

MA Latif earns ire of party colleagues

For 'tampering picture of Bangabandhu'; he calls it conspiracy against him

ARUN BIKASH DEY

Leaders of Chittagong city unit Awami League (AL) yesterday declared to take legal and disciplinary actions against MA Latif, an AL lawmaker from Chittagong-11 constituency (Bandar-Halishahar-Patenga), over an allegation of tampering with a picture of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in festoons and banners, which were hung in Patenga and Bandar areas on the occasion of the prime minister's visit to Chittagong, last Saturday.

They alleged that Bangabandhu's face was tagged with the figure of MA Latif and Latif's name was at the bottom of the festoons. In the image, Bangabandhu's face was used on a body wearing Salwar and sneakers.

Contacted, Latif, who is in the capital now, denied the allegations and termed it as part of a conspiracy against him. "The festoons and banners had been hung three days before the prime minister's arrival. No one raised any questions till Monday and all of a sudden we saw the photo on Facebook on Tuesday," he said, adding, "What is my benefit by tampering the picture of Bangabandhu? I will find out the liable persons."

"I think, a quarter did it to malign me...they are also tarnishing the party's image," Latif said.

As the photo went viral on Facebook, criticisms poured in from different corners.

President of Chittagong city unit AL and former mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury termed the act as "audacity of Latif".

"We can reach a compromise with everything but not the Liberation War and Bangabandhu," said Vice-President of the AL unit Khorshed Alam Sujon.

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Rampant garbage dumping on the side of the streets has made lives of the people of Barisal city insufferable. The photo was taken yesterday in front of the Barisal Government BM College by which hundreds of students pass every day. Whether a proper garbage collection system, including collecting waste from door-to-door, would be implemented remains to be seen.

PHOTO: ARIFUR RAHMAN

Cancer treatment centre needed in every district

Oncologists tell Prothom Alo roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Cancer specialists and health policymakers yesterday agreed that the country needs cancer treatment centres in every district.

Considering the size of the population, Bangladesh needs about 160 cancer treatment facilities across the country, but at present there are 18 facilities, said Sarwar Alam, chairman, Department of Oncology, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University.

Noting that equipment needed for a cancer centre are very expensive, Health Minister Mohammed Nasim urged the private sector to set up more cancer hospitals.

They were addressing a roundtable discussion on cancer treatment organised by the Prothom Alo at its office in the capital.

"There are many rich people in the country. If they bought the equipment and donated them to the government

hospitals, the poor people would be benefitted," said the minister.

Prof Md Ehteshamul Haque of Anwar Khan Modern Medical College urged the government to reduce tax on importing cancer treatment equipment to reduce the expenses of treatment.

"Specify a national rate for the therapies, medication and other services and reduce tax on anything related to cancer treatment," he said.

Sarwar Alam said counterfeit drugs were a main hurdle for cancer treatment in the country. "The country's cancer specialists have to work in fear of counterfeit drugs."

Parvin Akhter Banu, chief consultant of Delta Medical College, said since cancer treating drugs were expensive, they were more likely to be counterfeited.

"It is most unacceptable because any delay, substandard medication, and wrong treatment can make cancer

incurable," she stressed.

She added that a majority of cancers could be cured if the treatment started at an early stage. "People need to be aware of the disease and where they should go if they have signs and symptoms of cancer."

Ferdous Shahriar Sayeed, consultant of medical oncology at United Hospital, said his patients often brought cancer treating drugs from abroad and asked him to apply those violating the standard protocol of using, carrying and storing of the drugs.

"No physician should apply any drugs that were not brought to the country following standard procedure," he said.

Prof Parvin Shahida Akhter of National Cancer Research Institute said there should be a medical oncology department to look after the storage, application and preparation of cancer drugs.

Rajuk drive against misuse of parking lots resumes in Dhanmondi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Only the Dhanmondi team of Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) could resume its second spell of eviction drive yesterday in a bid to reclaim the basement car parking at buildings along Mirpur Road.

The Dhanmondi, Uttara and Gulshan teams, which were set to carry out a nine-day eviction drive, could not carry out the drive on January 26, 27, and 28 due to Rajuk's public hearings and employees' association elections, said sources.

The current drive is scheduled to continue till February 25. The Dhanmondi team partially dismantled illegal structures at the basement of seven buildings, penalised

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NEWS IN brief

Man to die for killing sister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chittagong court yesterday sentenced a man to death on charge of killing his sister in 2008.

The Chittagong Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal's Judge Mohitul Haque Enam Chowdhury pronounced the verdict convicting Nurul Amin of Chakaria in Cox's Bazar.

The court also fined him Tk 5,000 in the same verdict, said court sources.

According to the case statement, Amin on November 26, 2008 hacked his sister Jahanar Begum, 52, to death following a quarrel between their children.

The victim's daughter Kohinur Begum filed a case the same day with Chakaria Police Station in this connection

Orion offers medical scholarship

CITY DESK

Orion Pharma Ltd introduced an "Orion Medical Scholarship" as part of corporate social responsibility at a ceremony held at Orion House in the capital on Tuesday, says a press release.

The Company Director and Trustee of Orion Pharma Welfare Trust Mrs Arzuda Karim presided over the programme.

A total of 8 medical students from different medical colleges have been given the scholarship cheques at the ceremony. Orion Pharma Ltd is offering 20 scholarships to poor and meritorious students from different public medical colleges this year.

Multipurpose hall opens at DU business studies faculty

CITY DESK

A multipurpose hall has been opened in the Faculty of Business Studies of Dhaka University, says a press release.

Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique and AFC Health Ltd Chairman ABM Ghulam Mostofa jointly inaugurated the hall on January 28.

Bangladesh Merchant Bank Association President Saydur Rahman, DU Treasurer Prof Kamal Uddin and the faculty Dean Prof Shibli Rubayat UI Islam were also present.

The hall, financially supported by the AFC, can accommodate 200 people and it will be used for multiple purposes like conference, seminar and workshop.

Bangla books for Manhattan Bangla-Cultural School

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Consul General Md Shameem Ahsan donated sets of Bangla books (class I to V) to Manhattan Bangla-Cultural School in New York on January 30, says a press release.

The books were published by the National Curriculum and Textbook Board, Bangladesh.

The school was established recently to help children of the Bangladeshi community in New York to learn Bangla and to retain and nurture the culture and tradition of Bangladesh. The consul general assured to make more books available in the near future.

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