

Shamim made PM's press secretary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



AKM Shamim Chowdhury has been made press secretary of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

A senior official of 1982 Bangladesh Civil Service (information cadre) batch, he took charge yesterday. Shamim was appointed to the post on deputation, said a gazette notification of the public administration ministry. The post remained vacant after PM's previous press secretary Abul Kalam Azad had been made the managing director and chief editor of state-run Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS). Before this appointment, Shamim was director

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



An illegally built log shed knocked down by an eviction team from the BIWTA and Dhaka district administration, which carried out a drive in Keraniganj to free the shore of the Buriganga river yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZE AHMED

35 structures razed on 2 Dhaka rivers

BIWTA's eviction drive at Shitalakhya starts; drive at Buriganga ends

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Inland Water Authority (BIWTA) along with Narayanganj and Dhaka district administrations yesterday razed 35 structures, including a large concrete jetty and a sawmill, built illegally on the Shitalakhya and Buriganga rivers.

Notable structures knocked down were a reinforced concrete jetty of a salt factory and two semi-concrete warehouses built illegally on the foreshore of the Shitalakhya in Murapara of Baniadi mouja in Rupganj, Narayanganj.

The BIWTA along with Narayanganj's district administration carried out the drive before pulling down half a dozen makeshift structures used as shops in the same locality.

Replying to a question, BIWTA Deputy Director Alamgir Kabir said there was no scope for building such a jetty on the river's foreshore and bed.

One has to build it on one's own land and obtain BIWTA's licence for loading and unloading of goods, he said. The jetty had been built over a decade back, he added.

As to why they did not remove it in the past years, Alamgir said, "The authorities had not decided to demolish the jetties till now. But the district administration wanted this jetty to be knocked down."

The three-day eviction drive will continue today and tomorrow in and around Narayanganj river port area.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

Azharul actively opposed independence

Shows a 1971 news report presented to war crimes tribunal by prosecution witness

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A prosecution witness yesterday presented a newspaper report of 1971 to the International Crimes Tribunal-1, which shows how actively war crimes accused ATM Azharul Islam, a Jamaat-e-Islami leader, opposed Bangladesh's liberation.

The 18th prosecution witness, Assistant Librarian of Bangla Academy Azab Uddin Miah, also exhibited some other newspaper reports revealing the massacre led by the Pakistani army and its auxiliary forces in Rangpur in 1971.

One report headlined "Rangpur-e-Dushkritikarider Haate Mesbahuddin Shahadat" [Mesbahuddin Killed by Miscreants in Rangpur] was published on the third page of then Jamaat mouthpiece, the daily Sangram, on September 13, 1971 where Azharul threatened the supporters of independence.

Mesbahuddin had been a member of

Islami Chhatra Sangha, Jamaat's then student wing.

The report reads Chhatra Sangha's Rangpur district unit President Azam Ali and city unit President Azharul Islam in a joint statement deeply mourned the death of "martyred Mesbahuddin". It also says "Indian agents" killed him.

Issuing a veiled threat in the statement, they said "miscreants" could not foil the victory of the Islamic movement by killing one or two Mujahids (fighters) like "martyred Mesbahuddin", according to the report. It adds that "Indian agents" could not attain their "ulterior motive" by carrying out atrocities.

During the liberation war in 1971, the anti-liberation elements described freedom seekers as "miscreants" and "Indian agents".

In the statement, they also opined that "miscreants" became active since they had been offered amnesty by the president, and

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Girl killed by stray bullet in Sitakunda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A 10-year-old girl was shot dead by a bullet from an unknown source while playing in a jungle near her house in Chhalimpur area of Sitakunda upazila of Chittagong yesterday.

Nahima Begum, who was hit by the bullet in the back, was daughter of Ayub Ali of Rosangiri village of Fatikchhari upazila. The poor family settled in Sitakunda years ago.

Police suspected that the bullet was abruptly shot from a firearm of the victim's brother, Piyaru, who was known as a local criminal, when he was "cleaning" the arm. All members of Nahima's family, including Piyaru, fled the area.

