

Golam Sarwar’s second death anniv today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The second death anniversary of veteran journalist and freedom fighter Golam Sarwar will be observed today.

Sarwar died of old-age complications at a Singapore hospital last year at the age of 75. He was editor of Bangla daily Samakal and president of Editors’ Council of Bangladesh at the time.

Considering Covid-19 epidemic, Golam Sarwar Foundation, Press Club and other organisations are not holding any programmes this year. However, his family members will pay tribute at his grave.

Besides, they will hold milad mahfils for the salvation of his departed soul, said a press release, signed by Samakal’s chief reporter Loton Ekram.

His career in journalism spanned over five decades. He served as news editor of Bangla daily Ittefaq for 27 years and was founding editor of Jugantor and Samakal.



Looted from

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The group members come to Dhaka twice every month, and usually stay at hotels in groups in the Jatrabari area, he said.

Biswas said the group members first send two teams to conduct recce at shopping malls. Based on their reports, around 10 of them would go to the market during closing time.

They would select a closed shop and one team would use umbrellas or banners to cover while the other team would break the lock, said the official.

Some of them would enter the shop and start stealing valuables while others would remain outside to keep an eye on security movement so that they could alert the rest, said Mishu, quoting arrestees.

“It took them around 10-15 minutes... once the operation ended, they left the capital and went back to their residences in Cumilla and Chattogram with the looted goods,” he said.

For safety, the racket members used online applications to communicate with each other or family members, said Biswas, who led the drive to arrest the two.

They also had around 100-150 non-biometric SIM cards on them, he added.

Police said they have used technical helps and analysed around 2,000 phone calls to trace the criminals.

The law enforcers also got the CCTV footage of the market, but could not detect them as they were wearing masks.

In primary interrogation, Rubel said they have separate members who sell the looted valuables.

They sell the looted phones in Chattogram at half the price.

Rubel is wanted in five to six cases. Last year, he was arrested by DB police while looting a jewellery shop in Uttara and got released from jail few months back, according to police.

ADC Biswas said they got names of other members from the arrestees.

“We are working on tracing their location,” he told this newspaper.

Over 100,000

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In concluding remarks, Sanjeeb Drong said, “Indigenous peoples are the poorest of the poor and became more vulnerable during the pandemic. More than 100,000 indigenous peoples became ‘new poor’ because of the pandemic.”

The speakers appealed for adopting an inclusive strategy to tackle Covid-19 in which rights and demands of indigenous communities will be recognised and realised.

Kristin T Wærigsaa, chargé d’affaires, Royal Norwegian Embassy in Dhaka; Heike Alefsen, senior human rights adviser, Office of UNRC in Bangladesh; Prof Mizanur Rahman, former chairman of National Human Rights Commission; Raja Devasish Roy, chief of Chakma Circle, Chattogram Hill Tracts; Prof Tone Bleie, Tromso University, Norway; Gam A Shimrey, secretary general, Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact; Thomas Baumgartner, head of political, economic and cultural affairs, Embassy of Switzerland; Ruzan Sarwar, senior policy advisor, Embassy of Netherlands; Dr Rishab Kumar Dhir from ILO’s Geneva office and Danish ambassador Winnie Estrup Petersen were present.

Three Faridpur AL leaders on two-day remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed three leaders of Faridpur town unit Awami League, Sramik League and Jubo League on two-day remand each in a Tk 2,000 crore money laundering case.

The accused are -- Nazmul Islam Khandakar (61), president of Faridpur town unit of AL, Billal Hossain (54), former treasurer of Faridpur Sramik League, and Arifur Rahman (40), general secretary of Faridpur town unit Jubo League.

They were arrested from different places in Faridpur town on July 31 and August 2.

Tobacco addiction

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“The World Health Organization estimates that tobacco companies spend yearly USD 900 crore to attract teenagers and youths, and transform them into future loyal customers,” reads the statement.

Progga Executive Director ABM Zubair said the young generation will not be able to contribute to attain the status of a developed country by 2041, if they become sick due to tobacco addiction.

Therefore, it is high time to protect the youth by implementing tobacco control laws, he added.

Life laid down

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resources ahead of the Eid-ul-Azha, as tree felling increases ahead around that time every year. He was chosen for his dedication, sincerity and his knowledge of the area (as he’s a local). We never imagined he will meet such a tragic end so soon,” Sultanul said.

