



Ivy Rahman's eighth death anniversary today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the eighth death anniversary of Ivy Rahman, former women's affairs secretary of Awami League (AL) and wife of President Zillur Rahman.

Ivy was seriously injured in a grenade attack on an AL rally at Bangabandhu Avenue in the capital on August 21, 2004 and succumbed to her injuries three days later.

To mark the day, President Zillur Rahman, family members, and AL leaders will place wreaths and offer special prayers at her grave at Banani at 10:30am.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, ministers and leaders of her party and the grand alliance will attend a special prayer at Bangabhaban at 5:00pm today.

Obituary

METRO DESK

Mohammed Abdul Kareem Iqbal, 1951 batch CSP officer, died of old age complications in Karachi on August 17. He was 86.

He is survived by his wife Moeena Kareem Iqbal and three daughters, says a press release.

His relatives, friends and admirers are requested to pray for the salvation of his departed soul.



Myanmarese Ambassador to Bangladesh U Myo Myint Than calls on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the Prime Minister's Office yesterday.

PHOTO: PMO

**CASE AGAINST MAMUN
Defence claims his innocence**

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Businessman Giasuddin Al Mamun's lawyer yesterday told a Dhaka court that the money laundering charges brought against his client were fabricated and appealed to it to quash the charges.

During hearing on a discharge petition, Barrister Fakhru Islam said his client was convicted for the same offences on March 27 of 2007 but it was later scrapped by the High Court.

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) filed the case against Mamun only to harass him, Fakhru said.

Opposing the defence plea, Special Public Prosecutor Rafiqul Islam Benu said the charges against Mamun were true and the case was filed after enquiring into the matter. Later Benu filed an application for written argument submission.

Judge Mohammad Mozammel Hossain fixed September 20 for next hearing of the case.

In last April, the ACC pressed charges against Mamun alleging that he siphoned off \$418,853 to the UK.

**MEDICAL, DENTAL COLLEGE ADMISSIONS
Petition filed with HC for immediate start of process**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Supreme Court lawyer yesterday filed a petition with the High Court seeking its direction on the government to immediately start the admission process at medical colleges and hold admission tests.

The government on August 12 decided to enroll students to medical and dental colleges on the basis of their SSC and HSC exam GPAs instead of holding admission tests.

Advocate Eunus Ali Akond filed the petition seeking HC's direction on government to maintain the previous admission policy and start the admission process immediately.

He said as per National Education Policy 2010, the medical college admission process should be completed within a month after publication of HSC examination results.

Although the results were published on July 8, the authorities are yet to start the admission process, which is a violation of the policy, he said.

The hearing on the petition will be held on August 26.

Earlier, following a petition of Eunus Ali, the HC had issued a rule asking the government to explain why its decision for GPA-based admission to medical colleges should not be declared illegal.

RCC moves to fill govt pond flouting laws

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

In contradiction to environmental laws, Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) is going to construct a multistoried commercial building by filling up a big pond on government land in Seroil Stationpara area.

The existing environmental laws prohibit such filling up of ponds in Rajshahi city, said Tonmoy Sannyal, coordinator of Rajshahi divisional chapter of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers' Association (Bela).

"Moreover, there is a High Court ruling imposing a status quo on filling up of ponds," he said.

RCC has decided to construct the commercial building on 1.65 acres of government land in the area. In May, the government agency allocated Tk 4.49 crore to acquire the land, which has a 0.69-acre or two-bigha pond inside it.

If RCC wants to construct the commercial building on the land, it will be required to fill up the pond.

The land acquisition department of Rajshahi Deputy Commissioner's (DC) office is carrying out the acquiring process of the land following request by RCC.

Sonia Binte Labib, an officer for land acquisition at the DC office, said they were acquiring the land under Seroil Kitchen Market Construction Project.

"The pond is 'derelict and unused', as it is not being used by anybody for bathing and washing essentials," she said.

During a recent visit, this correspondent, however, found that many people were using the pond on for their household works.

Around 500 poor families use the pond for household works, said M Noimuddin, a resident in the area.

In official document, the land acquisition department of the DC office showed the pond as 'derelict' and 'unused' to evade the environmental laws, said an official at the department.

RCC also did not mention about the pond in its official document although the land records of the site confirm it as a pond, said an official at RCC.

Talking to The Daily Star, RCC Chief Engineer Ashraf Haque admitted that there was a pond although the RCC records did not mention about it.

"We are not going to fill up the pond. Rather we will protect it from illegal grabbers and encroachers. We will preserve the pond by constructing retaining wall around it," he said.

In May, the RCC authorities allocated Tk 4.49 crore for acquiring the 1.65-acre government land under the Tk 52.34 crore project of Water Supply, Drainage, and Infrastructural Development of Rajshahi city.

The RCC chief engineer said the land would be given to a developer for constructing the multistoried building under Seroil Kitchen Market Construction Project. The building will house the kitchen market, he added.

The decisions of acquiring the land and constructing the building were taken in 2010, and the construction of the building is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2013, said sources at RCC.



Family members and relatives of recently deceased author Humayun Ahmed offer prayers at his grave in Nuhash Palli yesterday. Humayun's ex-wife Gultekin Khan, mother Ayesha Foyez, and younger brothers Muhammad Zafar Iqbal and Ahsan Habib were among the family members.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Capital's kitchen markets see low customer turnout

GIANG TRAN

With low customer turnouts after the Eid holiday, Dhaka's kitchen markets yesterday opened with vegetables priced at nearly half of what was before Eid.

In contrast to the pre-Eid hustle and bustle, a visit to Karwan Bazar saw traders relaxing, some selling vegetable brought in a few days ago.

The price drop was not more than Tk 25. For example, per kilogram price of cucumbers dropped from Tk 45 to 20, spiny gourd from Tk 20 to 15, green papayas from Tk 20 to 15, eggplants from Tk 30 to 20 and tomatoes from Tk 90 to 80.

Retailers at Farmgate and Hatirpool, who buy vegetables from wholesalers in Karwan Bazar, were found marking the vegetables up by Tk 15 to 20.

Road accidents kill 9, injure 18

METRO DESK

Nine people were killed and eighteen others injured in separate road accidents in Chittagong, Rangpur, Noakhali, Thakurgaon, Pabna, Sirajganj and Moulvibazar on Wednesday and yesterday.

Our staff correspondent from Chittagong reports, an unidentified man died instantly as a human hauler overturned at Berek Building Intersection in the city yesterday.

Meanwhile, CNG-run auto-rickshaw driver Didarul Alam was killed as his vehicle overturned at Kodhurkhal in Boalkhali yesterday.

In Rangpur, schoolgirl Tania died and two others were injured when a motorcycle hit her in Nagerhat area of Badarganj on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, an unidentified Bhutbhuti driver died as a bus rammed his vehicle in Paglapir area in the city yesterday.

In Noakhali, school teacher Abdul Kader was killed and his two sons were injured as a tractor hit them in Banglabazar area of Subarnachar upazila on Wednesday.

In Thakurgaon, Tofazzal Hossain, 80, was killed as a motorbike hit him in front of Mina Bazar in the town on Wednesday.

In Pabna, Shariful Islam, 15, was killed and five others were injured as three vehicles, including a human hauler, collided at Tebunia Bazar in the sadar upazila on Wednesday.

In Sirajganj, Sakiran Khatun, 60, died instantly and five others were injured as a truck hit a microbus at Taltala in Salanga yesterday.

In Moulvibazar, madrasah student Aminul Islam was killed and four others were injured as a pick-up hit an auto-rickshaw at Kakiabazar in the sadar upazila yesterday.

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