

Events fixed to observe Zia's birth anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The main opposition BNP yesterday chalked out a 15-day programme to observe 76th birth anniversary of late president Ziaur Rahman, also the founder the party, tomorrow.

According to a party press release, the party flag will be hoisted at all the party offices across the country and pro-BNP doctors will provide free medical services before the party's Naya Paltan central office in the city.

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia along with her party leaders will pay tributes to the late president by placing wreath at his grave at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the city.

On the occasion, a discussion meeting will be held at the Institute of Diploma Engineers on January 21.

BNP's front and associate bodies will also organise different programmes including discussion, photo exhibition, rally and cultural function to mark the day.

Outgoing French envoy meets Dipu Moni

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The outgoing French Ambassador to Bangladesh Charley Causseret called on Foreign Minister Dipu Moni at her office yesterday.

During the meeting, Dipu Moni thanked the outgoing envoy for his significant contributions during his tenure for further strengthening bilateral relationship, said a press release of the foreign ministry.

She also stated that the cooperation between the two countries are gradually expanding in different fields such as cultural exchange, education and holds potential for further development.

The foreign minister also mentioned that France is one of the largest export destinations for Bangladesh made products and still there are tremendous scopes for expansion of bilateral trade.

The outgoing ambassador emphasised exchange of frequent high level contacts and visits between the two friendly countries for further advancement of multi dimensional economic cooperation.



(Left) Sand being dumped at the portion where the Circuit House road collapsed on Monday. (Right) The construction site lacking adequate safety precautions puts the adjoining structures at the risk of collapse in the city's Purana Paltan. The photos were taken yesterday.



PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Mason dies in roof collapse

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mason died and his two colleagues suffered injuries as a small portion of the roof of an under-construction shop fall on them in the city's Darussalam neighbourhood yesterday.

Rezaul Karim Selim, 55, of Majar Road, Second Colony, Darussalam died on the spot. The injured took treatment in a local hospital.

Sub-inspector Abdur Rahim of Darussalam Police Station said the roof collapsed as the three workers were trying to remove temporary supporting pillars from a portion.

Collapsed construction site area still at risk

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The city's Circuit House road, part of which collapsed into an adjoining construction pit Monday, could not open for vehicles yesterday, as the risk of further damage did not completely go away.

"We have been working to make the site totally risk free by dumping sand bags and taking some other measures. It may take one or two more days to entirely free it from risks", Sheikh Abdul Mannan, member planning of Rajuk, said.

He said vehicular movement will start on the road gradually.

Around 8:00am Monday, several

cracks developed on the road, which has the construction site on one side and the office of the deputy commissioner (traffic south) on the other.

Two hours after digging began in the pit, the concrete pillars of the road protection piling collapsed damaging four feet of the 24-foot-wide road.

On the evening the same day, the boundary wall of an adjoining building also collapsed, leading police to block off the road immediately.

"We have been doing everything following the instruction of Rajuk to prevent further damage and to make it risk free", Eng Manzur Ahmed,

involved in the construction work, said.

He said there are leakages in the Wasa water pipe, which made the piling weaker and caused the damage. "We will continue our safety work following the guidelines of Rajuk".

On Monday night, the Rajuk (Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha) filed a case against the owner and other persons involved in the supervision of the construction site.

"We sued them because of their negligence of taking proper safety measures in line with Bangladesh National Building Code (BNBC)", Rajuk official Abdul Mannan said.

HC summons Rajuk boss, officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday summoned the Rajuk chief and officials concerned in connection with the incidents of land grabbing of Gulshan Lake and collapse of a portion of the Circuit House road in the city.

In a suo motu order, the court directed Rajuk Chairman Nurul Huda, its Ramna zone engineer, and authorised officers of Ramna and Gulshan zones to appear before it on January 24 to explain why they have failed to protect the lake's land and the road.

It also directed the officials concerned to take steps so that such incident of collapse does not repeat.

The HC bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik and Justice Jahangir Hossain Selim came up with the order following two reports published on The Daily Star and the daily Prothom Alo yesterday, Deputy Attorney General ABM Altaf Hossain told The

DailyStar.

The Daily Star report said a portion of the Circuit House road collapsed into a 33-foot-deep construction pit Monday as the underground piling adjoining the road caved in.

