

## A Gazipur village mourns for the queen

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Elderly people of a village in Gazipur remembered fond memories of a visit by the late Queen Elizabeth II to their village in 1983.

"The queen sat in a jackfruit orchard and talked to the women of our village. We presented her with a key made of silver which symbolised that the door of the village would always be open for the queen," said Saleha Akhter, 70.

The woman of Bairagir Chala village in Sreepur upazila told reporters that the villagers old enough to remember the queen's visit mourned for her yesterday.

The queen visited the village on November 16, 1983, during her four-day visit to Bangladesh. After hearing about the queen's demise, many villagers yesterday reminisced about how her visit changed the village forever.

The then military government of Bangladesh arranged the visit to show the queen an example of a "self-reliant" village of Bangladesh, Saleha said.

Shakhwat Hossain, who is aged around 60, said, "They brought electricity and built a concrete road at the village before her visit," he said. "They built a building at the Sreepur Railway Station. Other buildings were constructed for the hospital and the upazila parishad office."

"Our village was filled with resources at the time. The farmers had cattle. Our ponds were filled with fish and we had large amounts of crops and vegetables. The queen saw these things."

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Sri Lanka's Wanindu Hasaranga runs in towards teammates to celebrate one of his three wickets against Pakistan in the final Super 4 fixture of the Asia Cup in Dubai yesterday. Hasaranga took three for 21 runs Pakistan were bowled out for 121 before Sri Lanka chased it down in 17 overs with five wickets in hand.

PHOTO: AFP

## SL down Pak in final's dress rehearsal

AFP, Dubai

Spinner Wanindu Hasaranga led Sri Lanka's bowling charge to set up a comfortable five-wicket victory over Pakistan on Friday in their dress rehearsal for the Asia Cup final.

Both teams have already booked their place in Sunday's title clash at the warm-up tournament to the Twenty20 World Cup in October-November.

Hasaranga returned figures of 3-21 with his leg-spin to help bowl out Pakistan for 121 in 19.1 overs after they elected to field first in Dubai.

Sri Lanka slipped to 29-3 in their chase before Pathum Nissanka (55 not out) and Bhanuka Rajapaksa (24) put on a key stand of 51 as the island nation achieved their target with three overs to spare.

The left-handed Rajapaksa fell after his 19-ball knock but Nissanka stood firm and Hasaranga hit the winning runs as

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## No visible gain from Hasina's India visit Says Fakhrul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP yesterday said Bangladesh made no "visible achievement" from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's four-day tour of India.

"Till now, the achievement is the Kushiara river water sharing deal. Apart from this, we have not seen any visible achievement," said BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir.

He was speaking to reporters after paying homage to party founder Ziaur Rahman by placing a wreath at his grave in the capital's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, marking the 44th founding anniversary of Jatiyatabadi Mohila Dal.

Stating that a \$500 million defence contract was signed to buy vehicles from India, the BNP leader said an assurance was made that border killings would be brought down to zero.

"The very day it was said,

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## A life devoted to welfare of the masses

People from all walks of life pay tribute to Akbar Ali Khan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former adviser to a caretaker government Akbar Ali Khan devoted his life to the welfare of the people and his death is an irreparable loss to the nation, said his colleagues, civil society members and noted politicians before bidding farewell to the economist and writer.

Amid love and grief, colleagues, relatives and eminent citizens yesterday paid tribute to Akbar as he was laid to rest at Mirpur Martyred Intellectuals' Graveyard around 3:30pm after his namaz-e-janaza in the capital's Gulshan.

Before his burial, he was given a state honour by the Dhaka district administration.

After the namaz-e-janaza, his family announced that the Qulkhani would be held at Azad mosque after Asr prayers on Monday.

Condolences poured in from a cross-section of people, including former bureaucrats, and different rights organisations.

In a Facebook post, renowned economist Wahiduddin Mahmud said Akbar's active presence greatly enriched the civil society of Bangladesh. He was a skilled government

official, a man of integrity, a researcher, an impartial political observer, a good writer, a teacher and a social thinker.

After attending his namaz-e-janaza, Gonoshasthaya Kendra founder Zafrullah Chowdhury said, "In this critical time, it is hard to find people like him who can speak the truth. The nation now needed him very much. But losing him at this moment is an irreparable loss."

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said Akbar was always connected with people, though he was a bureaucrat.

