



Postogola-Jurain Road in the city remains in such run-down condition with a number of potholes in its middle, causing immense suffering to the road users. The photo was taken yesterday.

## BANGABANDHU MURDER CASE

# Execution of verdict demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different socio-cultural organisations observed August 15, the National Mourning Day and the 34th death anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman with a call for execution of the verdict of Bangabandhu killing case and taking an initiative to repatriate the killers.

Holding different programmes, including discussion and offering special prayers, they sought blessing for the departed souls of the father of the nation and his family members who were assassinated on that fateful dawn in August 1975. Industries Minister Dilip

Barua at a discussion on Saturday at Florida in the US urged the expatriate Bangladeshis to extend their support to the federal administration by providing information regarding the absconding killers of Bangabandhu as well as the killers of '71 to make easy for the US government to send back the culprits to Bangladesh.

Speaking as chief guest at the programme organised by Florida State Metropolitan Awami League unit, the minister advised the Bangladesh mission in Washington and the consulates in New York and Los Angeles to be active in this connection.

"Those who killed Bangabandhu along with most of his family members are the foes of independence, democracy and humanity. So, it is not possible to eradicate politics of conspiracy from the country until they are tried," he added.

To mark the day, National Orthopaedic Hospital and Rehabilitation Institute started a special drive yesterday to keep the hospital neat and clean with a call to turn mourning into power.

Health Minister AFM Ruhul Haque inaugurated the cleanliness drive.

The minister said, "With the spirit of Bangabandhu, people from all walks of life will have to work unitedly to

develop the country."

He stressed the need for sincerity in delivery of service to the patients in clean environment of the hospital, as around 500 patients from across the country come to the hospital every day.

Other organisations, including Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Bangladesh Jatiya Mufti Oikya Parishad, Northern University, Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Islamic Women's College, Nazrul Institute, Bangladesh National Museum, Bangladesh Power Development Board and Bangladesh embassy in Washington, also observed the day.

# Mission with a difference

## Foreign medical students end visit to Ramu

RIZANUZZAMAN LASKAR,  
back from Ramu

Yasir Chowdhury stood in the centre of a scrum that grew bigger in a minute. The fourth year medical student from King's College London intently listened to each person of the crowd, handed them a slip of paper and referred them to a doctor.

A few feet away, a couple stood beside Salman Uddin, another doctor, listening to a middle-aged woman who was repeatedly pointing at her stomach and trying to tell him she had digestive problems. Salman gave her a slip and referred her to a general medicinal doctor.

Then there was Sirajum Chowdhury who tried to make a queue out of the flocks of patients who huddled against each other trying to elbow their way through the crowd to the doctors' chambers.

They were at the Hospital for Women and Children at Ramu, one of Cox's Bazar's remotest and deprived upazilas, where child mortality, malnutrition and female literacy rates are far below the satisfactory level.

The three aspiring doctors were part of a bigger team of 14 medical students representing the non-profit organisation Elective Aid, a medical sub-project of Selfless, a UK-based project, to help build charitable hospitals and clinics in rural areas, as well as to provide medical transportation in underserved areas throughout the world.

Not only are they studying for their fourth year final examinations in medicine at King's College, but they were in Bangladesh embarking on a mammoth project.

Led by Na'eem Ahmed, chairman of Selfless, the team was using part of their medical placement abroad, also known as their elective, to set up health camps near Sylhet and Cox's Bazar where much-

needed medical aid and assistance were required.

Mamnoon Ditta, also studying at the King's College London, said: "From what we have seen, the main problem in these parts seems to be the fact that people are suffering from the most basic nutrition and they barely have access to any healthcare."

Ditta, 23, who has a first-class honours degree in Biomaterials Science, said most of the people are not even aware of their problems, or whether they even have a problem.

"In the two camps in Sylhet and Cox's Bazar, I saw a lot of children, all of whom had problems one would expect in such places. They had malnourishment, the sight of despairing mothers who had never seen doctors, pleading for you, to see their children was very saddening and distressing, more so because we could not see all the patients," he said.

Yasir said, "The sad aspects

of both the camps were that a lot of patients were deprived of things that in the West are considered as granted. They had a wide range of problems which presented a challenge to deal with them accordingly."

Other team members included Mohammad Zafar Chowdhury, Nihad Khan, Abdullah Al-Mahmood, Shahid Ali, Mubeenur Rahman, Abdul Aleem, Rahela Isam, Shamima Begum and Rumana Akter.

"We had a plan to come to this part of the world to provide medical support as well as to obtain knowledge about the local population," said Yasir, adding: "We decided to collaborate with some not-for-profit organisations working on similar fields."

