



34th death anniversary of Zia observed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 34th death anniversary of former president Ziaur Rahman, also the founder of BNP, was observed across the country with various programmes yesterday.

Flanked by a large number of leaders and activists, BNP chief Khaleida Zia, placed wreaths and offered fatha at Zia's mazar at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the capital. The BNP chief attended various events, including milad and doa mahfils and voluntary blood donation programmes, on the premises of Zia's grave.

She also distributed food among the destitute in various parts of the capital under a three-day destitute feeding programme organised by Dhaka city unit BNP.

Different units of the party and its associate bodies observed the day across the country with due respect.

BNP and its front organisations chalked out a 14-day programme to observe the death anniversary.

Marking the day, the party flag was kept at half-mast, while black flags were hoisted atop BNP's Nayapaltn central office and other party offices.

Zia was assassinated by a group of disgruntled army officers at Chittagong Circuit House on May 30, 1981.

Born on January 19, 1936 at Bagbari in Bogra, Zia was a sector commander during the Liberation War and awarded Bir Uttam, the highest gallantry award for a surviving officer for his wartime services.

Biman aircraft seized for carrying smuggled gold

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Customs Intelligence seized an aircraft of Biman Bangladesh Airlines for carrying smuggled gold at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in the capital yesterday.

"The airbus, S2-ADE, was seized as the authority found 24 pieces gold concealed under a seat," said Dr Moinul Khan, director general of Customs Intelligence.

The market value of the gold, weighing around 2.5kg, is estimated to be around Tk 1.20 crore, the official added.

The aircraft, which landed at the airport from Dubai, was parked at the hangar, ready to fly to Dubai again via Chittagong, he said, adding that he suspects the gold was meant for Chittagong.

Change constitution to make political parties accountable

Experts, activists propose at nat'l dialogue at DU; present draft framework

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Political scientists, academics, development and rights activists, and members of civil society yesterday proposed inclusion of a chapter in the country's constitution for political parties, aimed at ensuring their transparency, accountability, inclusiveness, and internal democracy.

In this regard, the Department of International Relations, University of Dhaka yesterday placed an 11-point draft framework of the chapter, which includes the clear definition of a political party, its goals, missions and objectives, internal structure, its eligibility for financial support from the state and liability.

With support from the UNDP, the department organised a national dialogue, "Developing

framework for political parties: Chapter in the Bangladesh constitution", at Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban, DU.

Prepared by Prof Imtiaz Ahmed, Prof Amena Mohsin and Prof Delwar Hosain, a thematic paper was presented at the beginning of the dialogue.

In drafting the framework, the three professors went through the constitutions of 136 countries and finally selected constitutions of 25 countries to take help.

Currently, there are only two or three lines in Bangladesh's constitution, which speak of the political parties, they said.

"Political party includes a group or combination of persons who operate within or outside parliament under a distinctive name and

who hold themselves out for the purpose of propagating a political opinion or engaging in any other political activity," says Article 152 of the constitution.

"But the said article is not only vague but it also remains problematic as it does not define what political entails. The word opinion is so subjective that it can be interpreted to imply anything. It does not talk of a vision or mission for political parties. The article also does not bring political within a regulatory framework. There is no provision for institutionalisation, monitoring, accountability or transparency of the political parties," Prof Imtiaz said.

He also said there were many countries which had taken political parties seriously in the constitution. Though the Representation of the

People Order provides a guideline, it cannot be a substitute for a constitutional guideline, he said.

The professors said a party, which does not allow any space for practicing democracy within itself, could not be expected to steer the country towards a stable democratic system.

The German constitution says, "Political party's internal organization must conform to democratic principles. They must publicly account for their assets and for the sources and use of their funds."

While summarising the constitutions of 25 countries, Prof Imtiaz said the financial accountability of political parties was a hallmark in most constitutions while the constitutions also emphasised the need for internal democracy in political parties to establish democracy in a country.

Sundarban Hotel still at risk of collapse

DSCC Mayor Sayeed Khokon tells press; CR Dutta Rd, Panthapath open to public today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The capital's Sundarban Hotel is still at risk due to the collapse of a neighbouring construction site, Dhaka South City Corporation Mayor Sayeed Khokon said yesterday.

