Veteran journo Faruk Quazi passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Veteran journalist Faruk Quazi is no more. He passed away in his sleep at 8am yesterday at his Elephant Road residence. He was 71.Quazi, a former president of the Law Reporters Forum, had worked at different media offices including BSS, UNB and The Daily Observer.

He left behind his wife, a daughter and a host of admirers to mourn his death.

China warns US

FROM PAGE 12

Pro-democracy protesters in the city as well as foreign governments say the law breaches the "one country, two systems" principle enshrined in the 1984 Sino-British treaty that guaranteed the autonomy of Hong Kong.

China yesterday appointed a hardliner to head a new national security agency in Hong Kong as police brought the first charges under the sweeping new anti-subversion law.

Zheng Yanxiong -- a party official best known for tackling protests on the mainland -- will lead the office set up by the legislation that empowers mainland security agents to operate in Hong Kong openly for the first time, unbound by the city's laws.

The appointment came as a man accused of deliberately driving his motorbike into a group of police officers became the first person in Hong Kong to be charged under the new national security law.

China's authoritarian leaders say the suite of powers will restore stability after a year of protests and will not stifle freedoms.

But police have already begun arresting people for possessing flags and banners while the local government has made clear certain political views, especially calls for independence, are now outlawed.

On Thursday evening Nathan Law, one of the city's most prominent young activists, announced he had fled overseas to an undisclosed location, fearing arrest days after the pro-democracy party he helped found said it was disbanding.

'A TOUGH ENFORCER'

The new national security agency is just one new element of Beijing's landmark law targeting subversion, secession, terrorism and colluding with foreign forces.

The office has investigation and prosecution powers and will monitor intelligence related to national security and process cases, in some circumstances handing them over to the mainland for trial.

Zheng rose through the ranks of the local government in southern Guangdong province which borders Hong Kong, to serve as secretary general of the provincial Communist Party committee.

The 56-year-old is known as a hardliner who stamped out often-violent anti-corruption protests that erupted in Wukan, a village in the province, in 2011 after a local activist died in police custody.

"He is a tough enforcer, a law and order person," Willy Lam, an expert on China's Communist Party at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, told AFP.

Rejoinder, our reply

FROM PAGE 1

Mills Limited is an A Category Public Limited Company listed on the Dhaka Stock Exchange. The article continues as follows;

"An official from Apex Spinning and Textile Mills stated that a total of $450,000 worth of orders placed with the company were canceled by H&M.

"They did however pay us for the inventory we had already collected and that cannot be used elsewhere e.g. they paid us for the yarn and the foam cups needed to make bras.

"March 25 was our last working day before the lockdown. There was no work during the entirety of April, so these cancelled orders led to a problem in the cash flow," he added.

"Meanwhile whatever orders were put on hold, are on hold. They will talk about those orders when the pandemic blows over," he said."

We would like to highlight that these quotations reflect an inaccurate picture regarding H&M's business practices. The published news is not a mirror image of our statements and does not echo our sentiment concerning the outlook of our business. Apex Spinning and Knitting Mills Limited did not face any order cancellations from H&M during these challenging times; the number of $450,000 is not factual. We would also like to point out that Apex Spinning and Knitting Mills does not engage in the production of bras for any of our customers.

Furthermore, despite the fact that our factory did maintain responsible closure after March 25th, the direct quotation "There was no work during the entirety of April, so these cancelled orders led to a problem in the cash flow" is misquoted.

The statement "Meanwhile whatever orders were put on hold, are on hold. They will talk about those orders when the pandemic blows over," is also irrelevant, at the time of publishing Apex Spinning and Knitting Mills is running at full capacity with 100% H&M orders.

Lastly, we would like to state that we have a 27 year long-term mutually beneficial business relationship with H&M and they in turn have stood by their commitments to Apex, by taking deliveries as usual, during this unprecedented time.

OUR REPLY

The name of the company was misprinted, and we express regret for this inadvertent error.

We have on record a quote from a senior official of the company stating, "In total they have cancelled about 200,000 units, I'd say the value would be around … $450,000, but they have covered the liability."

The official also stated, "We had some issues with foam cups, we make bras … so they paid the liabilities of the foam cups. It's like 'It's okay brother, don't worry about it, we will pay for that'."

