



Safina elected Rotary district governor

METRO DESK
Rotary International District 3281 has elected Safina Rahman as its district governor for 2014-15. Safina is the first female district governor of the organisation in Bangladesh, said a press release.

She was made the district governor at a two-day district conference inaugurated by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on March 16. Safina has been involved with Rotary since 2002 as a member of Rotary Club of Dhaka Midtown.

She has been given the "Service Above Self" award for her outstanding contribution to the Rotary movement.

Safina Rahman is a director of Lakshma Sweaters Limited. She is also involved with BGMEA, DCCI, Bangladesh Scouts Foundation, Global Women Summit, Junior Chamber International (JCI), Alumni International Visitors Leadership Program (IVLP), and Future Leader Forum Foundation.

MARITIME VICTORY Dr Kamal recognises success of int'l law

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Acclaiming the recent victory of Bangladesh over Myanmar on maritime disputes, eminent jurist Dr Kamal Hossain has recognised the contribution and success of the international law.

The success of international law depends on the collaborative approaches and practices by different states, he said underscoring the need for consensus among the states for realisation of individuals' rights under the international law.

He made the remarks while presiding over a roundtable on "International Law Issues and Bangladesh" at the city's BRAC Centre Inn on Monday.

The South Asian Institute of Advanced Legal and Human Rights Studies (SAIILS) and the International Law Association Bangladesh Branch (ILABB) have jointly organised the programme, a SAIILS press release.

At the roundtable, there were thematic presentations on international relations, international human rights and humanitarian law, climate change and war crimes issues in the context of Bangladesh.

Prof Ainun Nishat, vice chancellor of BRAC University, Prof Imtiaz Ahmed,

Prof Borhan Uddin Khan and Prof Asif Nazrul from Dhaka University, Dr Tureen Afroz of BRAC University and Dr Sharif Bhuiyan also spoke at the programme.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Today is the 20th death anniversary of Nurul Momen Khan (Mihir), a former secretary and freedom fighter.

On the occasion, a doa and milad mahfil will be held at local mosque, madrasa and residence of his son, said a press release.

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



A man recites prayers as hundreds of Hindus take Baruni Snan, a holy bath, in the sea yesterday, seeking divine blessings. The photo was taken at Kattali Rasmoni Ghat in Chittagong.

129 foreign nationals, organisations to get state honour

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The government will confer the "Bangladesh Freedom Honour" award on some 129 foreign nationals and organisations for their outstanding contributions to the 1971 War of Liberation.

Foreign ministry sources said the government, till yesterday, has sent invitations to 110 awardees and 52 of them so far have confirmed to attend the first phase of the award-giving ceremony on March 27.

More confirmations are expected till the arrival of the awardees in Dhaka on March 24.

The award recipients are from countries including India, Russia, USA, UK, Italy, Japan, Nepal, former Yugoslavia, Cuba, Argentina, Switzerland, Bhutan, Sweden, Denmark, Vietnam, Germany, Australia, Canada and Ireland.

They will be conferred the state honour in a ceremonial reception at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the city, where President Zillur Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will distribute the medals, crests and citations among them.

Family members and close relatives of those posthumously awarded have been invited to receive the award on their behalf.

Ctg AL factions talk of unity ahead of March 28 grand rally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Rival faction leaders of Chittagong city unit Awami League (AL) yesterday called upon its leaders and activists to forget the past differences and work unitedly for making the party's March 28 grand rally a success.

The leaders also vowed to gather over a million people for the programme, to be held on Pologround in the port city, to support the ongoing trial of the war criminals.

Prime Minister and AL President Sheikh Hasina is scheduled to address the rally as the chief guest.

Most of the AL leaders of Chittagong city unit, who remained divided into two factions since the last parliamentary elections, shared the

same stage at a workers' meeting in the city yesterday to take decisions regarding the upcoming rally.

Primary and Mass Education Minister Afsarul Amin was present at the meeting as the chief guest with AL Chittagong city unit President ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury in the chair.

