

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Jahanara Begum, mother of poet Habibullah Siraji, passed away

at a hospital in the city yesterday at the age of 78, says a press release.

She was buried at Alipur Graveyard in Faridpur.

She left behind her two sons, six daughters and host of relatives to mourn her death.

National Poetry Council, Group Theatre Federation, Sammito Sangskritik Jote and Abritti Samannay Parishad condoled her death.

Nilufar Anwar

METRO DESK



Nilufar Anwar, wife of Dr Mir N Anwar, passed away at Central Hospital of Durban in

South Africa on September 3 due to cancer, says a press release.

She was buried at Uttara Graveyard in the city on September 6.

Relatives and well-wishers are requested to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Qulkhwani

UNB, Dhaka

Qulkhwani of Quazi AK Refaul Huq, son of former lawmaker late Quazi Kafil Uddin Ahmed of Kushtia, will be held at Maricha Apartment (C-1), 17 Purba Rajabazar in the city after Asr prayers today.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers have been requested to attend the programme.

Refaul Huq, who died on Tuesday due to a cardiac arrest at LabAid hospital in the city at the age of 72, was brother of playwright Quazi Rashidul Huq Pasha and UNB Special Correspondent Faruk Quazi.



Car owners continue to park their vehicles on roads in front of different commercial buildings in the city's Motijheel, obstructing free flow of traffic and causing suffering to commuters. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Santos starts drilling new wells for gas next week

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Aiming to increase gas supply to industries in Chittagong, Australian gas and oil exploration company Santos will start searching for gas by drilling three new wells in Sangu gas field in the Bay of Bengal from next week.

The plan was presented by Santos Bangladesh President John Chambers at a programme it organised at a city hotel here on Wednesday.

The three wells, South Sangu, Sangu 11 and Sangu North East, situated in Block 16 in the Bay, would be drilled at a cost of US\$126 million, he said.

"We hope to be able to continue producing gas for a number of years to come if we are successful in this project and it will significantly help

Chittagong solve its energy crisis," he said.

The present gas field in Sangu, 45 kilometres from shore, provides 14.5 to 16 million cubic feet of gas per day to the national grid, said sources.

John said they hope to start drilling at South Sangu, around 5 kilometres away from the present gas field in Sangu, within next week after arrival of the drilling rig from Singapore.

The rig, being towed from Singapore, is about to enter Bangladesh waters and should arrive at the site on September 17 or the following day, he informed.

Presence of gas can be determined within one and a half months. Then it would take another one and a half years to set up a platform and the pipes to bring the gas ashore, he said.

There is already a platform at Sangu 11, situated 1.5 kilometres to the North of the Sangu platform, and drilling would be held between November this year and January 2012, said John. Depending on the success, gas can be supplied from here after February, he added.

Sangu North East is situated 4 kilometres away from the Sangu platform. But the drilling there would start after completion at the first two wells, he said.

Lawmaker Abul Kashem thanked Santos for undertaking such a project though it is a risky investment and hoped it would help solve the gas crisis in Chittagong. He ensured of all-out support to make the project success.

Australian High Commissioner Justin Lee termed Santos as the largest

investor in Bangladesh and hoped the project would benefit both Santos and the Chittagong industries.

Termining Bangladesh as the second largest trading partner of Australia in South Asia, Justin said, "Our two way trade with Bangladesh increased dramatically in recent years. The trade was only US \$ 300 million four years back while it was US\$715 million last year."

Petrobranga Director (Finance) Rafiqul Islam Khan congratulated Santos for taking such an initiative to explore the new areas to increase the production of gas from the offshore which will aid the country's economic development.

Petrobranga Director Mohammad Imaduddin and Santos Vice President ABA Siraj Uddowlah also spoke at the programme.



Guests pose for a photo with crests they were awarded at a function in Chittagong city on Wednesday organised by Australian gas and oil exploration company Santos to unveil plans to drill three new wells near Sangu gas field in the Bay of Bengal in search of gas.

PHOTO: STAR

'Term drivers service providers not killers'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transport workers yesterday urged everyone, especially media persons and civil society members, not to characterise drivers as "killers", rather to term them as "service providers".

Accidents occur due to several reasons including dilapidated condition of roads, risky turning points and temporary markets and shops on highways. But all the blame falls on drivers when any accident occurs. This is shocking, they said.

They made the remarks at a human chain organised by Bangladesh Sarak Paribahan Sramik Federation in front of Jatiya Press Club in the city.

Their other demands include punishment of Roads and Highways Department engineers for faulty road construction, setting up road dividers in all highways and eviction of shops and markets from highways.

However, the federation Executive President Shahjahan Khan, also the shipping minister, did not attend the function.

FF GALLANTRY AWARD Proposal to raise grant by at least 60 times

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An inter-ministerial meeting at the home ministry yesterday proposed to increase monthly financial grants for gallantry award winning freedom fighters by at least sixty times.

The proposal for Bir Shreshtha is Tk 12,000 from Tk 200, Bir Uttam is Tk 10,000 from Tk 150, Bir Bikram is Tk 8,000 from Tk 125 and Bir Pratik is Tk 6,000 from Tk 100, said a meeting source.

