

Lux-Anandadhara Rimi crowned Miss Photogenic Chittagong 2002

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Sanjida Zaman Rimi, a second year student of Nasirabad Government Women's College, was crowned Lux-Anandadhara Miss Photogenic Chittagong 2002 at a grand function here on Monday.

Rosy Akter and Tapashi Rabeya were adjudged first and second runners up respectively at the function held at Hotel Agrabad in the evening.

Lux-Anandadhara Miss photogenic Bangladesh 2002 Kushum Sikder handed over the crown to the winner in front of a cheering audience at the divisional level event, first of its kind here.

Singer Shakila Jafar read out the three top winners' names while presence of actor-turned politician Asaduzzaman Nur was an added attraction of the function.

Shakila Jafar and Tapan
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PHOTO: STAR

Crowned the Lux-Anandadhara Miss Photogenic Chittagong 2002 on Monday, Sanjida Zaman Rimi (middle), a student of the Nasirabad Government Women's College, poses for photographs with the runners-up.

'Ensure food for crop growers'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh observed the World Food Day yesterday with a pressing call for food security to impoverished crop growers.

In absence of fair prices on produce, poor farmers have passed days in starvation over the last 50 years even in food-surplus districts, said speakers at a World Food Day seminar at the auditorium of the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) in the city yesterday.

At the seminar, State Minister for Agriculture Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir has said food autarky does not necessarily mean food security for all.

"Many poor farmers in Dinajpur, Nilphamari, Thakurgaon, Kurigram and Panchagarh are facing 'monga' (food insecurity) right now... they have been faced with insufficient food intake and lack of employment during this (lean) period over the last 50 years," said Alamgir.

"We have to ensure food security to growers first... we have to ensure that they get fair prices on their

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Work unitedly for end to anarchy

Hasina tells partymen in Rajshahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina has asked leaders and workers of her party to stand beside the people in all their crises and work unitedly for revamping the party.

She also asked them to mobilise the people, particularly those at the grassroots level, to put an end to what she said the state of anarchy, injustice, insecurity, repression, growing incidents of crime including killing, rape, oppression and trampling of human rights under the present government.

"Our goal is to build a self-reliant and self-respecting nation by 2021 when Bangladesh will no more have to beg before other countries", said the leader of the opposition in the parliament.

Sheikh Hasina was addressing the daylong divisional conference of the party in the city yesterday on the second day of her three-day organisational tour of this region.

She inaugurated the largely

attended conference at the Madrassah Maidan by releasing pigeons and balloons in the morning and also chaired it. Thousands of leaders and workers from villages, unions, and upazilas in nine districts of Rajshahi organisational division of the AL attended the conference. More than 50,000 people gathered at the conference venue to hear the AL chief.

The former prime minister said misrule of Khaleda-Nizami (prime minister and BNP chief and Jamaat chief respectively), planned murders, rape, oppression, extortion, corruption and a 'silent famine' have plagued the lives of the people.

Children, women, political leaders and activists, businessmen, minorities and all other sections of the people are feeling insecure under this fascist government. Rule of law, human rights and above all democracy are now at stake, Hasina said.

She asked district unit leaders of the AL to send to the party central

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Father murdered for protesting teasing of daughter

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A group of miscreants gunned down a labourer on Tuesday night when he protested teasing of his teenage daughter. The victim was identified as Moslem Uddin, 45, of Jhina Notunpara village of Arani union of Bagha upazila in Rajshahi.

According to sources, the miscreants of the area used to tease Moslem's daughter often.

When Moslem complained to their parents, the miscreants went to his house Tuesday night and called him out.

When he refused to come out, they entered by force and shot him. Moslem died on the spot around 2.30am.

Moslem's wife Nasima Begum lodged a murder case with Bagha police in this regard accusing four persons.

One of the accused is Shahbaz, 25. The names of the other three could not be known immediately. Police could not arrest anybody in this regard so far.

Saddam scores 100, US war plan hits snag

Russia, France against military option

AFP, Baghdad

Iraq beat its own records yesterday by announcing President Saddam Hussein had won seven more years in office with a 100 per cent vote on a 100 per cent turnout in a referendum in which he was sole candidate.

US President George W Bush, meanwhile, readied to sign a congressional resolution authorising use of military force against Baghdad, although France and

Russia made it clear the UN Security Council was still divided on Iraq.

The referendum in Iraq came amid growing US threats to attack Baghdad to oust Saddam, and the campaign was transformed into one of defiance by every Iraqi to the global superpower.

