



Both festivity and hartal marked the installation ceremony of the interim Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council at Rangamati yesterday. From Left : Foreign guests arrive at the venue by Air Force helicopter; Council Chairman Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma makes a point at the ceremony; tribal artists perform at the function and the Rangamati town during the hartal called by the Sarbadaliya Oikya Parishad.

—Star photo by A K M Mohsin

Pathetic public hospitals

Poor patients with intestinal or liver diseases stand nowhere!

By Naimul Haq

Repeated efforts by the Bangladesh Medical Association in the last 10 years for opening of separate gastroenterology and hepatology units in all government medical college hospitals have fallen on the deaf ears of the authorities.

A government-constituted commission had also recommended in 1993 opening of separate units in view of huge rush of patients with intestinal and liver diseases, sources said. The Nurunnabi Commission had also recommended creation of 32 posts of gastroenterologists in government hospitals.

Patients suffering from these diseases are being deprived of treatment at government medical college hospitals due to lack of institutional facilities although there is a good number of specialist doctors in the country.

"We have about 30 specialists in intestinal and liver diseases in the country who have virtually no role to play now," Prof

Mahmud Hasan, General Secretary of Bangladesh Gastroenterology Society told The Daily Star.

Only the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital (BSMMUH) and the BIRDEM Hospital have separate units for treatment of such patients. Some private clinics also offer limited treatment facilities.

A recent survey by a team of specialists at BSMMUH revealed that about one third of the patients seeking treatment at Out Patient Departments (OPDs) in government hospitals in the country suffer from gastrointestinal and liver diseases.

Out of the total OPD patients, 10 per cent suffer from heart diseases, five per cent from kidney diseases, three per cent from illness of nervous system and more than 33 per cent suffer from gastroenterology and liver diseases, the survey revealed.

The Nurunnabi Commission recommendations were approved in principle by the previous government.

Opening of a gastroenterology and hepatology unit at a hospital is not much costly. It involves not more than Tk 20 lakh including expenses for basic instruments like endoscope, E R C P (endoscopic-retrograde-cholangio-pancreatogram), cholangoscope and associated devices.

Maintenance of a unit at a hospital will not require additional institutional funds.

"Rather, we can earn one crore taka profit annually by charging fees from 50 per cent of the patients and treating the rest free of cost," said a doctor treating such patients at the DMCH.

When contacted, Acting Director General of Health Services Dr Shamsul Huq said,

"The government has plans to open gastroenterology and hepatology units in government medical college hospitals."

Only a fraction of the pa-

Signature campaign launched to save trees at Osmani Udyan

By DU Correspondent

The Movement for Saving 11,000 Trees at Osmani Udyan yesterday launched a mass signature campaign on the Dhaka University campus to mobilise support.

Dr Ahmed Kamal of the Political Science Department of DU inaugurated the campaign in the morning. Over 1,000 teachers and students of the university signed their names to express their solidarity with the movement of saving the trees.

During the drive, the organisation held a rally at the main gate of Arts Building which was addressed, among others, by Ziaul Haq Zia, Mahbubul Haq Ripon, Munjur-e-Khoda Tarik, Saiful Islam Tapan, Zonayed Saki and Sharifuzzaman Sharif.

It is 'mysterious' and beyond my comprehension why police refused to file a case against the smuggler held with Tk 1.34 lakh, Rafique said on Wednesday.

BDR-police battle over alleged smuggler

By Staff Correspondent

Officials of 16th Bangladesh Rifles Battalion and Kurigram police are sharply divided over filing of a case against an alleged smuggler arrested by BDR personnel near Doi Khaor in the Brahmaputra in Kurigram on Monday.

Commanding Officer of the BDR battalion Lt Col Rafique and SP of Kurigram Abdus Satar Khan have come up with conflicting views regarding lodging of a case against the arrested, Anwar Hossain(22).

It is 'mysterious' and beyond my comprehension why police refused to file a case against the smuggler held with Tk 1.34 lakh, Rafique said on Wednesday.

"We suggested police to file a case under Section 25(B) of the

Power Act against the man, but the SP refused saying that it was not a case of smuggling," he said.

The arrested person himself confessed that he was going to Kurigram to make a demand draft from a bank for sending Tk 1.34 lakh to one Sayeed Ali of Dhurbui in Assam in India for buying cattle from him. It is totally unlawful because letter of credit (LC) is the only legal procedure to send money to any foreign country. Moreover, the arrested man confessed that he was involved in smuggling" Rafique added.

When contacted, the SP told The Daily Star that there was no ground for filing a case against the man under Section 25(B) of the SPA because it was not a smuggling case.

The arrested man apparently committed no crime because he was carrying local currency and no smuggled good was found in his possession. He cannot even be suspected of smuggling as he was coming to Kurigram. We could suspect him if he was caught while going towards the bordering area," he said.

The court held Manjur's detention illegal and ordered his immediate release if he was not arrested in any other case.

He was taken into custody on May 10 under CrPC 54, from Evidence office. After interrogation in police remand, he was sent to jail hajat under the Special Powers Act on May 14.

