

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Mosammat Hasina Begum, aunt of The Daily Star editor and publisher

Mahfuz Anam, passed away in Mymensingh Medical College Hospital on February 13, says a press release.

She was 82. Hasina Begum left behind one son, three daughters, and a host of relatives and well-wishers to mourn her demise.

Agriculture Minister Begum Matia Chowdhury expressed deep shock at the death.

Kazi Ismail Alam

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Kazi Ismail Alam, president of Basail upazila Awami League, passed away due to a cardiac arrest during a waz mahfil (religious lecture) in the upazila sadar yesterday. He was 67. Kazi Ismail left behind his wife, one son, one daughter, a host of relatives, party colleagues, and well-wishers to mourn his death.

Qulkhwani

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The qulkhwani of former Awami League leader Dr Jahangir Sattar Tinku will be held at the city's officers' club after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

Relatives, friends, colleagues, and well-wishers have been requested to attend the ceremony to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.



President Zillur Rahman gives away a gold medal to a successful graduate at the 5th convocation of Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: PTI

Mass grave dug at gunpoint BDR witness tells court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A sepoy of erstwhile Bangladesh Rifles (BDR), in his deposition before a court yesterday, described the way a mass grave was dug for 40 to 45 dead army officers in the early hours of February 26, 2009.

The mutineers forced sepoy Golam Kibria and other BDR jawans at gunpoint to help dig the grave behind the BDR hospital.

"I was trying to escape Pilkhana by crossing the boundary around 12:30am but armed mutineers were on patrol," Kibria said. A rebel jawan saw and asked him to join the 36 rifle battalion barracks.

"I went there and saw some jawans of RSU (Rifles Security Unit). Nayek subedar Torab Ali of BDR hospital unit and subedar Yusuf of RSU led us to the back of the BDR hospital beside the oxidation plant of the mortuary," said Kibria.

He recognised some of the mutineers of RSU who, alongside other jawans, were dig-

ging the grave with shovels.

"Torab Ali told me to dig. I told him that I was injured while trying to leave Darbar Hall (where the mutiny erupted) in the morning. I sat there but the others began digging", he said.

When the digging ended around 4:30am, 40 to 45 bodies arrived on two trucks and a pick-up van and were dumped inside the grave, he said.

Kibria was later cross-examined by the defence lawyers. Earlier, another prosecution witness, Nayeb Subedar Moniruzzaman, who had earlier given his deposition, was also cross-examined by the defence.

The Metropolitan Session Judges Court, set up at the Alia Madrasa playground of the city's Bakshibazar, will resume on February 20 with the deposition of Havildar Babul Mia.

A total 74 people, including 57 army officers, were killed during the two-day carnage at BDR's, now Border Guard Bangladesh, Pilkhana headquarters.

Consumption of iodized salt stressed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a policy dialogue yesterday stressed the need for creating mass awareness of consuming iodized salt to address Iodine Deficiency Disorder (IDD) in the country.

They were speaking at a discussion styled 'Policy Dialogue towards Sustainable Universal Salt Iodization' jointly organised by Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) and Micronutrient Initiative (MI) at a city hotel, said a press release.

Dr Tahmeed Ahmed, director of centre for Nutrition and Food security of ICDDR,B presented the keynote paper.

BNP has 'deaf, dumb' leaders

Says Matia

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Responding to BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's recent threat to "cripple" the government, Awami League presidium member Matia Chowdhury yesterday said BNP comprises a number of "lame, deaf and dumb" leaders and activists.

"We have no record of engaging in politics with the deaf and dumb and conspirators. But you (Khaleda) did so. So, how can you threaten to cripple the government?" she asked.

Matia was presiding over a discussion organised by Awami League before the party's city headquarters marking the "black day", which AL observes protesting the "farical general election" of February 15, 1996 by the then BNP government.

On BNP's political programme on March 12, Matia, also the agriculture minister, warned that AL would resist any "conspiracy" to instigate violence on that day.

"You (Khaleda) should give up conspiracies and practice democracy. If BNP tries something undemocratic, we will do everything to ensure people's protection," she said.

AL General Secretary Syed Ashrafur Islam, Joint General Secretary Mahbubul Alam Hanif and presidium members Mohiduddin Khan Alamgir and Satish Chandra Roy were present at the discussion.

College girl found dead in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A female college student was found dead at her sister's house in the city's Darus Salam area yesterday.

Mohana Akhter, 18, was a first year student at higher secondary level in Mirpur Government Bangla College.

On information, police broke open the door of her room and recovered the body, hanging from the ceiling fan early in the morning.

Mohana, who hailed from Nazirpur upazila of Pirojpur, used to live with her sister and brother-in-law at Darus Salam to continue her education.

Police detained Mohana's brother-in-law, Jasim Uddin, an employee of a Chinese restaurant, for interrogation.

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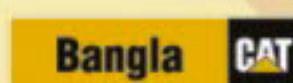


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