

10 killed in road crashes

METRO DESK

Five people were killed in separate road accidents in Gaibandha, Satkhira, Tangail and Sylhet in last two days.

Our correspondent in Gaibandha reports: Two people were killed and five others injured in a road accident at Palashbari on Rangpur-Bogra highway in Gaibandha yesterday.

The dead were identified as Tafazzal Hossain, 50, and Tara Mia, 51.

Police said the accident occurred when a speeding truck rammed a roadside tree. It also hit five bystanders.

The injured were treated at Palashbari health complex. Police seized the truck, but

its driver and helper managed to flee.

Our correspondent in Satkhira adds: A day labourer, who was seriously injured in a road accident near Kulia Eidgah on Satkhira-Kaliganj road under Debbata upazila in Satkhira on Friday, succumbed to his injuries at Satkhira sadar hospital yesterday.

The dead was identified as Khairul Islam, 38.

Quoting locals police said the accident occurred when a motorcycle hit the victim while he was crossing the road at around 4:00pm, leaving him seriously injured.

He was taken to Shakhipur hospital and later shifted to Satkhira sadar hospital where

he succumbed to his injuries.

Our correspondent in Tangail adds: Two people were killed and 30 others injured in a road accident at Delduar upazila in Tangail yesterday.

One of the dead was identified as Kamal Hossain, 38, and other could not be known immediately.

Police and witnesses said the accident occurred at around 9:45am when the driver of a Sirajganj-bound passenger bus skidded off the road and fell into a ditch on Dhaka-Tangail road at Natiapara, leaving two passengers dead on the spot and 30 others injured.

The injured were treated to Mirzapur Kumudini Hospital.

Staff correspondent in Sylhet adds: Five people were killed in a road accident at Burinao on Dhaka-Sylhet road under Nabiganj upazila in Habiganj on Friday.

Police and locals said the accident occurred when a Dhaka-bound passenger bus collided head-on with a speeding truck at about 6:00pm, leaving three dead on the spot and forty others injured.

The injured were admitted to Bahubal upazila health complex and Osmani Medical college hospital.

Two of the injured succumbed to their injuries at Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital.



Local people recover the bodies of five members of a family killed in a head-on collision between a truck and a taxicab in front of Birulia Pump House at Pallabi Beribadh in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 16)

30 Hizb-ut men sent to jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The thirty activists of Hizb-ut Tahrir, who were arrested near Baitul Mukarram National Mosque on Friday, were sent to jail after they were produced before a court in the city yesterday.

Court sources said Paltan police produced the Hizb-ut men before the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM) Dr Abdul Mazid with a prayer not to award them bail for the sake of proper investigation into the charges brought against them.

Paltan police brought charges against the Tahrir men of unlawful gathering near the mosque, barring police from discharging their duty and torturing the law enforcers.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) Muhammad Mujibur Rahman of Paltan Police Station said police are investigating the incidents if the Tahrir men had any plan behind the commemoration of the historic Badar Day.

The Tahrir men were holding a rally to commemorate the day, blocking the traffic on the road in front of the mosque in the afternoon.

On information, law enforcers and intelligence personnel cordoned off the area before the prayer time. They swooped on the activists and took away banners, festoons and leaflets from their possession when around 300 activists gathered outside the mosque.

A tussle ensued as some of the Hizb-ut men tried to free their fellows after they were caught by the law enforcers.



Swiss Environment Minister Moritz Leuenberger meets Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on the sidelines of the UN-sponsored conference on global climate change in Geneva, Switzerland, on Friday.

Forge people's unity to address Tipaimukh dam issue

Experts urge govt at roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government must invite the opposition to forge a people's unity to address the issue of India's proposed Tipaimukh dam, said noted experts at a roundtable yesterday.

The opposition too must go to parliament and raise its voice on the issue, they said at the roundtable titled 'Tipaimukh Dam/ Barrage: Overall impact on Bangladesh' organised by the Centre for Human Rights (CHR) at a city hotel.

