

Obituary

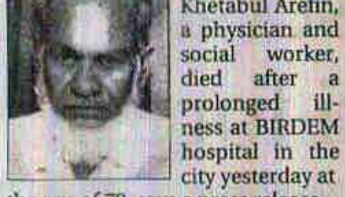


Tahmina Banu, wife of late Md. Zakaria, a TV and film personality, died of cancer on Sunday, says a press release.

An alumna of Sakhawat Memorial Girls' High School of Kolkata, she was a teacher of Motijheel Govt. Girls' School.

She was also an active member of the Sakhawat Memorial Girls' High School Alumnae Association.

Khetabul Arefin



Syed Shah Khetabul Arefin, a physician and social worker, died after a prolonged illness at BIRDEM hospital in the city yesterday at the age of 78, says a press release.

He left behind two sons, one daughter and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

His first namaj-e-janaza will be held at Lalbagh Shahi Mosque after Zohr prayers while the second one at Gulshan Jame Mosque after Asr prayers.

He will be buried at Banani graveyard.

SNS protests home minister's remark

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sammilita Nari Samaj (SNS) yesterday protested the home minister's remark in parliament on June 30 about women political activists.

In a statement, the SNS leaders urged the minister to withdraw his comment and called upon him to refrain from making any derogatory remark about women in future.

They also urged the Speaker to expunge the statement from the parliamentary proceedings.

SNS leaders said the current prime minister also took to the street during anti-autocratic movement and women activists of her party also built up resistance against police repression while she was in opposition.

AL secretariat meets Friday

BSS, Dhaka

A meeting of the Central Secretariat of Awami League will be held on Friday at the party's Dharmadhi office here, a party press release said yesterday.

The signatories to the statement are Dr Naila Khan, convenor of SNS, Hazara Sultana and Khaleda Khatun.

Earlier, the home minister, taking part in the budget discussion, said "We will investigate from where 200 Awami League women activists obtain training, where they spend night."

He also said an investigation would be conducted whether they (women activists) were women at all.

IT training centre

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To customise the country's prospective IT market in the area of corporate efficiency building, a training centre was opened in the city on Monday.

Nazimcorp Resource Gateway (NRG) in collaboration with the NIT opened the centre.

"We want to customise the prospective area of IT enhancing entrepreneurial need of the country's various companies and establishments," NRG Chief Executive Officer Nazim Farhan told The Daily Star.



People trying to lift a minibus that got stuck in a broken manhole at Pallan yesterday. The roads in different parts of the city have been in bad shape for long, but the authority seem indifferent to the woes of the passengers and pedestrians.

Call to reintroduce women's seats in JS thru' direct polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday called for reintroduction of women's seats in parliament with provision of direct elections.

Though women constitute half of the total population, the eighth parliament is running without their representation, they said.

They called on the government to ensure that the ninth parliament should have more women's seats than before.

The Institute for the Development Policy Analysis and Advocacy (IDPAA) of Proshika organised the discussion on a survey report titled 'Increasing Women's Seats and Introducing Direct Election for Women' at CIRDAP auditorium in the city.

Bazlur Rahman, editor of the Sangbad, Mahfuz Anam, editor of The Daily Star, Prof. Nazmunnesa Mahtab of Dhaka University and Shirin Akther of Karmajibi Nari took part in the discussion. Proshika President Quazi Faruque Ahmad presided.

Quazi Faruque said that although the ruling BNP and the opposition Awami League are led by women, they represent 'socially male point of view' as both of them rose to power using their family identity.

Mustafa Abdur Rahman, deputy director, IDPAA, presented the survey report prepared by IDPAA

in association with the Survey and Research System.

According to the report, about 79 per cent respondents said they want an increase in women's seats in parliament and direct election

Full-fledged Jubo Dal committee announced

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal, youth front of the ruling BNP, yesterday announced a 171-member national executive committee with Barakatullah Bulu and Syed Moazzem Hossain Alal MP as its president and general secretary.

Earlier, the ruling party announced the name of president, general secretary and organising secretary of the Jubo Dal on April 29. It took over two months to form the full-fledged committee. Former DUCSU general secretary Khairul Kabir Khokon has been made organising secretary.

The new committee has been formed after 16 years. The previous central committee headed by Minister for Housing and Public Works Mirza Abbas and BNP joint secretary general Gayeshwar Chandra Roy was formed in 1986.

The new committee has 11 vice presidents, 13 joint secretaries, six assistant organising secretaries, 21 other secretarial posts, and 53 executive members.

to those seats. Bazlur Rahman urged the women's organisations to move forward through massive mobilisation and press the political parties to meet their demands for their empowerment.

Mahfuz Anam said the survey report reflects the common people's support for women's empowerment, voting rights and direct election to the women's seats.

But the political parties often renege on their election pledges after taking over the office only to serve the 'vested interests', he added.

Anam also pointed out that the politicians do not dare to break the traditional system.

He called for breaking down the vested interests in order to protect women's rights.

Voting power is a great weapon for the women and they can use it to ensure their rights, he said.

Prof. Nazmunnesa urged the women's organisations to unite and put pressure on the government to ensure their rights.

Shirin Akther said the rights of women would not be protected until women's participation in the decision-making is ensured.

Mahbub-ul-Karim, senior vice-president of Proshika, M Shahabuddin, director of Proshika, and representatives of women's organisations also spoke.

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CU forms probe body: The Chittagong University authority on Monday formed a committee to investigate the incidents in which activists of Progressive Students' Alliance (PSA) and Islamic Chhatra Shibir were injured.

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