



(Left) People from all walks of life through the Sudha Sadan last night to pay their last respects to Dr MA Wazed Miah, husband of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. (Right) Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia pays her last respect to Dr Wazed Miah at Sudha Sadan.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Life sketch of Wazed Miah

BSS, Dhaka

A nuclear scientist of international repute, Dr MA Wazed Miah, who breathed his last at a city hospital yesterday, is known more for his professional excellence in scientific arena, but the close friends and contemporaries were familiar to his role also as a student leader during the climax of Bangladeshi nationalist movement in 1960s.

Several friends and contemporaries said his quality earned him the position of the vice-president of Fazlul Haque Muslim Hall while he was always under the affectionate shadow of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

But his academic excellence and the knack for academic pursuit made him a nuclear scientist, eventually installing him at the helm of the country's Atomic Energy Commission during his long career as a researcher and fellow at scientific institutes and organisations in different countries, including Germany and India.

"He always tried to maintain a low profile in his personal life, led a very simple life and was an amiable person but never compromised on anything unjust," a relative said.

Apart from his publications on scientific research and nuclear science, Dr Wazed Miah also authored a number of books on social and political issues, including one on the memories of Bangabandhu.

Born on February 16 in 1942 in a respectable Muslim family of Fatepur village in Pirganj, Rangpur, Dr Wazed was the youngest among four sons and three daughters of Abdul Quader Mia.

He studied up to class four at the primary school at his village and then up to class six at a high school in Pirganj.

He obtained his matriculation from Rangpur Government District School in 1956 in first division and then enrolled in Rajshahi Science College from where he passed the Higher Secondary Certificate examinations.

Wazed Miah was admitted to physics department of Dhaka University in 1958 and secured first class first position in both BSc (hons) and MSc examinations in 1961 and in 1962 respectively.

He joined the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission on April 9 in 1963 and obtained his diploma from Imperial College of London in 1963-64.

Wazed Miah returned home in September 1967 after obtaining his PhD degree in physics from Durham University in the United Kingdom and joined as a scientific officer at the Atomic Energy Research Centre in Dhaka.

Later, he engaged in post-doctoral research from November 1969 to 1970 in London.

Wazed Miah married Sheikh Hasina, daughter of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, on November 17 in 1967. They have a son and a daughter.

In 1969, he got the associateship of Italy-based International Theoretical Physics Research Centre of Nobel Laureate Prof Dr Salam where he engaged in a research project.

He returned home the same year to work with the Atomic Energy Research Centre.

In 1975, he was in the then West Germany to pursue higher training on atomic reactor science. Hasina was also with him at that time.

Wazed Miah also conducted research work at New Delhi-based laboratory of Indian Atomic Energy Commission from 1975 to 1982.

On return home, he rejoined the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission and retired as its chairman in 1999.

BDR jawan on fresh remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka Court yesterday placed one Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) jawan on a three-day fresh remand.

Metropolitan Magistrate AKM Emdadul Haque placed Sepoy Jahangir on a three-day remand after the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) produced him before the court on completion of his five-day remand with a fresh remand petition.

'Dr Wazed's death an irreparable loss for nation'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of different political, educational and socio-cultural organisations yesterday expressed deep shock at the death of Dr MA Wazed Miah, eminent nuclear scientist and husband of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Recalling unflinching devotion of Dr Wazed to nuclear science in the country, they said people would always remember him for his invaluable contribution as an honest scientist.

He will also be remembered for his contribution to student movements in the 60s, the liberation war, and other democratic and progressive movements.

His death has caused an irreparable loss for the nation, they added.

They prayed for peace and salvation of the departed soul and conveyed deep sympathy to bereaved family members.

In a condolence message, LGRD Minister and Awami League spokesperson Syed Ashraf Islam expressed deep shock at the death of Dr Wazed.

He also prayed for the salvation of the departed soul and conveyed deep sympathy to bereaved family members.

BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain expressed his profound shock at the death of Dr Wazed.

Recalling his various contributions Delwar said in his death the nation has lost a commendable scientist.

Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain also condoled the death of Dr Wazed Miah and conveyed sympathy to bereaved family members.

Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Motiur Rahman Nizami and General Secretary Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojahid condoled the death of Dr Wazed and expressed deep sympathy to bereaved family members.

Bangladesh Chhatra League Dhaka University unit President Sohail Rana Tipu and General Secretary Sajjad Sakib Badsha expressed deep shock at the death of Dr Wazed.

In a condolence message they said Dr Wazed played an important role in various movements including the liberation war.

They urged people to stand beside Sheikh Hasina so that she can face the situation.

Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote prayed for the peace and salvation of the departed soul and conveyed sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

In a condolence message, FBCCI leaders said the nation would remember Dr Wazed for

his good manner and hospitality.

They also expressed deep shock and conveyed sympathy to bereaved family members.

