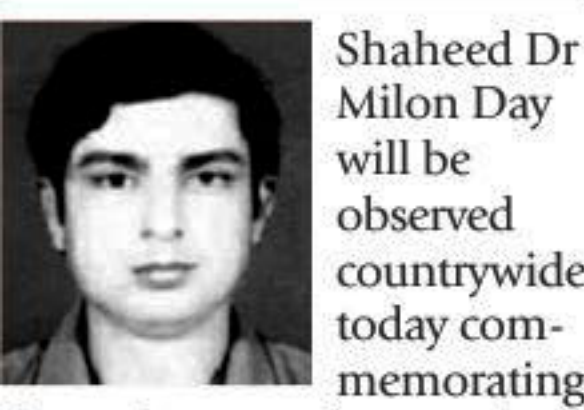


Dr Milon Day today
 BSS, Dhaka



Shaheed Dr Milon Day will be observed countrywide today commemorating the 26th martyrdom anniversary of Dr Shamsul Alam Khan Milon.

On this day in 1990, Dr Milon was killed by the goons of military junta near Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) of Dhaka University at the height of anti-autocracy movement.

His sacrifice transformed the anti-autocracy movement into a mass upsurge that prompted the fall of the autocratic regime, paving the way for the restoration of democracy in the country.

President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, in separate statements, recalled the supreme sacrifice of Dr Milon.

Different political parties, including Awami League and Bangladesh Workers Party, and socio-cultural-professional bodies have chalked out elaborate programmes to observe the Day.

The programmes include placing of wreaths and offering of special prayers at the grave of Dr Milon on the Dhaka Medical College campus and at Milon Smrity Chattar near TSC. Selina Akhtar, mother of Dr Milon, is expected to attend the programmes.

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) arranged a discussion on this occasion yesterday. As a dedicated of the movement of the professionals, Dr Milon was the joint-secretary of Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA), treasurer of Dhaka Medical College Teachers Association and a lecturer of bio-chemistry at Dhaka College.



Shishu Mela in the capital's Shyamoli was sealed off yesterday by Dhaka North City Corporation for being run unauthorised for the past 11 years. Inset, Mayor Annisul Huq addresses the press inside.

Shishu Mela sealed off for being run 11yrs illegally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 The authorities of Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) evicted kids' amusement park Shishu Mela in the capital's Shyamoli area yesterday, ending an 11-year illegal occupancy.

The property that belongs to the city corporation will be opened for the public within the next seven days, DNCC officials said during an eviction drive led by Executive Magistrate Sajid Anwar.

In 2002, the 1.4-acre park, adjacent to Dhaka Shishu Hospital, was leased out to Via Media Business Services Ltd for a three-year term in exchange for only Tk1.45 lakh. But they commer-

cialised it with establishing shops and businesses there, said DNCC Mayor Annisul Huq.

"They did not even pay the lease money and renewed the lease...", mentioned the mayor, adding that the park is now sealed off and will soon be opened for the people.

He further said erstwhile Dhaka City Corporation attempted to reclaim the public property after cancelling the lease in 2005, but it could not do so, as the leaseholder immediately secured a High Court injunction.

The company would have to pay the dues according to the terms set in the lease deed.

The park's owner, GMM Rahman, claimed, "We still have legal authority to run the park according to the court order."

"We could not renew the lease owing to the city corporation's unwillingness... Even we were not given any notice before sealing it off," alleged Rahman.

"We will take necessary steps according to laws" he said.

However, Sajid said, "The city corporation authorities gave several notices to the leaseholders, but they did not respond."

DOHAZARI-COX'S BAZAR RAIL ROUTE Work starts June

UNB, Dhaka
 Aiming to bring the tourist city of Cox's Bazar under the railway network, the construction work on 100.83km Dohazari-Ramu-Cox's Bazar single line dual gauge rail track will begin in June next year, according to official sources.

To implement the rail link project, they said, one of the government's fast-track mega projects, Bangladesh Railway has recently floated a tender and fixed November 28 as the last date for submitting it.

Contacted, Railways Minister Mazibul Hoque said the main work on the project will start in June next as per the directive of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina as it is one of the government's priority projects.

The project aims to attract more tourists to Cox's Bazar through developing communication network and thus boost development in the region, the minister added.

Talking to the news agency, director of the project Mahbul Hoque Bakshi said they will sign a contract with the company which will get the work and ask it to complete the task within 36 months.

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecnc) on April 19 approved the project to construct 100.83-km single-line dual-gauge track from Dohazari to Cox's Bazar via Ramu and another 28.752-km single-line dual-gauge track from Ramu to Gundum near Myanmar border with Tk 18,034.48 crore.

The project also aims to establish link with Trans Asian Railway Corridor, the Project Director added.

He also said the tender for the work from Ramu to Gundum will be floated soon.



A grey langur being offered food by Khalilur Rahman, a school teacher, after it took shelter on top of a tamarind tree of his garden at Krishnapur village in Rajshahi. The photo was taken Wednesday.

Treated like a guest

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi
 It is like a visitor to the village, being treated and fed like a guest. But when it along with two companions was visiting the neighbouring ones, they were not welcome. The villagers poisoned two of its friends to death, making it a lone traveller.

