

Nurul Amin passes away

CITY DESK

Mohammad Nurul Amin Sunuj, a freedom fighter, died from novel coronavirus at the Combined Military Hospital in Dhaka on June 11. He was 68, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, four daughters and a host of relatives to mourn him. Amin retired from Bangladesh Ansar and VDP after serving with reputation. He was admitted to the CMH on June 1. He hailed from Mymensingh and was given a guard of honour on the Biseshwari Government Pilot High School premises in Ishwarganj of the district on June 12. Later, he was buried at Muktijoddha graveyard in Ishwarganj following a namaz-e-janaza. During his funeral, a small number of people were present who maintained physical distance.



Bangladesh Sadharan Chhatra Parishad, a students' platform, formed a human chain in front of National Museum in the capital's Shahbagh yesterday noon, protesting the recent incidents of rape in Netrakona and Lakshimpur.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Another elephant found dead in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chattogram

For the third consecutive day, an elephant has died in the country from human-made objects, as a juvenile elephant was found dead at a village in Banshkhali upazila yesterday.

Locals spotted the decomposing body of the elephant calf after a foul smell gripped the village. On information, forest officials rushed to the spot and recovered the carcass to conduct a postmortem, Sheik Anisuzzaman, range officer of Joldi area under Forest Department (wildlife and nature conservation), Chattogram circle, said.

The elephant is a juvenile, aged 16, the official added. Kopil Uddin, chairman of Boilchari union parishad, told The Daily Star that some people might have killed the elephant and buried it to hide the incident.

However, it was revealed when a layer of mud receded after yesterday's heavy downpour, stinking up the whole area.

Later, Abu Naser Md Yeasin Neyaz, divisional forest officer of Chattogram Forest Circle, said they have performed the autopsy but it will take time to prepare the report.

"I have seen metal wire fence around orange and papaya gardens near the spot of the incidence which could easily have been connected to power. I assume the elephant could have died of electrocution. Let's see what the postmortem report tells us," he added.

With this, three elephants have died in the country in the last three days.

One of them was killed from electrocution at Teknaf on Friday, and another was killed at Bandarban possibly from injuries sustained from barbed wire fences.

Sultan Bhuiyan no more

CITY DESK

Sultan Uddin Bhuiyan, former lawmaker of Narayanganj-1 constituency and son of late Gul Baksh Bhuiyan, passed away on Saturday morning.



He was 69, says a press release. Bhuiyan was former president of Narayanganj Club, president of Yarn Merchant Association, and president of Narayanganj Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

He left behind his wife, a son, two daughters and two grandchildren. Sultan's first namaz-e-janaza was held at his residence in Dhanmondi, Dhaka.

He was later buried at his family graveyard in Ruppaganj, Narayanganj. His relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Raise

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He also requested the court to order the authorities concerned to ensure that city dwellers stay home, and that food and medicine are provided to the poor through local representatives during the pandemic.

In the petition, he prayed to the HC to ask that the authorities concerned procure within a period of one week sufficient quantities of "High Flow Nasal Oxygen Cannula" as per the recommendation of the National Technical Advisory Committee (NTAC) to save lives of coronavirus patients.

He also urged the HC to pass an order on the government to arrange a fixed hospital for the treatment of health workers as per NATC recommendation within seven days and file a compliance report to this court.

DHAKA UNIVERSITY SENATE

A hurried meeting concludes without budget placement

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University's annual senate session was held yesterday, despite the absence of multiple members, including two province chancellors and the treasurer of the university.

Prof Shibli Rubayat Ul Islam, former dean of DU's Business Studies faculty and chairman of Bangladesh Security Exchange Commission has been nominated as syndicate member in educationist quota.

Alumnus Majnun Chunnun has been nominated in registered graduate category and former Bangla Academy Director General Shamsuzzaman Khan was nominated in eminent citizen category.

One of the primary and arguably the most important agenda of the meeting -- annual budget -- was not placed in the session.

The VC told this correspondent that the tenure of the current members would end on June 16, hence he convened the meeting yesterday.

A pro-VC and deans of two faculties wrote to the VC stating their unwillingness to attend the session.

"Considering mine and my colleagues' health and safety, I did not attend. Also, the budget was not placed so I didn't have anything to contribute at the meeting," Prof ASM Maksud Kamal, dean of Earth and Environmental Sciences faculty, told The Daily Star.

