



Sufia Kamal's anniversary of death today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 6th death anniversary of poet Sufia Kamal, one of the pioneers in establishing the rights of Bengali women.

In a statement, Awami League President Sheikh Hasina said Sufia Kamal has struggled throughout her life to establish the rights of women and to make the society aware of violence against women.

She was a litterateur as well as a women leader and activist in every democratic movement of the country. She was among those who raised strong voice against the murder of Bangabandhu and his family in 1975.

The ideal and activities of Sufia Kamal will lead the countrymen to move for a better and progressive Bangladesh, the statement added.

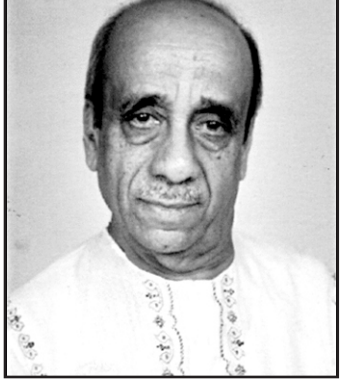
Sufia Kamal was born in 1911 at Shaistabad in Barisal. In 1926 the first poem of Sufia Kamal was published in 'Saugat'. Her prose and poems drew notice of the intellectual society. She wrote many poems for the children. Some of her works were translated into English and Russian.

Sufia Kamal's work reflected the struggles to preserve the Bengali language and culture and to fight Pakistani rulers. During the War of Liberation in 1971, she worked to help injured women.

She also worked with Ekatturer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee that is trying to bring the 1971 war criminals and collaborators to justice.

In later life, she made women's rights her top priority and headed Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, a women rights organisation.

Sufia Kamal was accorded many national and international awards. She received 40 medals including the 'Ekushe Padak', Bangla Academy Prize and Lenin Prize.



Obituary

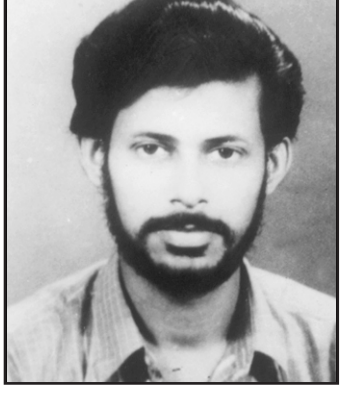
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Golam Karim, proprietor of Surma Tea Estate, sports organiser and social worker, passed away at his residence at Baridhara in the city yesterday at the age of 85, says a press release.

He left behind his two sons, four daughters and a host of relatives and well-wishers to mourn his death. He was the father-in-law of Foreign Minister M Moshed Khan.

He was buried at Banani graveyard after a namaz-e-janaza at Gulshan Azad Mosque.

Born in 1920 in Jalpaiguri, Golam Karim graduated from the Presidency College in Kolkata. He was also the honorary general secretary of Mohammedan Sporting Club in Kolkata.



Death anniversary

Today is the 34th death anniversary of Shaheed Lt. Abu Moyeen Muhammad Ashfaq Samad Bir Uttam, says a press release.

He embraced martyrdom in a battle with the Pakistani forces at Bhurungamari in Kurigram during the War of Liberation on this day in 1971. Local people renamed the area where he was killed as Samadnagar.

A doa mahfil will be held at the residence of his younger brother Ishtiaq Aziz Ulfat at House # 42, Road # 4, Sector # 3, Uttara after Maghrib prayers today.

Friends, relatives and well-wishers are requested to attend the programme and pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Navana sales manager shot, trader stabbed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Extortionists shot a sales manager and stabbed a businessman in two separate incidents in the city yesterday.

AZM Ashraf, 45, deputy sales manager of Navana Pharma-ceutical Limited, was shot in his car near his residence at Babar Road in Mohammadpur at around 8:30am.

"As I left home, three young men, aged around 20 to 25, signalled me to stop the car. I did accordingly and the moment I lowered the window glass, they pointed a pistol at me and shot twice," Ashraf told The Daily Star while lying in a bed at Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH).

One of the bullets hit in the wrist of his left hand while the other in the abdomen.

Ashraf said he had no clue why he was shot at.

However one of his companions who introduced himself as Ashraf's colleague, suspected that about a year ago local extortionists demanded a hefty amount of toll from Ashraf which he did not pay.

In another incident, Wahiduzzaman alias Khokon Howladar, 42, an apparel dealer and phone-fax shop owner, came under attack at Faridabad under Sutrapur Police Station at around 10:30am.

