

Sheikh Moulana Qutubuddin no more

CITY DESK

Sheikh Moulana Mohammad Qutubuddin, chairperson of shari'ah supervisory committee of Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited and Baitush Sharaf Anjuman-e-Ittehad Bangladesh, passed away at a hospital in the capital on Wednesday. He was 82.

IBBL Chairperson Prof Md Nazmul Hassan, and Managing Director and CEO Md Mahbub ul Alam, along with other IBBL officials and employees prayed for his departed soul, said a press release.

Sheikh Qutubuddin left behind his son and six daughters, and a host of relatives and admirers.

Prof Maliha Khatun's 18th death anniv

CITY DESK

Today is the 18th death anniversary of Prof Maliha Kahtun -- a teacher, writer, social worker and philanthropist.



She was a recipient of Begum Rokeya Padak and many other awards for campaigning for women's rights and social work.

She was also a writer who authored of over 40 books.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to pray for her departed soul.

Two isolation

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This is part of a broader humanitarian effort by all partners in Cox's Bazar to provide support to Bangladesh government in combating Covid-19, and to build capacity to respond to clinical needs of those with the most severe symptoms.

A total of 12 SARI ITCs will be constructed overall, with a capacity of approximately 1,900 beds for refugees and host community. Additional resources and support including personal protective equipment (PPE) have already been provided to existing national health care facilities in Cox's Bazar and to primary health centres within the Rohingya refugee camps.

UNHCR will also soon complete the preparation of an 18-bed Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at Sadar Hospital in Cox's Bazar, with 10 ICU beds and 8 high dependency beds, as well as providing staffing, for those with the most severe needs.

SCB, Brac

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said, "Covid-19 is a generational challenge that will require every section of the society to come together in support of each other."

Brac Executive Director Asif Saleh said, "We are glad to join forces with Standard Chartered and stand beside vulnerable families under lockdown with essential food support."

Standard Chartered has initiated a USD 1 billion global financing programme for companies that provide goods and services to help fight against Covid-19, said the release.

It has also launched a USD 50 million fund to aid communities affected by the pandemic across its global footprint, including Bangladesh, it added.

Meanwhile, Brac has mobilised its entire organisation -- including over 100,000 frontline staffers, community healthcare workers and volunteers -- to stand beside communities from the very onset of the Covid-19 crisis, it further said.

EU allocates

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UN and NGOs with the programmes on urban health [1,385,000 Euro]; 'WASH, Handwashing Facilities and Information in Urban Slums' (462,000 Euro) and the 'Midwifery Programme with PPE, Training and Triage' (462,000 Euro).

Another 714,383 Euro will address urgent needs of ultra-poor and vulnerable people in Dhaka and rural areas.

Momen thanked the ambassadors from the EU, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, The Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland for the assistance.

The ambassadors highlighted the issue of press freedom in Bangladesh. In response, Abdul Momen said Bangladesh too believes in it, and claimed that "There is complete freedom of speech and media."

However, he said, freedom without responsibility may result in social chaos and indiscipline.

On concerns over spread of Covid-19 in the Rohingya camps, Momen said the government is taking all necessary steps to ensure that the pandemic is contained, and there is minimal spread of the virus in the camps.

On ambassadors' concerns that there was no mobile internet in Rohingya camps, the minister said the functionaries would be able to access the internet and 4G services from their offices and accommodations, but for security reasons, the government has downgraded 4G services in the Rohingya camps.

"For security reasons; to stop drug trafficking, to stop trafficking of women and children, provoking people to create lawlessness and to stop blue films, the government had to downgrade 4G services in the camp area," Momen told the ambassadors.

Worth the

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in old Paltan, markets in Gulistan and Mirpur areas will remain closed until Eid.

Police on May 12 shut down the Bangabazar market in Gulistan and two fashion outlets in Dhanmondi for flouting health safety directives. However, markets including old Dhaka's Islampur Market, Chawkbazar, Keraniganj, Ayesha Market at Jatrabari, Dhaka New Super Market and shops in Elephant road reopened after the government's approval.

Small markets and shops on footpaths in Mirpur-10, 13, 2 and Mirpur 1, Golden Super Market at Lalbagh Fort, Dhanmondi Hawkers Market, Noor Mansion Shopping Centre, New Super Market, shops at Elephant road and Karwan Bazar continued to be swarmed by people.

Many were seen wearing masks but the required distancing for preventing coronavirus from spreading was still a far cry. Mohammad Alam, a hawker at Mirpur-10, said, "It's tough to maintain distancing at our small shops."

Asked why he opened his shop despite the risk, he said, "We finally got a chance to make some money after around one and half months. I took a Tk 35,000 loan during the lockdown to run my family." He said most hawkers set up their shops maintaining necessary distance.

Sohel Mamun, a hawker at Mirpur-10, said, "Many markets and shops in Mirpur are closed for which we are getting a good number of customers. But no one is following physical distancing."

A trader at Dhanmondi Hawkers Market said many customers are just too reluctant. "We request them to stand at a certain distance but they don't listen. We also make them use hand sanitiser before entering shops," he added.

