

Akhtaruzzaman laid to rest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, City

Awami League presidium member and lawmaker from Chittagong-12 Akhtaruzzaman Chowdhury Babu was laid to eternal rest with full state honour at his family graveyard beside his parents' graves at Hyle Dhor in Anwara upazila of Chittagong after Asr prayers yesterday.

He died of kidney failure at the age of 71 early Sunday. AL General Secretary and LGRD Minister Syed Ashrafur Islam, and AL Joint General Secretary Mahbubul Alam Hanif paid tribute on behalf of the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the government and the AL at the grave. Babu was elected member of the parliament in 1986, 1991 and 2008 from the constituency.



BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia places a wreath on the grave of the party founder late president Ziaur Rahman in the capital yesterday marking November 7, which the party observes as "National Revolution and Solidarity Day".

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

BNP observes November 7

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Main opposition BNP yesterday observed, amid elaborate programmes, the "National Revolution and Solidarity Day" marking the civil-military "uprising" that led to release of the then army chief Ziaur Rahman in 1975.

The programmes began with hoisting of the party flag in front of the party's head office.

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia placed a wreath on the grave of late president Ziaur Rahman.

On the occasion, the party's acting Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir stressed the need for rising again with the spirit of November 7 against the "autocratic" government.

Meanwhile, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) observed the day as the "Civil-Military Uprising Day".

Marking the day, JSD organised a discussion at the party's head office in the capital.

Presiding over the discussion, Hasanul Haq Inu urged the democratic forces to remain united to foil any conspiracy against the country's democratic progress.

Meanwhile, other political parties and different social organisations observed the day from different historical perspectives.

Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote and Jatiya Gonotantrik League observed it as the day of "killing of an army officer and soldier who fought in the Liberation War".

JSD and Bangladesh Chhatra League formed a human chain at Dhaka University's Aparajeyo Bangla demanding trial regarding the murder of Col Abu Taher.

Factory fined for pollution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Department of Environment (DoE) yesterday fined a dyeing factory of Sadmusa Group in Chittagong Tk 30.75 lakh for polluting the Halda river.

In a surprise visit on Sunday, a DoE team found that there were technical faults in the effluent treatment plant (ETP) of MA Rahman Dyeing Ltd in Jalalabad and that the factory was releasing liquid waste into the river through canals and drains.

The team, led by Director (enforce-

ment) Mohammad Munir Chowdhury, also collected sample of the factory's liquid waste and found high presence of hazardous materials in it.

The DoE director summoned the factory Managing Director Mohammad Mohsin to Dhaka and asked him to fix the technical problems of the ETP immediately.

The factory authorities assured the DoE officials of taking all-out efforts to stop the pollution, said a DoE release.

Contacted, Mohsin claimed that the waste the DoE had collected was not released by their factory but by a tannery.

Congrats, Obama

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his victory, said a foreign ministry press release yesterday.

In his message, Zillur Rahman stressed the fact that bilateral relations between Bangladesh and the US improved during Obama's last term as the US president.

As for Sheikh Hasina, she pointed out that Bangladesh became the focus in many development initiatives of the Obama administration, such as Feed the Future, a global hunger and food security initiative, and those of climate change, global health, to name a few.

She firmly believes that under Obama's leadership, the ties between the two countries will be further strengthened, she said.

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, the chiefs of Jatiya Party, Bikalpadhara Bangladesh and many other political parties also congratulated Obama.

Meanwhile, a cross section of people welcomed Obama's victory. They, however, said Obama's return to the White House will not make any difference as the US government's foreign policy towards Bangladesh

will remain unchanged.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, they said fewer wars took place during Obama's term, which was conducive to world peace.

That is why Obama is a better choice than his Republican counterpart Mitt Romney, said Mahfuzur Rahman, an employee of a private bank.

Bangladeshi political leaders have much to learn from the fact that Obama's rival Mitt Romney readily accepted his defeat in the election, they noted.

Bangladeshi leaders should follow the example and learn how to work together, said Omar Faruk, a businessman at Mirpur in the capital.

"In Bangladesh, we see a blame game after elections, with the opposition boycotting election results and bringing allegations of rigging [against the winning party]," he added.

However, some people said they are not interested at all in the US presidential election.

Abdul Alim, a shopkeeper at Karwan Bazar, said the election does not mean anything to the common people of Bangladesh like him.

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