

1969 mass uprising was preamble to Liberation War

Prof Anisuzzaman tells publication ceremony of Shekhor Dutta's book about those days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

"The mass upsurge of 1969 played a vital role in preparing the nation for the Liberation War in 1971. The sixties were a golden decade of the country when nationalism grew up among the people. The decade was a turning point of our history," Prof Emeritus Dr Anisuzzaman told the publication ceremony of "Shater Doshoker Gonojagoron" by Shekhor Dutta, in the capital's Moni-Singh-Farhad Memorial Trust yesterday.

"The leaders played a vital role in uniting people to stand up against the ruling authorities of the erstwhile East Pakistan," Anisuzzaman said, adding that common people and students were the key players who faced all kinds of tortures and repressions.

"Even when the leaders were hesitant about violating curfew, common people showed courage to break curfew without thinking about the consequences," he further added.

Commemorating the history, Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed said the author had tried to put the real history in the book.

"We didn't let the bloods of martyrs of 60s go in vain. We had been successful to get Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman freed from jail," he added.

The 685-page book has three sections; course of events, evaluation and effects.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1



Village Defence Party Employees Union stages a sit-in in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday, demanding the same wages and benefits the government class IV employees enjoy.

PHOTO: STAR

AL front leader hacked in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unidentified miscreants hacked a Swetchhasebak League leader in the capital's Adabor yesterday.

Bablu Miah Babul, 45, joint convener of the pro-Awami League organisation's Darus Salam Thana unit, came under attack at Monsurabad Housing, said police.

His cousin Sujon Khan told The Daily Star that Bablu was going to his shop at the housing from his Darus Salam Road house.

With injuries in the head, abdomen, and left hand and leg, the victim was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital in a critical condition.

Sheikh Shahinur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Adabor Police Station, said a dispute with locals over land at Monsurabad might have led to the attack.

No case was filed and no arrest was made till last evening.

ENSURING FOOD SAFETY

Bring regulators under single unit, boost awareness, vigilance

Researchers, civil society members, traders urge government from workshop of British Council, Bangladesh Food Safety Authority

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Researchers, civil society members and traders yesterday urged the government to boost awareness campaigns and reinforce vigilance for safe food by bringing regulatory agencies under a single entity.

Consumers' rights cannot be ensured until the agencies work in coordination while holding accountable stakeholders in production, processing and sales is urgent to maintain food safety, they told a workshop.

"Landscape of the Food Safety System in Bangladesh" was organised by British Council with Bangladesh Food Safety Authority (BFSA) in the capital's Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies.

"There are many regulatory agencies

and laws related to food safety... But there are many gaps among (them)," said a BFSA board member, Prof Abdul Malek.

A huge number of people suffer from food-borne diseases, mainly caught from unhygienic environments, while it is urgent to give proper attention to environmental health, he said.

"Definitely, pesticides and other chemicals are required to kill insects. But it is essential to have a guideline on the use," he added.

Very few of the over 80,000 clinical and diagnostic labs now present have accreditation and the government should seriously address this for it is related to food safety concerns, said Prof Abdul Malek.

Bangladesh Supermarket Owners' Association General Secretary Md Zakir Hossain alleged that traders face huge losses as different agencies set different

food safety standards. "Traders should not be fined until the laboratory results come out," he demanded.

Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution Assistant Director Arafat Hossain Sarker said it would be difficult to handle food safety until the government set limits to chemical use.

"Producers can claim that their food items are safe. But how can they say so until a designated authority certifies them," he added.

Jesmin Parvin, senior assistant secretary, Ministry of Food, advocated for regular mobile court drives.

Associate Prof Syed Abdul Hamid of Dhaka University's Institute of Health Economics presented a report highlighting major public concerns like lack of basic hygiene and sanitation on food production premises and markets and use of formalin in animal-

Minor domestic help found dead in employer's house in Dhaka

Cops suspect she was tortured to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A 13-year-old domestic help was found dead in her employer's house in the capital's Banasree.

The body of Munni, daughter of Anwar Hossain of Subarnachar in Noakhali, bore several marks of burn injury, said police.

Rofiqul Islam, officer-in-charge of Rampura Police Station, told The Daily Star that she might have been tortured to death.

Denying the allegation, Munni's employer Najmun Nahar Hasna, 34, however, claimed she sustained the burn injuries while cooking over a week ago, said the OC.

Hasna, wife of Abu Yusuf who is an expatriate in Saudi Arabia, was detained for interrogation, said Rafiqul.

The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsy.

After postmortem, the cause behind the death could be ascertained, the OC said.

Twelve shanties gutted in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A fire gutted 12 shanties of railway colony in the capital's Tejgaon area yesterday.

The fire originated around 5:58pm from an earthen stove in a shanty.

Fire fighters doused the blaze around 7:30pm, Inspector Atiqul Alam Chowdhury of Fire Service and Civil Defence Headquarters told The Daily Star, adding that no casualties were reported in this connection.