Yousuf’s attempt to foil the miscreants’ forest grabbing is what prompted them to mercilessly attack him, he added.

“We salute him and will remember this ultimate sacrifice.”

SM Golam Mowla, divisional forest officer of Chattogram Coastal Forest Division, told The Daily Star that police arrested 13 people in connection with the attack. “We salute Yousuf and will not budge an inch in reclaiming and protecting forest resources he gave his life for,” he added.

Denied admission by clinic

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to investigate this incident. The probe body we formed, headed by the district consultant Faruk Azam Nur, will submit a report to me within the next three days.”

In Dhaka, the other probe body will submit a report to the director general of the Family Planning Office in this regard.

Saiful further said, “The patient’s family members alleged that Salina Akter did not admit the pregnant mother. Therefore, she had to deliver her baby in a shop’s veranda [on the way to Sadar Hospital].”

Speaking to The Daily Star, Salina Akter, family welfare visitor (FWV) of the Mother and Children Welfare Centre, said, “The patient came here in a severe condition around 11:30pm [on Tuesday]. When I saw the patient bleeding heavily, I was frightened and I told her brother to take her to another hospital as we could not treat a patient in such a serious condition.”

“We did not scream or beat them up. Seeing this condition I become frightened,” she claimed.

Contacted, Khan Mohammad Shahariar, officer-in-charge of the Gaibandha Sadar

police station, said, “Around midnight, locals informed us that a woman was giving birth at a roadside market on DB road.

“I sent a petrol team to the spot. When it reached, the mother had already begun delivering on a veranda. Police tried to carry her to their vehicle but her condition was too bad.”

After delivery, the mother and baby were taken to Gaibandha Sadar Hospital. Both of their conditions are stable now, he added.

“We are yet to receive any complaints against the welfare centre authorities,” the OC further said.

However, on April 6, the same incident had occurred with another pregnant patient.

When Misty Akter, from Sadar upazila, had gone to the Mother and Children Welfare Centre, FWV Touhida Begum denied her admission and she too had to deliver a baby on the way to another hospital at midnight.

Aminul Islam, a doctor of Gaibandha Sadar Hospital, said, “We are providing Jemi and her baby with all the necessary treatment. They are both in good condition now.”

OC suspended over death

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Earlier on Monday, locals caught one Nabi Hossain, an alleged drug peddler, with 13 yaba pills, Tk 1.28 lakh in cash and a knife in Khurulia Bazar area under Jhilogiha union around 3:00pm, police said.

But as Nabi tried to flee the scene, locals caught him again and beat him up before handing over to police, said Tipu Sultan, an eyewitness.

Sub-Inspector Anjan Kumar Naha of Sadar Police Station said they took him to Cox’s Bazar General Hospital where doctors released him after giving primary treatment.

The suspended OC told this newspaper that police suggested that Nabi be

admitted to the hospital but the doctors at the emergency department refused to do so.

Then he was taken to Sadar Police Station in the evening and a drug case was filed against him, OC Kabir said.

As Nabi started feeling sick early Tuesday, he was again taken to the same hospital where doctors declared him dead.

Shaheen Md Abdur Rahman Chowdhury, resident medical officer at the hospital, said the man died before being taken to the hospital.

He also said they did not admit the patient on Monday as his condition was not that serious at that time.

The body was handed over to police on Tuesday after an autopsy, the doctor said.

New dinosaur species related

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modern-day birds. Four bones were found last year on the coast at Shanklin on the Isle of Wight and are thought very likely to be from the same individual dinosaur.

Scientists said it is likely that the Vectaerovenator inopinatus lived in an area just north of where its remains were discovered, with its carcass having washed out to sea.

The Isle of Wight is famed for its dinosaur remains, with over 25 species having been found on the island. Only 21 species have been found in England, for example, a land which is more than three hundred times larger.

The new fossils were unearthed in three separate discoveries just weeks apart in 2019; two were found by individuals and one by a family – all of whom handed

in their finds to the nearby Dinosaur Isle museum at Sandown.

Robin Ward, a regular fossil hunter from Stratford-upon-Avon, was on a family trip to the Isle of Wight when they made their discovery.

He said: “The joy of finding the bones we discovered was absolutely fantastic. I thought they were special and so took them along when we visited Dinosaur Isle museum.

