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BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia cutting the birthday cake at her Minto Road official residence on Friday.

—Star photo

Thousands at Tungipara

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who was laid to eternal rest at this remote village of Gopalganj district.

Thousands of people from all over the country started thronging the mazar premises from Thursday to pay their homage to the great leader and waited for hours to have a glimpse of the Prime Minister.

Hasina, the eldest daughter of the slain leader, went straight to the mazar of Bangabandhu and stood there in solemn silence for sometime to pay respect to the great leader.

The nation observed mourning day on the day to pay homage to the Father of the Nation, who along with his family members was brutally killed by a group of disgruntled army officials on this day in 1975.

Wearing a black badge on her white dress, the Prime Minister placed wreaths at the mazar of Bangabandhu.

A smartly turned out contingent drawn from three services gave armed salute as the last post was played in the bugle.

The Prime Minister, ministers, MPs, senior Awami League leaders, chiefs of three services and people from all walks of life, stood in solemn silence as a mark of respect to the great leader.

Hasina offered *fateha* at the mazar and a *munajat* was offered there for salvation of the souls of Bangabandhu, his family members killed with him, the leaders killed in jail and martyrs of the liberation war as well as of all democratic movements of the country.

She also sought cooperation from all for holding the trial of the killing of Bangabandhu.

"The trial of the killers has been started and I seek cooperation from you all so the trial is held properly," she told a gathering near Tungipara.

Hasina

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Yasmin murder

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SP of Dinajpur Abdul Muttalib, former OC of Kotwali thana Mahatab Hossain, former Sub-inspector Swapan Chakravarty, former OC of SB Matir Rahman, former assistant Sub-Inspector Jahangir and Moinul Haque, former constable Abdus Sattar, former police line driver Amrita Lal Barman and Doctor of Dinajpur General Hospital Dr Md Mohsin.

The Yasmin rape and murder case, divided in two parts, is being held in two courts. Trial of the first part of the case is being held in the Special Court, Rangpur under the Women and Child Repression Act.

Hearing and arguments in the first-part of the case concluded on March 15 the three main accused in the case are former Dinajpur Kotwali thana Sub-inspector Moinul Haque, former police line constable Md Jahangir and former police line driver Amrita Lal.

Flood

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Bridge point was recorded 11.87 metres in the morning while it was 11.87 metres at Gorai railway bridge point in the evening.

Fresh areas in the affected districts have been flooded and standing crops on about 10 thousand acres of land damaged.

The G K project is facing a serious setback as 3000 feet long channel linking the Ganges has been badly damaged by the erosion of the river.

The Ganges has also devoured a vast tract of land including the approach road towards Bheramara-Paksey ferrighat.

Ministers, central and city unit leaders of AL also spoke at the rally chaired by Mayor of Dhaka and city AL president Mohammad Hanif.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, LGRD and Cooperatives Minister and AL general secretary Zillur Rahman, Forest and Environment Minister Begum Sajeda Chowdhury, AL president Amir Hossain Amu, Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzaq, Commerce and Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed, AL joint general secretary Abdul Jalil and Post and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim and city unit general secretary Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya addressed the rally.

In her 30-minute speech, she listed her government's achievements in different fields and sought blessings and cooperation of all to build a happy and prosperous Bangladesh.

"I am ready to embrace a fate like my father to ensure two square meals for all," she said.

She recalled post-'75 incidents and said she and her party does not believe in the politics of vengeance. The AL president claimed that though the BNP government had relinquished power in the face of people's movement, her government did not arrest anyone for more political reasons.

She also said that her government is maintaining transparency and accountability in the administration.

Ministers, central and city unit leaders of AL also spoke at the rally chaired by Mayor of Dhaka and city AL president Mohammad Hanif.

The WB in its update further said, "Avoiding further slippage in macroeconomic stability and choosing a minimum critical mass of reform measures for implementation in FY 98 will be key to realising the government's objectives of non-inflationary growth."

The continued lack of action to deal with the transfer of the staff of ADP projects to the revenue budget, and possible smaller shortfall in ADP spending and revenue shortfalls may also contribute to pressure on the fiscal balance. WB observed.