Pro-VC (Academic) Prof Dr Nasreen Ahmad echoed him, saying she felt it was useless to attend a session where there wouldn't be any discussion.

"I've read in the papers that the VC convened the meeting because he wants his chosen few in the syndicate. Is our VC that 'insecure' that he needs his people to boost him up?" she questioned.

"What wrong will the VC commit that he needs 'his' people in the syndicate?" she added, "I believe, if one remains fair, abides by rules and maintains transparency, then they can work with anyone. [Then] there is nothing to fear," she added.

Several senate members alleged that VC Prof Md Akhtaruzzaman called the senate session hurriedly to nominate Prof Shibli in the syndicate, which is the highest decision-making body in the university.

"The VC issued notice on May 13 about the meeting but the university has been closed since March 18, which contradicts the Article 21 of DU order 1973, which says the VC has to issue notice to all members at least 21 working days prior to the session," alleged a member.

Another senate member questioned the legitimacy of Prof Shibli's nomination under educationist quota, as the latter does not have a PhD or international journal publications.

DU sources said, the university authorities are likely to hold another senate session on July 23 to finalise the budget.

Yesterday's meeting, attended by 63 members, also nominated Md Ataur Rahman Proddhan, CEO and managing director of Sonali Bank Limited, as a member of University finance committee.

Decision on closure of schools, colleges today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is going to extend the closure of all educational institutions in the country in a bid to curb further spread of Covid-19.

"We are extending the closure of all educational institutions, but we will take decision about the fixing the dates tomorrow [today]," primary and mass education secretary Akram-Al-Hossain told The Daily Star.

He said he had a discussion with top officials of the Education ministry regarding the matter and both the ministries will extend the closure till same date.

Two high officials at the education ministry and primary and mass education ministry said they are likely to extend the closure of school and colleges till June 30.

All educational institutions have been closed since March 17, and the government has now extended the closure until June 15 to prevent further spread of coronavirus.

On April 27, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said all educational institutions may stay closed until September if the situation caused by the coronavirus outbreak does not improve.

Educational activities of about four crore students are being hampered due to coronavirus crisis. Holding of HSC exams have been deferred for an indefinite period. First-term exams of primary schools and half yearly exams of secondary school have also been deferred for the crisis.

The government started TV education through Sangsad TV for secondary students on March 29, for primary students on April 7, and for technical and madrasa students on April 19, so that students can make up for some of the losses due to closure of schools.

Many guardians said it was only partially fulfilling the objective, as about a half of the country's people -- many of them underprivileged -- do not have access to TV sets.

A long-planned

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assistant in the second week of March, and started collecting information from factory workers, guards and nearby shops. He said the arrestees in primary interrogation informed the elite force that their plans to loot money were foiled in April and May, as the factory used mobile banking service to pay employees.

Later, they targeted June to conduct

robbery, as the factory decided to pay cash and other gang members conducted recce in the vicinity of the factory, to execute the plan for 12 to 15 days, said the director, quoting arrestees.

On the day of incident, the arrestees stopped the factory microbus near the Bangabandhu Hi-Tech City area of Kaliakoir while it was returning from a bank with cash, looted the money at gunpoint, and disappeared from

the scene within five minutes, said Sarwar-bin-Quasem.

The factory's general manager Md Khorshed Alam filed a case with Kaliakoir Police Station, accusing unidentified persons.

The arrestees had a number of cases filed against them with police stations in Dhaka and Barishal, he said.

"We are now conducting drives to arrest the absconding members of the gang," he added.

No end to

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have maintained their defense of these deaths, saying they fired in retaliation to armed ambush.

ASK said apart from people killed in "gunfights", 21 others were killed either in shootings, torture or in custody.

ASK prepared the statistics based on media reports and information collected by the organisation.

The death of 55-year-old Shanu Hawlader in the custody of Amtali Police Station in Barguna and 40-year-old Yasmin Begum in the custody of detective branch of Gazipur police created sensation during the period examined.

ASK said many journalists among other professionals were harassed in this period. At least 127 incidents of harassment on journalists took place at this time. Of them, 20 were harassed by the law enforcement agencies and 14 received threats from the ruling party members or its affiliates. Apart from that, 49 journalists were sued for their published reports.

Besides, 244 women were raped, of whom 71 were gang-raped, and 24 were killed after rape. Six rape victims also died by suicide in the last five months.