Bangladesh Shop Owners Association president Helal Uddin Aziz said there are 3 lakh shops in the city of which around 15 percent are now open. "It's quite tough to maintain 100 percent health guidelines. Some shoppers act as if there is no virus threat. Traders are trying their best to maintain health guidelines while running their business."

Karwan Bazar (No-2) Super Market Traders Association president Shamsul Alam Bulbul said 50 percent shops at their market are open. As many of the shops there sell wholesale, they did not get that many customers, he said, adding that others are expecting a rush of customers during the last few days before eid.

US lauds

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"Now, already we're seeking to address that. We're trying to match-make between Bangladeshi manufacturers and consumers in America for critical medical supplies, as the Bangladeshi factories are retooling and seeking new markets," she said.

Wells said they will continue to look for all opportunities to be able to increase the trade and investment relationship between the two countries.

She mentioned that America remains or has been the largest export market for Bangladesh. "We're very important to Bangladesh's economic health."

Wells said they are all living in challenging times as a result of novel coronavirus, but her three years in this position leaves her confident about the strength of US partnerships in the region and their ability to confront diplomatic, economic, and security challenges together.

PM ALLOCATES TK 25CR FOR MUNICIPAL STAFF

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has allocated Tk 25 crore for 328 municipalities to pay salaries and allowances of officials and employees amid coronavirus crisis.

"The money has been allocated from the Prime Minister's Relief and Welfare Fund," said PM's Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim yesterday.

Some 12,519 officials and employees of the 328 municipalities as well as 20,000 cleaning workers recruited through outsourcing will be benefited from the allocation.

340 cops test positive in 24 hours

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Mamun from Lakshmipur left behind his wife and two daughters.

Another victim Mokhlesur, 57, a constable of Chattogram district police, was in quarantine after he showed coronavirus symptoms around 10 days ago, said police.

As his condition worsened at the police-arranged quarantine centre in the port city's Agrabad around 5:00am on Wednesday, he was taken to Chattogram General Hospital where doctors declared him dead, said Mohiuddin Soheli, additional deputy commissioner (Special Branch) of Chattogram district police.

His samples were collected after his death, and he tested Covid-19 positive, the police official said, adding that Mokhlesur had other health complications too.

Mokhlesur of Chandpur left behind his wife, three daughters, and a son.

With Mamun and Mokhlesur, 11 police personnel have died so far after being contracted coronavirus while discharging their duties across the country.

The police personnel sacrificed their lives after being infected with

Covid-19 while performing their duties to keep people safe, said Soheli Rana, assistant inspector general (media) of Police Headquarters.

The DMP and Chattogram district police expressed condolences over the deaths.

Earlier, constables Naimul Haque, Jalal Uddin Khoka, Asheq Mahmud, and Jasim Uddin; Assistant Sub-inspector Raghunath Roy; ASI Abdul Khaleq; Sub-inspector Sultanul Arefin; SI Mujibur Rahman Talukder; and SI Nazir Uddin breathed their last.

Some 340 police personnel were infected across the country in the last 24 hours till yesterday noon. The figure was the highest in a day, taking the number to 3,235, according to Police Headquarters.

Earlier, the highest number in a day was 241 on May 16.

Of the infected, 1,277 are from Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

Some 569 police personnel recovered until yesterday.

Police officials said they took all steps for treating their infected colleagues.

The police authorities recently made arrangements for treating their members

at a private hospital as the Central Police Hospital was struggling to deal with the huge number of patients.

Police officials said the number of infected among police is on the rise as it was quite difficult for the police personnel to carry out their duties without coming in contact with people due to their nature of work.

In another development, 20 members of Diplomatic Security Division of DMP, who recently recovered from Covid-19, joined work yesterday.

Ashraful Islam, deputy commissioner of the division, welcomed them with flowers.

The victims were treated from April 21 to May 2 at the Central Police Hospital and they maintained a 14-day isolation after their recovery and release from hospital.

'Drug dealer'

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where doctors declared him dead.

Rab claimed to have recovered a firearm, some bullets and 30,000 pieces of yaba from the spot.

Two Rab men were injured during the "shootout", Rab claimed.

Only 4pc hospitals can do them

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health complexes over phone and found only one of those with the capacity to do all the five basic tests.

Take for example Kalukhali Upazila Health Complex in Rajbari.

Khandaker Abu Jalal, upazila health and family planning officer, said the health complex was opened in 2018, but indoor facilities have still not yet been introduced. "We only do blood glucose test right now, nothing else."

Kamal Hossain, upazila health and family planning officer of Morrelganj Upazila Health Complex in Bagerhat, said they had no lab technicians for the past two and a half months. "So, we are not performing any tests right now."

Arafat Rahman, medical officer at Godagari Upazila Health Complex in Rajshahi, said, "We have the capacity to conduct all the basic tests. As there is a shortage of reagents, we cannot do some tests. Currently, we are not conducting pregnancy tests due to lack of kits."

