

Death anniv of Amjad Khan Chowdhury

CITY DESK

The fifth death anniversary of Maj Gen (Retd) Amjad Khan Chowdhury, a pioneer of Bangladesh's agro-processing industry and founder of Pran-RFL Group, will be observed today.



Century-old

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Both the signs had same mobile number. When called, a person introducing himself as Mehedi responded.

Asked about filling up the waterbody, he said, "It's our private property and we have just filled a portion of its bank."

When this correspondent mentioned about getting permission from the DoE, he hung up, saying, "I will call you back after talking to my brothers."

He did not pick up afterwards. Contacted, Masud, who built the structures, said, "We just filled up the bank, which was eroded by rain a long time ago."

"We have documents that show we are the rightful owners," he said.

He, however, admitted that they did not take permission from the authorities concerned before filling up a part of the reservoir.

Meanwhile, SI Nasir denied the allegations brought against him.

"I don't know details of the incident. I heard there was a situation there and a police team went to resolve it a few days ago."

Asked, Bandar Police Station Officer-in-Charge Sukanto Chawkrabarty said, "Receiving a phone call from 999, we sent a team to stop people from filling up the pond."

The area falls under ward-37 (Halishahar-Munimagar). Its Councillor



Thatched houses have been built occupying the land of Dhopa Kukur. The photo was taken recently. PHOTO: STAR

Md Safiul Alam said, "It's a 100-year-old pond. I heard about the matter but could not go there as I was in isolation after being diagnosed with Covid-19."

DoE Chattogram (Metro) Director Mohammad Nurullah Nur said, "We are yet to receive any complaint in this regard. According to law, no one can fill up a waterbody, even if it's privately-owned, without DoE permission. We will look into the matter," he added.

Baby born

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"Our doctors gave her primary treatment and we managed blood for her. A local named Kafil donated blood for her at midnight."

"Now she is undergoing treatment at the non-Covid corner of the hospital and both mother and child are doing okay," he said.

The woman said her name is Nasima but she couldn't give an address, Jamal added.

As the news spread, locals came to CMP-Bidyando Hospital and showed their interest to take the baby for adoption.

"We don't know who is father of the baby girl but we told locals that the fate of the child will be decided in legal way," he added.

Md Moinul Islam, additional deputy commissioner (ADC) (Headquarters) of CMP said the lives of the mother and newborn baby could be saved because of the valiant effort of the field hospital staff, doctors and nurses.

IUB holds online orientation event

CITY DESK

Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) held its first ever online orientation programme for summer semester on Saturday, said a press release.

A Matin Chowdhury, chairperson of IUB trustee board, was the chief guest. In his speech, he described how IUB has prepared to provide world-class online education.

IUB Vice Chancellor (Acting) Prof Milan Pagon thanked parents and students for choosing IUB. He highlighted features IUB has crafted to face the pandemic.

Deans and department heads, in their talks, explained all activities and programmes that their respective schools have been offering. IUB Registrar Md Anwarul Islam presented overview of the next semester and spoke about essential rules and regulations of IUB.

Crest Securities

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57, Purana Palton, Dhaka. The company has three branches in Dhaka, Narayanganj and Cumilla.

As outrage over the issue grew among the company's clients, Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) Managing Director Kazi Sanaul Hoq said, adding that the problem can be solved by selling the company's broker licence and assets.

DSE has already frozen shares and mutual fund units, totaling Tk 82 crore in value, of more than 21,000 investors who traded through the brokerage house, Hoq said in a press conference. Besides, DSE has asked the central bank to freeze over 10 accounts linked to the company.

Mojibur Rahman Biswas passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mojibur Rahman Biswas, former Bangladesh Public Service Commission member and professor of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU), died at a hospital on Monday.



He was 80 years of age at time of death.

He had been suffering from old age complications, according to family members.

He left behind his wife, two sons, a daughter, and a host of relatives and students to mourn him.

Mojibur was a professor of Department of Irrigation and Water Management at BAU. He was a former student of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology.

Malaysia seeks

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Jazeera, focused on the plight of thousands of undocumented migrants detained during raids carried out in areas under tight coronavirus lockdowns. It sparked backlash online while several officials decried the report as being inaccurate, misleading and unfair, reports Reuters.

The backlash comes amid concerns over crackdowns on press freedoms under Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin's government, which came into power in March, as well as rising anger towards foreigners and refugees, who have been accused of spreading the coronavirus and burdening state resources, it reports.

Defence minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob this week called on Al Jazeera to apologise to Malaysians, and said allegations of racism and discrimination against undocumented migrants were untrue.

Authorities had previously defended the arrests as necessary to uphold the law and stem the spread of the pandemic.

On Monday, immigration director-general Datuk Khairul Dzaimie Daud warned that foreign nationals who make inaccurate statements aimed at "damaging Malaysia's image" will face possible revocation of their passes.

Khairul Dzaimie said the Al Jazeera documentary on immigration operations during the movement control order was inaccurate, pointing out that the Malaysian government had provided free treatment to 773 foreigners in immigration depots who tested positive for Covid-19 and had been praised by foreign embassies for doing so.

Malaysia is home to more than two million foreign workers and an estimated four million undocumented migrants. In total, there are about eight lakh Bangladeshis.

However, fraudulence, exploitation by employers as well as recruiting agents and brokers are some of the common problems the migrants face. Recruitment of Bangladeshis have been suspended since September 2018 after allegations that a syndicate of ten agencies connected to the then Malaysian politicians charged up to Tk 4 lakh for recruiting each worker between 2016 and 2018.

Are test results

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Testing for Covid-19 has largely used reverse transcriptase-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) technology to detect it in samples taken from the back of the nose or from the throat.

