

Barrister Roushan Ali passes away



Barrister Md Roushan Ali, a senior advocate of Bangladesh Supreme Court, passed away due to a cardiac arrest in Makkah while performing hajj on last Friday at the age of 76, says a press release.

Born at Ullapara in Sirajganj district, he was a follower of Islami Samyabda.

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

He was laid to rest in Zannatul Moalla in Makkah. His quikhwani will be held at his Segunbagicha residence in the city after Asr prayers tomorrow.

His relatives and admirers are requested to attend the quikhwani to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Imamul Islam Latifi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, CG

Veteran journalist and freedom fighter Imamul Islam Latifi passed away due to a prolonged illness at his village home at Mirsara on the 30th yesterday at the age of 68.

Latifi, former senior vice president of Chittagong Press Club (CPC) and general secretary of Chittagong Union of Journalists (CUJ), left two sons, nine brothers, two sisters and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

He was laid to eternal rest at his family graveyard with state honour after a namaz-e-janaza on Latifa Darbar Sharif premises after Zohr prayers.

In his 30-year career as a journalist, he served different newspapers, including Daily Gonokantha, Bangladesh Observer, Daily Deshbandhu, Dallyanata and Weekly Lokbarata.

CPC President Ali Abbas, its General Secretary Ejaz Yussofi, CUJ President Shahid Ul Alam and General Secretary Reaz Haider in a joint statement condoled the death of Latifi and prayed for the salvation of the departed soul.

Nizam Uddin

Language Movement veteran and freedom fighter Nizam Uddin passed away at United Hospital in the city on Monday night at the age of 71, says a press release.

Nizam, also a member of the central committee of Workers Party of Bangladesh and vice president of the central committee of Jatiya Sramik Federation Bangladesh, was buried at his family graveyard at Mandaritala village at Sitakunda in Chittagong after Asr prayers yesterday.

Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon and General Secretary Bimal Biswas in a joint statement yesterday expressed deep shock at the death of Nizam Uddin. They also condoled the bereaved family and prayed for the salvation of the departed soul.

Jatiya Sramik Federation Bangladesh and Bangladesh Garment Sramik Karmachari Federation also expressed deep shock at his death.

Alhaj Mosuddar Ali
BSS, Moulvibazar

Alhaj Mosuddar Ali, former teacher of Moulvibazar Government High School and district education officer, died of old-age complications at his residence on Sunday at the age of 85.

Ali, a noted educationist, has left behind his wife, three sons, four daughters and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death.

He was buried at his family graveyard at Balikandi village under Sadar upazila after a namaz-e-janaza at local government high school's playground on Monday.

Death anniversary



Today is the 2nd death anniversary of Haji Sahab Uddin, says a press release.

On this occasion, a milad mahfil and a discussion will be held at his residence at Road #8, House #16/A, Banani in the city at 1:30pm tomorrow.

Relatives and admirers are requested to attend the programme to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Qulhwani

Qulhwani of Hosneara Khan, wife of late Abdul Qaiyum Khan, former district and session's judge, will be held at House No 74, Road 11/A at Dhanmondi in the city after Maghrib prayers today, says a press release.

Hosneara, elder daughter of Khan Bahadur Jalaluddin Ahmed, passed away in the city on Thursday at the age of 85.

She left behind two sons, six grandchildren and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn her death.

All have been requested to attend the qulhwani and pray for salvation of the departed soul.



President Iajuddin Ahmed exchanges greetings with the members of the Christian community at Bangabhaban in the city yesterday on the occasion of Christmas.

Uncertainty looms large over Duta election

DU CORRESPONDENT

Uncertainty looms large over the election of Dhaka University Teachers' Association (Duta) scheduled for December 31, as no teachers agreed to act as election commissioner.

Duta has so far requested several teachers to conduct the election, but all of them refused. Two of them initially agreed but later declined to act as election commissioner.

Sources said some members of Duta executive committee at a meeting proposed the names of several teachers, including Prof Imamul Haq, Prof ABM Faruque and Prof Anwar Hossain, but the committee did not approach them to conduct the election to the executive committee for 2008.

The Duta election has never been deferred in the past. According to the constitution of the

association, election of the executive committee for one-year term must be held by December 31.

The election has become an important issue in the wake of arrest of four teachers and a number of students.

Several teachers said that if the election is not held on schedule, the efforts to release the teachers and students would be hampered.

Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, former president of Duta, said there is a deliberate attempt to delay holding the elections.

On November 24, the Duta executive committee fixed December 30 as the date for the election, but the general members had not been informed, he said, adding that the election was later rescheduled for December 31.

If the election is not held on schedule, the association should convene a general meeting to

decide whether the present committee will continue after the expiry of its tenure or any ad hoc committee will be formed for the period up to the next election, he said.

But the date of the general meeting is yet to be fixed.

Duta Acting President Prof Tazmeri SA Islam said they are now thinking of convening a general meeting to discuss the issue, as the executive committee is yet to select an election commissioner.

"The next general meeting will select an election commissioner. But we cannot convene the meeting due to Eid and winter vacation. However, the general meeting must be held before December 31," she added.

