in cumbed to his injuries as a truck hit their Baludanga bus stand area of Naogaon town

Our Thakurgaon Correspondent adds: A Badhan Sarkar and his mother Hena motorcyclist, Rajoni Kanta of Chituram Barman of Kochubari village in Thakurgaon upazila, died after a bus hit his motorcycle on Thakurgaon-Panchagarh highway near Bhulli Bazar yesterday.

Indefinite bus strike in Sylhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The owners of inter-district buses in Sylhet division launched an indefinite strike yesterday morning, protesting vandalism and torching of three buses by locals Wednesdaynight. No buses left for Dhaka and

other districts of Sylhet division till 5:00pm yesterday. Nor was any bus allowed to enter Sylhet till that time, causing immense suffering to people.

The bus owners called the strike after locals vandalised and set afire three buses of Shyamoli Paribahan in Nabiganj upazila of Habiganj district Wednesday night, protesting the death of a schoolboy under the wheels of a Shyamoli bus that evening.

The agitating people also vandalised 20 other vehicles. Zamir Ahmed, president of

Sylhet Bus Coach Malik Samity, said the association demanded measures against people engaged in the vandalism and torching. Or else, bus operation will not resume, he added. The bus owners sat down

with the district administration yesterday noon in presence of Communications Minister Obaidul Quader, but to no effect.

capital by Sunday BNP MPs asked

Return to

STAFF CORRESPONDENT All BNP-led opposition lawmakers, some of whom

are now outside the capital to join party meetings marking the March 12 rally, were asked to be in the capital by Sunday, BNP high-ups confirmed last night. Opposition chief whip

Zainul Abdin Farroque, however, denied giving any comment in this regard.

Rehana Akhter Ranu MP told The Daily Star, "I think we have been asked to be in the capital only to make the March 12 programme a success.'

However, some lawmakers said there is a discussion in the party to return to the House to place the party proposal for the caretaker government system to oversee the next general elec-

The BNP-led opposition MPs have so far joined only 51 out of 273 sittings, boycotting over 68 consecutive sittings till yesterday.

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