



Qulkhwani of Zebunnesa Hamid tomorrow

METRO DESK

Qulkhwani of Mrs Zebunnesa Hamid, 82, wife of late Khandakar Abdul Hamid, former minister and an eminent columnist, will be held tomorrow (Monday), February 23, after Maghrib prayers at House No. 10, Road No. 79, Gulshan-2 (opposite Italian Embassy).

She passed away on February 16, 2009, at 6:20pm at a local clinic due to old-age complications.

She was the mother of prominent singer Latifa Chowdhury and mother-in-law of former BNP lawmaker Shafi Ahmed Chowdhury of Sylhet.

She is survived by her one son and five daughters.

Tributes paid to language movement martyrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The nation paid homage to the martyrs of the language movement yesterday on the occasion of Amar Ekushey.

People from all walks of life thronged the Shaheed Minars across the country and placed wreaths to pay tribute to those who made supreme sacrifices on February 21 in 1952 to establish their mother tongue as the state language.

The day was also observed worldwide as the International Mother Language Day.

Barefooted and sporting black ribbons, people under the banner of different political parties, cultural organisations and educational institutions started coming to the Central Shaheed Minar in Dhaka after Friday midnight.

Tributes began pouring in at one minute past zero hour on Saturday when President Zillur Rahman led the nation by placing a wreath at the memorial.

The day was observed in other districts in a befitting manner.

Our Munshiganj correspondent reports: After midnight, people formed long queues to place wreaths at the Shaheed Minar at Government Haraganga College. Women and children also joined the processions marching towards the Shaheed Minar to pay tributes.

In Narsingdi, people started placing wreaths at the Shaheed Minar near Birshreshtha Matiur Rahman Stadium in the early hours of yesterday. Besides, a weeklong book fair, discussions and cultural programmes were also organised.

In Gopalganj, the day was observed amid much enthusiasm.

Our Barisal correspondent adds: Mayor, high officials of the administration, leaders and representatives of more than 200 socio-cultural and political organisations and institutions paid tribute to the language martyrs by placing wreaths at the Central Shaheed Minar.

The International Mother Language Day was observed with great enthusiasm in the USA this year.



Indian Lok Sabha Speaker Somnath Chatterjee calls on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her official residence, Jamuna, in the city yesterday.

Scout Day today

BSS, Dhaka

The Scout Day and the 152nd birth anniversary of Sir Baden Powell, the founder of the scout movement, will be observed in the country today as elsewhere in the world in a befitting manner.

Marking the occasion, Bangladesh Scouts, Dhaka Region, will bring out a rally at 8:00am in the city, says a press release.

Chief National Commissioner of Bangladesh Scouts Mohammad Abul Kalam Azad will lead the rally that will begin from Jatiya Scouts Bhaban at Kakrail and end at the National Press Club.

About 500 scouts, unit leaders and officials will join the rally with placards inscribed with the messages of Baden Powell, health, education, sanitation, bird preservation and cleanliness, the release added.

BCL activist escapes gun attack at DU

DU CORRESPONDENT

A BCL activist at Dhaka University came under gun attack by his rivals within the Awami League's student wing when he was entering Sergeant Zahurul Haque Hall yesterday.

Shamsul Kabir Rahat, a 3rd-year student of Social Welfare and Research Institute, however managed to escape the attack at around 4:00pm.

Following the incident, he told reporters that his rivals Shahidul and Shahrier fired at least five shots with two firearms targeting him from a window at a floor in the hall when he reached the hall gate.

However, Shahrier denied the allegations brought against them.

Earlier on December 27, Rahat sustained injuries as his rivals stabbed him indiscriminately on the campus.

He received treatment for around two months at several hospitals and clinics, including Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Rahat's brother on January 3 filed a case with Shabbagh Police Station accusing 12 attackers, including Shahrier, in this connection.

After the attack on him, Rahat tried to go to his dormitory yesterday but came under the attack.

When contacted, President of DU BCL unit Shohel Rana Tipu told the reporter that stern action would be taken if any BCL activists are found involved in the incident.

KHULNA HOSPITALS Transfer fears grip doctors

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Transfer fears have gripped doctors at public hospitals in the Khulna division, hampering healthcare services for patients.

According to a source in Khulna divisional Health Director's office, 16 doctors from Khulna district, eight from Satkhira, four from Jessore, three from Narail, one from Bagerhat and one from Kushtia have already been transferred to different districts outside Khulna division.

Those who were transferred are loyal to BNP, said Dr Rafiqul Huq Bablu, vice-president of Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA). He has been asked to join Chittagong Medical College Hospital from Khulna Medical College Hospital.

All these doctors are holding

different posts in the district units of Doctors' Association of Bangladesh (DAB). Dr Bablu said and demanded withdrawal of the transfer orders so that they can continue providing their service to patients.

"There is no doubt that our services are transferable. But transferring 16 doctors at a time from Khulna is politically motivated, which exposes the act of politicisation by the present government. Because our successors are all loyal to Awami League as it appears from their background," said General Secretary of Khulna district unit of BMA Dr Akhtaruzzaman.

In 2002, the four-party alliance government had transferred 13 pro-AL doctors from Khulna to other districts and they were replaced by pro-BNP doctors who are now being transferred.

Tk 3 lakh VoIP equipment seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Member of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) seized VoIP equipment worth around Tk 3 lakh from Bharthokhola and bus terminal area in the city and arrested two persons in this connection early yesterday.

The arrestees are Eron Miah and Abul Khayer of Lauwai area in the city.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of Rab seized the VoIP equipment worth around Tk 3 lakh from Friends VCD Centre at a market at Terminal road and arrested Eron Miah. He had been running illegal telephone business for long, he admitted during interrogation.

The team also seized some equipment from another shop at Shahjalal at Station Road. Rab arrested the shop owner Abul Khayer.

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on or before February 26, 2009.

Only short-listed candidates will be communicated.