

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

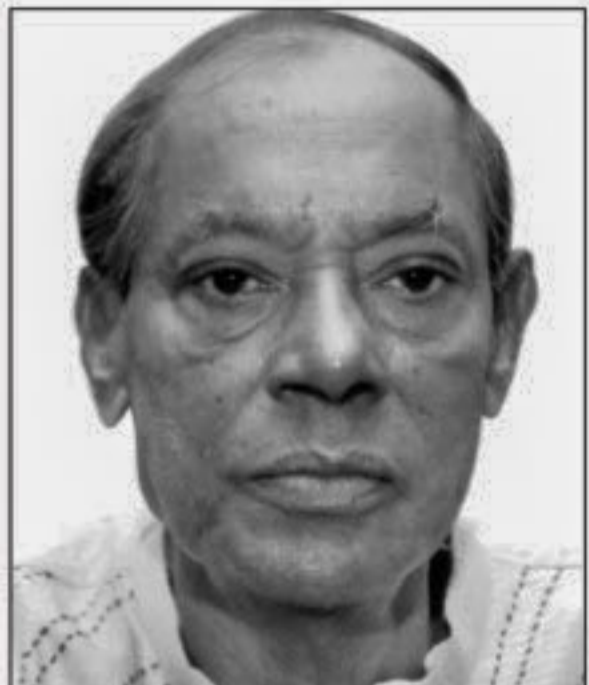


Abu Khaled Al-Mamun, former commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP),

passed away due to diabetes and kidney problems at his residence at Mohakhali DOHS yesterday at the age of 70, says a press release.

His namaz-e-janaza was held at the Rajarbagh police line mosque after Zohr prayers.

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Nur Mohammad and former IGPs MA Khalek, Mohammad Nurul Huda, Ashrafal Huda and DMP Commissioner AKM Shahidul Haque attended the janaza.



First death anniversary of Dr Wazed Miah today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the first death anniversary of Dr MA Wazed Miah, an eminent scientist and the husband of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

He passed away on this day last year at the Square Hospital in the city after a prolonged battle with multiple illnesses.

Dr Wazed was an internationally renowned nuclear scientist and a former chief of Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission.

He authored many books, including 'Fundamentals of Thermodynamics' and 'Fundamentals of Electromagnetics', and obtained PhD degree from the Imperial College in London. He got married to Hasina in 1968.

Born on February 16, 1942 at Fatehpur village of Pirganj upazila in Rangpur, Dr Wazed was the youngest among four brothers and three sisters.

He lived a quiet life in Sudha Sadan after his retirement. He was also known among relatives and friends as 'Sudha Miah'.

On the occasion of his death anniversary, Sheikh Russel Shishu Sangsad will launch a website today containing information about the life and works of its founder Dr Wazed.

State Minister for Home Shamsul Haque Tuku will inaugurate the website -- www.wazedmiah.org.

Sheikh Shishu Sangsad will also arrange a special prayer at the shrines of Hazrat Shah Jalal and Hazrat Shah Poran in Sylhet.

Meanwhile, Jatiya Samanitta Unnayan Foundation held a discussion and a doa mahfil in memory of Dr Wazed, who was the founder and chief adviser of the organization, at Shilpakala Academy.

Speakers at the discussion said Dr Wazed 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.

Speaking as the chief guest, Foreign Minister Dipu Moni said that although Dr Wazed spent his life standing next to the people in the centre of power, he never used that privilege.

This is a very rare example in the world we live in, she said.

Jagannath University Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Mesbah Uddin Ahmed delivered the keynote speech. State Minister for Religious Affairs Shahjahan Miah, Chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on establishment ministry Asaduzzaman, Dhaka University teacher Shafiq Ahmed Siddiqui and AL leader Abdul Haque Sabuj also spoke.

Shoebuddin Chowdhury

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the first death anniversary of MA Wazed Miah. Shoebuddin Chowdhury (Bhuttu), son of late Alhaj AK MD Shamsuddin Chowdhury of Uliana, Barisal, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at his residence at Dhanmondi in the city after Asr prayers today.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers have been requested to attend the milad and pray for salvation of his departed soul.

Spread cultural practices to keep young generation on right path: PM

University like Shantiniketan to be set up in Shahjadpur and Shilaidaha

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged the cultural activists to spread cultural practices among the young generation so they do not go astray.

"Spread the cultural practices among the new generation to keep them on the path of a brighter way of life," she said while inaugurating the 149th birth anniversary of Nobel Laureate poet Rabindranath Tagore at the national level at a function at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium.

Information and Cultural Affairs Minister Abul Kalam Azad presided over the function with State Minister for Cultural Affairs Advocate Promod Mankin as the special guest.

Cultural Affairs Secretary Hedayetullah Al Mamun gave the welcome address while Dr Fakhru Alam of Dhaka University delivered the Rabindra memorial lecture.

The PM said the new generation is now busy with other things rather than practicing culture.

In this connection, she mentioned that some among the young generation are addicted to drugs while some others engaged in money making at any cost.

Stressing the need for bringing such errant members of the young generation back to the brighter side of life, she said there is no other way but to engage them in cultural activities.