Senior doctors of RMCH explained how false negatives can occur in coronavirus testing at RT-PCR labs. At least 30 percent of the Covid-19 negatives might prove to be otherwise in another test or by other testing methods.

"We test samples of saliva from the nose and mouth. The novel coronavirus may not always be present in these samples," said Dr Bulbul Hasan, professor of microbiology and co-chief of Rajshahi Medical College's RT-PCR lab.

"In the beginning of the virus attack, its presence can be found in the nose or in the mouth. But gradually, the coronavirus descends further inside the body. When it infects the lungs, its presence in the mouth or nose may sometimes become unlikely," he said.

Dr Bulbul referred to the example of Rajshahi's first coronavirus victim -- an 80-year-old man from Bagha upazila who died on April 26.

Six days before his death, the man's samples tested positive. But another set of his samples collected the day before his death came back negative, he said.

Prof Dr Khalilur Rahman, head of RMCH medicine department, corroborated Dr Bulbul's explanation, saying it is not guaranteed that the virus will be found in samples.

"Gathering evidence of coronavirus from the nose and mouth is almost like fishing," Dr Khalilur told this correspondent. "Fishers do not find fish every time they drop their nets in a pond. Coronavirus is invisible. We cannot collect the sample by seeing its presence. It may be present in the samples taken or not. There's no guarantee."

"But doctors have other ways of identifying coronavirus by having X-rays or CT scans of the patients' chests. Seeing the X-ray or CT scan, a doctor can say if it is the novel coronavirus," Dr Khalilur said.

Negative results could be due to errors in sample collection as well, but testing facilities remain overburdened, added Dr Bulbul.

"As we are tackling an increasing number of samples, human error with the samples is not unlikely. But we have no scope for repeating the test for the same person."

Globally, researchers found false negatives to be due to a number of reasons -- including the stage of infection at time of sample collection, how much virus is being shed by the patient, and samples not being transported properly.

Worse off

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forward, the responsibility was handed over to them.

Dipanwita Ridi, founder of ALB shelter explained that they will allow Naim, who returned to Dhaka recently, to continue running the shelter under her team's strict supervision. "We will set up CCTV cameras and ensure proper nutrition, shade, and accommodation for the animals. Cats and dogs will be kept separately and all ill animals will receive the treatment they need," she said in a public Facebook Live video on Sunday.

ALLEGATIONS OF FRAUDULENCE, HARASSMENT

A number of people brought allegations against Naim of poor care of animals and sexual harassment, at least two of who spoke to The Daily Star in detail. One of them accused that a dog she rescued and sent to the shelter in April, had to be later 'rescued' from the shelter after it was found in much worse condition than before.

She filed a general diary with Hazaribagh Police Station, accusing Naim of animal cruelty and sexual harassment.

Another person, who had dropped off a mother dog and her puppies to the shelter on a fostering agreement and paid Tk 200 daily for their upkeep. However, a few months later, Naim told her the puppies have died "in a thunderstorm". Her mobile banking records showed that she paid over Tk 6,600 to Naim, and screenshots of a private conversation between them showed Naim making unsolicited advances towards her, despite her objection. She also filed a general diary, with Ramna Police Station, against Naim.

'WAS WORKING OUT OF LOVE'

In a phone conversation with this correspondent, Naim claimed that a vested quarter is out to defame him and his shelter.

"I have been working in animal welfare for many years. I have worked with reputed veterinarians and I know how to provide treatment to animals," said Naim, claiming to be a paravet. "I have been endorsed by vets; I don't need a license," he said.

"My shelter was running smoothly before the Covid-19 shutdown. Four people were working there but they could not continue after the virus outbreak. I had very little income and stayed at the shelter in Rayerbazar. Everybody sent animals and few sent money, but in the last two months, I received around Tk 2.5 lakh in donations. I was planning to develop the shelter with this money," he said.

"It isn't cruelty to give animals a home. You are telling me about keeping more animals than capacity, but I gave them a home. They would die in the street otherwise," said Naim.

"People came after me before I could improve the shelter. I was concerned for my safety so I left the shelter in the care of two people who were working with me and left for Manikganj on June 8."

Naim insisted that the rotten food and dirty water were isolated mishaps, and denied all allegations of harassment, terming them "innocent flirting".

On the lack of transparency in fund management, he said, "People donate funds anonymously; how can I keep a full record of where every penny is going?"

OFFICIAL'S REPORT, AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Sub-inspector Al Momen of

Hazaribagh Police Station said he had summoned Naim to the station in early June, but he did not show up.

According to section 6 of the Animal Welfare Act 2019, any act or omission which is the cause of an animal's illness is to be deemed as cruelty.

It also lists providing inadequate nutrition to animals and keeping them tied or caged in uncomfortable positions as cruelty.

If found guilty under this section, people can be sentenced to maximum six months' imprisonment or Tk 10,000 fine or both.

According to the Veterinary Council Act of 2019, licensed and registered paravets can administer treatment under the supervision of legally recognised veterinarians. Practising without a license can land someone in prison for a maximum three years, or they can be fined maximum Tk 2,00,000 or both.

Dr Shaheen Noor, a livestock officer of DLS, confirmed that he visited the spot on June 29.

His report, filed yesterday, states, "The animal shelter in Baruihalhi has been running for nearly two years with no license or permission from DLS. There is no proper arrangement for veterinary services for the animals there. These are offences under the Animal Welfare Act-2019."

The report recommends the Officer-in-Charge of Hazaribagh station to follow up with the necessary legal steps.

Following up to the general diaries, a group of activists including Emil and Shameem are in the process of filing a case under the Animal Welfare Act, where offences are considered non-cognizable unless recommended by Department of Livestock Services.

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