



Sher-e-Bangla's anniversary of birth today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 139th birth anniversary of Sher-e-Bangla AK Fazlul Huq. On the occasion, a milad mahfil and Qurankhwani will be held after Asr prayers at House No-32, Road No-6, Block C, Banani in the capital today, says a press release. Fazlul Huq's daughter-in-law Mariam Begum has requested all relatives, friends and well-wishers to attend the programme to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Death anniversary
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Today is the 21st death anniversary of Safi Ahmed, a political leader. On the occasion, a doa mahfil will be held at his ancestral residence in Polianpur of Pabna town. Pabna Press Club will organise a discussion meeting after eid vacation.



Indiscriminate dumping of waste and rubbish into a portion of the capital's Badda-Gulshan Lake heavily pollutes the water body as well as its environs. The photo was taken yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

50 political leaders go on Hajj this year

HASAN JAHID TUSHER and RASHIDUL HASAN

As many as 50 ministers, lawmakers, and leaders of different political parties have travelled to Saudi Arabia to perform hajj.

The number of ministers, lawmakers and Awami League leaders performing hajj this year is much higher than in any recent years, said AL insiders.

Some of the leaders have travelled with state facilities and some others under personal arrangements. Party insiders said with only one year left in the present government's tenure, the increase in the number of ruling party leaders going for hajj had been discussed in the political arena.

Among the Awami League leaders are the finance minister, health and family welfare minister, prime minister's energy affairs adviser, and state minister for home, state minister for law, and state minister for religious affairs.

As many as five Jatiya Party leaders, BNP standing committee member Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, and Bikalpadhara Bangladesh chief AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury are also performing hajj this year, among others.

3 held for threatening to kill judge

They were trying to frame another

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detective Branch (DB) of Police arrested three people, including a couple, from the capital on Wednesday for allegedly threatening to kill a Chittagong judge dealing with the sensational 10-truck arms haul case.

Chittagong Metropolitan Sessions Judge SM Mojibur Rahman received the death threat in a letter on October 16.

The sender, stated in the letter as one Md Shahid Mia from Mirpur in Dhaka, threatened to kill Judge Mojibur if former state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar was sentenced in the case.

A Dhaka court granted a two-day remand for the arrestees -- Hafizur Rahman Jahid, 39, his second wife Hosne Ara Jewel, 36, and his friend Kaniz Fatema, 23, -- said DB Deputy Commissioner Mahbubur Rahman.

In an eight-hour drive from 3:00pm, DB arrested Hafizur and Hosne Ara from Mirpur and Kaniz from Mohammadpur, said DB Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Moshirur Rahman.

The handwriting on the letter matched that of Kaniz's, said the ADC.

Being produced before the media at the DB office, Hafizur said he and Hosne Ara, who got married three months back, planned to punish Hosne Ara's ex-husband, Md Shahid, as he used to disturb the couple.

The couple spent their honeymoon in Cox's Bazar. On their way back, they stayed in Chittagong for a day and visited the court area, said Hafizur.

In the court, they saw Judge Mojibur holding the hearing on the 10-truck arms haul case and an idea suddenly came up in his mind, he said.

He decided to threaten the judge using Shahid's name to implicate him in a case. Afterwards, the couple collected the name and address of the judge and asked Kaniz to write the letter, said Hafizur.

Hosne Ara, however, denied her involvement in the plot, saying Hafizur acted alone.

Kaniz, on the other hand, claimed that she had an extramarital affair with Hafizur. She confessed to have written the letter on Hafizur's request.

The arrestees do not have any relation with any political party, said ADC Moshirur.

Hafizur used to cheat people by introducing himself as a deputy secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs. He had also made some visiting cards using the identity, he said.

After receiving the letter, Judge Mojibur had lodged a general diary with Kotwali Police Station. He is hearing two cases in connection with the arms haul. Babar is one of the key accused in the cases.

AL leader Rafiqul Anwar Chy dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Rafiqul Anwar Chowdhury, former lawmaker and president of the advisory council for commerce affairs of Awami League, died of heart, kidney and liver complexities in Square Hospital in the capital yesterday morning. He was 57.

Rafiqul was elected MP of Fatikchhari in Chittagong from Awami League twice in 1996 and 2001.

Rafiqul will be buried in his family graveyard in Fatikchhari, following his fourth namaz-e-janaza at Nanupur Laila-Kabir Degree College in the area after Juma prayers today.

Obituary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Advocate Rokeya Begum, former secretary of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, Mymensingh unit, died of cancer at her Kalibari residence in Mymensingh town Wednesday evening. She was 73.

Rokeya was buried in Kalibari municipal graveyard.

CATTLE MARKETS IN CAPITAL Traders glum amid slumping price

HELEMUL ALAM

The cattle traders who fetched home good profits last year are facing a completely reverse situation this year with slumping prices of the animals due to a huge supply.

Last year, several thousand people of Dhaka city failed to buy sacrificial animals, as most of the cattle markets ran out of animals on the last day before eid. Many of them had to buy cattle on the second or third day of eid due to the unusual scarcity.

Visiting several cattle markets yesterday, this correspondent found most of the traders were having anxious faces while many others started selling their cattle even suffering a loss.

On the other hand, buyers appeared to be happy for low prices and availability of cattle.

A trader from Kushtia, Shafiqul Alam, who brought 24 bulls in the Gabtali cattle market six days back, said he already incurred a Tk 1 lakh loss on the 10 bulls he sold.

"I fear more loss the next day as the supply in the market has almost doubled compared to last year's," he said. "I have no other choice but selling them at lower prices. I will not be able to rear the cattle again. It would only mean more costs on me."

Motaleb, a trader of Manikganj, said the prices of cattle were falling day by day. "Buyers offered Tk 65,000 for my middle sized bull on Wednesday. Now it is drawing a highest offer of Tk 52,000."

Traders said high prices and scarcity of cattle last year prompted many traders to bring more cattle to Dhaka, and it was

one of the main reasons of the huge supply this year.

The low price of bulls also frustrated the traders of goats and sheep.

A huge number of people who purchased goat last year are buying bulls or cows this year for their low prices, said Selim Bepari, who brought 400 goats in Gabtoli market, and sold only half of them so far.

"I could sell a goat by Tk 12,000 last year though Tk 6,000 was its actual price," said Selim, who sold one of the largest goats of the country for Tk 70,000 yesterday.

CAMEL

As in the previous years, around nine camels were awaiting sale in the Gabtali cattle market yesterday.

Mazlu, who brought the camels from Rajshthan, said, "I have sold six of the camels so far, each for Tk 4.50 lakh to Tk 6 lakh."



Police produce before the media the three, arrested for allegedly threatening to kill a Chittagong judge dealing with the sensational 10-truck arms haul case, at the Detective Branch (DB) office in the capital yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

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