



Young hockey player beaten to death

By Staff Correspondent

A young hockey player was beaten to death at Badamtoli in the city Saturday evening.

The victim named Khwaja Roman Kader, 20, who played for Uttara Club in the Second Division hockey league this year was severely beaten and dropped from the roof of a house at 8, PK Roy Lane, Badamtoli by some people at about 5 pm. Roman was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where he succumbed to his injuries at about 7:30 pm, reports our DMCH correspondent.

Family sources said, Roman was attacked and taken to the roof of the house by a group of people numbering about ten, soon after he came out of a restaurant at Babubazar with his two friends who escaped the attack and reported the incident to Roman's family.

The members of the family rushed to the spot and found Roman unconscious on the ground adjacent to the house, they added.

Kotwali Police said Roman was killed following an altercation between the victim and the group members.

Police suspected that it was sequel to a previous quarrel.

A case was registered with the Kotwali Police Station in this connection. No one was arrested so far, police said.

Roman, the second son of Khwaja Salayman Kader, resided at 19, Ahsanullah Road, Dhaka.

Rivals gouge out eyes, murder ward commissioner

By DMCH Correspondent

Rivals gouged out eyes of a former ward commissioner and stabbed him to death in Tongi yesterday.

Kamal Hussain, 35, of ward 35 and one of his friend Shafiq were attacked at Chhatobazar near Tongi Ershadnagar Saturday noon.

Shafiq was seriously injured while Kamal succumbed to his injuries on way to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Our Gazipur correspondent adds: The attack was allegedly a sequel to previous clash between Kamal and rival Mannan groups.

A case was lodged with the Tongi PS and 4 persons were arrested in this connection.

Deep-sea trawling stops as workers strike continues

By Staff Correspondent

The ninth day of the strike by some 2000 workers of deep-sea fishing trawlers passed Saturday with an alleged attack on the workers by 'hired gangsters' of the employers.

The striking workers alleged that the attackers equipped with lethal weapons attacked them Saturday at about 10 am in the Chittagong port and injured several of them.

The workers went on strike demanding realisation of their ten-point charter of demands including 50 per cent raise in wages and increase of on-board allowances to Taka 1500 from Taka 800. Fishing in the deep-sea has been totally stopped due to the indefinite strike by the trawler workers.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Plantation, Agricultural and Fisheries Workers' Federation (BPAFWF) and the workers' union of the deep-sea fishing trawlers in a statement yesterday condemned the attack on the striking workers.

RU tense

RAJSHAH, Feb 15: Violence may erupt anytime on the Rajshahi University campus because of serious conflicts between the old guards and the rising leaders of student organisations over candidature in the ensuing RUCSU election, reports UNB.

A day with the Prime Minister

by Mahfuz Anam

It was a surprise invitation to accompany the Prime Minister on her trip to Jamalpur and Sherpur last Thursday that provided me an opportunity to observe Begum Khaleda Zia perform her official duties and get a glimpse of her public life.

In public the Prime Minister smiles very seldom, almost never. So much so that some may consider her unfriendly, even indifferent. Her presence is authoritative and her dealings with people businesslike. She is correct in her behaviour and makes little attempt to put people at ease. Her gait is confident and her movements decisive. There is a certain impatience about her style that keeps those dealing with her, a bit on their toes. She dresses carefully and does not let the rigors of her schedule affect her elegance. She keeps everybody guessing about her own thoughts regarding policy options and the thousands of suggestions, proposals and requests that she has to dispose of each day. By all accounts she is her own person, and she shows it.

Listening to her public addresses in Jamalpur and Sherpur last Thursday evoked mixed feelings in me. For the part of me in search of the indefatigable enemy of autocracy and the undaunted crusader of democracy, the leader's charisma was still there but the impact was gone. Her speeches were still very powerful but lacked the spark that kindled fire in the dispirited hearts during the anti-autocracy movement.

As I watched her responding to salutations from local officials, waving back to crowds, inaugurating the Mukti Juddha

Hospital and giving speeches, she looked like a leader performing a routine chore, doing something that goes with the job and had to be done. Was I right when I thought that I detected that she was a bit bored with her own speech? And why not, save for a few new names of projects, places and peoples, she had said them all before. Even her characteristic sharpness, in tearing to pieces her political opponents, seemed blunted.

However in the midst of it all I could not help feeling whether or not it was a far wiser, more matured and confident Khaleda Zia that was at the helm of the government. Could it be that her toned-down speeches, her indifference towards public adulation and her impatience with incompetence were all signs of a leader growing tired of her own rhetoric and yearning to give a positive shape to her own vision of a prosperous Bangladesh? Could it be that the zealous agitator, the tireless organiser, the courageous crusader for democracy was a politician finally graduating from an activist to an administrator?

