

'GAS LEAK' Three burnt in Dhaka, Gazipur blasts die

STAR REPORT

Three people who suffered burn injuries following separate incidents of "gas leak explosion" in Dhaka and Gazipur on August 13, died yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Mukta Khatun, 30, of Juraine, Sabina Begum, 40, of Ashulia, and Minarul Islam, 35, of Gazipur.

All the victims succumbed to their injuries at Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery.

Mukta, along with four other family members, sustained burn injuries in a blast from "a gas leakage" at a house in Dhaka's Jurain on August 13.

She died at 8:15am while undergoing treatment with 45 percent burns, said Tariqul Islam, a resident doctor at the burn unit.

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Gridlock, due to the increasing number of vehicles, has become a never-ending menace in Dhaka, escalating the sufferings of dwellers. The photo was taken in Mohakhali area yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

SSC, HSC exams likely in February, April next year

Says Dipu Moni, HSC exams for 8 general boards begin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Education Minister Dipu Moni yesterday said next year's Secondary School Certificate and equivalent examinations are likely to be held in February while the Higher Secondary Certificate and equivalent exams in April.

The minister made the remark while visiting an HSC exam centre at Tejgaon College on the first day of the exams for this year.

He said the authorities had to defer the examination dates due to the pandemic and other natural disasters in recent years, but they are now planning to hold the exams in their usual time from next year.

While the HSC exams under eight general boards in Bangladesh began yesterday, the exams under the Chattogram, Madrasah, and Technical Education boards will begin on August 27, after being postponed for 10 days due to the recent floods.

On the first day, 941,322 students appeared for the Bangla first paper exam, while 5,522 students were absent, according to the inter-education board coordination committee sources.

The results of the exams will be published within 60 days after the examinations are over, Dipu Moni said.

"Our target is to publish the results for all nine general boards, the madrasa and technical boards together within 60 days," Dipu Moni added.

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4-yr-old Roja fighting for life

She lost 5 family members in Keraniganj chemical warehouse fire

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and MD ABBAS

Four-year-old Roja Moni has been fighting for her life with 30 percent burns for last three days after sustaining the injuries in a massive fire at a chemical warehouse and adjacent houses in Keraniganj on August 15.



A total of 15 people sustained burn injuries in the incident that broke out in Gadarbagh area.

Roja is now being treated at Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery in Dhaka. Her condition is critical, said Dr Samanta Lal Sen, coordinator of the institute.

Her father Sohag Hossain, 25, her mother Mina Begum, 22, her one-and-a-half-year-old sister Tayeba Akhter, her aunt Jesmin Akhter, 35, and her eighth-grader cousin Isha Akhter, all were burnt to death in the fire.

The girl's grandparents are among the 15 others injured in the incident.

Dr Samanta Lal said the institute is determined to do everything possible to keep the girl alive by providing her with the best treatment.

"At least three bags of blood were given to the child. We are doing everything necessary... We do not want to lose hope," he said.

Roja's grandfather Farhad Hossain Jony said the girl now remains as the only surviving member of the family after the incident.

Roja's grandmother (maternal) Maksudia Begum has become sick herself after losing the rest of the family members, he said.

Despite that, Maksudia refused to leave the

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He dreamt of a secular Bangladesh

Say speakers on Bangabandhu

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman deeply believed in the concept of equality, which helped him come out of Muslim League and embrace secularism, said Mashur Rahman, economic affairs adviser to the prime minister, yesterday.

His decision to come out of the Muslim League was driven by his dislike for religious discrimination. He also believed one's religious belief should not be harmed or disrespected, he said.

Mashur made the remarks while addressing a commemorative discussion titled "Bangabandhuke Kache Theke Dekha: Remembrance by his contemporaries", as chief guest. The event was organised by Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) at its conference room.

Mashur, a former CSP officer who joined as private secretary to the Father of the Nation at the end of the Liberation War, recalled various memories with Bangabandhu.

Referring to the great leader's inclination towards socialism, Mashur said, "To Bangabandhu, the meaning of socialism was nothing but welfare of the people."

Even after becoming the prime minister, Bangabandhu maintained close relationships with communist leaders like Moni Singh and Muzaffar Ahmed, and took their suggestions on many issues, he said.

Mentioning that Bangabandhu respected the opposition parties, Mashur recalled that he allowed Pakistan's Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury to enter the country to attend the funeral of his father,

Muslim League leader Fazlul Quader Chowdhury.

"The other party leaders have also shown their due respect towards him [Bangabandhu]," he added.

Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon said leaders and activists of opposition parties like himself had easy access to Bangabandhu's residence.

"It was for this liberal attitude that the security of his residence was not tightened, which led to his tragic demise," said Menon.

Menon also recalled Bangabandhu's love and affection for political leaders and activists while they were in jail at different times during the liberation movement.