Others who condoled the death included Jatiya Sangsad Speaker Advocate Abdul Hamid, Deputy Speaker Col (ret'd) Shawkat Ali, Chief Whip

Abdus Shahid, Foreign Minister Dipu Moni, Jahangirnagar University Vice-chancellor Dr Sharif Enamul Kabir, Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner AKM Shahidul

Haque, Bangladesh High Commissioner to the United Kingdom Prof Dr Saidur Rahman Khan, Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh President Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury, Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, Mahanagar Sarbojaneen Puja Committee President Kajal Devnath and General Secretary Advocate

Taposh Kumar Pal, Bangladesh Awami Olama League President Ismail Hossain and General Secretary Shah Mohammad Shahidullah.

Besides, Jatiya Party, Zaker Party, Bangladesh Tarikat Federation, Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association, Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Projonma League, Bangladesh Police Service Association, Dhaka Union of Journalists, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, Bangladesh Awami Sangskritik League, Dhaka Mahanagar Sramik League, Jatiya Sramik League, Bangabandhu Parishad, Muktiyoddha Projonmo Command, Jatiya Sramik Jote Bangladesh, Bangladesh Gonotantrik Ainjibi Samity, Awami-Sangskritik Forum, Bangabandhu Diploma Prokashshali Parishad, Dhaka Power Distribution Company Ltd, and Officials and Employees of Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation also condoled the death of Dr Wazed.

In Rangpur, leaders of different political and cultural organisations condoled the death of Dr Wazed and conveyed sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

They included Convener of the district Awami League Abul Monsur Ahmed, Joint Convener Rezaul Karim Raju, Workers' Party President of the district Nazrul Islam Haqqani, President of Ganatantri Party Mohammad Afzal, President of Sammilito Sangskritik Jote Kazi Mohammad Junnun, and President of Rangpur Chamber of Commerce and Industry Shahnewaz Bablu.

World Mother's Day today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

World Mother's Day will be celebrated in the country today as elsewhere across the globe acknowledging the contributions, sacrifices and loves of mothers for their children.

Different organisations will hold different programmes marking the day with due reverence and gratitude to the mothers.

BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia in a statement yesterday wished all the mothers in the world and prayed for their happiness, peace and prosperity.

Azad Products (pvt) Limited will confer awards to successful mothers through a programme titled 'Ratnagarva Ma 2008' at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre at 5:00pm.

DORP and Bangladesh Mahila Sangbadik Forum jointly will organise a discussion at the National Press Club on 'Maternity allowance and the SWAPNA package in the national budget'.

Cambrian College will also hold a programme at the Bashundhara City where they would give a grand reception to the founder of the Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed Valerie Taylor and language veteran Abdul Matin.

Persons will confer reception to the mothers of the winners of art and writing competition at Bengal Gallery at 11:00am.

In commemoration of Mother's Day, Save the Children published its tenth annual report on State of the World Mothers Report 2009.

Sweden, Norway and Australia top the ranking in the report this year. The top 10 countries, in general, attain very high scores for health, educational and economic status of mothers and children. Niger ranks last among the 158 countries surveyed.

Three bombs recovered in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered three hand-made bombs in front of the entrance of Stamford University at Siddheswari in the city yesterday morning.

On receiving information, Patrol Sub-inspector (PSI) Dalil Uddin of Siddeswari police outpost rushed to the spot and found the three bombs lying on the road around 8:30am.

The bombs were then carried in a bucket full of water to the Ramna Police Station. Later, they were handed over to the Bomb Disposal Unit of Detective Branch (DB).

The Bomb Disposal Unit personnel defused the bombs last night, said SI Mohammad Kamrul Islam of DB.

Foreign forces being invited in search of militants

Alleges Nizami

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Motiur Rahman Nizami yesterday said a certain quarter is inviting foreign forces to Bangladesh in search of militants mentioning the country's inability to fight against militancy.

The Jamaat chief was addressing a council of Bangladesh Islamic Lawyers Association (BILA) as chief guest at Diploma Engineers' Institute in the capital yesterday morning.

He said besides Jamaat-e-Islami, the whole nation would be harmed by the activities of any foreign force if they come here in search of militants like Iraq and Afghanistan.

Nizami also alleged that a number of Indian intellectuals have been trying to label Bangladesh as 'next Afghanistan'.

"After the 9/11, foreign forces cracked down on Afghanistan and then Iraq. Now it is heard that they are in search of another Muslim state," the Jamaat Ameer said.

About the BDR carnage, he said, "The government should have got hints about the incidents. If so then why did not they take any preventive measures or if they were not informed by the intelligence agencies then it is the failure of the agencies and the government as well."

He urged the government to make public the reports of the probe committees, which are investigating the BDR incident. Questions arise in people's mind as the government is extending the deadlines for publishing report, he said.

