

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Engineer M Mujibur Rahman, former chief engineer of Steel & Engineering Corporation, passed away in a Dhaka hospital on May 6 at the age of 85, says a press release.

He left behind his one son, two daughters and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

His kulkhwani will be held at his Banani residence in the capital after Maghrib prayers today (Friday).

Mujibur Rahman, resident of Mallikpur in Narail district, received his engineering degree from Shibpur Engineering College, West Bengal.

Qulkhwani

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Qulkhwani of Nurunnessa Begum, wife of late Qazi Mahtabuddin in Ahmed, will be held today, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at her Bakshi Bazar residence after Asr prayers.

Nurunnessa was the eldest daughter of late Prof Maulana Abdul Khaleque of Satura Sharif, Brahmanbaria.

Friends, colleagues and well-wishers are requested to attend the milad and pray for eternal peace of her soul.

Nurunnessa passed away on May 9.



Sampans (small boats) try to outrun one another at a baich (race) on Karnaphuli river yesterday as part of a three-day "Sampan Khela O Chatga Sangskritik Mela" organised by Chittagong Regional Cultural Academy.

PHOTO: STAR

Student crushed under train's wheels

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A youth was crushed to death under the wheels of a train near Titipara rail crossing at Kamalapur in the capital yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Tanmay Islam Tushar, 25, a student of Marine Technology Institute in Narayanganj.

Tanmay, son of Nurul Islam of Kadam of Bondor area in Narayanganj, was crushed under the wheels of a Dhaka bound train from Narayanganj and died as he fell down from the train while he was going to Dhaka along with his cousin Noman.

Noman told Railway police, "Tushar fell from the train suddenly when we were standing in front of a door at around 12:30pm."

Khairul Bashar, Kamalapur Railway Station manager, said the locals and railway police rushed him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries at around 1:30pm.

A\$100.5m Australian aid for development

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Australia will provide A\$100.5 million dollars, equivalent to Tk 8.3 billion, as official development assistance to Bangladesh for the 2012-13 fiscal year.

"Australia's aid program makes an important contribution to a global effort to achieve the Millennium Development Goals in particular for eradicating poverty," said Acting High Commissioner of Australia Tim Bolotnikoff.

This is part of the Australian government's overall commitment to increase the size of the Australian aid program to A\$5.2 billion from A\$4.8 billion in 2011-12 fiscal year, said a press release.

Australian assistance to Bangladesh in 2012-13 will support Bangladesh's Sixth

Five-Year Plan, accelerate growth and reduce poverty in the country. Australian funding will increase access to quality health and education services especially for women and children, and reduce the number of people living in extreme poverty.

Consistent with commitments made, the Australian government also released a new Comprehensive Aid Policy Framework on May 8. The Framework articulates a four-year vision for Australian aid that sets out how much Australia will deliver, where and why by 2015-16.

This will enable the Australian government to work together with Bangladesh to plan and implement aid investments more effectively over the next four years, delivering better results for the people of Bangladesh.

TCB dealer robbed of Tk 3 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A gang of muggers, known as "ogyan party", which makes victims unconscious by drugging, robbed a TCB dealer of Tk 3 lakh on a bus from Narsingdi to Dhaka yesterday.

The victim was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital around 2:00pm. He did not regain his consciousness till filing of this report at 7:00pm.

Mehedi Hasan, 32, who hails from Belabo upazila, was found comatose on the bus when it reached Mahakhali terminal in the afternoon.

A cousin of the victim, Mamun ur Rashid, said he rescued Mehedi after receiving a phone call from one of the bus staff.

Mehedi started for Dhaka taking Tk 2.5 lakh from his wife and Tk 50,000 from one of his friends, he said.

He was supposed to make some purchase from the head office of TCB (Trading Corporation of Bangladesh), Mamun added.

Faroque Ahmed, officer-in-charge of Tejgaon Industrial Police Station, said they were informed of the incident, but nobody filed any case in this connection.

EMBASSY STAFF KILLING Saudi envoy expresses frustration

UNB, Dhaka

Saudi Ambassador Dr Abdullah Bin Naser Al Busaire yesterday voiced 'deep frustration' over the investigation into the killing of a Saudi embassy official in Dhaka.

Busaire expressed the 'frustration' when he called on Leader of the Opposition in Parliament BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia at her Gulshan office last night.

After the meeting, BNP Vice Chairman Shamsheer Mobin Chowdhury briefed reporters.

He said the envoy, on behalf of the Saudi government, invited Khaleda to visit Saudi Arabia for her health checkup, if she feels necessary. Khaleda will be treated as a guest of Saudi government if she wants to go, he said.

Replying to a question, he said the BNP chairperson accepted the invitation and the date of her visit will be fixed later.

Asked about the recent killing of a Saudi embassy official in Dhaka, he said the ambassador said it is a 'big frustration' for them as there is no progress in the investigation into the murder.