His wife challenged the detention in the High Court. The division bench comprising Justice Mohammad Hamidul Haq and Justice Mohammad Hasan Amin ordered immediate release of Manjur after hearing the petition.

Housemaid shot dead in Mirpur

By Staff Correspondent

A twelve-year-old housemaid was shot dead by unidentified assailants in the city's Mirpur area on Wednesday evening.

The maid, Nasima Khatun alias Dolly, was the daughter of one Abu Bakkar of the Alamganda in Faridpur district, police and hospital sources said. According to police, she had been working as a maid at the house of Abdul Hamid in Mirpur Section 1.

The incident took place when Nasima was returning from a nearby house at about 4:30 pm. There was a sudden gunshot and a bullet hit Nasima from behind. She was immediately taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) and later shifted to Chest Disease Hospital where she succumbed to her injury soon after admission, police added.

The body was sent to DMCH morgue for autopsy. A murder case was lodged with Mirpur thana on this regard.

Police is yet to find any clue behind the shooting. None was arrested in this connection till last night.

Kulkhwani

Kulkhwani of Ali Haider Khan, former Divisional Commissioner, Chittagong, who died of a massive heart attack at the age of 68 will be held today at his residence at House No 1, Road No 2, Sector 7, Utara, after Asr prayers, says a press release.

In this connection a milad mahfil will be held today after Asr prayers at his residence, 8-9 Shantinagar, 2/301 Eastern Point, Dhaka.

Sunday is the first death anniversary of Dr M. Salaiman Khan, former head of Computer Science and Engineering Deptt, Ahansullah University, says a

champion appeared on this fatal day against India. The score was so huge and the margin of victory so staggering that Azhar could afford the luxury of inviting Ranatunga and co for a second knock.

The match — vitally important for both teams for survival and a berth in the Super Six, fused into a no-contest after an initial flicker that burnt Ramesh with a Vaas delivery that can hardly be bowled in a thousand try. From then on the packed stands stood on their tired feet, hands developed sore muscles and throats went dry. The Indians mesmerised their supporters with the kind of powerful hitting that was hitherto unknown to these soft-peddlers.

Somerset was awarded first-class ranking in 1891. Taunton, Bath and Weston-Super-Mare might have been regarded as charming backwaters of the game but not when they became the stage for Viv Richards, Joel ('Big Bird') Garner and England's own Ian Botham. The Club was founded in 1875, according to Wisden. The county club acquired the ground from the Taunton Athletic Company and secured a lease for the ground in 1885. The club has shown an interest in improving facilities at the ground by the River Tone (in which a couple of balls were lost Wednesday) ever since 1891. Taunton will certainly be remembered as the stage where in 1925, Jack Hobbs scored his 126th and 127th centuries to surpass Dr WG Grace's record. Two more innings will be remembered by spectators: Viv Richards who took 322 off Warwickshire in 1985 and Graeme Hick the Worcestershire batsman who scored 405 not out in 1988 and so nearly reached the record 424 scored by A.C. McLaren of Lancashire in 1895.

Kenya turned out to be the 'sick man of Africa' with four losses in as many matches. They started well against South Africa but lost their way against the military medium

What on earth prompted Ranatunga, supposed to be a clever leader, to invite India to bat first on a wicket that showed no signs of assisting

seam bowlers despite experts predicting so, and that too with the attack at his disposal, was a million dollar question. Even the experts shut their mouth as the rampage began. Sri Lankan bowling was pathetic and fielding bad, conceded Ranatunga.

In my time I have seen some lusty hitting, but never before had I seen such brutality against genuine medium pacers and a match-winning spinner. It will remain a mystery for a long time to come to unfold what happened to these two batsmen Rahul Dravid and Saurav Ganguly. Unless they were possessed by Maa Kali or driven by the shadow of Sachin Tendulkar, the innings they played were beyond them.

Stranger was the fact that Dravid took the initiative to clobber the Sri Lankan attack and Saurav followed suit. What overcame a normally circumspect Dravid could be anybody's guess. He was more aggressive and ferocious as long as he was at the wicket. The regular bowlers came for severe punishment as they were mesmerised to bowl to the liking of these two.

Sri Lanka had a taste of their own medicine.

Records were rewritten and hearts broken as the Lankans submitted themselves to the mercy of the belligerent Indians. Dravid equalled Mark Waugh's performance of back to back century in World Cup. India were now on a must win situation in their last match against England for smooth slide into the Super Six and the Lankans must come off with a big win against Kenya in their last match and wish for a England victory over India to keep their remote chances alive.

Very close associate of Mohammad Ali of Bogra, Dr Talukder also led a procession of the physicians during non-cooperation movement in March 71.

Kenya turned out to be the 'sick man of Africa' with four losses in as many matches. They started well against South Africa but lost their way against the military medium

DCC, WASA go their own way

By Morshed Ali Khan

Lack of coordination among different utility and service organisations in the city has reached such a stage that while one floats tender for some work, another moves in to do the work without ever consulting it.

Such a muddle occurred recently between Dhaka City WASA and Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) over construction of storm sewerage lines at Bashundhara lane near Elephant Road and at Rajabazar, WASA sources said.