To Bangabandhu, the meaning of socialism was nothing but welfare of the people.

MASHUR RAHMAN
Economic affairs adviser to PM

Bangabandhu always listened to others even though they were his juniors and belonged to different ideologies, he added.

Mujahedul Islam Selim, former president of Communist Party of Bangladesh, said Bangabandhu was influenced by Hossain Suhrawardy's political prowess, while Maulana Bhashani's love for commoners also inspired him.

Binayak Sen, director general of BIDS, moderated the event.

Tawfiq e-Elahi Chowdhury, energy affairs adviser to the PM, and economist MM Akash also spoke at the programme.

SC to order on case against Yunus Sunday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court will deliver its order on Sunday whether the trial of labour law violation case against Nobel Laureate Muhammad Yunus and three others will continue.

The Appellate Division of the SC yesterday fixed the date for passing order on a leave to appeal petition filed by Yunus challenging a HC verdict that rejected his petition against labour court's indictment order.

After hearing, a seven-member bench headed by Chief Justice Hasan Foez Siddique set the date.

On August 13, Yunus filed the petition with the Appellate Division, seeking a stay on the HC's August 8 rejection verdict.

Sheikh Merina Sultana, chairman of Third Labour Court of Dhaka, on June 6 framed charges against Yunus and three Grameen Telecom officials in this case.

Yunus is the chairman of Grameen Telecom while Ashraful Hasan managing director and Nur Jahan Begum and Mohammad Shahjahan are directors.

On September 9, 2021, SM Arifuzzaman, a labour inspector (general) of the Inspection for Factories and Establishments Department, filed the case with the court.

The court on October 12, 2021 granted bail to them.

Impersonating ACC officials to scam people

DB arrests 4 fraudsters

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

First they used to take information from the Anti-Corruption Commission website. Then impersonating as ACC officials, they sent letters to people, accusing them of corruption. When they came to settle the matter at a designated place, these conmen used to extort a huge sum of money from them.

The Detective Branch of police claimed to have arrested four members of such a gang from Jatrabari, Muggda and Airport areas in the capital on Monday. Khandaker Nurunnabi, joint commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (Cyber and Special Crime and DB-North), told a press briefing yesterday.

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Bangladesh working to collect data

Says foreign ministry on Chinese hydropower projects

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh is working to collect adequate data on the construction of eight hydro power plants by China in the upstream of the Brahmaputra, said foreign ministry yesterday.

"However, no discussion on signing any agreement on water with China has begun yet," said Sehel Sabrin, spokesperson of the ministry, at a media briefing.

According to a Daily Mirror report published on Monday, China has built about eight hydroelectric power projects on the lower reaches of Yarlung Tsangpo. Some of them are already operational while a few others are still under works.

Meanwhile, a mega dam has been proposed which could lead to consequences as Bangladesh

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BNP to hold mass procession in Dhaka, other cities today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP will hold mass processions in Dhaka and other metropolitan cities across the country today, demanding resignation of the Awami League government.

Other like-minded political parties – including Ganatantra Mancha, Gonoforum, Chhatra Odhikar Songrokkhon Parishad, Gono Odhikar Parishad, and Labour Party – will also separately join the programme.

There will be two mass processions in Dhaka's south and north zones today.

The party's Dhaka north unit will hold the rally at 3:00pm from Gulshan-2 to Mohakhali Bus Terminal via Gulshan-1 and Titumir College.

Simultaneously, its Dhaka south unit will bring out a procession from Dayaganj to BNP's Nayapalton office via Golapbagh, Kamalapur, Bouddha Mondir, and Fakirapool areas.

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir and standing committee member Mirza Abbas will join the processions in North and South Dhaka, respectively, as chief guests.

Earlier yesterday, on the first day of BNP's three-day programme, party

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Join polls or lose everything

Quader tells BNP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Urging BNP to take part in the upcoming national election forgetting the caretaker government, Awami League General Secretary said BNP would lose everything if they do not participate in the election.

"They have been playing the same old record. I suggest they go to Pakistan where the caretaker government system exists... Remove this ghost of a caretaker government from your head," he said at a rally in the capital.

Dhaka city unit of AL organised the rally at the party's central office on Bangabandhu Avenue marking the anniversary of August 17 countrywide series bomb attacks.

BNP is still doing politics of terror. They are the trusted ally of JMB, who carried out the series bomb attacks, alleged Quader.

Addressing the BNP leaders, he said that it's a pity that they could not even bring out a procession of 500 people demanding release of [BNP Chairperson] Khaleda Zia.

AL joint general secretaries Mahbubul Alam Hanif and AFM Bahauddin Nasim also spoke at the event.



Demanding regularisation, contractual government line-staffs from all around the country staged a sit-in in front of the Palli Bidyut office in the capital's Khilkhet yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN