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95, Motijheel C.A, Dhaka; Tel: 9565114; Fax: 9565112Ustad Allarakha
Khan dead

MUMBAI, Feb 3: Ustad Allarakha Khan, the country's leading tabla exponent of Punjab Gharana, who raised the tabla to the status of a solo instrument, died of a heart attack here today. He was 81, reports PTI.

The tabla maestro, who was in a state of shock following the death of his younger daughter, a widow, yesterday evening of a heart attack, passed away at 03:30 am at his "Simla House" residence at Napean Sea Road, family sources said.

He was born on April 29, 1919, at Phagwali village of Jammu, 80 kms from Lahore. Khan was fascinated with the sound of tabla since the age of 12, when he was staying with his uncle at Napean Sea Road.

The young lad ran away from house and became a disciple of Miya Kader Bakshi of the Punjab Gharana, who initiated him into the world of music.

He learnt "Raag Vidyā" (melody aspect) from Ustad Ahsiq Ali Khan of Patiala Gharana.

He started his career as an All India Radio staffer in Mumbai in 1940 and later composed music for a couple of Hindi films from 1934-48.

In 1958, Khan made his first international stage appearance in Japan along with Pandit Ravi Shanker.

Khan on the tabla and Ravi on the sitar, the Jugalbandi, created a rare blend of music, making waves internationally. It was during this period, foreigners took an instant liking for Indian music.

In Mumbai, he has been tutoring students on the finer aspects of tabla at his "Ustad Allarakha Khan Institute of Music" at Shivaji Park.

Among his acclaimed disciples are all his three sons — tabla wizard Zakir Hussain, Fazal Qureshi and Taufiq Qureshi — and Mick Hart, a US-based drummer of international fame.

Khan was honoured with the "Padmashri" in 1977 and was recipient of "Sangeet Natak Akademi" award in 1982.

Just last month-end he facilitated Pandit Jasraj on his 70th birthday at Shambukhanda Hall here.

He is survived by three sons and a daughter.

Zakir, who is in Kozhikode, is rushing to Mumbai for his father's funeral this afternoon.

Rokeya Hall employee hurt in sun-shed collapse

By DU Correspondent

An employee of Rokeya Hall of Dhaka University sustained serious injuries when a sun-shed of the second floor of the extension building of the hall collapsed yesterday.

The injured was identified as Razu Lal. He was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Hall sources said Razu Lal fell down on the first floor from the sun-shed of the second floor when he was cleaning it at about 12:30 pm.

Meanwhile, the residents of Rokeya Hall brought out a procession from the hall and marched toward the VC's office demanding immediate renovation of the building.

Residents of the hall also demonstrated when the VC came to the hall where a brief rally was being held protesting DU authorities' silence despite repeated remainder to renovate the old extension building.

The demonstrators chanted slogans against the DU authorities and said they did not want the repetition of the tragic incident of Jagannath Hall.

Sources of the hall said that the building might collapse any time as its condition was worsening day by day.

DU Vice-Chancellor Prof A K Azad Chowdhury, along with the pro-VC Prof M Shahadat Ali, deans, proctor and house tutors of the Rokeya Hall visited Razu Lal at the hospital soon after the incident.

The VC also rushed to the hall to see the extent of damage of the extension building. He also visited the other buildings of the hall and assured the students of quick renovation of the extension building.

BRTA

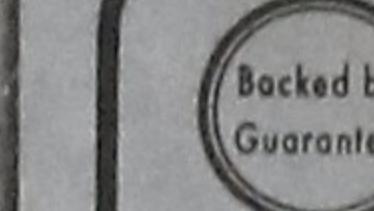
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are on payment of bribe to inspectors.

A section of BRTA officials are opposing issuance of fitness certificates after fitness testing with the machines because it would stop their huge illegal income," one source alleged.

Admitting this, a senior BRTA official said, "Changes have to be made in the sector. Thousands of people are killed in road accidents every year in the country due to faulty vehicles. It has been found that faulty vehicles were also issued fitness certificates".