Some army personnel were mistakenly conferred awards like Bir Bikram, Bir Uttam and Bir Pratik, for their outstanding performance in fighting insurgents in Chittagong Hill Tracts, said the source.

Though these awards will not be cancelled, these would no longer be conferred while the hike would not be the same, added the source.

These army personnel conferred with Bir Uttam award will receive Tk 4,000, Bir Bikram will receive Tk 3,000 and Bir Pratik will receive Tk 2,000 each every month, he said.

If the award winner dies, his family members will receive the grant, added the source.

Four more award categories were proposed -- Bir Sarbuttam, Bir Mrittunjoyee, Bir Chiranjib and Bir Durjoy -- for outstanding performance in wars declared (if necessary) by the government, he said.

Six other monthly award categories for army personnel were proposed -- Sena Bahini Padak, Osamannya Seba Padak, Bishista Seba Padak, Sena Gaurab Padak, Sena Utkarsha Padak and Sena Parodarshi Padak, he added.

For police, Border Guard Bangladesh, Ansar and Coast Guard, Bangladesh Police Padak, President Police Padak, Bangladesh Police Padak Seba and President Police Padak Seba were proposed, he said.

Planning Minister AK Khandaker, Home Minister Shahara Khatun and high officials of the forces and the ministries concerned attended.

G3 rifle seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A G3 rifle was recovered from Raozan upazila in the port city early hours yesterday using information from detained Bidhan Barua, a notorious criminal of the area.

Police raided Andharmanik village and recovered the rifle buried in the bank of a pond beside the house of one Subhash Barua.



Day
International Ozone Day will be observed. Venue: Osmani Memorial Hall, Time: 9:50am.

Human chain
National Garment Workers Federation will form a human chain. Venue: In front of Jatiya Press Club, Time: 11:00am.

Roundtable
Bangladesh Jatiyatadabi Sangskritik Dal will hold a roundtable. Venue: Jatiya Press Club, Time: 10:00am.

Rally
Nagorik Sanghati will hold a citizen rally. Venue: In front of Jatiya Press Club, Time: 10:30am.

Memorial meeting
Revolutionary Workers Party of Bangladesh will hold a memorial meeting. Venue: Liberation War

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MANUFACTURING FACILITIES NEEDED

Unilever Bangladesh Limited is seeking manufacturing facilities (space and equipments) for producing Wheel Washing Powder

Interested parties having ready facilities are requested to send the full details of available equipment & ancillaries to the following address:

manufacturing.bangladesh@unilever.com

or
Unilever Bangladesh Limited
ZN Tower, Plot#2, Road#8, Gulshan -1
Dhaka-1212, Bangladesh

Between Sep 17 to Sep 24 [10am to 6pm, excluding Friday]

'Form caretaking council to hold fair elections'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Against the ongoing debate over scrapping the caretaker government system, a proposal for formation of a new body, comprised of people from all walks of life, to hold acceptable national elections was made yesterday.

The body titled "Election Caretaking Council" (ECC) would comprise of political parties, Election Commission (EC), civil society members, professionals and non-government organisations from national to union levels to make national polls neutral and acceptable.

Bangladesh Manobadhikar Samonnoy Parishad (BMSPP), a human rights organisation, placed the proposal at a discussion it organised at Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday. BMSPP President AHM Noman read out the proposal.

BMSPP representatives said ECC would function for one year, nine months before election day and three months after the poll, helping EC select primary candidacy, carry out publicity, conduct the election and announce results.

Speakers at the discussion said participation of people from other segments of society alongside political parties and EC is essential to make an election credible and acceptable to all.

Speaking as the chief guest, National Human Rights Commission Chairman Dr Mizanur Rahman termed ECC an attempt to involve people in the election process and said the new model will be able to supervise all segments of the election.

"The caretaker government system was introduced to hold an acceptable election but after the 1/11, we saw the negative side of a caretaker government, which caused panic among us," said Mizanur.

He also stressed the need for an independent and powerful EC to hold an acceptable election.

Presiding over the discussion, former adviser to a caretaker government ASM Shahjahan said involvement of political parties is important to make the new proposal successful.

Taleya Rehman, co-chairperson of Election Working Group, said the new proposal can be an ideal suggestion to involve civil society in the election process.

Former BMSPP president Binoy Krishna Mallik and former secretary Hedayetul Islam Chowdhury also spoke at the programme.

বাবুজি ব্যবহৃত এ্যাপার্টমেন্ট

নাঙ্গারী রেডি বনানীতে

- সাইজ ২২৮৫ বর্গফুট (শ্রয়)
- গাড়ি পার্কিং সুবিধা
- দক্ষিণ-পূর্বমুখী
- গ্যাস, পানি, বিদ্যুৎ সমোগ বর্তমান
- টাকা ১২০০০/- প্রতি বর্গফুট
- খোলা মেলা পরিবেশ
- বহির্পার্শ্বে চারদিকে ১০ ইঞ্চি দেয়াল
- গ্রকন্ডের সন্নিহিত ব্যাক, বাঁমা ও শপিংমাল

যোগাযোগ: ০১৮১৪৪৯৬৬২১
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