



Zia's 71st birth anniversary today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP will celebrate the 71st birth anniversary of its founder late President Ziaur Rahman today. He was born on this day in 1936 at Bagbari in Bogra.

The party has drawn up two-day programmes to mark the day. Party leaders and activists will place wreaths at his grave and offer prayers at 10:30am today. Later, a milad mahfil will also be held there. All district and upazila units of the party will also hold sessions of special prayers. The BNP will hold a discussion at the auditorium of the Institution of Diploma Engineers in the city at 3:00pm tomorrow. In a statement yesterday, BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan urged the party leaders and activists to observe the day in a befitting manner.

Australian envoy calls on Matin

BSS, Dhaka

Australian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Douglas Fosskett yesterday called on the Adviser for the Ministries of Communications, Civil Aviation and Tourism, Shipping and Liberation War Affairs Maj Gen (Retd) MA Matin, Bir Pratik, at the latter's secretariat office here. During the meeting they discussed matters related to mutual interest between the two countries, said an official handout. Welcoming the initiatives taken by the caretaker government towards holding a free and fair election, Fosskett said that his government is ready to provide any kind of assistance in this respect.

Trader killed in 'shootout' with Rab in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A trader was killed in a 'shootout' between his accomplices and members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in the city in the early hours of yesterday. The dead was Mohammad Akhter Hussain, 24, a scrap metal trader and resident of Mir Hazirbagh under Jatrabari Police Station. The elite anti-crime force arrested Akhter from his residence on Wednesday at around 7:00am for his alleged involvement in criminal activities. Following his lead, a Rab team went to Shashanghat Baloomath

area in Shyampur to seize illegal arms. As the team reached there, Akhter's accomplices attacked them from their hideouts. Rab answered them with bullets, said a Rab press release which also claimed to have recovered one shutter gun and a bullet from the spot. During the 'shootout' a bullet hit Akhter who was later rushed to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital where he died at around 2:15am. Police said Akhter was accused in several cases including two for murders. His family members however claimed that he was innocent.

Businessman shot dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A businessman was shot dead in the city's Malibagh area on Wednesday night. The body of Shahjahan Mizi, 27, owner of Janani Electronics at DIT Road in Malibagh, was found lying Malibagh Shahi Masjid Road at around 9:30pm. Receiving information, the police rushed to the spot and sent the body to Dhaka Medical College morgue. Marks of bullet wound were found on his legs and abdomen, morgue sources said. Family members said Shahjahan used to return home at Khitgaon after 9:00pm after collecting a huge amount of money from the sale of mobile phone cards. They suspect that muggers might have attacked and killed him. A murder case was lodged in this connection. Local businessmen have

condemned the incident and demanded immediate arrest and punishment to the criminals involved. 900 bottles of phensidyl seized, 1 held in Ctg OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg Narcotics Control Department (NCD) seized 900 bottles of contraband phensidyl and held a person in the port city yesterday. The driver was identified as Nazrul Islam, hailed from Chakania of Cox's Bazar. Acting on a tip off, a team of the department led by Superintendent Abdul Kuddus Bhuiyan took position at AK Khan Gate intersection in the early hours of yesterday, sources said. The team charged the suspected truck coming from Sonagazi of Comilla at around 4:30am and recovered the bottles loaded on the truck.



PHOTO: STAR

Rajuk workers demolish the boundary walls of a house on Road-118 in Gulshan in the city yesterday as the walls were allegedly built on a part of the Gulshan-Banani-Baridhara Lake.

UNDP aid for strengthening reforms in police sought

Inspector General of Police Khuda Baksh Chowdhury yesterday sought cooperation from United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and development partners to strengthen the ongoing police reform initiative, says a press release. He renewed commitment for the ongoing reform programme undertaken by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Bangladesh Police and UNDP Bangladesh. The IGP was addressing a progress review workshop of the Police Reform Programme (PRP) held at the PRP Conference Room at IDB Bhaban. Additional Secretary to the Ministry of Home Affairs and National Project Director of PRP Mohammad Mohsin chaired the

workshop while UNDP Country Director Manoj Basnyat, Adviser to the PRP ASM Shahjahan and Project Manager Mohammad Hadis Uddin also spoke on the occasion. National and international experts of the programme and senior police officials were present at the workshop who suggested for effective implementation of the PRP. They discussed overall programme progress, future plans to ensure timely achievement of programme goals and objectives. The progress review workshop highlighted PRP progress and suggested for streamlining the training, capacity building and resource mobilisation for Bangladesh Police Service. The purpose of the PRP is to

develop a safer and more secure environment based on respect for human rights and equitable access to justice through police reform, which is more responsive to the needs of poor and vulnerable people including women. The programme complements other initiatives for reform in the broader justice sector and is designed to assist Bangladesh Police to improve performance and professionalism consistent with broader government objectives. In 2005, the Government of Bangladesh, UNDP and the Department for International Development (DFID) launched the first phase of the PRP. UNDP, DFID and the European Commission are major partners of the programme.

'Withdraw state of emergency'

Leaders of Samajtantrik Sramik Front yesterday demanded withdrawal of the state of emergency and restoration of the basic rights of the workers including the right to have trade union, says a press release. They were speaking at a discussion at the central office of the Front in the city to mark its 25th founding anniversary. The leaders said the stalemate was not created by the labours, rather the political parties created the imbalance who are racing to capture the state power at any cost. "The problem cannot be solved by denying the workers' of their right to have trade union," said Convener of Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) Comrade Khalekuzzaman. President of Samajtantrik Sramik Front Abdullah Sarkar presided over the discussion while Bazlur Rashid Firoz of BSD, workers' leaders Osman Ali, Mahbubur Rahman and Ahsan Habib were also present.

15th anniversary of Nirmul Committee today

DU CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 15th founding anniversary of Ekatturer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee, also known as Forum for Secular Bangladesh, says a press release. The Committee was set up in 1992, with Shaheed Janani Jahanara Imam as its convener, under the initiative of 101 eminent citizens in order to launch a mass movement to bring the war criminals to book. To mark the day, a discussion and reunion will be held at Women's Voluntary Association auditorium at Dhanmondi at 3:00pm, with Prof Kabir Chowdhury in the chair. Air Vice Marshal (ret'd) AK Khandker, Justice KM Sobhan, journalist Kamal Lohani, Justice Mohammad Golam Rabbani, Advocate Sultana Kamal, Prof Muntasir Mamun and Barrister Sarah Hossain will take part in the discussion.