At least 182 women faced domestic violence and of them 54 were tortured

to death by their husbands while 25 died by suicide, it said, adding that at least 62 women were harassed sexually.

119 EXTRA-JUDICIAL KILLINGS IN 5 MONTHS: GGS

Some 119 people have become victims of extra-judicial killings between January and May. Incidents of "gunfight" dropped by 36 percent since March 20, amid coronavirus outbreak, the report said.

Of the deaths, 108 died during "gunfights" between law enforcement agencies and criminals while 11 died during "gunfights" between two groups of criminals, it said. The report said 114 people sustained injury during gunfights while 18 were arrested by law enforcers. A total of 98 gunfights took place since January, it added.

CGS shared the report styled "Peacegraphics" in the form of an e-newsletter with the media yesterday. Bangladesh Peace Observatory, an initiative of CGS, prepared it based on news published in 18 national and local dailies.

According to the report, 20 deaths have been reported while 18 others were injured in incidents related to border issue until May 31. Also, 107 people were arrested while 53 border-related incidents took place. Border-

related incidents dropped by 82 percent since March 20.

It said 19 incidents of violence against minorities took place between January and May. Also, 42 people sustained injury and five were arrested in connection with violence against minorities.

Since January, 52 Rohingya community people died, 59 were injured and 549 got arrested.

In mob violence between January and May, 22 people died and 89 were injured. A total of 66 such incidents took place while 103 were arrested.

Besides, 116 incidents of abduction took place while 25 people died, 56 were injured and 127 got arrested by law enforcers.

The report said the country saw a 10 percent rise in domestic violence since March 20, amid shutdown. Since January, a total of 194 domestic violence incidents took place, resulting in 157 deaths, 64 injuries and 85 arrests.

Besides, 558 incidents of violence against children were reported between January and May. The incidents saw 258 deaths, 257 sexual assaults involving children, 246 injury and 339 arrests.

The report also mentioned 389 incidents of sexual assault and 46 incidents of "violent extremism".

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার. Table with 2 columns: S/N, Name, and Address. Lists various government officials and their contact information.

Consider us

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"From the BABG, we sincerely request that the graduates of three research-oriented disciplines -- Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, Microbiology, and Biochemistry and Molecular Biology -- should be considered equally for the posts related to the technical tasks of molecular biology in Covid-19 testing. Regulations for appointment in this accord is a crying need," the press release added.

While the number of testing laboratories has greatly increased and still increasing, it is equally significant that biosafety and biosecurity are properly maintained. All these procedures are very critical scientific techniques and its proper performance necessitates personnel with both theoretical and practical skills and experiences on the subject matters, they said.

On the other hand, some guidelines have been issued by the DGHS on Covid-19 testing and treatment in private hospitals which can be found on www.corona.gov.bd website. In paragraph "A (Requirement for a laboratory)" of the guidelines, the point "g" includes microbiologists, biochemists and molecular biologists, virologists and medical technologists for the post of Trained Laboratory Personnel.

However, the guideline avoided the inclusion of Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology graduates once again, they mentioned.

People

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From next Sunday, we will start storm water drain and surface drain cleaning activities. Following the cleaning initiatives, we are going to farm fish, especially Tilapia, and release ducks in them to prevent breeding of mosquito larvae and ensure water flow," Taposh said.

Public Works secretary Md Shahid Ullah Khandaker, DSCC Chief Executive Officer Shah Md Imdadul Haque and Chief Health Officer Brig Gen Md Sharif Ahmed; were present at the event, among others.



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

The World Health Organization Emergency Sub-Office in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh invites proposals/bids using "Two-envelope system" from the interested Companies in Bangladesh for the following service:

1. CXB_RFP/2020/012: Language Services for Health Emergency Response in Cox's Bazar

Deadline for the submission of RFP: 14:00hrs, 22 June 2020.

Interested Companies can view and download the relevant RFP documents from: http://www.who.int/bangladesh/about-us/procurement-notice.

Interested bidders are requested to submit their financial and technical proposals in two separate sealed envelopes as per the instructions provided in the RFP documents at the Reception of WHO Emergency Sub-Office, Hotel Sea Palace Ltd (western wing-1st floor), Kolatali Road, Cox's Bazar-4700, Bangladesh.

UNICEF Bangladesh RFP advertisement. Includes RFP Ref. No.: LRFP-2020-9158755, Request for Proposal (RFP) details, and UNICEF logo.