

BAGHABARI RIVER PORT Shoals in Jamuna hamper fertiliser transportation

GOLAM MOSTAFA JIBON, back from Notakhola, Pabna

Transportation of fuel and fertiliser to Baghabari river port through the channel of Jamuna has become difficult due to poor navigability caused by hundreds of shoals.

last five days causing serious dislocation in the transportation of fertilisers to the port. The port authorities have sent a letter to Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authorities (BIWTA) to take necessary steps for dredging the channel, sources said.

would be difficult even for them to reach the port within a short time, if the dredging is not done in the channel immediately. BIWTA sources said at least 11 to 12-foot deep channel is needed for plying large cargo vessels and barges, but the depth of water at these points has come down to six feet.

Election under emergency can't be fair Says Delwar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain yesterday said election under the state of emergency cannot be free and fair. He was speaking as chief guest at an extended meeting of Ghior upazila BNP at DN Pilot High School auditorium in the evening.

Shahriar Kabir's 'War Crimes '71' screened in London

A CORRESPONDENT, London

A special screening of the documentary titled 'War Crimes '71' made by Shahriar Kabir, acting president of Nirmal Committee, was held at SOAS's Khalili auditorium of London University on October 16. The film documented some of the dreadful acts committed against humanity by the war criminals during 1971.



Bitopi Advertising Ltd CEO and Managing Director Reza Ali along with other guests cuts a cake, celebrating the 40th anniversary of the advertising agency at Hotel Radisson in the city yesterday.

Pest attack, blight threaten

FROM PAGE 16

Institute (BRR) in Rangpur. BPH usually remain at the lower end of paddy plants and sucks the stems, he said, adding that the attack of this pest is more severe this year than previous years due to warm wet weather. The level of attack is not alarming now but BPH are a very fast growing pest and they could spread to vast areas if effective actions are not taken immediately, Mazid told The Daily Star over telephone.

per yield. Leaf blight is caused mainly by low application of muriate of potash (MoP) and triple super phosphate (TSP) fertilisers, agriculturalists said, adding that farmers used less MoP or TSP due to ignorance or high prices.

hectares in five districts. This is likely to reduce yield by around five lakh tonnes, Department of Agriculture Extension (DEA) officials said.

Prices of MoP and TSP were unusually high this Aman season. Prices of each 50kg sack of MoP and TSP ranged between Tk 2,500 and Tk 2,800. The leaf blight disease this year is more serious than in the previous years," said a field-level official in Rangpur. Quoting unofficial sources, our correspondent in Dinajpur said Aman was cultivated on over 2.5 lakh hectares of land and around 70,000 hectares were attacked by pests or affected by leaf blight disease.

Officials and farmers said disease and pests affected mostly BR-11 and Swarna, the most cultivated varieties of paddy, this season. Failing to apply pricey MoP and TSP, farmers used high doses of urea, said an agronomist at Haji Danesh Science and Technology University. Excessive use of urea in Aman fields increases the chance of BPH attack, he noted. DAE Director General Shamsul Alam said he received reports of sporadic pest attacks and leaf blight disease in northern districts but it was not alarming. "You [the media] give more coverage on agricultural issues now. Therefore, the pest attack or leaf blight disease appears to be more pervasive," he told The Daily Star. Shamsul Alam said the DAE has already instructed officials concerned in the areas to demonstrate before farmers what pesticides to use and how to apply them properly.

Reinstallation of sculptures demanded

DU CORRESPONDENT

Pragatishil Chhatra Jote, an alliance of left-leaning student organisations, staged a demonstration on Dhaka University campus yesterday demanding immediate reinstallation of sculptures at the roundabout in front of Zia International Airport.

Top PCJ leaders, including Khan Asaduzzaman Masum, Fakhruddin Atik, Hillol Roy, Biplob Mandal and Luvana Tabassum took part in the programme. The leaders criticised the role of the government against the fundamentalists and vowed to resist any kind of conspiracy against the country and Bangalee culture by the fundamentalists. Bangladesh Chhatra Moitri, a left-leaning student body, also staged a demonstration separately on the same demand.

The film documented some of the dreadful acts committed against humanity by the war criminals during 1971. Through the eyes of three youths, the film searches for truth by researching facts, rare footage and documents and interviewing eminent personalities, including many Pakistanis and war victims. The screening was organised jointly by the University of London's Centre for Ethnic Minority Studies, School of Oriental and African Studies and UK Chapter of Nirmal Committee.

