



Abu Sayeed Chy's death anniversary today

The 17th death anniversary of former President Justice Abu Sayeed Chowdhury will be observed today, says a press release.

On the occasion, a Qurankhwani and milad mahfil will be held at Nagbari in Tangail.

Relatives, admirers and friends have been requested to pray for the salvation of his departed soul.

Justice Chowdhury played a very significant role in mobilising world opinion in favour of the War of Liberation in 1971. He was elected chairman of United Nations Human Rights Commission in 1985.

Syed AB Mahmud Husain



Today is the 23rd death anniversary of former chief justice Syed AB Mahmud Husain, says a press release.

On the occasion, Chief Justice Syed AB Mahmud Husain Smriti Sangsad will hold a discussion and a milad mahfil at Central Law College auditorium at 6 Bijoy Nagar in the capital at 5:15pm today.

Chief Justice Syed JR Mudassar Husain, judges of the Supreme Court and eminent lawyers will attend the discussion.

Friends, relatives and admirers have been requested to participate in the programme.

Suraiya Begum



Today is the second death anniversary of Suraiya Begum, wife of the former executive editor of The Daily Star late Tawfiq Aziz Khan and former teacher of the Department of Information Science and Library Management of the University of Dhaka, says a press release.

Late Suraiya Begum was a life member of the Bangla Academy, Library Association of Bangladesh, Institute of Library Information and Management and the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh. She was also member of the Inner Wheel Club of Dhaka North West and an executive committee member of the Community Development Library.

Shahidul Islam



Today is the sixth death anniversary of Shahidul Islam, former general manager of BJMC, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at his Rayerbazar residence after Asr prayers today.

Obituary

BSS, Feni

Mofasssarul Haque Khondaker, editor and publisher of the weekly Feni Sangbad, passed away yesterday afternoon at the age of 48.

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

He was the general secretary of Feni Press Club and district correspondent of the Daily Inquilab and the Daily Sangram.

Anwara Begum

Anwara Begum, wife of late Alimullah Sikdar, died in a city hospital on Sunday at the age of 79, says a press release.

She left behind four sons and nine daughters.

Her qulkhwani will be held at her Elephant Road residence after Asr prayers tomorrow.

Qulkhwani



Qulkhwani of M Meharul Islam, former deputy managing director of Paramount Insurance Co Ltd, will be held at 80 A, Indira Road in the city after Asr prayers today, says press release.

Friends, relatives and admirers have been requested to attend the qulkhwani.

M Meharul died on Sunday at his residence at the age of 70 and was buried at Mirpur Shaheed Buddhijibi Graveyard in Dhaka.

2 crore suffer from kidney disease, 40,000 die a year

BSS, Dhaka

About two crore people across the country have been suffering from kidney disease and 40,000 of them die every year.

Professor Dr Harun-Ur-Rashid, Chairman of the Department of Nephrology of Bangladesh Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) and President of Kidney Foundation said as kidney disease may take epidemic form by 2025 most of the people are not aware of the diabetic, hypertension and proteinuria (kidney related) diseases.

Regular walking, reduction of weight, avoiding extra salt and maintaining anxiety-free life can help check kidney disease, he said. Every person after reaching the age of 40 should check his or her kidney at least once a year, he added.

Referring to a recent pilot survey conducted by the Kidney Foundation at village Kachulia in

Savar and in Mirpur slum area in the capital on 50,000 people, Prof Harun said 69 percent of them are not aware that they are suffering from hypertension and diabetes.

Out of the remaining 31 percent only 6 percent have been undergoing treatment, he added.

Prof. Harun said kidney is a vital organ that help purify blood and discharge the waste with urine. Different diseases may directly attack kidney or some other diseases like hypertension and diabetes are also responsible for kidney disease, he added.

Since the treatment of kidney disease is costly, many patients die every year. Dialysis and kidney transplantation are the only way of treating this fatal disease.

The government has taken several steps, including establishment of National Kidney Institute, a separate kidney hospital, to increase dialysis facilities to check

the disease. Private sector hospitals are also providing treatment to kidney patients.

A kidney patient needs about Tk 2.5 to 3 lakh a year for dialysis. On the other hand, about Tk 2.5 lakh is required for kidney transplantation and for meeting immediate medical expenses, he said and added this costly treatment is out a reach of the 95 percent of the patients.

He said 15 to 20 thousand new patients suffer from 'End Stage Kidney Disease (ESKD)' annually with both their kidneys damaged while number of acute kidney failure patients are 10 to 15 thousand.

Prof. Harun said financial constraints, lack of specialised kidney hospitals and dearth of kidney providers are the three main obstacles to kidney transplantation.