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

Published by the Editor from City Publishing House Ltd, 90 Kakrail, 1000, Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmandi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 8616772-4, Commercial: 8616771, Fax No: 88-02-8613035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA. Internet edition address: <http://www.dailystarnews.com> and Email address: dstar@bangla.net

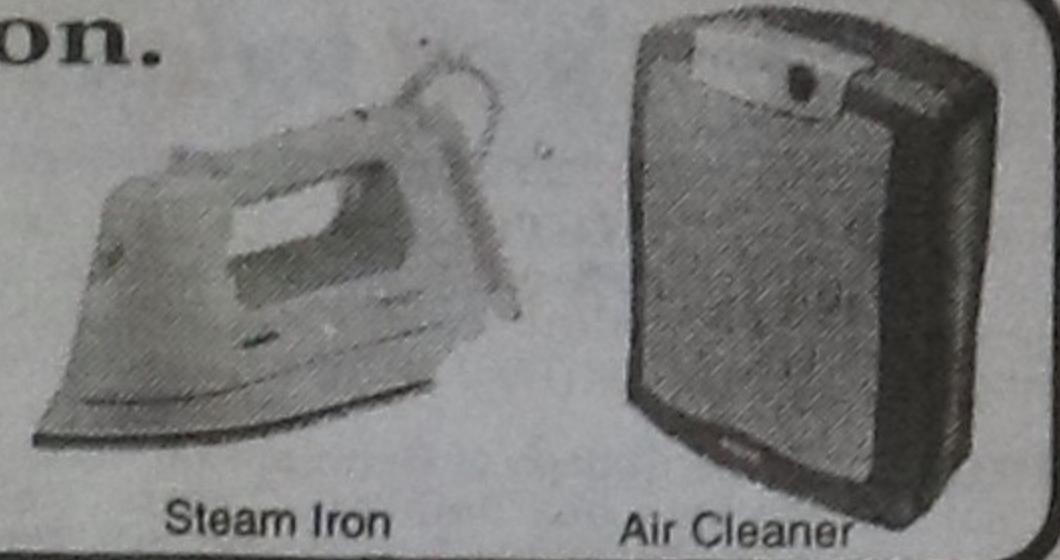
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body remains
unclaimed

By Staff Correspondent

None claimed the body of the victim who died in an explosion inside the BNP central office at Naya Paltan in the city in the early hours of Wednesday.

Soon after the incident, police identified the young man as Ismail Hossain Babu, 25, and said that he was a resident of Nilamber Saha Street in the old part of the city. But they failed to trace other details regarding the victim till yesterday.

Matin Rahman, the DMP Commissioner talking to The Daily Star wondered why none came to receive the body.

The relatives have been informed already, he said, adding that they would wait for some more time and then hand over the body to Anjuman-e-Mafidul Islam for its burial.

Motijheel police said they have sent their team to Nilamber Saha Street but they failed to get whereabouts of the young man.

A team of army explosive experts who visited the spot, seized *alamat* Wednesday night. Talking to the newsmen the experts said they will be able to make comments after an analysis of the *alamat* but till yesterday ISPR did not answer to the quires.

Police so far arrested 12 people for their alleged involvement in the bomb explosion inside the BNP office and 11 people were placed on three-day police remand by the CMM's court yesterday.

Afsana's
burial
today

By Staff Correspondent

Afsana Mosharrif, wife of Mosharrif Hossain, President of Bangladesh Chamber of Industries, will be buried at Bani-ji Graveyard today (Friday) after Namaj-e-Janaza on the premises of Rajuk School and College at Sector 6, Uttara at 10:30 am.

Afsana, also mother-in-law of Saima Wajed Putul, the only daughter of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was found dead in the first floor bedroom of her Uttara residence in the city late Monday afternoon.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is likely to attend the *qulkuvar* of Afsana on Saturday, said family members of the deceased.

Demonstration

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Later, police also arrested Latif's wife and a maid at the office on the same day. Latif's wife was seriously ill. Police also arrested her grandson when he went to supply medicine to her. Police however released the two women yesterday morning. Mannan said.

Buiyan alleged that bomb explosions at the BNP central office and its Chittagong office were pre-planned as part of a government conspiracy to tarnish the image of the main opposition party and justify enactment of the 'black' Public Safety Act.

The incidents were followed by a press conference by three ministers — Mohammad Nasim, Tofail Ahmed and Matiullah Chowdhury, which proved that the bomb explosions were part of a pre-planned conspiracy, the BNP secretary general claimed.

He said police 'sealed' the BNP office Wednesday morning without any valid ground, and even did not show any paper for this.

There were valuable documents and party papers at the office. We do not know what has happened to those and other things," Buiyan said. "The government may have kept harmful materials inside the office again to blame the BNP".

Mannan said the BTV has launched a 'false' propaganda on the bomb explosion incident. He strongly protested he BTV news and said police and Army 'raided' the office and took photographs. They (police and Army) found nothing but BTV telecast false, fabricated and motivated news'.

BTV officials and staffs will have to be accountable to the people for their acts, he said. You (BTV officials) should remember that your salaries come from people's money. People do not pay you to telecast false news, assassinate characters of opposition leaders and act as a mouth piece of Awami League."