Once implemented, the proposed dam on the river Barak will devastate not only the river system of Surma, Kushiara and Meghna in the northeast of Bangladesh but

Body to develop treatment protocol for H1N1 virus

BSS, Dhaka

The Directorate General of Health Service (DGHS) yesterday formed an 18-member committee to develop a treatment protocol for the pandemic H1N1 2009, which has already affected 281 people as of Friday and killed two persons since the first case detected on June 18 in Bangladesh.

"The committee represented by clinicians would submit its report in a couple of days," DGHS Director General Prof Dr Shah Monir Hossain told BSS after a meeting with clinicians of different hospitals in the city. Once the protocol is finalised, he said, it would be sent to all hospitals to provide treatment based on categories.

"It seems that the death caused from AH1N1, although a lab test has yet to be done," the DG said, adding that the people should not be panicked about the flu, virulence of which is not so fatal. Prof Monir said they have informally decided for clean guideline for treatment protocol, which will have three categories -- A, B and C -- to provide treatment of flu-affected people.

"Infected people of category A will have treatment at home, while category B will get antiviral drugs and category C patients will be admitted to hospital," he said, urging people to maintain personal hygiene.

The people who require a medical evaluation for pandemic virus are those who are short of breath or have difficulty in breathing or have risk factor for disease including pregnancy, diabetes, asthma, chronic heart disease, according to the guideline of the World Health Organisation.

also its ecology and economy, said the experts.

Former secretary M Asafuddinul Haque said, "The government has been silent on the issue of Tipaimukh dam with a kind of gratitude to India."

Naya Diganta Editor Alamgir Mohiuddin said the government should invite the opposition to forge a national movement against the proposed dam.

Former state minister for foreign affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury said the opposition must go to parliament and raise its voice against Tipaimukh project.

Prof Muzaffer Ahmad, chairman of an environmentalist movement Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon, said they arranged an international conference on Tipaimukh issue in 2005 which was attended by environmentalists from India, Nepal and Bhutan.

"Though the then water resources minister Maj (ret'd) Hafizuddin Ahmed consented to inaugurate the conference, he did not turn up at last," he said.

"Awami League lawmaker Abdur Razzaq too, who headed a parliamentary delegation to Tipaimukh recently, has forgotten his solidarity that he expressed with the conference at that time," he said.

"Tipaimukh should not be a political issue," said Prof Ahmed, adding, "It is going to be a life and death question for Bangladeshis people."

It is unfortunate that Bangladesh has not yet been able to sufficiently clarify its official position on the proposed dam, said Barrister

Abdur Razzaq, CHR secretary general who moderated the conference.

Dr SI Khan, an environmental scientist and former UN consultant, said Bangladesh needs adequate water in the rivers to prevent intrusion of saline water, recharge groundwater table and stop desertification.

Former vice-chancellor of Dhaka University Prof Emajuddin Ahmed said Tipaimukh issue should be resolved with a regional approach under a multilateral framework of the Saarc.

Prof Asif Nazrul of Dhaka University said India's unilateral approach to Tipaimukh dam is a violation of article 9 of Ganges Water Sharing Treaty, 1996.

International conventions on biodiversity, climate change and heritage may also be applied as customary laws to address the Tipaimukh issue, he added.

M Abdur Rouf Chowdhury, FBCCI director and member of the Regulatory Reforms Commission, said the proposed dam poses security threats to water, food, economy and ecology of Bangladesh.

Former vice-chancellor of Dhaka University Prof Moniruzzaman Miah, former secretary Shamsur Mobin Chowdhury, former ambassador Masood Aziz, Editor and Publisher of the daily Amar Desh Mahmudur Rahman and Prof Mahub Ullah of Dhaka University were amongst a host of high-profile personalities who also spoke on the occasion.

Former chief justice Mahmudul Amin Choudhury presided over the roundtable.



Prof Ibrahim's anniversary of death today

BSS, Dhaka

Today is the 20th death anniversary of National Professor Dr Mohammad Ibrahim, founder of the Bangladesh Diabetic Association (BDA).

The BDA and its other organisations have chalked out various programmes, marking the day.

