

Wahida Khanom passes away

CITY DESK

Wahida Khanom Chowdhury, mother of Md Abdul Halim Chowdhury, managing director and CEO of Pubali Bank Ltd, passed away in Dhaka yesterday, says a press release.



The Board of Directors of the bank and all levels of executives, officers and employees have expressed deep shock at the death.

Buet interested

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There would be three exams under the cluster -- one each for students of science, humanities and commerce groups -- based on HSC syllabus. "It was also discussed that these tests will be held when the intensity of Covid-19 reduces," the VC said.

Till last year, 32 of the 39 public universities held separate admission tests, as seven agricultural universities held a "uniform admission test.

UGC has long been suggesting modifying the existing admission process, saying it is too expensive and coaching-oriented.

Mostly ineffective

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while the Barishal Chief Judicial magistrate Court received only one this January," said Prof Taslima.

From unofficial sources, the study found that there were mostly one or two petitions filed in other districts, except where local NGOs played an active role -- such as in Jashore, Sylhet and Dinajpur.

Besides, both victims and lawyers generally prefer more straightforward penal sections. In terms of execution of the protection orders, survivors believe it is difficult to monitor and if they go to the court again with this issue, they are not welcomed, said Prof Taslima.

Another important factor is since the number of shelters for women is insufficient and there is a lack of livelihood options, many survivors are forced to return to the perpetrators.

Recent studies on domestic violence also found that although women mostly prefer to go to union parishad members or chairmen to seek remedy, they had to face victim-blaming, or were sent back to their perpetrators after an unlawful mediation by local administration, without ensuring proper remedies.

Although under the DVPP Act, survivors are supposed to come to local enforcement officers (of the Department of Women Affairs) first, organisations working on preventing violence against women and girls found these officers unavailable for immediate support, and even if they were available, they were unclear about their responsibilities, Sara Hossain said.

She suggested providing training to field workers to provide basic information to the victim about the law, as well as psychosocial counselling to victims.

ActionAid Country Director Farah Kabir said, "We often do advocacy about absence of law and that certain issues would be resolved if there was a relevant law. The law to prevent domestic violence was formulated 10 years ago, so it was important to see what the condition was after it was implementation."

Special Police Super of Criminal Investigation Department Rumana Akhter, noted researcher Meghna Guhathakurta and journalist Shahnaz Munni spoke at the event, broadcast on Facebook by Bangla daily Prothom Alo.

Mixed use

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will make Rajuk's approval system weaker.

Adil said the draft also mentions that by giving a certain amount of penalty, anyone can turn a residential plot into commercial plot in a planned residential area, which will reduce the livability of Dhaka city.

This mixed use will have to be in a limited scale, and will have to be balanced with the residential area's character, he said. Adil -- who read out the keynote paper -- said in the draft, flood flow zone has been mentioned as an overlay zone, and they mentioned its land use as agriculture zone.

He demanded to keep it as a flood flow zone like earlier, saying otherwise it will conflict with Wetland Conservation Act, 2000. "We will have to project our flood flow zones, and no terminology will be acceptable which will be conflicting with the Wetland Conservation Act, 2000," said BIP president Prof Akter Mahmud.

He also demanded to mark all water bodies and canals in DAP, and making a separate map on all ponds in Dhaka city.

About protection of farmland, Adil said the draft DAP has given permission of turning agriculture land as single habitation, and at one point given conditional permission for eco-resort, agriculture-based industry, and single ownership-based home. This single or multiple-habitation permission is conflicting with planned urbanisation, said Adil.

BIP proposed enlisting 2,200 structures that the court has declared protection for as heritage sites in the DAP.

The number of heritage buildings of Dhaka is steadily declining, as businesses and other entities continue to encroach and demolish the structures, they said.

Prof Akter also demanded upgradation of Rajuk and increasing its capacity so that it can do its main work -- development control -- properly.

Pandemic paused their education

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Classes have remained suspended in these schools since March 17. The closure has been extended until December 19.

"We cannot offer online classes as we need to adopt individual teaching techniques for each student. Each student has a different set of needs," said SWID Director Nurul Islam said.

He said they usually give some basic training to parents so that they can impart lessons to their children at home.

Nurul Islam estimates that there are around 45,000 students at non-government special schools and some 2,000 at government ones.

Special schools assess the needs of a student and prepare a separate teaching process for them. In mainstream schools, the students with special needs attend classes with other students.

