

Death anniv of Abu Sayeed Chowdhury

CITY DESK



Today is the 30th death anniversary of Justice Abu Sayeed Chowdhury, former

president of Bangladesh. On the occasion, a qurankhwani and milad mahfil will be held at Nagbari Jame Mosque in Tangail, says a press release. Justice Chowdhury resigned as vice chancellor of DU on March 15, 1971 protesting killings of two students by Pakistan army. He later played a significant role in mobilising world opinion for the cause of Bangladesh as special envoy of the provisional government. In 1985, he was elected chairman of the UN Human Rights Commission. He authored five books, on the Liberation War, law and human rights.



Who is the new mayor? Is it BNP's Ariful or AL's Kamran? With anticipation, people of Sylhet city read yesterday's newspaper to find out the election result. The photos were taken in Zindabazar area around 7:00am.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

GSK employees demand reopening of factory

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Employees of GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) Bangladesh yesterday demanded immediate withdrawal of the decision of shutting down its medicine manufacturing unit at Foujdarhat of Sitakunda upazila and sought Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's intervention to resume its operation for the sake of the country.

During a press conference at Chittagong Press Club, leaders of GlaxoSmithKline Employees Union termed the closure "an act of conspiracy". They opposed the authorities' claim that the company has been incurring losses for several years and said GSK earned a net profit of 351.79 crore in five years till 2017.

Over 200 employees of the factory also formed a human chain and demonstrated in front of Chittagong Press

Club for two hours till noon.

Reading out a written statement, GSK Employees Union general secretary Mohamad Azam alleged that several crores of money was spent unnecessarily just two years back in the name of modernisation and compliance. Its aim was to show less profit on the log and create the ground for shutting down the unit, he said.

He blamed a group of foreign officials of the company including its former managing director Erum Shakir Rahim for executing the "evil plan" of shifting the company's business from Bangladesh in the name of doing business review.

As part of the plan, the import of raw materials was slowed down from before while marketing of medicines which were in the storage was stopped, he said.

Mohammed Elias, president of the

union, said over 1,000 permanent employees and around 300 temporary workers would be affected by the factory closure, while people of the country would be deprived of quality medicines it produces.

Terming the claim about incurring losses "false", Elias said GSK racked in Tk 66.93 crore worth of profit in 2017.

Expressing solidarity with the movement of GSK Employees Union, Jatiya Sramik League Joint Secretary Safar Ali at the conference threatened to wage tougher movement unless the factory is reopened immediately.

Bangladesh Trade Union Federation's Chittagong unit president Tapan Dutta, its joint secretary Iftekhar Kamal Khan and GSK Employees Union legal adviser advocate Jane Alam were present at the conference among others.



Employees of GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) Bangladesh form a human chain in front of Chittagong Press Club yesterday, demanding immediate withdrawal of the decision of shutting down GSK's medicine manufacturing unit at Foujdarhat of Sitakunda upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

DSCC launches free on-call medical service

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Physicians will make house calls and provide medicines, free of charge, to patients residing in Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) area for 15 days this month.

DSCC Mayor Sayeed Khokon inaugurated the service at Nagar Bhaban yesterday, commemorating Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman who was killed on August 15, 1975.

The campaign has been launched in the month of mourning to pay homage to the ideology and work of the greatest son of the soil, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the mayor said.

Any DSCC resident will be able to avail the free service and necessary medicines by calling hotline number 09611000999, he said, adding that a medical team comprising two to three assistant health officers will be on standby at each of the 57 wards under DSCC and a health officer will be dispatched soon after a patient makes a call.

Last year, DSCC provided free medical service to Chikungunya patients during an outbreak of the mosquito-borne disease.

Socio-political groups stand beside students

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A number of rights organisations and political parties yesterday showed support for the agitation of students demanding road safety and protesting death of two college students on Sunday, and condemned the attack on students by police and transport workers at different parts in the capital and Narayanganj.

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) yesterday demanded resignation of Shipping Minister Shajahan Khan for his "insensible attitude" and remarks over the death of the two college students on Dhaka's Airport Road.

