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ইসলামী ব্যাংকিং সেবা প্রদানে 'ইসলামী ব্যাংকিং কর্ণার' পূবালী ব্যাংকের প্রায় সকল শাখা এবং উপশাখায়



A SILHOUETTE IN STILLNESS. Against the fiery canvas of sunset, a lone fisherman rows gently through the golden waters of a haor, his dinghy gliding over reflections of fading light. The photo was taken recently in Kochuakhola area of Bajitpur, Kishoreganj.

PHOTO: TAFSILUL AZIZ

Tidal surge inundates coastal south

Hundreds stranded in Bhola; launch operation suspended on ten routes

SHUSHANTA GHOSH, Barishal

Due to the combined effect of the new moon (amavasya) and a low-pressure system over the Bay, an abnormal tidal surge has inundated vast low-lying areas of southern coastal Bangladesh for the second consecutive day.

Water levels have risen sharply in major rivers, including the Bishkhali, Meghna, Baleshwar, and Kacha, flooding many low-lying areas in Barishal, Bhola, Patuakhali, and Barguna districts.

According to the Water Development Board (WDB), the unusual tidal surge has been triggered by the astronomical tide and intensified further due to the prevailing low-pressure system and strong winds.

Bhola appears to be the worst hit district, with the Meghna currently flowing 1.12 metres above the danger level -- the highest recorded in the region, the WDB confirmed.

The Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) said rough weather and strong gusts have forced the suspension of vessel operations on at least 10 coastal routes connected to Bhola.

At Bhola River Port, passengers are facing severe difficulties boarding and disembarking from Dhaka-bound launches, as pontoons remain submerged.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Spirit of 1971, July 2024 rooted in the same dream

Speakers tell event; Tajuddin Ahmad's legacy remembered at birth centenary event

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The spirit of the Liberation War and the July uprising are rooted in the same dream of a just, inclusive, and discrimination-free Bangladesh, said speakers at a programme yesterday.

The event was organised to mark the birth centenary of Tajuddin Ahmad, the country's first prime minister.

The commemorative event, titled "Tajuddin Ahmad Janmo-Shatobarshiki", was held at the Bangla Academy.

The Centre for Tajuddin Ahmad Research and Activism (CTARA) organised the programme.

At the programme, organisers honoured a hundred individuals in six categories -- the Liberation War, July uprising, educational institutions, cultural figures, writers, and respected individuals.

Speaking at the event, Tajuddin's daughter Sharmin Ahmad said the Liberation War and the mass uprising are not in opposition to each other.

Whoever loves this country -- they are the greatest asset of the nation. Whenever someone stands against injustice and oppression and gives their life for it, we should honour that heroism.

SHARMIN AHMAD

When he [Bangabandhu] was arrested in March 1971, a leadership vacuum was created. It was Tajuddin Ahmad who filled that void and led the nine-month Liberation War with prudence and skill.

SOHEL TAJ

Sharmin said they were honoured to recognise those who had contributed to the Liberation War and July uprising.

"Whoever loves this country -- they are the greatest asset of the nation," she said. "Whenever someone stands against injustice and oppression and gives their

life for it, we should honour that heroism," she added.

Former state minister for home affairs Sohel Taj, also the son of Tajuddin Ahmad, said, "I believe last year's July-August uprising, where hundreds sacrificed their lives, is connected to the same thread as our Liberation War.

"Both were born from a shared aspiration -- to build a Bangladesh free from discrimination, grounded in justice and equal rights, where merit is valued and everyone has access to education and healthcare," he said.

He said Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman symbolised the people's dream of freedom, and when he was arrested in March 1971, a leadership vacuum was created.

"It was Tajuddin Ahmad who filled that void and led the nine-month Liberation War with prudence and skill," he said.

He called on everyone to unite -- in the spirit of 1971 and the spirit of July 2024 -- to build a modern, just, and inclusive Bangladesh.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1

Without reforms, future govts may become autocratic

Say speakers at SHUJAN event

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Without fundamental reforms, any future government in Bangladesh risks becoming autocratic, said Badiul Alam Majumdar, a member of the National Consensus Commission, yesterday.

"Although Sheikh Hasina has fled, she left behind an autocratic system. Without reforming this system, there is a chance that any party forming the government in the future might also become autocratic," he added.

He was speaking at a forum titled "Citizens' Thoughts on the Proposed National Charter," organised by SHUJAN (Citizens for Good Governance) at the Krishibid Institution Bangladesh in the capital.

The event brought together a cross-section of political and civil society figures to discuss the future of the nation's governance.

"We have categorised reforms into two parts,"

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Establish checks and balances on PM's power
- Ensure transparent appointments
- Prioritise local govt polls
- Address discrimination against women
- Move beyond partisan politics

SEE PAGE 9 COL 3

Institutional reforms a must to ensure rights

Law adviser tells event

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Adviser Prof Asif Nazrul yesterday said protecting human rights in Bangladesh is not possible without reforming the state's three foundational institutions -- the executive, legislature, and judiciary.

He said simply passing laws does not ensure human rights, which require honest and capable institutions and a willingness to change ourselves.

After strengthening the three foundational institutions, others like the Human Rights Commission and the Information Commission should function more effectively.

Prof Asif Nazrul

"We need to cultivate a culture that upholds human dignity," he said while attending the 11th Human Rights Conference organised by the Human Rights Support Society (HRSS) at Dhaka University.

The adviser said after strengthening the three foundational institutions, others like the Human Rights Commission and the Information Commission should function more effectively.

He also said fair elections matter, noting that the elections from 1991 to 2012 had set the country on a progressive path.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 3

3 more die of dengue, 331 get hospitalised

UNB, Dhaka

Three more people died of dengue in the 24 hours till yesterday morning, raising this year's official death toll from the mosquito-borne disease to 73, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

The latest fatalities were reported from areas under the Chattogram division (outside city corporation) and Dhaka South City Corporation.

During this period, 331 new dengue patients were hospitalised across the country, taking the total number of cases to 19,120 so far this year.

In comparison, last year saw a much higher toll, with 575 dengue-related deaths. The total number of cases reached 1,01,214, while 1,00,040 patients recovered, according to DGHS data.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

New univ teachers' platform launched

DU CORRESPONDENT

A new teacher's platform was launched at Dhaka University yesterday with the aim of bringing together university teachers from diverse ideological backgrounds.

The platform, named University Teachers Link (UTL), draws inspiration from the spirit of the July uprising, and was formally introduced during an event at the Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) cafeteria yesterday.

Abdur Rahman, father of martyr Osman who was killed during last year's July uprising, inaugurated the event and formally announced the name of the platform.

Md Ataur Rahman Biswas, chairman of the Islamic History and Culture Department at DU, has been named the convener of UTL. A 53-member convening committee was also announced at the event. The committee includes seven joint conveners, five joint member secretaries, and 38 members.

Mohammad Bilal Hossain of the history department at Jagannath University has been announced as the member secretary, while Md Mosharraf Hossain of the Finance Department at Dhaka University will serve as treasurer. At the launch, Convener Ataur Rahman Biswas said, "We seek to move forward, carrying the aspirations of the July Revolution and the expectations of the student community. We believe that a group of trustworthy teachers and researchers, who will work for the country, is needed in our universities."

"Initially, we have started our work in some public and private universities, and through a committee we are trying to establish connections with Bangladeshi scholars at home and abroad," he added.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 2



This road in East Mothertek of the capital's Basabo area has been in disrepair for months. Recent monsoon rains have worsened the condition, filling large potholes with water and turning the road muddy and nearly impassable. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN