

Bangladesh to honour 100 foreigners for 1971 role

BSS, Dhaka

A national committee is expected to finalise a list of some 100 foreigners to be honoured on the 40th independence anniversary next year for their remarkable contribution to the 1971 independence of Bangladesh.

"The criterion and the list of the recipients are expected to be finalised in the 3rd meeting of the national committee as those were prepared already," Foreign Secretary Mijarul Quayes told the news agency.

Quayes, who heads the national subcommittee preparing the list, said the decision of the committee, headed by Foreign Minister Dipu Moni, however, would need a cabinet approval since the process was initiated under a landmark government decision.

Officials familiar with the process said the late Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi would be conferred with a special honour for her "immense" support for Bangladesh's 1971 independence as part of a government plan to acknowledge foreign nationals' role at that time.

"Some 100 foreign nationals of different categories are expected to be ceremonially awarded coinciding with our 40th Independence Day on March 26 next year in Dhaka... but Mrs. Gandhi would be conferred with a special honour," secretary of the Liberation War Ministry Uzzal Bikash Dutta said.

He said a national committee constituted earlier nominated her for the special honour for her "unique" role in "offering training to freedom fighters, refuge to millions of people who fled the country and building world opinion for Bangladesh's independence."

Former US senator Ted Kennedy, French author and politician André Malraux were the two other prominent figures in the list suggested for the award.

Dutta said people of different categories like foreign statesmen, politicians, diplomats, soldiers, artists, writers, journalists, rights activists and groups and media like BBC and All India Radio were chosen for the award.

Bangladesh is to invite the recipients or their relatives to receive the awards in Dhaka.

"The objective of the award is to express our acknowledgement... to prove we are a grateful nation," Dutta said.

Ctg Nursing College students stage sit-in for holding exams

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Students of Chittagong Nursing College here yesterday staged a sit-in to press home their demands, including immediate holding of the year-final examination scheduled to be held in December last year.

Some 100 students of second year staged a demonstration in front of the college principal's room at around 10:30am. At one stage the agitating students locked the room.

Students of the batch, who got admitted during 2008-09 session in December alleged that their first-year final examination was scheduled to be held in December last year. But the college authorities failed to hold the examination during the last eight months creating session jam.

Their other demands include hostel facility for male students and upgrading the standard of nursing education. Students alleged that they met the principal and Chittagong Medical College (CMC) director several times demanding the same but got no response.

The students left the spot around 1:30pm after CMC Assistant Director Dr Saroj Barua assured them of taking steps to announce the examination schedule by September 20.

When contacted Principal Jhinu Das said BSC Nursing Institute was affiliated with Chittagong University in 2008 as a new course and shifted into the college. This conversion along with all the academic procedures took some delay causing the present session jam.

She said they are trying to hold the examination in September.

Severe water crisis within next two decades, say experts

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh will face severe water crisis within next couple of decades due to random contamination of surface and ground water, absence of comprehensive water sharing with neighbouring countries and mismanagement in preserving rain water.

According to water experts, although the whole world is seriously thinking of conserving their water resources for ensuring water security, Bangladesh is destroying its surface and ground water by throwing wastes in water bodies and over extracting ground water.

They say as the origin of main rivers of Bangladesh is outside the country those rivers depend on upstream water to continue its flow and the country will not be able to address water related problems without integrated initiative with the neighbouring countries.

About 92 percent of the catchments area of the Ganges, Brahmaputra and the Meghna (GBM) rivers are located outside Bangladesh while the GBM river basin is around 64 percent in India, 18 percent in China, 9 percent in Nepal, and 3 percent in Bhutan.

It is estimated that the catchment area of the Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna rivers is 12 times the size of Bangladesh.

Former UN water expert Dr SI Khan said the water dispute with

India is as old as the inception of Bangladesh. It started even before Bangladesh when India's 'ill-conceived' Farakka Barrage on the Ganges was built to divert water for flushing silt from the Hooghly river.

Bangladesh has unresolved issues with regard to sharing of waters of trans-boundary rivers with India. Although Bangladesh has 54 major trans-boundary rivers with India, there is only one water sharing treaty with India on the Ganges River signed on December 12 in 1996, he said.

"But, India removed the guarantee and arbitration clauses in getting minimum water from the treaty," he said.

Dr Khan, also a visiting professor of BRAC University, said the Indian government has planned to construct a 163 meter high Tipaimukh Dam in the Barak river to divert water to other places in India.

