



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina offers prayers at an Iftar party hosted by the Armed Forces at Senakunja in the Dhaka cantonment yesterday. Earlier, on her arrival at the venue, the prime minister was received by Chief of Army Staff General M Abdul Mubeen, Chief of Naval Staff Vice Admiral ZU Ahmed, Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal SM Ziaur Rahman and Principal Staff Officer of the Armed Forces Division Maj Gen Abdul Wadud. The prime minister also exchanged greetings with the members of the armed forces and other dignitaries at the programme.

Govt runs country on dictates of foreign powers

Says Khaleda

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday cautioned the Awami League government that people would not allow running the country on dictates of foreign powers.

"Take lesson from the past how the people of Bangladesh toppled the autocratic government," she said at an Iftar party, warning the ruling party.

Eight political parties -- Jappa, National Peoples' Party (NPP), Bangladesh National Awami Party (NAP), National Democratic Party (NDP), Bangladesh Islamic Party, Bangladesh Labour Party, NAP (Bhasani) and Bangladesh Muslim League -- hosted the Iftar at Hotel Purbani in the city.

The day's Iftar was Khaleda Zia's last scheduled programme. She hosted and attended a number of Iftar parties since she hosted an Iftar for orphans and Olama-e-Keram on the first Ramadan.

Khaleda is scheduled to leave Dhaka for Saudi Arabia on Monday to perform Umrah. She is expected to return home on September 9.

Japa President Shafiqul Alam Prodhhan presided over the brief pre-Iftar function.

Addressing the function, Leader of the Opposition Khaleda said the present government wants to govern the country with foreign help and assistance and at their instructions, throwing opposition political leaders into jail implicating them in false cases.

But, she said, people of this country would not

allow the country to be shackled.

Portraying a grim scenario of the country during the 20-month Awami League rule, the former prime minister said the situation of the country has turned worse as the ruling party is not governing the country themselves, rather being guided by the others orders.

She alleged that the rule by the present government is marked by extortion, tender-manipulation, killing, torture, repression on political opponents, price hike of essentials, worsening law and order situation, crisis of gas, electricity and water, and unemployment.

Khaleda said leaders and workers of Awami League, Jubo League, Swachchhasebak League and Chhatra League are "involved in extortion, tender-manipulation and plundering."

Highly criticising the release of the accused in murder cases, she said this has resulted in the increase of crimes in the country.

The BNP chairperson called for unity of all nationalist forces amid the prevailing suffocating situation in the country and urged people to join the post-Eid-ul-Fitr movement planned by BNP for saving the country and its people.

BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain, Lt Gen (Retd) Mahbubur Rahman, Nazrul Islam Khan, BJP Chairman Andalib Rahman MP, Jamaat-e-Islami acting secretary general ATM Azharul Islam attended the Iftar party.

Nine drug peddlers jailed by mobile court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An anti-narcotics mobile court sentenced nine drug peddlers, arrested from different parts of the capital, six months to one year's simple imprisonment yesterday.

Officials of Department of Narcotics Control arrested three peddlers from Nayabazar (Mangshapatti), four from Kawran Bazar, one from an Islambagh slum and one from Hatirpula area near Eastern Plaza and seized Buprenorphine and Yaba tablets.

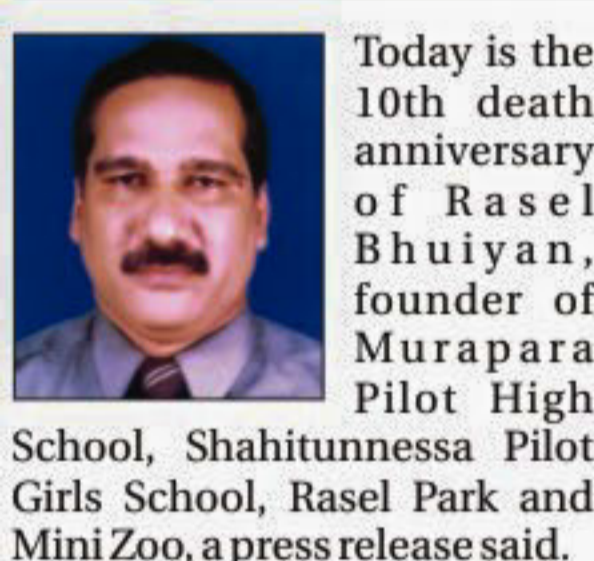
The mobile court, led by executive magistrate Abul Bashar Md Fakhruzzaman, passed the sentence.

One of the peddlers identified as Mofizullah, was arrested from Hatirpula area with 50 Yaba tablets, said Bashar.

Mujibur Rahman Patwari, deputy director of the Department of Narcotics Control, said three peddlers were caught red-handed with around ten ampoules of Buprenorphine and 50 syringes from Nayabazar and another named Abdul Aziz from Islambagh. To carry, consume and sell narcotic drugs is a violation of the Narcotics Control Act, said the magistrate.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 10th death anniversary of Rasel Bhuiyan, founder of Murapara Pilot High School, Shahitunnessa Pilot Girls School, Rasel Park and Mini Zoo, a press release said.

