

**Ivy Rahman's anniversary of death observed**

BSS, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman yesterday paid rich tributes to his late wife Ivy Rahman at her Banani graveyard in the capital marking her eighth death anniversary.

A pall of gloom virtually descended in the graveyard when Zillur hugged his son Nazmul Hasan, MP, after placing a wreath at the grave of his wife, the closest associate of his long political life.

The president spread red petals of roses on top of the grave.

Ivy Rahman, former Awami League (AL) women's affairs secretary and president of Mohila Awami League, was severely injured in the August 21, 2004 grenade attack on an AL rally in the capital targeting incumbent Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the then leader of the opposition.

Ivy died at Combined Military Hospital on August 24, after three days of the heinous attack which also left 23 other leaders and activists of the AL killed.

President Zillur Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday attended a special doa mahfil at Bangabhaban marking the death anniversary of Ivy Rahman.



President Zillur Rahman places a wreath on the grave of his wife Ivy Rahman, former women's affairs secretary of Awami League, at Banani graveyard in the capital yesterday. Ivy was seriously injured in a grenade attack on an AL rally on Bangabandhu Avenue in the capital on August 21, 2004 and succumbed to the injuries three days later. PHOTO: STAR

**Flash flood maroons people in Netrakona**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

Heavy rain across the border in the last three days till yesterday triggered flash floods in seven unions of Kalmakanda and Durgapur upazilas of Netrakona district, marooning at least 30,000 people, said Water Development Board (WDB) sources.

The water level of Sumeshwary river, on the north of Netrakona, is flowing 65 centimetres above the danger level and rising, they added.

Durgapur and Kalmakanda upazila nirbahi officers, Mohammad Saiful Islam and Touhidul Islam, said flood waters inundated around 25 villages of four unions in Durgapur and 20 villages of three unions in Kalmakanda.

The affected unions are Gaokandia, Kullagora, Kakoigora and Bishiri of Durgapur and Kharnai, Lengura and Rangchati of Kalmakanda.

Some 200 thatched houses were damaged and Aman and vegetables on several thousand acres of land have also gone under water. Netrakona district fishery officials said fish worth around Tk 3 crore were washed away from some 300 ponds.

**Dhaka-Mohanganj intercity train demanded**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Citizen rights activists yesterday demanded an intercity train between Dhaka and Mohanganj, Netrakona immediately for reducing suffering of the people of the areas.

They also demanded extension of the rail track from Mohanganj to Dharmapasha and adequate measures to ensure a safe journey, says a press release.

Thousands of people of Netrakona travel on trains every day and have to suffer due to a lack of sufficient number of trains, speakers told a human chain at Mohanganj Railway Station. Only two local trains are plying the Dhaka-Mohanganj route, they said.

The activists said despite repeated appeals, the authorities concerned did not take any steps to introduce an intercity train on Dhaka-Mohanganj route.

Their other demands include introducing an intercity train on Dhaka-Jaria route, ensuring cleanliness of train coaches and taking action against those who are trying to make train service unpopular.

Paribesh Bachao Andolon (Poba) and United Peace Foundation jointly organised the human chain to press the demands.

**ILLEGAL SALE OF VGF RICE Cases filed against five in Narail**

Another held in Khulna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narail

Two cases were filed on Wednesday accusing two union parishad chairmen and three rice traders of Lohagara upazila in Narail for selling five and a half tonnes of rice meant for the Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) programme.

Our staff correspondent from Khulna reports: a union parishad chairman of Khulna was arrested on Thursday afternoon for allegedly misappropriating three tonnes of rice of the VGF programme.

Lohagara Upazila Ansar and VDP Officer Mozibur Rahman filed the first case against Lahuria Union Parishad Chairman GM Nazrul Islam, who is also the Lohagara upazila BNP president.

The case statement says Nazrul was allotted 22 tonnes of the VGF rice from the district administration. Nazrul sold four tonnes of the rice, 750 kilogrammes of which was seized by police from the shop of Romesh Das, a rice trader of Naldi Bazar.

Lohagara Upazila Jute Unnayan Officer KM Abdul Baki filed the second case against Naldi Union Parishad Chairman Assaduzzaman, who is also the Lohagara upazila BNP general secretary.

The case statement said Assaduzzaman was allotted 15 tonnes of the VGF rice, of which Assaduzzaman sold one and a half tonnes to two rice traders, Emarot Hossain and Ahad Mollah, of Naldi Bazar.

Both the chairmen denied the allegations. Meanwhile, Khulna's Batiaghata Upazila Nirbahi Officer Shantimoni Chakma, on information, raided the upazila auditorium around 4:00pm and seized the rice kept in 66 sacks and arrested Jarma Union Parishad Chairman Abdul Gafur Molla.

Shantimoni and Batiaghata Police Station Officer-in-Charge Md Helal Uddin said Gafur was intending to sell the rice in a local market.

The upazila Project Implementation Officer Anisur Rahman filed a case in this connection with the police station. Gafur denied the allegation.

**TRANSIT TO INDIA Indo-Bangla team visits Ashuganj port**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

A joint team of Bangladesh and India on Thursday visited Ashuganj River Port and the Meghna river to study what infrastructure it would require to transit goods from Paschimanga to "seven sisters" of India through the port.