"If India implements the project, the downstream Meghna river will lose its water flow and the country will gradually turn into desert amid acute water crisis," he said.

About the random use of ground water, Dr Khan said generally, people in the country extract ground water through shallow and deep tube-wells for drinking, irrigation, household use, and other reasons.

"Water level of ground water decreases five meter per year. The water level is recharged four meter by flood water and one meter by rain

water every year." He fears that if the water flow of the rivers shrinks for lack of adequate water in future, the ground water level will decline in absence of water recharge, thus forcing the country to acute water crisis.

Sardar M Shah-Newaz, also a water expert, said considering the climate change impact, ground water level will decline due to shortage of rainfall in the country's northern region -- Barind area -- within 20 years.

"Although rainfall will increase in future in other places of the country, Barind region will turn into desert because of shortfall in rain and an acute water crisis will occur in the area," he said.

Shah-Newaz, also director of Flood Division, Institute of Water Modelling (IWM), said the upcoming water crisis can be addressed by properly managing the rain water.

"Many countries have taken long-term measures to manage rain water for addressing water crisis, but Bangladesh is yet to take any comprehensive step to face the upcoming water challenge."

He said although Bangladesh earlier planned to build barrages on three major rivers -- Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna -- those initiatives are yet to be implemented.

Chairman of National Disaster Management Advisory Council Dr

MA Quassem said water availability in Bangladesh is around 90 billion cubic meters (BCM) during the dry season against the demand of about 147 BCM -- a shortfall of nearly 40 percent, resulting in drought-like situation in large parts of the country.

"Water shortage in the dry season affects all water using sectors. Due to inadequate surface water, ground water is extensively used for irrigation and the over-extraction is causing deterioration of its quality," he said.

According to a recent study, over 200 dams are to be built by China and India on the Himalayan rivers including the Brahmaputra and the Ganges to meet their water demands that will force Bangladesh to a big water crisis.

An India-based Strategic Foresight Group conducted the study titled "The Himalayan challenge: Water security in emerging Asia". The study report was released on June 28 at an international workshop in Singapore on river basins management.

The study reveals that due to building of such dams, water flow of Bangladesh rivers will change in dry season and up to 22 percent water supply will decrease over the next two decades and the sea level rise may push Bangladesh to the risks of food insecurity, outbreak of water-borne diseases and loss of bio-diversity.

Himalayan river basins in China, Bangladesh, India and Nepal will face

massive water depletion within 20 years, leading to a decline in food and mass migration, the study says.

The study also says due to natural reasons like glacial melting, the four countries would lose almost 275 billion cubic meters of annual renewable water in the next two decades, more than the total amount of available water in Nepal at present.

Water availability is estimated to decline in 2030 compared to present level by 13.50 percent in case of China, by 28 percent in case of India, by 22 percent in case of Bangladesh and by 35 percent in case of Nepal.

About 10-20 percent of the Himalayan rivers are fed by Himalayan glaciers and the study says that about 70 percent of these glaciers will be melted by the next century as a result of accelerated global climate change.

The study stressed the need for more cooperation between the four nations in the management of the river basins.

"What we are looking at here is a major catastrophe... going to happen in 20, 25 years," the India-based Strategic Foresight Group President, Sundeeep Waslekar, told the seminar at the Singapore International Water Week recently.

Around 1.3 billion people live in the Himalayan River Basins (Ganges, Brahmaputra, Indus, Yangtze) in China, Nepal, India and Bangladesh.



World Watch Society forms a human chain in front of the National Press Club in the city yesterday demanding steps to stop adulteration of food.

Seven killed in road crashes

METRO DESK

At least seven people were killed and 40 others injured in separate road accidents in Dhaka, Narayanganj, Gopalganj and Dinajpur yesterday.

Staff correspondent reports: Three unidentified people were killed in separate road accidents on Dhaka-Mymensingh Highway in Airport area and on Pragati Sarani road under Gulshan in the city yesterday.

A Gulshan-bound bus of Turag Paribahan at Bashtala hit an elderly person aged about 60 at 10:00pm, leaving him injured on Friday night.

Locals said the bus knocked him while he was trying to board on the bus. Locals rushed him to a nearby private hospital.

He succumbed to his injuries at the hospital at 1:00am yesterday, Sub-Inspector Asraf Islam of Gulshan Police Stations said.

A Gazipur-bound bus ran over a sexagenarian near Shahjalal Airport area at around 12:30am yesterday, leaving the 30-year-old dead on the spot.

