



The Daily Star

Today's issue
20 pages

GENERATORS

MADE IN JAPAN by
MITSUBISHI
HEAVY INDUSTRIES, LTD.

RANGS GROUP

VOL. IX NO. 297 REGD. NO. DA 781

www.dailystarnews.com

DHAKA SUNDAY NOVEMBER 21, 1999

40
days to the
3rd Millennium

AGRAHAYAN 7, 1406 BS

SABAN 12, 1420 HIJRI

20 PAGES PRICE: TAKA 5.00

The poet's last wishes Ordinary burial, no stately rites

Begum Sufia Kamal will be buried on Wednesday at Azimpur Graveyard according to her last wish, reports UNB.

Her family members said she desired to avoid state honour during her last rituals as she lived like an ordinary person and wanted to remain the same.

She asked her family and close associates not to buy any piece of land for her grave and opted for Azimpur Graveyard.

While paying respect to the late poet at her Dhanmondi residence, President Shahabuddin Ahmed inquired about the place of her burial. He offered Mirpur Intellectuals Graveyard for her eternal rest. Her family members then informed him about her last desire.



Our 'lady of light' passes away Thousands throng Shanjer Maya at Dhanmondi to pay last respects

By Staff Correspondent

Poet Begum Sufia Kamal has passed away.

The end came at the age of 88 after a life lived with those who fought for freedom, democracy and human rights.

She died yesterday morning of cardiac arrest at 8:55 am at the Intensive Care Unit of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital (BMMUH).

"Our lady of light", as The Daily Star called her while awarding her the 1996 person of the year, left a nation grieving with the President Shahabuddin Ahmed leading the mourners.

"All her life, she led the Muslim women to the path of progress," said the President in a condolence message.

She was hospitalised on Thursday for renal failure. She was also suffering from old age complications, hospital sources

said. She was removed to the ICU on Friday at about 7pm as her condition deteriorated. She was under the supervision of two senior doctors -- Dr K M Iqbal and Dr Harun-ur-Rashid.

She left behind three daughters and two sons. Her eldest son Shahid Kamal, a journalist and daughter Ameena Kahan

See our Special Feature on Page 5

were staying with her at her Dhanmondi residence. Her eldest son Sajit Kamal will arrive from US before her burial on Wednesday. Family sources said. Her two other daughters are Sultana Kamal, a lawyer and Syeda Kamal, an artist.

A pall of gloom descended on the capital as the news of her death spread.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina rushed to the BMMUH on hearing the sad news.

The body was brought to 'Shanjer Maya', the poet's Dhanmondi residence (House 15) on Road 11 (new), at about 11 in the morning.

The President, Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia, ministers, political leaders, journalists, writers, cultural activists and human rights activists paid their last respects to the "beacon of democracy" at the Dhanmondi residence.

Streams of mourners in their hundreds continued to flock there till the body was taken to BIRDEM hospital at about 3pm after the first *namaz-e-janaza* at the Dhanmondi residence.

A condolence book was opened at the residence.

Several senior ministers accompanied the Prime Minister to the hospital.

A 1001-member National Committee, with Prof Kabir

Choudhury as convenor, will hold a condolence meeting at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city on November 26 at 3pm.

The poet's body will be kept at BIRDEM mortuary till Wednesday morning for arrival of her son from US.

On that day, the body will be taken to Bangladesh Mahila Parishad office at 2pm and kept

there for half an hour.

Then the body will be taken to Bangla Academy and kept there for some time before taking it to the Central Shaheed Minar where it will be kept till 5pm to enable people to pay their last respect.

Her *namaz-e-janaza* will be held at the Jatiya Eidgah Maidan after Maghreb prayers.

She will be buried at the Azimpur graveyard as per last wish.

See Page 12 Col 1

The 'never lose hope' woman is no more!

By Staff Correspondent

In an interview with the Editor of this daily, published on January 1, 1996, Begum Sufia Kamal had expressed her anxiety and disappointment over the present situation, and her faith in the younger generation.

She had also expressed her concern over the lack of respect for women by men.

She had also expressed her worries about rising unemployment and dependence on foreign assistance. She enthused all never to lose hope.

Poet Sufia Kamal or 'Lady of light', was named The Daily Star Woman of the Year in 1996.

Begum Sufia Kamal, a distinguished cultural personality, well known for her contributions for women's emancipation, was born on June 20, 1911 in Shaishabad, Barisal.

She started social work at

See Page 11 Col 8

City fathers watch parks vanish

45 public parks are on the verge of extinction



A shopping centre, courtesy of the Dhaka City Corporation, fortifies Shaheed Park in the city's Mohammadpur against local children who are running out of places to play.

—Star photo by Sk Enamul Haq

Armed Forces Day today

Armed Forces day will be observed today, reports UNB.

On this day during the War of Liberation in 1971, members of Army, Navy and Air forces began a combined attack against the Pakistani occupation forces.

President Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina gave separate messages on the occasion.

The day's programme will begin with offering of munajat (special prayers) after Fazr prayers in all mosques at army garrisons, naval ships and air force bases across the country.

President Shahabuddin, also Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, will place wreaths at Shikha Aniran (Eternal Flame) in the morning to pay homage to those who had embraced martyrdom in the

See Page 12 Col 6

WTO agenda discussed

Dhaka should seek review of Uruguay Round before another

Star Report

Speakers at a seminar yesterday unanimously agreed that Bangladesh should oppose any new round of trade negotiations unless commitments made so far by the WTO members in the Uruguay Round Agreement and the subsequent WTO ministerial meetings are implemented.

They said during the Uruguay Round, most of the developing countries were unaware of the consequences of the negotiations and at the end of the day signed agreements "as mere spectators".