Afsarul said the main opposition party is doing conspiracy in a bid to save the war criminals.

He emphasised on greater unity among the party leaders and activists to thwart all sort of conspiracy.

Mohiuddin urged the party's grassroots level leaders and activists and its associate organisations to work together for the rally, keeping aside all differences of opinions.

The gap between the AL Chittagong

city unit's two factions, one led by Mohiuddin and another led by Afsarul and Nurul Islam BSC, started to diminish recently following an initiative by the party's high command.

Mohiuddin, at the meeting, also criticised hanging up of posters and banners printed with large size photographs of local leaders while the photograph of the party chief is printed in small size in the same posters.

Veteran AL leader Ishaq Mia, AL Chittagong city unit General Secretary Kazi Inamul Hoque Danu, Vice-President Mahtab Uddin Chowdhury, Joint Secretary Advocate Ibrahim Hossain Babul and AL leader AJM Nasiruddin also spoke at the meeting.



North South University Vice Chancellor (In-Charge) Dr Abdus Sattar and Gesellschaft Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Germany Programme Coordinator Magnus Schmid exchange documents after signing a memorandum of understanding on the NSU campus yesterday. NSU Board of Trustees Chairman Mohammed Shajahan, Department of Environmental Science and Management (DESM) Chairman Dr Sirajul Islam, and GIZ Programme Manager Nishat are also seen.

PROTEST AGAINST UNHYGIENIC FOOD Expelled, she was not allowed a single night

RU CORRESPONDENT

A resident student at Rajshahi University, who was expelled from Rokeya Hall on very short notice Monday, was not allowed to spend the very night at another hall of the university.

On receipt of her expulsion order, Bhagabati Rani Roy went to Monnujan Hall where her elder is a resident, but the hall authorities forced her to leave on the very night.

Rani said she eventually took shelter in a private mess of one of her friends outside the campus.

"The officials of Munnujan Hall forcefully had only me to leave the dormitory while I was taking my dinner at the hall dining room", she said.

Rani was among a number of Rokeya Hall students who protested and did some vandalism on March 12 when some 30 of their fellows fell sick after taking unhygienic food at the dining hall.

Shortly after Rani reached Monnujan Hall, Provost of Rokeya Hall Saeeda Akter arrived there and requested the hall authorities not to allow her to stay, an employee of Monnujan Hall told The Daily Star, wishing anonymity.

Saeeda Akter, however, said she went to Monnujan Hall to request the hall authorities so that Rani could stay there for two days.

The expulsion order states that the seat of Bhagabati Rani Roy has been cancelled as she violated rules and regulations of the dormitory during the March 12 incident.

National Film Award 2010 announced

BSS, Dhaka

The National Film Award-2010 was announced yesterday.

The government selected 25 artists and technicians for the award. Noted film actor Anwar Hossain has been selected for the Life Time Achievement Award, said a handout.

Shakib Khan was judged as best actor for his outstanding performance in the film 'Bhalo Baslai Ghar Badha Jai Na' while Purnima won the best actress award for the film 'Ora Amake Bhalo Hote Dilo Na'.

'Gahine Aranno' won the best movie award for the year while Khalid Mahmud Mithu was judged as the best director for the film.

The award for the best actor in supporting role went to MA Alamgir for the film 'Jibon Maroner Sathi' while Romana bagged the best actress in supporting role award for the film 'Bhalo Baslai Ghar Badha Jai Na'.

Sujao Shyam won the best music director award for the film 'Obujh

Bau' while Imdadul Haque Khokon won the best choreographer award for the film 'Jibon Tuchha'.

SI Tutul bagged the best male singer award for singing 'Bukeri Bhitore Jatno' in the film 'Bhalo Baslai Ghar Badha Jai Na' while Shammi Akhter won the best female singer award for the song 'Bhalo Baslai Sabar Sathe' in the film 'Bhalo Baslai Ghar Badha Jai Na'.

Sheikh Sadi Khan won best composer award for the song 'Rupali Rat Nameche' sang by Sammi Akhter for the film 'Nishas Amar Tumi' while Kabir Bakul bagged the best lyricist award for the song.

