



YOUTHS UNITE THE NATION



1) Thousands raise their arms during the three-minute silence from 4:00pm at Shahbagh yesterday in solidarity with the demand for death sentence for all war criminals. 2) A woman shouts slogans at the top of her voice at the mass gathering, which has been teeming with males and females alike since its beginning. 3) Prominent theatre and film director and freedom fighter Nasiruddin Yusuf joins youths around midnight. 4) Campaigners hang effigies of severed human heads and limbs to represent the hanging of war criminals on the seventh day of their sit-in on Chittagong Press Club premises. 5) Marchers carry an enormous National Flag during their procession in Rangpur town. 6) Hundreds stand in silence at Sylhet Shaheed Minar. 7) Officials, employees and common people join the silence in front of Bangladesh Secretariat in the capital. 8) A youth with his body inscribed with anti-war criminal slogans and a National Flag overhead sobs out of emotion as he stands in silence at Alupatty in Rajshahi city.



Obituary

METRO DESK

Hamida Ahmad, wife of former secretary Late Borhanuddin Ahmad, died of cancer in the capital's Ibrahim Cardiac Hospital yesterday.

She was 78. She left behind six children. She was buried at Banani graveyard. All relatives and well-wishers are requested to attend the doa mahfil which will be held at Gulshan Azad Mosque after Maghrib prayers on Friday.

Md Altaf Hossain
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Valiant freedom fighter Mohammad Altaf Hossain, also mayor of Magura municipality and president of Awami League Magura district unit, died due to old age complications in the capital's Holly Family Hospital yesterday. He was 78.

He left behind a son, and four daughters.

He will be buried at Magura municipality graveyard after his namaz-e-janaza at Nomanai Maidan in Magura town today.

PARAG ABDUCTION

Prosecution did not object to Jewel's bail petition

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The prosecution did not raise any objection during the hearing on a bail petition of Jubo League leader Aminul Haque alias Jewel Mollah, an accused in schoolboy Parag Mondol abduction case.

On November 11 last year, criminals abducted Parag from near his house in Keraniganj and shot his mother, sister and their driver in the process.

Judge Md Abdul Majid of Dhaka District and Sessions Judge's Court granted bail to Jewel upon a bond of Tk 20,000 with two guarantors. Following the bail order, Jewel was released from jail on January 15.

In his order, the judge said he heard the arguments from both the prosecution and the defence on Jewel's bail petition. Jewel's name was not in the first information report.

Five of the eleven accused had given confessional statements and they did not mention Jewel's name. Moreover, Muktar Hossain alias Amir is the prime accused in the abduction case, he said.

Amir also gave a confessional statement before a magistrate where he gave a full description about the abduction drama but he did not disclose Jewel's name. Four other accused had also given confessional statements where they did not involve Jewel in the abduction. So Jewel's bail is allowed, he added.

But, District Public Prosecutor (PP) Khondaker Abdul Mannan said they had serious objection on the bail petition even though the judge did not mention it in his bail order. Another PP AMohammad Moslehuddin said there is a land dispute between the victim's family and the accused Jewel.

Moreover, Jewel is not a FIR-named accused. Four accused including Amir had given confessional statements where they did not disclose Jewel's name, he said.

Amir Hossain, mastermind behind the abduction, was arrested from Tongi area on November 24 last year after a 'shootout' with police.

RAMPAL POWER PLANT

EIA report 'farce' of govt

Seminar told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday said the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report on the coal-fired power plant to be built in Rampal, Bagerhat is a "farce" of the government.

The report on the 1,320-megawatt power plant is not well researched and gives unclear evidence about environmental impacts on the Sunderbans, they said.

Findings of the report suggest that the plant will not affect the environment of the forest, which is only 14 km away from the plant's proposed site, they added.

The EIA report is an "eyewash" as the assessment was done after the government had already selected the site for the power

plant and signed an agreement with the Indian company, National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), the speakers alleged.

These remarks were made at the seminar organised by the National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Port at Mukti Bhawan in the capital's Purana Paltan.

Engineer Kallol Mustafa said the power plant will produce poisonous sulphur, nitrogen gas and carbon dioxide which will harm the biodiversity of the Sunderban.

The forest will also be affected during winter season as the winds will carry poisonous fumes from the power plant towards the fores, said Engineer Sheikh Mohammad Shahidullah.

Shahbagh shows democratic rights

Says Dan Mozena

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

US Ambassador Dan W Mozena yesterday regarded the Shahbagh youth movement, demanding death penalty for war criminals, as a manifestation of basic democratic rights.

It's important to hold trial of those who committed war crimes and committed atrocity, he said while addressing a press briefing at American Corner in Jessore Institute Public Library.

During his two-day visit to Jessore and Satkhira since Monday, the US ambassador was also invited by "Hredoyi Mati o Manus" programme of private TV channel Channel I to witness the country's largest flower farm in Jhikargachha.

RISING Stars

Love in the time of Valentines', yellow and red in the time of Falgun, green and red for the Shahbagh protesters, 0's and 1's for online stalkers, we have it all for our next issue. Osama's back for more dating tips, and we raise awareness for Single's Awareness Day (S.A.D). All this and more.



SEE THIS WEEK'S RISING STARS.



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