The programmes include offering ziarat and placing wreaths at 9:00am at the grave of Dr Ibrahim at Banani Graveyard, diabetic checking free of cost from 8:00am to 11:00am at 16 points in the city, including Shahbagh, (in front of National Museum), National Press Club, New Market, Lalbagh Fort, Mohammadpur Town Hall, Dhanmondi Rabintra Sarobar, Karwan Bazar (adjacent to Wasa Bhaban) and Gulistan (zero point).

Heart camp from 9:00am to 4:00pm at Ibrahim Cardiac Centre at Shahbagh, question-answer session and view exchange between patients and specialised doctors at 10:00am at Birdem auditorium and opening of emergency department at Birdem.

Prof Mohammed Noman

METRO DESK



Today is the 13th death anniversary of Prof Mohammed Noman, former vice-chancellor of Jahangirnagar University, says a press release.

On the occasion, Quarkhwan and milad mahfil will be held and food will be distributed among the orphans.

Prof Noman Smriti Foundation also chalked out elaborate programmes to observe the day.

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

Tohin Ahmed Bhuiyan

METRO DESK



Today is the fifth death anniversary of Tohin Ahmed Bhuiyan, son of Mostaque Ahmed Bhuiyan, principal officer of Bangladesh Krishi Bank at Head Office, says a press release.

All are requested to pray for eternal peace of the departed soul.

Qulkhwani

BSS, Dhaka

Qulkhwani of principal M Sadiq will be held at his residence in Lakshmipur tomorrow.

Sadiq, served as principle of Datapara Degree College in Lakshmipur from 1978 to 2008, passed away due to lung cancer at Japan-Bangladesh Hospital on Thursday at the age of 63.

He left behind his wife, six sons and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

DEATH OF SAIFUR RAHMAN

BNP observes 3-day mourning from today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP has announced a three-day mourning period beginning today in memory of its leader and former finance minister M Saifur Rahman, who died in a road accident yesterday.

During the period, party

Cop, journo blamed for mugging in Bogra

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

An assistant sub-inspector (AS) of Bogra Sadar Police Station and three local photojournalists have been accused of mugging Tk 22,000 from a hotel manager in the town.

Having a complaint from Zakiur Rahman, manager of Amjad Hotel, Police Super Md Humayun Kabir asked ASP Arifur Rahman Mandal of sadar circle to investigate the incident.

Sources said Iqbal Hossain, a fruit vendor of Lakshmikhola village under Shahjahanpur upazila, rented a hotel room on August 29 and spent the night there.

On August 30 his sister-in-law came to the town for Eid shopping and went to the hotel to meet him.

At that time ASI Mizan along with three photojournalists of local newspaper came to the hotel and beat Iqbal alleging that he and his sister-in-law were involved in illicit affair.

Mizan and his cohorts also threatened Zakiur and demanded Tk 50,000 in toll from him.

The manager gave Mizan Tk 22,000 from the cash box.

A photojournalist on condition of anonymity admitted the fact but when Mizan was contacted over cell phone he denied the incident and said it was stage-managed.

He also claimed that the journalists had implicated him in the incident.

flags will be hoisted at half-mast alongside black flags at the party offices across the country and a discussion and mald mahfil on September 8.

The party postponed its parliamentary party meeting, which was scheduled for last night. It also suspended today's protests against price hike of essentials in the capital and divisional headquarters.

Paying tribute to the late leader, a party worker yesterday said BNP without Saifur Rahman was unimaginable, despite all the controversial events involving him during the emergency period when the political parties went through crisis.

