



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina cutting a cake at Gono Bhaban in Dhaka yesterday, wishing the Christian community on the occasion of Christmas, to be celebrated tomorrow.

PHOTO: PID

Govt working for people of all faiths

PM says ahead of Christmas

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government is working for the welfare of people of all religions.

“We are working for all, following the policy of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman who dreamt of a secular state where everyone will have the same rights,” she said while exchanging Christmas greetings with the Christian community at her official residence, Gono Bhaban, in Dhaka yesterday afternoon.

“Bangladesh is a secular state and all citizens, irrespective of their religion, will live here with the same rights,” she added.

In this context, she recalled that people of all faiths fought shoulder to shoulder in the Liberation War of 1971 and achieved independence.

“So, we want to build Bangladesh as a developed and prosperous country, which along with its people will earn a dignified position in the world. That is our target,” she said.

At the outset of her speech, the prime minister extended her greetings to members of the Christian community across the world, saying that Jesus Christ always worked for humanity.

“He (Jesus) taught us love for all human beings and their welfare,” she said, adding that Bangabandhu also dedicated his life for the welfare of all.

Elaborating her government’s success in various fields, Sheikh Hasina said her government has been able to bring down the poverty rate to 20 percent from 41 percent. “We are making strides in taking development to every corner of the country,” she said.

127 dengue patients being treated across the country

BSS, Dhaka

Around 127 dengue patients are undergoing treatment at different hospitals and clinics across the country.

Among them, 86 are in Dhaka division and 41 are hospitalised outside the capital, a press release from Health Crisis Management and Control Room of Directorate General of Health Services said.

A total of 1,01,190 patients got admitted to different hospitals across the country since January this year. Of them, 1,00,762 have returned home after recovery, DGHS said.

According to Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR), 141 people have so far died of dengue.

Around 35 new dengue patients got admitted to different hospitals in the last 24 hours across the country. Of them, 18 were admitted in Dhaka and 17 outside the capital, the release added.

DNCC, DSCC Polls

EC trying to help ruling party candidates: BNP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP yesterday expressed their apprehension about the Election Commission’s “hasty” announcement of the schedule for the polls to the two Dhaka city corporations.

“We think that the Election Commission announced the schedule hastily in order to help ruling party candidates win the election,” claimed Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir, secretary general of BNP, while speaking to journalists at a press conference at the party chairperson’s Gulshan office yesterday.

He came up with the concern after holding a meeting of the party’s standing committee, its highest policymaking body. The meeting discussed the current political situation of the country and the party’s next strategy.

“Our decision was that we will take part in the local government elections and we will participate in this election too. But everything depends on the electoral situation,” he said.

Raising objection to the use of Electronic Voting Machine (EVM), Fakhru said, “Election Commission said EVM will be used. This is highly objectionable. We condemn this decision. There is a huge chance

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Road accidents claim five lives

STAFF REPORT

At least five people were killed in road accidents across the country during the last two days, report our correspondents and a news agency.

In Barishal city, Reshma Begum (44), a worker at a biscuit factory at Kawnia area, was killed after a covered van ran her over around 7:30am yesterday.

Quoting witnesses, police said Swadhin Molla, the van’s helper, was parking the vehicle while Reshma was standing behind it.

On information, police recovered the body and sent it to Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital morgue.

Police arrested Swadhin and seized the vehicle. In Rangpur, a teenager was killed after a truck hit him at Char Chatra Point yesterday, reports BSS.

Ariful Islam (19) was a second-year student at Carmichael College. The accident occurred while he was crossing the road, killing him on the spot.

On information, police recovered the body and handed it over to Ariful’s relatives.

A case was also filed in this connection.

In Dhaka, Abdul Jalil Sheikh (63), a businessman, was killed after a BRTC bus hit him at Jatrabari area around 8pm on Sunday, reports BSS.

Police said the accident occurred in front of

Saddam Market while he was crossing the road, seriously injuring him initially.

Jalil was taken to National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation and subsequently transferred to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, where on-duty doctors declared him dead.

Police seized the bus and the body was sent to the hospital’s morgue. A case was filed.

In Natore, schoolboy Amir Hamja (15) was killed after his motorcycle hit a roadside tree at Gunaihati area in Baraigram upazila on Sunday afternoon, reports BSS.