Sale of powder milk down

FROM PAGE 1

demand for cow's milk has started increasing from the day melamine in powdered milk was first detected in China. The prices of liquid milk of local brands increased to Tk 47 from Tk 44 per litre during the last few weeks. Non-brand cow's milk was selling between Tk 45 and Tk 55 a litre for the last two days; it was selling between Tk 38 and Tk 42 only a few days ago. Retailers of powdered milk in the city said the sale of powdered milk especially formulas has been decreasing after Eid. They said the sale of almost all brands of powdered milk has dropped by 75 per cent after the government advised people not to consume eight brands of powdered milk. The government advised people Thursday not to consume eight brands of imported powdered milk

which a Dhaka University lab found tainted with industrial chemical melamine. Mohammad Yusuf of Yusuf General Store at Karwan Bazar told The Daily Star that he used to sell 15-20 packs of powdered milk of different brands on an average day but now he cannot even sell five packs. Customers are even returning powdered milk which they bought a few days ago, said a number of shopkeepers. "A customer on Wednesday bought a kg of powdered milk for Tk 670, on Thursday he returned the milk and took another brand saying the brand could be contaminated with melamine. A few hours later he returned again to change the brand. He came back again yesterday [Friday] to return powdered milk for the third time... he left with soya bean oil," Yusuf said.

Staboni, mother of a five-year-old, at Karwan Bazar said she used to feed her child a certain brand of powdered milk but on Thursday she came to know about the government warning. She decided not to feed her child powdered milk. "I decided to buy cow's milk but failed to find it in the market... now I do not know what to do," she said. Mahabubul Hasan, former deputy director of Dhaka Shishu Hospital and nutrition specialist, told The Daily Star, "We have always maintained that mothers should feed babies breast milk but those who fail to do so were told to give powdered milk. Now we are suggesting mothers to give their babies cow's milk or liquid milk of local companies." He also said mothers should feed Khichuri to babies above six months.

Tigers show their patience

FROM PAGE 1

Tamim Iqbal (18 off 90 balls) and Rajin Saleh (20 off 129 balls) added 34 for the second wicket in the entire first session. It took Bangladesh 23 balls to get off the mark and the first ten overs yielded just three runs as the two batsmen passed up plenty of scoring opportunities. Tamim struck two boundaries while there was none from Rajin, who got hit on his wrist while trying to duck under a Jacob Oram delivery that did not bounce from short of a length. Tamim, Rajin and Mohammad Ashraf (2 off 35 balls) were however all sent packing right after lunch and it was left to the two relatively inexperienced players to rescue the innings. Bating for the Tigers in a Test match after a year and having failed to make an impression in the Australia tour, Mehra's intent to take control of

the game was known as early as the second ball of his innings when he lifted Daniel Vettori over extra-cover for three runs. He hit ten boundaries in his 164-ball knock, eight of which came off the two spinners as New Zealand struggled in the post-tea session due to the high temperature and the lack of a breakthrough. Mushfiqur mixed caution with aggression as the right-handed batsman reached his second Test half-century with a beautiful straight drive past New Zealand's best bowler of the day, Iain O'Brien, in the penultimate over of the day. The wicketkeeper-batsman faced 145 deliveries and hit nine boundaries and a six that was swept high over mid-wicket off Patel, a favourite for both batsmen. New Zealand's fielding performance also did not help matters. After O'Brien had Zunaed Siddiqui

leg-before in his first over, Brendon McCullum dropped Rajin Saleh off the very next ball. An over later, it was Tamim's turn to have some good fortune when Aaron Redmond spilled an easy chance at second slip off Kyle Mills. In the 20th over, the same fielder dropped the same batsman, this time at short leg off Patel. O'Brien later removed Rajin Saleh as he took two wickets while the other two wickets that fell went to Daniel Vettori who removed Ashraf with a superbly disguised arm-ball and had Tamim flash at a wide delivery right after lunch. The day definitely had its ups and downs and even though the Tigers could be 40 runs short of a perfect day of Test match batting, the two unbeaten batsmen would look to carry the impetus into today's play.

