



**ARE YOU SEEING THIS, MAYOR?** The footpath and a large portion of the road on Gazipur Chowrasta, one of the busiest intersections outside Dhaka, takes an ugly look as street vendors occupy it while dirty water floods it. This is besides illegal parking of all types of vehicles — motorised and non-motorised — which most often creates crippling traffic jams in the area, *inset*. With Gazipur city getting a new mayor in late June, residents wonder if the city will get better, or it was all airy-fairy promises before the election.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ



## Homage to Bangabandhu

*National Mourning Day observed worldwide*

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Thousands of Bangladeshis across the world observed National Mourning Day yesterday with due solemnity, marking the 43rd martyrdom anniversary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Bangladesh missions abroad organised Mourning Day programmes participated by members of the Bangladesh community, students, expatriates and people from host countries.

The day began with hoisting the national flag at half mast. Other programmes included: observing one minute's silence; placing wreaths at Bangabandhu's portrait; reading out messages from the president, prime minister, foreign minister and state minister for foreign affairs; milad mahfils; special prayers for Bangabandhu and his family members; panel discussions and screening of a documentary on Bangabandhu.

NEW DELHI

Marking the anniversary of his martyrdom, Bangladesh High Commission paid glowing tributes to Bangabandhu.

The mission also paid homage to his family members who were killed on the fateful night of August 15, 1975.

Officials, staff and family members joined High Commissioner Syed Muazzem Ali in placing floral tributes before the portrait of Bangabandhu at the mission's Maitree Hall.

The high commissioner earlier hoisted the national flag at half mast, followed by a minute's silence.

A panel discussion on "Bangabandhu's Vision for Peace, Stability and Development in the South Asian Region and Beyond" was also held.

Moderated by Deputy High Commissioner Rokeb-ul-Haque, the discussion was attended by panellists — Prof SD Muni of Jawaharlal Nehru University; Venkat Narayan, president of Foreign Correspondents Club of South Asia; and Dr Kavita Sharma, president of South Asian University.

BANGKOK

A special programme was held on the embassy premises in Bangkok, participated by a large number of expatriates -- from

UNESCAP and other international organisations, businessmen, students as well as locals, especially schoolchildren.

In her statement, Bangladesh Ambassador in Thailand Saida Muna Tasneem condemned the killing of Bangabandhu and termed it one of the most shameful and inhumane incidents in world history.

She paid a rich tribute to the Father of the Nation for his fearless leadership, as well as his diplomatic achievements between 1972-75 towards Bangladesh's international recognition and membership in the UN.

MANILA

At a discussion at Bangladesh embassy in Manila, Ambassador Asad Alam Siam said the nation will be forever grateful to Bangabandhu for his bold leadership in achieving the country's independence.

He also called on all to materialise Bangabandhu's dream of "Sonar Bangla".

HANOI

The Mourning Day programmes began with hoisting the national flag at half-mast by Ambassador Samina Naz. A wreath was also placed at the portrait of Bangabandhu.

Apart from embassy officials and employees, expatriates and locals attended the event.

JAKARTA

Bangladesh embassy in Indonesia arranged various programmes to observe the day.

A discussion was held on the book "Karagarer Rojnamcha: A Jail Diary with a Difference" at the embassy. Presided over by Ambassador Maj Gen Azmal Kabir, Assistant Press Secretary to the Prime Minister Asif Kabir spoke at the event.

SEOUL

Bangladesh embassy in Seoul observed the day with due solemnity. The embassy arranged a daylong programme to mark the occasion.

The day started with hoisting the national flag at half mast by Ambassador Abida Islam. Drawing and essay writing competitions were organised at the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

## College student found dead in Botanical Garden

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A college student was found dead at National Botanical Garden in Dhaka's Mirpur yesterday.

The youth was identified as Shaheen, 18, a student of BAF Shaheen College, said Anwar Hossein, officer-in-charge (OC) of Shah Ali Police Station.

"A staffer of the botanical garden called us over phone around 5:30pm and said there was a body lying in the bushes," said Anwar Hossein.

Police rushed the boy to Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital, where doctors declared him dead. A cell phone was also recovered from his possession, which was used to contact his family and identify him, the OC said.

There were no injury marks on his body or signs of struggle, police said. However, the cause of death was yet to be ascertained.

Shaheen had left the house at around 11:00am, Anwar Hossain quoted family members as saying, adding that they said he had been mentally disturbed lately.

His body was sent to the Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College morgue for autopsy.

No case was filed until last night in this connection. However, police said more about his death may be known after receiving the autopsy report, and a case might be filed after it is available.

## 'Graft-ridden' BRTA in ACC's radar, warns Iqbal Mahmood

*Says it's being spared for now on 'strategic grounds'*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Cautioning corrupt officials of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA), Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Chairman Iqbal Mahmood yesterday said they are sparing the "graft-ridden" state-run organisation for the time being on strategic grounds.

Iqbal was addressing a discussion on National Mourning Day organised at ACC's Segunbagicha headquarters, says a press release.