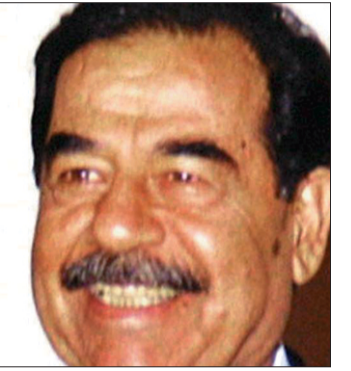
"The president, leader Saddam Hussein, God preserve him, has won 100 per cent of the vote," Iraq's number two Ezzat Ibrahim announced before the world press in

Baghdad. A total of "11,445,638 voters" said yes to Saddam, a 100 per cent turnout, said Ibrahim, who is deputy chairman of the ruling Revolutionary Command Council.

Ibrahim also warned that Iraq would fight US forces in "every town, village and house" if Washington launched war.

"We are ready to fight the Americans if they tread upon Iraqi

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Saddam Hussein

Karachi rocked again: 9 hurt in parcel bomb blasts

AFP, Karachi

Four parcel bombs exploded at key police and government offices in Pakistan's violence-plagued commercial capital Karachi yesterday, injuring at least nine people, police said.

The first three blasts occurred at two police stations and a government building in the space of 30 minutes within a two-kilometer radius.

"All three were parcel blasts. They went off as the parcels were

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Islamists pick pro-Taliban cleric as PM nominee

AFP, Islamabad

A pro-Taliban cleric was formally nominated as candidate for prime minister yesterday by an alliance of fundamentalist Islamic parties holding the balance of power in Pakistan's hung parliament.

"The supreme council meeting of Muttahidda Majlis-e-Amal (MMA) has decided to propose Maulana Fazlur Rehman as candidate for prime minister," MMA chief Shah Ahmed Noorani announced at a press conference. Rehman heads the pro-Taliban

Jamiat Ulema-I-Islam (JUI), one of six parties in the alliance which won massive gains in last week's general elections and are now the kingmakers in the national assembly.

His nomination was decided at a crucial meeting of MMA leaders in the capital yesterday, at which they debated whether to join secular parties in a governing coalition or stay in opposition.

"We will not compromise on the prime ministership. So far this is our position. But let's see what happens," Noorani replied when asked

whether the MMA was flexible on naming Rehman prime ministerial candidate.

The MMA did not reach a decision on future coalitions, and instead set up a committee to examine possible coalition scenarios.

Central to the MMA's manifesto is its opposition to the presence of US troops on Pakistani airbases and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) agents helping hunt al-Qaeda fugitives harbouring in Pakistan.

The Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) and the rival

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Domestic help tortured in city again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A domestic help was severely beaten up by his employer at a Free School Street residence in the city yesterday morning.

Police rescued 12-year-old Ajmeer Alam from the toilet of the house and had him admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Toma Rahman assaulted Alam and locked him up in the toilet after he had taken a spoonful of milk powder Tuesday night.

Yesterday morning, she rebuked him and at one stage hit the boy with

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3 rapists get life term

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Three youths have been sentenced to life for gang-raping an adolescent girl in Barisal.

The convicted are Md. Mojammel Akan, Afsar Uddin Biswas and Abdur Rahim Bepari. A Special Tribunal under Prevention of Women and Children Repression Act yesterday gave the verdict yesterday.

The court also fined the convicted Tk 25,000 each. Eighty per cent of the fine proceeds will go to the victim while the rest 20 per cent to the government exchequer.

The adolescent girl of Muladi Upazila of the district was gang-raped by the culprits on the night of March 8, 2001.

BADC labourers go on strike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Labourers at 72 farms of Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) went on an indefinite strike from yesterday protesting retrenchment of 1604 farm labourers employed by the BADC.

A press release issued by Bangladesh Agriculture Farm Labourers Federation (BAFLF) said that labourers at all the cereal seed production farms, horticulture farms, agro-service centres and potato, pulse, oil and jute seed farms began the strike simultaneously.

The BAFLF demanded of the government to withdraw the retrenchment order.



PHOTO: STAR

Ajmeer Alam waits with head injuries (left) beside Toma Rahman at the Dhanmondi Police Station, who hit her domestic help with a rolling pin at her Free School Street residence; and Nazma Akhter (right), a housemaid of Tejkunipara, lies with burns on the floor of the DMCH yesterday.