According to the Prothom Alo report, about five Bighas of Gulshan Lake land has been detached from the original lake due to earth filling and construction of structures on that land.

The court also issued two separate rules asking the Rajuk chairman and officials to explain in two weeks what steps they have taken to prevent the grabbing of Gulshan Lake's land and why they should not be directed to protect the lake from grabbers.

In another rule, the court asked the officials concerned of Rajuk to explain why action should not be taken against the owners of building which caused the Circuit House road to collapse and against the persons who are responsible for the collapse.



PHOTO: STAR

Sammilito Peshajibi Parishad stages a mass hunger strike in front of Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday protesting all forms of repression on professionals.

Tk 35 lakh fine to factory for pollution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Department of Environment (DoE) yesterday fined a dyeing factory in Gazipur Tk 35 lakh for polluting a lake of Shafipur Ansar Academy and the Turag River.

The DoE also directed the authorities of Mahmud Denims Ltd to repair its Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) within 15 days.

DoE Director (enforcement) Mohammed Munir Chowdhury led a drive in Shafipur area in response to a request by Ansar Academy officials.

During the drive, the DoE team tested the water of the lake and found that the level of dissolved oxygen in it was 0.62 mg/litre compared to the standard of 4.5-8 mg/litre.

Fishes and other aquatic life forms of the lake and surrounding wetlands have disappeared due to such an extent of pollution with extremely low level of oxygen, said DoE officials.

PM to launch 3 new dredgers today

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate three new dredgers at the old Ferry Ghat of Aricha river port in Manikganj today to help restore navigability of the country's waterways.

Shipping Minister Shajahan Khan said with these three, the number of dredgers of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) will rise to 10.

The computerised new dredgers were made at the cost of Tk57.35 crore, he added.

2 women killed in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the bodies of two women bearing stab marks from Kafur and Paltan areas of the city yesterday.

The deceased was Mortuza Begum, 50, of Kafur. The identity of the other woman, aged around 30, could not be known.

Kafur police said they recovered the body of Mortuza from a drain at Damalcoat around 12:30pm. Stab marks were found on her right eye. She also bore injury marks on the back of the head.

Mortuza's son Mohammad Alam told reporters that her mother used to live in his

house. She left home around 11:00am on Monday for her daughter's house in the area and since then she was missing.

Police said Mortuza had lent some money to her son-in-law Abdul Jabbar and Jabbar was refusing to pay back the money.

The victim's family and police suspected Jabbar's involvement in the killing. Police detained him for interrogation.

Meanwhile, Paltan police said they recovered the unidentified woman's body wrapped in a shawl from the footpath near Rajarbagh Police Lines early yesterday.

The body also bore marks of stab injuries in the neck and right hand.

Three amputated human legs found

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered three amputated human legs from Kalyanpur Lake in the city's Darussalam area yesterday.

Officer-in-charge of Darussalam Police Station Abdul Malek said they recovered the legs after being informed by locals at 12:30pm.

The legs were sent to Dhaka Medical Collage Hospital (DMCH) morgue for autopsy, he said.

According to the source at the morgue, among the legs two were covered by bandages and all the three were amputated from below the knees.

Malek said they were suspecting that the legs were dumped in the lake after surgery at any hospital or clinic.

The police have been investigating the matter to find out the source of the amputated legs, the OC said.

Prof Amjad Hossain, former head of Orthopaedic and Trauma Surgery of DMCH, told The Daily Star that dumping amputated parts of a body here and there is a criminal offence, more so in a water body.

According to the rules concerned, amputated parts of a body will have to be given either to the relatives of the patients who will bury it or to the medical waste collectors.

The Department of Health and the Department of Environment can take action against the hospitals and clinics that do not follow the rules, said Khandakar Anisur Rahman, executive director of Prism Bangladesh, a non government organisation that is working jointly with Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) to collect medical waste in DCC area.

He said authorities of hospitals and clinics will have to keep amputated parts separately in a packet and inform them.

"We collect it from the hospital separately and bury it in Matuail landfill," he added.

The incident has also caused panic among the local people.



PHOTO: BNP

Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Bangladesh Dr Abdullah Bin Naser Al-Busairi pays a courtesy call on Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia at her Gulshan office in the city yesterday.

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