Kidney transplantation is done at BSMMU and at Birdem Hospital and they have capacity to transplant 20 to 30 kidneys annually.

ASSAULT BY NAVY MAN Ice factories begin indefinite strike in Barisal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Twenty-six ice factories in Kalapara coastal area in the district began an indefinite strike yesterday in protest against the assault of a factory manager allegedly by a Navy man.

The strike plunged the fishermen of the coastal area into trouble as they depend on the factories for ice to preserve their fish. Two syndicates run the 26 factories at Mohipur and Alipur.

According to reports received from the area, a Navy man along with three other policemen came to Sugandha Ice Factory and asked for the key of Quality Ice Factory from Harunur Rashid, who is the manager of Star Ice Plant.

Harun, identifying himself as the manager of Star Ice Factory, said he had no keys of the Quality Ice Factory.

But the Navy man did not believe him and beat him up, leaving him severely injured. They then left the scene before agitated people tried to confine them.

The incident prompted the factory owners to take the decision of striking at an emergency meeting. They vowed to continue the strike until the persons responsible are punished.

They also submitted a written complaint to Captain Mazedul Islam and Captain Md Kasem of the temporary camp of the Bangladesh Navy. The Navy officials were not available for their comments.

The fish traders of the area are worried that the potential ice crisis due to the strike will make it difficult for them to preserve fishes which are caught from the deep sea regularly.

Punishment to killers of NGO workers demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Christian Association yesterday demanded immediate punishment of the killers of two NGO employees stabbed to death in Boalmari upazila in Faridpur on Friday. Leaders of the association at a rally at Central Shaheed Minar said they would observe a one-minute silence in every church across the country to protest the killings of two Christians.

Tapan Kumar Roy, 30, of Fakirpara village in Nababganj upazila, and Lipal Marandi, 35, of Mahalpur village in Birganj upazila, Dinajpur, were Christian preachers. They are used to work for an international NGO, Christian Life Bangladesh, as field workers in Dhupapara village in Boalmari.

Christian leaders also demanded immediate punishment of the criminals, who attacked a Christian village in Barisal on July 23.

The general secretary of the main opposition Awami League, Abdul Jalil, expressed solidarity with the Christian association.

He demanded punishment of the killers, saying the double murder has proved again the law and order downside in the country.

Addressing the rally, Christian Association President Pramod Mankin, MP said NGOs are working for betterment of the people in Bangladesh regardless of religion, caste and creed.

The Christians have been living in the country peacefully and taking part in development activities, he said.

"The constitution of Bangladesh has guaranteed freedom of practising and preaching any religion in a peaceful manner," Mankin said.

Christian Association General Secretary Nirmal Rozario said it is the government's responsibility to ensure safety of the people.

Hindu Buddhist Christian Association President Nim Chandra Bhowmik said religious minorities in the country are passing their days in a sense of insecurity as attacks on them are increasing day by day.

"The attackers on religious minorities are seldom punished, which is contributing to the growing religious intolerance," he added.

Bishop Nirmal Linus Gomes said Bangladesh will not move forward if religious harmony is not maintained properly.



PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh Adivasi Union forms a human chain at Muktangan in the city yesterday demanding a judicial inquiry into the killing of Alfred Soren.

FAZILATUNNESA HALL Probe body submits report to VC

DU CORRESPONDENT

The six-member probe committee investigating the July 17 incident at Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall submitted its final report to the vice-chancellor (VC) yesterday.

Prof Siddiqur Rahman, member secretary of the inquiry committee, said "We have submitted the report today (Monday)." He however refused to give details about the report.

The VC Prof SMA Faiz told The Daily Star that they would discuss the report at the Syndicate meeting today at 8:00pm.

A member of the probe committee told The Daily Star that they have found some of the female students as well as at least two house tutors responsible for the incident. "We have suggested the authorities to take action against them to bring back stability in the hall," the member added preferring anonymity.

A student of the hall told The Daily Star last night that if the authorities take measure against any student, they would leave the hall. "We refuse to stand down from our stance," she added.

Renovated BSMMUH ICU opens today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The existing 14-bed intensive care unit (ICU) of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University and Hospital (BSMMUH) has been upgraded to 17-bed after being equipped with the most modern devices.

Health Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain is expected to inaugurate the renovated ICU at Block C of the 10th floor today.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, chief of the new ICU unit Dr Salim Md Jahangir said, "We have got world's most advanced and sophisticated ICU equipment at our ICU. But the charges for treatment at the ICU would remain the same at Tk 1000 per day."