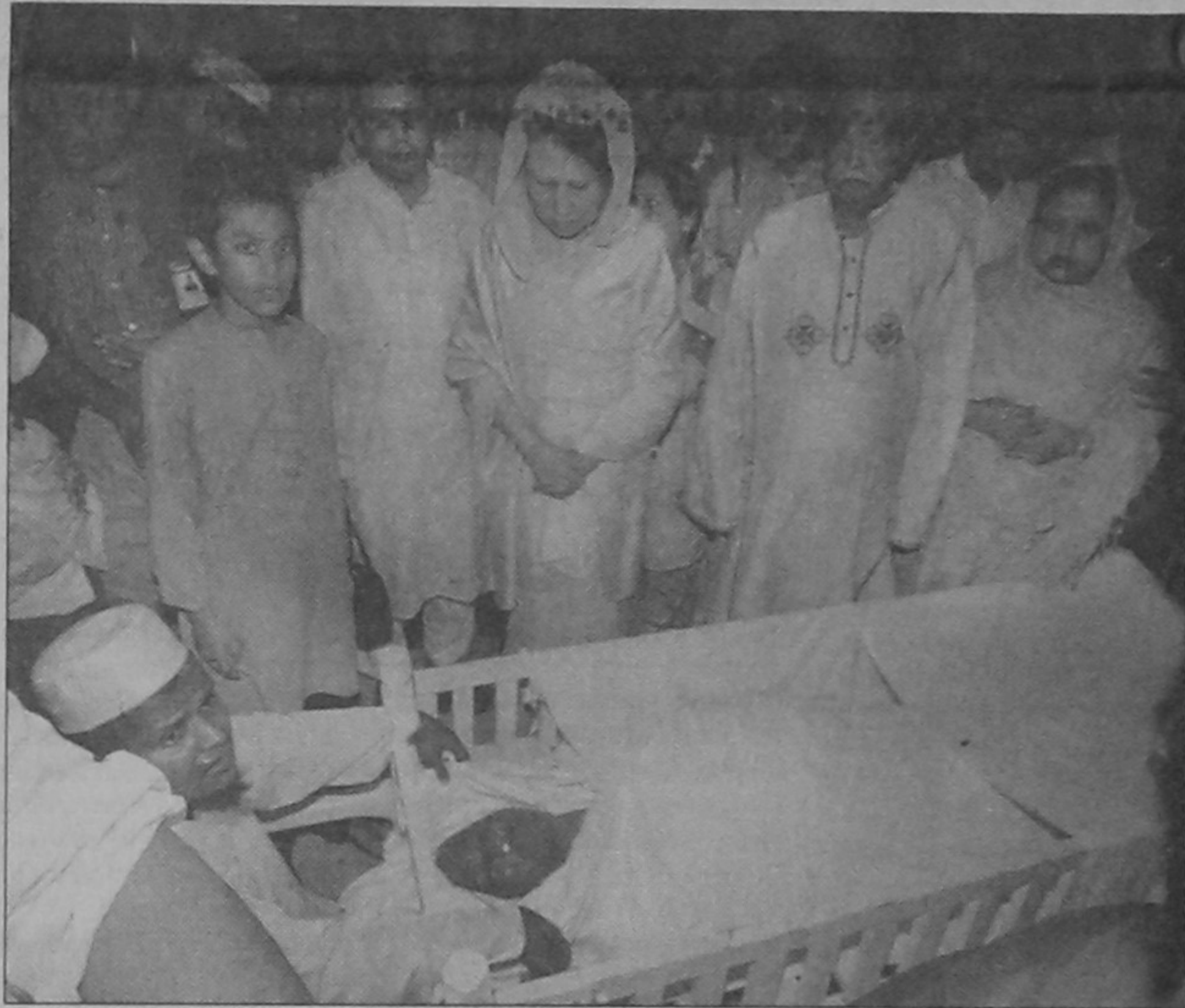
He (Saifur) played an important role as a close associate of late president Ziaur Rahman in floating the party and stood by the party chair-

person Khaleda Zia when many senior leaders deserted the party during the Ershad regime, the party leaders said.

"We are shocked at his death as he was one of the most senior leaders of the party. He worked for the country as well as the party with late president Ziaur Rahman and Khaleda Zia for a long time. His death has left a void in the party," said Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, a long-time party and cabinet colleague of Saifur Rahman.

His contribution to developing BNP as a major political party would be remembered forever, he added.

The party needs a dedicated leader like Saifur Rahman when it is undergoing a reorganising process, BNP's joint secretary general Nazrul Islam Khan said.



BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia pays last respect to former finance minister M Saifur Rahman at his residence at Gulshan in the city yesterday.

BNP leader Saifur's death condoled

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

President, speaker and deputy speaker of the parliament, leader of the opposition and leaders of different political parties yesterday expressed deep shock at the tragic death of the country's veteran political leader and longest-serving finance minister M Saifur Rahman.

They said a visionary political leader, noted economist and former minister Saifur's death is an irreparable loss to the nation.