Commenting on the withdrawal of the appeal against the High Court verdict that made the 5th amendment of the constitution illegal, Nizami said, "The verdict means all the governments that ruled the country since 1975 would be illegal and the present government as well."

The country would then fall into a crisis, he added.

Presided over by BILA president advocate Md Nawab Ali, BILA vice president and Jamaat leader barrister Abdur Razzak also addressed the council.

STATE OF WORLD'S MOTHERS REPORT

Bangladesh 57th among 100 nations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh ranks 57th in the first ever index of 100 developing nations in preparing young children to succeed in school, according to the State of the World's Mothers 2009 report published by Save the Children (SC).

The SC report issued yesterday shows that Bangladesh doing well, ahead of Iraq and Bhutan but behind India.

The report presents a first ever index of 100 developing nations ranked on how well prepared their youngest children are to succeed in school.

Cuba leads the developing countries in preparing young children to succeed in school and Sweden tops the list of wealthiest nations in its commitment to early childhood development.

The report includes a report card comparing 25 wealthy nations on how they meet 10 key benchmarks of early childhood development. Sweden

meets all 10, while Canada and Ireland meet only one.

"Comprehensive early childhood development programmes, starting in infancy, can put millions of children on the path to school success," said Kellend Stevenson, Bangladesh country director of Save the Children USA.

There are simple steps that parents and caregivers, even the poorest, can do to help babies and toddlers grow up healthier, do well in school and reach their full potential, Kellend added.

The report's 'School Success Index for Developing Countries' is based on an analysis of key indicators of early childhood growth and development that together are highly predictive of completion of primary school.

The indicators include a country's under 5 survival rate, grade-one repetition rate, female literacy rate and total fertility rate.

Place right people in right positions

Physicians urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Physicians yesterday urged the government to place the right people in the right positions and recruit more doctors to fill up the vacant posts.

They made the call at the 5th National Conference and Annual General Meeting of Doctors for Health and Environment at the National Planning and Development Academy in the city.

The conference was held with the slogan 'Let us be united against all irregularities and corruptions in medical education and profession'.

Highlighting the malpractices that took place during the last couple of years the physicians said they are watching whether the present government is following people-

friendly and service-oriented policy in addressing the health issues.

They also talked on medical education, health policy, medical ethics and pro-poor health service.

Former president of Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) Prof Abul Kashem was present at the conference as chief guest while former secretary general of BMA Dr Sarwar Ali as special guest.

Former vice-chancellor of BSMMU Prof Mahmud Hasan, General Secretary of Health Rights Movement Dr Netai Das, Prof Ashrafuzzaman Selim of Krishibid Union, Dr MA Matin of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon also spoke.

The programme was presided over by President of Doctors for Health and Environment Prof Rashid E Mahbub.



PHOTO: STAR

A girl shows a bottle filled with stinky water supplied by Wasa during a demonstration organised by the Citizens' Rights Movement at Shahbagh in the city yesterday. The demonstrators demanded immediate steps to ensure supply of safe water.

A mother's mission impossible accomplished

FROM PAGE 16

It all started on August 27, 2001 with a gas cylinder explosion at the kitchen of their sprawling Tongi house. The fire left Monika, who just finished her master's in sociology from Dhaka University, badly burnt and barely alive.

Shelfali was out with her film producer husband Mohammad Iqbal to run errands when the accident occurred. They rushed home, starting a long ordeal of the family of three.

Monika was brought to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) with an incredible 70 percent burn injury. Usually, doctors see little hopes of survival for patients with injuries 30 percent or beyond.

"I'm sorry, but you take mental preparation. She is not going to survive," Iqbal yesterday recalled a Dr Sen telling him at DMCH upon examination on Monika, whose non-stop screaming with unexplainable pain had turned into a whimper by then.

She was all bandaged, and her parents kept her on her feet holding her hands tight. She was not allowed to lie down or free her hands from their grips, as it would aggravate the injuries.

Monika managed to cling on to her life without losing her consciousness or drifting off to sleep at a hospital that lacked an intensive care unit for burn patients and proper medicine. With odds heavily stacked against them, Shelfali refused to

say it's over, inspiring her family to take Monika to Bumrungrad Hospital in Bangkok where, they were told, serious burn treatment could be possible.

But they could not get Monika aboard a Bangkok plane before September 17. Sitting at Monika's Kitchen now, Shelfali can still remember the 21 days of unbearable sufferings at DMCH -- memories she wants to forget, all in vain though.

"I cannot forget a single moment of Monika's struggle, her face contorting in severe pain," Shelfali told The Daily Star in Bangkok.

"How could I sleep?" she asked.

Hours, days dragged on. But she could not shut her eyes for sleep. "I dozed a little at times. But I had to stay up, holding hands of my baby."