In the same way, we have a direct quote about the state of the cash flow stating, "The situation is a little tight, because there was no work in April, we were out [of] extra money … we had paid 60 percent of the money, so there is some problem with the cash flow." This quote was simplified for clarity to the statement made above.

We are happy to learn from the rejoinder that H&M is honouring its orders and fulfilling its commitments.

We stand by our report.

Foundation for freedom fighters

FROM PAGE 12

this category. He urges the people to resist these criminal elements unitedly.

The prime minister announces that the government will soon set up a foundation for the welfare of freedom fighters whose injuries during the Liberation War rendered them physically disabled. The proposed foundation will be entrusted with the task of rehabilitating the maimed freedom fighters in the society with due dignity. He adds that a similar organisation has already been working to rehabilitate dishonoured women.

Bangabandhu reiterates his stand that war criminals responsible for genocide, rape and destruction will be tried on Bangladesh soil. There is no power on earth that can stop Bangladesh from trying the worst criminals in human history, he adds.

The prime minister later makes a surprise visit to the Bangladesh-India border near Tripura to see the workings of Bangladesh Rifles. He calls upon local people to form public committees and assist the border force to stop smuggling in the border areas.

DETAINED BENGALEES SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO RETURN HOME

In a meeting with US President Richard Nixon's special envoy John B Connally, Bangladesh President Justice Abu Sayeed Chowdhury says today that fundamental human rights demand that the Bangalees now detained in Pakistan should be allowed to return to Bangladesh, and similarly the non-Bangalees who want to go back to Pakistan and against whom there are no specific charges may go to Pakistan. Connally assures the president that he would exercise his influence to resolve this issue during his meeting with Pakistan President ZA Bhutto.

SOURCES: July 5, 1972 issues of Bangladesh Observer, Dainik Bangla and Dainik Ittefaq.

Vietnam opens world's 'first'

FROM PAGE 12

While expensive for Vietnam, at $250 a night it is not prohibitive for wealthy locals craving a few nights living like Donald Trump, the US President renowned for his love of all things that glitter.

The hotel wants "ordinary people to the super rich... to check-in" both physically and on social media, said Nguyen Huu Duong, chairman of Hoa Binh group that owns the hotel.

A gold-plated infinity pool overlooks the city, while meals at the 25-storey hotel in downtown Hanoi may be mixed with a mysterious "gold substance", according to the owners.

So far, the smattering of customers appear to be delighted with Hanoi's flashiest new digs.

"When I arrived here... I felt like a king, you know, the Pharaoh... the king of Egypt," joked Phillip Park, a South Korean guest.

"I really enjoyed the luxury atmosphere," added Vietnamese guest Luong Van Thuan, saying he felt his status had automatically been "raised".

The relatively modest construction price tag was achieved by sourcing the gold plating locally -- significantly reducing costs.

"Our group has a factory that can do gold-plated stuff, so the cost for our equipment and furniture here is quite cheap," Duong said.

And the pandemic which has strafed global tourism has not put him off opening, with Vietnam winning praise for its swift lockdown which has contained the coronavirus spread.

"For sure next year, we will make money," he added.

Bangladeshi man 'shot dead' by BSF

FROM PAGE 12

Dhannokhola village.

Police sent the body to Jashore General Hospital morgue for autopsy, said Mamun Khan, officer-in-charge of Benapole Port Police Station.

Lt Col Salim Reja, commanding officer of 49th BGB battalion, said Reajul intruded inside Indian territory for smuggling drugs into Bangladesh.

Bashghata BSF troops opened fire targeting him. Reajul was hit by a bullet, and he died on the spot. Reazul Islam was a drug dealer, the CO added.

Later, the BSF left the body at the Dhannokhola border of Bangladesh.

Police said they recovered five kgs of hemp on the spot where the body was abandoned.

Meanwhile, another Bangladeshi man was shot dead inside Indian territory near the Gowainghat border of Sylhet on Thursday evening.

The dead is Siraj Miah, 45, of Domdomia village in Gowainghat upazila of the district.

The incident occurred when four Bangladeshis intruded into Indian territory to steal pineapples from an Indian Khasi village, said Lt Col Ahmed Yusuf Jamil, commanding officer of 48th BGB battalion in Sylhet.

"Around 4:00pm, four Bangladeshis entered into Indian territory and Khasi citizens of the village fired at them with local firearms, which left one person dead one other injured," Lt Col Ahmed Yusuf Jamil said.