She also denied the allegation that pro-BNP and Jamaat White Panel does not want the election to be held on schedule.



Taslima welcome in Bengal but Centre must ensure security
Says Jyoti Basu

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA, KOLKATA

Towing a slightly different line, Marxist patriarch Jyoti Basu on Tuesday said controversial Bangladeshi writer Taslima Nasreen can return here if she chooses to, but the Centre will have to ensure her security.

"If she wants to return to Kolkata or elsewhere in West Bengal, she is welcome. But the Centre will have to ensure her security," he told reporters after a felicitation programme at his Salt Lake residence.

This is the first CPI(M) leader to speak in sympathetic tone for the exiled writer ever since trouble broke out in Kolkata last month over her writings with a number of leaders having adopted a rather cold attitude on her return to the city.

Recalling that he had met Nasreen earlier on several occasions, Basu said, "I read in the newspapers that she is very disappointed about having to stay outside Kolkata. Now let us see what the Centre says."

Stating that he had read Nasreen's book Dwipkhondito, which sparked off violence in the city last month, the former West Bengal chief minister said, "the state government has already banned the book. What she has written there about the Prophet Mohammad and the Koran cannot be accepted by any Muslim."

Basu, however, was also critical of those who indulged in the violence last month after which she was whisked away to Jaipur, the Rajasthan House in Delhi and then to an undisclosed location in the national capital.

"Those who indulge in such violence think that they will be closer to God if they kill people," he said.

Lauding External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee for his statement in Parliament on the Taslima Nasreen issue, he said, "the External Affairs Minister has given a good speech."

Afghan cuts off wife's nose, ear
AFP, Kandahar

An Afghan woman is in hospital after her nose and an ear were cut off, allegedly by her husband, police and a doctor said yesterday.

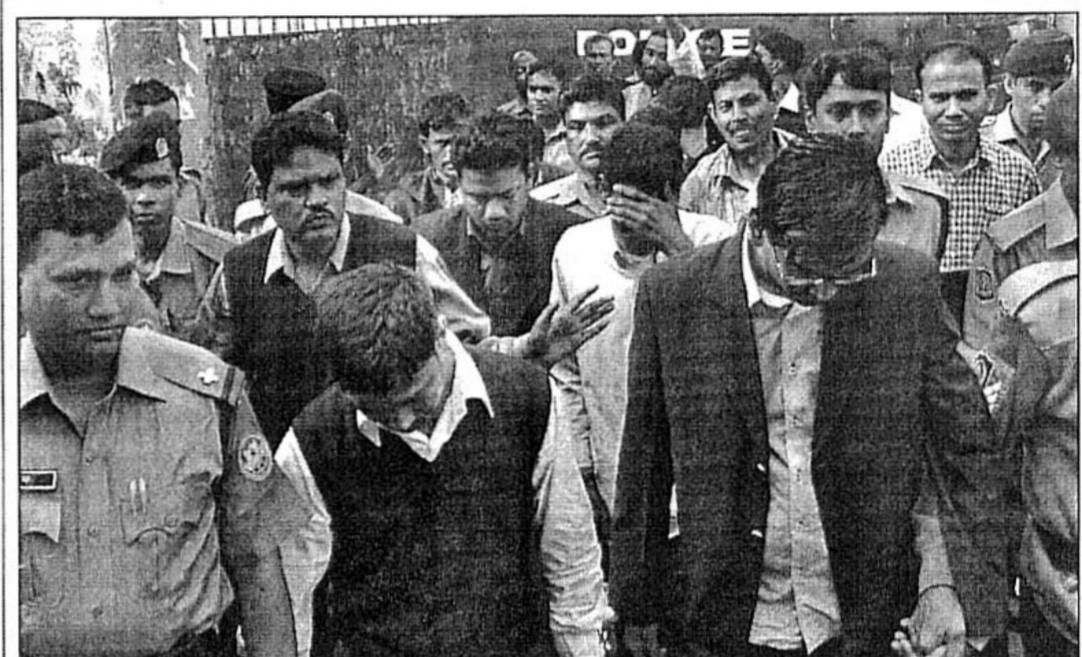
The woman was brought to a hospital in the southern province of Zabol last week by her brother, a doctor at the main hospital in the town of Qatad said.

"We received a patient with a cut nose and ear," Mohammad Salem told AFP.

Zabol provincial police chief General Mohammad Yaqub Khan said he did not know what had the attack.

"We don't know much about their fight but the husband did cut the nose and one ear of his wife. She is in the hospital now and we're searching for her husband, who has escaped," he said.

Afghan media said the woman, reportedly aged about 17, was also beaten, her head shaved and her teeth broken by the same man.



Fifteen people detained in connection with the theft of two Vishnu statues are being produced in the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

Anxious wife and a happy ending

FROM PAGE 16

September 15 by unidentified armed militants.

"After 81 days of my abduction, a commander of the abductors came to the room, where I was kept captive, on December 7. He hugged me and said I was to be released immediately. I couldn't believe him completely.

Police retrieved the body which was hardly recognisable.

Locals informed the police of the incident after finding the charred body at around 7:30am.

