



Nazrul's death anniversary today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 29th death anniversary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam, popularly known as the "rebel poet". As the nation observes the day with due respect, different socio-cultural organisations have chalked out daylong programmes to mark the day.

Nazrul Academy will arrange a discussion and cultural programme at Nazrul Bhaban in the city.

Dr Ashraf Siddiqui, president of Nazrul Academy, will preside over the function while noted writers, researchers and poets will take part in discussion and Nazrul song artists will perform at the cultural session.

Charon Sanskritik Kendra will hold a rally at TSC in the morning and place wreath at Nazrul's grave.

A discussion to pay homage to the great poet will be held in the afternoon in the presence of noted cultural and political activists.

For his patriotic poems and songs, Nazrul became a source of inspiration to the common people and the freedom fighters during movements against the then British rule and later, during the struggle for

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Dhaka Zoo deer no more dear

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Failing to attract buyers for the spare deer, the Dhaka Zoo authorities are contemplating slashing the price of the animal.

The Zoo authorities have already sent to the fisheries and livestock ministry a proposal for reducing the price, said sources.

Currently, the number of deer at the Dhaka Zoo stands at 190 while for the visitors a herd of 30 deer is enough, added the sources.

Every year, 25 to 30 deer are born in the zoo. The authorities are struggling to accommodate the deer population due to space constraint.

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Asian financial centres next terrorist target?

Top French investigator talks to FT

AFP, London

Al-Qaeda is preparing an attack on a big financial centre in Asia, such as Tokyo, Singapore or Sydney, to undermine investor confidence in the region, France's top terrorist investigator says.

In an interview with the Financial Times newspaper yesterday, Jean-Louis Bruquiere said that several Asian countries are less prepared

than Britain or the United States for such an attack.

"We have elements of information that make us think that countries in this region, especially Japan, could have been targeted" by the al-Qaeda network, the investigating magistrate said.

"Any attack on a financial market like Japan would mechanically have an important economic impact on the confidence of investors. Other

countries in this region, such as Singapore and Australia, are also potential targets."

Despite the threat, he added, "we are somewhat neglecting the capacity or desire of the al-Qaeda organisation to destabilise" the region.

Nicknamed "Le Sheriff," Bruquiere has been warning about the threat of Islamic terrorists since a string of bombings rocked Paris in

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MUSHARRAF KILLING PLOT

Five to walk the gallows

AFP, Islamabad

Five people have been sentenced to death in Pakistan for their involvement in a 2003 attempt to assassinate President Pervez Musharraf in which 15 people were killed, an official said yesterday.

Army spokesman Major General Shaukat Sultan said a low-ranking member of the military and four civilians were given the sentence a few days ago, but would not say which court heard the case.

The sentences relate to Christmas Day 2003, when two suicide bombers rammed explo-

sives-laden vehicles into Musharraf's motorcade in Rawalpindi near the capital.

"Five people have been given the death sentence," Sultan told AFP.

It was the second attempt on Musharraf's life that month. A soldier linked to the other plot -- the bombing of a Rawalpindi bridge seconds after Musharraf's convoy passed on December 14, 2003 -- was hanged on Saturday.

Both attacks were allegedly masterminded by Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda network, which

opposed Musharraf's support for

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Bailey Road renamed Natok Saroni

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Bailey Road was officially renamed Natok Saroni yesterday, in recognition of the road's being the premier venue for performing arts in the capital.

DCC Mayor Sadek Hossain Khoka unveiled a plaque on the occasion of renaming yesterday in presence of renowned dramatists, DCC officials, and commissioners.

Later, he inaugurated the national conference of Group Theatre Federation at the Mohila Samity Auditorium on Natok Saroni.

Renowned playwright Sayed Ahmed was present as the chief guest. Ramendu Majumdar, M Hamid, and Secretary-general of the Federation Liakat Ali Lucky, among

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PHOTO: STAR

Potholes in the road near Bangladesh-China Friendship Bridge at Postagola cause problems for traffic.

The Hindus take out a colourful procession in the city yesterday, marking the birthday of Krishna.



PHOTO: STAR

Janmastami celebrated

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Hindus yesterday celebrated Janmastami, a religious festival to mark the birth of Krishna, across the country.

On this occasion, different religious organisations of the Hindus arranged various programmes that included prayers to Krishna, puja, discussion, padabali kirtan, devotional songs in praise of Krishna, drama and cultural functions at temples.

In the capital, thousands of men, women and children joined the main Janmastami rally and procession brought out from Dhakeshwari Temple. The procession paraded different roads and ended at Bahadur Shah Park.

Security was tightened at the festival venues and temples in different areas of the capital. Members of intelligent agencies,

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Jamal Uddin's abductors still elude law enforcers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The investigators have yet to gather evidence convincing enough to identify the masterminds behind the sensational abduction and "murder" of Chittagong businessman Jamal Uddin Ahmed Chowdhury.

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab)-7 Commander Colonel Quazi Emdadul Haq said at the current stage of investigation, he finds it difficult to link with the abduction and "murder" any person other than Shahid Chairman, and Kashem Chairman and his gang.

Talking to journalists at the Rab-7 headquarters in Patenga Thursday, Colonel Emdad said, "The progress made so far in the investigation suggests that a kidnappers' syndicate had carried out the abduction

for money."

"We have to investigate further to find out the persons behind the crime," he said.

Kala Mahub, one of the prime accused in Jamal Uddin abduction case, had repeatedly claimed that the Chittagong magnate was abducted and killed following a Tk 1 crore deal between Maruf Nizam, brother of ruling BNP lawmaker Sarwar Jamal Nizam, and Kashem Chairman, leader of a Fatikchhari-based crime syndicate.

He also said that Shahid Chairman and a "guest from the city" communicated to him the information regarding the deal. He was also given Kashem Chairman's direction for the killing of Jamal Uddin, who was abducted while on way to his residence on July 24,

2003.

Shahid Chairman, however, denied the allegation of his involvement in the 'murder'.

Rab-7 on Thursday resumed interrogating Shahid Chairman, Kala Mahub, and Sobhan driver, the three suspects held in connection with the abduction.

A Rab team was quizzing the three after Criminal Investigation Department (CID) took Shahid Chairman and Driver Sobhan on a five-day remand each while Kala Mahub on a three-day remand Thursday.

Jamal's wife Nazma Akhtar Khanam the same day expressed doubts whether the human skeleton recovered from a remote forest in Fatikchhari Wednesday skeleton

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Whatmore sees a tough fight in Sri Lanka

REUTERS, Colombo

Bangladesh cricket coach Dav Whatmore says his team will give Sri Lanka a tough fight in their forthcoming one-day and Test series after a confidence-boosting victory over Australia in June.

Bangladesh arrived in the island on Wednesday night for a one-month tour that includes three one-day internationals and two Tests.

Whatmore, who has intimate knowledge of his opponents and

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Prayer Timing		
August 27		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fair	4-30	5-05
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-33	6-36
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

TALE OF A DESERTED CHILD

Ruma resigns to destiny

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Jannatul Ferdous Ruma does not want to know her identity; who her parents are, where they are, or if she has any siblings. So far as she can recall, they used to live in Noakhali. Only dim memories, some of them very bitter, illuminate

the childhood in her mind. The 16-year-old girl would rather like to keep it that way, being happy with her new life.

Ruma was only six when her father Kabir deserted her along with her two siblings and her mother.

It was not long after when her

mother Feroza Begum gave away Ruma to one of her acquaintances to take her to Dhaka and employ as a housemaid. It was not an easy decision, but a practical one for her mother with two other children to look after and no means to do so.

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