Khokon was going to Faridabad

kitchen market, when a gang of seven goons who are known to be members of one Milon's group, stopped him and started to stab him indiscriminately.

"Milon's people asked for a toll of Tk 50,000 about a month ago and on refusal they threatened me with death," Khokon told The Daily Star.

He alleged that a police patrol team was a little away from the spot, but they did not come forward.

When the goons left the spot, locals took him to DMCH.

Both Mohammadpur and Sutrapur police stations said they did not receive any complaints in these regards as of filing this report at 6:30pm.



Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists stages a demonstration in the city yesterday protesting the killing of journalist Goutam Das in Faridpur.

Politicisation of IEB election alleged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Engineers have expressed concern over the election of the Institution of Engineers Bangladesh (IEB) to be held on November 24 as election commissioners for 16 polling centres across the country have been appointed politically.

This is the first time that BNP leaders and supporters who are also the members of Association of Engineers Bangladesh (AEB), engineer wing of the ruling BNP, have been appointed as commissioners in the history of Bangladesh, they said.

Talking to newsmen at a city hotel, leaders of anti-government panel said they have identified some places as the risk centres where the leaders and supporters of government panel in connivance with the election commissioners will grab the polling centres and cast vote illegally.

The vulnerable centres are Bogra, Narayanganj, Gazipur, Pabna, Savar, Kushtia, Cox's Bazar, Khulna, Rangpur, Panchagar, Naogaon and Nilphamari, they added.

"Normally teachers of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology are appointed as commissioners, but this year BNP leaders have been appointed as election commissioners," said Engineer Nurul Huda, additional chief engineer of Roads & Highways Department who is contesting the election for the post of president under the anti-government panel.

Leaders of anti-government panel also claimed that the members of pro-government panel are threatening their supporters in different places not to go to the polling centres on the

election day. Besides, minority voters were shifted to other places in the name of training on the election day in last few years, they added.

Engineers of anti-government panel Mesbahur Rahman Tutul, SM Khabiruzzaman, Munir Uddin Ahmed and Sirajul Alam Swapan were present at the press briefing.

A total of 40 central councillors and many local councillors will be elected for 2006 and 2007.



Nasiruddin's anniversary of birth today

Today is the 117th birth anniversary of Mohammad Nasruddin, an eminent journalist and former editor of the Saogat, says a press release.

On the occasion, food will be distributed among the destitute at his residence at Nasiruddin Smriti Bhaban, on 38 Sharat Gupta Road, Narinda in the city. A milad and doa mahfil will also be held at the same address after Asr prayers today.

Rape case against ex-civil surgeon in Tangail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A young woman yesterday filed a rape case with Tangail Sadar Police Station against the former deputy Civil Surgeon of Tangail Dr Noor Mohammad, 45, who was recently transferred to Chandpur.

The victim, in her case, alleged that she met the surgeon at his office for a job at the post of an Aya (office help) in Tangail Civil Surgeon Office against an advertisement published in 2004.

The surgeon told her to meet him at his house on July 19 last year. There he allegedly raped her assuring the job. Later, the surgeon had sex with her several times against her will and consequently she got pregnant in June, according to the case.

When the victim informed Dr Noor about her pregnancy, the culprit assured her that he would marry soon and forbade to disclose it to anybody.

Days went by and eventually the surgeon refused to marry the victim when she contacted him on September 15.

In the meantime, the surgeon was transferred from Tangail on September 30 and joined the Shahrasti Upazila Health Complex in Chandpur.

Against the backdrop, the victim filed the rape case against the deputy civil surgeon. Now the victim is pregnant of five months.

This correspondent tried to contact the accused surgeon over his cell phone several times but the cell phone found dead.

Appeal for dead animals to save vultures

REUTERS, New Delhi

The forestry department in the remote eastern Indian state of Assam is appealing for dead animals -- to feed vultures threatened with extinction, a newspaper reported yesterday.

India has lost more than 95 percent of its vulture population in the last decade to mystery viruses, avian flu and carcasses sprinkled with pesticide. The Hindustan Times newspaper said more than 500 vultures had died in Assam since 2001.

It reported the forestry department wanted carcasses from towns and villages in Assam to be brought to two specially demarcated areas known for their vulture population.

The birds are considered sacred by some communities in India and play an important role in Hindu mythology for trying to save the wife of God-king Ram.