“They immediately knew these were something rare and asked if we could donate them to the museum to be fully researched.”

After studying the four vertebrae, palaeontologists from the University of Southampton confirmed that the bones are likely to belong to a genus of dinosaur previously unknown to science.

Bangabandhu’s

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policy is causing concern among the trade and financial circles. They are of the opinion that the delay is affecting the country’s economic and industrial development, which will definitely affect production, employment and buoyancy of the national account.

BULGARIAN HELP IN AGRICULTURAL SECTOR OFFERED

Bulgaria offers Bangladesh assistance in the establishment of agricultural workshops and cooperatives and supply of implements for expanding mechanised cultivation, shares Agriculture Minister Sheikh Abdul Aziz.

SOURCES: August 14, 1972 issues of Bangladesh Observer, Dainik Bangla and Dainik Ittefaq.

Expatriate

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“Harun’s neighbour Hasina Prakash Chikuni Begum, wife of Kalam Miah, and her daughters Tania and Tanzina are involved in drug dealing.”

Hasina threatened Harun and his family members for obstructing their drug trade. Around 1:30am on May 25, a team of police, including SI Matiur and Humayun, went to Harun’s house and started searching and also tortured him physically and mentally, the lawyer said.

“They demanded Tk one lakh or else they would kill him in a shootout by framing him as a drug dealer,” the lawyer said.

The police personnel also took Tk 40,000 in cash from the house and ransacked the furniture, he said.

The policemen later extorted Tk 50,000 from Harun for “making the matter go away”, added the lawyer.

Plaintiff Harun told The Daily Star that he could not stay at home fearing “he would be killed in crossfire”.

District Superintendent of Police Anisur Rahman earlier said he received a complaint regarding the matter and that steps would be taken after a probe.

This paper tried to reach SP Anisur and Additional Superintendent of Police Roish Uddin over phone after the case was filed. They did not pick up the phones or respond to texts.

Hasina or her family could not be reached either.

SI Matiur told The Daily Star that the accusation were false and nothing like that had happened.

SI Humayun described the allegation as a conspiracy.

Joe Biden picks Kamala Harris as running

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person of Indian descent in the running mate role, and personifies the diversity seen as key to building enthusiasm for the Democratic ticket, particularly in a year marked by a historic reckoning on race.

Republican and staunch Trump supporter Sarah Palin -- herself a former vice presidential nominee -- congratulated Harris on Instagram and posted a lengthy list of advice for the campaign trail, including keeping her allies close and staying true to herself.

Harris, who ran for the 2020 Democratic presidential nomination against Biden, said she was “honored” to join the ticket and would “do what it takes” to help him win.

“@JoeBiden can unify the American people because he’s spent his life fighting for us. And as president, he’ll build an America that lives up to our ideals,” she tweeted.

Biden and Harris were set to make their first appearance as a ticket in Wilmington, Delaware, yesterday as the campaign for the White House

entered a more frenetic phase.

POTENTIAL FLAG-BEARER

For Harris, being elevated onto a presidential ticket is the political moment of a lifetime. And if they win, the telegenic but tough Californian would almost certainly become the frontrunner in the race for the 2024 or 2028 Democratic nomination.

Biden would be the oldest person to take the office, and there is broad speculation that should Biden win, he would serve one four-year term and prepare his deputy to succeed him. The former vice president is likely confident that Harris has the policy chops and governing experience to help lead from day one, and immediately step into the job as president if needed.

Harris has shown herself to be more progressive than Biden -- she backed Medicare for All early on -- prompting Trump to say Tuesday that she was “in favor of socialized medicine.”

Trump poured scorn on Biden’s announcement, saying he was “surprised” at his choice given what Trump called Harris’s lackluster

Korean firm

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Bridges Division is implementing the Padma Multipurpose Bridge Project. The 6.15km bridge, which would be the longest bridge in the country, would connect the country’s southwestern region with the capital through road and rail links.

Belayet Hossain, secretary of the division, said now the Korean company will give their financial proposal and they would negotiate over the contract price and would require approval of purchase committee before singing final contract.

“So, it would take some time,” he added.

When the MoU was signed, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader had said KEC will introduce Electronic Toll Collection system, which will be run automatically and thus no vehicles have to stop at the toll booths.

