

NEWS IN *brief*

Man crushed under train

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

An unidentified man was killed while a train ran over him in Mirbagh area of Kaunia upazila in Rangpur on Sunday evening.

Altab Hossain, station master of Kaunia Railway Station, said a Lalmonirhat bound train from Rangpur ran over the man while he was crossing the railway track.

Ali Aksad's 80th birth anniversary today

METRO DESK

Today is the 80th birth anniversary of Ali Aksad, a veteran journalist and ex-president of Bangladesh Peace Council, says press release.

On the occasion, Bangladesh Peace Council, now headed by Mujaffar Hossain Poltu as new president, has paid tributes to him.

Ali Aksad, a former member of the Communist Party, initiated the movement of Bangladesh Peace Council, a chapter of the World Peace Council, in the region. He worked with the daily Sangbad as news editor and with the Ittefaq as an assistant editor.

Aksad was born in 1932 in Hawrah district of India's West Bengal. A trusted associate of Bangabandhu, he brought international support during the country's Liberation War.

The veteran leader passed away on March 6, 2009 in a Dhaka hospital and was buried at the Martyred Intellectuals' Graveyard at Mirpur with state honour.



11 bombs recovered in Savar

BSS, Savar

Police yesterday recovered 11 home-made bombs in a drive at Choto Kaliakoir here yesterday.

Savar Model Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Asaduzzaman said acting on a tip-off, police raided the area around 10:00am and found the bombs in an abandoned state near a printing press - Blue Barry.

Later, the bombs were kept under water for destroying.

Old man beaten, dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The elderly man, who was beaten mercilessly by the employer of his 13-year-old step daughter, died at Rashmono Hospital in the capital's Moghbazar yesterday.

Sohrab Shikder, 65, died at the ICU at around 12:15am.

Police said some gold ornaments went missing from the house of Shahidul Hasan Titu, employer of the 13-year-old domestic help Shammi Akhter, at Block B of Bashundhara residential area. Titu blamed his domestic help Shammi for the stealing.

Sohrab went to the house of Titu from his Badda Mollapara residence on April 24 as the employer called him. At one stage, Titu and his three to four staff beat him severely, poured hot water on him and his step daughter Shammi, said victim's son Kibria Shikder to The Daily Star.

On the day, Titu and his men admitted Sohrab and Shammi to Dhaka Medical College Hospital and left it. Sohrab was later shifted to the Rashmono Hospital by his son Kibria.

A case was filed in this connection accusing four persons, including Titu. Police arrested Abdul Karim, driver of Titu's car.

DHAKA TODAY

- Labour rally**
Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad will arrange a labour rally; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 11:00am.
- Seminar**
Dhaka University Journalists' Association (Duj) will organise a seminar; Venue: Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban, the university; Time: 10:00am.
- Discussion**
Ganomuktir Ganer Dal, Keraniganj branch will hold a discussion; Venue: Beribandh Alam Market, East Aganagar, South Keraniganj; Time: 4:00pm.
- Rally**
Dhaka Mohanagar Printing Binding Sramik Union will arrange a rally; Venue: Fakirapool culvert road; Time: 10:00am.

WEATHER TODAY

No change in temperature

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at one or two places over Rajshahi, Rangpur, Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions in 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Mild to moderate heat wave is sweeping over Rajshahi, Rangpur and Khulna divisions and the regions of Faridpur and Tangail and it may continue.

Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:27pm today and rises at 5:28am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 40.2 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Ishurdi and lowest 18.8 degrees Celsius at Sylhet.

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	35.4	27.0	73	54
Chittagong	31.2	22.2	80	83
Rajshahi	40.0	26.5	57	34
Rangpur	34.2	25.2	85	77
Khulna	36.3	27.5	87	74
Barisal	34.3	25.5	83	76
Sylhet	24.2	18.8	98	76
Cox's Bazar	32.3	24.0	69	85



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addresses a view exchange meeting with the district Awami League leaders and workers on the occasion of inaugurating Rashidpur Condensate Fractionation Plant at Bahubal in Rashidpur of Habiganj yesterday.

Unite to win next election

Hasina urges AL leaders, workers

UNB, Habiganj

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged her party leaders and workers to uphold unity among themselves so that Awami League could win the next general election and thus serve people again.