Another mid-aged person died on the spot when a vehicle crushed him on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway near Dhaka-Cantonment Rail Station at 10:00am yesterday.

Sub-Inspector Rajon Mia said they recovered the body from footpath.

Witnesses said the mentally handicapped person was crushed under the wheel of the bus when he was trying to cross the road.

Police recovered the bodies and sent those to Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsy.

Our correspondent from Narayanganj says: A seven-year-old boy was crushed under the wheels of a truck on Asian Highway in the Koladi area under Kanchan municipality of Rupganj upazila yesterday.

The dead was identified as Faisal, son of Matiur Rahman of the same area.

Witnesses and police said the truck hit Faisal from behind, leaving him dead on the spot.

The locals agitated put up barricade by setting tyres on fire on Dhaka-Chittagong Sylhet bypass (Asian Highway) from 7:00am to 1:00pm. They also damaged 10 to 12 vehicles, creating serious traffic jam.

On information police brought the situation under control and the traffic movement returned to normalcy.

Following the accident local people on their own built two speed breakers near the spot on

the Asian Highway.

Local people demanded construction of speed breakers at important points on the Asian Highway.

An industrialist and Jubo League leader Tajuddin Ahmed was killed in a road accident when he was going to offer his Tarabi prayers last week.

At least 10 accidents occurred on Asian Highway in last one month. Five people died in the accidents and 30 were injured.

Our correspondent from Gopalganj reports: Two people were killed and 25 others injured in separate road accidents at Kotalipara and Kashiani upazilas of Gopalganj on Thursday and yesterday.

The deceased are Alomoti Biswas, 85, of Kushla village and Alim, 25, of Pakuria village under Tungipara upazila.

Agitating locals barricaded the Kotalipara-Rajoir road yesterday for around three and a half hours, obstructing movement of traffic.

Police said a local bus ran over Alomoti when she was walking on the Kotalipara-Rajoir road near Debgam School yesterday. Locals blocked the road till 1:00pm, obstructing flow of traffic.

In another accident a bus

rammed into a stationary truck at Dhaka-Khulna Highway on Thursday. Alim, who was on top of the truck died on the spot and 25 passengers were injured. Of them, three were rushed to Khulna Medical College Hospital and others to Gopalganj 250-bed hospital.

Our correspondent from Dinajpur says: At least one person was killed and 15 others injured in separate road accidents in Hakimpur upazila and Birganj upazila of Dinajpur yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Md Jahangir Alam 32, son of Md Abul Kalam Azad of village Muharapara of Hakimpur upazila.

Police quoting witnesses said Jahangir Alam lost his control over his motorbike at Dangapara village of Birampur-Hakimpur highway on Friday morning and a hit roadside tree. Source said he died on the spot.

On the other hand, a Rangpur-bound passenger bus of Thakurgaon lost control here Kabirajhat of Birganj upazila of Dinajpur and fell into a roadside ditch leaving at least 15 wounded on the spot.

The injured were rushed to Birganj Upazila Health Complex. Of them, condition of three was stated to be critical, doctors said.

COP MURDER None arrested yet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

None of the accused in the killing of police constable Manjurul Islam is yet to be arrested, said police.

Manjurul was killed while on duty at a check post in Dilkhusha area at Motijheel in the city early hours of Friday.

Two other policemen -- Habildar Mafizul Islam and Nayek Habibullah -- injured in the incident are undergoing treatment at Rajarbagh Police Line Hospital.

Motijheel Police Sub-Inspector (ASI) Mozaffar filed a murder case with the police station accusing three persons, including the dead miscreant Saiful Islam Nayan, 29, an autorickshaw driver and a passenger in this connection. They are on the run since the incident, Mozaffar added.

Motijheel Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Tofazzal Hossain told The Daily Star that Nayan who lived in Santinagar was an accused in several cases. He said the incident occurred when they were crossing the Motijheel area.

Police are investigating as to why they were going through the Motijheel area and who were accompanying Nayan, the OC said.

Motijheel police said the killing was not a pre-planned one as Nayan shot police to avoid arrest when police were searching his body in front of Pubali Bank, Dilkhusha branch at 12.55am on Friday. Later Nayan was killed in police firing.

Police continued raid for arresting the accomplices of Nayan, said Tofazzal.

Research on Bangabandhu

METRO DESK

Bangalee Shamagra Museum (BSM) has taken a research initiative to commemorate Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's 35th death anniversary, titled 'Speeches of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in the East Pakistan Provincial Assembly and Pakistan National Assembly (1954-1958)', says a press release.

