

Jahanara Rob's ninth death anniv

CITY DESK

Yesterday was the ninth death anniversary of Jahanara Rob, a veteran politician, women's rights activist, and a lawmaker.

Rob was a member of parliament from Pabna and Bogura from 1973 to 1975 (until Bangabandhu and his family were assassinated).

Born in 1930 in Faridpur, she was involved in various social and political activities.

She became the chairperson of Nari Punorbashon Shangstha in 1972.

She was also involved in relief and humanitarian works. After the 1947 partition, when a series of riots broke out in Pabna, she helped the minority families who took shelter in their home. Also, when she lived in Kolkata, she extended her helping hands to the deprived community.

She was the wife of late Abdur Rob alias Boga Mia, a freedom fighter, Liberation War organiser, socio-political activist and ex-member of Constituent Assembly of Pabna.

She passed away on September 29 in 2014 in Dhaka.

2,000 hectares of Aman fields flooded

Farmers worried about losing harvest

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Over 2,000 hectares of Aman paddy fields have been submerged in floodwater, in the riverside areas of Lalmonirhat and Kurigram, since last Tuesday. The floods were a result of continuous heavy rains over several days in these areas.

Now, if floodwater does not recede by tomorrow (Sunday), the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) and farmers fear that the crops will be permanently damaged.

Abdul Malek, 67, a farmer of Kodalkhata village in Lalmonirhat

Sadar upazila, told The Daily Star that due to continuous rains, water level of the Ratnai river has increased and floodwater has entered the arable lands on the banks of the river.

Since last Tuesday, eight bighas of his Aman fields have been submerged. If the floodwater does not recede soon, the Aman paddy will be damaged.

Similarly, Majidul Islam, 60, a farmer of Sardob village in Kurigram Sadar upazila, said floods on the banks of Dharla river left four bighas of his Aman fields submerged since Tuesday.

Now, his dream of a successful

harvest looks grim, he added.

DAE officials said Aman fields on 700 hectares of land in Lalmonirhat and 1,300 hectares in Kurigram are still submerged.

The crop can only survive 6-7 days under floodwater.

Hamidur Rahman, deputy director of DAE in Lalmonirhat, said farmers are very concerned. Only if the water recedes quickly, their paddy will be saved.

Abdullah Al Mamun, executive engineer of the Water Development Board in Kurigram, said they are hoping that the floodwater will recede by tomorrow.



In Lalmonirhat and Kurigram, 700 and 1,300 hectares of Aman fields lay submerged in floodwater, respectively. If the water does not recede soon, thousands of farmers may lose their harvest completely.

PHOTO: STAR

YOUTH PEACE CAMP 60 cyclists reach Gandhi Ashram in Noakhali

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

A 60-member cyclist team from the Indian state of Maharashtra has reached Gandhi Ashram in Noakhali's Sonaimuri upazila to participate in the International Youth Peace Camp.

Of them, 52 arrived at the Gandhi Ashram on Thursday and eight others reached yesterday riding cycles along the Ramganj-Noakhali Chatkhil regional highway, said Jeevan Kanai Das, chairman of the Gandhi Ashram Trust in a press conference yesterday.

The Gandhi Ashram Trust arranged the three-day peace camp, starting from today, marking the 155th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and the 75th founding anniversary of the trust, the chairman said.

Over 350 youths from Saarc countries as well as Kenya, Sweden, Germany, the United Kingdom, and the US will take part in the event, he added.



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11 years on, justice

FROM PAGE 3

Ali Akond and Jyotirmoy Barua separately filed two writ petitions with the HC, seeking actions against the perpetrators and the local administrative officials who were negligent in preventing the incidents.

Following the petitions, two separate inquiries were conducted into the incidents in line with HC orders.

The HC is yet to hold the final hearing on the

petitions and deliver any verdict on them due to reconstitution of its bench and apparent lack of willingness of the lawyers concerned in moving the petitions before the court.

Akond told The Daily Star that he will not take any initiative for hearing of his petition, as no bench of the HC wanted to hold hearing of the matter.

Barua could not be reached for his comments.

3 X-ray machines

FROM PAGE 5

will also stop working if not used, said hospital officials.

"After getting the new X-ray machine, I have sent several letters to the higher authorities to appoint technicians," said Ferdous Akhter.

Patients from the upazila and surrounding remote areas rely on the hospital for healthcare. An average of 500-600 outpatients and 100-150 emergency patients are treated daily at the hospital. Around 50 of these patients require X-rays on average.

Such patients, including emergency ones, are sent to get X-rays done from private hospitals in the area. They also have to pay extra for the X-rays as private hospitals charge more than government ones.

"I was recently injured in a road accident. But, since there is no X-ray service at the hospital, I paid Tk 1,000 to a diagnostic centre and showed the report to the doctor at the upazila health complex," said Tarek Hasan, a resident of Hajipur union of Kulaura, who came to the hospital for a follow-up.

Moulvibazar Civil Surgeon Chowdhury Jalal Uddin Murshed said, "Technicians are recruited centrally from the DGHS. The authorities and the civil surgeon's office are working to solve the issue."

The authorities will also fix the X-ray room soon, he added.