The grey langur is now at Krishnapur village of Tanore upazila in Rajshahi. It is residing at the garden of Khalilur Rahman, a teacher of Krishnapur High School. "It is staying on top of a tamarind tree and eating fruits from the trees. Sometimes I also buy it fruits."

"I feel bad for its condition as it is limping slightly. But we treat it like a guest," he added.

Although a welcome guest, the langur, a kind of monkey, now moves cautiously after losing two companions on its way to Duboil village, some 45km north of Rajshahi city, where this correspondent first saw him on November 19.

"It will not eat anything from unknown persons. Even known persons will have to eat a portion of the food in front of it before offering," said Afzal Hossain, a village shopkeeper.

Afzal said he learnt the langur became lonely after locals killed two of its companions by mixing poison in their food a

few weeks ago when the three were at Billi village, some 15km west of Duboil.

The villagers had been hearing about the langur for around a month and a half before it arrived there on November 13.

"I could not believe my eyes when I saw it first," said Sabuj Rana, a high school student. He said he heard about a strange animal roaming around trees at neighbouring villages of Koyel, Billi, Bokultola and Galla of Tanore after it came from Rohonpur upazila of Chapainawabganj.

These langurs are unusual in the Barind region; the animals might have come from Indian Malda where these are abundant, said Abdul Aziz, an elderly villager.

With its black face and hands and slender body with a long tail, the langur appeared around 9:00am and sat on the road in front of Afzal's house.

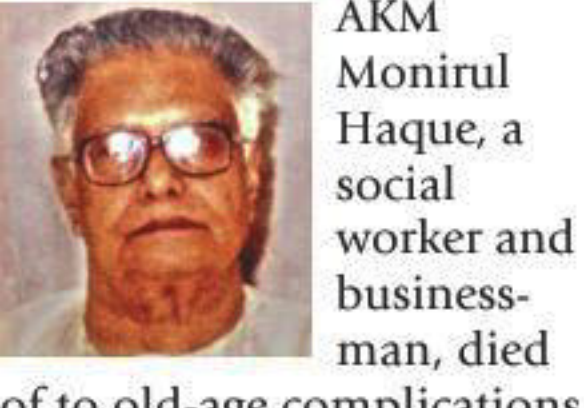
Some people gave it bread, biscuits, and bananas. However, some boys tried to catch it, and it took shelter on a tower. A boy threw brick chips hurting its right leg, the shopkeeper said.

Humans, animals and plants are all important elements of the natural environment, said Abul Kalam, divisional forest officer (wildlife). He also emphasised creating awareness among people on protecting wildlife species.



Some of the 15 contestants who made it to the cook-off stage of the Chittagong round of the Rupchanda-The Daily Star Super Chef 2017 competition yesterday at the port city's Shaila Square with judge Umme Kulsum, right, winner of the 2015 season of the competition, keenly observing the whole process.

Obituary
 CITY DESK



AKM Monirul Haque, a social worker and businessman, died of old-age complications at his daughter's residence in Kushtia on Friday. He was 86.

He was the father of expatriate journalist and former joint secretary of Jatiya Press Club Shaikat Rushdee.

Born in Chougachha village under Gangni upazila of Meherpur in 1931, Monirul Haque was the eldest son of renowned physician late Dr M Zafar Ali.

He left behind a son and three daughters and was buried in Meherpur Municipal Graveyard on Friday evening, said a press release.

The qulkhani of Monirul Haque will be held at his residence in Meherpur on Tuesday evening.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to attend the programme and pray for the salvation of his departed soul.

Culinary contest wraps up Ctg, Sylhet rounds

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Rupchanda-The Daily Star Super Chef wrapped up the audition rounds held simultaneously in Chittagong and Sylhet yesterday.

Shaila Square in the port city's Panchlish area played host to the Chittagong audition which saw a good turnout.

Among the numerous applicants, only 15 made it to the cook-off stages. Of them, Farhana Beethi, a BBA student at University of Information Technology and Sciences, became the only one to secure an apron.

A resident in Halishahar area, Farhana was one of the few participants in the entire competition, who was directly handed the apron. Four others were kept on the waiting list.

In Sylhet, a festive mood prevailed in Pallabi Community Centre where the audition round was held. Of the all participants, 12 joined a similar cooking contest, with Kamrun Nahar winning over the event's judges with her "Hide and Seek Shondesh"

Only one other participant managed to be placed on the waiting list.

With only four more audition rounds remaining -- two in Dhaka and one in Rangamati and Cox's Bazaar each--, these may be the last chances for those who have yet to have found a place in the Super Chef competition, one of the biggest culinary contests in the country.

AL leader dies in road crash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An Awami League leader was killed in a road accident after being hit by a covered van in the capital's Tejgaon Industrial Area on Friday night.

The deceased is Habibul Bashar Bahadur, 49, general secretary of Awami League's Tejgaon Industrial Area's unit-9 (ward 24), said police.

He died at National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation.

Police arrested the driver and helper following filing of a case, said Rasheduzzaman, officer-in-charge of Tejgaon Police Station.

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