He also refuted the claim by police that bombs were made at BNP office. There is no fool in the country who will believe that bombs were made inside our party head office," he observed.

Buiyan said the 36-hour nationwide hartal was a 'complete success'. Through this hartal, people have expressed their no-confidence in the government and demanded repeal of the Public Safety Act. He also thanked the people for 'spontaneously observing the hartal'.

He demanded immediate release of all leaders and activists of BNP and its office staff.

Jatiya Party leader Kazi Firoz Rashid, Jamaat leader Mohammad Kamaruzzaman, IJO leader A R M Abdul Matin and city BNP Convenor Sadek Hossain Khoka also spoke at the press briefing.



Bonfire?

A young boy rejoices setting an old tire afire as part of demonstration in Jatrabari during the hartal hours yesterday.

Star photo: Sk Enamul Haq

Police helps
hartal!

By Special Correspondent

A bride-to-be had to walk a long way home after getting her make-up at a beauty parlour at Kakrail in the city as police virtually helped enforce the Opposition-called hartal in some places.

Rickshaws plied on the city streets, ignored by pro-hartal pickets. But policemen prevented those from plying on the road from Kakrail crossing to Fakir Pool crossing. The BNP central office is situated on this road.

The law enforcers did not allow movement of rickshaws on that road from 2 pm till the strike ended at 6 pm.

The young woman with bridal make-up and her companion coming by a rickshaw were stopped by police at Kakrail at about 3 pm.

Despite being told by her companion that she was going to be married in the evening and that they were returning home from a beauty parlour nearby, police did not change their mind.

The bride-to-be told the policemen that with all her make-up, it would be difficult for her to walk home under the sun and requested them to allow her to go by rickshaw. Obviously she was pleading with a heartless creature and had to return home on foot.

No reason was given for the sudden enthusiasm of police to enforce the hartal in that area. Neither there was any public notice on closure of the road.

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The prime minister said there is provision in the new law to punish its abusers. If anybody lodges any false case, he or she will be punished.

Action will be taken if the investigation is not done properly and there is also provision for appeal, she added.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury also addressed the function.

**PM heaps scorn
on opposition**Development efforts to go on
despite disturbance

BRUSSELS, Feb 3: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said here on Wednesday the government will go ahead with its development effort for the welfare of the people despite disturbances by the opposition, reports UNB.

Whatever they (opposition) do will continue our work for the welfare of the people," she said. "People don't support such hartals without any logical issue; they have no interest in it as they'll get nothing out of these hartals."

She bitterly criticised the BNP leaders for their alleged comments on re-enacting another August 15 and said these comments proved that they wouldn't hesitate to kill me to capture power.

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**Stray incidents mark
hartal in Chittagong**

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Feb 3: At least 10 people were injured in stray incidents of violence and bomb explosion during hartal hours today, police and witnesses said.

Two of them were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital with bomb injuries. They were identified as Abdul Mannan, a bus driver and Abdul Hossain, a rickshaw-puller, police said.

They were injured when homemade bombs were hurled at them at Omar Ali ghat at around noon today, police added. The pickets also damaged some rickshaws there.

Eight others were injured during chase and counter chase amid brick-bats at Nur Ahmed road and Bohadharhat area between 9 am and 10 am today, witnesses said.

Fourteen pickets were arrested from different parts of the city during the hartal.

A large number of rickshaws plied on the city roads while other vehicles stayed off the roads and highways.

Railway sources said, train services to and from Chittagong were as usual.

Delivery of goods to and from Chittagong port was suspended during hartal though some foodgrains were taken to government godowns under police escort, port officials said.

Most of the shops and markets remained closed while attendance in the offices was thin. Production was disrupted in the mills and factories at the industrial belts at Nasirabad, Sitakundu, Kalurghat and Patenga, sources said.

Addressing a post-hartal press briefing of the 4-party alliance yesterday evening at 29 Minto Road, Quamaruzzaman said they condemn such gesture from the President.

He said Jamaat sought an appointment on Tuesday and got the reply yesterday.

Golam Azam

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CHITTAGONG, Feb 3: One person was arrested in connection with bomb attack on Chittagong Deputy Commissioner's car during hartal hours on Wednesday.

Abul Kalam, 26, was arrested by Kotoal police from Dewan Bazar area last night.

Police source said Kalam confessed his involvement in the attack on DC's car at Cinema palace at Loyal Road during the hartal.

He also refuted the claim by police that bombs were made at BNP office.

There is no fool in the country who will believe that bombs were made inside our party head office," he observed.

Buiyan said the 36-hour nationwide hartal was a 'complete success'.

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