Speaking at a meeting at the party office in Dhaka, its leaders urged the government to accept demands of the students in order to ensure road safety, said a press release.

Besides, Ganasamhati Andolan demanded resignation of Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader along with Shajahan Khan for the anarchic

situation in the country's transport sector.

It also demanded that the government take strict measures to stop extortion by police and hooligans at various bus terminals, according to a press statement issued by the party yesterday.

Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK), Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) are among organisations that demanded exemplary punishment for the culprit bus driver, and urged police to be more responsible in their actions.

Issuing a press statement, ASK termed the police's attitude towards the agitating students "totally unacceptable".

Protesting the police charge over the students' logical demonstrations, the rights body asked law enforcers to be more responsible in their actions and called on the government to take steps for the transport workers' attack on students in Narayanganj.

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NEWSIN brief

Man held with 8 gold bars

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chittagong Customs House officials arrested a man with eight gold bars at Shah Amanat International Airport in the port city yesterday.

The arrestee Sumon Das, 34, arrived from Sharjah at 9:40am, Uttam Biswas, deputy commissioner of Chittagong Customs House said.

He was stopped for suspicious movement while crossing the green channel. Eight gold bars were found in his rectum, the DC added.

The gold, weighing around one kg, is worth Tk 45 lakh.

He was arrested and handed over to Patenga Police Station, where a case was lodged in this connection.

Former CJ Mahmud Husain's death anniversary

CITY DESK

Today is the 36th death anniversary of Mahmud Husain, former chief justice of Bangladesh.

He was the chief justice of Bangladesh from 1975 to 1978, said a press release.

To mark the day, Syed AB Mahmud Husain Smiriti Sangsad will hold a discussion and doa mahfil at Supreme Court Bar Association auditorium at 4:30pm.

Friends, relatives and admirers are cordially invited to attend the programme.

Journo Sanjay Mahajan passes away

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Sanjay Mahajan Kollol, a senior sub-editor of Bangla daily Dainik Purbadesh, passed away while undergoing treatment at Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) yesterday. He was 43.

He left behind his wife, mother, a son, a daughter and many well-wishers to mourn his death, said a press release.

Sanjay worked with the Daily Purbakon, Kaler Kantho and Suprabhat Bangladesh before joining Daily Purbadesh.

Chittagong Union of Journalists (CUJ), Chittagong Press Club, Chittagong Photojournalist's Union and Chittagong Journalists Housing Society expressed condolences to the bereaved family.

Ajifa Khatun passes away

CITY DESK

Ajifa Khatun, mother of Daily Ittefaq's sports editor Motaher Hossain Masum, died of old age complication at a hospital in Dhaka yesterday, aged 76, said a press release.

Ajifa left behind four sons, one daughter and a host of well-wishers to mourn her death.

Her body will be taken to Feni and will be laid to rest at the family graveyard in Chagolnaiya today.

3 DU students hurt as bus loses control

DU CORRESPONDENT

At least three students of Dhaka University (DU) were injured yesterday as they leapt out of a Munshiganj-bound bus as it lost control in Chankharpool area in the city.

The injured -- Md Zawad of applied chemistry and chemical engineering, Aminul Islam of Institute of Information and technology, and Ajjur Rahman of applied mathematics departments -- crashed into the iron net attached to the Mayor Hanif flyover on which the accident occurred.

Of the injured, Jawad was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital with a head injury, while the two others were given first aid.

Passengers of the bus said, the bus, named Indrakpur, was crossing the flyover when suddenly the driver lost control and the bus tilted to the left. The three students, who were standing on the bus's door, hit the iron net and sustained injuries.

Contacted, the university transport manager confirmed the incident. He said the bus was overcrowded as agitating college students barred two previous buses of the service, causing many students to travel on it dangerously holding on to the entryways of the bus.

ZIA ORPHANAGE TRUST GRAFT CASE

HC adjourns hearing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday adjourned hearing on the appeal filed by BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia challenging the trial court verdict against her in Zia Orphanage Trust graft case.

The HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman fixed August 8 for resuming the proceedings.

The judges passed the adjournment order following a time prayer moved by Khaleda's lawyers Barrister Bodruddoza Badal and Barrister Kaiser Kamal.