Hasina said her government would provide all sorts of cooperation to spread cultural activities across the country for putting the young generation on the right track.

She said Rabindranath is omnipresent in all areas for the Bengali nation. "We find him and his literature in all our day to day activities. We find him and his works in peace, happiness and depression; we find him in agitation and revolution."

She said the appeal of the literature of Rabindranath is still very fresh in the lives of the Bangladeshis.

"We can feel his literature in all ages of our lives," she said adding that the works of

Rabindranath is for all irrespective of ages and religion.

Hasina said he (Tagore) established the Bengali language and Bengali nation in the world arena with his great creation 'Geetanjali'.

In this regard, she mentioned that father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was the other person who established Bengali nation in the world arena apart from Rabindranath.

She also noted that poet Kazi Nazrul Islam was the creator of the slogan 'Joy Bangla'.

Hasina regretted that some narrow minded people often bring religion and race of Rabindranath to undermine his contribution to the Bengali literature and his works for the Bengali nation.

"It is our great sorrow that some of us judge him by his religion, we have to shun this mindset," she said.

She said it is difficult for a person in Bangladesh to move ahead without Rabindranath.

She said her government has taken an

initiative to set up a university like Shantiniketan in Shahjadpur and Shilaidaha for preservation and practices of and research on Rabindranath Tagore and his works.

She urged the researchers to delve deeper into other activities of Rabindranath except his literary works.

"We always go for research on his literature, but he had done a lot for the welfare of the people of this land. We've to bring those in the spotlight," she said.

Hasina said Rabindranath was also the pioneer in introducing micro-credit in this region and spent all the money he received from Nobel Prize on this venture.

She said it was with Rabindranath Tagore's literature that the nation could stand up with great pride in the world arena.

"Let me assure you, in the near future we'll also stand up with great pride in the world arena after establishing ourselves economically... this government has taken so many initiatives in this respect."



UK ELECTION

Rehana's daughter Tulip elected councillor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rezwana Siddiq Tulip, eldest daughter of Sheikh Rehana and granddaughter of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, was elected a councillor of the Regent's Park ward in the UK election on Thursday.

She contested the election as a Labour party candidate, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's Deputy Press Secretary Mahbubul Hoque Shakil told The Daily Star yesterday.

Regent's Park is a suburb of Southampton in England. Tulip is also the national BAME officer for Young Labour.

SYLHET CLASH

JCD cadres yet to be held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The law enforcers are yet to arrest the armed cadres of Jatiyatobadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) who brandished firearms during Thursday's clashes between two factions of BNP in Sylhet city.

The police said they have already identified them and raided the houses of the armed cadres several times in the last two days, but to no avail.

Dr Aftab Ahmed, commissioner of Sylhet Metropolitan Police, told The Daily Star that the detective branch had also conducted raids simultaneously on Rainagar, Upashahar, Darjibond, Agpara and Dakshin Surma areas but could not nab anyone, as the cadres have gone into hiding.

Plain-clothes policemen have been deployed to arrest the culprits whenever they attempt to return to their houses, he added.

Rufia Begum has filed a case against 13 JCD leaders and activists for killing her son, Sajju Ahmed, who was stabbed to death in the wake of Thursday's violence.

The accused are JCD Vice President Siddiqur Rahman Paplu, unit president of Sylhet Government College Abdur Mahub Chowdhury, Syed Shafek Mahub, Rezaul Karim Nachon, Mahbubul Haque Chowdhury, Sayeed Ahmed, Fokhrul Islam, Kohinur Ahmed, Mamun, Kabir Ahmed, Shahab Uddin, Zahed Ahmed and Sarwar Ahmed.

SI GAUTAM MURDER

Fair probe, trial of killers demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Family members, relatives and well-wishers of slain police officer Gautam Roy yesterday formed a human chain in front of the Jatiya Press Club demanding proper investigation into the murder and the trial of the killers.

In an hour-long programme, Gautam's family members said a kind of anxiety over fair trial of the killing has been raised among people's mind due to the arrest game of Rapid Action Battalion and police.

They also expressed their concern whether the trial would ever be held or not.

They called for ensuring security of the family members and urged the prime minister to take the responsibility of the education expenses of Gautam's children.

Gaurab Roy, lone son of the deceased, attended the programme with a festoon demanding trial of his father's killers.

Robbery at Kamrangirchar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A gang of robbers looted 30 tolas of gold ornaments from a house at Kamrangirchar in the city yesterday.

Locals caught two of the robbers while fleeing and handed them over to police.

Police said a gang of around 25 robbers broke into the house of Ebar Ali, a land broker, at Nayagaon in the area around 3:00am, and looted Tk 2 lakh in cash and 30 tolas of gold ornaments.

Police said the robbers stormed into the house and held the inmates of the house hostage at firearms and sharp weapons and broke open the lockers.



Alleged mutineers of the Rifles Security Unit were produced before the BDR special court at Pilkhana in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

2 buses damaged over fare

DU CORRESPONDENT

A group of students of Dhaka University wrecked two buses yesterday afternoon following a row with transport workers over fare in the morning.