He also said the corporation will also use performance-based management system and will provide training to people of different government agencies involved in toll collection.

Construction of the Padma Bridge started in November 2014 and the current deadline of the project is June 2021. The project cost rose to Tk 30,193 crore following several revisions of the deadline.

But, the current deadline is going to be deferred further as the works are being hampered by the Covid-19 pandemic and strong current in the Padma River, which already devoured a part of the construction yard.

The overall progress of the project was around 80 percent till June this year.

Once opened, the bridge will connect the capital with 21 southern districts. It is expected to boost the country’s gross domestic product by 1.2 percent.

performance in the Democratic nomination race.

He also attacked Harris for her role in the brewing confirmation hearings of Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh, calling her “the meanest, the most horrible, the most disrespectful of anybody in the US Senate.”

But Harris, who beat out nearly a dozen other women to become the running mate, has shown she can parry such blows, a cherished quality for anyone facing an onslaught of negativity from a caustic president.

During her own presidential campaign, she proved herself unafraid to speak her mind when she characterized Trump as a “criminal” living in the White House and called him a “predator.”

Biden’s pick of Harris drew ringing endorsements from other quarters -- including from Barack Obama, America’s first black commander in chief.

“She is more than prepared for the job,” tweeted Trump’s predecessor. “This is a good day for our country. Now let’s go win this thing.”

Fodder, worth Tk 8 lakh, has so far been distributed, according to the district administration.

There are around 24 lakh cattle, buffalo, goat, and sheep in Lalmonirhat and Kurigram. Farmers are struggling hard to manage green fodder, especially grass and paddy straw. Besides, prices of other fodder have gone up.

“Now, it needs at least Tk 500 to buy one maund [40kg] of hay. But its actual price was Tk 200 to Tk 250,” said Meher Ali, of Char Asatami in Kurigram’s Chilmari upazila.

[Our correspondents from Pabna, Manikganj, Nilphamari, Bogura, and Sylhet contributed to this report]

3 dead

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“What was written... is the working of a sick mind with an intention to create violence,” Congress Party lawmaker Dinesh Gundu Rao said on Twitter.

“It is highly objectionable and such statements... needs to be handled in the strictest way possible by the authorities.”

Police gave the first name of the accused man as Naveen, and said he is the nephew of another Congress politician, whose house was attacked and burnt in the violence.

The politician, R Akhanda Srinivasa Murthy, appealed for calm in a video message carried by media.

“We’re all brothers. Whatever crime has been committed, let the law teach them a lesson,” Murthy said. “I appeal to our Muslim brothers and everyone else to maintain peace.”

5 ‘members of Neo-JMB cell’ arrested

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cell in the previous two days.

The arrests were made during a two-day-long special operation called “Elegant Bite” in Sylhet, he said while addressing a briefing at DMP media and community centre.

The arrestees are: Sheikh Sultan Mohammad Naimuzzaman, cell’s reporting boss, Sayem Mirza, Rubel Ahmed, Abdur Rahim Jewel and Sanaul Islam Sadiq.

The CTC also recovered two IEDs, bomb-making equipment, a laptop and cell phones from their possession.

They were brought to Dhaka and placed before a Dhaka court yesterday with a 10-day remand prayer. The court, however, granted seven days of remand for each of them.

CTTC officials said the militants rented a house in Shaplabagh area of Sylhet city two months ago by identifying themselves as various professionals.

Of the arrestees, Naimuzzaman, a graduate of political science from Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST), worked at a coffee shop, Sanaul is a

student of statistics at SUST, Rubel used to run a small shop of fertilizer, while Jewel and Sayem identified themselves as drivers.

They planned to carry out their first attack at Shahjalal shrine on July 23, but it was foiled due to law enforcers’ vigilance.

They left an IED in Paltan area which later exploded but no one got hurt from it, said Monirul.

On July 25, the cell members again kept a fake IED with a motorbike of a police sergeant in the capital’s Gulistan just to spread fear among police officials, he said, adding finally, on July 31, the cell members blasted a small crude bomb at a temple in Naogaon but no one got hurt.

Monirul said Neo-JMB has no capacity to conduct any big attacks now. So they tried to carry out some small attacks.

But, we need to be remain alert as some serious attacks, including the August 17 series bomb attack and August 21 grenade attack, took place in this month.

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