In another instance, DCC built a storm sewerage line at Khilgaon Block-A on the eastern side of Rampura Road and

connected it with the western side without consulting WASA. The DCC venture would result in flooding of the western side of the road if water level rises in the unprotected eastern side, the sources added.

There are many other instances like this.

"We have a project to protect Hazipara from flooding and use Rampura Road as an embankment, but DCC has connected the vulnerable eastern side with the western side through the new storm sewerage line without asking us," said a WASA official.

For building the storm sewer-

age lines at Rajabazar and Bashundhara lane, which are vulnerable to waterlogging, WASA conducted a technical survey, prepared a plan and then took up an ADB-aided project for this. Tender for the project was floated but problem arose when WASA sought permission from DCC to dig the roads.

"DCC officials told us they had already started constructing the sewerage lines," said the official.

Only WASA has the technical and physical resources to plan and build storm sewerage lines in the city. About the lack of coordination, they said it is a problem "not only with DCC or WASA alone."

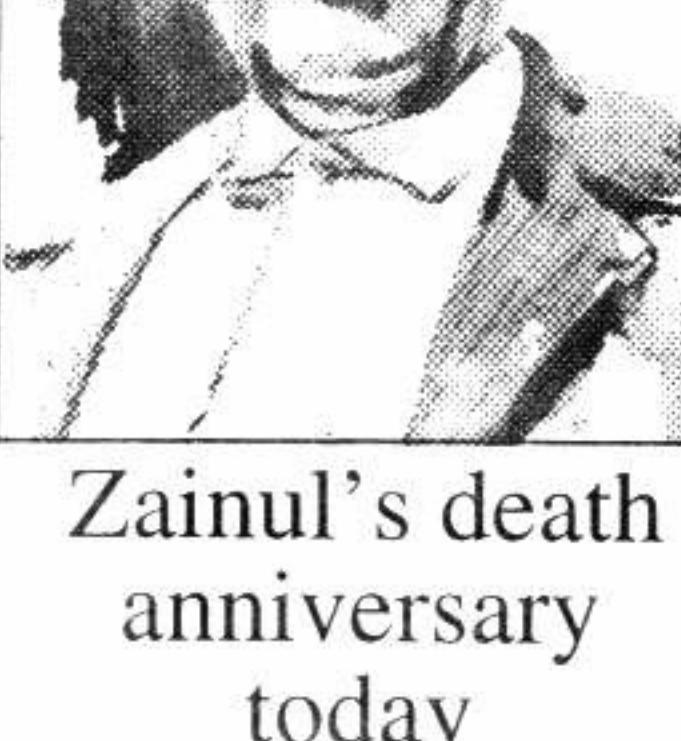
meeting attended by Mayor Mohammad Hanif had decided that if DCC took up a project to construct a storm sewerage line, it would take technical assistance from WASA.

But DCC sources said it has the know-how for constructing storm sewerage lines. At present it is constructing the huge storm sewerage line in Shantinagar area. Moreover it constructed about 300-km of storm sewerage network, especially in the lanes and by-lanes in the city.

WASA officials also said a city coordination committee

Presidential intervention sought to solve BUET crisis

By DU Correspondent



Zainul's death anniversary today

The nation will observe the 23rd death anniversary of Zainul Abedin today with a befitting manner.

People from all walks of life will place wreaths at the grave of the Shilpachariya on the Dhaka University campus to pay their respect to the great artist.

According to a recent government directive, none in the bordering area could be arrested on the basis of mere suspicion if smuggled goods are not found with him and his name is not in the task force list of identified smugglers" he pointed out.

The arrested man was produced before court on Tuesday and he was placed on a five-day police remand. Case could be filed after getting specific proof that he is a smuggler," the SP said.

"We have already filed a general diary against the man and steps are being taken as per law of the land."

Meanwhile, our Kurigram correspondent reports that the arrested man, Anwar Hossain, of village Narayanpur under Nageshwari thana in Kurigram had earlier confessed to BDR that he and some of his relatives operate a syndicate to smuggle drug and gold. The syndicate sends money to India through hundi.

The Shilpachariya Zainul Abedin Smriti Parishad will also hold a discussion at the VIP lounge of the National Press Club at 5 PM. Home and Post and Telecommunications Minister Muhammad Nasim is expected to attend the discussion as the chief guest.

The Dhaka University authorities, especially the faculties and students of the Institute of Fine Arts, have chalked out different programmes to observe the death anniversary with due solemnity. The programmes include discussion, placing of wreath at the grave of the artist and child painting competition.

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Altaf, Jalil elected DUJ President, Secy

By Staff Correspondent

Altaf Mahmood, news editor of Dainik Khabar, has been elected president of the Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ).

Kazi Rafique of Matribhumi, Abu Kalam of Ifteqaf and Ashraf Ali of Bangladesh Observer have been elected vice presidents and Rokeya Kamal of Chitrali has been elected Joint Secretary.

The election took place yesterday.

Earlier, Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan of The Daily Star was elected unopposed the general secretary of the DUJ.