



Tultikr canal used to have much more water even during the dry period a few years ago, but the situation is not the same anymore. In the last couple of years, housing projects were developed on its banks, while brick fields mushroomed along it, narrowing the channel at places. The 6-7km canal gets water from the Surma, and the photo was taken Wednesday at a spot which is only 1km from the place where it meets the river, in Sylhet sadar upazila.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

NEWS IN brief

Suspended SCC mayor Ariful gets bail

UNB, Habiganj

A Habiganj court yesterday granted bail to suspended Sylhet City Corporation Mayor Ariful Haque Chowdhury in an explosive case filed over former Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria murder.

The way for the release of Ariful has been cleared as earlier he got bail in the Kibria killing case also.

Five people, including Kibria, were killed and 70 others injured in a grenade attack on a public rally of Awami League in Sadar upazila on January 27, 2005. Two cases—one for murder and another under the explosives substance act—were filed.

Road crash kills 1, hurts 1

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A woman was killed and her husband injured when their motorcycle collided head-on with a battery-run auto-rickshaw in Muchibari area on Jharbari-Birganj road in Birganj upazila of Dinajpur yesterday.

The deceased was Razia Sultana, 30. The injured -- Kafil Uddin Master of Solimnagar village of the upazila -- is undergoing treatment at Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital.

Man killed in Ctg fire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A man was killed in a fire in Mekhol of Hathazari upazila in Chittagong early yesterday.

The deceased Manik Nath, 50, was a rickshaw puller. Family members said they woke up around 3:30am hearing Manik's scream and found him in flames that also engulfed the bed he was sleeping in. After dousing the fire they rushed him to Chittagong Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead. Manik used to smoke intermittently at night and live in a separate room. The fire might have originated from a cigarette butt, family members said. Police said they were investigating the matter.

WAR CRIMES TRIAL

Kishoreganj's Syed Hussain to be tried in absentia

Two from Moulvibazar to be interrogated at safe home

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday decided to try fugitive war crimes accused Syed Mohammad Hussain alias Hossain in absentia, along with detained accused Moslem Pradhan, for allegedly committing crimes in Kishoreganj during the Liberation War.

The three-member tribunal led by Justice Anwarul Haque took the decision as the accused did not appear before it even after publication of advertisements in two national dailies. The law enforcers have failed to arrest him in the meantime.

It also fixed April 26 for hearing the charges.

On December 3 last year, the prosecution pressed six specific charges against the two alleged Razakars -- Mohammad Hussain, 64, also younger brother of convicted war criminal Syed Hasan Ali, and Muhammad

Moslem Pradhan, 66, both from Kishoreganj's Nikli upazila.

They were charged with "war crimes" and violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention 1949, and this was the first time anyone faced these charges since the start of the trial, said the prosecution.

Meanwhile, the tribunal allowed the investigation officer of a case to interrogate two war crimes accused from Moulvibazar at the safe home of the tribunal's investigation agency.

Abdul Aziz alias Habul, 63, of Pakhiala village of Barlekha upazila, and Abdul Mannan, 64, of Taradaram village of the same upazila, will be interrogated on April 3 and 4 respectively.

They were arrested on March 1.

A third accused, Abdul Matin, is now on the run, investigation officer Shahjahan Kabir told The Daily Star.

Newly married expatriate falls to death in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An expatriate in Oman who came on leave died after allegedly falling from the rooftop of a six-storey building in Suritola area of Old Dhaka yesterday.

Shahadat Hossain, 35, of Laxmipur Sadar came to Bangladesh on a 45-day leave and married 11 days ago. He suffered a stroke two days back, said his brother-in-law Riaz Hossain.

Riaz, who lives on the fourth floor of the building, said Shahadat and his wife came to his house on Saturday for treatment purpose and had an appointment with a doctor yesterday evening.

Riaz further said in the afternoon, he heard a loud noise and a security guard of the building and locals rushed to his house to inform that Shahadat had fallen down from the roof.

Shahadat was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead.

Officer-in-charge of Bangshal Police Station Nure Alam Siddiqui said they were investigating whether it was a murder or a suicide.



Guests hold copies of the revised edition of a book "Krishi Sangbadikata" at its publication ceremony at the senate building of Dhaka University yesterday. Katalyst, an agricultural organisation, sponsored the book edited by DU television and film studies department Chairman AJM Shafiul Alam Bhuiyan and published by Chandrabati Academy in cooperation with Somosti, which is a compilation by noted agriculturists, educationists and journalists.

PHOTO: STAR

Agri-reporting crucial

Publication ceremony of revised edition of 'Krishi Sangbadikata' told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Reporting on agriculture in the media is very crucial for sustainable development of the country, said Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu yesterday.

"To spread new concepts and technology among farmers, there is a need for agriculture journalism," said the minister.