"The body was recovered and sent to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital for autopsy. The injured has been on the run after returning to Bangladesh," he added.

Another man -- Nazim Uddin, 38, of the same village -- received injuries during the incident. He was on the run.

Their days pass without work

FROM PAGE 12

many houses have restricted entry of outsiders.

Sanitary workers and electricians are facing the same problem, she added.

After the countrywide shutdown ended on May 31, day labourers expected to get jobs again. But the work situation did not improve.

"We heard that the disease is spreading. There will be red zones and yellow zones in Dhaka and in these zones there will be lockdown again. So far, we are not seeing any improvement," said Nazrul Islam, a sanitary worker.

"If the government does not help us by giving jobs or relief, we shall starve to death in the future," he added.

Almost all the workers claimed that they did not receive any government support since the pandemic hit the country.

Construction worker Mazeda Begum, 50, said a couple of men from Roopnagar residential area, where she lives, took her family's particulars including NID and phone numbers at least six or seven times in the last three months, mentioning relief. However, they never got back.

"Before Eid-ul-Fitr, we received some special food like vermicelli from different people, occasionally. That too has stopped after Eid," she said.

Though the government declared many stimulus packages for different industries and sectors, there has been no special allocation for the urban poor or the informal sector workers.

"At present, we don't have any fund to help the daily wage earners. I think the current crisis is temporary. Gradually, they will all be able to get back to their work, once we get back to normalcy. Since the lockdown has been relaxed, many of them are now getting contracts," KM Abdus Salam, secretary of the ministry of labour and employment, told The Daily Star on July 1.

"Employment of informal sector workers is ensured by various ministries but sometimes there are lack of coordination and poor management. We are trying to establish an employment directorate under our ministry so that we can work on their employment in a coordinated way," he said.

There are 48 million informal jobs in the country, according to the Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training, and informal sector workers constitute 87 percent of the country's total labour force, as per the International Labour Organization.

Bangladesh Labour Force Survey published in 2017 showed daily wage earners contribute 45 percent of the country's GDP.

Yet, these workers are not recognised under the Labour Act, 2006. Thus, they are not covered by minimum wage, receive no compensation in case of any workplace accident and have no job security or pension after retirement.

Thousands at risk of virus

FROM PAGE 12

Asar Ali Shekh, who have taken shelter at Mohila Badh (dam) on the Jamuna river in Sariakandi upazila, said, "We heard about Covid-19. But our homes washed away around seven days ago.

"That is why, we have taken shelter here. I think coronavirus have not reached here. So, it is not important for us to maintain social distance."

Around 70-year-old man Azhar Ali, a resident of Sungar char under sariakandi upazila, said, "I have never heard about social distancing. We are suffering for food crisis. We need food, not social distancing."

Contacted, Foyej Ahmed, deputy commissioner of Bogura, said UNOs were visiting these affected areas and telling people to maintain social distance.

"But I think all the flood centres could not be visited within very short time," he added.

In Lalmonirhat, flood-hit people do not maintain social distance or follow health guidelines as they are desperately looking for food and relief.

"We have heard about social distancing to prevent the spread of coronavirus. But we cannot maintain it as are hungry. We need food. Whenever, we see anyone distributing relief, we altogether swoop on relief," said Fazal Miah, a flood-hit man of Khuniyagachh village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila.

Contacted, Lalmonirhat Sadar Upazila Parishad Chairman Kamruzzaman Sujon said, "We have asked the people to maintain social distancing. But the people don't follow it."

Taiwan expels two Chinese journos over political shows

AFP, *Taipei*

Taiwan expelled two mainland Chinese journalists yesterday after a talk show on their channel pushed for Beijing "unifying" with the self-ruled island, in the latest sign of deteriorating ties between the two rivals.

The move comes after a spate of tit-for-tat expulsions of reporters between China and the United States, as the two superpowers spar over trade and the coronavirus pandemic.

The reporters with China Southeast TV were ordered to leave by yesterday for violating regulations covering mainland journalists, according to the Mainland Affairs Council (MAC), Taiwan's top China policy body.

They "are suspected of violating the regulations and the authorities have decided not to extend (their permits)... they are scheduled to leave on July 3," MAC spokesman Chiu Chui-cheng told reporters.