The most obvious signs of this transition were her speeches. They were a far cry from the pungent, attacking and rhetorical ones of the anti-autocracy movement and election campaigning days. Now they focused more and more on development issues—small family, need for mass literacy, increasing agricultural and industrial productivity, and such other subjects—hardly the stuff that make for fiery speeches that we are so used to hearing.

The inauguration of the self-help canal digging projects

that I was invited to witness left some very serious questions in my mind. How much of it was self-help and how much of it was not? I wondered, being encircled by officials, party-men, security men and the TV crew, the Prime Minister was able to notice that the so-called volunteers gathering for the canal digging in Jamalpur and Sherpur were the khaki-trouser and maroon shirt-clad VDPs (Village Defense Party) and their bright yellow sari clad female counterparts. There were thousands of villagers—but they were mere onlookers. None of them had a spade (kodol) in his hands and as such did not participate in the canal digging exercise. When the PM was inaugurating the event, she was so completely encircled by the ingratiating officials and party-men that the so-called volunteers never got to see what was happening and kept standing throughout the event. It was only when the PM began walking back that some of them started doing what they had been brought there to do.

I was expecting thousands of villagers to participate in the digging exercise but they remained mere onlookers. As the PM left the two sites, I could not help but wonder how many people would be here tomorrow, or the day after to complete the very laudable task that she began today.

As we were flying back to Dhaka later in the day, I was reflecting on the enormous task that Begum Zia faced. It was one thing to be critical about her performance. It was quite another to be aware of the complexities of running a government and the challenge of fulfilling the expectation of



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia inaugurating the re-excavation of the Banar-Shashakhali canal in Jamalpur on Thursday

the people. By any stretch of imagination governing Bangladesh is not easy. Getting the

development process on the move is tougher still. In accomplishing both the Prime

Minister needs, and deserves, the understanding and support of all.

Khaleda

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food and industries, to carry the country forward towards self-reliance.

No land should be kept fallow, she said adding that mills and factories must run their optimum capacity to make them profitable.

There is no way other than to increase production for making the country self-reliant, she asserted seeking co-operation of all for implementation of different development programmes.

The government alone cannot solve all the problems and people should give voluntary service to free the nation from total dependency on foreign aid.

The Prime Minister mentioned her government's programmes of mass education, compulsory primary education and free education up to class eight for girls in rural areas.

Local guardians have the responsibility of supervising smooth functioning of institutions like schools and colleges, she pointed out.

Begum Zia reminded that population boom is the number one national problem and urged the people to take up family planning measures on which success of development activities would largely depend.

The Prime Minister assured to look into the local problems including construction of Pubail bridge and a straight road connecting Pubail and Kaliganj with Gazipur Sadar.

Contraband, arms recovered in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Feb 15: A special squad of the Detective Branch of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) today recovered 215 pieces of contraband sarees worth Taka more than two lakh from a compartment of Chittagong bound mail train, police said.

Benefit raise

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allowance Taka 1,500, office allowance Taka 200 a month.

The remuneration and the sumptuary allowance will be an increase of 100 per cent over the present rate while the constituency allowance and medical allowance will remain the same. A new allowance called office allowance has been introduced this time.

The bill, introduced during the current session of Parliament, was referred to a special committee to examine its different aspects. The current session also revised the remuneration and allowances of the President, the Prime Minister, ministers, ministers of state and deputy ministers. These were earlier done through promulgating ordinances.

When these ordinances were introduced as bills, a member of the Treasury Bench asked for a bill to be moved to revise the benefits of the MPs.

Sources close to the special committee say, a proposal to give pension to the Members of Parliament was discussed but it did not get unanimous support. Defending the pension proposal, opposition members of the committee gave a note of dissent.

Sources further say, the Law Minister, who is also the Chairman of the committee, favoured the pension proposal for the Members of Parliament with retrospective effect from 1973.

The Members of Parliament

(Remuneration and Allowances) Order was first introduced by President's Order No 28 of 1973. The remuneration was then called salaries and was amended by Act 25 of 1988.

The remuneration of the MPs was last revised with effect from July 1, 1986.

In addition to remuneration and allowances, a Member of Parliament receives daily allowance and conveyance allowance for attending sessions, and is provided with an insurance cover at government expense against death or permanent disablement caused by accident during his/her term of office, and have a telephone installed at his/her residence at government expense.

