



Sultana Islam passes away

Begum Sultana Islam, a social worker, educator and writer, passed away yesterday, says a press release.

Sultana Islam was the wife of late Shamsul Islam, chief engineer of WAPDA.

She was the founder president of National Women Federation and recipient of Queen's Coronation Medal for her outstanding social work in 1953.

Born in Kolkata, her maternal grandfather was Sir Abdur Rahim, Chief Justice of Bengal, and paternal grandfather was Moulvi Mahmood. She was a graduate of Kolkata University.

Begum Sultana Islam was the founder principal of Tejgaon Girls' High School and Little Blossom's Kindergarten School.

She was the president of Jatiya Mahila Sangstha, honorary member of Film Censor Board, general secretary and vice-president of All Pakistan Women's Association to name a few.

Her qulkhani will be held after Asr prayers on August 19 at her family residence at House- B 129, Road-21, New DOHS, Mohakhali.

Amina Mashirul Rahman

Amina Mashirul Rahman, wife of late Senior Minister Mashirul Rahman (Jadu Mia), died of cardiac arrest on Friday night at the age of 72 at the National Heart Foundation Hospital, says a press release.

Amina was hospitalised on August 12 following a massive heart attack.

She left behind her three sons, two daughters, several grand children and a host of relatives to mourn her death.

Her namaj-e-janaza will be held after Magrib prayers at New DOHS Jame-Mosque at Mohakhali in the city today.

Relatives and admirers have been requested to attend the Janaza and pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Her body will be taken to her village home at Sunderkhatia in Dimla under Nilphamari district for burial tomorrow.

Amina was the women affairs secretary of the National Awami Party (NAP). She was active in progressive politics particularly during the anti-Ayub and pro-democracy movement.

Eve-teasers

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a nearby dormitory chased them, caught Badal and Prince and beat them up. Their motorcycle was also set on fire, witnesses said.

Medical student leader Golam Mustafa Ali said the JCD cadres, claiming themselves to be followers of Mashul Alam Sentu, came twice on Friday night in microbus and motorbikes.

Sentu however said he himself went to the trouble spot and handed over the two unruly cadres to the police.

DHAKA TODAY

Poster exhibition

The inaugural ceremony of a poster exhibition on graphic design titled "L'art pour l'art" by Pierre Mendell and Klaus Oberer will be held. Venue: Goethe Institut exhibition hall, Dhamoni. Time: 6.00pm. The exhibition will remain open till August 28 from 2.00pm to 8.00pm daily except weekends and holidays.

Cultural function

Nazul Academy organises a discussion and cultural function to mark the 62nd death anniversary of poet Rabindranath Tagore. Venue: Academy Bhaban, Mognabazar. Time: 7.00pm.

Prize giving ceremony

The prize giving ceremony of the art competition titled 'Amar Sabuj Bangla', organised by Youth and Social Development Organisation, will be held with State Minister for Finance and Planning Shah M Abul Hussain as chief guest. Venue: Begum Sufia Kamal auditorium, National Museum. Time: 5.30pm.

Award giving ceremony

On completion of a course on 'NGO Leadership and Management under the global partnership programme, a postgraduate diploma award ceremony will be held. Venue: BRAC Centre auditorium, Mohakhali. Time: 4.00pm.

Earthquake meeting

A high level meeting of earthquake experts will be held with Disaster Management and Relief Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ebne Yousuf in the

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Oil pipelines

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tip of the so-called Sunni Muslim triangle, a wedge of north-central Iraq known for its support of ousted president Saddam Hussein and the high number of attacks on US troops there.

A US army spokesman said earlier Saturday firefighters were trying to extinguish the blaze.

"They have contained it but are still fighting it," said Lieutenant Colonel Bill MacDonald of the Fourth Infantry Division, speaking from the town of Tikrit.

Sabotage and looting have plagued Iraq's oil sector since Saddam was toppled by US-led forces in April, with pipelines suffering crippling damage and just 150 of 700 oil wells in working order, officials have said.

AFP adds: Firefighters battled a blaze on Iraq's key oil pipeline to Turkey on Saturday, as another US soldier was wounded in an attack by guerrilla insurgents fighting the coalition forces occupying Iraq.