Ai Kezhu, one of the deported journalists involved in producing the shows, told local media at Taoyuan international airport before her departure yesterday that they were puzzled by the order.

"We have reported our activities in Taiwan and work content to relevant departments. We have done that in the past 12 years. We think it's very strange that there were no problems in the past but now there is this kind of situation," she said.

The channel has routinely aired pro-Beijing content, but a recent series of shows produced in Taiwan provoked public anger for featuring guests especially vocal in their criticism of Taiwan's government and who pushed for Beijing "unifying" with the island.

"If you enjoy the powers Taiwan has given to belittle and degrade our country and people... we have to ask you to leave because Taiwanese people will not welcome you," Chen Ting-fei, a lawmaker with the ruling Democratic Progressive Party, wrote on Facebook.

Wahidul Huq

FROM PAGE 12

well-known economist, Wahidul was deeply connected with Bangladesh and used to visit the country almost every year.

ফ্ল্যাট বিক্রয়

বসুন্ধরা, স্বামীবাগ, মধুবাগ, এ্যালিফ্যান্ট রোড এলাকায় বি.এস.আর.এম রড, সুপারক্রিট সিমেন্ট, মেশিনমেড ইট, বেস্ট কোয়ালিটি বালু/পাথর++ দিয়ে নির্মানাধীন ফ্ল্যাট বিক্রয় চলছে।
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Computer Skills: Proficiency in the use of standard Japanese software packages and also have experience in Microsoft Word and Excel preferable. Good speed in typing: 30-40 words per minute.

Duration: One-year contract only for the first year (first 3 months is a probation period). After that, renewal of contract every two years. full time (Sunday – Thursday, 9 a.m. through 5 p.m. (includes 1 hours lunch time))

How to Apply:
All applicants are required to submit
1) curriculum vitae with contact phone number and e-mail address
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4) Photocopy of national ID card or Passport
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6) Valid Work permit is mandatory for Japanese Nationals.

Please indicate the post applied for on the front side of the envelope. The deadline for the application is **July 07, 2020.** Application should be sent **A4 size paper and envelop** to **Administrative Section,Embassy of Japan, Plot No. 5 & 7, Dutabash Road, Baridhara, Dhaka.** Only short-listed candidates who pass the first screening will be notified of the date for the interview.

Embassy of Japan, Plot No. 5 & 7, Dutabash Road, Baridhara, Dhaka-1212

Cases filed

FROM PAGE 12

under the then section 57 of the Information and Communication Technology act and then newly enacted DSA which came into effect in October that year.

In 2019, the number of cases initiated under the DSA was 63, it added.

The rights body expressed grave concern over the "bizarrely filing of cases and arrests" under the DSA across the country for "merely manifesting views on social media".

Recently, the arrests included a ninth-grader boy, university teachers and students, writers, journalists, and cartoonist, it said, strongly condemning the arrests and calling on the authorities concerned to immediately release the arrestees and withdraw the cases unconditionally.

"The controversial act has further spotlighted the towering crisis in the government's capacity, efficiency, and management in tackling the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic following the arrests of ninth-grader boy, university teachers-students, writers, journalists, and cartoonist," said the rights group.

Faruq Faisel, regional director for Article 19, Bangladesh and South Asia, said, "There has been failure in the government's preparedness to control the transmission of coronavirus at the outset of the pandemic. Issues such as incoherence, opacity, and mismanagement in policy making stage to relief distribution at the local level have gradually been crystallised. We hoped that the government would focus on closing these loopholes. Unfortunately, now the policy of suppressing dissent and criticism seems to be on the top priority of the authority."

He said it is a shame for the democracy and human rights that a ninth-grade teenager has been prosecuted and arrested for criticising the government's decision on Facebook.

"The practice of free expression needs to be unimpeded in the cause of establishing a stable society and sustainable development. Despite repeated calls for enforcement of law in comply with the commitments, Bangladesh reiterated at the international platforms, such as the United Nations, the government is not taking effective steps to amend the controversial DSA," the regional director added.

He urged that prisoners be released on bail to prevent coronavirus infections in jail.

In the last 30 days, about 45,000 people accused in various cases were granted bail in the virtual courts, he said, adding that the defendants in the DSA cases are not accused of any heinous case like murder, rape, terrorism, militancy or treason.