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Breaking gender barriers

FROM PAGE 16

"I strongly support such reservation of quota, but this should not be the end, rather a means to the end, which is equal opportunity," she said. Prof Zoya Hasan, a member of the National Commission for Minorities in India, said parity is not possible unless women and the marginalised are politically and socially empowered. Danish MP Lone Dybkjaer said though women's political status in Europe is comparatively better, they are still struggling for equal rights. She said only 38 per cent MPs in Denmark are women. Dybkjaer, a former minister and member of the European Parliament, said there is a big difference between the subjects men and women choose for higher studies. She said citing as an example that lesser number of women are seen studying IT and fewer women are seen in the IT business even though both men and women are keen to study the subject. The inequalities between men and women must end, she said, adding: "If we want to succeed, we must fight to have half of the world for us. If women get higher education, they can serve as good leaders as well."

tion and the states, besides collective efforts of the NGOs, must come forward to protect and promote them," she said. Kathy Pike, who sits on the board of directors of the Asian University for Women Support Foundation (AUWSF), chaired the inaugural session. Transparency International (UK) Trustee Judy Moody Stuart, Iranian human rights activist Mehrangiz Kar, Kathy Matsui, managing director of Chief Japan Strategist, former US ambassador to Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) Lauren Moriarty, Rangita DeSilva of Wellesley Centres for Women at Wellesley College, USA, Shahida Jaffrey, vice chancellor of SBK Women's University, Pakistan, Jyoti

Macwan of Self-Employed Women's Association, India, Regina Papa, executive director of AUW Access Academy, Chittagong, Vivian Lowery Derryck, member of the board of directors of AUWSF and Duth Kimsru of Cambodia also spoke at various sessions. John D and Catherine T MacArthur Foundation is co-sponsoring the event, dedicated to the memory of Dr Allan Rosenfield, dean emeritus of the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University, who was also the chairman of board of Brac USA. The symposium will wrap up at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre today. Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed and Nobel Laureate Dr Muhammad Yunus are scheduled to be present.

Rejoinder

FROM PAGE 1

for hearing of the petitions by the chamber judge of the Supreme Court. "An army major sits in a room on the second floor of the Supreme Court building where no-one is allowed to enter. The chief justice is a very rational and prudent judge. I'm sure he is not aware of this reconstitution of the High Court benches." The Registrar's Office said no list of petitions has been prepared for hearing at the Chamber Judge's Court, and that there was no question of preparing a cause list by a military officer. It added that no military official sat at any room of the SC administration. The rejoinder also said in line with tradition of the apex court, the Appellate and HC division benches are constituted on instructions from the chief justice. There is no question of setting up any bench in his absence. OUR REPLY The report we ran was based on a speech delivered by Rafique-ul-Huq at a gathering of SC lawyers on October 12. Contacted on October 15 on receipt of the rejoinder, Rafique-ul-Huq said he stands by his comments. Talking to The Daily Star over phone, he said, "The Supreme Court registrar who sent the rejoinder should face me. "The army officer went away Tuesday following my comments at the lawyers' meeting. And he is not seen at the Supreme Court now." Rafique-ul-Huq also said he still believes the chief justice was not aware of the reconstitution of the High Court benches. He continued, "The present chief justice is an exceptionally honest man. Perhaps, he has followed the traditional reconstitution of the High Court benches." Contacted and briefed about the barrister's reaction over the rejoinder, Registrar Abu Bakar Siddiqui said his office would not face the lawyer.

DHAKA TODAY Seminar Shaheed Col Jami Ahmed Memorial Lecture 2008 on democratic use of military power. Venue: Asiatic Society of Bangladesh auditorium. Time: 4:00pm. AUIW inaugural ceremony The inaugural ceremony of Asian University of Women (AUW) will be held. Venue: Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre. Time: 9:00am. Seminar Saarc Chamber Women Entrepreneur Council organises a seminar on 'Opportunities for industrial and infrastructure development'. Venue: Westin Hotel. Time: 10:00am. Lecture Prof Emajuddin Ahamed will deliver

10 tonnes of urea seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Police seized a truck loaded with 10 tonnes (200 bags) of urea fertiliser from the toll plaza of Jamuna Bridge east side in the early hours of yesterday. Acting on a tip-off, a police team from East Police Station of the bridge seized the urea-laden truck and arrested its driver Saiful Islam. Sub-Inspector Abu Taher of Jamuna Bridge East Police Station said as per documents, the fertiliser was supposed to go to dealer Md Sultan of Kawraid Bazar of Sreepur upazila in Gazipur but it was proceeding towards dealer Sirajul Islam of Mirpur upazila in Kushtia.

