

Children's park to be constructed after Saifur's name in Sylhet

UNB, Sylhet

A children's park will be constructed after the name of former finance minister M Saifur Rahman at Alampur in Dakkhin Surma upazila at a cost of Tk 17 crore.

Sylhet City Corporation has decided to construct the park on 3.77 acres of land on the bank of the river Surma beside the Sylhet-Zakiganj road.

The previous four-party alliance government took the project at a cost of Tk 17 crore and also acquired land in last October involving Tk 1.37 crore for the project.

An amount of Tk 12.72 crore has been allocated for the park in the budget of the current fiscal year.

The city corporation has already given work order after inviting tender to start the work under the project.

Earth filling work will start within a week to protect the land from the flood. Tk 95 lakh has been allocated in this regard. The boundary wall of the park will also be constructed at a cost of Tk 1.34 crore.

Acting mayor of Sylhet City Corporation M Azam Khan said an experienced architect will design the park where a number of rides will be set up for the children.

It will be an exceptional park on the bank of the river Surma within 2/3kms from the central part of the city, he added.



PHOTO: STAR

Winners of Victory Day Essay Competition pose for photograph with chief guest Yasmeen Murshed at Etc Dhanmondi in the city yesterday.

300 shanties gutted in Gazipur slum fire

UNB, Gazipur

A devastating fire gutted 300 shanties at a slum at Tongi here Friday midnight leaving five people injured.

Local people said the fire originated at a room at Sonabhan Mazar slum near Tongi Bazar at midnight and soon engulfed the adjoining houses.

On information, four fire fighting units from Kurmitola in Dhaka and Tongi rushed to the

spot and extinguished the fire after two and half hours of frantic efforts with the help of local people.

Five people were injured when they went to put out the blaze. Of them, two were admitted to Tongi government hospital.

The extent of damage was estimated to be over Tk 10 lakh, local people said.

Causes behind the fire could not be known immediately.

More help for Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital

Friends, colleagues and admirers of late Dr Muhammad Shahabuddin, an alumnus of the Department of Bio-Chemistry of Dhaka University and a faculty member of Boston College, USA donated Tk 10 lakh to Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital, says a press release.

Shahinur Begum, wife of late Dr Shahabuddin, handed over a cheque for the amount to Kazi Rafiqul Alam, President of Dhaka Ahsania Mission at its Bhaban at Dhanmondi in the city yesterday.

Maysarah and Muntasir, two sons of the deceased and Dr Ashfaq Hossain, Dr Firdusi Qadri, Dr Zahid Hossain, Dr Md Golam Morshed, Dr Apala F Naved, Dr Zafrul Azad and Dr Yasmin Ara Begum were present on this occasion.

Against this donation two beds of Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital will be inscribed in the name of the deceased.

Dr Iqbal Qadir of Massachusetts Institute of Technology proposed this on-line fund raising drive among friends and colleagues and Dr Arifur Rahman (USA), Professor Zeba Seraj (Bangladesh), Dr Monir Uddin (Australia), Dr Minhaz Uddin (Japan) and Dr Ashfaq Hossain (USA) coordinated the drive.

Blast kills 2 in Indonesia

AFP, Jakarta

At least two people were killed and four injured after a possible bomb blast yesterday in an area in Indonesia's East Java that was being monitored by an anti-terrorist unit, police said.

"So far two people are dead. Twelve houses are damaged, including three badly destroyed, so we can say it was a big explosion, but we will confirm after more extensive investigation," national police spokesman Sisno Adiwinto said.

"We found aluminum foil around the blast scene, so it's possible that this came from a bomb, but we cannot confirm yet what type," he told EISHinta radio.

The blast occurred in Pasuruan, a town about 50 kilometres (30 miles) southeast of Surabaya, Indonesia's second largest city.

Asked about whether the blast may have been related to Islamic militant activity, he said Indonesia's anti-terror unit, Detachment 88, had "been monitoring activities in the area, but I cannot confirm specifically the whereabouts, so let's just wait."

The owner of the house where the blast originated was being held for questioning, he added.

A doctor told the radio station that four people had also been hurt.

"Four people were rushed here. One of them is in a critical condition with head injuries," said Fitri, speaking from a local hospital.

'Make youth conscious about liberation war'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Etoetra Bangladesh Pvt Ltd yesterday distributed prizes among the winners of the Victory Day Essay Competition that it organised to implant the spirit of the liberation war into the minds of the youth.

Monisha Ahmed of Sunbeams secured the first position while Ishrak Khibria of Scholastica and Shahriar Ali of Siddiqui's International School became second and third in Group A.

Syed Abu Sinjan Sadat of South Breeze International School, Shirfeen Manzur of Bangladesh International School and Zerim Tassnim of Happy Times International School bagged the first, second and third prizes in Group B.

Around 100 students from 20 Bengali and English medium schools participated in the competition held last year.

Chairperson of Scholastica Pvt Ltd Yasmeen Murshed gave away the prizes to the winners at Etc Dhanmondi in the city.

Speaking on the occasion Yasmeen, also a former adviser to caretaker government, said such programme should be frequently organised to make the young generation conscious about the history of their country.

"Children should be conscious about the history of their country. They should know how its people waged the war for independence," said Yasmeen.

Karachi storms death toll rises to 26

AFP, Karachi

At least 13 people, including six children, died yesterday in the aftermath of storms that pounded Karachi for two days, officials said.

Separately two men were killed when they were struck by lightning in Badin district of southern Sindh

province, of which Karachi is the capital, raising the total death toll in southern Pakistan to 28, provincial health minister Syed Sardar Ahmed told AFP.

Of a total of 26 deaths in Karachi, 18 were caused when the roofs of houses caved in, and eight by electrocution, he said.

"The dead included 15 males and 11 females in Karachi," Ahmed said.

Severe weather had forced the provincial government to declare a state of emergency in Karachi's hospitals, with holidays cancelled for all doctors and paramedics, officials said.



Shahinur Begum, wife of late Dr Shahabuddin, hands over a cheque for Tk 10 lakh to Dhaka Ahsania Mission President Kazi Rafiqul Alam at the Mission Bhaban in the city yesterday.

