



(Clockwise from top left) An armoured personnel carrier of Bangladesh Police roars down Naya Paltan in the capital yesterday to disperse BNP activists who had gathered at a rally to protest the 'disappearance' of BNP Organising Secretary (Sylhet Division) M Ilias Ali. BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir addresses the rally. Police obstruct BNP leaders as they try to bring out a procession afterwards. A bomb explodes before Jonaki Cinema Hall. A member of Rapid Action Battalion threatens to shoot BNP activists with an automatic rifle if they did not come out of hiding from inside a building. (Story on Page 1)

PHOTO: STAR



Qulkhwani

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Qulkhwani of Sabera Mustafa, wife of veteran journalist and former ambassador late KG Mustafa, will be held today after Asr prayers at Ilora Apartments, 5/7 Sir Syed Road, Block A, Mohammadpur, in the capital, says a press release. All the relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to attend the programme. Sabera died of cardiac arrest at a city hospital in Dhaka on Sunday.

Farhat Banu

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Qulkhwani of Farhat Banu, mother of senior photojournalist and member of Jatiya Press Club Babu Ansari, will be held today at Mirpur Rupnagar Arambagh Jame Mosque in the capital after Asr prayers, says a press release. She passed away due to old age complications at a city hospital on Tuesday at the age of 90.

WFP FOOD-FOR-WORK SCHEMES
7,000 tonnes of rice for Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Brazil will contribute 7,000 metric tonnes of rice, valued at US\$ 3.3 million, for people living in the most disaster-prone areas of Bangladesh through the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP). The donation is scheduled to arrive at the Chittagong port on May 9. WFP, with the Local Government Engineering Department, will employ 80,000 ultra poor people, 70 percent of whom are women, in food-for-work schemes on key infrastructure projects in coastal and flood-prone areas. The projects include building and maintaining embankments, re-excavating canals for irrigation and drainage, raising homesteads above flood levels and the building of roads and paddocks. The projects will be carried out through WFP's Enhancing Resilience to Disasters and the Effects of Climate Change programme. The programme also provides training in disaster management, nutrition, hygiene and health education and income generating activities.

The wages will be paid in food and cash, where WFP will provide the food and the government will provide the equivalent in cash, says a WFP press release yesterday. Christa Räder, WFP representative in Bangladesh, said, "WFP is very grateful for this generous donation from the people of Brazil. This donation provides us with the opportunity to support the most vulnerable in Bangladesh in overcoming the combined challenges of food insecurity, under-nutrition and the impact of natural disasters and climate change." Ricardo L Viana de Carvalho, the Brazilian ambassador to Bangladesh, said, "Brazil has a long-standing and fruitful partnership with WFP in a variety of issues related to improving food security. Since 2011, we have been carrying out in-kind donations, with the support of WFP to a group of over 40 countries which are vulnerable to food insecurity. We are confident that the donation to Bangladesh will have a positive and lasting impact and will generate further cooperation between both our governments, as well as with WFP."

ILIAS 'MISSING'
Ctg BNP protests

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chittagong city unit BNP yesterday staged demonstration protesting the "missing" of BNP central leader M Ilias Ali. The procession that started from the party office at Kazir Dewri and paraded the main thoroughfares of the port city concluded at the New Market intersection. City unit BNP President Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury at the programme said the government is responsible for the incident of "missing" of Ilias Ali. He said the missing of a politician like Ilias Ali has proved that the general people are not safe for a moment. Khasru urged people to take part in the ongoing anti-government movement for the sake of democracy and to make upcoming Sunday's strike a success.