Some 20 to 25 students shattered the windscreens and headlights of the buses of Falgun Paribahan at Mall Chatter around 1:30pm as four students were refused a ride and were compelled to get off the bus at city's Malibagh in the morning.

Sources said students, mainly from the Faculty of Business Studies, got on the buses at Nilkhet intersection and forced the drivers to drive to the campus where they vandalised the vehicles.

Police and members of the proctor's office rushed to the spot immediately and brought the situation under control. Police held two students for

their involvement with the violence.

The arrestees Amir Hamza Prince and Mahin, both students of the Faculty of Business Studies, said they boarded a bus at Malibagh, without tickets, as there were no counters nearby.

"The ticket-collector and another staff of the bus forced us to get off when we were half a kilometre away from Malibagh though we tried to convince them we would buy the tickets from the nearest counter," said Mahin.

Driver Sumon said, "All of a sudden, some students got on my bus at Nilkhet and ordered me to drive towards the campus where they wrecked it."

DU Proctor KM Saiful Islam said the students who participated in the violence are non-resident students and action would be taken against them if found guilty.

Land acquisitions increase poverty

Speakers tell Prothom Alo roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tardy compensation and insensitive rehabilitation increase poverty and sufferings of the people displaced by land acquisitions for various development projects, speakers said yesterday at a roundtable in the city.

The daily Prothom Alo and Brac University's Development Institute jointly organised the roundtable titled 'Infrastructure Development and People: Rehabilitation Challenge' at Prothom Alo seminar room.

"Past experiences show that land acquisitions increase poverty," said Syed Ziauddin Ahmed, director of Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC).

The government must always avoid acquiring more lands than actually required for a project, he said. "Land acquisition is a psychological trauma that people suffer after being displaced from their ancestral property and homesteads," said Dr Ainun Nishat, vice-chancellor of Brac University.

An estimated total of 1.25 lakh families will be displaced to imple-

ment the Padma Bridge and open pit coal mining in Fulbari, said the speakers.

The government must immediately finalise the draft national policy on involuntary resettlement in consultation with the affected people and

ensure adequate and timely compensation to the genuine affected landowners, they said.

The government has to set up an easy compensation system so that the people affected by land acquisitions do not have to run after the authori-

ties, said former public works secretary Rashidul Hai.

Authorities should take local people's opinions and digitise land records to ascertain land ownership for speedy delivery of compensation, he said.



Dr Ainun Nishat, vice-chancellor of Brac University, speaks at a roundtable at the Prothom Alo seminar room yesterday.

WEATHER TODAY

Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Sylhet, Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions in next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may rise slightly over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:31pm today and rises at 5:19am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 35.5 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Mongla and lowest 21.0 degrees Celsius at Rajshahi and Satkhira.

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	32.4	22.6	62	73
Chittagong	32.6	25.0	68	63
Rajshahi	33.5	21.0	77	60
Khulna	35.2	21.8	72	62
Barisal	33.7	22.0	70	79
Sylhet	32.3	22.5	77	59
Cox's Bazar	35.0	25.0	63	67

Include thalassemia in health policy as non-communicable disease

Health experts tell roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Health experts yesterday demanded that the government incorporate thalassemia in the national health policy as a non-communicable disease and take necessary steps to manage and prevent it.

Thalassemia is a genetic disease and if both the father and mother are its carriers, there is a chance for their child to get the disease, they said.

It should be identified as a disease burden like cancer, heart disease and other non-communicable diseases in the article 23 of the health policy, said the experts adding that the number of thalassemia patients has been increasing in the society but the treatment facility is quite inadequate.

The medical experts made the calls at a roundtable discussion organised by Bangladesh Thalassaemia Foundation at the seminar room of Press Institute of

Bangladesh (PIB) in the city.

Presenting the keynote paper, Prof Manzur Morshed, consultant hematologist at Square Hospital, said almost one crore people in the country are thalassemia carriers.

"A child is born with thalassemia every hour adding more than 8,000 new thalassemic babies in a year in the country," he said.

The speakers stressed the need for increasing awareness in the society so that a thalassemia carrier does not marry another carrier to save the next generation from the disease.

They also demanded to conduct a study to find out the prevalence of thalassemia in the country, pre-marital screening and counselling, prenatal diagnosis for the risky couples, subsidised treatment facilities for the thalassemia patients and day care centres for convenient blood transfusion.

Speaking as chief guest, Social Welfare Minister Enamul Haque Mostafa Shahid said he would do everything in his capacity to incorporate thalassemia issue in the health policy so that the management of the disease gets priority.

He also said the social welfare ministry would contribute to Bangladesh Thalassaemia Foundation if necessary.

Prof Rashid E Mahbub, president of Health Rights Movement National Committee, presided over the discussion.

Aktari Mamtaz, joint secretary to the health ministry, Prof Mostafa Kamal Uddin, chairman of National Curriculum and Textbook Board, Prof Sharfuddin Ahmed, secretary general of Bangladesh Medical Association, Sardar Arif Uddin of ActionAid and Dr Abdur Rahim, secretary general of Bangladesh Thalassaemia Foundation, also spoke at the roundtable.