



PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society took out a procession in the city yesterday to mark the World Blood Donor Day.

2 gunned down in Tongi

UNB, Dhaka

A student leader and another young man were gunned down near Arichpur Girls' School in Tongi town yesterday.

Police said two gunmen shot Shah Alam, 30, and another unidentified youth, aged about 26, while they were in a meeting at a roadside house at 5:00pm.

Shah Alam, son of Mohammad Ali of Boubazar in Tongi Municipality, was former general secretary of Tongi Govt College students union and incumbent vice-president of the Tongi unit of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal.

Witnesses said the assailants shot three bullets in Alam's head and left

thespot.

Locals with the help of police brought Shah Alam to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where he was declared dead at 6:00pm.

Local Alam's rivals launched the attack and shot him point blank while he was holding a meeting to form a ward committee of the student wing of the ruling BNP.

The unidentified youth, who was also hit by bullet during the attack, died at Tongi Hospital soon after admission.

In a violent protest, the local activists of the ruling BNP and its student wing put barricades on the Dhaka-Gazipur Highway at mill gate at 8:45pm, halting traffic on the busy route.

World Blood Donor Day observed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday called on the youths to donate blood regularly to save others' lives.

About 2,00,000 units of blood are required a year and most of the supply comes from voluntary organisations, they said.

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) organised the seminar at Sonargaon Hotel in the city to mark the World Blood Donor Day, with Health Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain as chief guest.

The day was observed across the globe for the first time yesterday with a view to encouraging voluntary blood donation and ensuring safe blood transfusion.

The theme of the day was "Blood, a gift for life. Thank you".

Two years ago, professional donors supplied 75 percent of the required blood which was not safe, but at present 85 percent bloods come from voluntary donors, said the minister.

The BDRCS started its blood collection programme in 1981 with only one centre in Dhaka. It set up four more centres in Jessore, Sylhet, Chittagong and Dinajpur during 1999-2002 to motivate people to donate blood voluntarily.

BDRCS Chairman Z A Khan, ASM Matiuur Rahaman, Dr Shahnaz Zafar, Prof. SAR Chowdhury, Naser Zahan and Dr Fuzul Karim were present at the seminar.

Later, the minister inaugurated a blood donation programme at the hotel organised by the hotel authorities.

Correction

The name of a company, Lever Brothers, was misspelled as 'Liver Brothers' in a story published on page 10 yesterday. We regret the mistake.

KERANIGANJ DOUBLE-MURDER

Trial begins June 17

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Trial of the Keraniganj double-murder case against Reaz Uddin Ahmed Monir, brother of ruling BNP lawmaker Nasir Uddin Ahmed Pintu, and 22 others begins on June 17 as the High Court has lifted its stay on the case proceedings after more than nine months.

Directed by the HC, Judge AR Masud of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-4 on Saturday issued the order for hearing of the case.

Earlier on September 3 last year, the HC had issued a rule on the government staying the proceedings of the case following a criminal revision filed with it.

The criminal revision was filed against the tribunal's August 17 rejection of the prayer for withdrawal of the charges against Monir and nine others.

After hearing both sides, the HC lifted the stay order and also

directed the tribunal to proceed against Monir and nine others in accordance with law.

The home ministry on July 15 last year had sent a letter to the Dhaka Metropolitan public prosecutor (PP) to arrange relieving Monir and nine others of the charges. The letter said the case was false and fabricated.

Amir Abdullah Shakil, 26, then secretary of Zinjira Market Association and sports secretary of Zinjira Union Jubo Dal, and Sentu, 30, a lessee of a cattle market at Zinjira Bazar, were shot dead on February 16, 2002.

A murder case was lodged with Keraniganj Police Station accusing Monir and nine others the same day.

The investigation officer pressed charges against Monir and 22 others on November 20, 2002.

The tribunal framed charges against them on July 13 last year.



PHOTO: STAR

Bikalpa Dhara candidate for Dhaka-10 by-polls MA Mannan speaks at a press conference at the National Press Club yesterday demanding deployment of army in each polling centre. On his left is Mahi B Chowdhury MP, elected from Munshiganj-1.

7 killed, 55 injured in road accidents

BSS, Dhaka

Seven people were killed and 55 injured in separate road accidents in Chittagong and Rajshahi yesterday.

Five people were killed and 30 others injured in two separate road accidents at Puthiya in Rajshahi yesterday.

Police said three passengers of a bus were killed and 18 others injured when it collided with a truck at Bhanga on the Rajshahi-Natore highway at about 5:00pm.

The dead were identified as Abdul Bari, 34, Ansar Ali, 32, and Yearul, 20.

In another accident, two people were killed on the spot and 12 others injured when a Rajshahi-bound bus turned turtle and fell into a roadside ditch at Kollapur at around 11:00am.

The dead are Moyeen, 33, and Abdul Jabbar, 28.

Two persons including a middle aged woman were killed and 25 others injured when a truck and a passenger bus collided at Mirersarai on Dhaka-Chittagong highway yesterday.

Police identified one of the victims as Mitu Kumar, 30, son of late Ajit Kumar of Pahartali under Raozan thana. The identity of the woman could not be known immediately.

Police and locals said, the accident took place at South Sonaipahar of Mirersarai upazila at around 11:00am when a Chittagong-bound truck hit a Comilla-bound passenger bus coming from the opposite direction.

