

NEWS IN *brief*

PM's gift for injured FFs

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday sent foods, fruits and other gifts to the injured freedom fighters (FFs) and their families on the occasion of Independence and National Day.

Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Abdus Sobhan Golap, Assistant Private Secretaries Khairul Islam and Saifuzzaman Shekhar handed over the gift items to the freedom fighters at the War Wounded Freedom Fighters' Rest House at Mohammadpur in the city.

Hasina sent the gift items as a mark of her respect and gratitude to the freedom fighters, the best sons of the soil, said Press Secretary to the Prime Minister Abul Kalam Azad.

Teen housemaid hurt in fall

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A teenage housemaid suffered serious injuries in the neck after falling from the 14th floor to the 11th floor of an apartment house in Purana Paltan of the city yesterday.

Doctors stated 14-year-old Sathi's condition critical when she was taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Police said Sathi hailing from Mymensingh joined her work at an apartment of the building a few days back. She slipped from the balcony of the apartment and fell on the roof of adjacent building around 8:30am yesterday.

Labourer dies after fall

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A labourer died when he fell off a truck while unloading goods at Majhir Ghat under Double Mooring Police Station in Chittagong yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Md Nurul Islam, 30, son of Tareque Mirja of Ragabadi village in Lalmoihan thana of Bhola district.

War crimes trial to start soon

Says Syed Ashraf

BSS, Dhaka

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Syed Ashraf Islam yesterday said the government's aim is to free the nation from stigma by holding trial of war criminals and all killings.

Talking to reporters after placing wreaths at the National Martyrs Memorial in Savar, Ashraf said trial of war criminals including all killers, collaborators, Al Badar and Al Shams would start soon in a transparent way during this government's tenure.

He said it took time to bring Bangabandhu's killers to justice in a transparent manner and it is taking time to hold trial of war criminals due to the same reason.

On a query, Planning Minister Air Vice Marshal (retd) AK Khandaker said the government is pledged-bound to accomplish the trial of war criminals quickly.

By now, he said, much of the spirit of the Liberation War has been implemented. The people are now able to speak about the trial of war criminals openly, which was not possible in the past, Khandaker said terming it as the biggest success of the government.

About Quader Siddique's comment on Ziaur Rahman as proclaimer of the country's independence, AK Khandaker said his (Quader Siddique) comment is baseless and the people must follow the country's history.

"Zia read out the declaration of independence on December 27 but the country's independence was declared ahead of that date," the minister said quoting history.



HOMAGE TO MARTYRED WAR HEROES

President Zillur Rahman, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and various organisations as well as people from all walks of life pay their rich tribute to the martyrs of the liberation war by placing wreaths at the National Memorial in Savar yesterday on the occasion of the Independence Day.

PHOTO: STAR



Govt working tirelessly for prosperity

Says Enamul Haq

BSS, Chapainawabganj

State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Mohammad Enamul Haq yesterday said the government is working relentlessly to establish a happy and prosperous Bangladesh, which would be free from hunger and poverty.

In this respect, he said, the government has given highest priority on education in the current budget to make a creative, healthy and educated generation.

Enamul was inaugurating the newly constructed building, including the library, of Chhatrajitpur Alabaksha School and College here.

Department of Education Engineering constructed the building at a cost of Tk 35.49 lakh.

Among others, district Awami League General Secretary Moeen Uddin Mondal, Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Ali Azam and Pura Mayor Abdul Matin spoke.

AL factions clash in Nawabganj

UNB, Keraniganj

Two groups of Awami League (AL) clashed during the celebration of an Independence Day programme in presence of a minister, leaving five people injured in Nawabganj upazila of Dhaka yesterday.

State Minister for Housing and Public Works Abdul Mannan Khan came to place wreaths at upazila memorial mausoleum around 11:45am.

As the minister was leaving, supporters of AL leader Abdul Baten Mia and Dhaka district AL Organising Secretary Nasir Uddin Jhilu locked into an altercation.

Jalal Uddin, joint convenor of upazila Jubo League and supporter of Baten, was injured as rivals hit him with a hammer in presence of the minister.

The minister's car also came under brickbat attack. Four Jubo League workers -- Mosharrif Hossain, Rabbi, Hasan Ali, and Taimur Hossain -- injured during the clash, were admitted to upazila health complex.

Baten group chased their rivals as they brought out a procession, chanting slogans against the minister who quickly left the area.

Three gunshots were heard during the incident prompting panic-stricken shopkeepers to close their shops.

Traffic movement on Dhaka-Bandura road came to a halt till 6:00pm as the angry activists placed logs there and set those on fire.

The minister later visited the health complex to see the injured where the angry AL activists demanded arrest and punishment of the attackers.

The minister assured them of taking action against those responsible. Rapid Action Battalion and police were deployed in the area.

Money claims life of 9-year-old Sonia

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A nine-year-old girl lost her battle for life Friday night at a city hospital, as her wretched father failed to continue affording the high medical expenses.

Sonia Akther was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) last Sunday with critical head injuries and was shifted to the ICU of Special Care Hospital Tuesday.

She suffered the wounds after being hit allegedly by the motorcade of ruling party lawmaker Gazi Golam Dastagir in front her school in Bandar upazila, Narayanganj on Sunday.

Dastagir was returning from Madanganj after attending the inaugural ceremony of a power plant there.

Sonia, a student of class I at Ramnagar Government Primary School in Bandar upazila, was standing beside the road to see the motorcade along with other people.

Sonia's father Mohammad Atiar, a day labourer, so far had managed to spend Tk 35,000 exercising his best efforts. But the amount was not enough to continue her treatment.

Everyday he had to spend Tk 9,000 plus the costs of medicines and diagnostic tests at Special Care Hospital. Till Thursday Sonia's treatment cost rose to Tk 27,000 there.

Atiar somehow paid off Tk 10,000 that day

and started facing growing pressure from the hospital authorities asking him for the due amount.

He, in on way, could afford the cost. So Sonia's treatment came to a halt Thursday morning. She died around 11:00pm Friday night.

A duty doctor of the hospital said Sonia could be not attended, as no medicines and medical tests prescribed earlier were made available to them.

"Sonia could be saved if provided with proper treatment despite the critical condition," she told this correspondent Thursday afternoon.

She said some emergency diagnostic tests were advised, but Atiar failed to carry out the tests saying, "he had no money left".

Till Sonia's death the treatment costs at Special Care Hospital stood at Tk 26,000. But the authorities released Sonia's body to her family without getting the bill paid.

Meanwhile this correspondent has made a number of vain attempts since Thursday evening to contact Golam Dastagir.

A personal staff of the Awami League leader said they were not informed of the incident.

The victim's relatives also tried to contact Dastagir, but failed.

Officer-in-charge of Bandar Police Station said they did not know about Sonia's incident.



Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Jessore, Kushtia and Comilla in next 12 hours till 6:00pm today.

Weather may remain dry elsewhere over the country, Met Office said.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:12pm today and rises at 5:55am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 37.0 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and lowest 19.5 degrees Celsius at Dinajpur.

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	33.1	25.0	70	46
Chittagong	30.0	23.0	79	73
Rajshahi	37.0	23.4	41	50
Rangpur	31.8	21.0	65	63
Khulna	33.8	24.7	85	54
Barisal	33.1	23.9	83	67
Sylhet	31.1	22.0	66	68