

Work to build a regenerative Bangladesh

Mahfuz Anam urges Ctg Rotarians

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Editor and Publisher of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam has urged Chittagong Rotarians to work for building a regenerative Bangladesh.

He said two Bangladeshes existed today at the same time--one degenerative Bangladesh and the other regenerative Bangladesh.

There are corrupt people who loot public wealth and are degenerating Bangladesh, while farmers, business people, NGOs, garment workers, expatriates and a section of the media are dedicated to regenerating the country, he said.

"I hope the regenerative Bangladesh will win."

The Daily Star editor was speaking as chief guest at the 61st installation ceremony of the board of directors for 2012-13 of Rotary Club of Chittagong at a local hotel in the port city Saturday night.

He praised the Rotarians for their social activities and urged them to raise their voice against the adulteration of food and medicine.

Rotarians are members of a global network, Rotary International, which provides humanitarian services and encourages high ethical standards in all vocations.

Ishiaque Zaman, chief of Bangladesh chapter of Rotary or Rotary International District 3280, was present as special guest on the occasion.

He said Rotarians were working for distressed people all over the world.

President of the Rotary Club of Chittagong Saiful Hoque said the club had taken an initiative to build Chittagong as a garden city.

Rotarians MA Hashem, Wadedullah, Dr Imran Bin Yunus, Dr Abul Kashem, Jasim U Chowdhury, Safia Gazi Rahman, Ashik Imran and Dr Omar Faruk Yusuf, among others, spoke at the programme.

Man 'kills' wife

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

A housewife died after her husband allegedly hit her on the head with a grinding stone during an altercation in their north Isdar residence in Fatullah under Narayanganj sadar upazila yesterday morning.

The victim Laily Begum, 32, a mother of two young children and wife of Jahangir Hossain, a local construction worker, was rushed to Narayanganj General Hospital in Khanpur by locals where doctors declared her dead.

Police recovered the body and sent it to the hospital morgue for autopsy. Jahangir has been absconding since the incident, said police.



Rotarians, awarded for their special contribution to the Rotary Club of Chittagong, pose for a photograph at the 61st installation ceremony of the board of directors of the club on Saturday. The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam, centre, was present as chief guest.

PHOTO: STAR

RCC corruption at 'tolerable' level

Claims mayor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) Mayor AHM Khairuzzaman Liton at a programme in the city yesterday said he had tried his best to keep corruption at RCC at a "tolerable" level for the last four years.

He said this after being asked whether RCC was corruption free. "I would not say that I kept my corporation totally free from corruption," he added.

The mayor was replying to questions from citizens at the programme, "Face the Public", organised by Concerned Citizen's Committee, a wing of Transparency International Bangladesh, at Rajshahi Medical College Auditorium.

The mayor said RCC's vehicular maintenance expenditure was brought down to Tk 7 lakh per year at present from the previous Tk 16 lakh, when fuel prices were three times cheaper.

Representatives of Transparency International from 14 countries were present at the programme as observers. Senior journalist Akbarul Hasan Millat moderated the programme.

Worker killed in brick fall

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

An unidentified construction worker died as a brick fell on his head in an under-construction building in Chittagong yesterday.

Dulal, another worker, took the injured to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) where doctors declared him dead, police said.

Contacted, Officer-in-Charge of Patenga Police Station said the worker was injured at an under-construction building of Kent Valley at Karnaphuli Export Processing Zone under the police station.

Kent Valley authorities could not be contacted for comments.

156 new fire stations within 3 years

BSS, Dhaka

The government will construct 156 new fire stations across the country in the next three years under a master plan, which also aims at providing training to ordinary people on protecting the community from fire and other disasters.

"A project has been taken under which the fire stations will be set up... these will also be used as training centres for the people in remote areas so that they could learn the skill to handle fire and other disasters or accidents and protect themselves from hazards," Director General of Fire Service and Civil Defence Brigadier General Abu Naim M Shahidullah told the news agency.

He said the project is scheduled to be placed at the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecne) meeting today for approval. After the approval, the fire service with the help from the public works department would implement the project by December 2015 involving Tk 889 crore.

Officials said, at present 173 upazilas out of 481 have the infrastructure and operation of fire service and civil defence while works had been underway to build 136 fire service stations under three projects.

Abu Naim said that operation and activities of the Fire Service and Civil Defence would be expanded after completion of the project to make country safer for the citizen.

Obituary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chandpur

Flight Lieutenant (retd) AB Siddique, an organiser of the War of Liberation and a former lawmaker, passed away from old age complications at Combined Military Hospital in the capital yesterday. He was 83.

He left behind his wife, two sons and one daughter.

His namaz-e-janaza was held at Bangladesh Air Force Central Mosque and South Plaza of the Jatiya Sangsad.