The seminar, "GATT, Liberalisation and Bangladesh Trade" was organised by Integrated Community and Industrial Development (INCIDIN) Bangladesh, a research and advocacy agency, at the CIRDAP auditorium in the city. Commerce and Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed, Secretary General of Workers Party Rashed Khan Menon and former finance minister Abul Mal Abdul Muhit were among others who

spoke at the seminar, chaired by Professor Rehman Sobhan.

The developed countries highlighted differences that existed among them and finally approached the LDCs who were not allowed to hammer on their demands, said Professor Rehman Sobhan.

He suggested Bangladesh, being a member of SAARC, come forward with a group of actions within the framework of SAARC.

This is because it involves issues which affect a large number of people, future of industries and industrialisation in the country.

He said Bangladesh was not prepared for the first round of negotiations and therefore failed to take advantage of the Millennium Round.

It opened up the economy too fast when there were no pressure to dismantle the tariff barrier. "But we could have taken much advantage had we gone through negotiations. India did

See Page 11 Col 7

not do it at the same pace and could take much more advantage."

"Bangladesh could not undo the past but will be responsible for what happens in future," said the eminent economist.

Tofail Ahmed said most of the LDCs were frequently shifting their positions as they were busy trying to negotiate their own interest.

He said ahead of the Millennium Round in Seattle on November 30, the G-77 met in Beirut where there were a consensus on opposing second round of negotiations without assessing the commitments of the Uruguay Round.

"But later we found many had shifted from their positions as everyone is trying to take advantage of the Millennium Round."

Tofail said that a day before the ministerial meeting he was trying to organise a meeting of the LDCs to discuss their prob-

See Page 11 Col 7

Power, fertiliser factories can best use local gas

By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a roundtable on Bangladeshi gas utilisation yesterday said that the country's gas resources should be utilised mainly to generate power and produce fertiliser with the goal of poverty alleviation.

The participants at the roundtable, including public representatives, bureaucrats as well as oil company executives and diplomats, unanimously emphasised maximum value addition to gas in the process of its utilisation.

The roundtable entitled "Gas Strategy in Bangladesh" was organised by APEC-Bangladesh Society and Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs at Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies.

Speakers also agreed that the question of gas export should be considered when the nation had an indisputable quantum of gas reserve. At the same time, they stressed that investment for export-oriented power and fertiliser would ensure value addition to the country's gas.

Saifur Rahman said, "there's a hide and seek game going on regarding the gas ex-

port option, chiefly because of its political implications. However, it is also difficult to agree to gas export before you know how much gas you have and how do you want to use it."

"For now, the export option should be ruled out. We have tremendous prospect in fertiliser and power sectors. Everyone is demanding increased power supply nowadays, and we cannot supply it," he added. Referring to the oil companies he said, "it's not disappointing that we would not export gas. We can start with making more power and fertiliser plants, meet domestic demands and earn foreign currency by exports."

He also spoke in favour of partial subsidisation of gas prices -- a concept rejected by foreign experts and oil compa-

nies.

Chairman of Power Development Board (PDB) Quamrul Islam Siddique argued that although the donors tried to say that the rural poor could not afford power, the experience of Grameen Bank showed that the rate of loan repayment by the poor people was highest in

See Page 11 Col 3

একুশ শতকের শুরুতে নিয়ে এলো



এস সুযোগ ১২ই ডিসেম্বর ১৯৯৯ ইং
থেকে ৩১শে জানুয়ারী ২০০০ ইং পর্যন্ত

বারিধারা ডিপ্লোমাটিক জেন সংলগ্ন
বাজেট অন্যোদিত বস্তুর প্রকল্পে
সীমিত সংখ্যক প্লট এবং জন্য
"আগে আসলে আগে পাবেন"
ভিত্তিতে চলতি বাজার মূল্যের
প্রায় তিনি ভাগের এক ভাগ মূল্যে
প্লট বানান চলছে।

মাত্র ১লক্ষ টাকা

জমা দিয়ে ২৭ মাসের সহজ কিটিতে একবিংশ
শতাব্দীর পিকা গঢ়তে বস্তুর জন্য কিমু এবং

এই অভিজ্ঞতা আবাসিক এলাকায় হাতী নিবাস

এবং সঠিক বিনিয়োগের সুযোগ নিন।

বিত্তিতে ক্ষেত্রের জন্য বোগাবোগ করুন।

ইষ্ট ওয়েস্ট প্রপার্টি ডেভলপমেন্ট (প্রাপ্ত) লিঃ

(বাস্তুর একটি প্রতিষ্ঠান)

মেনা কল্যাণ ভবন (৪ষ্ঠ তলা), ১৯৫, মাতিল র/১/১, ঢাকা ফোন: ১৫৫২০৩২৯, ১৫৫৩০১১, ১৫৬১১১৫, ১৫৬৪১০৮

সাইট অফিস: ১৮১৪০৬৬, ৬০১৭৪০, ফ্লার: ১৮০-২-১৫৬১১৭২ ইমেইল: ewpd@bol-online.com

ওয়েবসাইট: www.bashundhara.com

Prayer Timings

November 21

Fajr 5-10 5-40
Johr 12:45 1:15
Asr 3:42 4:00
Magrib 5:20 5:25
Esha 7:15 7:45

Huge duty evasion unearthed in Ctg

France faced with EC sanctions on 3 fronts

DSE, CSE price quotations

Pages 6, 7 & 8

Supplement

Today's 20-page issue of

The Daily Star contains a

4-page supplement on

"Armed Forces Day" on

pages 17 to 20

Buy Now... Pay Later

Whirlpool

HOME APPLIANCES USA

Gas Cooker

Transcom Electronics Limited