REMOTE LEARNING NOT FOR THEM

The government first launched teaching through TV and then introduced classes over radio for primary school students and asked educational institutions to begin online classes.

But online classes are not accessible to those with learning disabilities and visual or hearing impairment.

"In schools, the students with disabilities usually face problems like lack of ramps, proper classroom environment, and unavailability of trained teachers. But they are facing a different set of challenges now," said KM Enamul Hoque, deputy director of Campaign for Popular Education.

TV and online education, developed as a temporary solution, do not focus on children with special needs, he added.

Many of these children are at risk of dropping out, he said.

Jahangir Alam, coordinator and thematic expert of Disability and Inclusive Development at the Centre for Disability in Development, said teachers impart lessons on TV and online classes using various graphs, pictures or video presentations.

But visually impaired students or those short of hearing cannot benefit from such classes, he said, adding that the students might be forgetting what they had learnt previously.

Sign language interpreters and subtitles must be added to the TV classes. He said.

'WE ARE WORKING ON THE ISSUE'

The Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education is trying to make remote learning friendly for students who need special attention, said its Director General Prof Syed Md Golam Faruk.

"We will try to include sign language interpreters in TV education by next January," he told The Daily Star.

According to the Directorate of Primary Education, the number of students with disabilities last year was 1,24,056 at primary schools and madrasas. Some 69,046 of them were girls. At least 37,186 were physically handicapped, 13,901 had poor eyesight and 6,083 were short of hearing.

In secondary schools, there were 65,985 students with disabilities. Of them, 23,975 were girls, 22,561 were physically handicapped, 15,455 were visually impaired and 5,261 were short of hearing. "It is true that we have not been able to bring all students under the coverage of online and TV education. But we are working on the issue," she said.

Shahzaman Mozumder Bir Protik

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"What I am wearing today" featured a different tailored suit every day and offered advice on contrast, colours, and even informed the public about proper dressing rules and etiquette.

"I think I was always interested in being well-dressed, but never had the resources to do much about it. Posting on the blog started soon after I joined IBM. Everyone there used to wear a blue suit and it was around that time that I went to Bangkok and got myself a couple of tailored suits. Ever since, a question remained with me. Why was the second largest manufacturer of apparels in the world -- Bangladesh -- not in tune with the styles and process behind tailor made clothing? And it is that very question that started all of this," Shahzaman said in an interview to Star Lifestyle in 2016.

Shahzaman Mozumder founded Dapper Bespoke in 2014. He did not belong to the fashion industry, but held impeccable knowledge about all the nitty-gritties of constructing a suit and styling it.

Along with a trusted tailor having 25 years of experience, he strode forward to capture the local fashion scene, giving it an unprecedented dimension.

Bangladesh will work

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He refers to five lakh Bangalees kept interned in Pakistan and her role in debarring Bangladesh from entry into the United Nations.

BANGABANDHU OFFERS PRAYERS AT MASS GRAVE

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman today offers prayers at the mass grave by the riverside in Jhalakati where skeletons of hundreds of people killed by the Pakistani army have been accumulated. The prime minister asks local leaders to send the skeletons of the dead heroes to the National Museum now under construction at Savar near Dhaka.

The prime minister is expected to return to Dhaka tomorrow morning after completing his four-day official tour of coastal areas.

NAP(B) DEMANDS INTERIM GOVT BEFORE POLLS

The conference of National Awami Party (Bhashani) today demands the dissolution of the present government three months before the forthcoming elections and formation of an all-party interim government to conduct a free and fair election in the country.

SOURCES: December 4, 1972 issues of Bangladesh Observer, Dainik Bangla and Dainik Ittefaq

More than 2,500 die in US

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The virus has killed at least 1,489,816 people since the outbreak emerged in China last December, according to a tally from official sources compiled by AFP yesterday.

S'pore allows sale

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But so-called clean or cultured meat, which is grown from animal muscle cells in a lab, is still at a nascent stage given high production costs.

Bangabandhu sculpture

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Khaja Mia and senior officials of the ministry were present at the meeting.

Hasan said there exists a historical relation between Bangladesh and Turkey. There are also many similarities as regards values and culture, he added.

The minister said, "You all know that Turkish president Erdogan has been invited to join the function of the Mujib Birth Centenary. He has also agreed to come if the situation becomes favourable amid Covid-19 situation."

Turan said the sculpture of Bangabandhu will be set up in Ankara and sculpture of Kemal Ataturk on Kamal Ataturk Avenue in Dhaka.