Separate lanes for rickshaw demanded

In protest against the ban on rickshaws on the city thoroughfares, Ushika, a social welfare organisation, staged a sit-in in front of National Eidgah on Friday.

Binding their feet together protesters symbolised the immobility of the public in the absence of rickshaws from the city streets.

Organisers said banning rickshaws is equivalent to shackles on people's feet.

They protested the decision to ban rickshaws permanently from Matsya Bhaban to Katabon during the Saarc summit from other streets.

The organisers said rickshaws are a necessity, not a problem and suggested that their movement should be planned, not banned.

Motorsised vehicles are responsible for pollution and the environment, they said.

The rickshaw-free roads are also facing traffic jams, protesters said. A planned traffic system is the requirement of the day.

Traffic is still sloppy from Mohakhali to Shahbagh. Banning rickshaws from Gabtoli to Kalabagan has reduced the jam, but the increasing number of private cars is creating more chaos.

A handful of people travel in private cars taking up a lot of street-space and for those who use rickshaws separate lanes should be made available.

Participating in the rally were the Ushika's Executive Director, Ibnul Saeed Rana and General Secretary A Kuddus, along with General Secretary, Dhaka Cycling Club Azharul Islam Masum, Project Manager, WBB Trust Amit Ranjan Dey, Convenor of Streets for the People Maruf Rahman, President, Waqf Kubeli Mustafa and representatives of other organisations.

Rtv goes on air on Dec 26

UNB, Dhaka

Another private satellite television channel styled R tv goes on air next month with a round-the-clock programme.

The new channel would start telecast on experimental basis from December 1 and finally beam through the country's crowded skies on December 26, according to an announcement made by the TV company yesterday.

"Rtv is going to launch its official telecast from December 26," said R tv Chairman and Managing Director Alhaj Mosaddeq Ali MP at a press conference at Sonargang Hotel.

President Iajuddin Ahmed will inaugurate the satellite channel at a launching ceremony at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre. "All preparations are almost complete. Our skilled professionals have successfully set up the earth station," said Mosaddeq Ali, also the chairman of rtv.

The ruling BNP lawmaker said the latest one is the only channel in the country which, from day one, would telecast a 24-hour programme.

"We want to display that Bangladesh was built on the spirit of liberation war, and we would remain unflinching in projecting the truth," he told the newsmen.

He stated that disseminating impartial news would be the sole objective of this channel.

A series of programmes, including news, talk shows, cultural and political programmes, have been taken up by the TV authorities considering the interest of the country's viewers.

India okays Right to Information Act

PTI, New Delhi

The Right to Information (RTI) Act, which gives legal right to people to seek information from the government and curb corruption, has come into force, placing India among the 55 countries that have such a legislation.

The Act was passed by the Parliament in the last budget session and got presidential assent. It is aimed at bringing about transparency and accountability in the working of public offices.

The new law applicable all over India, barring Jammu and Kashmir, is meant to curb corruption and inefficiency in the government at various levels. It covers all central and state administrations, Panchayats, local bodies and non-governmental organisations getting public funds.

Under the Act, the authorities are required to respond to queries in as little as 48 hours, if it is a matter of life and liberty.

The law promises accountability and transparency to climb up several notches, especially as it provides for hefty fines and disciplinary action against erring officials. The general superintendence, direction and management of the affairs of the Central Information Commission shall vest with the Chief Information Commissioner, who shall be assisted by the information commissioners, and may exercise vast powers autonomously without being subjected to directions by any other authority.



Leaders and activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League march in a procession on Dhaka University campus yesterday protesting the leak of questions of the 27th Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) preliminary test.

College girl set on fire in Barisal

DMCH CORRESPONDENT

A college girl was set on fire allegedly by her boyfriend in Barisal city on Friday night as she insisted on marrying her.

The ill-fated girl Jannatul Ferdous Salma, 20, of Patuakhali, is now fighting for life at the burnt unit of Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) with serious burn injuries.

Salma, a student of Baufal Degree College, was admitted to DMCH yesterday. Ninety-five percent of her body has been burnt.

Mahbulul Islam, elder brother of the victim, told the journalists at DMCH that his sister had been missing since Friday noon.

At about 7:00pm, Barisal sadar thana police informed him of the attack on his sister.

Mahbulul along with two lawyers of Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association (BNWLA) shifted her to DMCH from Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College and Hospital.