Police sent the body to Sir Salimullah Medical College for autopsy.

They also seized a burnt-out bag and some books from near the body.

Police suspect that the criminals brought the youth from other place and slaughtered him there sometime before 5:00am.

They also burned the body so that one can recognise him.

Jatrabari police filed a murder case in this connection.

They could identify neither the killers nor the victim and ascertain the reason behind the gruesome killing as of 6:00pm.

Uzbek hardline leader re-elected in landslide

AFP, Tashkent

Uzbekistan's President Islam Karimov won another landslide victory, election officials said Monday, but former Soviet states and Western observers were split over whether the vote had been fair.

Karimov won a new seven-year term with 88.1 percent of the vote in Sunday's elections, the Central Election Commission said, compared with 91 percent in 2000.

While Russia's President Vladimir Putin and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) welcomed the result, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) said it had not met democratic standards.

Karimov, who has led Uzbekistan for 18 years, faced three opponents, each of whom were credited with three percent of the vote. The 69-year-old leader had banned independent media and political parties.

Russian President Vladimir Putin phoned Tashkent to congratulate Karimov on his victory, said a statement from the Kremlin.

The two men "greatly appreciated the level of relations between Russia and Uzbekistan and said they were ready to resolve all questions in the spirit of partnership."

The observer mission of the Russian-dominated Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), which includes several ex-Soviet countries criticised in the West as authoritarian, offered its own endorsement earlier Monday.

"The elections were a very important factor in the further democratisation of society in Uzbekistan," the CIS mission head Sergei Lebedev said, according to Russian news agency Interfax.

But the Vienna-based Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) declined to give the Uzbek election a clean bill of health.

over, I said to Brac Afghanistan's Country Director Gunendra Roy. Gunendra came after some time and received me. I was sent home on December 13. "Noor said with an ear to ear grin shining like the soothingsun of that winter morning.

Noor's wife Anwara also told The Daily Star about her harrowing uncertain days between the abduction and the release of her husband.

On September 16, the day after Noor's abduction, a Brac official, Abul Kalam Azad, called her on the mobile phone from Jorosse asking her how she was doing and saying he wanted to visit her.

"I was at my sister's in Faridpur that day. I immediately called my sister-in-law my in-law in Jamda asking her to take care of the officer when he would visit. I was however thinking, there must have been something wrong, because the officer had never called me before," Anwara said.

Anwara then sent an SMS to Noor Islam in Afghanistan, but there was no reply. "I was sad, because he had never been late in replying before. I sent another message, but again didn't get any reply."

Running out of patience, she called Abul Kalam Azad asking him if there was anything wrong. Azad said her husband did not return to his residence from his office in Afghanistan the day before. "I don't even want to remember what happened next," she paused for a long time.

Brought back to the reality by another question, Anwara, mother of a five-year-old boy Arian, went on again, "I could neither eat nor sleep since his abduction. Whenever I tried to eat something, I felt like throwing up. I had to be under constant medication,"

"I survived a month only on saline solution. Slowly, I tried to become stronger by praying. After a month of the abduction, the wife of a Brac official informed me that my hus-

band was still alive and that his picture had been shown on television. I asked a journalist if that was true, he collected the picture and gave it to me."

Soon, Anwara dived into the efforts to release her husband. "I went to Brac in Dhaka. They said they were trying. I went to the foreign ministry seeking their help. The foreign adviser said he was trying hard for my husband's release. I said, please try again, bring back my husband."

Once a Brac official phoned her saying that the foreign minister of Afghanistan asked them to assure her that her husband would return home soon. A cabinet minister of that country also made a similar assurance, Anwara said adding, "I then became hopeful of his return."

Anwara said during the three-month of her husband's captivity in the hands of unknown Afghan militants, there were always people around her to take care of her and her son. "I am very caring of my son, as he is a bit autistic, but during that time I didn't even feel like taking care of him. I became completely numb, devoid of any aspiration to live. I was praying to Allah for my death before hearing anymore bad news about my husband," she said.

Finally on December 7 when Anwara received a phone call from Noor Islam saying that he had been released, she first could not even trust her own ears and then was swooned.

"Nothing had ever been more joyous than that piece of news," Anwara said adding, "I want to start everything anew. I have been reborn."

Noor Islam said the foreign adviser called him after he had arrived home and told him, "You have a very good person for a wife. You are lucky! You should give her special thanks." Noor replied, "I already have."



PHOTO: STAR
Meritorious students of Louhajang upazila in Munshiganj pose for photograph with Indian High Commissioner Ranjan Chakravarty at a prize giving ceremony at Louhajang College yesterday. (Story on Page 3)

DHAKA TODAY

Scholarship distribution

Bangladesh Scholarship Council (BSC) organises its 13th Scholarship Distribution Ceremony 2007. Venue: National Museum auditorium. Time: 4:00pm.

Citizen's meeting

Gono Forum organises a citizen's meeting titled "National unity in facing national challenge". Venue: Engineers' Institute auditorium. Time: 3:00pm.

Discussion

National Democratic Party will hold a discussion on the occasion of the Victory Day. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 3:00pm.

DAM discussion