The two countries have agreed to re-excavate important rivers linked to river transport for making a proper use of the port, said Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) Chairman Dr Shamsudduha Khandaker, who led the Bangladeshi representatives.

He also said the infrastructure development of Ashuganj River Port would be completed soon.

According to the joint team, a Tk 245 crore project has been proposed to develop Ashuganj River Port into an international one.

Sreemoti Gupinda Prashad, chairman of Inland River Transport Authorities of India, led the Indian side.

On July 3, another joint team visited the port with the same purpose after the two countries agreed to renew the Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade for another two years.

**CCC conservancy workers get nothing but neglect**

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Chittagong

Four workers of Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) were collecting garbage from a dustbin into a three-wheeled van in Lal Dighi area on July 30. They did not have any safety gears on them. Liquid waste was rolling down their bare arms to their elbows.

That is how some 2,000 shebaks (conservancy workers) are working to keep Chittagong city clean and waste-free, running the risks of serious diseases due to a lack of safety precautions.

Nazrul Islam (not his real name), one of the four workers, said he knew collecting trash without precautions was risky for health but he was helpless.

"We requested the authorities to provide safety gears including gloves, masks, mackintosh, caps and gumboots but they did not heed our request," he said.

Shafiqul Mannan Siddique, chief conservancy officer of the CCC, denied the allegation. "We have provided gloves and gumboots to the workers but they do not wear those," he said.

The CCC official, however, could not say how many workers had been provided with the safety equipment. "We have provided safety equipment to many workers and will provide those to the rest immediately," he said.

The claim, however, was contradicted by Morshedul Alam Chowdhury, general secretary of Chattagram City Corporation Shramik Karmachari League. He said the conservancy workers were not provided with any safety equipment although they were vulnerable to health hazards.

According to Dr Sayeed Mahmud, a teacher at Chittagong Medical College, the conservancy workers who are working without safety gears run the risks of contacting skin and respiratory diseases.

Another problem which doubles the misery of the shebaks is that they are not permanent staff of the CCC. If a worker fails to attend his workplace any day due to illness or other emergencies, he will not get a farthing from the office for treatment.

"We work on a daily basis with a daily wage of Tk 180. Many of us have been working for 10-15 years. Still we are not enrolled as permanent workers," said Nazrul.

"Even if any worker dies in an accident at workplace, her/his family will not get any compensation," he told The Daily Star.

According to the CCC officials, 1,950 shebaks work in three sections--cleaning drains, sweeping roads and collecting garbage from dustbins. Of

those, 400 are women who are engaged mainly in sweeping roads.

Workers' leader Morshedul said the shebaks worked on a "no work, no pay" basis. Many workers had been injured in accidents on different occasions earlier, but did not get any compensation from the CCC, he said.

"We demanded several times that the authorities regularise the job of the workers. They never heeded our demand."

Preferring anonymity, a senior shebak said he had been working for 19 years under three mayors, including the present one. "Not one of them tried to understand our misery," he added. Mayor Manjur Alam told The Daily Star that as per the CCC's present organogram, there was no scope for making the job of conservancy workers permanent. An initiative to change the organogram has been taken, and relevant papers have already been sent to the ministry, he said.

The mayor also said the CCC authorities had a plan to ensure the safety of all conservancy workers. Many of them have already been provided with gloves and gumboots, and procurement of safety gears for the rest is underway, he added.

**Man dies after 'falling from building'**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man died after apparently falling from an under-construction building in the capital's Kathalagan early yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Mohammad Rakib, 23, a grocer hailing from Sonargaon in Narayanganj.

Rehana Begum, mother of the victim, told reporters at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) that her son was addicted to drugs.

"One of our neighbours informed me that my son fell down from an under-construction building. Hearing the news I rushed to the spot and found my son lying on the road beside the building," she said.

Rakib was rushed to DMCH where doctors declared him dead.

However, Asgar Ali, a sub-inspector of Kalabagan Police Station, told The Daily Star that Rakib might have died of drug overdose as there was no large injury mark on the body indicating that he had fallen from the building.

An autopsy report is pending.



A python caught by locals of Bostabor village in Dhamoirhat upazila in Naogaon district on Wednesday. Officials of Bangladesh Forest Department released the reptile in Ramsagar Jatiya Udyan in Dinajpur yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

The Daily Star  
**Star Camps**  
LINKING YOUNG MINDS TOGETHER  
COMING OUT TOMORROW  
**LINKING YOUNG MINDS**

This week's Star Campus, a weekly publication of The Daily Star, has a series of fun and exciting articles for its readers. Our spotlight is a special photo feature dedicated to the Star Campus team and the readers celebrating the 6th anniversary of the magazine. We will have a special Campus Edibles on where to go for the perfect celebratory element--the cake! Apart from these, our Extra Credit section is on the importance of kindness and how this particular nature in people can add that something extra in any work that they come by. Our Star Chat this week is on Actor Lamia Siddique Mimo as she shares, with the readers, her inspirations, aspirations and future plans. Don't forget to grab your copy of Star Campus as it hits the country tomorrow, Sunday. And, as always, have a great read!

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of Youth Empowerment  
DATE  
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