BNP chairperson's advisers Reaz Rahman and Sabihuddin Ahmed were present at the meeting.



Reunion

Salimullah Muslim Hall Alumni Association of Dhaka University will organise a reunion. Time: 10:00am. Venue: TSC.

Discussion

Supra will organise a discussion. Time: 10:00am. Venue: Dhaka Reporters Unity.

Launch

Jatiya Press Club and Gonosasthya Kendra will jointly launch a health programme. Time: 9:00am. Venue: The press club.

Human Chain

Bangladesh Minority Sangram Parishad will form a human chain. Time: 11:00am. Venue: Jatiya Press Club.

Celebration

Nazrul Academy will celebrate Tagore's 150th birth anniversary. Time: 6:45pm. Venue: The academy auditorium.

Discussion

Bangabandhu Academy will hold a discussion. Time: 10:30am. Venue: Jatiya Press Club.

Seminar

FBCI will hold a seminar. Time: 7:00pm. Venue: Gulshan Club.

Anniversary

Sangsaptak will celebrate its 22nd founding anniversary. Time: 6:00pm. Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

Closing Ceremony

Cultural Diversity Ministerial Forum

No more Monga Says HT Imam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime minister's advisor HT Imam yesterday said that Monga (seasonal and localised famine) does not exist in the country anymore as the government has initiated a number of projects to facilitate the poverty-stricken people to earn livelihoods.

"People are growing crops, running fisheries and engaging in other jobs which develops their socio-economic conditions," he said at a function organised by World Vision Bangladesh at Osmani Memorial Hall in the capital to celebrate its 40th founding anniversary.

Although farmers have achieved bumper production of food grains, they are facing crisis of cold storages for preservation, he said.

Imam said that the government has developed primary education facilities, especially for females, in poverty-stricken areas.

He stressed the need for collaboration between government and NGOs to improve sanitation, education, disaster management, water management system and other sectors in the country.

State minister for Women and Children Affairs Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, NGO Affairs Bureau Director General Nurul Kabir Talukdar, World Vision International president David F Young, World Vision Bangladesh National Director Jan de Waal, among others, also spoke.

Beverage distribution centre looted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of muggers injured two staff and looted Tk 4 lakh from a beverage distribution centre in the capital's Khilgaon yesterday.

The muggers also snatched seven mobile phone sets.

The injured, Dadan Miah, 41, and Mohammad Shamim, 30, of Sreejan Marketing Distribution took treatment in a local hospital.

Sources said a private car arrived at the centre around 2:30pm. Four muggers from the car entered the centre and looted the money holding hostage six staff.

The muggers hit Dadan with firearms when he denied giving the key of the cash box. Shamim was beaten up after he refused to give the money with him and the mobile phone set.

The gang fled by firing a blank shot.

Khilgaon police visited the place but could not arrest anyone.

World Vision Bangladesh celebrates its 40th founding anniversary



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina distributes subsidy money for waiving interest on agriculture loan of the farmers of cooperative society at a function at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre.

PHOTO: PMO



Bangladesh Dalit Nari Andolon organises a press conference at Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday demanding separate allocation for the Dalit community in the upcoming national budget.

PHOTO: STAR

Special budgetary allocation for Dalits demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dalit community yesterday demanded the government put aside special allocation for the downtrodden section of the population in this year's budget.

Drawing upon the fundamental rights they are deprived of, leaders of the country's excluded communities placed a 10-point demand at a press conference at Jatiya Press Club.

The speakers reiterated that the Dalit population, numbering around 70 lakh in the country, continued to live in a subhuman condition and had been stigmatised as the "untouchables", who were neither respected nor given an opportunity to improve their condition.

They want better accommodation, healthcare facilities and equal right to primary education, they said.

"We think our demands would reach Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Finance Minister AMA Muhith and Planning Minister Air Vice Marshal (retd) AK

Khandker", said Antara Biswas, a student from Dayaganj sweepers' colony in the capital's Sutrapur, who read out the demands.

Speakers reiterated that the Dalit population, numbering around 70 lakh in the country, continued to live in a subhuman condition and had been stigmatised as "untouchables"

The conference was jointly organised by Bangladesh Dalit Rishi Panchayat Forum and Bangladesh Harijan Oikya Parishad in association

with Self Help Association for Rural People through Education and Entrepreneurship (Sharee) and Oxfam.

Dalit leaders urged the government to introduce SME loan and ensure opportunities at Bangladesh Institute of Small Industry and Cottage (BISIC) for the Rishi community people, who specialise in handicrafts.

They expressed fear that in recent times, industrialisation of handicrafts and small businesses were causing destruction of their last resort for decent survival, as for Dalit people, who work only as sweepers and cleaners, it was hardly sufficient for a decent living.

Ensuring special quotas and budgetary allocation in education and job sector in line with article 29(3) of the constitution, bringing the Dalit community under safety net programmes, incorporating the community into the development process and formation of a Dalit Commission, which may administer their development, were other key points of their demand.