



Mounds of dirt, dug up during installation of sewerage pipes, piled in front of Kawran Bazar Mosque in the city causing traffic jam as well as sufferings to the pedestrians there all day long. A week has passed since construction work has ended. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

AL urges Khaleda not to celebrate birthday Aug 15

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) Joint General Secretary Mahbul Alam Hanif yesterday urged BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia not to celebrate her birthday on August 15 from this year, as it is the National Mourning Day.

"She changed her birthday and set it on August 15 just for political emnity. I urge her not to celebrate her fake birthday on this day," he said at a discussion to mark the National Mourning Day.

The discussion was organised by Awami Swechchhasebak League at Institute of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh in the city.

Refuting Khaleda's claims that AL men are extorting ahead of the death anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, he said AL

does not need to extort rather the party men pay money to observe the national mourning day.

BNP men might have extorted to observe the death anniversary of Ziaur Rahman, he added.

The AL leader said the opposition is enforcing hartals and threatening to launch movement to save the war criminals and hide corruption during their term.

Hanif also said the deal government signed with India does not go against the interest of the country.

State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury, A Organising Secretary AFM Bahauddin Nasim and journalist Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul spoke at the discussion chaired by acting president of Swechchhasebak League Mollah Md Abu Kawsar.

Constitutional recognition to Adivasis demanded

BSS, RAJSHAHI

Workers Party of Bangladesh President Rashed Khan Menon MP has called for constitutional recognition to the Adivasis along with separate land commission for the plain land indigenous people.

He was addressing as the chief guest a grand rally organised by Jatiya Adivasi Parishad (JAP) at Shaheb Bazar Zero point here yesterday marking the International Adivasi Day.

Menon said the indigenous people had participated in all the democratic movements

of the nation including the War of Liberation in the past so why they would not be included in the mainstream.

In this regard, he said the present government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is very much sincere in ensuring welfare of the ethnic communities and started working for them.

Lawmaker Fazley Hossain Badsha and National Human Rights Commission Chairman Prof Dr Mizanur Rahman addressed the rally as the special guests with JAP President Anil Marandi in the chair.

FATEFUL AUGUST 15 IN 1975

A phone call silenced DU

BSS, Dhaka

It was a phone call that wrecked all arrangements, stopped everything on Dhaka University (DU) campus on the morning of August 15 in 1975.

Known as Oxford of the East, DU wore a festive look for its first convocation in independent Bangladesh and for according a reception to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The teachers and students were waiting impatiently for the moment when they will give a hearty reception to their beloved leader. But Vice-Chancellor Dr Abdul Matin got a phone call early in the morning that Bangabandhu has been killed along with members of his family.

Then all arrangements stopped. Everything came to a halt on the DU campus. The Bangalee nation became speechless.

In an interview with the news agency, spouse of Prof Abdul Matin and former principal of DU Laboratory School and College Razia Matin recalled the memory of the fateful day in 1975.

She said it was scheduled that Bangabandhu would come to the sociology department. There, three children, including Sheikh Russel, would show respect to him by pouring flower petals from a decorated silver plate. But the killers had killed child Russel along with Bangabandhu that day.

"It was early in the morning. Dr Matin was taking bed tea. I asked him why the people were not coming by that time. Suddenly the phone rang. Matin picked the receiver. He asked me to switch on the television. As I switched on the television, we heard 'I am Major Dalim speaking. I was standing there, and then I just sat down. Matin was voiceless, perplexed. He uttered 'What should I do now?' elderly Razia Matin said in an emotion-choked voice.

"We were cleaning our house for the last few days and decorating everything with utmost care. I made arrangements to entertain by offering food on a silver plate. But everything stopped."

Razia Matin said the convocation was scheduled to start at Teacher-

Student Centre (TSC) at 10am on August 15 in 1975.

Before that, Bangabandhu was scheduled to visit the Arts Building and then other buildings and halls. The teachers and students were to receive him with garlands at the convocation venue at TSC. A citation was to read out too.

About the preparations for the convocation, Razia Matin said Bangabandhu disliked wastage of money. Therefore, no gate was erected in the university for the Father of the Nation.

There was even no excess of flowers. The students and teachers of Fine Arts Institute decorated the campus without any remuneration. The gardeners of DU make 100 garlands throughout the night.

Razia Matin said there was a programme of cutting cake at the VC's residence after the convocation. There were arrangements for tea. Snacks were brought for all from Purbani Hotel, but prepared pitha (cakes) and 'singara' (fried food item) for the President considering the issue of his security.

She said all the arrangements for the convocation stopped without any announcement after the killing of Bangabandhu. The sky, wind all around became standstill. Even a bird did not chirp that day.

An emotional Razia said an independent Bangladesh was not possible without Bangabandhu. Now he is gone - everything is barren.

