



VOL. IX NO. 41 REGD. NO. DA 781

INTERNET: <http://www.dailystarnews.com>

FALGOON 16, 1405 BS

DHAKA SUNDAY FEBRUARY 28, 1999

ZILQUAD 11, 1419 HIJRI

16 PAGES : PRICE TAKA 6.00

35 Kushtia JSD men killed by outlaws in 14 months

KUSHTIA, Feb 27: Some 35 leaders and workers of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD), including five central leaders, out of 117 people, were killed by the extremists in the district in last 14 months from January '98 to February this year, reports UNB.

A JSD top leader Kazi Aref Ahmed and his five colleagues were killed by the outlaws at Kalidaspur Primary School ground in Daulatpur thana on February 16 while they were holding a public meeting.

A total of 30 people, including 16 JSD leaders and workers were killed by the members of the outlaws during the tenure of the present police super who joined here in October last year.

Local JSD leader and UP chairman Akbar Ali, 55, was killed in broad daylight in Thana Council premises on January 17 this year while another JSD leader Rafiqul Islam was killed the same day at Ziaraki in the district.

Besides, Sukur, Matiur Rahman and Robel were murdered on January 13 this year while JSD leader Moniruzzaman alias Badal on November 31, Sirajul and Asad on November 25 and Adv Nur Hossain Babu on November 21, last year.

On October 20, the terrorists shot dead Bheramara JSD President Ranjit Singh Roy at his residence.

Shariful and Mamun were murdered on September 17 while Hiron, Nazrul and Azibar of Kumarkhali thana on September 28.

BNP to observe protest day today

The main opposition BNP will observe "countrywide protest day today against the holding of 'farical pourashava elections without the voters'" and in support of its demand for cancelling the polls, reports UNB.

It will also protest the killing, arrest, repression, violence and harassment of the government during the 66-hour nationwide shutdown, said a party press release.

Rallies and processions would be organised at the district and pourashava levels and in the cities as part of the day's programme, said the release.

BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan urged all the party workers to make the protest day a success.

Meanwhile, Dhaka City unit of BNP will bring out a mourning procession from Nayabazar Nawab Yusuf Market at 4 pm for those killed during the 66-hour nationwide shutdown.

Announcement

First year admission test results of Shahjalal University of Science & Technology on Page 16.

Inside Today

Article

The Decline and Fall of Abdullah Ocalan

Column: The Horizon This Week by Arshad-uz Zaman Page 4

Law And Our Rights

Hartal: Reflections on law; Muslim Family Law: The latest assault on society Page 5

Business

Indian finance minister unveils budget, vows wider reforms

Oil prices up on US output slashing announcement

DSE, CSE price quotations Pages 6, 7, 8

Prayer Timings

February 28

| | Azan | Jamaat |
|---------|-------|--------|
| Fajr | 5:29 | 5:34 |
| John | 12:45 | 1:15 |
| Asr | 4:30 | 4:35 |
| Maghrib | 6:05 | 6:08 |
| Esha | 7:25 | 7:30 |

Source: Islamic Foundation

The Daily Star



FALGOON 16, 1405 BS

DHAKA SUNDAY FEBRUARY 28, 1999

ZILQUAD 11, 1419 HIJRI

16 PAGES : PRICE TAKA 6.00

6 burnt alive: 6000 shanties gutted in Agargaon slum

By Staff Correspondent

At least six people, including four of a family, were roasted alive when a devastating fire razed at least 6,000 shanties at a slum in the city's Agargaon area yesterday.

A Daily Star correspondent saw six bodies, two of them charred beyond recognition by even the neighbours.

Dwellers at BNP Bustee identified four victims as

three students of a primary school at the slum were killed in the fire. But neither police nor firemen could confirm this till last night.

Besides, at least 20 people were injured. They were admitted to different hospitals and clinics.