Hasina

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At a separate programme, Information Minister Hasan Mahmud also said Hasina is not only a politician, rather a symbol of democracy. He said this while speaking at a discussion at AL's Bangabandhu Avenue central office in Dhaka.

Krishak League organised the event marking the 77th birthday of the prime minister.

Hasan, also AL joint general secretary, said Hasina never does politics for power. She always does politics for establishing people's rights and progress of the country.

About contemporary politics, Hasan said now BNP-Jamaat clique wants to hand over the country to those who kill democracy in different countries, but they won't get any benefit by carrying out the evil efforts.

The minister also said attempts are being made to thwart the next elections.

Polls can't be

FROM PAGE 5

Afroza Abbas, president of Jatiyatabadi Mohila Dal, presided over the meeting.

"The government said it does not comply with the visa restrictions imposed by the US. Why would it comply with this? You [govt] don't care if the people cannot eat and die as you are not elected by the people," she said.

Among others, BNP standing committee members Mirza Abbas, Gayeshwar Chandra Roy, Abdul Moeen Khan, and Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury were present at the event.

50 hurt in AL

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The programme was held by the supporters of local AL lawmaker HN Ashiqur Rahman, Jubo League, Krishak League, and Chhatra League.

Meanwhile, Jakir Hossain Sarkar, also chairman of Mithapukur upazila, and his supporters brought out a procession from Shathibari. They were set to hold a rally to celebrate the PM's

birthday.

As soon as the activists reached in front of the upazila parishad office, supporters of the other group began to hurl brick chips and stones at them, triggering a clash between the factions.

The clash lasted for about one and a half hours, said locals and police.

President of Mithapukur upazila AL could not be contacted for comments.



Dengue vaccine trial

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dengue vaccines developed by the US National Institutes of Health (NIH) since 2009.

"The development of an effective and tetravalent dengue vaccine is a very high priority for the large population of Bangladesh, which is now seeing severe dengue outbreaks," said Rashidul Haque, a senior scientist at icddr.b.

He hoped that their work would accelerate the development of dengue vaccines for Bangladesh.

The third phase trial of the vaccine has already started in India and some other countries.

Mohammed Shafiul Alam, a scientist who participated in the study, said it may take at least three to five years for the vaccine to hit the market if everything goes smoothly.

"The vaccine was put on trial in 42 phases in different countries. It is a great prospect for Bangladesh, which is obviously good news for the country," he said.

Bored waiting for train? Read books

Library set up at Tangail Railway Station

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Like other days, Altaf Hossain was waiting to board the Silk City Express train at Tangail Railway Station to travel to Dhaka.

He arrived early at the station and had nothing much to do.

A passenger sitting next to him was reading a book. He looked at Altaf and told him he could read one as well to kill the time.

Altaf replied he did not have any books on him.

To his surprise, the passenger said he can just take one from a library set up at the station and then return it once his train arrives.

A library with 50 books of different genres was inaugurated on Thursday at Tangail Railway Station, offering waiting passengers an opportunity to spend their pass time by reading.

"This is a meaningful way to utilise the time I spend waiting at the station. Now, we can happily pass the time by indulging in books," said Altaf.

Sub-inspector Kamruzzaman Sohag and his associates are behind this initiative.

Sohag's commitment to promoting education and literacy dates back to his time as a student at Mawlana Bhashani University of Science and Technology, when he established "Batighar Adarsha Pathagar" in his

village in 2010.

The library, set up at Tangail Sadar upazila's Chowrakara village, with the motto "Come and read books, enlighten yourself", not only fosters educational activities but also conducts various social initiatives, including setting up sub-libraries at salons, bus stops, and railway stations.



The new library at the railway station is the latest addition to their offerings.

Contacted, Sohag said commuters often endure lengthy waiting times at the station, during which they typically engage in unproductive activities.

"By introducing books at the station, I envision that passengers can transform their idle moments into an opportunity for joyful reading," he said.

Air Force celebrates founding anniv

UNB, Dhaka

The Bangladesh Air Force (BAF) celebrated its 52nd founding anniversary on Thursday as "Air Force Day".

The BAF started its journey on this day during the Liberation War in 1971. This journey named "Kilo Flight" started with one Otter aircraft, one Dakota aircraft and one Alouette helicopter provided by the Indian government at Dimapur of Nagaland in India.

The unit comprised 57 members including Bangalee pilots, airmen of technical trades and civil aviators, according to an Inter Services Public Relations Directorate (ISPR) media release.

A cultural programme and fireworks were organised in the evening on the occasion.

Chief of Air Staff of the Bangladesh Air Force Air Chief Marshal Shaikh Abdul Hannan attended the programme.

2 workers crushed to death by truck

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

Two labourers were crushed to death under the wheels of a sand-laden truck in Barishal city early yesterday.

The victims, Yunus, 50, and Habib, 25, used to live in West Kaunia area (ward-1), said police.

The incident happened on a road adjacent to Hazera Khatun School in West Kaunia around 1:00am.

According to police and locals, Yunus, Habib, and some other workers were trying to move a truck that got stuck in the sand. As the truck reversed suddenly, the two were crushed under its wheels and died on the spot.

The labourers lived in a rented house of a contractor, he said.

Police and fire service recovered the bodies this morning and sent them to Barishal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

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Invitation for e-Tender (IFT)

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Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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