

Include language martyrs' biographies in school curriculum

Family members demand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Family members of language martyrs yesterday demanded biography of language martyrs in the school curriculum to make the young generations informed about the contribution of the valiant fighters.

"We want people to know about the five language martyrs who laid down their lives for Bangla language movement. We want their biography to be included in the textbook," said Nurul Islam Badal, son of language movement martyr Abdul Jabbar.

Dhaka University Alumni Association and its US chapter jointly organised the view exchange meeting on the

present status of the family members of language movement martyrs at the Conference hall of Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Hall at Dhaka University.

"Most of our people, especially our farmers and labourers, do not know who are our language movement martyrs. Once they would know about the historical past of our martyrs, it would embolden their spirit," said Jute and Textile Minister Abdul Latif Siddiqui.

"Though we have got an independent Bangladesh, people are not yet respected here if they cannot speak in English," Latif said.

"I do not despise any particular language but no nation

would be able to achieve economic and cultural freedom if its people cannot express themselves in their mother tongue properly," he added.

"We have to stand against any kind of injustice holding our heads high. 'Ekush' does not mean to bow down our head," said Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique.

Language martyr Shafiur Rahman's son Shafiqur Rahman, martyr Rafiq Uddin Ahmed's brother Khorshed Alam, martyr Abul Barkat's nephew Alauddin Barkat Lala and Abdul Karim, brother of martyr Abdus Salam were present among other language-martyr family members.

MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY An occasion to honour Bangladeshis

Says Hillary

UNB, Dhaka

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on behalf of President Obama and the American people offered warm wishes to all those celebrating International Mother Language Day in Bangladesh and around the world on February 21.

"This is an occasion to honour the Bangladeshis who stood up for the right to speak and teach their own language," she said in a message on the occasion of the International Mother Language Day.

In the United States, Clinton said many Bangladeshi-Americans will gather with families and friends to celebrate their vibrant linguistic and cultural heritage.

She said, "It is a time when we remember the power of language - to tell us where we came from, to share our story with others, to persuade, to educate, and to preserve our cultures."

"Let us take this opportunity to reaffirm our respect for the great diversity of languages and cultures we see around the world and to working together to promote mutual understanding and cooperation," she added.

Muggers shoot husband, snatch wife's ornaments

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Armed criminals shot a man at his right knee and snatched ornaments from his wife while the couple was travelling in a rickshaw at Gaureshahid in city's Lalbagh yesterday.

Identified as Rezaul Karim, 35, of Hossaini Dalan area in Chawkbazar, the man was rushed to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital.