The counsels of the BNP chief told the court that the senior lawyers for Khaleda are busy with other urgent cases.

The judges expressed dissatisfaction as the senior lawyers were not present before the court.

The same bench on Tuesday extended till August 8 its earlier order that granted bail to the former prime minister in the corruption case.

On February 8, the Special Judge's Court-5 of Dhaka sentenced Khaleda to five years' imprisonment after finding her guilty in the graft case filed against her in the Anti Corruption Commission.

Advocate Khurshid Alam Khan represented the ACC at yesterday's hearing.

DEATH OF RAJIB

Allow probe committee to interview drivers: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the inspector general of prisons to allow a three-member committee to interview the two drivers accused in a case filed over the killing of Titumir College student Rajib Hossain in Dhaka.

The HC bench of Justice JBM Hassan and Justice Khairul Alam also asked the committee to submit its probe report in two months and fixed October 4 for further order in this regard.

The court passed the order following a time prayer moved by writ petitioner Barrister Md Ruhul Quddus on behalf of the committee.

He told the court that the probe was not completed as the committee members could not talk to the accused drivers.

Rajib lost his right hand after it got stuck between two speeding buses

competing to overtake each other in Bangla Motor area in Dhaka on April 3.

After two weeks in coma, the youth died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) on April 17.

The accused bus drivers -- Wahid Ali, 35, and Khorshed, 50, of Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) and Sajan Paribahan respectively, are now behind bars.

On May 8, HC ordered the owners of two buses -- BRTC and Sajan Paribahan -- to pay Tk 1 crore to the family of Rajib.

On May 22 the High Court order was stayed by the Appellate Division saying an independent committee will submit the assessment report to the HC and then the order on compensation will be made.

On May 30, the High Court formed a three-member committee to assess the liabilities and compensation in regard to the accident that led to the death of Rajib.

Road accidents kill three, injure ten

STAR REPORT

At least three persons, including two women were killed and 10 injured in road accidents across the country yesterday.

In Dinajpur, a woman aged around 30, was killed on spot when an Indian truck ran her over in Hakimpur upazila, police said.

The woman was hit by the truck while she was crossing the link road between India-Bangladesh border in front of the immigration office.

In Faridpur, bus helper Md Alom Mia, 37, died on spot when the driver of the bus belonging to Touhid Paribahan lost control over the wheels and hit a roadside tree on Dhaka-Barisal Highway, reports our correspondent.

Ten others were injured in the incident, said police.

They were treated at a nearby local hospital. Meanwhile in Comilla, Ojiba Khatun, 60, died after being run over by a vehicle on Dhaka-Chittagong highway, police said.

She was rushed into a local hospital where the on duty doctors declared her dead, reports our correspondent.

Stop harassing teachers

74 citizens issue statement

UNB, Dhaka

Seventy four teachers, advocates, writers, artists, human rights activists yesterday condemned the incidents of attacks and harassment on teachers of Dhaka University and Chittagong University, who protested the attacks on the students demanding quota reform.

In a joint statement initiated by National Committee against Fascism and Imperialism, they demanded ensuring democratic rights of freedom of expression and freedom of thoughts in society, and called for a stop to attacks on university teachers.

In the statement, they condemned the recent attack on the DU teachers including Akmal Hossain, Tanjimuddin Khan and Fahmudul Huq as well as the teachers of CU, Maidul Islam and Ali Ar Raji.

"We strongly condemn the student organisation and authorities of the two universities involved in such undemocratic and fascist attitude," they said in the statement. They demanded a stop to all repression against protesting teachers and students, spreading lies about Prof Akmal Hossain, withdrawal of cases against CU teachers Maidul Islam and Ali Ar Raji and ensuring professional and physical security, as well as a stop to administrative "investigation" on them.

The statement signatories include Swapan Adnan, Prof CR Abrar, Prof Anu Muhammad, Rehnema Ahmed, Meghna Guhathakurta, Barrister Jyotirmoy Barua, Shahidul Alam, Kafil Ahmed, and Dr Zafullah Chowdhury.