Quoting Nahima's paternal aunt Laila Begum, Jahirul Islam, in-charge of Chittagong Medical College Hospital Police Camp, said Nahima was playing near her house when they heard a sound of gunshot around 11:00am. When they rushed to the spot, they found Nahima bullet-hit. The girl was declared dead at CMCH around 12:30pm, he added.

Iftekhar Hasan, officer-in-charge of Sitakunda Police Station, said Nahima's brother Piyaru was a local miscreant facing three cases with the station over extortion and mugging. He suspected that the bullet came from Piyaru's firearm. Nahima's aunt Lail also went into hiding.

The body was sent to the CMC morgue for autopsy, and a murder case was filed with Sitakunda Police Station.

RIYADH FACTORY FIRE

Dreams shattered

Three remaining bodies arrive

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The dream of Shahnaz Akter to see her husband Baha Uddin and their 14-month-old son happy together will remain unfulfilled as Baha arrived in a coffin from Saudi Arabia yesterday.

Baha Uddin could not take his son Abdullah in his lap even for once as he had to migrate to the Middle East country before his birth.

"He desperately wanted to come home and see his son. But he could not do so

because of a Tk 5 lakh loan he had taken before going to Saudi Arabia," Shahnaz told The Daily Star.

The bodies of Baha Uddin and two others, Md Gaffar and Mizan, all residents of Comilla, were brought home from the kingdom.

Baha Uddin, 26, with eight other Bangladeshi workers, died in a factory fire in Riyadh on May 12.

Abdul Gaffar, elder son of Setara Begum, moved to Saudi Arabia when he was just 16.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



A cratered part of Mirpur Beribadh in the capital's Mohammadpur on Saturday. The same condition occurs on a 2km stretch of the embankment road from here to Gabtoli. Though the peripheral road absorbs a huge volume of traffic coming towards Dhaka city and thus reduces pressure inside the capital, and though people are suffering chronically, the government authorities have not been paying attention to this at all for a long time.

Midwifery care can save lives of millions

Says global report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

About two-thirds of global maternal and newborn deaths could be saved by addressing the severe shortage of midwives and their care across low and middle income countries, suggested a global report.

It also called for urgent investment in high-quality midwifery care to save the lives of millions of women and newborns each year.

The Global Report on Midwifery was launched yesterday in Prague, Czech Republic, where the 30th Triennial Congress of the International Confederation of Midwives is taking place, said a press release of UNFPA and WHO.

The report found that Bangladesh is one of the 73

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

17pc of Bangladeshi adults obese

Finds study of Washington University

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 17 percent of the adult population of Bangladesh are obese, and so are at an increased risk of having cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes, osteoarthritis, and chronic kidney disease, according to a study of Washington University.

This figure is more than double the figure of 1980 when it was seven percent. The study says the reason for this is consumption of more calories and less exercise. However, only 4.5 percent of children were found to be obese in 2013 compared to three percent in 1980.

The Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) at Washington University conducted the study with data from 188 countries, said an IHME press release. The findings were published in the world famous medical journal, The Lancet, on May 29.

"For overweight and obesity to be rising to the point where nearly 1 in 5 adults is too heavy, we must look for ways to change behaviour and policy," said Dr Aliya Naheed, a co-author of the paper.

In 2010, obesity caused 3.4 million deaths globally, says the study.

Dr Naheed, associate scientist at the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (icddr), said more adult women in urban settings are obese in Bangladesh.

Children from the upper class consume more junk food, and thus more of urban children are obese, she added.

In South Asia, obesity among adults increased from 16 percent in 1980 to 21 percent in 2013.

LEAKING DRAFT VERDICT 5-day remand for SQ Chy's manager

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed Mahbubul Ahsan, manager of war crimes convict Salauddin Quader Chowdhury, on a five-day remand in a case filed for leaking out the draft verdict on the convict.

Metropolitan Magistrate Md Rezaul Karim passed the order after Md Shahjahan, an inspector of the Detective Branch of police and also investigation officer of the case against the convict, produced him before it with a 10-day remand prayer.

Earlier on Monday, detectives arrested Ahsan in the capital's Mahakhali area for his alleged involvement with supplying money for leaking the draft verdict.

In his remand prayer,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2