Termining his death heartbroken and tragic, they also said Saifur was one of the doyens of the country's politics and economics, and people like him may not be born in near decades.

They also expressed deep condolences to the family members, political colleagues and leaders and workers of the political heavyweight and prayed for the salvation of his departed soul.

Expressing his profound shock, President Zillur Rahman in a condolence message said the country has lost a veteran politician and parliamentarian at Saifur's death.

The president prayed for peace of the departed soul and also expressed his sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

Speaker Abdul Hamid Advocate condoled the tragic death of the veteran leader. "His achievements regarding democracy and develop-

ment of the country would be remembered forever," he mentioned.

Deputy Speaker Shawkat Ali also expressed deep shock and sorrow at Saifur's death.

BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia expressed her deep shock at the death of her former political colleague.

In a condolence message, she said Saifur's tragic death had saddened her deeply. "The country has lost a dedicated politician with his sudden death and it's an irreparable loss to the nation," the messageread.

Khaleda termed Saifur a successful finance minister and experienced economist, saying that he had contributed a lot to the country's economic progress.

"His (Saifur's) farsighted thinking and plans accelerated the country's economic growth," she observed.

Acting President of Awami League (AL) Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury expressed her deep shock at the death of Saifur, a BNP standing committee member.

Sajeda, also the deputy leader of parliament, prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul and conveyed her deep sympathy to the bereaved family.

Acting General Secretary of AL Mahbubul Alam Hanif in a separate message also expressed condolence at the death of the astute politician.

BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain also condoled Saifur's death. In a message, he said the nation would recall his contribution to the country's economic development.

Jatiya Party Secretary General Ruhul Amin Hawlader on behalf of his party expressed deep shock and grief over the death of his political colleague.

"Irrespective of political beliefs and opinion, we all are stunned by his death. He was like a national leader who contributed a lot to the country's economy," he added.

Another AL leader Suranjit Sengupta also condoled his Saifur's death. In a message, he said there is no doubt that he was a great patriot and his death has caused an irreparable loss to the nation.

Communications Minister Syed Abul Hossain in a separate message also expressed deep shock at his tragic death.

Workers' Party of Bangladesh President Rashed Khan Menon MP and General Secretary Bimal Biswas termed the death of Saifur pathetic and sorrowful.

"He ran the finance ministry for the highest time as the finance minister and the country lost an efficient economist and political leader at his death," Menon and Biswas said in a joint message.

Jatiya Party (JP) Chairman Anwar Hossain Manju and Secretary General Sheikh Shahidul Islam said the country has lost a veteran politician

at his death.

Bangladesh Jatiya Party Chairman MA Matin and Secretary General Abu Naser Mohammad Rahmatullah said the nation has lost an experienced and noted politician at the death of Saifur.

Islami Oikya Jote Chairman Misbahur Rahman said Saifur was an outspoken and brave leader in the democratic movement.

Bangladesh Kalyan Party Chairman Syed Muhammad Ibrahim said Saifur is the only person who placed the highest number of budgets in parliament.

The US Embassy in Dhaka expressed profound shock at Saifur's death. In a condolence message, a spokesperson for the embassy said Saifur's critical role in improving the lives and bringing prosperity to millions of Bangladeshis by opening Bangladesh's economy and promoting free-market reforms.

Dhaka City Corporation Mayor Sadek Hossain Khoka condoled the death of Saifur and prayed for the salvation of his departed soul.

Top leaders of Gono Forum, Jatiya Samantantrik Dal, Progressive Democratic Party, National Awami Party (NAP), Youth Gono Forum, Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) in separate messages also condoled Saifur's death.



Fall in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at most places over all six divisions with heavy to very heavy falls at places in next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may fall by 1-2 degrees Celsius over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital at 7:12pm today and rises at 6:42am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 32.7 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sitakundu and lowest 24.7 degrees Celsius at Rangamati.

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	31.5	26.6	90	86
Chittagong	31.8	25.5	80	90
Rajshahi	31.0	26.0	89	76
Khulna	29.5	25.4	98	93
Barisal	30.5	25.2	87	92
Sylhet	32.6	26.8	92	80