Of the facilities The Daily Star contacted, only Badarganj Upazila Health Complex in Rangpur said it can perform all the five tests currently.

Ahmed Al-Sabir, an ICF consultant who worked for the survey, said, "We have observed the services, but did not identify the reasons. But I think

one of the main reasons is that not all the facilities get the same supply of equipment and reagent materials."

Golam Kibria, medical officer at Babuganj Upazila Health Complex in Barishal, said they can currently perform all the basic tests except for the haemoglobin test.

Conducted by the National Institute of Population Research and Training, the survey covered 1,524 health facilities and 5,400 service providers from eight divisions.

Forty teams, led by physicians, collected data between July and October 2017.

The survey assessed public and private facilities with at least 20 beds, and non-governmental healthcare facilities in the formal sector that maintain widely accepted licensing, training, and policy standards.

"The capacity of health facilities to conduct basic diagnostic tests is still very limited. The most widely available test is blood glucose, provided by only 20 percent facilities. Only four percent facilities offer all the five basic diagnostic tests (haemoglobin, blood glucose, urine protein, urine glucose, and urine pregnancy tests)," the report said.

"Fourteen percent of district and upazila facilities and negligible proportions of union-level facilities and

community clinics provide all five basic tests. More than half of private hospitals and 40 percent of non-governmental facilities offer the tests," it continued.

The report also stated that advanced laboratory diagnostic tests and equipment for diagnostic imaging were available only at district hospitals, upazila health complexes, NGO facilities, and private hospitals.

A majority of district hospitals (79 percent) have functional X-ray machines -- a slight improvement in the past three years.

Only 18 percent of upazila health complexes have functional X-ray machines -- this figure has decreased since 2014.

When it comes to regular availability of eight essential medicines mentioned below, the latest report showed a downturn.

It found 62 percent (38 percent when community clinics are excluded) of health facilities have at least six of the medicines in the drug and dietary supply (DDS) kit, compared to 77 percent (70 percent if community clinics are excluded) in 2014.

The DDS kit includes Amoxicillin tablets/capsules, Amoxicillin syrup, Paracetamol tablets, Paracetamol syrup, Tetracycline/chloramphenicol eye ointment, Cotrimoxazole, Iron tablets, and Vitamin A capsules.

Back in

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negotiations. We traced their location in Demra first but within hours they started moving towards Savar," he said.

Accompanied by Feroz, a three-member police team started following them.

The kidnappers' final location was traced at Paturia Ferry Terminal in Manikganj and the police team reached there around 10:05pm, said ADC Hafiz.

The terminal was filled to the brim with people and vehicles as the ferry service remains suspended for the cyclone and to prevent people from going to their village homes, he said.

The police team, with Sifat's photograph in hand, started looking for him in the crowd.

Police asked Feroz to stay inside the vehicle so that kidnappers did not know about his presence, said Hafiz. "Around 11:40pm, the team finally found Sifat sleeping on a bench in front of a makeshift shop at the terminal."

Talking with Sifat, police came to know that a person named Milon took him away with a promise of giving him candy. "Milon used to work with Feroz as an assistant before the lockdown. Sifat also knew him. Milon fled sensing police presence," said ADC Hafiz.

"We have already collected details of Milon and are looking for him. A case was filed with Hatirheel Police Station," he added.

The family was beyond grateful and couldn't thank the law enforcers enough. But most importantly, Sifat was back to his mother's arms.

Global virus

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finger-pointing at China, who he blamed for "this mass Worldwide killing".

Beijing tells a different story, with President Xi Jinping determined to project a narrative of strength and success in reining in the outbreak that first emerged in his country late last year before wreaking havoc around the globe.

Though China has faced criticism of its initial handling of the virus, the country has since brought domestic cases down to a trickle and kept deaths at a far lower toll than in the worst-hit countries, according to its official figures.

OBITUARY

With profound grief, we wish to inform you that, Mr. Junaid Masroor, DMD & CAMLCO of Trust Bank Ltd has breathed his last on 17 May 2020 (Inna lillahe wa inna ilaiheerazeun). We, the AACOB family, on behalf of all bank employees of Bangladesh & well-wishers, express our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family members. May Allah grant eternal peace & Jannah to the pious soul (Ameen).

ASSOCIATION OF ANTI MONEY LAUNDERING COMPLIANCE OFFICERS OF BANKS IN BANGLADESH

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Department of Public Health Engineering

Office of Executive Engineer, P & C Division

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Memo No: 46.03.2600.064.29.001.18 - 390

Date: 20/05/2020

e-Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the following package:

Tender ID No.	Package No	Description	Online Publication Date and Time	Online Closing Date and Time
462858	SWSTP-RBF-13	Supply and Installation of Different type best quality office furniture at The Project for Safe Water Supply by Treatment of Surface Water at Rangamati, Bagerhat and Faridpur District, 4 th floor, DPHE Main Bhaban, Kakrail, Dhaka.	20 May-2020 22:00	7-June-2020 13:00

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender registration in the National e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for last selling/downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP system portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches up to date & time. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)

(Farhana Hossain)
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GD-888