In the latest assault on coalition forces, a US soldier was slightly wounded early yesterday when his patrol came under attack in a village near the town of Baquba, northeast of Baghdad, the US army said.

"The soldier's convoy came under attack from a suspected IED (improvised explosive device), small arms fire and RPG (rocket-propelled grenade) just after midnight," said Lieutenant Colonel Bill MacDonald of the Fourth Infantry Division.

The patrol returned fire and a supporting helicopter fired missiles at the attackers, he said, adding that he had no reports of Iraqi casualties.

A witness said a US army vehicle was destroyed in the attack in the village of Abara, but the army did not confirm this. The village was sealed off after the attack and US troops conducted house-to-house searches, said the witness who requested anonymity.

Baquba, 65 kilometres northeast of the capital, is home to both Sunni and Shiite Muslims, and has also been a regular battleground between US troops and guerrilla insurgents believed to be linked to Saddam.

In Baghdad, Shiites in one of the city's poorest districts again warned

Ransom

FROM PAGE 1
Amin Siddiqui and Bakolia OC Abdul Malek.

The other two officers transferred are DB Sub-Inspector Mohiuddin Salim of the CMP and Ruhul Amin, OC Fatiqchhari, of district police.

Police could make no progress in resolving the mystery behind the abduction and killing of another millionaire businessman Rezaur Rahman alias Zakir till yesterday.

On completion of a two-day remand, the four accused were produced before a magistrate's court yesterday. The court sent them to jail.

They are Zahir Md. Khan alias Shahabuddin, local BNP leader and a CMP-listed terrorist, Shah Alam, BCL leader and local Omar Gani (MES) College students union vice president, Wasim Uddin, and a local butcher Abdul Halim.

The three-day remand of another accused, Akter Hossain alias Raju, detained at the Boalkhali Police Station ends today.

No further arrest was made in this connection yesterday.

Zakir was abducted from the city on July 11 and his bullet-ridden body was recovered from Militaripole area in Boalkhali on July 12.

the Americans that they will fight them if they resume patrols there.

Many residents of Baghdad's Sadr City district, an impoverished suburb that is home to about two million Shiites, said they would rise up if the US military returned.

The US army on Friday insisted it would continue its security operations in the area, but residents and police said Saturday there had been no patrols since Wednesday.

1,269 Gram Sarkar units formed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

About 1,269 units of the Gram Sarkar were formed in 39 districts yesterday.

According to the monitoring cell at the Local Government Division of the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development and Cooperatives, the number of Gram Sarkar units formed since August 2 is around 11,500.

The entire process is expected to be completed by the middle of the next month if the current momentum continues, said monitoring cell officials.

Although the officials claim the enthusiasm of grassroots to be gradually increasing, reports speak of low attendance and clashes in several areas of the country.

Most people are aware neither of the process nor the structure and function of the Gram Sarkar, say reports from various parts of the country.

There is a serious lack of publicity regarding the Gram Sarkar, sources said.

Officials, however, refute the allegation that the Gram Sarkar units are being formed with minimum attendance of local voters.

According to the plan, 40,392 units are to be formed across the country comprising 5,25,096 members.

In Baghda, Shiites in one of the city's poorest districts again warned

AL's countrywide demonstration Aug 19

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League will stage demonstration across the country on August 19 to protest harassment and arrest of the party's women activists during the hartal hours yesterday.

It will also hold a protest rally in the city today.

The decision was taken at an emergency meeting of the party presidium at its Dhamondi office yesterday with acting AL president Abdus Samad Azad MP in the chair.

The meeting also discussed the country's overall political situation, said a press release.

Tannery

FROM PAGE 1

ERD failed to arrange foreign funds.

The meeting emphasised speedy implementation of the project to ensure a drastic fall in environmental pollution in the capital.

According to the PP, all tanneries in the country are private and 95 per cent of them are located at Hazaribagh in the capital. These industrial units, numbering 185, have grown in this area in an unplanned way over the last 50 years.