Arrest warrant issued

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was issued by the court after Police Bureau of Investigation filed a report on October 29, 2020 with the court detailing the "crime".

The report details that Dewan was doing a "Pala Gaan" session with fellow artiste Shah Alam Sarkar, where the topic being debated was "Living Beings versus The Greatest".

The event was held on February 1, 2020 at a private residence in Kalihati upazila in Tangail.

Pala Gaan is a form of folk music where an extempore musical battle takes place between two bauls.

"Upon investigating videos of Rita's songs, we have found evidence of the crime. The words she chose to debate the issue hurt the religious sentiments of the audience," said PBI Inspector Sheikh Md Mizanur Rahman, adding that she had committed a crime under section 28 of the Digital Security Act.

Section 28 (1) of the Digital Security Act states that "if any person or group intentionally or knowingly with the aim of hurting religious sentiments or values or with the intention to provoke, publish or broadcast anything by means of any website or any electronic format which hurts religious sentiments or values, then such activity will be considered an offence".

"The complainant [Advocate Imrul Hasan] was at home when he came across the video, and was extremely angry and hurt," says the report, "And upon finding no way out, the complainant went to Kadamtali Police Station to file the case."

Dewan's lawyer Abdullah Al Noman slammed the issuance of the warrant. "The court could have summoned her to appear in front of it, she is not escaping anywhere," he said.

Novelist Swakritto Noman, known for authoring fiction and non-fiction books on cultural history, and who has been vocal about the prosecution of Dewan and other artists on social media, criticised the move to arrest the baul singer.

Noman, who authored "Chhotoder Purbobongo Geetika Golpo", said, "Pala gaan takes an issue and debates the negatives and positive sides of the matter. It does not mean they believe in what they are saying -- they are only performing. At the end of the musical performance both actors come to an agreement. Rita's words cannot be taken out of context," he said.

"Pala gaan" has a rich history of critically questioning everything and having philosophical discussions about religion, Noman said.

Several historians and artistes were contacted for comment on the issue, but they declined to say anything due to fear of reprisal.

Following the filing of the case, Rita released a video apologising for hurting religious sentiments and explaining her standpoint.

Selim Prodhan amassed

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illegal casino business, allegedly amassed the wealth from online casino business, say investigators.

Referring to be unnamed, an ACC officer told The Daily Star that in his 2011-12 income tax return, Selim mentioned that he owns 40 percent share, worth about Tk 6.9 lakh, of Japan-Bangladesh Security Printing and Papers Ltd.

However, Japan-Bangladesh Security Printing and Papers in its 2011-12 income tax return mentioned that Selim's paid-up capital was Tk 69 lakh and his share money deposit was about Tk 23.55 crore.

"Selim concealed the information of Tk 23 crore in his tax returns," the source said.

Verifying the documents, it is also revealed that the Japan-Bangladesh Security Printing and Papers made Tk 29.33 lakh profit in 2010 and Tk 1.46 crore in 2011. But Selim mentioned that he took Tk 8 crore loan from it.

"It is completely baseless," the ACC official said, adding that Selim could not produce any documents against his claim of taking loans.

Selim disclosed Tk 11.31 crore investment in FDR, share market and saving certificates, but could not show the source of money.

The ACC also found Selim has illegal immovable properties worth about Tk 49.46 lakh and deposits of about Tk 9.84 lakh in different bank accounts.

"His illegal wealth could be about Tk 35.41 crore," he said.

In the probe, the ACC also found that Selim deposited Tk 5.49 crore with Bangkok Bank and United Overseas Bank (Thai) and withdrew Tk 5.58 crore.

Investigators have been able to trace two cash deposits worth about Tk 1.22 crore and four cash withdrawals worth about Tk 2.74 crore from Selim's four accounts with Siam Commercial Bank, United Overseas Bank and Bangkok Bank between October 7, 2013, and October 10, 2016.

On September 14, 2016, KT Corporation deposited about 3.15 crore with Selim's Global Trading and Property Ltd's account at United Overseas Bank as telecommunication consultancy fees.

Selim is the owner and shareholder of seven companies where he has investment of about Tk 10.04 crore.

Bag with fake

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The official, however, did not disclose anything about the youths' appearances or any connection of the incident with any extremist group.

"Both youths are 24-25 years old. They were wearing T-shirts and one of them had a cap on. One had a beard," Sudip Kumar Chakrabarty, deputy commissioner of police (Gulshan division), told this paper.