On the occasion, Nagorik Oikya Parishad and different organisations will hold discussion and milad mahfil at his village home and Rasel Park after Asr prayers today.

Bhuiyan, a lifetime member of Rupganj Press Club and Rupganj Reporters' Club, was shot by a gang of criminals at Rasel Park on August 26 in 2000. He succumbed to his injuries at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital on August 29.

Dr Muntazirul Hye Sabir

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 11th death anniversary of Dr Muntazirul Hye Sabir, son of University Grants Commission Member Prof Dr Atul Hye Shibly.

On this occasion, a doa mahfil will be held at his Banani residence after Iftar. Sabir died of cerebral malaria at the PG Hospital on this day in 1999.

Kazi Jahanara Begum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 4th death anniversary of Kazi Jahanara Begum, wife of the late National Awami Party leader advocate Kazi Zahirul Haque.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at the Mehman Community Centre on Dhanmondi Road no 3 after Asr prayers.

Friends, relatives and well wishers are requested to attend the mahfil.

EVALUATION TEST FOR GOVT JOBS

Question leak again?

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Allegation of question leak has once again been brought involving an evaluation test for government jobs.

The candidates appearing the written test for the position of Thana Education Officer (TEO) yesterday brought up the allegation as invigilators found a copy of the question paper with hand written answers on the reverse side.

Vice Principal of the college AKM Golam Mostafa said they caught a person red-handed with a question paper and hand-written answers on it and handed him over him to the police.

A total of 258 students sat for the exam after the preliminary screening on June 25.

Police arrested two people from the examination centre at Government Science College

in the city's Tejgaon. Of the two, Abdul Hadi Pradhan of Rangpur was arrested for copying while Abid Hasan was held for taking the examination as a proxy for Shahidul Islam from Bagerhat.

Chairman of PSC, Sadaat Hossain, however, denied the possibility of exam paper leak. He said, "Our system makes it nearly impossible for questions to be leaked, adding, "We will however, look into the copy incident."

Officer-in-Charge of Tejgaon Police Station Md Mahbubur Rahman told The Daily Star that a case has been filed in this connection and they would send the arrestees to the court tomorrow.

Earlier, around 167 people were arrested and written test for evaluating assistant teachers for government high schools was postponed on July 8, after questions were leaked.

Chehlum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chehlum of Abdur Rakib Khandoker, former inspector general of police, will be held at his residence at Banani in the city after Asr prayers today.

Friends, admirers and relatives have been requested to attend the chehlum and pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Stop plying of faulty vessels

Demand speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government should take effective measures to stop plying of faulty and risky vessels on the eve of the Eid-ul-Fitr, speakers demanded yesterday.

They placed the demand at a press conference jointly organised by the Safe Waterway Implementation Movement (SWIM), Protect and Progress Foundation (PPF) and Unnayan Dhara Trust at the National Press Club.

Hundreds of thousands of people will head for home by launches during the festival. Any accident will be massive this time. So the gov-

ernment should prevent plying of faulty and risky vessels, they said.

Their other demands include registering name and address of passengers, cancellation of rotation system, ensuring overloaded vessels do not ply, stopping carrying passengers on rooftop and keeping lifejacket and buoy in every vessel and deploying sufficient number of law enforcers.

SWIM member secretary Aminur Rashid Babul, PPF general secretary Jibanananda Jayanta, Unnayan Dhara Trust chairman Shahdat Chowdhury, among others, spoke at the press conference.

AL leader, three others hurt in road accident

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Awami League (AL) Presidium Member Ataur Rahman Khan Kaiser and three others were injured in a road accident at Ramu in Cox's Bazar yesterday.

Ataur Rahman, 75, was admitted to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of the Chittagong Medical College Hospital after giving him initial treatment at the Cox's Bazar Hospital.

Sources said the accident occurred when a Noah microbus carrying the veteran leader and others skidded off and fell on a roadside ditch at Panir Chhara, around 20 kilometre off Cox's Bazar town, as the driver lost control around 2.00pm.

Some army members passing by on a jeep came forward and rushed them to the Cox's Bazar Hospital.

The three other victims -- microbus driver Babul, 30, and two passengers Mostafa Kamal, 25 and Mohammad Ali, 26 -- were also transferred to Chittagong Medical College Hospital after their condition deteriorated at about 4:30pm.

Ataur was heading for Cox's Bazar district stadium from Chittagong on the microbus to attend the Namaj-e-Janaza of former AL MP Osman Sarwar Alam Chowdhury.

Osman died of old age at Square Hospital in the capital on Friday.



Light rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions in next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy to heavy falls are also likely at places, Met Office said.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:20pm today and rises at 5:39am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 35.4 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and lowest 24.4 degrees Celsius at Cox's Bazaar.

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	33.5	26.5	73	74
Chittagong	31.0	24.8	83	82
Rajshahi	35.4	26.5	83	79
Khulna	33.2	26.2	78	88
Barisal	32.1	26.5	80	96
Sylhet	32.3	26.0	86	81
Cox's Bazar	31.8	24.4	73	89



Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia speaks as a chief guest at Hotel Purbani in the city in an Iftar party.

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