Salma told the journalists that she

had an eight-year-long affair with Noman who had started a cosmetic business at Barisal city corporation market.

The girl went to Noman at 12.00 noon of Friday and stayed with him until evening at the house of his relative.

Then they were locked in altercation as Salma insisted him on marrying her without knowing that Noman was already married to another woman.

At one stage of altercation, Noman set fire on Salma throwing kerosene on her body and fled the scene soon.

Hearing her scream the neighbours went to the spot and rushed her to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College and Hospital, Salma said.

The incident took place at the house of Noman's relative Dr Syed Mahbulur Rahman alias Iqbal. None was present in the house at that time, she added.

BNWLA has filed a case against the culprit who has gone into hiding.



Rtv Chairman and Managing Director Mosaddeq Ali speaks at a press conference on Rtv, a new private satellite television channel, at a city hotel yesterday.

DHAKA TODAY

Journos' human chain

Young Journalists' Society will form a human chain protesting the murder of Goutam Das, Faridpur district bureau chief of the daily Samakal. Venue: In front of the National Press Club. Time: 10:00am.

Lawyers' human chain

Sammito Ainjibi Samannay Parishad will form a human chain protesting the murder of two judges in Jhalakathi. Venue: In front of respective associations. Time: 4:00pm.

AL roundtable

Bangladesh Awami League organises a roundtable on 'Problems in education sector and our duties'. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 2:30PM.

Citizens' rally

Sammita Nagonik Samaj organises a citizens' rally protesting the killing of judges and demanding security of the citizens. Venue: Central Shaheed Minar. Time: 3:30pm.

View exchange

WBB Trust organises a view exchange on 'Transport plan to reduce poverty and bring social equality'. Venue: Daily Desh Bangla office, Tophkana Road. Time: 11:00am.

Discussion

Institute of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh (IDEB) organises a discussion to mark the association's 35th founding anniversary. Venue: IDEB auditorium, Kakrail. Time: 11:00am.

Uniformity of law syllabus stressed

BSS, Dhaka

A roundtable conference on the review of the Legal Education System in Bangladesh was held in the city yesterday.

Various problems and prospects of legal education were discussed. The background paper was prepared and reviewed by Dr M Shah Alam, former Dean and currently a Professor of the Faculty of Law, University of Chittagong.

Former Chief Justice Mustafa Kamal presided over the conference at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel. Noted legal experts, scholars, academics and other stakeholders attended it.

Former Chief Justice ATM Afzal and eminent jurist Dr Kamal Hossain participated in the discussion.

Uniformity of syllabus in all public and private universities and law colleges was suggested. Effective tools and materials of legal education, medium of instruction to be both English and Bengali, introduction of basic legal education in the secondary level for legal awareness of students, practical legal education with theoretical aspects of legal education, accommodating the law schools with trained teachers, training of the law teachers, finding job opportunities for the fellows completing law courses, subsidising logistic support to the universities and law colleges for establishing law libraries and computer facilities for the students and research in legal studies also came up for the discussion.

Barrister Shahiq Ahmed, Prof Mizanur Rahman, Justice Hamidul Haque, Dr Tarek MR Chowdhury, Dr Borhanuddin Khan, Dr Naim Ahmed, Zakir Hossain, Selim Toha, Prof Asma Siddiqua, Advocate Ali Akbar Pramanik and Dr Beverley Brown also spoke at the roundtable.

The discussion was enriched with the views and recommendations of the speakers of the consultations held in Dhaka, Chittagong and Rajshahi at different times.

The Law Commission undertook the review programme in legal education in collaboration with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). Maury Miloff, First Secretary of the Canadian High Commission, also spoke on the occasion.

Qulkhwani

Qulkhwani of Mozammel Huq, managing director of Janata Jute Mills Limited, will be held at the Azad mosque, Gulshan in the city after Asr

prayers today, says a press release.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend.

Mozammel passed away on Thursday at the age of 85.



The Rotary Club of Dhaka North distributes relief materials among Monga-affected people at Teesta's Char in Rangpur recently.

WEATHER TODAY logo with sun and cloud icons.

Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country till 6:00pm today.

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 30.3 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chittagong and lowest 13.0 degree Celsius at Rajshahi and Jessore.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:11pm today and rises at 6:18am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Table with columns: City/Town, Temperature in Celsius (Max, Min), Humidity in percentage (Morning, Evening). Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar.