



Swadesh Bose passes away

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dr Swadesh Bose, a renowned economist and organiser of the Liberation War, passed away at his residence in the city yesterday at the age of 81.

He had long been suffering from Parkinson's disease. He left behind his wife, a son, two daughters, two grandchildren and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death.

Born on January 2, 1928 at Kashipur in Barisal, Swadesh Bose was a member of the planning cell of the Mujibnagar government during the Liberation War. He also played active role in the anti-British movement and the language movement.

He was also the first acting director general of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS).

Swadesh Bose got involved in the students' movement in 1944 when he was a student of BM College in Barisal.

After the partition of the sub-continent in 1947, his family members and relatives had settled in India, but he did not leave the country.

In 1948, Swadesh Bose suffered imprisonment when he was only 20 for printing manifesto in support of the language movement in Barisal. The then Pakistan government had detained him in the jail for a total of eight years on charges of his involvement in various movements. He suffered inhumane torture in jail.

After his release from the jail in 1956, he completed his BA and MA in economics from the University of Dhaka.

Later, he got a job at the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics in Karachi in 1961 by dint of his outstanding merit.

He did his PhD at the Cambridge University on 'Economic Co-operation Among South Asian Countries'. He then tried to publish his thesis in the form of a book, but the then Pakistani government did not give permission.

Hearing the news of the death of Swadesh, his colleagues, political friends, relatives and admirers rushed to his residence at Dhanmondi to pay their last respects to him.

His funeral will be held after the arrival of his son and daughters from abroad. His body has been kept at the mortuary at Birdem Hospital.

In separate condolence messages, President Zillur Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed deep shock at the death of economist Swadesh Bose.

"Swadesh Bose raised his voice against discriminatory economic policy of the then Pakistani regime, which inspired the freedom-seeking people of the country," the president said.

The president and the prime minister also prayed for eternal peace of the departed soul and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family.

Acting president of Awami League Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, and leaders of Communist Party of Bangladesh, Ekkattar Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee and Bangladesh Nari Pragati Sangha also condoled the death of Swadesh Bose.

Potholed roads perennial problem for Shipahibagh-Meradia residents

HELEMU ALAM

Peyara, a 35-year-old woman, failed to buy food for their family on one Monday as the sale of tea at her small tea stall was very poor which was inadequate to arrange meals for her family.

The sale of goods at her shop, which was at Tk 1,000 to Tk 1,500 six months back, has come down to Tk 300 to Tk 400 due to waterlogging mixed with sewage round the clock and dilapidated condition of the road in front of the stall.

Peyara said as her husband has been suffering from diabetic and renal disorders for the last seven years, she has been maintaining her family since then.

"I'm now in dire financial straits as my income has dropped drastically since the last six months and now only the government can save us by repairing the road immediately," she said.

Like Peyara, every resident in the area has been suffering due to the damaged road from Shipahibagh Bazar to Meradia, which also remains under dirty water round the clock.

The condition of the road at Madhyapara lane and Bhuiyan Bari lane and Lalniya lane is worst as sewerage water comes on the road round the clock.

Local people said although the road was in bad shape over the years, it has become worse for last six months.

Ruma, a student of class-VI of Balin Kindergarten and High School at Meradia, said it takes more than 25 minutes to go to her school because of the run-down condition of the road and dirty water, although the school is within walking distance of her home.

Mohammad Rana, who reads in class six, has to go to his coaching centre. He said they often fall on the road due to its vulnerable condition.

The condition of the road is so bad that a rickshaw puller does not want to come here, said Md Hasan Kazi, a resident of Meradia.

A rickshaw puller now takes Tk 40 to go to Meradia bazar from Shipahibagh, instead of Tk 15 as regular fare.

Md Yasin, a goods supplier, said he has been suffering from skin disease in his leg due to dirty sewage. He now covers his both legs with polythene when he comes to the area.

Shipli, a supplier of Al Amin Beverage, said their supplies have been affected severely due to the worst condition of the road.

"We cannot supply soft drinks to meet the demand of the shops in the area due to the derelict condition of the road and half of the demand remains unfulfilled," he added.

Azibur Rahman, another resident of the area, said as four wheels (water bodies) of the area have been filled with dirt, the drainage system here has got blocked which is the main

reason of overflowing of sewage on the road.

Setting up of sewerage line under a planned way is necessary to resolve the problem, he suggested.

Dhaka City Corporation Councillor for Ward No. 26 Mamunur Rahman Fazu said DCC has taken a project worth Tk 11 crore to repair the road as well as to set up a drainage system.

The tender of the project was opened on August 20 and the evaluation of the tender is going on, he said.

The DCC councillor blamed filling of the nearby jheels as the main cause of waterlogging.

Fazu said they have taken a plan to set up a drain dividing it into two parts to save the residents.

One part of the drain will be connected to the river and the other part be connected with storm sewerage network of Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority, he added.

Bangabandhu memorabilia found at Dhaka University

DU CORRESPONDENT

Thirty-four years after the death of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the Dhaka University authorities found a citation, crests and casket, which were meant to be handed over to Bangabandhu at a meeting with the students and teachers scheduled for August 15 in 1975.

The wooden framed citation was found in a pile of files inside an almirah at a room of the administrative building on Wednesday and the crests and casket were found in a safe at the registrar's office yesterday.

DU Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique displayed the memorabilia at a press briefing at his office yesterday.

He said Bangabandhu was scheduled to deliver a speech before the teachers, students and employees of the university and exchange views with them at the programme at the Teacher-Student Centre (TSC). And the then vice chancellor Prof Abdul Matin Chowdhury was scheduled to read out the citation.

AKM Amir Hossain, a retired official of the university's council section, found out the citation on Wednesday while he was searching for some of his personal documents, Prof Arefin said.

Following his discovery, the VC took an initiative to find out the crests and the casket and gave an instruction to the officials who succeeded in retrieving them.

The memorabilia will be preserved at the university, Prof Arefin said. Later, their replicas would be handed over to different museums in the country.

The VC also said they have a plan to build a museum at the university to preserve things related to various democratic movements involving the teachers, students and employees.

He also said the contents of



PHOTO: COURTESY

The Dhaka University authorities found a citation, crests and casket, which were meant to be handed over to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at a meeting with the students and teachers scheduled for August 15 in 1975.

the citation reflected the overall social and political situation during that times.

Bangabandhu would have

been the first chancellor to visit the university if he could attend the programme. But he along with most of his family

members was assassinated at his Dhanmondi residence in the early hours of the same day.

JS reserved seats for indigenous women demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday demanded reserved seats in the Jatiya Sangsad for indigenous women from Chittagong Hill Tracts to ensure their political empowerment.

Representation of women from indigenous communities is absent in parliament, they said, adding that the major political parties are creating a barrier to ensuring their rights.

They also pointed out that the CHT Peace Accord has ensured women's membership in the Hill District Councils, but it has never been implemented.

Bangladesh Nari Pragati Sanga (BNPS) organised the seminar titled 'Status of women in the CHT Peace Accord' at the National Press Club in the city.

Speaking at the seminar, Justice Golam Rabbani called for constitutional recognition of indigenous people to ensure their basic rights.

He also suggested reviving the secular spirit of the constitution.

Rasheda K Chowdhury, former adviser to the caretaker government, said CHT is witnessing a surge in Islamist militancy, which must be curbed, as their first target is women.

Barrister Sara Hossain, a member of the CHT Commission, said there is an urgent need to activate the Special Tribunals to Prevent Violence against Women and

Children in the hill districts as well as providing training for law enforcement and judicial officers to sensitise them.

Mongol Kumar Chakma, information and publicity secretary of Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) presented the keynote paper.

He said the rights issues of hills women have a different dimension. They are very often subjected to communal violence, including rape, torture and murder, because of their ethnic identity.

The conservative Jumma society also deprives them of property rights, education and right to decision-making, increasing their dependency and vulnerability, he added.

Mongol Kumar also said seven out of ten women in the hills do not have access to education. There are only a few women headmen in the 300 mouzas in three hill districts.

He suggested incorporating the issues of Adivasi women into the National Women Development Policy in order to safeguard their rights.

Rokeya Kabir, executive director of BNPS, Omar Tareq Chowdhury, director of BNPS, Shaktipada Tripura, organising secretary, PCJSS, Prof Anwar Hossain, Prof Shamsul Arefin, Anjulika Khisha, and La Sing Nue, executive director of Bolipara Nari Kallyan Samity, Bandarban, also spoke.

Ameerah Haq made UN secy general's Special Representative for Timor-Leste

UNB, Dhaka

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has appointed Ameerah Haq of Bangladesh as his Special Representative for Timor-Leste and Head of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) to succeed Atul Khare of India.

She brings to the Mission extensive management and operational experience, particularly at the senior level, said a press release yesterday.

Haq most recently served as Deputy Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Sudan as well as the United Nations Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator for Sudan (2007-2009).

Before that she served as Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan, as well as the United Nations Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator for Afghanistan (2004-2007).

The release said that Ameerah Haq's broad management experience in supporting complex mission deployment activities will greatly contribute to her new role at UNMIT.

She was formerly the Deputy Assistant Administrator and Deputy Director of the Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery at United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Headquarters in New York.

She served as the United Nations Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Malaysia from 1994 to 1997 and in the same capacity in Laos from 1991 to 1994.

Haq worked in the Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific at UNDP Headquarters in various capacities from 1980-1990, which included responsibilities for aid coordination mechanisms and as Desk Officer for Thailand, Myanmar and Bhutan.

She also had an assignment with the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) from 1985 to 1987.

She started her career in 1976 as a Junior Professional Officer in Jakarta, Indonesia and was transferred to Afghanistan as Assistant Resident Representative in 1978.

Haq obtained master's degrees in community organisation and planning, and in business administration from Columbia University and New York University respectively.

She completed a Bachelor of Arts at Western College in Oxford, Ohio.

OBITUARY



Mr. Peter Alan Leggatt MBE, Director, Camellia Plc. UK breathed his last on November 28, 2009 in London. Born in September 1942, he was associated with Duncan Brothers (Bangladesh) Ltd since 1988. Prior to that he headed a consultancy team engaged by Bangladesh Tea Board for implementation of Bangladesh Tea Rehabilitation Project (BTRP) with financial and technical assistance from UK and EU. Mr. Leggatt was one of the architects of BTRP.

With the death of Mr. Leggatt, Duncans group has lost one of its pioneers while the tea industry of Bangladesh and the sub-continent has lost one of its well-wishers.

May his soul rest in peace.



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