



(Clockwise from top) A girl places wreaths at the portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman near the Bangabandhu Memorial Museum at Dhanmondi in the city yesterday on the occasion of his 32nd death anniversary. Awami League leaders shower flowers on the graves of slain family members of Bangabandhu at Banani Graveyard in the city. Awami League leaders place wreaths at the portrait of Bangabandhu at Dhanmondi.

Father, daughter drown in boat capsize

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

A father and his daughter drowned when a boat capsized in a water body in Dhaljora area in Kaliakoir yesterday morning. The paddy-laden boat carrying five people was coming to Kaliakoir, but it sank when the bottom of the boat suddenly broke apart at around 8:30pm, local people said. Shahdev Goswami, 55, and his daughter Rita Goswami drowned in the boat capsize. Two other passengers were admitted to a local hospital in a critical condition. An unnatural death case was filed with Kaliakoir Police Station.

PRESIDENT, CA PAY TRIBUTE TO BANGABANDHU 'Bangabandhu is a shining star in the sky of nation'

AGENCIES, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed and Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed in separate messages on Tuesday paid deep respects to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on the occasion of his 32nd death anniversary. Bangabandhu was a symbol of ideology as his uncompromising struggle against injustice, torture and repression inspired the oppressed humanity in the world, the president said in his message. The name, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, is ever memorable for Bangladesh and his contribution in establishing this independent and sovereign country was immense, he added. Iajuddin Ahmed also paid his profound homage to this great leader on behalf of the nation and prayed for eternal peace of the departed soul. In another message, the chief

adviser called upon all, irrespective of party affiliation, to come forward to fulfil Bangabandhu's cherished dream of establishing a happy, prosperous, self-reliant and progressive Bangladesh in the greater national interest. "Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman is an ever memorable name in the national life of Bangladesh. He is a shining star in the sky of the nation," said the head of the caretaker government. Fakhruddin Ahmed said an historic opportunity has now come for the nation to shun the parochial thoughts of personal and party interests and conflict, and to advance on the path of building "meaningful democracy and economic progress with the spirit of patriotism." He recalled the late leader's contribution, saying that Bangabandhu had waged his lifelong struggle against "colonial and new-colonial exploitation, injustice and wrongdoing."

Paying his glowing tribute, the chief adviser said Bangabandhu was instrumental in the emergence of independent Bangladesh and the founder of a new sovereign state. "He was a source of inspiration and idealism for the world's struggling people for establishing their just rights."

GRENADE ATTACK ON BRITISH ENVOY Recording of deposition of PWs will now begin Aug 26

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Recording of the deposition of prosecution witnesses in the case related to the grenade attack on British High Commissioner Anwar Choudhury in Sylhet could not begin yesterday due to the absence of the prime accused from the court. Additional District & Sessions Judge Ferdous Ahmed yesterday fixed August 26 as the new date for recording the deposition of prosecution witnesses. The prime accused in the case, Huji chief Mufti Abdul Hannan, could not be produced before the court as he has been on remand in connection with another case. There are 56 prosecution witnesses in the case, court sources said. On July 31, the judge framed charges against the four accused -- Harkat-ul Jihad chief Mufti Abdul Hannan, his brother Mofizur Rahman and Huji operatives Delwar Hossain Ripon and Sharif Shahedul Alam alias Bipul.

Coordinated steps needed to fight air pollution in S Asia

BSS, Dhaka

Adviser for Agriculture, Environment and Forest Dr CS Karim yesterday urged the South Asian countries to take coordinated steps for combating air pollution. "A single country initiative can't prevent air pollution as it also affects the neighbours," he said while inaugurating a regional workshop on 'Impact of air pollution on crops' at LGED Bhaban in the city. Department of Environment (DoE) organised the workshop with the help of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP), Sri Lanka and Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), Sweden. Chaired by DoE DG Dr Khandoker Rashedul Huq, the inaugural function was also

addressed by Environment and Forests Secretary AHM Rezaul Kabir, UNEP Representative Mylvakanam Lyngarasan and ESI Representative Lisa Emberson. Putting emphasis on technological development, including setting up of database, the adviser said only regional and international initiatives could prevent air pollution. Air pollution is a dangerous threat to crops, environment and

ecology, he said, adding about 5 lakh people die every year in Asia eating contaminated crops. The workshop was held in line with the Male Declaration, which was signed by Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Representatives from these countries participated at the workshop.

UNFPA to ensure healthcare for 60,000 flood-hit expectant mothers

UNB, Dhaka

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is taking initiatives to ensure the healthcare for 60,000 flood-affected expectant mothers across the country for their safe childbirth. "UNFPA has calculated that there're 60,000 expectant mothers among the flood-affected people and they're taking steps to ensure healthy delivery during this period," Foreign Affairs Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury told journalists after a meeting with UNFPA official Arthur Erken at his office in the city yesterday. They discussed the role of the UNFPA during the current flood situation. The foreign adviser thanked Arthur Erken for the support the government has been receiving from the UNFPA and all other UN organisations. Erken praised the government for the way it has been tackling the flood situation and said, "I'm extremely satisfied by the cooperation my agency has been receiving from the government."

Iftekhar said the role of the UNFPA is very specific and related to safe motherhood, and the government feels that this is a critical area that must receive the attention of the authorities.

\$25,000 Lankan aid for flood victims

UNB, Dhaka

Sri Lanka yesterday donated US\$ 25,000 to the Chief Adviser's Relief Fund for the flood-affected people. Sri Lankan High Commissioner V Krishnamoorthy handed over a cheque for the money to Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury yesterday as a contribution of his government to the CA's Relief Fund. They also discussed possibilities of the purchase of around 3.40 lakh tons of cement from Bangladesh by Sri Lanka. "Our trade relations with Sri Lanka are expanding fast following increased political contracts between the two governments," Iftekhar said to the media afterwards, said a foreign ministry press release.



Women and Children Affairs Secretary Rokeya Sultana speaks at a discussion titled 'Policy leadership and advocacy for gender equality' at the Mohila Sangstha auditorium in the city yesterday.

POST-FLOOD RECONSTRUCTION China assures Dhaka of all cooperation

UNB, Dhaka

China yesterday assured Dhaka of all cooperation in relief and post-flood reconstruction in Bangladesh. "The Chinese government and people are very concerned about the flood situation...As a close neighbour and good friend of Bangladesh, we'll do our best," Chinese Ambassador Zheng Qingdian told newsmen after a meeting with Foreign Affairs Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury. He handed over a cheque for Tk 10,10,000, a contribution of the staff of the Chinese Mission to the adviser for the Chief Adviser's Fund. "It (donation) is from the hearts of the Chinese people," Qingdian said. The envoy hoped that the Bangladesh government and the people would defeat the conse-

quences of the flood and rebuild the country. He said Beijing would come up with greater assistance for the post-flood reconstruction after the Bangladesh government's estimation of damages caused by the flood. Qingdian said the Chinese Red Crescent has donated relief assistance worth US \$ 30,000, All Chinese Women Federation US \$60,000 and the Chinese military delegation during its recent visit to Dhaka provided 15 mega water-purifying machines and medicines as an immediate assistance. The foreign adviser said, "China is a great friend of Bangladesh and has always stood by us whenever we have needed them."