He said, "We have got some additional equipment like portable pulse oxymetry used for analysing blood."

The other equipment are six pieces of ventilators from Germany, six pieces of neck tubes better known as laryngoscopic from USA, non-porous and seamless epoxy-floor ideally used in all hospitals in the West.

Another new addition to the ICU is blood gas analyser. Existing machine was out of order for about two years.

Oxygen networking mechanism of the ICU has also been improved. Besides, manpower of the unit has also been enhanced by posting new physicians and nurses.

Rab arrests criminal with two LGs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested an alleged criminal with arms at Fatikchhari on Sunday night.

The arrestee, Nurul Islam alias Ripon, hailing from village Saadi Nagar in Fatikchhari, was accused in 16 criminal cases of abduction, robbery and extortion charges, sources said.

A team of Rab-7 raided the village at around 10.00pm on Sunday and nabbed him while he had been gossiping with his accomplices. Upon his confession, the team later recovered two light guns (LG) and one cartridge from his house.

A case was filed under Arms Act with Fatikchhari Police Station.

Bring killers of Alfred Soren to book Demand indigenous people

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The indigenous people yesterday demanded a judicial inquiry into the killing of their leader Alfred Soren and exemplary punishment to his killers.

They also formed a human chain under the banner of the Bangladesh Adivasi Union (Indigenous people's union) at Muktangan in the city and demanded an end to the repression facing the indigenous people across the country.

Leaders of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) joined the protests to express solidarity with the tribal community.

Speaking at the protest programme, CPB President Monzurul Hossain Khan alleged the government's patronisation of crimes have encouraged the killers to commit more crimes.

CPB General Secretary

Muzahidul Islam Selim said that although the murder of Alfred Soren took place during the regime of Awami League (AL), the case still remains pending and the culprits remain at large.

The culprits are now threatening the indigenous people, he added.

Journalist Sayed Abul Moksud called on the government to ensure security of the tribal community.

Alfred Soren of Vimpur village of Mahadevpur at Naogaon was killed on August 18, 2000 when he tried to resist the eviction of the tribals from the village. The raiders set fire to his house and stabbed him to death.

President of Naogaon Adivasi Union Amin Kujur, member of Khelaghar Central Committee Fajur Rahman, Secretary of Naogaon CPB Mohsin Reza, Monthela Rakhain, Rafael Murmu, Nirmal Chowdhury, Ashim Das and Khan Asaduzzaman Masum also spoke.

Khulna BNP secy threatens to quit if action not taken against Lobi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Khulna city BNP Secretary Nazrul Islam Manju yesterday reiterated his decision to quit BNP along with supporters if party high command buys further time to take action against lawmaker Ali Asgar Lobi and his cadres for Saturday's attack.

Ali Asgar Lobi is involved in making illegal money through hundi, smuggling gold, manpower business and illegal occupation of houses in Khulna and Dhaka, Manju alleged while talking to The Daily Star at the Khulna city BNP office yesterday.

Termining Lobi an "identified godfather of terrorists", Manju said BNP cannot do well under his leadership.

The Khulna city BNP yesterday held an emergency meeting at its KD Ghose Road party office following

Saturday's clash between the two rival factions of BNP at about 11:30am at the Zia hall in the city.

The meeting unanimously resolved to file a case accusing Khulna city Jasas President Tariqul Islam Toru and district Jasas President Abdul Halim of misappropriating eight metric tonnes of wheat and selling a young woman of Paikgachha upazila to a foreign national recently.

Meanwhile, efforts are being made to expel Nazrul Islam Manju and district BNP Secretary Shaiful Alam Mona, sources close to the Khulna city Mayor Shaikh Tayebur Rahman said.

Ali Asgar Lobi is playing a key role in arranging a meeting between the Khulna city mayor and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, the sources said.



DU Seminar

Dhaka University Alumni Association organises a seminar titled 'Human resources development and good governance in the new millennium: Role of private and public universities in Bangladesh' with Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman as chief guest. Venue: Teachers Students Centre. Time: 4:00pm.

IT festival

The inaugural ceremony of an Information Technology Festival organised by the State University of Bangladesh will be held with Science and ICT Minister Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan as chief guest. Venue: University campus, 77 Satmasjid Road. Time: 11:00am.

Award giving ceremony

The award giving ceremony of Commonwealth Youth Programme will be held. Venue: VIP Lounge of the National Press Club. Time: 10:00am.

Roundtable

A roundtable titled 'Planned urbanisation and housing industry' will be held with Prof Sirajul Islam Chowdhury as chief guest. Venue: Conference Lounge of the National Press Club. Time: 10:00am.