About the incident, DC Sudip said two vehicles were entering the annex building through the entrance on the opposite side of the embassy around 3:30pm.

"The on-duty security guard saw two youths standing near the gate and wanted to know the reason. One of them was holding a black bag. One was locked into an altercation over why they will not be allowed to stand there. They then threw the bag at the security guard and ran away," he said.

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Notice for IPO Lottery Conduction Program


The management of **ROBI AXIATA LIMITED** expresses its profound gratitude to the esteemed investors for successful completion of subscription of the IPO of the company. Robi takes great pleasure to announce that the application for shares has been oversubscribed by **5.74** times against Public Offering of BDT 3,877,424,000 out of total issue size of BDT 5,237,933,340 (out of total issue BDT 1,360,509,340 from employees of Robi under Employee Share Purchase Plan). The management of Robi also gratefully acknowledges the co-operation and services rendered by Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC), Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC), Bangladesh Bank, Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms, Dhaka Stock Exchange Limited (DSE), Chittagong Stock Exchange Limited (CSE), Central Depository Bangladesh Limited (CDBL), underwriters, banker to the issue and issue manager. As per press release dated 16 July, 2020 of Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission, the IPO lottery conduction program of Robi for allotment of shares will be held on **digital platform on Thursday, December 10, 2020 at 10:30 A.M.** Robi cordially invites all the esteemed investors to log in to **robilottery.com** to watch the live lottery program and to participate in the seed collection for conducting the lottery as well.

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NOTICE OF THE 20th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given to all Shareholders' of Global Insurance Limited that the 20th Annual General Meeting of the Shareholders' of the Company will be held on **Saturday, 26th December 2020 at 11:00 a.m.** virtually by using **Digital Platform** through the Link: **http://globalins20th.digitalagmbd.net** to transact the following business:

Agenda:

- To receive, consider and adopt the Directors' Report, the Audited Financial Statements of the Company and the Auditors' Report thereon for the year ended 31st December, 2019.
- To declare Dividend for the year ended 31st December, 2019 as recommended by the Board of Directors'.
- To elect Directors' as per Articles of Association of the Company.
- To approve appointment of Independent Directors.
- To appoint Auditors' for the year 2020 and fix their remuneration.
- To appoint Auditors' for Corporate Governance Compliance Audit for the year 2020 and fix their remuneration.
- To transact any other business with the permission of the Chair.

By Order of the Board of Directors'

Sd/-
Md. Omar Faruk
Company Secretary

Dated, Dhaka
02nd December, 2020

Notes:

- The Record date:** 16th November, 2020. The Shareholders' whose names appeared in the Share Register/Depository Register of the Company on the record date will be entitled to the dividend approved in the AGM.
- Any Shareholder of the Company entitled to attend and vote at the Annual General Meeting may appoint a Proxy to attend and vote on his/her behalf. Proxy form duly filled, signed by the Shareholder and stamped with BDT.20.00 must be submitted through e-mail- **globalins2000@gmail.com** at the Registered Office of the Company at least 48 hours before the time fixed for the meeting.
- The Annual General Meeting is reserved only for the shareholder or his/her Proxy. They are requested to join the meeting with Laptop/Pc/Mobile.
- Pursuant to the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission order No. SEC/SRMIC/94-231/25 dated 08 July, 2020, the AGM will be virtual meeting of the respected shareholders, which will be conducted via live web cast by using digital platform.
- The members will be able to submit their question/ comment electronically 24 hours before the AGM.
- For logging into the system the members need to put their BO ID/ Folio number and other credentials as proof of their identity through the **http://globalins20th.digitalagmbd.net**
- Members are requested to log in to the system well ahead of the meeting at 11:00 a.m. for the AGM on Saturday, 26th December, 2020.
- For any IT related matters for access in the virtual meeting the respected member may contact at 01712651345 and for share related matters at 01712221347.
- The soft copy of Annual Report 2019 will be sent to the e-mail address of the respected shareholder and the same will also be available in the Company's website at **www.globalinsurancetbd.com** as per Condition No. 9 (2) of the BSEC/CMRRCD/2006-158/208/Admin/81, dated 20 June 2018.
- Members may also please note that no gift/gift coupon/food box/benefit in cash or kind shall be distributed/paid at the AGM as per BSEC Circular No. SEC/CMRRCD/2009-193/154 dated October 24, 2013.