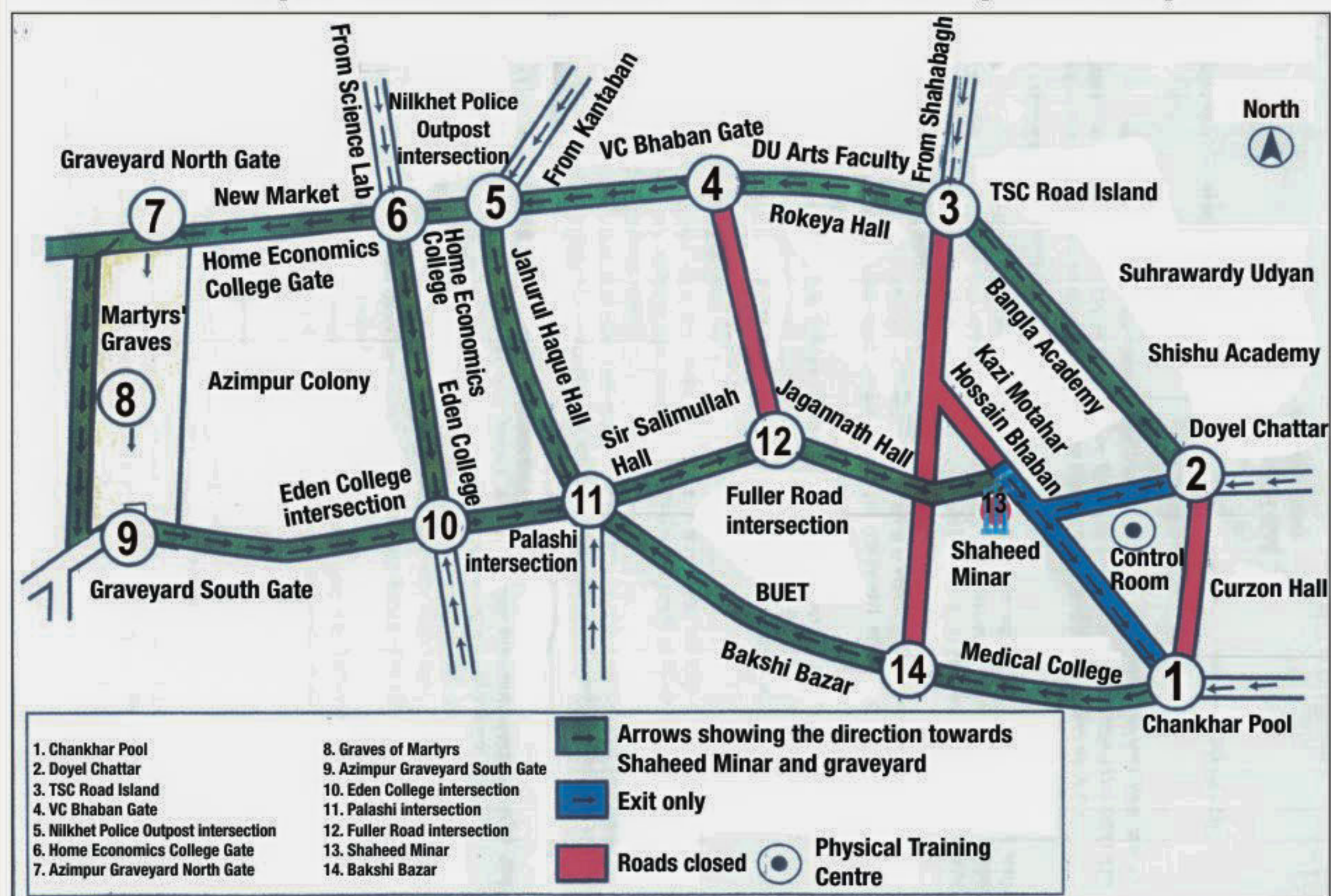
Rezaul's wife Fatema Begum told reporters at DMCH that a gang of three armed snatchers waylaid the couple at Gaureshahid area around 2:00 pm and snatched her necklace, earrings of imitation jewellery.

The snatchers opened fire at her husband's knee as he tried to resist them, Fatema said adding that no one from the area came to their aid.

The couple was going to attend a bridal party at Nawabganj in a rickshaw. Rezaul works in a private firm in Narayanganj, Fatema said.

Lalbagh police said they visited the spot and were trying to nab the snatchers.

Route Map of Central Shaheed Minar and Azimpur Graveyard



Dhaka University Central Coordination Committee has drawn up a route map for the people coming to Central Shaheed Minar and Azimpur Graveyard early tomorrow to pay tribute to the martyrs of language movement on the occasion of Amar Ekushey.

'Stop setting up industries in Bhawal forest'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) yesterday demanded putting an end to setting up of industries in the Bhawal forest in Gazipur.

They also demanded evicting all the industries from the forest immediately.

Addressing a rally at Shahbagh in the city, Vice President of Bapa and former adviser to a caretaker government ASM Shahjahan expressed grave concern over indiscriminate felling of trees in different forests across the country.

He urged everyone to be united to save the country's forests and ensure punishment to the culprits responsible for destroying the forests.