Neither police nor fire sources could confirm the origin of the fire. But according to



Her home and all belongings burnt, Rahima Begum of the city's BNP Bustee, wails over the debris yesterday.

Tobarak won't see his wife, babies anymore

By Staff Correspondent

Samiroon (30) came to the city only five days ago with her day labourer husband Tobarak from Araihazar Thana of Narayanganj in search of livelihood.

But the blaze at Agargaon BNP slum roasted her and her three children alive yesterday.

They had rented a hut from Rashida, a landlady, at Tk 400 per month. Tobarak went back to village Friday afternoon keeping Samiroon and the three children - Ruzina, Rushia and a six-month baby.

Tobarak is scheduled to return today, only to see the charred skeletons of his wife and children.

Taslima, a niece of Samiroon, told this correspondent that her aunt could not make her way as she was lost in the maze of alleyways, caught

See Page 12 Col 3

some dwellers, the blaze originated from an earthen oven at about 11:45 am at the north-west end of one of the biggest slums in the city, housing about 12,000 shanties.

The fire engulfed the little huts, home to over 30,000 people, mostly from low income group. The fire gutted almost all valuables of the affected families. At least 90 per cent of the shanties on the eastern side of a canal that divides the slum were reported affected.

"We hardly had the time to escape from the fire, leaving all our belongings behind," said a dumbfounded Dulal, a government employee. Dulal found debris of his four rooms when the fire was over.

According to the slum dwellers, the fire originated in the house at the north-west end when the housewife went outside leaving her earthen oven burning.

As the panicky slum dwellers ran for safety, many of them were injured in stampede through the narrow alleys inside the slums.

Some of them crossed the canal nearby and went to the other portion of the slum which was not affected by the fire. "I just took my three children with me and left the slum, running towards BNP Bazaar," said a wailing Rawshan Ara, sitting on the debris.

Eleven units of fire fighters from six city stations rushed to the spot. The rescue operation was delayed as the large fire-fighting vehicles could not make it through the lone narrow entry to the slum.

Joint efforts of dwellers, fire fighters and police took about two hours to extinguish the blaze.

The affected slum dwellers then tried to locate the places where they had their homes just

See Page 12 Col 3

11 killed as bus rams tempo in Narsingdi

topsy.

Police seized the bus. Driver of the bus, however, managed to escape. A case was filed in this connection.

Meanwhile, local people protesting the accident put up a barricade on the highway this morning and continued it till noon. They, however, cleared the highway after police intervention.

Thirty bus passengers suffered minor injuries during the barricade and were given first aid at the local hospital.

Another report adds, two people were killed and 10 others injured when a truck carrying them fell into a roadside ditch on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway at Mouna in Gazipur district early today.

Hospital sources said the accident occurred when the Kishoreganj-bound bus from Dhaka hit the three-wheeler at about 9 pm. The tempo was going to Barisha from Bhairab.

The bodies were sent to Narsingdi Sadar Hospital for au-

See Page 12 Col 8

College girl shot dead at Faridpur

By Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, Feb 27: A college girl was shot dead and her brother received bullet injuries when some unidentified gunmen stormed into their residence in Luximpur area of the town last night.

The dead was identified as Sheuli, 18, a student of Government Sarada Sundari Mahila College in the town.

Police and local people said the armed group numbering about ten knocked the door of Basir Master's house at the dead of night identifying themselves as policemen.

As soon as Basir Master, father of Sheuli, opened the door, the gunmen entered the house and tried to kidnap her daughter at gunpoint.

When the inmates of the house tried to resist them, the gunmen opened fire on them,

See Page 12 Col 6

Summit opens in city tomorrow

FMs see 'tremendous potential' of D-8

By M Anwarul Haq

liberalisation" and acknowledged "the tremendous potential of the organisation," Foreign Minister Abdus Samad said at a press briefing yesterday evening.

The second summit of the alliance in the Bangladesh capital is expected to forge closer ties among its members in an endeavour to create bigger markets for greater benefits of its members.