She said Bangabandhu was a man of extraordinary personality and his heart was as big as the sky. He did not misbehave with anyone. Though he was the President of the country, he used to talk to people stopping his car everywhere. Those who can kill a liberal man like him are not sane people.

Bangabandhu's son Sheikh Kamal and Kamal's wife Sultana Kamal had appeared for post-graduation exams from the DU sociology department. They went to the Dhanmondi residence after working for the convocation till late into the night on August 14.

They usually used to live in Gono Bhaban, but that night they went to Dhanmondi residence only not to come back again.

Recalling the honesty and gener-

osity of Bangabandhu, Razia Matin said she had advised her husband not to accept the proposal of being the DU vice-chancellor, as it might create enemies for him.

She said when Dr Matin rejected the proposal as per my advice, Bangabandhu said, "Anyone can become president and prime minister of the country, but everybody does not have the eligibility of being vice-chancellor of Dhaka University." After that, Dr Matin took the charge of DU vice-chancellor.

Razia Matin said Dr Matin was arrested after the killing of Bangabandhu. He was in jail for 17 months. But he never detracted from the ideals of Bangabandhu.

Later Dr Matin founded the Bangabandhu Parishad and he was its founding chairman.

Principal Razia Matin condemned the efforts to destroy the spirit of Liberation War after the killing of Bangabandhu and urged all to project the right history to the new generation.

"We will be gone, but the history will exist," she said.

Road crashes kill 7

METRO DESK

At least seven people were killed and 47 others injured in separate road accidents in Comilla, Mymensingh and Dinajpur yesterday.

A correspondent from Mymensingh reports: At least three people were killed and seven others injured in separate road accidents in the district yesterday.

Two people were killed and seven others injured when a Chittagong-bound Shyamoli Paribhan bus collided with a Dhaka-bound truck on the Dhaka-Chittagong in Chandina upazila at around 6:00am yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Lance Nayek (ret'd) Md Salauddin, 40, of Dhamalpur village in Dhamalkot upazila in Dhaka district and Mizanur Rahman, 36, of Kalikapur village of Matlab upazila. Police sent the bodies to Comilla Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

The injured were sent to different hospitals in Chandina and Comilla. In another accident a schoolteacher was killed on Paduar Bazar Biswa road by a speeding truck while going to his work by motorbike yesterday morning.

The deceased was identified as Md Anower Hossain, 52, of Beltoli village.

Local people burnt the truck in protest of the accident and damaged several other vehicles. Road communication was at a stand still for the following three hours until police took control.

Our correspondent from Mymensingh adds: At least three people were killed and 40 others injured in a head-on collision between a passenger bus and a loaded truck on the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway at Bailor in Trishal upazila of the district at around 11:15am yesterday.

The deceased could not be identified immediately. Of the injured, 25 were admitted to the Mymensingh Medical College Hospital.

Our correspondent from Dinajpur says: An elderly woman was killed by a shallow-run three-wheeler while crossing the road in front of her home in Khansama upazila of the district yesterday.

She was identified as Anjuara Begum, 70, wife of late Rafiq Uddin of village Dabar of the upazila.

Anjuara was rushed to the Dinajpur Medical College Hospital where she succumbed to her injuries.



War criminals are executed by hanging in a mock trial arranged by the Anti-war crimes cultural organisation on Chittagong Press Club premises in the port city yesterday.

Rabeya Siraj sent to jail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sent Rabeya Siraj, wife of former forest minister Shahjahan Siraj, to jail in six cases in which she had been earlier sentenced to a total of 43-year imprisonment in absentia.

Judge Jesmin Anwar of Special Judge Court-4 passed the order after Rabeya appeared before the court in five tax evasion cases and a corruption case.

The National Board of Revenue filed five cases on July 16, 2007 against Rabeya for dodging income tax while the Anti-corruption Commission filed the other on September 24 of same year for assisting her husband in amassing wealth illegally.

In August the same year, the court sentenced Rabeya to 32-year simple imprisonment in four tax evasion cases and to eight years imprisonment in another tax evasion case.

On April 22, 2008, Rabeya was also sentenced to three years in prison by another special court in the case filed by ACC.

DU Dev Studies admission test tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The written admission test for 'Diploma in Development Studies' Programme under the Department of Development Studies of Dhaka University will be held tomorrow, 10:00am in room no 4017 of third floor at Arts Building, says a press release.

Fake blue books seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday arrested one person and seized a huge quantity of fake blue books of vehicles and documents of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority from a house in the city's Mirpur.

The detained person was identified as Sheikh Russell Kabir, 40, of Section-2, Block-C,

police said.

The other recovered items include 59 fake seals of BRTA and its various fake documents.

Mirpur Police Station officer-in-charge Kazi Wazed Ali said detained Russell Kabir had been supplying fake documents for a long time cheating the people and the government.

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