"You need to keep in mind that we will have to win the next general election and serve people," she said while addressing a views exchange meeting with the district AL leaders and workers at Bahubal in Rashidpur.

Organised by Habiganj district unit AL, the meeting was held with district AL President Dr Mushfiq Hossain Chowdhury in the chair.

Hasina asked her party leaders and workers to project the implemented and ongoing development activities taken by the present government among the masses.

Turning to BNP rule, she alleged that whenever the party came to power, it resorted to looting and embezzlement of money, even of the orphanage.

"They (BNP) did not have time to think about people as they were busy with these works (irregularities)," she said, adding that AL only assumes power to serve people.

Referring to the by-polls in Habiganj where the ruling party lost its seat, Hasina told her party

leaders and workers that they would not have to face the disgrace of defeat had they sincerely worked for people. "We will have to work together in the coming days."

Blaming the BNP-Jamaat alliance for turning the county into one of killing, extremism and terrorism, she said, "In the last three years, we have been able to remove that bad reputation and brighten the country's image."

Listing various development activities taken by the present government, Hasina said the country has neared self-sufficiency in food production and witnessed bumper production of crops for three consecutive years. "We hope to achieve self-sufficiency in food by 2013."

Mentioning her government's steps to overcome the power and gas crises, she said some 3,300 MW of power has been added to the national grid over the last three years. "We want the country to be developed fast so that we can stand on our own feet."

Citing that some 5,175 various elections were held under the present government, she said no one could bring any allegation regarding the polls. "The voting rights are the constitutional rights of the people and such peaceful elections were never held in the past."

The prime minister said her government always works for ensuring the welfare of peo-

ple and mentioned various activities like providing free textbooks, forming education-assistance funds and giving the highest facilities to farmers.

Hasina also expressed her strong commitment to build an educated nation. "We want our children to become educated...we want to turn the country into a middle-income one by 2021."

She also renewed her pledge to build a "Sonar Bangla" as dreamt by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Turning to the recent maritime boundary verdict in the case against Myanmar, she expressed hope that Bangladesh's claim would be upheld in the debate over the maritime boundary with India in 2014.

She also assured the workers of tea estates of the area of resolving their problems.

The prime minister also inaugurated Rashidpur Condensate Fractionation Plant (2nd phase) at Bahubal.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith, Social Welfare Minister Enamul Hoque Mostofa Shaheed, AL Organising Secretary Advocate Mesbahuddin Siraj, lawmaker Advocate Abdul Mazid Khan, the upazila Chairman Abdul Kader Chowdhury, Bahubal upazila AL President Nazmul Hossain Chowdhury and Petrobangla Chairman Dr Hossain Monsur also spoke on the occasion.



Japanese DPM arrives May 3

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Deputy Prime Minister of Japan, Katsuya Okada, will pay a two-day official visit to Bangladesh on May 3-4.

During his visit, he will hold full range of bilateral discussion with the top ruling party and opposition leaders.

Foreign ministry sources said this will be his first visit to Bangladesh.

Sources said Katsuya Okada will call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and official meeting with Foreign Minister Dipu Moni. He will also meet with Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia.

Although Bangladesh has no such pending issue with Japan, but will request for Japan's renewed commitment to funding for Padma bridge, construction of metro rail and allow more duty-free access of Bangladeshi products in Japan market, officials said.

Despite global economic crisis and devastating tsunami and earthquake, Japan increased its official development assistance (ODA) to Bangladesh from US \$400 to US \$600 this year, foreign ministry sources said.



Save MBBS student Chandan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chandan Kumar Ghosh, a fifth year MBBS student of Sir Salimullah Medical College, has been suffering from "Idiopathic Interacranial Hypertension," a neurological disorder, since long for which he is going to lose his eyesight.

Physicians said Chandan is going to lose his eyesight due to presence of stored water in his brain that creates much pressure inside the brain.

He is now undergoing treatment in Mercury Hospital, Chennai in India. He needs an immediate surgery to get recovery from the disease. Neurologist Dr Deepak Arjua Das of the hospital said if Chandan's brain surgery is not done within a month, he might be blind permanently.