'Project girls' role in society positively'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A positive projection of the role of girls in family and society can bolster the fight to end violence against them, said speakers at a programme yesterday. "We often tend to highlight grief and suffering whenever we talk about girls and women. But they are also making positive contributions to families and society at large and it is imperative that we recognise and appreciate that," observed lawmaker Meher Afroze Chumki. She was addressing as chief guest the launching of Plan Bangladesh's "Girl Power" project at IDB Bhaban, says a press release. The five-year project involves sensitising and engaging civil society organisations, media and social service providers in the movement to end violence against women. The project targets children, especially adolescent girls between 10 to 24 years of age, of some 30 upazilas under eight districts and ten selected areas of Dhaka City Corporation. Dr Aminul Islam, deputy secretary (cell), Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, listed a number of government initiatives including establishment of a "National Policy" to tackle such violence. Myrna (Mingming) Remata Evora, country director of Plan Bangladesh, presided over the programme which was attended by partner organisations, children, civil society representatives and development activists.

Four killed in road crashes

METRO DESK

Four people were killed in separate road accidents in Dinajpur and Chittagong yesterday. Our Dinajpur correspondent reports: A bus hit two motorbikes one after another on Dinajpur-Rangpur highway in Bottolmore area in the sadar upazila yesterday noon, leaving three motorcyclists dead. The victims were Md Mokul, 28, Dareka Nath Basak, 45, and Md Ataur Rahman Ata, 30. Following the accident, local people blocked the highway disrupting communications between Rangpur, Thakurgaon and Panchagarh as well. Police fired one tear-gas shell to disperse the protestors, triggering a clash with them. The clash left Dinajpur Police Station Sub-Inspector Tapan Das injured. He was undergoing treatment at Dinajpur Medical College Hospital. In Chittagong, an unidentified helper died as another truck crushed him while he was pushing his truck forward at Bandar Filling Station under Pahartali Police Station in the port city yesterday noon.

Decentralise local bodies for dev
Liton tells meeting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Speakers at a meeting in the city yesterday demanded democratic decentralisation of the local government institutions to ensure proper development and reducing wastages of money. They were addressing a view exchange meeting organised by Governance Advocacy Forum at Rajshahi Chamber of Commerce and Industries auditorium. Speaking as the chief guest, the city mayor AHM Khairuzzaman Liton said local government institutions including the city corporation were facing difficulties in rapid implementation of development projects as they had to take approval of every work from the concerned ministries. Some projects unnecessarily took time for the approval and different other complexities, he said. He demanded that the government should activate the local government institutions through proper and separate allocations of budget. Emphasising the decentralisation, lawmaker Fazle Hossain Badsha said it was also necessary for protecting people's rights, adding that development was not progressing as fast as the population was increasing. Rajshahi chapter of Loko Morcha President Jamat Khan presided over the meeting. Rajshahi University teacher M Moksudur Rahman, M Ansar Uddin, Charghat Municipality Mayor Nargis Khatun, Gogram UP Chairman Hazrat Ali and local newspaper Sonali Sangbad Editor Liakat Ali, among others, spoke.



Jatiya Press Club President Kamal Uddin Sabuj, second from left, and Gonoshasthaya Kendra Chief Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury, second from right, hold a contract document on a health checkup package after signing it on behalf of their respective sides at Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: COURTESY

Illegal structure evicted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A team of Department of Environment (DoE) in a drive in the port city yesterday evicted an illegal structure that was built on the land after cutting a hill. The team, led by DoE Deputy Director (DD) Golam Mohammad Bhuiyan, found one Mohammad Jonab Ali erecting a thatched house after cutting a 100-foot high hill stretching around one acre of land at Gulshan Housing Society at Sher Shah Colony. It evicted the illegal structure and seized the equipment used for cutting hill, said DoE DD (technical) Md Mainuddin.

DHAKA TODAY

Seminar
Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon and Haor Rakkha Andolon will organise a seminar; Venue: Dhaka Reporters Unity; Time: 10:30am.

Conference
Garment Sramik Trade Union Kendra will arrange its central conference; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 11:00am.

Discussion
Dhaka Foundation will hold a discussion; Venue: Nazir Bazar Girls' High School, Bangshal; Time: 9:00am.

Founding anniversary
Nurses Association of Bangladesh will organise its founding anniversary; Venue: Mawlana Bhashani Auditorium; Time: 10:00am.