The Istanbul Declaration launching the alliance on June 7, 1997 identified 13 areas of cooperation for the new grouping of Muslim countries. Originally conceived as M-8 or Muslim-8 grouping comprising the eight most populous Muslim countries, the organisation was named D-8 or Developing-8

when formally launched.

The Foreign Minister of Malaysia Dafuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar aptly explained the spirit of the organisation when he said, "The D-8 would show the world the positive side of Islam through successful economic cooperation, to shed the negative image of religion."

He also reflected the views of D-8 members saying that the D-8 would not be just a talk shop but a dynamic economic forum which would see the implementation of economic programmes and projects.

Although the OIC consists of 57 countries, the eight most populous Muslim countries in terms of population, having See Page 12 Col 4

Mohiuddin CCC mayor candidate Upazila election in May: Hasina

By Staff Correspondent

Most leaders who are attending the second D-8 Summit are due to arrive in the capital today.

First to arrive this afternoon would be Iran's First Vice President Dr Hasan Habibi who would be leading his country's delegation.

Malaysian Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Bin Mohamad will be the next to arrive within an hour of the scheduled landing of Vice President Habibi.

President Suleyman Demirel, President of Turkey, who is the host of the first D-8 Summit would arrive in the evening.

The leader of the Indonesian delegation at the Summit, Minister for People's Welfare and Poverty Eradication, Haryono Suyono is due to arrive at midnight.

The Foreign Minister of Egypt Amre M Moussa who is leading his country's delegation already arrived yesterday morning.

Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif would be the last head of government to reach Dhaka tomorrow.

The D-8 Summit is expected to be inaugurated by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at 3 pm tomorrow.

2 die of liquor poisoning in Feni

FENI, Feb 27: Two people died and five others fell sick after taking rectified spirit at Fulgazi Bazar under Fulgazi thana of the district yesterday, reports UNB.

The victims were identified as Latu Mia, 40, of Darbarpur village and Abdur Razzak, 35, of South Sreepur village in the thana.

Police said both the victims died in their houses after taking the poisonous liquor at Fulgazi Bazar on Friday night.

Five others fell sick after taking rectified spirit but went in hiding to avert arrest and were reportedly taking treat-

See Page 12 Col 2

Occidental plans to develop new gasfield in Habiganj

From Iqbal Siddiquee

SYLHET, Feb 27: US company Occidental has decided to develop another gas field in Habiganj district.

The company has already started ground work for the purpose, said an official of the company yesterday.

According to the programme, the company will drill two exploratory wells in Banachang thana, one at Tarasal, about 3 km off the thana headquarters and the other at Prathom Rek, about one kilometre from there.

"We are expecting to start drilling the first well at the beginning of May this year," he said. Since the location is in a remote area, construction of infrastructural facilities will take much time. Though the approximate reserve in the structure is yet to be ascertained, the company official said they are

See Page 12 Col 8

BISMILLAH RAHMANIR RAHIM

BGMEA ELECTION'99

SAMMILITA PARISHAD PANEL PROJECTION MEETING

PANEL PROJECTION MEETING WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY, MARCH 01, 1999 AT 5.00 P.M. AT GRAND BALLROOM OF PAN PACIFIC SONARGON HOTEL, DHAKA.

MR. MOSTAFA GOLAM QUDDUS, PRESIDENT, BGMEA AND PANEL LEADER, SAMMILITA PARISHAD WILL INTRODUCE HIS PANEL OF CANDIDATES HOW WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE ENSUING BGMEA ELECTION'99. THE HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF BGMEA ARE REQUESTED TO KINDLY ATTEND THE MEETING TO MAKE IT A SUCCESS.

KUTUBUDDIN AHMED

CHAIRMAN

SAMMILITA PARISHAD

ENVOY GROUP

MR. SIRAJUL HAQUE

CHIEF CO-