Hailing from Rajbari district, Chandan is a son of a poor family and it is not possible for them to bear his treatment cost. So, his family requested the generous and well-off of society to extend their hands to save Chandan's life.

One can send assistance to Chandan Kumar Ghosh, Account no: 00210231-5, Sonali Bank Limited, Goalanda Upazila Complex branch, Rajbari or call: 01757321737 (Chandan).

CU student missing

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A student of Chittagong University (CU) has been missing since April 27.

The missing Mohammed Salauddin Qader Soaib, son of Abdul Kader Master hailing from Swandip upazilla, is a fourth year student of Bangla department.

Tanveer Ahmed Sumon, elder brother of Soaib, filed a general diary with Halishahar Police Station on Sunday night.

He said Soaib had left their residence in Halishahar for going to the university campus at around 3:00pm.

Sumon talked to Soaib at around 5:00pm for the last time. After that, Soaib's mobile phone remained switched off.

Ensure CETP installation

Says Barua

UNB, Dhaka

Industries Minister Dilip Barua yesterday directed the officials concerned to ensure constant monitoring so that the installation work of central effluent treatment plant (CETP) at Savar leather industrial estate is not delayed.

"The delay in setting up the CETP won't be allowed," he told a meeting with senior officials of the ministry and Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) at Shilpa Bhaban.

He also asked the officials to expedite the work on Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (API) industrial park being set up at Gozaria in Munshiganj.



BNP leader Barrister Moudud Ahmed speaks at a press conference at the party chairperson's Gulshan office in the capital yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

Two die in fridge repair shop blast

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two people died and another two were critically injured after an explosion ripped through a refrigerator repair shop last evening at 82/3, north Jatrabari in the capital.

The deceased are Mohammad Arif, 28, of Islampur village under Burichong upazila in Comilla and Mohammad Helal Uddin, 26, of Chandipur village under Daganbhuiyan upazila in Feni.

The injured, Helal Uddin's cousin Mohammad Zahangir, 35, and Mohammad Shaheen, 25, are undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

"The explosion was so severe that it ripped pieces of flesh off the victims," said Mohammad Abul Kashem, officer-in-charge of Jatrabari Police Station.

The shop, Mannan Engineering Workshop, immediately caught fire, burning the victims inside, he said, adding that Fire Service and Civil Defence personnel arrived and doused the flames.

The firefighters recovered a liquefied petroleum gas cylinder from the shop which, they suspect, might have exploded while the victims were using it to fire a blowtorch to cut open a refrigerator condenser at around 6:30pm.

Stop commercial activities in residential plots

JS body asks Rajuk

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary sub-committee yesterday asked Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha (Rajuk) to stop activities of all commercial organisations in the residential plots in Gulshan, Banani and Uttara of the city to ease gridlock in the areas.

Headed by Noor-E-Alam Chowdhury, a ruling Awami League MP, the committee observed that commercial organisations on the residential plots are dodging tax as tax rate for commercial plots are much higher than the residential plots.

The sub-committee was formed by the parliamentary standing committee on the housing ministry on March 29 to examine irregularities in usage of residential plots in Gulshan, Banani and Uttara.

Held in the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban, the committee asked Rajuk to show banks, insurance companies, car show rooms, travel agencies and eighteen other organisations as commercial organisations.

"Taking opportunity of Rajuk's loopholes, many commercial organisations are run-

ning their activities on the residential plots. Many commercial offices were also built on the residential plots," Noor-E-Alam told The Daily Star.

He also said the sub-committee has also asked Rajuk to make videos or take photographs of commercial offices in the three areas to prove real picture of the areas.

"We have asked Rajuk to prepare a list of classification of plots, names of owners and current use of the plots within a month," Noor said, adding, "After completion of Rajuk's task, the committee will visit Banani and Gulshan to examine authenticity of Rajuk's work."

About traffic jam in Gulshan and Banani, he said activities of commercial offices in the residential plots are causing severe traffic tailback and closure of the offices would ease commuters' sufferings.

On dodging revenue by the commercial offices, he said, "[They [commercial offices] pay tax of electricity, water and other utility services as per the rate fix for residential usage and that cannot continue."