Earlier in the day, Akbar's colleagues and eminent citizens visited his Gulshan residence.

"He used to think independently, always spoke the truth and thought about the welfare of the people and the country. He lived a successful life," said Matuir Rahman, the daily Prothom Alo editor and publisher.

In a statement, TIB Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman said, "Dr Akbar Ali Khan's death is an irreparable loss to the country. TIB gratefully acknowledges his active and courageous participation, thoughtful and wise

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## Cops sue 2,000 over clash with BNP men

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Police filed a case against 2,000 people in Rangpur's Gangachara upazila yesterday, after some 40 people were hurt in a clash between the law enforcers and BNP activists on Thursday.

Of the accused, 50 were named and 1,950 were unnamed. Four people have been arrested already, said police. "The case was filed accusing 1,500 to 2,000 people for attacking police, causing deterioration of law and order situation and obstructing police from discharging their duties," said Hossain Raihan assistant superintendent of Rangpur police (circle-a).

According to police, the upazila unit BNP organised a rally protesting the death of BNP activists in Narayanganj, and a hike in the prices of essentials.

The activists and leaders of the party started gathering at Old Sonali Bank Intersection on Thursday afternoon.

Later, a procession was brought out that started marching toward Gangachara Bazaar. Police, however, intercepted it.

Protesting the police action, brick chunks were thrown from the procession targeting the police,

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## Stone Age humans had advanced medical knowledge

CNN ONLINE



Buried in a shallow grave deep within a remote Indonesian cave, archaeologists have found the bones of a young individual they say could rewrite medical history.

Using radiocarbon dating techniques, scientists estimate the body has lain undisturbed for 31,000 years inside the Liang Tebo

cave in eastern Kalimantan province in Borneo, according to research published in the journal Nature recently.

But the most striking aspect of the discovery was that the young man or woman was missing their lower left leg, with signs it had been carefully amputated when the person was a pre-teen or early teen before their death from unknown causes between 19 and 21, researchers said.

The otherwise remarkably intact skeleton was found in 2020 by Australian and Indonesian archaeologists, who say the amputation reveals considerable surgical skill and is the earliest example in the archaeological record, shaking up our understanding of sophistication of Stone Age humans.

"It's significant because it considerably pushes back our species' knowledge about surgery

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## LAND DISPUTE AL leader shot dead by rivals

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

An Awami League leader was shot dead allegedly by rivals over taking control of a char in the Padma in Pabna Sadar upazila yesterday.



The victim, Saidur Rahman Malitha, 50, of Char Bangabaria village, was a member of Pabna municipality unit AL.

Saidur had a rivalry with former chairman of Hemayetpur Union Parishad Alauddin Malitha, also the vice-president of Pabna Sadar upazila unit AL, over the issue, said police, quoting the victim's family.

Aminul Islam, officer-in-charge of Sadar Police Station, said the attackers opened fire targeting Saidur when he came to the flood protection embankment in Char Bangabaria village around 1:30pm.

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Akbar Ali Khan is given state honours following his namaz-e-janaza at Azad mosque in the capital's Gulshan yesterday afternoon. The eminent economist and former adviser to a caretaker government breathed his last on Thursday night.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## INDIA'S EXPORT DUTY HIKE Domestic rice market unlikely to be affected

SOHEL PARVEZ

India's imposition of 20 percent duty on rice export is unlikely to affect prices of the staple in Bangladesh, according to local traders.

They said the duty was imposed only on sunned rice, popularly known as atop chal, which is not widely consumed here.

Bangladeshi traders mainly import parboiled rice from the neighbouring country, they added.

In the capital yesterday, the price of fine rice was Tk 62-70 a kg, down 5 percent from a week ago, while the cheapest coarse rice sold for Tk 47-52 a kg, down 8 percent from a week ago, according to the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh.

Prices began to fall after the government on August 28 reduced duty on rice import to around 15 percent from over 25 percent to encourage imports and increase supply to the domestic market.

But India on Thursday imposed a 20 percent export duty on rice to tame prices in its domestic market.

Chitta Majumder, managing director of Majumder Group of Industries, which imports rice from India, said traders mainly import parboiled rice. Since India has not slapped any duty on its export, Bangladeshi market will not be affected.

KM Layek Ali, general secretary of Bangladesh Auto Major and Husking Mill Owners Association, expressed the same opinion.

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