While the FY '98 ADP allocations for priority sectors continue to be appreciable, the quality problem may be getting worse with increase in the number and cost of unapproved projects and inclusion of many approved projects with questionable priority and rationale for public sector involvement," the update said.

For the last few years the WB has been urging the government to drop the ADP projects with political motivation and having no relevance to the development agenda.

The quality of ADP projects is a

Khaleda's birthday celebrated

The 52nd birthday of former Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia was celebrated on Friday.

Begum Zia stayed at her permanent residence till 8 pm and exchanged pleasantries with guests, mostly party leaders and workers.

The Leader of the Opposition arrived at her Minto Road official residence at 8.30 pm where a large number of people were waiting to greet her.

The entire premises of the official residence was overcrowded with party activists, well-wishers, professionals and a cross section of people.

They came with bouquets, sweetmeats and cakes wishing a very "happy birthday" to their beloved leader, the BNP Chairperson and wife of late President Ziaur Rahman.

A smiling Begum Zia cut a huge birthday cake amidst clapping by the people gathered there.

Then everybody joined a special *munajat* offered for the long life and good health of Begum Zia. Maulana Najibullah Bashir Maizbhandari led the prayer.

Deputy Leader of the Opposition Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury, BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, party MPs, leaders of front organisations and pro-BNP CBA leaders were present.

A mobile hospital named Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Mobile Hospital was inaugurated at Mirpur on Friday, reports UNB.

Post and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim inaugurated the airconditioned hospital equipped with modern operation facilities.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is the patron of the hospital.

Youngman beaten to death in Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Aug 16: A young man was beaten to death at village Bhittikhola of Jaintapur thana yesterday.

Anwar Hossain, 17, was beaten by some local people, the reason for which could not be known.

He was immediately taken to the Thana Health complex where he was declared dead. Autopsy on the body was done in the Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Morgue.

Jaintapur police arrested one Kutubuddin for his alleged complicity with the murder.

PATC closed

From page 1

rected not to attend office for safety reason till further order.

The decision was taken in view of deteriorating law and order situation at the centre for agitation by some class 3 and 4 employees, said an official announcement yesterday.

Under the same order, 23 employees of some categories have been relieved of their jobs from today as per Section 50 (2) of the 1992 service rule of the BPATC.

Elaborating the situation, that forced 'temporary' closure of the BPATC the Rector office said: "Due to the unruly activities of some class 3 and 4 employees, it became totally impossible for the officials and staff of the centre to attend office and discharge their duties."

Lead pollution

From page 1

metropolis is high but the air contains less than the level which is considered dangerous.

But the low level of lead does not spare anyone. When there is less than 0.9 micrometre of lead in the air, 50 per cent of people are susceptible to breathing it through the air. There is a 90 per cent possibility of intake when the lead level is 0.1 micrometre, it said.

For example, the Farm Gate area of the city where the movement of vehicles are higher than Lalmoni, the concentration of lead is also high, the survey conducted between February 1, 1996 and March 24, 1997 showed.

The DOE survey conducted three metre above ground found that at the Lalmoni Housing Estate the amount of lead was 1.26 Nanogram (Ng) and at Farm Gate police box 6.03 Ng. But at one metre above ground the lead level at Mirpur Road (near Fire Service office) was 50.01 Ng, at Mahakali Rail crossing 44.01 Ng, at Bangladesh Beverage Industry, Tejgaon 75.73 Ng and Farm Gate Police Box 251.84 Ng.

Bangladesh is yet to set an acceptable level of lead in the air. The US Environmental Protection Agency level is 1.5 microgram or 1500 Ng. In India, it is one microgram or 1000 Ng.

Two young men murdered in city

By DMC Correspondent

Two young men were killed and two others injured in separate incidents in the city in the last two days.

An unidentified man, aged about 23, was stabbed to death by a gang of about four persons in front of Hotel Nilima at Kakrail on Friday night.

Police said the attackers stabbed the man to death at about 9 pm.

The motive behind the killing could not be known immediately. Police suspected that the murder was sequel to a previous enmity. The body was sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) for autopsy.

