

AL to observe Aug 17, 21 as 'Black Day'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling Awami League yesterday decided to observe August 17 and 21 as "Black Day" protesting against terrorism and criminal activities and chalked out programmes to observe National Mourning Day on August 15.

On August 17, 2005, banned Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh simultaneously blasted bombs at 500 places across the country, killing two people.

On August 21, 2004, a grenade attack on an AL rally in the capital left 24 party leaders and workers, including Ivy Rahman, dead and several hundred injured.

Moreover, on August 15, 1975, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and 22 of his family members and close aides were assassinated by some disgruntled army officers.

Yesterday's decision was taken at a meeting in Sheikh Hasina's Dhanmondi political office in the capital where leaders of AL and its associated bodies were present.

On National Mourning Day, President Zillur Rahman, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and AL and its associated bodies will place wreaths at Bangabandhu's portrait in Dhanmondi, Road No 32.

A special prayer for those killed on that day will be offered at Banani Graveyard at 7:30am.

The prime minister and her family members will go to Tungipara to offer special prayers at Bangabandhu's grave. A discussion will also be organised there to mark the day.

The meeting expressed deep shock at popular writer Humayun Ahmed's death and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family.



Jahangirnagar University senate members of different categories bring out a procession prior to forming a human chain on the campus yesterday protesting against the 'controversial' vice-chancellor panel polls.

PHOTO: STAR

BNP leader shot dead in Jessore

Hartal observed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Jessore's Abhaynagar upazila unit BNP observed a half-day hartal yesterday protesting the killing of its Nawapara municipality secretary general on Thursday night.

Some four to five unidentified gunmen on motorcycles rode up around 10:00pm in front of the grocery shop the BNP leader, Lutfur Rahman, 55, at Dhopadi of Noapara Bazar area, shot him twice and fled. Lutfur died on way to the upazila health complex.

During the 6:00am to 12:00noon hartal, BNP activists held a rally led by BNP standing committee member Tariqul Islam, demanding that the killers be immediately arrested and handed down exemplary punishment.

Later, Lutfur's body was taken to the BNP office at Laldighir Par where hundreds of leaders and activists paid their last respects by placing wreaths on the coffin.

The district unit BNP announced a three-day mourning programme, including milad mahfils, memorial meetings and demonstrations.

Eatery worker's body recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A worker of an eatery was found dead in a pond at Goramara village in Sitakunda upazila yesterday.

The deceased is Md Sumon, 20, son of late Abu Taher, hailing from Raipur upazila of Laxmipur district.

Sumon went to a pond, adjacent to the eatery for bathing on Thursday morning and his body was found in the pond around 1:00pm yesterday, said police.

14 Rohingyas sent back

UNB, Cox's Bazar

Members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) on Thursday held 17 Rohingyas from Shahparir Dwip in Teknaf upazila of Cox's Bazar and sent back 14 of them.

Lt Col Zahid Hassan, commanding officer Teknaf BGB-42, said they held the Rohingyas on Thursday night.

He said three other Rohingyas would be pushed back later.

Bridge collapses in Pirojpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

An iron bridge constructed on Kuriana Bazaar Canal in Swarupkathi upazila collapsed yesterday after being hit by a cargo trawler.

Shekhar Shikdar, chairman of Kuriana union parishad, said the Guava traders will face problem now as they use this bridge for transporting the produce from the farmers to the market.

Man dies in Ctg road crash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

An unidentified man was killed as a truck knocked him in Monosha Badamtali area of Patiya upazila early yesterday.

He was rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead, said police.

Missing young dramatist found dead in N'ganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

The decomposed body of dramatist Didarul Islam Chanchal, who has been missing for three days, was identified by his mother yesterday.

The body of the 20-year-old, from Deobhog area of Narayanganj, was recovered from the Shitalakkhya river in Bandor upazila on Wednesday but it was unidentified until yesterday when the victim's mother Rubina Begum recognised the attire of deceased that was kept in the police station.

According to victim's older brother Pomel, Chanchal went missing after he left home early Tuesday to have tea with two of his friends.

Police interrogated the victim's two

friends but could get no clue from them.

Chanchal, first year student of Government Tolarum College, was gaining popularity as a dramatist. He had been an active member of Oykik Theatre in Narayanganj.

He has written three famous dramas -- 'Shotho Manusher Hazar Swapna', 'Haar Toronga' and 'Boktaboli', centring on 40 years of independence, which was staged in Dhaka Shilpakala Academy on July 13.

Aktar Hossain, officer-in-charge of Bandar police station, said although the body had been unidentified, it was buried on Wednesday after an autopsy.

There were marks on the body caused by sharp weapons, he said adding that police suspect Chanchal was killed and then dumped in the river.

Death anniversary

METRO DESK



Today is the 12th death anniversary of Zakia Sultana, a student of Dhaka

Dental College Maxilo Facial, and wife of Nazmul Hai, a joint secretary.

On the occasion, Qurankhwani and a doa mahfil will be held, says a press release.