On an average, Hazaribagh tanneries discharge nearly 21,600 square metres of liquid pollutants, which ultimately flow into the Buriganga river, creating a massive environmental hazard.

The units produce seven million square metres of leather annually fully for export, fetching Tk 1,500 to 1,600 crore in foreign exchange. Moreover, they employ a large number of people.

Sources hoped relocation of the tanneries would help the industry grow further and even attract foreign investments. It would also contribute to improvement of the city's environment.

But Khetai upazila Jamaat Ameer Mominul Islam admitted that he had been a Rukon-level worker and was expelled from the party in 2001 for not giving five per cent of his income as donation and for engaging in extremist activities and inactivity in Jamaat politics.

Despite repeated requests for an interview, Mohammed Shahabuddin, Project Director of the Roads and Highways Department's work on the Dhaka transport project, declined to talk about the matter.

GPA

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The new rule created some difficulty for the Notre Dame College as it admits some students from a minority community, most of whom would not qualify for admission under the new rule, the education secretary said.

The government recommended resolving the problem of selecting students with the same GPA through oral tests.

Education ministry officials had earlier said the colleges would have to comply with the government decision and any violation would expose them to punishable offence.

The colleges blamed the education ministry for issuing the circular abruptly.

The government in a circular last week laid out the guidelines cancelling written tests for admission to public and private colleges. From now on, the GPA in the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations will be the criterion for admission.

The circular added that those who scored at least Grade D and GPA 1 in the SSC and equivalent exams in 2002 and 2003 will be eligible for admission.

However, students who passed the SSC or equivalent exams held in 2001 will have to sit for admission tests.

Colleges will have to complete the admission procedures by this month, education ministry officials said.

Launching ceremony

The launching ceremony of Jamini, an international arts quarterly, will be held. Noted novelist Amit Chowdhury, artist Mohammad Kibria and Professor Anisuzzaman will jointly launch the magazine. Venue: Hotel Sheraton.

Film show

Academy Film Society will screen a film 'Reservoir Dogs'. Venue: 21/C, Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.

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PHOTO: STAR
Activists of the Awami League arrested by police from the Bangabandhu Avenue area during hartal hours yesterday.

Hartal passes off quietly

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front of Bangabandhu Memorial Museum at Dhanmondi but police confined them within barbed fences. Workers of Bangladesh Chhatra League and Shechhayasebak League also demonstrated near the party's central office at 5:30pm to protest detention of female workers.

Among others AL leaders Begum Matia Chowdhury, Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin, Abdus Shaheed MP, Mohammad Hanif and Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya were present in the human chain.

Indiscriminate crackers exploded at different parts of the city. Nadia Begum, a High Court employee, was injured as a cracker hurled from a running minibus exploded near Karwan Bazar underpass at about 11:30am.

Two crackers blasted near Tuberculosis hospital gate at Mohakhali in the city at around 9:30am. Another unexploded cracker was recovered from the spot.

Police arrested Motaleb with two hand-made bombs in the city's Mohan Shah Street in Sutrapur.

A large number of policemen including women police cordoned off the AL central office since the early morning and put up barbed wire blocking the road during the hartal hours. Law enforcers barred opposition workers to enter Bangabandhu Avenue, however, senior AL leaders managed to gather there.

Chittagong port activities were hampered due to the hartal. However, loading and unloading took place in few jetties, and delivery of goods was halted throughout the day, port sources said.

Train services and flights from the port city were normal with thin number of passengers. Mechanised vehicles stayed off the roads till late afternoon. City roads and main thoroughfares were predominantly occupied by rickshaw during hartal hours.

Reports from Khulna, Barisal, Pabna, Brahmanbaria and Gazipur said the hartal was observed peacefully.

Meanwhile, a meeting of the AL presidium, chaired by Acting President Abdus Samad Azad, last evening decided to hold a rally in the city today.

Train services to and from Kamalapur station was normal. The

and demonstrate across the country to protest police atrocities on female activists during the hartal hours.

Meanwhile, the AL leaders formed a half an hour human chain in front of the party's central office at 5:30pm to protest detention of female workers.

The main opposition enforced the hartal demanding execution of the court verdict in the Bangabandhu murder case.