"The western portions of the hotel and the construction site are still in danger of collapse," he told journalists on the progress of restoration of the site.

Sand is being dumped into the collapsed portions to stabilise the 50-foot deep pit.

The southern, eastern and part of the northern walls of the pit, dug for construction of a 12-storey building, National Bank Limited Twin Tower, caved in on Wednesday and Thursday.

Khokon said action would definitely be taken against those at fault for the incident but the top priority at the moment was to address the impending risk.

Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk), which approved the proposed building, should have carefully monitored the construction on the soft soil of what was previously a marshland, he said.

"They however did not do their job," said the mayor. However, he said, the CR Dutta and Panthapath roads that were shut to traffic following the collapse were now stable with sand-filling and would be open to the public today.

Syed Fakhru Ameen, a professor of civil engineering of BUET, who is head of a three-member probe committee instituted by the city corporation, said the hotel still remained risky at the north-west corner though the eastern hollow part was filled up with sand. It will take three more days to fill up the collapsed portion from east to west, he said.

The collapse of the pit's southern wall, adjoining Sundarban Hotel, triggered fears that the hotel might cave in too, as the hotel's foundation soil subsided following the incident.

Abdur Rahman, Rajuk board member for planning and acting chairman, said they sued the building owner over evading a mandatory declaration prior to launching the construction work.

The National Bank Ltd (NBL) in December 2013 obtained Rajuk approval for a 12-story building comprised of two towers and three basement floors on a 64-katha plot, and hired Korean architectural firm Heerim, construction firm Donga, and local MS Construction as contractors to build the towers.

No NBL official was at the site to comment.



PHOTO: MINTU DESHWARA

Construction of a road by blocking off the Khwai river in Habiganj has been stopped by the deputy commissioner on Thursday following numerous media reports. Guangdong Power Engineering Corporation in China had started building the road without waiting for Bangladesh Water Development Board's (BWDB) clearance, citing it was not possible to transport over the nearby Shayestaganj bridge eight pieces of heavy equipment, including a generator weighing 400 metric tonnes, for a 330-megawatt power station it is constructing for the Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) in Shajibazar, said a BWDB official. A BPDB official requesting anonymity contradicted, saying on being unloaded at the Mongla port, the equipment could be transported along the Meghna and then the Kushiara rivers through Bhairab. The photo was taken yesterday.

INDO-BANGLA LAND DEAL

It'll curb border crimes, give rights to enclave people

Seminar of Bangladesh-India Friendship Society told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The implementation of the Land Boundary Agreement (LBA) between Bangladesh and India will improve border management and reduce crimes along the border, apart from providing long-awaited citizenship rights and privileges to the enclave inhabitants of the two countries.

Speakers made the observations at a seminar on "Land Boundary Agreement: Expectations and Achievements", organised by Bangladesh-India Friendship Society at the Institution of Diploma Engineers in the capital yesterday.

"...we will now be able to free the inhabitants from poverty and deprivation and give them what they deserve as citizens of either country," said Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali. "Resolution of the land boundary issue will also have positive impacts on some other related areas such as border management," he

said, adding that both governments were now working on the modalities of implementing the LBA and its protocol.

Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Pankaj Saran said, "It will help our border guards and forces... It will also certainly help to reduce criminal and illegal activities, which were taking place in the absence of implementation of this agreement."

The LBA deals with the demarcation of a 6.1km un-demarcated land boundary between Bangladesh and India and exchange of 162 enclaves and over 5,000 acres of adversely possessed land.

The problem arose after the 1947 partition of the Indian subcontinent into India and Pakistan, which included Bangladesh then.

The LBA was signed in 1974 to solve the problem with Bangladesh ratifying it within six months, but it took India 41 years to ratify the deal, on May 7, 2015.

Mangrove forests shield against natural disasters

Buet professor tells int'l climate conference in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Mangrove forests can reduce the impacts of natural disasters like tsunami by 90 percent, an architecture professor of Buet said yesterday.

Presenting a paper at a daylong international climate conference, Dr Khandaker Shabbir Ahmed also expressed concern at the dwindling green patches of Bangladesh.