WEATHER TODAY Dry weather likely UNB, Dhaka Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country having chances of light rain or thundershowers at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions in the next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today. Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said. Yesterday's highest temperature of 35.8 degree Celsius was recorded at Sandwip and the lowest of 21.4 degrees at Rajshahi. The sun sets in the capital at 5:29pm today and rises at 5:58am tomorrow. The highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were: City/Town Temperature in Celsius Humidity in percentage Max Min Morning Evening Dhaka 34.8 25.4 66 60 Chittagong 34.0 24.8 77 60 Rajshahi 32.5 21.4 78 79 Khulna 33.2 23.7 73 77 Barisal 34.0 23.5 74 83 Sylhet 35.3 22.8 60 62 Cox's Bazar 34.7 26.8 77 --

Tendulkar breaks Lara's Test run record

FROM PAGE 1

Tendulkar said at a post-match press conference. "The 12,000 runs are in fact a reflection of my contribution to Indian cricket over the 19 years that I have played for the country. "It has been a fantastic journey. It's not only about success but the ups and downs as well. But I have been able to overcome the obstacles and turn the stones thrown at me into milestones," he said. "I have never played to prove anything to anybody, whether in my first year as a cricketer or now in my 19th." Tendulkar, a veteran of 152 Tests, is already the world's top scorer in one-day internationals (16,361 runs), and has more Test (39) and one-day (42) centuries than any other batsman. He is also the most senior active

cricketer, having made his Test debut as a 16-year-old on November 15, 1989 against Pakistan in Karachi. "I have never played for records. But as your career progresses, subconsciously the mind starts thinking. Sometimes I don't even know how many runs I need to break a record. "My teammates also don't believe me when I say this. It is only after I swear that they believe me." Tendulkar said he would continue to play as long as he enjoyed batting. "I think I am going to continue as I am feeling good about my game. Many things have been said but again these are only opinions. "When I started out as a 16-year-old, I had no targets. I just wanted to enjoy my game. No one told me then to continue playing. So I don't need anyone now to tell me whether I

should stop playing or continue." Tendulkar, who received warm applause from some 15,000 home fans when he walked in to bat at the fall of Rahul Dravid's wicket, said he tried not to think too much about the record. "I was quite focused and not under too much pressure. My mind was on the ball and not on the record. But once it happened, I was very happy. This is not just my record but a record for the whole country." He was on four at the non-striker's end when Australia dismissed Gautam Gambhir and Venkatesai Laxman in quick succession. As Ganguly took time to settle down, Tendulkar was stuck on 13 when the tea break was called with India on 174-4. He reached the landmark off the first ball after resumption, gliding

Siddle for three runs to third man and raised his bat to acknowledge the wild cheers from the crowd and teammates. Australian captain Ricky Ponting shook hands with a visibly relieved Tendulkar, as did the other fielders. Tendulkar, who looked skywards twice after breaking the record, said the first time he wanted to thank God and the second time his late father. "My father would have been proud of me if he was alive. In fact, I dedicate this record to my family which has stood by me and supported me in my difficult times," he said. Tendulkar, who received a silver plaque from Indian cricket board president Shashank Manohar after the day's play, also cut a cake with teammates to celebrate his record as well as captain Anil Kumble's birthday.

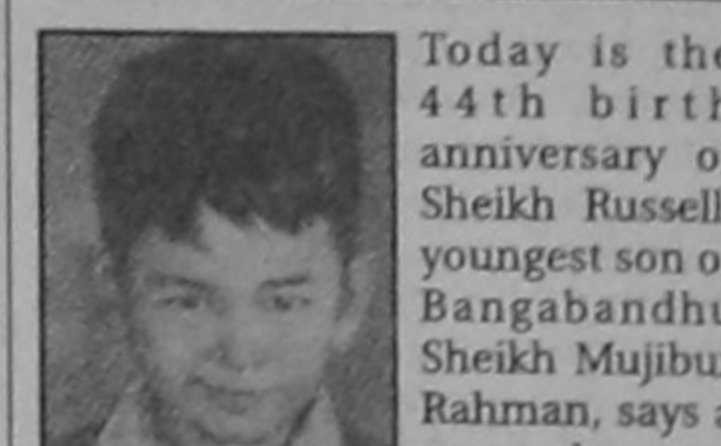
3-yr-old girl dies in gas cylinder blast

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A three-year old girl was killed and her brother and sister injured in a gas cylinder blast in the city's Seroil Colony area yesterday. The dead was identified as Asma, 3, daughter of Sekandor Ali, while her brother Rakib, 8, and sister Shahida, 2, were injured. The gas cylinder at Sekandor's neighbour Rafikul Islam's kitchen went off injuring the three children who were playing nearby. Asma succumbed to her injuries at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital while Rakib and Shahida were still undergoing treatment at the hospital.