After spending a long day at the hospital, five miles off the Cox's Bazar town, the team joined the others in Dhaka to visit acid burnt patients in a number of hospitals. They left Bangladesh on August 5 for Thailand and China, ending

their two-week tour.

"It was fun and enjoyable, a slightly different way of practising medicine we are used to," said Shahid.

"We are utterly drained and although I felt a great deal of contentment, I was somewhat disillusioned at the plight of the local people," he said, adding: "Things we take for granted in the UK are only within the grasp of the rich and well-off in Bangladesh."

Abdullah Al-Mahmood, another 4th year student at the same college, said: "We saw mothers who had never had the opportunity to take their children to a doctor, despite having serious problems. At times, patients had to go to a hospital for further tests but did not have the money or transportation to do so."

"Nonetheless, it was a rewarding tour day, I learnt a lot about the mindset of the people and the paucity of healthcare provision in the region," he added.



(From left) Sirajum Chowdhury, Mohammad Zafar Chowdhury, Abdullah Al-Mahmood, Salman Uddin, Yasir Chowdhury and Nihad Khan meet after a daylong health camp at Ramu in Cox's Bazar recently.

## New timing for museums, galleries in Ramadan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh National Museum has rescheduled visiting hours at various museums and galleries of the country for the month of Ramadan.

The National Museum and Ahsan Manjil Museum in Dhaka, Zia Smriti Jadughar in Chittagong, Osmani Museum in Sylhet, Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin Shangrahshala in Mymensingh will be open from 10:00am to 3:30pm on Saturday to Wednesday during Ramadan.

The museum facilities will be closed on Thursdays and Fridays. The new timing will be effective from the first day of Ramadan.

The museums and galleries will resume its original visiting hours after the end of Ramadan.

## Two killed in N'ganj road crash

A CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Two people were killed and 13 others were injured in a collision between a human hauler, known as Duranta, and a tempo in front of Siddhirganj Power Station in Narayanganj yesterday morning.

The Narayanganj-bound bus of Duranta Paribahan collided head-on with the tempo on Narayanganj-Adamjee Road around 8:00am, killing Duranta passenger Robin, 27, and tempo passenger Rafique, 35, a cloth trader, on the spot, the police said.

The injured Tamim Al Mamun, a bank official, autorickshaw driver Anwar, 30, Amir Ali, 40, and 10 others were admitted to Narayanganj 200-bed Hospital.

Following the accident, agitated people vandalised some seven or eight vehicles, disrupting traffic movement for about half an hour.

People of Narayanganj have long been demanding a ban on the movement of human hauler Duranta and tempo without fitness certificates. A decision has also been taken at the district law and order committee to this end, but it has not yet been implemented.



Razia Shahid, wife of journalist Abdus Shahid, begins her fast unto death programme at the National Press Club in the city yesterday demanding steps to protect her husband's house in Hatirjheel Project area.

# Control population to ensure food security

## Matia tells workshop

UNB, Dhaka

Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury yesterday stressed the need for controlling population to ensure food security.

"Ensuring food security will be difficult if we fail to control population alongside boosting our food production," she said at a workshop at Cirdap auditorium in the city.

The workshop titled "Strengthening the Institutional System of the Government in Achieving Food Security" was jointly organised by Asian Development Bank, Agriculture Ministry and Food and Disaster Management Ministry.

Matia said the Awami League government in 1996-2001 had not only attained self-sufficiency in food but also ensured the fair prices of crops produced by farmers.

The minister said the government would introduce school tiffin programme with a view to providing foods and nutrition for the children.

Reiterating her commitment to work for people, she said, "We can make mistake while working for people, but

we will work with a determination to ensure foods for the people of our country."

Food Minister Dr Abdur

Razzak and former adviser to the immediate past caretaker government Dr AMM Shaikat Ali were present.

# 8 snatchers of 'Tana Party' arrested in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police arrested eight members of Tana Party, a crime syndicate who takes away valuables from passengers of running rickshaws and autorickshaws, from different parts of the port city yesterday.

A CNG-run autorickshaw, eight mobile phone sets and a wristwatch were seized from the muggers' possession. The arrestees were identified as ringleader Imam Hossain alias Emon, 28, his accomplices Abdul Hakim, 19, Selim, 30, Muslim, 40, Abdul Kader, 30, Alauddin, 30, Moyn Uddin, 45, and Altaf Hossain, 21.