Alliance Française de Chittagong organised the "International Conference and Exhibition on Climate Change" in its auditorium, with the support of the Embassy of France and TK Group. The Daily Star was the media partner.

The speakers highlighted the vulnerability of Bangladesh to the impacts of climate change and the need for concrete adaptation measures.

French Ambassador to Bangladesh Sophie Aubert said the conference was hosted to make people aware of the adverse

effects of climate change. The government, private sector, and general people should come forward to fight the challenges, she said.

Dr M Shahadat Hossain, a professor of the Institute of Marine Sciences and Fisheries of Chittagong University, said many areas of Bangladesh including Chittagong were already facing adverse effects of the changing climate.

Yves Marre, a French who created TaraTari Shipyard in Chittagong, presented his book Navigateur Soil Daire, explaining the history and work of the shipyard.

Artistes of Bangladesh Institute of Theatre Arts (BITA) staged a drama on the impact of deforestation while French documentary film "Hurricane: From the Storm of the Chaos" by A Byatt was screened.

Documentaries will also be shown on June 2 and 4.

New team

FROM PAGE 4 formation of the new management.

Amid this, journalists leaning to two main political parties announced names of pro-government journalist Shafiqur Rahman and pro-BNP journalist Quamrul Islam Chowdhury as the new president and general secretary respectively Thursday.

The election to the club was supposed to be held on December 30.

However, the pro-government forum was not interested in the election, as pro-BNP-Jamaat journalists were in the top leadership positions.

SA initiative

FROM PAGE 4 boldness in trying war criminals. Similarly, she should display such boldness to resist militancy," Sarwar said.

The platform General Secretary Saleh Ahmed moderated the function while Institute for Environment and Development Executive Director Noman Ahmed Khan also spoke.

Dutch-Bangla Bank has been awarding scholarships to meritorious students in need of financial aid studying at higher secondary, graduation & post graduation levels. In continuation of this program (11th phase) **applications are invited for DBBL scholarships from meritorious students in need of financial aid who passed S.S.C./equivalent examinations in 2015** and meet the following requirements:

Eligibility for the scholarship:

Academic level	Minimum CGPA (without 4 th subject) for all groups		
	School/Institutions situated in city corporation areas	School/Institutions situated in district town areas	School/Institutions situated in rural/other areas
S.S.C./equivalent examinations	5.00	4.88	4.70

Amount and duration of scholarship:

Academic level	Scholarship period	Monthly Scholarship (Taka)	Annual grant (Taka)	
			For reading materials	For clothing
H.S.C.	2 Years	2,000/-	2,500/-	1,000/-

- Other criteria of the scholarship:**
- Students availing scholarship from other sources (except Government scholarship) will not qualify for Dutch-Bangla Bank Foundation (DBBF) scholarship.
 - 90% of total scholarships will be earmarked for students who passed S.S.C./equivalent examinations from the institutions in rural areas and 50% of total scholarships will be earmarked for female students.
 - Eligible and interested students who passed S.S.C./equivalent examinations in 2015, are requested to apply through online at: www.dutchbanglabank.com/DBBLScholarship alongwith the following:
 - scanned passport size color photograph of student
 - scanned passport size color photographs of student's father and mother
 - scanned marksheet and testimonial of S.S.C./equivalent examinations

Some important dates for applicants:
 Application opening : June 01, 2015
 Application closing : July 09, 2015
 Publication of preliminary selection list through website : July 16, 2015
 Submission of original copy of all documents for verification to any of DBBL branches/Mobile Banking offices : July 20 to August 03, 2015
 Publication of final result : To be notified later through newspaper and website

No direct application will be accepted.

North Dhaka will be clean in 6 months

FROM PAGE 4

waste bin available at public places, Chief Executive Officer BM Enmul Haque said, "We can not maintain the bins as ragpickers and vagabonds take those away."

Most of the pedestrian passages around the Farmgate intersection, notorious for being illegally occupied, were found free. The local city councillor, Faridur Rahman Khan Iran, was heard telling Enmul, "You will not find any hawkers here today illegally occupying the footpaths. I did my best to free those."