TeleCom forum

A meeting of the executive committee of TeleCom Subscribers Forum will be held. Venue: 20/3, Bijoynagar. Time: 4:00pm.

Gono forum

Gono forum organises a discussion titled 'How to solve national crisis?' with its President Dr Kamal Hossain as chief guest. Venue: National Press Club Auditorium. Time: 4:00pm.

BACSO roundtable

Bangladesh Consumers' Society organises a roundtable titled 'How to check price hike of essentials and adulteration of food?' Venue: Cirdap Auditorium, Tophkana Road. Time: 4:00pm.

Musical evening

National Press Club organises an evening of Kawaii songs to be performed by renowned Pakistani performer Gaus Mahmud Nasir Niaz and his group. Venue: VIP Lounge of the club. Time: 7:30pm.

Film show

Academy Film Society will screen two films titled 'Rhapsody in August' and 'Quills'. Venue: Academy Auditorium, 21/C Jigatola. Time: 6:30pm and 8:30pm.

Rotary Dhaka

Weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka will be held. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 5:30pm.

Rotary Ramna

Weekly meeting of the Rotary Club, Ramna will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club Poolside Lounge. Time: 5:30pm.

King Fahd's death condoled

BSS, Dhaka

Leaders of different political parties and shades of opinion mourned the death of Saudi King Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud, terming it "an irreparable loss to the Muslim Ummah".

They conveyed their heart-felt sympathy and deep condolences to the bereaved Royal family members and the brotherly people of Saudi Arabia on this tragic occasion.

Speaker Barrister Mohammad Jamir Uddin Sircar expressed his deep condolences at the sad demise of King Fahd.

In a condolence message, Barrister Sircar said the death of the Saudi monarch is an irreparable loss to the entire Muslim Ummah.

He conveyed his heartfelt sympathy to the members of the bereaved royal family as well as people of Saudi Arabia at the sad demise of their beloved leader.

In a separate message, Deputy Speaker Akhter Hamid Siddiqui also condoled the death of King Fahd and conveyed his heartfelt sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

Information Minister M Shamsul Islam expressed his shock at the passing away of King Fahd.

He said that King Fahd's death was an irreparable loss for the Kingdom as well the entire Muslim Ummah.

Bikalpa Dhara Chairman and former President Dr AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury, expressed his deep shock at the sad demise of King Fahd and recalled with deep gratitude the contributions of the Saudi Monarch to the welfare of the Muslim world.

Jatiya Oikya Mancha President Dr Kamal Hossain paid rich tributes to King Fahd for his glorious role in upholding the dignity of the mankind as well as for the development of the Muslim world. Ganoform General Secretary Saifuddin Ahmed Manik recalled the contribution of Kind Fahd during a turmoil period of the world history.

Jatiya Party (E) Chairman Hussein Muhammad Ershad said with the death of King Fahd, Saudi Arabia has lost its undisputed leader while the Muslim world has lost one of its best friends.

JP (Manju) Chairman Anwar Hossain Manju and Secretary General Sheikh Shahidul Islam said the death would be a blow to the unity and integrity of the Muslim Ummah.

Hamdard celebrates 100th anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Hamdard Laboratories (Wafq) Bangladesh yesterday celebrated its 100 years of serving the people, providing herbal medicine at a cheaper price.

The organisation will continue its strive to serve the people better in the days ahead, said its officials at a function marking the 100th anniversary at a city hotel.

Founded by eminent health scientist Hakim Abdul Majid, Hamdard started its journey in Delhi, India, on August 1 in 1906 with a view to providing healthcare services to the people. In 1953, Hamdard set up two outlets in Dhaka and Chittagong. Now it has over 100 centres across the country.

Apart from healthcare services, Hamdard is involved in various charity and social activities.

Mosharef Hossain Shajahan, state minister for religious affairs, National Professor Dr Nurul Islam, Rafiqul Islam, secretary of the ministry of religious affairs, Mizanur Rahman Majumder, additional secretary of the health ministry, Justice Mohammad Abdur Rouf, chairman of Hamdard, Hakim Mohammed Yusuf Harun Bhuiyan, managing director of Hamdard, and Shamsheer Ali, vice-chancellor of South East University, spoke on the occasion.

Prof Hakim Shiri Farhad presented a keynote paper.

Later, a cultural programme was also held.

Journalism deptt founding anniversary today

DU CORRESPONDENT

The department of Mass Communication and Journalism (MCJ) of Dhaka University will celebrate its founding anniversary today.

Students and teachers of the department will take out a procession from the foot of Aparajeyo Bangla at 11:00am today marking the day.