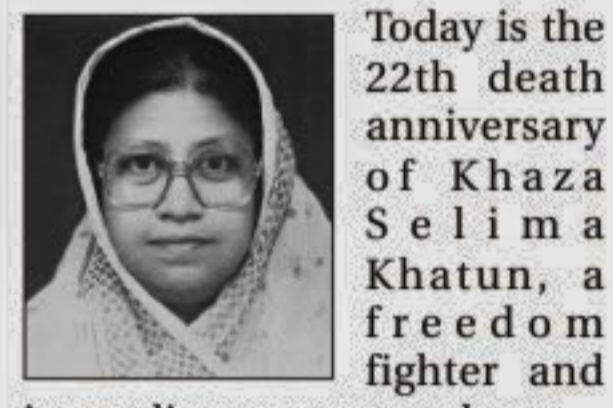
The research work will be completed within five months (October 2010-February 2011) and it will be published by BSM on 92nd birth anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on March 17, 2011.

Members of the selection committee of the research work are Prof Kabir Chowdhury, Prof Emeritus Anisuzzaman and Prof Abul Kasem Fazlul Hoque of Dhaka University.

Selected researchers will get a monthly honorarium. Research proposals are expected to reach within 20th September 2010 by post or by hand to the mentioned address -- Tariq Rahman, Executive Director, Bangalee Shamagra Museum, 235/2, Elephant Road, Dhaka-1205.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 22th death anniversary of Khaza Selima Khatun, a freedom fighter and journalist, says press release.

A milad and doa mahfil will be held and social programmes will be held on the occasion today.

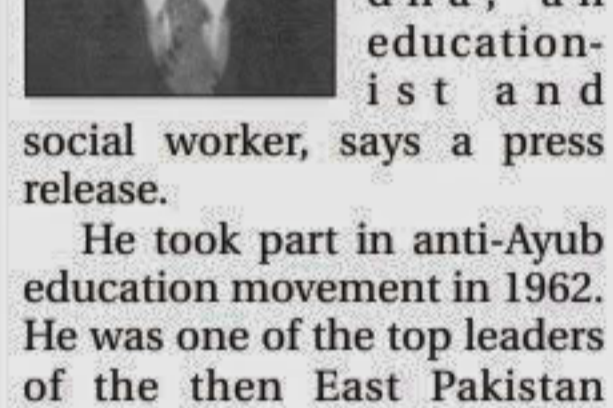
Selima, popularly known as Mina Apa, was a commissioner of Jessore municipality, the editor of the weekly 'Banhi' and a publisher of weekly 'Matribhumi'.

She was a visiting teacher of Connecticut University in USA and founder of the Jessore Seba Sangha Girls High School.

She was a member of the National Social Welfare Council, founder director of the National Women Cooperatives and the chairman of Jatiya Mohila Sangstha, Jessore branch.

Abdur Rob Mridha

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



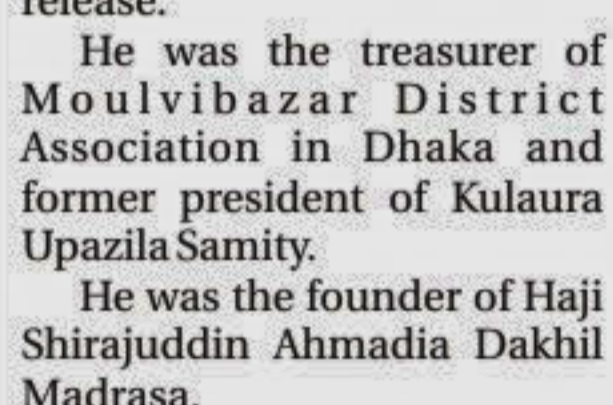
Today is the 10th death anniversary of Abdur Rob Mridha, an educationist and social worker, says a press release.

He took part in anti-Ayub education movement in 1962. He was one of the top leaders of the then East Pakistan Teachers Association.

All are requested to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Abdul Matin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 2nd death anniversary of Mohammad Abdul Matin, a social worker and former deputy finance controller (army), says a press release.

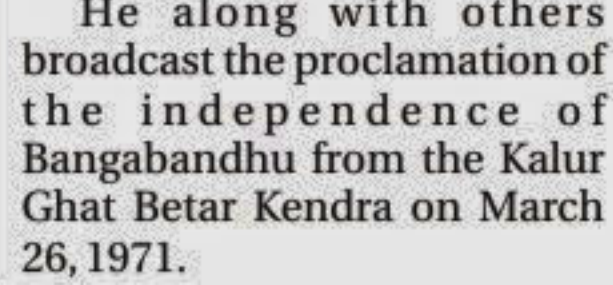
He was the treasurer of Moulvibazar District Association in Dhaka and former president of Kulaura Upazila Samity.

