

Speedy war crimes trial demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Martyred Intellectuals' Day was observed throughout the country yesterday by different political and socio-cultural organisations, students and people from all walks of life.

Thousands of people paid tributes at the Martyred Intellectuals' Memorial in Mirpur and the killing field in the city's Rayer Bazar, two of the places in Dhaka where the bodies of the intellectuals were found dumped.

Many of those attending wore black ribbons while others and a number of organisations carried banners demanding the quick completion of the trial process of the war criminals.

The Prime Minister and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina placed wreaths at the Martyred Intellectuals' Memorial around 6:40am, paying homage to the valiant sons of the soil.

AL General Secretary Syed Ashraful Islam and party leaders Begum Matia Chowdhury, Suranjit Sengupta were present.

Around 7:20am, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia along with party leaders and activists paid placed wreaths.

BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir told journalists that BNP always wants the trial of the war criminals but it must be transparent and neutral so that no questions arise.

Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad also placed wreaths at the memorial. Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote and Citizens Right Movement placed wreaths at the Rayer Bazar killing field.

Dhaka University observed the day by placing wreaths and holding discussions in and outside the campus.

Bangladesh National Museum, Bangladesh Awami Svecchhaseebak League, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, Bangladesher Biplobi Workers Party, Ganatantrik Bam Morcha, Ganatantrik Biplobi Party, Shammilita Samajik Andolon, Youth Gono Forum, Jahangirnagar University and Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh also observed the day.

Sepoy Masum sprayed bullets on Maj Mominul Says BDR mutiny witness

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The intelligence officer of the 24 rifle battalion, Major Mohammad Mominul Islam Sarkar, was sprayed with bullets from only 25 to 30 yards away by Sepoy Al Masum, one of the 850 accused of the Pilkhana carnage case.

The testimony came from Sepoy Fazlul Haq, a soldier of former 24 rifle battalion, before Metropolitan Session Judge's court set up at Alia Madrasa playground in the city's Bakshibazar yesterday.

Fazlul was running out of Darbar Hall around 10:00am after the mutiny began on February 25, 2009 when he saw some agitated soldiers and Sepoy Al Masum running with weapons.

"As soon as Masum saw Major Mominul, he sprayed him with bullets. I saw him (Mominul) fall to the ground," said Fazlul, who was later cross-examined by a defense counsel on behalf of an accused, Sepoy Khoybor Rahman.

The court was adjourned till today.

Earlier, another witness, Nayek Enamul Haq, gave his deposition before the court and was cross-examined by the defense counsels.

A total of 74 people, including 57 army officers, were brutally killed in the mutiny at the Bangladesh Rifles, now Border Guard Bangladesh, headquarters in Pilkhana.

Quamrul rules out Amini's allegation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

State Minister for Law Quamrul Islam yesterday said he didn't utter comments against Prophet Muhammad (SM) rather described "aspects of beauty in Islam" at the recent imam training meeting of Islamic Foundation.

In a statement issued by the law ministry, Quamrul claimed that he didn't criticise Islam and term Prophet Muhammad (SM) secular there. In the meeting, he tried to point out the respect to other religions by Prophet Muhammad (SM).

The minister said some organisations brought the allegation against him to gain political leverage and confuse Islamic scholars.

The statement came after Islami Ain Bastobayon Committee Ameer Fazlul Haq Amini on Tuesday declared Quamrul Islam, State Minister of Religious Affairs Md Shahjahan Miah and Director General of Islamic Foundation "murtad" (apostate) for what he said "criticising Islam" on different occasions.

Indicating Amini's remark, Quamrul said those persons who give wrong definition of Islam and create confusion and conflict are "real murtad."

WEATHER TODAY

Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry with temporary or partly cloudy sky over the country in 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Moderate to thick fog may occur over northwestern part and light to moderate fog may occur elsewhere over the country during mid night till morning, Met office said.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country and night temperature may fall slightly over northern part and it may remain nearly unchanged elsewhere over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:14pm today and rises at 6:34am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 27.8 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 09.7 degrees Celsius at Srimongal.

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	23.6	15.2	69	66
Chittagong	25.0	15.5	78	61
Rajshahi	19.8	12.2	92	87
Rangpur	16.8	12.0	96	93
Khulna	24.0	14.5	75	69
Barisal	26.0	14.0	84	85



People from all walks of life at Mirpur Martyred Intellectuals Memorial



Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain



Jatiya Party



Dhaka University



Homage to Martyred Intellectuals

People from all walks of life and various socio-cultural organisations as well as political parties pay their tribute at Mirpur Martyred Intellectuals' Memorial and the monument at Rayer Bazar mass grave in the city on the occasion of the Martyred Intellectuals' Day yesterday. (Story Page 1)

PHOTO: STAR



PHOTO: PID
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina along with party leaders



BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia along with her party leaders



Sector Commanders Forum at Rayer Bazar mass grave



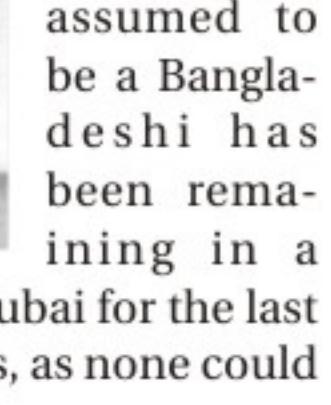
Workers Party of Bangladesh



Bangladesh Mahila Parishad

Suspected body of Bangladeshi in Dubai hospital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



The body of a worker, assumed to be a Bangladeshi has been remaining in a morgue of Dubai for the last eight months, as none could identify him.

The worker was seriously injured after falling from a 16-story building, International City, in Dubai of the United Arab Emirates on March 31 this year. He had no passport or any other documents.

The victim was rushed to the Rashid Hospital where he died while undergoing treatment on April 18, says a press release of the Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training (BMET) on Tuesday.

Dubai police communicated the matter to the Bangladesh consulate general there, saying they suspected the deceased could be hailing from Bangladesh, and asked for publicizing of the matter so he could be identified.

BMET said anyone identifying him has been requested to contact its office at 89/2 Kakrail, Dhaka or at 8350159 or 01716-869222.

CORRUPTION Four sub-registrars sacked, 3 suspended

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four sub-registrars, who confessed to involvement in corruption before the Truth and Accountability Commission (TAC) during the immediate past caretaker government, were sacked yesterday, says a press release of the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs.

The four, Azizur Rahman, Khandaker Humayun Kabir, Dewan Mozahar Hossain and Shahadat Hossain, were serving as sub-registrars in Munshiganj, Sylhet, Thakurgaon and Gazipur respectively.

Three more sub-registrars -- Sudhir Kumar Sarkar at Tentulia of Panchagar, Abdur Rajjak at Alfadanga of Faridpur and Mazed Begum at Boalkhali of Chittagong -- were also suspended on the same charges. They, however, did not face TAC.

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Azizur Rahman Kanchan, an adviser to the Gazipur's Kaliganj upazila unit of the Nirapad Sarak Chai passed away at a hospital in the city on Tuesday due to cardiac arrest at the age of 67.

The 7th solo painting exhibition of noted artist Najma Akhter, assistant professor of Dhaka University Laboratory School and College, will begin today at Erich Paproth Atelier in Berlin of Germany.

Bangladesh Ambassador in Germany Mosadur Mannan will inaugurate the week-long exhibition, says a press release.

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