Miju Ahmed was judged as best villain, Afjal Sharif as best comedian, Dighi best child artist, Zakir Hossain Raju best story and dialogue writer, Nargis Akhter best playwright, Hasan Ahmed best cameraman, Kazi Selim best sound recorder, Mojibur Rahman Dulu best editor, Mohiuddin Faruk best art director, Abdur Rahman best makeup man, Bibi Russell best dress designer.

Varsity girl commits suicide in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A female student of a private university and a woman allegedly took their lives in the city yesterday.

Farzana Akhter, 19, BBA first year student of a private university at Shyamoli, hanged herself at her maternal aunt's house in Malibagh rail gate area.

Her aunt Farida Begum told The Daily Star that Farzana went to bathroom at around 3:00pm and did not get out of the room even after one hour. Then Farida's family members broke open the door and found her hanging from the shower pipe with a scarf.

Farzana was rushed to a local hospital from where she was shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, where doctors declared her dead.

Meanwhile, Darus Salam police recovered the body of Sanjida Akhter Ruby, 28, from her house at Bagbari Doaripara at around 2:00pm. The body was hanging from the ceiling fan with a scarf.

The police recovered a diary of the woman from the house. She wrote in the diary about her frustrations. She got divorced two years ago. Then she went to Dubai with a job but was sent back as her medical report said that she was sick.

BARAPUKURIA COAL Production from second layer starts

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Barapukuria Coal Mine Company Ltd (BCMCL) yesterday started production from the 'second slice' of the coal seam setting a milestone in coal mining history of the country.

Md Mostafizur Rahman state minister for land, inaugurated the coal production from the second slice yesterday afternoon.

Earlier on February 15, BCMCL authorities suspended coal production to develop and shift the coal extraction equipment from the first slice or layer to the second.

Since the mine launched its production in 2005, it has produced 4.5 million tonnes of coal, of which 80 percent was consumed by the 250 MW Barapukuria Power Plant and the remaining 20 percent sold to private buyers including brickkilns, officials said.

Md Quamruzzaman, managing director of BCMCL, said they estimate that the mine would produce about 5.5 million tonnes of coal from the second slice.

The mine has a 36-metre thick coal seam, of which the first slice constituting of three metres of coal has already been extracted, BCMCL sources said.

Jamaat leader ATM Azharul 're-arrested'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami claimed that the party's acting secretary general ATM Azharul Islam was re-arrested by the Detective Branch (DB) of police shortly after he walked out of Dhaka Central Jail on High Court's bail yesterday.

Acting Ameer Mokhbul Ahmad condemned and protested the arrest, a statement signed by Matiur Rahman Akand, assistant secretary of Jamaat's central publicity department, said.

Azharul was arrested on September 19, 2011.

Sources said Jamaat's acting secretary general and 11 other leaders and activists of Jamaat and Chhatra Shibir were released from the jail around 7:00pm yesterday.

Azharul and eight others were picked up at the jail gate by the DB police, according to sources. However, neither of the officials of the DB nor that of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) confirmed the arrest.

40 hurt in two-bus collision

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 40 passengers suffered injuries after two buses on Dhaka-Maowa highway collided head-on in South Keraniganj, outskirts of the city, yesterday morning.

Twenty-seven of the injured were admitted to Mitford Hospital, five to the Pongu (orthopaedic) hospital, and one to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Rest of the victims received primary treatment from local clinics.

Following the accident, local people put barricade on Dhaka-Maowa highway, resulting in huge traffic congestion on both side of the crash site for about two hours.

Shakhawat Hossain, officer-in-charge of South Keraniganj Police Station, said the collision took place between Dhaka bound Godhuli Paribahan and Maowa bound DM Paribahan at Kadampur in Abdullahpur around 7:30am.

Traffic movement became normal at about 9:30am after police reached the spot and launched a rescue operation together with locals. The buses were seized, but drivers and helpers fled.