He was buried at his village home in Matlab Dakshin upazila of Chandpur after another namaz-e-janaza.

AB Siddique was a member of the Constituent Assembly in 1970 and a member of parliament in 1979.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, in a message, expressed deep shock at his death and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 40th death anniversary of Shahid Khaja Nijam Uddin Bhuiyan Bir Uttam.

Biruttam Shahid Khaja Nijam Uddin Smriti Sangsad has taken various programmes in Dhaka and Comilla, says a press release.

Nijam Uddin, sub sector commander of Sector No-4, embraced martyrdom while fighting against Pakistani occupation forces at Sarak Bazar in Kanaighat upazila of Sylhet during 1971 Liberation War. He was awarded with Bir Uttam in 1972 posthumously.

Nine killed, 13 hurt in road accidents

METRO DESK

Nine people were killed and 13 others injured in separate road accidents in Chapainawabganj, Comilla, Gazipur, Brahmanbaria and Sylhet on Sunday and yesterday.

UNB from Comilla reports, four people were killed and 12 others injured as a truck plunged into a ditch beside Dhaka-Chittagong highway at Sayedpur in Chouddagram upazila yesterday afternoon.

The deceased could not be identified immediately.

Witnesses said a Chittagong bound rice-laden truck from Bogra fell into the roadside ditch while it was trying to give side to an auto-rickshaw at about 5:00pm, leaving four people, travelling on the truck as passengers, dead on the spot.

The injured were admitted to Comilla Medical College Hospital and other local hospitals. Among the injured, condition of four people was stated to be critical.

All the victims were labourers who were going to Chittagong in search of work.

In another incident, Abu Taher, 55, chairman of Natherpetua Union Parishad of Monoharganj upazila, died instantly as a truck hit his motorcycle on Comilla-Noakhali highway at Natherpetua Bazar in the upazila yesterday noon.

Following the accident, angry mob blocked the road, detained the truck and set it on fire.

Our Chapainawabganj correspondent reports, a truck crushed bicyclist Emdadul Haque, 65, of Mollan village in sadar upazila, in front of Chapainawabganj Technical Training Centre in Baroghoria Bazar area of the upazila yesterday morning, leaving him dead.

In Gazipur, schoolboy Siam, 8, son of Jahangir, was killed when a Dhaka-bound passenger bus ran him over at Birozoli village in Kapasia upazila yesterday morning.

Angered at the accident, locals blocked the road by putting up barricades on it halting traffic for about five hours.

BSS from Brahmanbaria reports, Rubel Miah, 30, of Akhaura upazila, died instantly when a truck ran him over while he was crossing Zaji Bridge in the upazila on Sunday.

In Sylhet, pick-up van driver Abdur Rahman, 30, was killed instantly and another injured as a rock-laden truck hit the pick-up from behind on Sylhet-Tamabill road in Ranifoud area of Jaintapur upazila around 9:00pm on Sunday.



Teachers stage a sit-in before Jatiya Press Club in the capital for the second day yesterday demanding the government to bring their respective educational institutions under the Monthly Pay Order (MPO) scheme. PHOTO: STAR



PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Family members of seven Bangladeshi sailors who were abducted by Somali pirates from Malaysian flag carrier MV Al-Vado on November 26, 2010, form a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday urging the prime minister to take initiatives for the return of the abducted.

Govt urged to pass disaster management act

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Environmentalists and social activists yesterday demanded for passage of the disaster management act in the next parliamentary session, which is scheduled to begin today.

Although Bangladesh is a country most vulnerable to climate change-related risk factors, there is no specific act here to cope with disasters. So, enactment of this act is important to ensure sustainable disaster management, they said.

They made the demand at a sit-in programme organised by Nagorik Sanghati and Emergency Capacity Building (ECB) in front of National Museum in the capital, said a press release.

Nagorik Sanghati General Secretary Sharifuzzaman Sharif chaired the programme while social activist ABM Anisuzzaman and Aminur Rashid addressed it among others.

RTI playing important role: President

UNB, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman yesterday said access to information is people's right and the Right to Information Act (RTI) is playing an important role in ensuring this right.

The president made the remark when outgoing Chief Information Commissioner Muhammad Zamir called on him at Bangabhaban.

Zillur Rahman praised the role of the outgoing chief information commissioner in creating public awareness about the Right to Information Act.

Zamir said each and every citizen of the country has the right to get information and

the Information Commission is working to ensure the right of access to the information for all. "Rules have been framed in this regard."

He also said a manual on the right to information has been published through combining the Right to Information Act, its rules and different questions and answers that came from different programmes.

Zamir also said some 26,000 authorities have been informed about the act and have been requested to provide information as per requirement.

Secretaries to the President Office were present on the occasion.

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