Amir was a ninth-grader at Majgram High School.

Locals said the accident occurred after he lost control over the vehicle. He was taken to a nearby clinic where the on-duty doctor declared him dead.

In Mymensingh, Hamed Ali (95) was killed after a motorbike hit him at Rambhadrapur village in Phulpur upazila around 6pm on Sunday.

Quoting locals, police said the accident occurred when Hamed was crossing the road, critically injuring him initially.

Locals rescued and took him to Phulpur Upazila Health Complex where the doctors declared him dead, police added.

Police later handed Hamed’s body over to his family. A case was lodged.

Ex-CJ Mahmudul Amin laid to rest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former chief justice Mahmudul Amin Chowdhury was laid to rest yesterday after a series of namaz-e-janazas and tributes in Dhaka and Sylhet.

Justice Mahmudul, who died at his Dhanmondi residence in Dhaka on Sunday, was buried at the graveyard adjacent to the shrine of Hazrat Shahjalal (RA) in Sylhet last evening.

Meanwhile, judicial activities of both the Appellate and High Court divisions of the Supreme Court, except for urgent proceedings, remained suspended yesterday in honour of the late chief justice.

The SC administration issued a notice in this regard at the directive of Justice Muhammad Imman Ali, a senior judge of the apex court, who is now performing functions of Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain, Supreme Court spokesperson Md Saifur Rahman informed The Daily Star.

Earlier in the day, a namaz-e-janaza for justice Mahmudul was held on SC premises.

Six ‘Allahr Dal members’ held in Gaibandha

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Banned militant outfit Allahr Dal had been actively recruiting members in Gaibandha, “giving invitations” to 1,500 people including 500 women over three years, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) said yesterday.

Of them, over 100 have taken oath to work for them, the elite force claimed after the arrest of six suspected members of the group from the district.

The arrestees were identified as Babul Khandakar (35), Atoar Hossain (67), Osman Gani (56), Abdul Aziz alias Babu (39), Hossain Prodhan (35), and Abu Taher Prodhan (50).

A special team of Rab-2 conducted drives in the district’s Harinmari area under Palashbari Police Station, said Muhammad Mohiuddin Faruque, superintendent of police of Rab-2.

The elite force seized extremist books, leaflets and cell phones from their possession.

The arrestees joined the outfit activities in 2015 and they have already completed the target of inviting 1,500 people in 2015, 2016 and 2017 to work for them, said Faruque, quoting documents and lists they received from the arrestees.

“We are now trying to get their invitation list for the year of 2018 and 2019,” said the SP.

In primary interrogation, the arrestees said that they do not believe in inviting people on online platforms. They visit people’s houses and invite people in person to work for them, he said.

The arrestees also said that they are followers of their Aamir Motin Mehedi, who is now in jail. They joined the outfit after getting invitation

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2



PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Thick fog blankets Keane Bridge area in Sylhet with cold wave sweeping over the city for several days.



Members of the Christian community doing some last minute Christmas shopping ahead of the big day. This photo was taken in front of Holy Cross College in Dhaka’s Farmgate area.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Will uphold PM’s faith and confidence

Says AL Joint General Secretary Hasan Mahmud

BSS, Dhaka

Expressing gratitude to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for giving him the charge of Joint General Secretary of Awami League, Information Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud yesterday said he would uphold the faith and confidence that the Awami League President has placed on him.

“This is my promise that I will uphold the faith and confidence of Bangabandhu’s daughter Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the cost of the last drop of my blood,” he said at a views-exchange meeting with journalists at his office at the Secretariat in Dhaka.

State Minister for Information Dr Murad Hasan and Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS)

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

WE CONTINUE TO DELIVER ON OUR PROMISE OF

TIMELY HANDOVER

IN DECEMBER 2019

LAKE VIEW

IN GULSHAN, DHAKA

SUNRISE

IN BASHUNDHARA, DHAKA

CASAFELIZ

IN UTTARA, DHAKA

FAIRVEW

IN LALMATIA, DHAKA

MEADOW VILLE

IN NORTH KHULSHI, CHATTOGRAM

AAZ

FIXED PRICE

PREMIER MEMBERSHIP ONLY

NO HIDDEN COSTS EVER

btibd.com

16604

bti

building technology & ideas ltd.

ESTD 1994

in pursuit of excellence...