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

Zakia died of dengue fever on July 21 in 2000 at the age of 26 years.

Domestic help 'kills himself'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A boy domestic help allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself in Uttara area in the capital yesterday.

The deceased was Khairul, 11, son of Dulal Uddin of Gouripur in Mymensingh.

Quoting the deceased's employer, Habibur Rahman, sub-inspector of Uttara Police Station, said Khairul had been working in Rafiqul Islam's house at road number 21 in sector number 4 of Uttara.

"They [the family members] said Khairul entered in bathroom yesterday, but did not come out for hours," he said.

"Later, they broke open the door and found that he was hanging from a pipe of a shower with a towel," he said adding that "Khairul was rushed to Uttara Adhunik Hospital where doctors declared him dead."

Police sent the body to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for an autopsy.

The victim's family members suspect that Khairul was killed by his employers, police said.



A fisherman walks along the banks of Padma river at T-bandh in Rajshahi to find a suitable spot to set his fish traps yesterday. Recent rains caused a rise in water levels, prompting many fishermen to try their luck for a healthy catch.

PHOTO: STAR

DINAJPUR MEDICAL COLLEGE 8 hurt in BCL attack

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Eight Islami Chhatra Shibir activists of Dinajpur Medical College unit were assaulted by the institution's Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) men on the campus yesterday.

The unit's Shibir President Talim Al Misu said, Thursday night, the Shibir activists were putting up Ramadan related posters on the campus that triggered anger among the BCL men.

Over this, some BCL activists of the college unit, led by their General Secretary Mirza Sharif, called on the Shibir activists for a talk around 2:00am yesterday, he said.

The two parties, however, locked into a quarrel and, at one stage, the BCL men assaulted the Shibir men, he said.

The injured were given treatment at Dinajpur Medical College Hospital, he added.

Contacted, Mirza Sharif said the Shibir men's posters displayed anti-state slogans in the name of Ramadan.

"We asked them to stop such activities, but no beating incident took place," he added.

The college authorities said a meeting will be held on Sunday to resolve the issue.

More cooperative markets in capital soon

BSS, Dhaka

The government will set up 50-60 more cooperative markets in the capital, said State Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Jahangir Kabir Nanak yesterday.

The overall process in this regard already has been concluded, he also said while inaugurating a Samabay holiday haat in the city's Agargaon.

"The setting up of the cooperative markets in the city would curb the huge price gap between the producers and consumers as a whole", the state minister told journalists after the programme.

As part of the initiative, different kinds of agricultural goods produced by the farmers belonging to various cooperative organisations would be sold at the haat at fair price.

Moreover, the government has a plan to supply hygienic products for the consumers as availability of formalin and chemical infected fish and daily commodities are posing high risk to people's health, said Nanak.

Termining it a 'newlink' of the cooperative department, he said the venture is not limited to the capital, but it has also been set up at each and every district town across the country.

Talking about government activities to check monopoly business by a section of traders, Nanak said, "The Samabay holiday haat starts its journey to ensure fair price for producers and, at the same time, it will reduce the huge profit of the middlemen in the way to reach the products to the consumers."

The haat will remain open everyday during the holy month of Ramadan, he added.

It's being operated by 32 co-operative organisations and will contain 58 stalls for groceries, fruits, fishes, meat, chicken, rice, milk products and vegetable outlets.

Rural Development and Cooperatives Secretary Dr Mihir Kanti Majumder and register of the cooperative department Humayun Khalid also attended the function.

3 arrested with 1,888 Yaba tablets

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested three alleged Yaba peddlers in two separate drives in Chittagong and Cox's Bazar on Thursday and seized 1,888 Yaba tablets, worth around Tk 7.55,200, from them.

The detainees are Md Monu Miah, 35, hailing from Madarbari area under Double Mooring Police Station; Md Alamgir, 33, of Chhalkhaya under Karnaphuli Police Station; and Md Yousuf Ali, 34, of Patiya upazila in Chittagong.

Acting on a tip-off, a Rab team conducted a drive at Chittagong city's East Madarbari area and caught Monu and Alamgir red-handed with 280 Yaba tablets.

Another Rab team raided a shop at Teknaf upazila of Cox's Bazar and caught Yousuf with 1,608 Yaba tablets concealed in his dress.

Two cases were lodged with Double Mooring and Teknaf police stations in this connection, says a press release.

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LINKING YOUNG MINDS

This week's Star Campus, a weekly publication of The Daily Star, will have some fun, interesting and thoughtful articles for the readers! The Spotlight this week is on the problems students face during the month of Ramadan as the traffic worsens for several reasons. There will be an in-depth feature on the non-violent protest the students at Buet are carrying out, demanding the resignation of the VC and Pro-VC. Get to know some of their views. There will be a fun Campus Trends article on the toiletries and useful materials that one can carry in the bag, while heading out for university in the summer. This week's Star Chat is with young entrepreneur Shahed Muhib, who shares his dreams and ambitions! So make sure, you grab a copy of Star Campus as it hits the nation tomorrow, Sunday. And, as always, have a great read!

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