Political scientists argue, the proposed benefits are far less than that is enjoyed by an MP of SAARC and other Asian countries. Of the Asian countries, Singapore provides the highest benefits to keep the public representatives free from corruption. The present bill, according to some members, failed to satisfy them as their remuneration is less than that of a secretary, the highest ranking bureaucrat of the government. The MPs claim that their order of precedence place them above the secretaries, and in a parliamentary system, the MPs are supposed to be more powerful than the bureaucrats. Incidentally, secretaries receive Taka 10,000 a month as salary and in addition are entitled to perks at least five times their monthly salary.

The Midnight File

Heavy fighting in Somalia

NAIROBI, Feb 15: Heavy shelling broke out Saturday in Somalia's capital hours after warring factions pledged to end three months of fighting that has killed or wounded more than 30,000 people, mostly civilians. At least 16 people were injured in Saturday's shelling, and the chief UN mediator expressed doubts that the peace agreement reached Friday at the United Nations could hold, reports AP.

Hungry Albanians loot food godown

TIRANA, Feb 15: Thousands of hungry Albanians stormed a ware house packed with foreign food aid and 17 policemen were injured trying to halt the looting, police and witnesses said today. In a separate incident on Friday a mob brandishing guns and knives carried off about 30 tonnes of British emergency aid, reports Reuter.

Shaheed Day

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education was exemplified by the two-month long province wide strike by 80,000 teachers of primary schools which ended June 2, 1951.

The teachers strike was not successful in terms of getting all their demands fulfilled but, wrote Badruddin Umar in his three-volume 'East Bengal's Language Movement', the strike was successful in the political sense.

"This long, two-month strike heightened the political awareness of the primary teachers and sharpened their anti-government convictions," Umar concluded.

Amid famine, accelerating poverty, political repression against progressive forces and professional groups trying to get a better deal through strike actions, the government was also pursuing a policy of destroying the Bengalee people's culture by imposing Urdu and Arabic on a compulsory basis on school-children of the province, the Juba League report said.

The League, which eventually played possibly the most prominent and militant role during the climatic month of February, 1952, was clearly approaching the task from a broad, socio-political and economic angle, rather than a narrow linguistic one.

Umar also suggested that since Oli Ahad was an active member of the East Pakistan Communist Party at the time, it would have been natural for the party to have had a hand in drafting the report, or at least in outlining the areas of concern facing the youth of the country.

By the time February came, the Juba League was at the forefront of the University State Language Action Committee, although its influence at the All-Party State Language Action Committee was somewhat limited due to the dominance of numerous other parties such as various student hall unions, the Tamuddun Majlis, Islami Bhatree Sangha, other student groups and the Awami League.

The Awami Muslim League's joint secretary, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, in jail since Jan 1, 1950, went on hunger strike from Feb 16, 1952. According to Oli Ahad's

"National Politics 1945-75," Mujib was transferred from Dhaka Medical College Hospital to Faridpur jail on Feb 15.

"We met him (Mujib) several times at Dhaka hospital by taking advantage of the police guards' deliberate slackness. He and another security prisoner, Mohiuddin Ahmed, told us they would start hunger-strike from the 16th... While he was being transferred to Faridpur, he met two Juba League leaders, Shamsuzzoha and Shaif Hossain Khan at Narayanganj railway station and told them they would start their strike on the steamer boat at midnight on the 15th," Oli Ahad wrote.

According to Abdul Mattin and Ahmed Rafiq's "The History and Significance of the Language Movement," Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani lodged an appeal with the government to release Mujib and Mohiuddin on "humanitarian grounds."

MP

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decided in the meeting that henceforth all bills before placing for consideration of the House will be discussed in the meeting of the parliamentary party.

A leading MP of the party, speaking on condition of anonymity, told The Daily Star that the meeting helped the MPs in ironing out the differences and in bridging the 'communication gap' between the leaders and members of the party.

Academic year

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school student in the capital mentioned.

However, he added that I stopped going school when I heard our school peon saying "the classes will not be held as your teachers are observing strike".

"We are passing our days enjoying TV, video, playing and gossiping," he added with joy.

While talking to The Daily Star, an HSC student said that they were trying to finish their syllabus by taking private tuition.



Sheikh Hasina addressing an extended meeting of the city Awami League yesterday.

—Star photo

Khaleda follows Ershad

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pragmatic policy to revive the crippled economy. It also has no plan to mobilise internal resources and for their optimum utilisation.

The national economy, she alleged, is being dictated by donor countries and agencies ignoring the interests of the vast multitude.

The Awami League chief said the government had ad-

mitted the genuineness of demands of various classes and professionals but failed to take practical measures for solution, pushing them towards extreme means of strike time and again.

The government must take the path of understanding for resolving the problems, she said, considering the overall interest of public life.