The speakers at the rally said around 300 factories and industries have been set up in the Bhawal forest in the last two decades violating rules since setting up of any structure in the 12,435 acres of land of the forest is totally illegal.

Neither the present government nor the previous ones did take any steps to this end, they added.

Due to indiscriminate felling of trees in the forest, many rare trees and animals have already gone extinct, they also said.

The speakers said felling of trees is not only going on in the Bhawal forest but also

in many parts of the country.

They said the government two days back decided not to legalise the factories and industries constructed in the Bhawal forest, which is no effective step. Rather, the government should have taken steps to remove the industries from the forest, which is their main responsibility.

Chief Executive of Nagarik Uddyog Jakir Hossain, Joint Secretaries of Bapa Mihir Biswas, Iqbal Habib and Salma A Shafi, Dr Mahbub Hossain of Asia Pacific University, Director of Seba Dr Md Nuruddin and Secretary General of PEACE Ifma Hossain also spoke.

Construction worker dies in rooftop fall

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A construction worker died after falling from the rooftop of an underconstruction building at Mohammadpur in the city yesterday.

The victim, Al-Amin, 22, was a construction worker of Hawlader Builders Ltd. at Mohammadia Housing Ltd. He hailed from Barisal.

Al-Amin fell from the rooftop of a four-storey building when he was setting rods for the construction of roof at about 3:00pm, his co-worker Manik said.

He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead.

Mohammadpur police said they found no safety measures in the underconstruction building.



PHOTO: STAR

An army man uses a metal detector on the Central Shaheed Minar premises in the city yesterday as part of beefed up security measures ahead of Amar Ekushey.

50pc of public hospital diets being wasted

Says study

BSS, Dhaka

Half of the diets served free of cost in public and specialised hospitals is being wasted, reveals a study.

Almost an 80 percent budget increase for therapeutic food has yielded little results due to mismanagement and 'syndicated' corruption, it said.

The quality of the hospital diets has hardly improved even after per capita budget was raised to Tk 75 from Tk 42 by the government in 2008, The Bangladesh Health Watch (BHW) said in its annual report on health sector performance for 2009.

The study was conducted on more than 250 patients in six medical colleges, and six district and three specialised hospitals.

The report said a big mismatch was found between the quantity of food supplied and consumption of food items.

Food is not palatable due to excessive use of water or lack of salt and oil and that menu is often monotonous, the report quoted several patients as saying.

Although some people, especially very poorer segment, has expressed satisfaction over quality and quantity of hospital food, their statements were overshadowed by the dissatisfaction of the majority, who claimed they lost their appetite in hospitals due to 'poor quality' of foods. And this leads to poor consumption and huge wastes of hospital food, the report said.

The study, which looked into efficient dietary management over people with five diseases such as diabetes, coronary heart disease, renal failure, liver diseases and severe protein energy malnutrition, found that the recommended dietary allowance (RDA) was seldom followed in the hospitals.

It also found that the diabetic patients were supplied with 25 percent less carbohydrate than the RDA, and intake of the food by patients was even lower. And these two factors together have led to a total shortfall of 55 percent of food intake than the RDA.

The supply of protein was 34 percent higher, but the status of fat content in the diet is frustrating, the report said.

"A diabetic patient on an average was given 1,114 kilo calorie for energy, but the consumption was only 633 Kcal, causing wastage of 481 Kcal for each person," it added.

The study found that high protein food has adversely affected coronary heart patients. On the other hand, supply of nutrients was substantially lower than the recommended one.

The kidney patients became the worst victims of therapeutic food in public hospitals, the study revealed. "The kidney patients in the hospitals were oversupplied with protein, nearly six times the RDA."

The journey of a thousand miles starts with a single step...
-Lao Tzu



Admission Announcement

For Play Group to Class 1
July 2010 - June 2011 session

Admission Form is available from
15 February 2010
8:30am to 4:00pm
(Saturday to Thursday)

Last date to submit application: **14 March 2010**



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