Birth anniversary of Sheikh Russell today

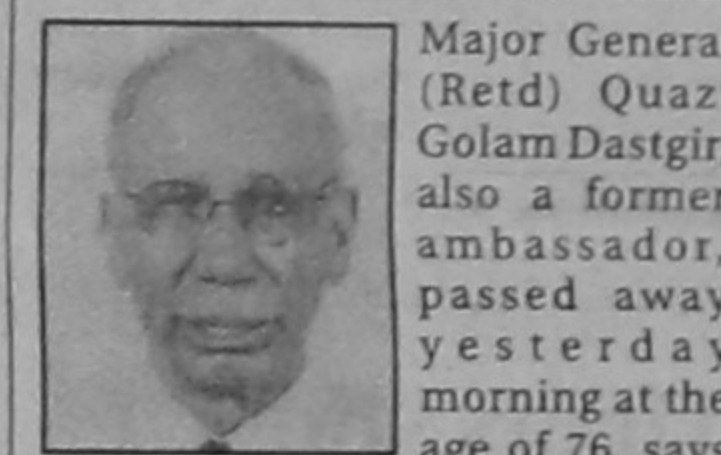
DU CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 44th birth anniversary of Sheikh Russell, youngest son of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, says a press release. He was killed along with his father and other family members on August 15 in 1975 at the age of 10. On this occasion, Sheikh Russell Jatiya Shishu Kishore Parishad chalked out elaborate programmes including hoisting of national and organisational flags at central office, placing wreath at the memorial of Bangabandhu at Dhanmondi in the city and offering special prayers at his graveyard. A discussion and prize distribution among meritorious students of Secondary School Certificate and winner of a painting competition will also be held at 3:00pm on Bangabandhu Museum premises in the city.

Obituary

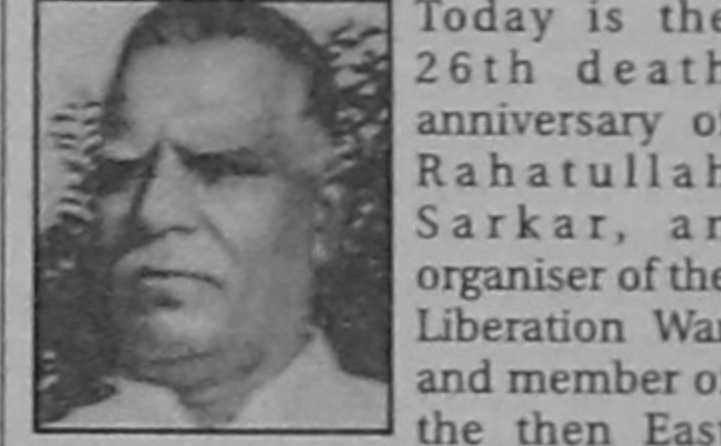
METRO DESK



Major General (Retd) Quazi Golam Dastgir, also a former ambassador, passed away yesterday morning at the age of 76, says a press release.

Death anniversary

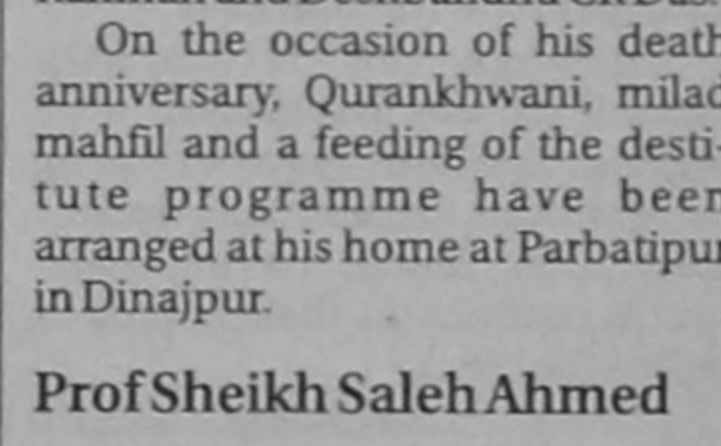
STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Pakistan Provincial Assembly, says a press release. He was a close associate of Sher-e-Bangla AK Fazlul Haque, Hossain Shaheed Suhrawardy, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Deshbandhu CR Das. On the occasion of his death anniversary, Quarkhwani, milad mahfil and a feeding of the destitute programme have been arranged at his home at Parbatipur in Dinajpur.

Prof Sheikh Saleh Ahmed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the fourth death anniversary of Prof Sheikh Saleh Ahmed, former senate member of National University and former principal of Government Suhrawardy College in Pirojpur, says a press release. Students, colleagues, relatives and admirers are requested to pray for peace of the departed soul.