Ramina thana police arrested two persons identified as Syed Hossain Ali, 25, and Raju Ahmed, 22, in connection with the murder. Yesterday, they were produced before the Chief

Four commit suicide in city

By Staff Correspondent

Four persons including two women allegedly committed suicide in different parts of the city during last three days.

A housewife, Mamata Begum, 32, allegedly committed suicide by hanging from a ceiling fan hook in her rented house at west Dholapara under Demra thana yesterday.

In another incident under the same thana yesterday, Naima Begum, 22, also hanged herself from the ceiling fan at North Jatrabari at about 10.30 am.

Meanwhile, Mojibor Rahman, an asthma patient, allegedly killed himself by taking poison at Bosila under Mohammadpur thana on Friday night. The body was sent to Dhaka Medical Hospital (DMCH).

The motive behind the attack could not be known immediately. But Dhamondi thana police said the incident was a sequel to a previous enmity over dispute.

Rabeya Begum, a teacher of Tejgaon Polytechnic School, came under attack when she was travelling on Road No 7 of Dhamondi in a rickshaw at about 1:00 pm. A resident near Dhamondi Abhania ground, Rabeya, and her son were going to a relative's house at Central Road.

Two young men in a motorcycle came close to Rabeya's rickshaw and fled away stabbing her in the leg. Rabeya's son started screaming, while the attackers exploded a cocktail.

At the time Rafiq, with his auto-rickshaw, started chasing the attackers. They stabbed Rafiq and fled away.

Dhamondi police were preparing to file a case in this regard last night. However, none was arrested in this connection.

Glowing tributes

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina also placed wreaths and offered *fateha* at Banani Graveyard and then flew to Tungipara to attend the Mourning Day programmes at the mazar of Bangabandhu.

Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad, ministers, MPs, leaders of Awami League and its front organisations placed wreaths at the portrait of Mujib at Bangabandhu Museum.

The government as well as various political and socio-cultural organisations organised blood donation programmes in front of the Bangabandhu Bhawan.

The day's programmes also included wearing of black badge, rally, miliad mahfil, Qurankhwan, seminar, discussion, destitute feeding, cultural function and tree plantation.

Special prayers were offered after Juma prayers seeking divine blessings for the victims of mid-August killing as well as peace, progress and prosperity of the country.

The day was a public holiday.

National flag flew at half-mast at all government and private buildings, educational institutions, autonomous bodies and at Bangladesh missions abroad.

Bengal Betar and Bangladesh Television broadcast special programmes in last few days focussing on the struggling life of Sheikh Mujib and his unique leadership to the nation.

National dailies published special supplements highlighting the significance of the day.

Thousands of people thronged Bangabandhu Bhawan, the historic residence of Bangabandhu on Dhamondi Road No 32, to show their heart-felt respect to the father of the nation.

People from all walks of life and of all ages visited the residence.

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Fateh Ali Khan dead

LONDON, Aug 16: Renowned

Metropolitan Magistrate's Court which placed them on four days' remand for interrogation.

In another incident, a gang of about five unidentified men shot a young man, Shipon, 18, to death at Taherbagh under Sutrapur thana Friday morning.

Police said Shipon, son of Amjad Hossain, was walking on the road in front of his house at about 5 am when the attackers fired on him and fled away. He died on the spot.

The body was sent to the Mithford Hospital for autopsy.

An HSC examinee of Shurwardi College, Swapan Chowdhury, was stabbed by a gang at Bonogram under Sutrapur thana on Friday.

A group of five people cut tendons of both hands and legs of a cement trader, Faruk Abdullah, 26, at Mirpur-11. Police said the incident was sequel to a previous enmity. He was under treatment at the DMCH.

Preparations were being made to fly his body back to Pakistan.

His death was a "great loss" for his home country, Parvez said.

The singer's obesity had caused him numerous health problems recently, she added.

He had travelled to London for medical examinations and for professional reasons.

Female teacher stabbed in city

By DMC Correspondent

An unidentified gang stabbed an elderly female teacher and an auto-rickshaw driver at Dhamondi in the city yesterday.