The muggers are involved in snatching in the city's Bandar and Khulshi areas. Acting on a tip-off, a squad of Khulshi police arrested the ringleader with a CNG-run autorickshaw from Hamzarbagh area under Panchlaish Police Station while preparing for mugging around 2:00am.

According to his confession, police conducted drives in different areas of Chandgaon, Bandar and Bakolia till morning and arrested other snatchers.

Officer-in-Charge Iftekhar Hossain of Khulshi Police Station said the arrestees are members of an organised gang and three members of the gang remained absconding.

"We would be able to nab the remaining three within a short time," said the OC, adding: "Capture of the whole gang would help reduce incidents of snatching during the upcoming Ramadan considerably," he hoped.

All members of the group are able to drive autorickshaw and snatch valuables from the running manual rickshaw passengers. They also take away belongings from passengers rubbing 'malam' (ointment) on their eyes before dropping them at a lonely place, informed the OC.

## BCL demands punishment to SQ Chy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders and activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) yesterday demanded punishment to BNP leader Salahuddin Qader Chowdhury for commenting in favour of Bangabandhu's killer and involvement in war crimes.

The BCL leaders brought out a procession on the Dhaka University campus and held a rally at the foot of Aparajeyo Bangla demanding punishment of SQ Chowdhury. Later, they burnt his effigy. Around 2000 BCL men joined the procession from Madhu's Canteen at around 12:30pm.

Chowdhury at a programme on the occasion of the first death anniversary of BNP leader Anwar Zahid at the National Press Club on Thursday said that August 15 was inevitable in 1975 just like 1/11 in 2007.

The speakers at the rally said SQ Chowdhury is a self-proclaimed rajakar and he supported the killers of Bangabandhu in his comment, so he should be punished on sedition charge.

BCL President Mahmud Hasan Ripon, General Secretary Mahfuzul Haider Chowdhury Roton, Office Secretary Nasim Al Momin Rupok, DU unit President Sohel Rana Tipu, General Secretary Sajjad Sakib Badsha, among others, were present at the procession and the rally.

## JNU Abritti Sangsad celebrates 1st anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jagannath University (JNU) Abritti Sangsad yesterday organised a rally, discussion and cultural programme to celebrate its first anniversary.

Vice chancellor of the university Prof Dr Mesbah Uddin Ahmed formally inaugurated the programme from Shaheed Minar premises on the campus.

Treasurer of the university Prof Dr Shaukat Jahangir, Assistant Proctor Kamal Uddin, and president of the Sangsad Mosleh Uddin, among others, spoke on the occasion.

# Call for nat'l committee to halt Tipai project

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The representatives of International Farakka Committee (INC) yesterday called on the government to form a national committee and hold a convention to halt the Tipaimukh dam project in order to protect the country from turning into a desert.

"The whole nation is united on this issue. The government should take this opportunity to form a national committee to preserve the right of water of the countrymen through resisting construction of Tipaimukh dam," said Atiqur Rahman Salu, chairman of INC.

The chairman of INC, a New York-based trans-boundary water rights group, made the call while addressing newsmen at a press conference at the National Press Club in the city.

Terming Tipaimukh dam a multilateral problem, he opined for formation of an international river commission like Mekong River Commission by incorporating neighbouring countries like China, Nepal and Bhutan.

He called on the government to raise the Tipaimukh dam issue in the 6th committee of the United Nations or in the international forum if Indian government does not cancel its plan to construct the dam.

On behalf of the organisation, Atiq announced a team of experts to collect and analysis information or documents regarding Tipaimukh dam.

"The committee will continue negotiations with the expert teams declared by the government and opposition BNP. It will cooperate with the experts if needed," he said.

The INC-declared experts are Dr M Adel Miah, professor of University of Arkansas of the USA; Dr Manirul Kader Mirza, professor of Toronto University of Canada; Dr Khalekuzzaman, professor of Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania; Dr ISI Khan, former water specialist of Bangladesh to UN; Dr Jasim Uddin Ahmed, former vice chancellor of Jahangirnagar University; and Dr Asif Nazrul

of Dhaka University.

The main aim of the committee is to create public awareness of the adverse impacts of the dam and form a public opinion against the Indian initiative and monitor other national expert teams.

Addressing a press conference, Dr Asif said, "Initially, my name was included in the expert team drafted by BNP. But I denied to work under any political banner."

He strongly criticised the Indian High commissioner to Bangladesh for his recent derogatory remark about the local water experts.

Experts Dr Jashim Uddin Ahmed, Dr ISI Khan, Mostafa Kamal Majumder, editor of the New Nation, and former minister MA Mannan were present at the press conference.

## VALUE CHAIN ANALYST NEEDED

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