Though in dreadful pain, Monika had noticed how her simple Ma-Moni, as she called her mother, taking out the last ounce of her energy to keep her alive.

"My Ma-Moni stayed standing beside me for 21 days," Monika told this correspondent in Dhaka yesterday. "She was tired so much so that once Ma-Moni dozed off while giving water to my mouth in a spoon."

Monika returned to Bangladesh at the end of 2007 fully treated, but not before completing an MBA degree from the prestigious National Institute of Development Administration (NIDA) in Thailand.

"Ma-Moni made all these

possible," said Monika, her voice thick with emotions. Shelfali transformed herself from a simple housewife into an incredible woman to make an impossible possible in over half a decade in Thailand.

The moment they landed at Bangkok, the Bumrungrad authorities took over Monika's charge. A special cabin was set up for her on the 10th floor to begin a prolonged treatment. Medicare was not in short supply but it was too costly, forcing Monika's father to fly home and arrange fresh fund. There were days when about 1 lakh bahts were spent a day.

Her dressing was changed regularly, peeling off the temporary skins. They had to peel off the skins like a sacrificial animal during Eid. I used to shout at top of my voice, with my Ma-Moni holding me tight in a strong grip," Monika recalled.

To save money, the parents used to do all possible austerities. They slept on hospital sofas for two and a half years, shared a single meal and skipped almost every necessary expense. But that was not enough to foot the astronomical medical bills.

However, Shelfali soon became a well-known person among doctors, hospital staff and patients. Her never-say-over battle turned into the most-talked-about subject in the hospital arena. Everybody was willing to help her in one way or the other. She also became a source of inspiration for Bangladeshi patients there.

No militants in country

Says Ershad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad yesterday said there are no militants in the country at present.

But the country's image is being tarnished abroad due to a propaganda that there are militant activities in the country, he said while exchanging views with reporters at a press conference in Chittagong in the evening.

Earlier, Ershad attended the biennial conference of Jatiya Mahila Party, Chittagong city unit, at a community centre.

Ershad also expressed his concern over the deteriorating law and order situation.

He, however, lauded the government for taking steps to control the prices of essentials and ensure food security.

Termining power crisis a major problem, the JP chief urged the government to take immediate steps to address it.

Although the power crisis was created due to the lack of initiative on the part of the previous BNP-led four-party alliance government and it is quite difficult for a four-month-old government to resolve the issue immediately, steps should be taken to address it with utmost priority, he said.

Stressing the need for decentralisation of the administration, Ershad criticised the government decision to give more power to lawmakers to oversee the activities of upazila chairmen.

Youth killed, Jubo League leader shot in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An unidentified youth was killed and a ward level leader of Jubo League sustained bullet injuries in separate incidents at Mohanpur in the city last night.

Police recovered the body of an unidentified youth aged about 30 from Basila at around 8:00pm and sent the body to Dhaka Medical College Morgue for autopsy.

Police said the body had several marks of injuries and its throat was tied with cloth. Killers might have killed the youth somewhere else and dumped the body there, they added.

And the injured Jubo League leader was identified as Monjurul Hasan Mintu, 23, organising secretary of ward-41.

Locals found Hasan in bullet-injured state in Babar road and rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital around 9:30pm.

Later, relatives of the injured shifted him to Square Hospital where he was undergoing treatment.

Farida Akhter, sister of Hasan, told The Daily Star that in the evening some youths called him out from house to attend a bridal party.



Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

There are chances of rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind at one or two places over Sylhet and Rajshahi divisions and the regions of Tangail and Mymensingh.

Prevailing severe heat wave over Khulna division and the regions of Rajshahi, Ishwardi and Faridpur and mild to moderate heat wave over Dhaka division and the region of Bogra.

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

The sun sets in the capital at 6:32pm today and rises at 5:18am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 43.2 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 22.0 degrees Celsius at Sylhet.

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

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	37.8	27.4	69	62
Chittagong	32.8	27.5	75	76
Rajshahi	41.8	26.2	71	31
Khulna	40.3	27.6	70	60
Barisal	35.6	27.5	75	57
Sylhet	33.8	22.0	68	69
Cox's Bazar	35.3	27.2	70	71

DHAKA TODAY

Roundtable

Sawgat Foundation organises a discussion on 'extremism -- causes and remedies'. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 3:00pm.

Quiz competition

The grand finale of the 'Citi Financial Quiz Competition 2008' will be held. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 5:00pm.

Seminar

ICMAB organises a seminar on 'cost audit -- an effective tool of corporate governance'. Venue: Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre. Time: 8:30am.

Workshop

Bangladesh Association for Social Advancement organises a workshop on 'Ecological sanitation: Issues and prospects in Bangladesh'. Venue: DPHE auditorium. Time: 10:30am.

Roundtable

The weekly magazine Shaptak organises a roundtable on 'Hepatitis'. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:00am.