At least 25 persons including drivers of the two vehicles were injured.

Police rushed to the spot and sent the bodies to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) for autopsy.

DHAKA TODAY

- Handloom exhibition**
 The opening ceremony of a month-long handloom exhibition, organised by Bangladesh Handloom Board, will be held with Textile and Jute Minister Shajahan Siraj as chief guest. Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy premises, Segun Bagicha. Time: 11:00am.
- Plantation programme**
 organised by Bangladesh Krishak League, will be held with opposition leader and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina as chief guest. Venue: Open space adjacent to Bangabandhu Memorial Museum, Dhanmondi. Time: 4:00pm.
- Seminar**
 Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology organises a seminar on 'Current issues in mobile and satellite communications' with its Vice-Chancellor Prof M H Khan as chief guest. Venue: University seminar room. Time: 2:00pm.
- Software exhibition**
 University of Development Alternative organises a software exhibition. Venue: University campus, Dhanmondi. Time: 9:00am to 4:00pm.
- Installation ceremony**
 The installation ceremony of 20,000 Solar Home Systems, financed by Infrastructure Development Company Limited, will be held with State Minister for Power Division Iqbal Hasan Mahmood as chief guest. Venue: UTC Building, Panthapath. Time: 12:30pm.
- Blood donation**
 Northern University, Bangladesh, in collaboration with Quantum Foundation, organises a voluntary blood donation camp. Venue: University campus, Mohammadpur. Time: 10:00am.
- Rotary meeting**
 Weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Ramna will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 5:30pm.
- Tree plantation**
 The inaugural ceremony of a tree

Tk102.38crore DU budget proposed

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University (DU) authorities have proposed a Tk102.38 crore revenue budget

for 2004-05 fiscal year.

This is the highest ever budget in the history of the university with a deficit of Tk5.83 crore.

In the proposed budget, allocation for the education-related sector has been raised by 2.82 percent than the previous year. A total of 16.79 percent allocation has been kept for this sector. It was 13.87 last year and 12 percent in 2002-03 fiscal year.

Tuition and admission fees have not been raised in the new budget.

Though the allocation for the education sector has been raised, most of the fund will be spent as salary, allowance and pension.

Allocation for general activities

and other sectors has also been raised by 73 percent. A total of 14.52 percent allocation has been kept this year while it was 13.79 percent last year.

The allocation from the University Grants Commission (UGC) has been increased by Tk2.46 crore than last year.

DU Treasurer Prof Syed Rashidul Hasan will place the budget at the annual senate meeting on June 23.

Talking to newsmen yesterday, Prof Hasan said of the total expenditure, the UGC will provide Tk87.25 crore while the university will earn at least Tk 9.30 crore from its own sources.

He said the budget has been prepared as per the directives of the UGC and the university has no alternative but to increase its income.



Fazle Hasan Abed, chairperson of Brac, with Bill Gates, sr. at the presentation ceremony of Gates Award for Global Health 2004 in Washington DC. William H Gates, sr., co-chair of the Gates Foundation, presented the Global Health Award 2004 to Abed on June 3 in recognition of the Brac's extraordinary achievement in improving health in the developing world.

Registration of overseas job seekers mandatory from tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The registration of the names and addresses of the overseas job seekers in the database was inaugurated at the Bangladesh Manpower Export and Training (BMET) and at the Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies (BAIRA) office yesterday.

The Minister for Expatriate Welfare and Overseas Employment Quamrul Islam inaugurated the programme at separate functions at the BMET and BAIRA. The registration of the overseas job seekers has been made mandatory with effect from tomorrow.

The computer experts of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) developed the software of the database which will work as complementary to the public and private sector.

Expatriate Welfare and Overseas Employment Secretary Dalil Uddin Mondal and BAIRA President Mosharraf Hossain MP also addressed the functions.

Inaugurating the programme, Quamrul urged the recruiting agents to take initiative to increase salary of the expatriate workers and take care to ensure their safety.

Responding to the BAIRA's demand for reduction in the deposit, he said Tk 50 lakh deposit was kept for compensation to any returnee female worker after being

cheated abroad.

Only those companies will be allowed to send female workers who give proper training to them and can ensure their security, he said.

He also urged the recruiters to be alerted about the job hopping and overstay abroad even after expiry of the job tenure which tarnish image of the country. He assured the private recruiting firms of full support from the government to run the training institutes.

The database aims to record all

pertinent information of persons, from highly skilled professionals to labourers, who intended to be employed abroad. The database has also been posted on website and anybody can access it from anywhere in the world.

The recruiting agents have been instructed to select workers only from the database, sources said.

The information in the database will also help identify nominees of the dead expatriates correctly and ease legal complications.

9-year-old girl raped in Kushtia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A nine-year-old schoolgirl was raped at Moslempur village in Daulatpur on Sunday evening.

A student of class six, the girl was alone at her home when the rapist attacked her at around 7:30pm.

Family members of the girl, on their return home, found her unconscious. They rushed her to Daulatpur Upazila health complex where she is now fighting for life.

The suspect, Nazrul Islam, 22, son of Gokul Malitha, went into hiding after the incident, police

Body recovered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the body of an unidentified young man from Sher-e-Bangla Nagar area in the city yesterday.

On information, Tejgaon police recovered the body from a place near the gate of Sher-e-Bangla Agriculture University at around 1:30am.