CHT development in full swing since peace treaty

Claims govt-ICIMOD partnership day programme

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Development activities have been going on in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) in full swing since the peace accord was signed in 1997, and none other than the Awami League-led government thought about changing the fate of the hill people, speakers said yesterday.

They made the comments at the inaugural session of a daylong programme, which celebrated the partnership between Bangladesh and the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), at the capital's Sonargaon hotel.

The CHT affairs ministry and ICIMOD jointly organised it.

A lot of development activities were undertaken in CHT in the last six to seven years, said prime minister's International Affairs Adviser Dr Gowher Rizvi.

He said the government had drafted an amendment bill on the CHT land dispute

resolution commission, and it would be placed and passed in parliament any day.

The land commission will be activated after passing the bill.

Rizvi also claimed that most clauses of the CHT peace accord were implemented.

Obaidul Muktedir Chowdhury, MP, chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on CHT affairs, said the AL-led government took up the unfinished task of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to bring CHT under the mainstream of development.

State Minister for CHT Affairs Bir Bahadur Ushwe Sing praised the role of ICIMOD for development in CHT.

Bangladesh and ICIMOD collaborate on livelihood improvement, watershed management, disaster-risk reduction, and adaptation to climate change, among others, said Golam Rasul, theme leader, livelihoods, Bangladesh Focal Point of ICIMOD.



Prime minister's International Affairs Adviser Dr Gowher Rizvi speaks at the inaugural session of a programme to celebrate the partnership between Bangladesh and the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), at the Sonargaon hotel in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: PID



Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus talks to Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau at a reception the latter hosted at Davos on Saturday to discuss about international development. During their meeting, singer and poverty activist Bono and Hollywood actor Kevin Spacey joined the discussion to give their views.

PHOTO: YUNUS CENTRE

Obituary

We deeply mourn at the sad demise of our beloved Ex. Director, Mr. Mehrul Islam Chowdhury in London on the 23rd of January, 2016 due to old age complication. We the Green Delta family are heartbroken at this irreplaceable loss. Our deepest condolences to the bereaved family and may his soul rest in eternal peace.



Late Mr. Mehrul Islam Chowdhury (01.03.1938 - 23.01.2016)

GREEN DELTA INSURANCE

GREEN DELTA Securities Limited GREEN DELTA Capital Limited PROFESSIONAL ADVANCEMENT BANGLADESH GD ASSIST

Address: Green Delta AIMS Tower (6th floor), 51-52 Mohakhali C/A, Dhaka Tel: +88029851902, Hotline: +8801730074299, Website: www.green-delta.com

SOUTHEAST UNIVERSITY

Meeting the challenges of time...

5th Convocation

SOUTHEAST UNIVERSITY 2016

Southeast University (SEU) announces with pleasure that the 5th Convocation of the University will be held on 6 February 2016. Venue of the convocation is **International Convention City Bashundhara (Noborattri)**, Kuril Bishwa Road, (Next to 300 ft. Purbachal Express Highway) Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Mr. Md. Abdul Hamid, the Hon'ble President, People's Republic of Bangladesh & Chancellor of Southeast University will confer degrees upon the Graduating Students at the convocation.

The students who graduated from the University during the years 2013-2014 and already registered are eligible to participate in the 5th Convocation. The Rehearsal of the Convocation will be held on 4 February, 2016 at 10.30 am at the Permanent Campus (251/A & 252, Tejgaon I/A, Dhaka-1208).

REGISTRAR

For details please contact:
Admission Office, SEU. Tel : 55034135
55034125-28, 55034192, Mobile: 01799389465

AL suspends municipal poll rebels

FROM PAGE 3 working on it and hope that it would be completed in a week," another organising secretary, Misbah Uddin Siraj, told The Daily Star.

The AL leaders initially identified 23 party lawmakers who had backed rebel candidates and of them Golam Rabbani, MP, of Chapainawabganj-1, has already been suspended from the party.

The party started sending the show cause notices after a meeting of joint general secretaries and organising secretaries at the AL president's Dhanmondi office yesterday, with presidium member Obaidul Quader in the chair.

Salinity rise to hit coastal districts

FROM PAGE 3

The anticipated climate change impacts and ways to face the challenges were presented at a seminar, "Establishment of Monitoring Network and Mathematical Model Study to Assess Salinity Intrusion in Groundwater in the Coastal Area of Bangladesh due to Climate Change".

BWDB and IWM jointly organised it at the Bangladesh Climate Change Trust building in the capital's Mohakhali yesterday.

The project's director and BWDB Deputy Director, Anwar Zahid, presented the project's overall particulars while Mridha and IWM Deputy Executive Director AFM Afzal Hossain talked about the mathematical modelling.

"We need to work together not just at national but also at international level," said Secretary to the Ministry of Water Resources Zafar Ahmed Khan. Referring to the resilience of Bangladeshis, Muhammad Nazrul Islam, state minister for water resources, said, "We can face the challenges of climate change with our own resources, courage and efforts irrespective of the support of other countries."