"Yet their bail processes are constantly facing obstacles," he said.

Faruq observed that, "Law enforcement agencies have been particularly active in arresting defendants in cases under the DSA compared to cases filed under other time-tested existing laws. Recently, two university teachers in Rangpur and Rajshahi, one of whom was a female, were arrested at midnight immediately after the respective cases were filed.

"On the contrary, the accused in serious cases like attempted murder and corruption fled the country on well-arranged chartered flights; law enforcers could hardly find a clue of their whereabouts until they were in headlines. This discriminatory trend in enforcement of law has become a major threat to democracy and the rule of law."

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উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

১	প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম	ঃ	বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় সংসদ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা।
২	অর্থের উৎস	ঃ	জিওবি।
৩	দরপত্র আহ্বানের বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং ও তারিখ	ঃ	১১.০০.০০০০.৬০৫.০১.০০৬.২০.৪৫১ তারিখঃ ০২/০৭/২০২০
৪	দরপত্রের ধরণ	ঃ	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র।
৫	মালামালের সংক্ষিপ্ত বিবরণ	ঃ	প্যাকেজ নং ১ (লট-১)-৩০ আসনের ০২টি এসি মিনিবাস।
৬	সরবরাহের সময়	ঃ	চুক্তি অনুযায়ী।
৭	দরপত্রদাতার যোগ্যতা	ঃ	দরপত্রের সাথে ২০১৯-২০২০ অর্থ বছরের ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, ২০১৮-২০১৯ কর বর্ষের আয়কর পরিশোধের সনদপত্র (তবে কোম্পানির ক্ষেত্রে সর্বশেষ আর্থিক বছরের আয়কর সনদপত্র), ভ্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন (১১ ডিজিট) সনদপত্র/বিন ব্যাংক সলভেন্সি সার্টিফিকেট (দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের পর থেকে), সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজের অভিজ্ঞতার সনদপত্র, অথরাইজেশন সনদপত্র এবং অরিজিনাল ক্যাটালগ দরপত্রের সাথে সাথিল করতে হবে। বর্ণিত শর্তাবলী ছাড়াও দরপত্র সিডিউলে উল্লিখিত অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী এক্ষেত্রে প্রযোজ্য হবে।
৮	দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য	ঃ	২০০০.০০ (দুই হাজার) টাকা মাত্র (অফেরতযোগ্য)।
৯	Tender security-র tender validity period		Tender security প্যাকেজ নং ১(১) ৪,০৩,০০০/- (চার লক্ষ তিন হাজার) টাকা ফেরতযোগ্য।
১০	দরপত্র তফসিল বিক্রয়ের স্থান ও ঠিকানা	ঃ	সিনিয়র সহকারী সচিব (অর্থ শাখা-১) (দক্ষিণ পশ্চিম ব্লক, কক্ষ নং ৫২৩, লেভেল-৫) বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় সংসদ সচিবালয়।
১১	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ	০৭/০৭/২০২০ তারিখ সকাল ১০:০০টা হতে ২২/০৭/২০২০ তারিখ অপরাহ্ন ৪:০০টা পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন। দরপত্র দাখিলের দিন কোন সিডিউল বিক্রয় হবে না।
১২	দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও খোলার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	ঃ	গ্রহণঃ ২৩/০৭/২০২০ সকাল ১০:০০টা হতে ১:৩০টা পর্যন্ত। খোলাঃ ২৩/০৭/২০২০ তারিখ বেলা ১:৪৫টায়। স্থানঃ উপসচিব (প্রশাসন-১ অধিশাখা) এর কার্যালয় কক্ষ নং ৭৪১, পূর্ব ব্লক, লেভেল ৭, বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় সংসদ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা।
১৩	বিশেষ নির্দেশনা	ঃ	কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন/সকল টেন্ডার বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।
১৪	টেন্ডার আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম, পদবী, ঠিকানা ও ফোন নম্বর	ঃ	মোঃ আরিফ, সিনিয়র সহকারী সচিব, পরিবহন শাখা, জাতীয় সংসদ সচিবালয়, শেরে বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা-১২১৫, ফোনঃ ৯১২৫৭৪২

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মোঃ আরিফ
সিনিয়র সহকারী সচিব
ফোনঃ ৯১২৫৭৪২

জিডি-১০৭৩