

Akhtaruzzaman's body arrives

Burial tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The body of Akhtaruzzaman Chowdhury Babu, Awami League president and law-maker from Chittagong-12, arrived in Dhaka at 5:40pm yesterday on a flight of Biman Bangladesh Airlines from Singapore.

Family members, associates and party men thronged Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport to receive the body. Babu's first namaz-e-janaza will be held at South Plaza of Parliament at 11:00am today. Later, the body will be taken to Chittagong by helicopter.

His second namaz-e-janaza will be held in the port city's Jamiatul Falah Mosque after Asr prayers today. Family sources said his namaz-e-janaza will also be held tomorrow on the district's Pacchim Patiya AJ Chowdhury ground at 11:00am and Anwara High School premises at 2:00pm.

He will be buried at his family graveyard at Hyle Dhor in the district's Anwara upazila following another namaz-e-janaza on Hyle Dhor School ground after Asr prayers tomorrow. Babu, a Liberation War organiser, died of kidney failure at Mount Elizabeth Hospital in Singapore on November 4 at the age of 71.



Huge amount of Phensedyl seized

Four held; govt labels used on vehicles to avoid suspicion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detective Branch (DB) of Police seized 10,000 bottles of Phensedyl hidden inside a covered-van and a microbus, falsely labelled to be of the Directorate General of Food, before the capital's Kakrail Mosque on Sunday.

Four alleged drug traders -- Masudur Rahman, 25, Sohag Bepari, 30, Selim Javed, 35, and Kabir Hossain, 25 -- were arrested while unloading sacks of the illegal drug.

"The sacks, having labels of the directorate, were stuffed inside a false wall of the covered van. The walls had been painted afterwards," said DB Additional Commissioner Mashiur Rahman.

The sacks were supposed to be delivered to local agents at Jatrabari, Motijheel, Sayedabad, Gendaria and Ramna, he said.

The arrestees admitted in preliminary interrogation that the drugs belonged to a drug smuggler of Benapole named Dada Bhai, said Mashiur.

Every month they smuggled several consignments of the drug from India through the Benapole border and brought it to the capital, he said.

They used stickers of different ministries, including that of home and health ministry, on the vehicles so that law enforcers did not feel it necessary to check the vehicles, added Mashiur.

He said the arrestees got the sacks from the directorate and DB was trying to trace out the directorate's staff who might be involved with the drug traders.



A large haul of Phensedyl bottles that were seized by Detective Branch of Police from the capital's Kakrail yesterday. The drugs were found hidden inside a covered-van falsely labelled to be of the Directorate General of Food, inset top, to avoid suspicion. Inset bottom, four alleged drug traders arrested with the vehicle.

PHOTO: STAR

Students to be warned about religious militancy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The education ministry will ask educational institutions to warn students about the dangers of religious militancy.

"We have already talked to the director generals of directorate of secondary, higher and technical education and chairman of madrasa education board," said SA Mahmud, joint secretary (secondary) of the ministry.

"They will ask schools, colleges and madrasas to talk about the issue during assembly," he said.

The directive came at an inter-ministerial meeting on curbing militancy, chaired by State Minister for Home Shamsul Haque, two weeks back, said the ministry officials.

Mahmud said his ministry had initiated a campaign to raise students' awareness about eve teasing, militancy and social values few years back.

Director General Prof Noman-ur-Rashid of Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education said, "We will inform the schools once we get a formal letter from the ministry."

Two found killed in Gazipur

UNB, Gazipur

Police yesterday recovered the bodies of a young woman and a young man who were allegedly killed by miscreants in separate incidents in sadar upazila of Gazipur on Sunday.

One of the deceased was identified as Abul Hosen, 22, a private car driver and resident of Kaliakoir of the district. Identity of the woman could not be ascertained.

Police said unknown assailants stabbed Abul Hosen to death and left the body near his residence on Sunday night.

In another incident, unidentified miscreants strangled a woman, aged 25, and left her body at Purbo Taltia in the upazila that night. The hands of the victim were tied with a scarf. She wore a kameez and a red salwar.

TURAG, SHITALAKKHYA RIVERS Writ filed to evict sand traders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A rights organisation yesterday filed a writ petition with the High Court, seeking its directives on the government to stop sand traders' businesses and evict them from separate areas of the rivers Turag and Shitalakkhya within three days to save those areas from encroachments.

Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB) submitted the petition following a photo published in The Daily Star on October 2 showing the river Turag occupied by sand traders and a report published in the daily Prothom Alo on August 31 on encroachment of Shitalakkhya river at Kanchpur in Narayanganj.

According to The Daily Star, sand traders ignored pillars marking edge of the river Turag at Mirpur's Shinnirtek and occupied a large portion of the river for their business.

HRPB President Advocate Manzill Murshid yesterday moved the petition praying to the HC to direct Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) to remove the sand from the bank of Turag at Shinnirtek and from the bank of Shitalakkhya in Kanchpur in 15 days.

The petitioner also urged the court to order the government to provide BIWTA with sufficient police force for evicting traders and removing sands from the river banks, and to take necessary measures to save those.

The HC bench of Justice Naima Haider and Justice Muhammad Khurshid Alam Sarkar yesterday held hearing on the petition and fixed today for passing an order on it.

Trader robbed in Keraniganj

UNB, Keraniganj

Muggers looted Tk 15 lakh from a businessman in Godabagh upazila road area of South Keraniganj in Dhaka yesterday.

Police said Alamgir Hossain, 40, owner of Al Madina Enterprise, withdrew Tk 15 lakh from Southeast Bank's Aganagar branch at about 12:30pm.

When he reached Godabagh upazila road near Diamond Melamine Factory, around six people introducing themselves as DB police intercepted him and picked him up in a microbus after handcuffing him.

Later, the muggers threw him out of the microbus on Chowdhury Road in Srinagar upazila of Munshiganj and fled away with the bag containing the money.

Finding Alamgir Hossain lying on the roadside, locals rescued him.



PHOTO: STAR

Garbage dumped on the road leading to Baldha Garden in the capital is an eyesore and nuisance for visitors. The photo was taken yesterday.

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