"We're monitoring BRTA's activities and due to strategic reason we're not interfering right now," the ACC chairman said, adding that if BRTA does anything unlawful, the commis-

sion will give emphasis on taking legal action against them on public interest.

"If BRTA were free of corruption, then how could worn out and headlight broken vehicles get fitness certificate?" he said.

Paying rich tribute to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his family members, he said the National Mourning Day is also a day of shame. "Because, I'm a citizen of a country for which Bangabandhu made supreme sacrifice and some miscreants of the country killed him brutally," said Iqbal.

Referring to the recent student movement demanding safe roads, he

said, "The bright faces of children, teenagers and youths who pointed out our failure, give me hope. This generation truly nurtures the ideology of the Father of the Nation."

Iqbal said during the movement, children stopped a vehicle that was carrying logo of ACC. "As soon as we got the information, we've taken legal action against the responsible persons. We didn't spare anyone and will not do so in future," he said.

Among others, ACC Commissioner AFM Aminul Islam, Director General Muhammad Joydul Bari, Director Syed Iqbal Hossain and Deputy Director Golam Shahriar Chowdhury spoke at the event.

## Jukta Front to campaign for democracy

*Countrywide programmes next month*

UNB, Dhaka

Jukta Front, led by Dr Badruddoza Chowdhury, will carry out campaigns and hold rallies across the country in September to mobilise public support against "undemocratic" forces.

Jukta Front leaders took the decision at a meeting at its chairman's Baridhara residence yesterday.

As per decision of the meeting, they will hold organisational meetings and rallies in all divisions, districts and upazilas after Eid-ul-Azha, which will continue throughout September.

The main objective is to unite people against "undemocratic" forces, said a press release.

The meeting also decided to unite all to create a national spirit against repression, despotism and undemocratic activities. It will also welcome all political parties, professionals and civil society members, who

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

## This govt worse than that of 1/11: Fakhrul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP yesterday alleged that the incumbent government is worse than that of the 1/11 army-backed caretaker government, as it has snatched all the basic rights of people and political parties.

"The illegal 1/11 government had imprisoned our leader [Khaleda Zia] through a conspiracy. But she forced that regime to withdraw the state of emergency and free her. The current fascist government is worse than them [1/11 regime]," said Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, secretary general of the party.

He made the allegation after offering prayers at a milad mahfil at the party's Nayapaltan headquarters, marking party chairperson Khaleda Zia's 74th birthday.

Fakhrul also urged party leaders and activists to wage a movement, even if they have to risk their lives, to force the government to free their Chairperson Khaleda Zia from jail.

Criticising the government for "repressing" students who waged a movement seeking safe roads, Fakhrul said, "The government brutally repressed the students' non-political movement. Students are being arrested and picked up. Even girls are not being spared."

To get out of the situation, the BNP leader said there is no alternative for political parties to wage a strong movement. "As a political party, it is our duty to restore democracy and people's rights and free Khaleda Zia," he said.

Remembering Khaleda's role in democratic movements, he said she took to the streets for nine years and ensured the fall of an autocratic regime in the 90s.

The party held doa mahfil in all upazilas and districts across the country praying for Khaleda's wellbeing and release from jail.

The BNP chairperson has been behind bars since her conviction in Zia Orphanage Trust graft case by a lower court on February 8.

# SONY

## BIG SALE OFFER

### 20% ডিসকাউন্ট

ফ্রি উপহার

বান্ধব উপহার

**Exciting BUNDLE OFFER with BRAVIA\***

- SONY Music System
- Xperia Smartphone
- Cyber-shot Camera
- Includes 6,160 Famous Songs Rangs Desi Karaoke

**W!N 1 TOYOTA CAR EVERY 2 WEEKS**

5 CARS

1st Car on 07 June 2018, 2nd Car on 21 June 2018, 3rd Car on 05 July 2018, 4th Car on 19 July 2018, 5th Car (Mega Draw) on 01 September 2018

BRAVIA TV	MRP	OFFER PRICE
32" SMART TV	TK - 44,690	TK-33,518
40" SMART TV	TK - 63,390	TK-47,543
43" SMART TV	TK - 75,900	TK-56,925
48" SMART TV	TK - 85,500	TK-64,125

Buy Smart, Be Assured!

OTK-XB60 @ 25,000, Shake-X100 @ 40,000, Xperia L1 Dual @ 9,000, DSC-W830 @ 5,000, DSC-W800 @ 3,000, DK-1612 @ 28,900, DK-2102 @ 18,200

এই সুযোগ পাওয়া যাবে দেশব্যাপী সকল

Dhaka : 9663551-3, 01624089510, 01670150722, 01533193847, 01716-556688, 01712-782804, 01918-236794, 01979-830692, Comilla : 01615300010, Chowmuhan : 01818935110, Chittagong : 01920463704, 01676266056, Barisal : 01720510469, 01769115502, Jessore : 01728337367, Rajshahi : 01712752015, Sylhet : 01790904777, Khulna : 01721760212, Bogra : 01718942733, Faridpur : 01763888461

SONY RANGS. আউটলেট থেকে

f/sony.rangsbd 5★

www.rangs.com.bd