He was the founder of Haji Shirajuddin Ahmadiya Dakhil Madrasa.

All are requested to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Dr Syed Anwar Ali

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 22nd death anniversary of Dr Syed Anwar Ali, a freedom fighter, says a press release.

A doa and milad mahfil will be held at his residence in Chittagong and fateha will be offered at his graveyard today.

DHAKA TODAY. Discussion: FBCCI will arrange a discussion. Venue: Seminar room, Time: 11:00am. Sapling distribution: Environment and Forest Ministry will hold a sapling distribution programme. Venue: Pallabi Mazedul Islam High School, Time: 3:00pm. Roundtable: Governance Advocacy Forum will organise a roundtable. Venue: National Press Club, Time: 10:00am. Mehdi uthsah: Dhakabashi will arrange a mehdi uthsah. Venue: Dhaka University, Time: 3:00pm. Workshop: Central Procurement Technical Unit will hold a workshop. Venue: NEC auditorium, Planning Commission, Time: 10:30am. Photo exhibition: Dhaka Ahsania Mission will organise a photo exhibition. Venue: H-58, R-15/a, Dhannoddi, Time: 3:00pm. Meeting: Bangladesh Awami League will organise a meeting. Venue: Bangabandhu International Conference Centre, Time: 3:00pm. Eid mela: Autism Welfare Foundation will arrange an eid mela. Venue: PC culture housing society, Mohammapur, Time: 10:00am. Rally: Bangladesh Hotel Restaurant Sweetmeat Samik Federation will organise a rally. Venue: Mukhtangan, Time: 12:00pm. Human chain: Andolonrato Garment Samik Songtho will form a human chain. Venue: National Press Club, Time: 11:30am. International workshop: Karmojibi Nari will organise an international workshop. Venue: Brac centre inn, Mohakhali, Time: 9:30am. Doa mahfil: Jatiya Mohila Sangstha will arrange a doa mahfil. Venue: 145, New Baily Road, Time: 1:30pm. Meeting: Bibek Development Foundation will organise meeting. Venue: Sky Moon Chinese restaurant, Time: 5:00pm.

WEATHER TODAY. Rain likely. UNB, Dhaka. Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over Rajshahi, Rangpur, and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Chittagong, Barisal, Khulna and Dhaka divisions with moderately heavy falls at places in next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today. Day temperature may rise slightly over the country, Met Office said. The sun sets in the capital at 6:26pm today and rises at 5:36am tomorrow. Country's highest temperature 35.0 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chuadanga and Chandpur and lowest 24.6 degrees Celsius at Chittagong. Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Table with 4 columns: City/Town, Temperature in Celsius, Humidity in percentage, Morning, Evening. Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar.

30 hurt in AL feud over toll collection in Sunamganj

UNB, Sunamganj

Rival groups of ruling Awami League clashed over collection of tolls from river vessels at Sreepur Bazar in Tahripur upazila yesterday afternoon, leaving 30 people injured.

Of the injured, Fazil Khan, Nazim Khan and Habil Khan were admitted to the upazila Health Complex. Others were released after first aid.

Locals said Shahabuddin group used to collect tolls from the engine propelled boats and cargo vessels plying through the Patlai River with coal and limestone from Barochhara-Chargaon border land port.

Recently, rival group led by Shobeh Mia started collection of tolls claiming he has taken leave from the office concerned. This made the vessels carrying imported coal and limestone to pay double tolls on the river.

The rival groups accusing each other engaged in a brawl at Sreepur Bazar in the afternoon. Soon they clashed with lethal weapons resulting in injuries to 30 persons on both sides. All shops in the bazaar pulled the shutter and panic spread in the area.

Police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

But tension prevailed. None was arrested till late in the evening.

Trader crushed to death under train's wheel

UNB, Bogra

A cloth trader was crushed under the wheels of a running train at Bogra Railway station yesterday afternoon.

The deceased was identified as Abdul Jalil, 60, a resident of Brindabanpara area in the town.

Railway sources said a Santabar-bound Bogra Express train from Lalmonirhat ran over Jalil at 4:00pm as he could not remove his mobile shop from the rail track timely.

Jalil and some other traders used to sell goods by setting up mobile shops on the rail track illegally.