He was addressing the publication ceremony of the revised edition of a book "Krishi Sangbadikata" at the senate building, Dhaka University.

Katalyst, an agricultural organisation, sponsored the book edited by DU television and film studies department Chairman AJM Shafiul Alam Bhuiyan and published by Chandrabati Academy in cooperation with Somosti, which is a compilation by noted agriculturists, educationists and journalists.

Alam said there were insufficient reports in the media on agriculture. "We've introduced course on agriculture journalism," he said, adding that the journalism students would read the book as a textbook.

Sher-e-Bangla Agriculture University Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof Md Shahidur Rashid Bhuiyan suggested including biodiversity and invention of new varieties of crops in the next edition of the book.

Shakhawat Ali Khan, former professor of DU, stressed inclusion of "jhum cultivation".

Chief Information Commissioner Dr M Golam Rahman, among others, addressed the programme presided over by DU VC AAMS Arefin Siddique.

Turbulent world

FROM PAGE 3

communalism and social discrimination. Bangla Academy Director General Shamsuzzaman Khan said the idea of modern society which is democratic, non-communal and humane comes from the folk poets whose songs spoke of material existence and attached the highest significance to human beings.

Prothom Alo Editor Matur Rahman introduced Dubey, citing that the Indian scholar, who also taught international relations at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, also translated about 40 of poet Shamsur Rahman's works.

Dubey also hopes to publish Hindi translations of Rahman's poetry. The programme started with two Lalon songs, rendered by Aziz Abdur Rahman, who teaches Lalon's music at Shanto Mariam Foundation, Kushtia



Acting Army Chief Lt Gen Anwar Hossain and Air Chief Marshal Abu Esrar adorn Navy Chief M Nizamuddin Ahmed with the rank badge of admiral at the Prime Minister's Office yesterday, in presence of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. He was promoted from the rank of vice-admiral.

PHOTO: BSS

Khaleda smiles only when she can kill people

FROM PAGE 3

persons are being hanged one after another...the trial of war criminals are being held...people have no support for them," Hasina quipped.

Recalling the horrible days of the first three months of 2015, Hasina said this political leader killed people through arson attacks. "When people were dying, there was a smile on her face...you couldn't see that as she had confined herself...surely there was a hyena smile on her face," said the prime minister.

Hasina, also the president of AL, also said as people are smiling now, there is no smile on that leader's face. "This is natural, you can't expect more than this from this person because her heart is full of love for Pakistan," she added.

She said killing people is never a movement, it is rather killing. "So you gain people's support with killing."

Talking about the ongoing union council elections, Hasina said it seems to her that BNP has no interest in participating in elections sincerely. "Where're their election activities? They're simply coming up with complaints."

The prime minister said Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had engaged his all strength for rebuilding the war-ravaged country after the independence.

She mentioned that the newly born country was advancing towards a right direction through numerous socio-economic pragmatic steps taken by Bangabandhu.

"At a time when the country's people started tasting the freedom a quarter spreading confusion among people and tried to spread propaganda against the then government," she said.

Hasina questioned to serve whose

interest that quarter had done that. "By whose money did they do that? I think this could be a good point for research," she said without mentioning anyone's or any party's name.

The prime minister reiterated her pledge to turn the country into a golden Bengal as dreamt by Bangabandhu upholding the Liberation War spirit.

Terming the history of Liberation War the history of pride, she said the huge blood and the sacrifices of millions of lives cannot go in vain. "We can't allow it to be futile."

Those who believe in the ideals of Bangabandhu should have this sense and they must help create a sense of self-respect and self-confidence among the people of the country and not to bow down to others, she said.

Deal signed

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April," Quader told reporters.

The Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) Line-6 route from Uttara to Bangladesh Bank will have 16 stations covering Uttara, Mirpur, Rokeya Sarani, Khamarbari, Sonargaon hotel, Shahbagh, Doyel Chattar, and Topkhana Road.

BBIN improving

FROM PAGE 4

sticky rice from Bangladesh, the envoy said they are already holding negotiations on the price of the rice.

Pema also extended her sincere thanks to Sheikh Hasina for her government's cooperation during her stay in Bangladesh.

“আবুল হায়াতের গল্পের কতগুলো নিজস্বতা আছে।
চরিত্র সৃষ্টিতে তাঁর কুশলতা অবাক করার মতো।
তাঁর গল্পগুলোও তিনি তুলে আনেন চেনাজানা পরিপার্শ্ব থেকে।”

—সৈয়দ মনজুরুল ইসলাম



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কাঁটাবন: প্রকৃতি (০১৭২৭৩২৮৭২৩), বেইলি রোড: সাগর পাবলিশার্স (৯৩৫৮৯৪৪)
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চট্টগ্রাম: বাতিঘর (০১৭১৩৩০৪৪৪), প্রথমা (০১৭১১৬৪৯৪২২)