"Khaleda Zia used the language of a dictator threatening the striking teachers. The right to strike is a recognised means and it is unfortunate that the government forgot this."

Hasina expressed her concern at what she called the government's failure to contain campus terrorism and restore academic environment.

Referring to post-75 political scenario in the country, she said those who came to power after the assassination of Bangabandhu had worked against the spirit of the Liberation War.

"We want to establish democracy on the basis of the ideals of the Liberation War, put an end to reign of looters and to all sorts of exploitation and subjugation", Hasina said.

Awami League leaders Begum Sajeda Chowdhury, Abdur Razzak, Abdul Jalil and Mamtaz Hossain also attended the concluding session which lasted for about six hours.

An Awami League press release said more than 1,000 political activists today joined the party under the leadership of Ward Commissioner Azatul Haq of Mirpur Ward No 4.

Welcoming the newcomers, Hasina asked them to work sincerely for materialising the ideals of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

She said Awami League had placed the Indemnity Ordinance (Repeal) Bill in parliament for clearing the way for holding trial of the killing of Sheikh Mujib.

ORBIS

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DC-8 aircraft, a number of other specialist ophthalmologists will arrive separately to join the team.

'Already' pre-selected patients will be screened by the ORBIS physicians for patients needing interior-segment, vitreoretinal and oculoplastic surgery; Glaucoma treatment and paediatric ophthalmological patients, said Dr Rahman, Director of the Islamia Eye Hospital and Chairman of the organising committee for the visit, said.

Sixty local physicians, 30 each from the public and private sectors, and five nurses will be sent on-board every day for practical hands-on training, he added.

Pina Taormina, the mission manager of project ORBIS, said the primary objective of the team was to provide demonstrative education to local doctors and nurses. She urged patients not to contact the team members directly, as patients to be treated have 'already' been pre-selected by local ophthalmologists.

Established in 1982, Project ORBIS also has offices in London and Hongkong and has travelled to 65 countries around the world including two visits here in 1985 and 1989. Charles Burbury, advance planning coordinator of ORBIS, informed.

He said Project ORBIS will go to Myanmar from Dhaka.

Dr. Milon murder: Another witness examined

Staff Correspondent

The Court of the Second Additional Sessions Judge, Dhaka, Saturday recorded deposition of a witness in the Dr. Shamsul Alam Khan Milon murder case.

The witness examined in the court yesterday was Dr. Pranab Kumar Chakrabarty.

Dr. Chakrabarty said that he performed the autopsy of Dr. Milon on November 27, 1990. Dr. Milon died from bullet injuries which caused excessive bleeding and nerve-shock, he added.

World relief

From Page 1 Col 5

The refugees, arriving on an average rate of 1,500 a day, are straining limited resources of Bangladesh, which has so far set up four camps that can shelter upto 30,000 people.

The government, distributing handouts of rice, wheat and bread for past few weeks, finds the situation going out of control as torrent of refugees continued.

Though Myanmar held four flag meetings and returned the arms and ammunitions its border guards looted during Dec. 21 attack on Rejupara BDR outpost, it failed to send its Foreign Minister Ohn Gya to Bangladesh to discuss the crisis.

Gya was scheduled to arrive in Dhaka first week of this month. The prospects of the visit are now clouded because of Myanmar's non-cooperation. Diplomatic sources in Dhaka said Bangladesh had no other choice but to ask for international help as political and official-level talks failed to produce an agreement to seal back the military forces or stem the flow of refugees.

Myanmar has marshalled at least 55,000 troops along its 175-mile border with Bangladesh since the December attack that killed one BDR jawan and one civilian.

French charity

Reuter from Paris says: A French medical charity said yesterday it was sending 38

tonnes of relief aid to south-east Bangladesh where 100,000 Muslim refugees from Myanmar face starvation and disease as the rainy season approaches.

'Medecins Sans Frontieres' said nearly 30 per cent of the refugee children were suffering from malnutrition and doctors feared a measles epidemic.

"The appearance of several cases of measles has given rise to fear of an epidemic which would present a serious danger for the children. Medecins Sans Frontieres will embark on an anti-measles vaccination campaign for children under 12 years," the Paris-based charity said.

It said 40 medical workers would fly from Paris to Chittagong today with a cargo of food, measles vaccines, water treatment chemicals, medical supplies and plastic tents for temporary shelters for the refugees.

UNB from Cox's Bazar reports: At least 18 children died to diarrhoea during the last few weeks in three camps in Ramu thana, crammed with Myanmar refugees, while hundreds more are suffering from malnutrition, local sources said.

Voluntary social workers who are helping the refugees at the camps said that malnutrition among children and pregnant women in the makeshift camps has posed a serious problem.