

'Kalim Sharafi's death irreparable loss'

President Zillur Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and different socio-cultural and political organisations yesterday expressed deep shock at the death of renowned Rabindra Sangeet exponent and legendary artist Kalim Sharafi.

Kalim Sharafi who had been suffering from old age complications died yesterday.

BSS adds: President Zillur Rahman in a message expressed deep shock at the death of Kalim Sharafi.

The president said Kalim Sharafi was a luminous star of the music arena. "His contribution to practice and flourishing of music would be ever remembered," he added.

He prayed for peace of the departed soul and conveyed sympathy to members of the bereaved family.

In another message, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said the death of Kalim Sharafi, also a freedom fighter, is an irreparable loss to the music and cultural arenas of the Bangalee nation.

"The nation will ever remember his positive contribution in building a non-communal and progressive society as well as national struggle," she added.

Sheikh Hasina prayed for eternal peace of the departed soul and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family.

Our correspondent adds: Speaker Abdul Hamid said Kalim throughout his life worked for flourishing Bangla culture and his departure will create a vacuum in the country's cultural sector.

Dhaka University Vice Chancellor AAMS Arefin Siddique said Kalim Sharafi played a significant contribution in flourishing the country's cultural and different democratic movements.

Communist Party of Bangladesh President Rashed Khan Menon and General Secretary Anisur Rahman Malik termed Kalim "a frontline soldier" of different non-communal democratic movement.

The nation will severely feel his vacancy in this time, when the social, political and cultural movements are being strengthened day by day in demand of the trial of war criminals, they added.

Information Minister Abul Kalam Azad, Information Secretary Hedayetullah Al Mamun, leaders of the Revolutionary Workers Party of Bangladesh, Bangladesh Chhatra Moitri, Bangladesh Jubo Moitri, Bangladesh Sangeet Parishad, Ain o Sahlish Kendra, WBB Trust and Bangladesh Anti-Tobacco Alliance in separate messages condoled the death of Kalim Sharafi.



LAST RESPECT TO KALIM SHARAFI

People from all walks of life place wreaths at the coffin of Tagore exponent Kalim Sharafi at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday to pay their last tributes. A guard of honour is also given to the freedom fighter. Wreaths are placed at the coffin of the renowned singer on behalf of President Zillur Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to pay homage.

PHOTO: STAR

DCC polls chapter 'closed' now Says EC commissioner

UNB, Dhaka

The Election Commission (EC) continues to backtrack on holding the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) elections.

"I do not want to make any comment about the DCC elections. This chapter is closed now. The government may have a political plan about the DCC elections," Election Commissioner M Shakwat Hossain told journalists at his office yesterday.

Referring to the recent comment of IGRD Minister Syed Ashrafur Islam on union parishad, municipal and DCC elections, Shakwat said the EC is always ready to arrange all local government elections, as well as the DCC elections.

He said as per the election rules, the local government elections are being held within 180 days of the conclusion of their five-year term.

"But, the five-year period has already expired, after negotiating with the local government ministry the EC has to move towards holding these elections," he said.

Shakwat said it will be very difficult to arrange these elections after next March-April due to ghastly weather.

Replying to a question, he said the EC will hold dialogues with the political parties within this year.

"We have been working to arrange dialogues with the political parties. A little work remains to arrange the dialogues," he said.

2 factories fined for pollution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Department of Environment (DoE) yesterday fined two factories Tk 17.31 lakh for polluting environment in Syllur of the city.

A team of DoE led by Director (Enforcement) Munir Chowdhury fined Torab Uddin Steel Mills Ltd in Shyampur Tk 8.5 lakh for releasing toxic fumes containing carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide. These fumes are causing serious health hazards for the locals, said DoE sources.

The team asked the factory owner to install fume extraction unit for regulating the release of toxic fumes by November 30.

In a separate drive, the team fined Tajmahal Dyeing Tk 9.31 lakh for discharging untreated liquid waste into the Buriganga River.

It also shut down the factory operations until its owners set up an effluent treatment plant (ETP).

The dyeing mill has so far released almost 2,00,000 cubic metres of waste into the river since 1990, said DoE sources.



Kudrat-I-Khuda's anniversary of death today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 33rd death anniversary of Dr Kudrat-I-Khuda, a scientist and educationalist in the Indian sub-continent, says a press release.

On the occasion, Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR) founded by Dr Khuda will organise a commemorative meeting and do a mahfil at its IFRD auditorium at 3:00pm in the city.

Dr Khuda authored over 50 books of different disciplines and published more than a hundred papers in various national and international journals.

He was also the chairman of the country's first education commission, which published the well-known Kudrat-I-Khuda Education Commission Report.

Mesbah Uddin Sabu

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the seventh death anniversary of Mesbah Uddin Sabu, freedom fighter and former general secretary of the Central Command Council of Muktiyoddha Sangsad.

On the occasion, feeding for destitute will be held at his North Mugda residence following a milad mahfil after Asr prayers, says a press release.

Prof Motilal Chowdhury

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the third anniversary of death of Prof Motilal Chowdhury, educationist and former vice-principal of Bangabasi College, says a press release.

On the occasion, a Syastria programme will be held at Sri Sri Loknath Brahmachari Asram in Shambhaji in the city.

Afzalur Rahman

METRO DESK

Today is the 2nd death anniversary of Afzalur Rahman, eminent business personality, says a press release. All have been requested to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Begum Habibunnesa

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 11th death anniversary of Begum Habibunnesa, a mother of noted Gono Sangeet artist Fakir Alamgir, says a press release.

On the occasion, Qu Rankhani, milad and do mahfil will be held at Matir Masjid mosque in Khilgaon Chowdhurypara after Asr prayers. Another milad and do mahfil will also be held at her village Kalamridha in Faridpur.

Bhairab Bridge named after Syed Nazrul

BSS, Dhaka

The government has named Bhairab Bridge on the river Meghna under the Roads and Highways Department as Syed Nazrul Islam Bridge.

Syed Nazrul Islam was acting president of Bangladesh government in exile during the War of Liberation in 1971.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Abdul Goni, former chairman of Sanmania union parishad in Gazipur, passed away at a city hospital yesterday due to old age complications. He was 95, says a press release.

His Namaz-e-Janaza was held at Aral High School ground before burial at his family graveyard in Sanmania.

Abdul Goni left behind his wife, eight sons, nine daughters, and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

'Punish stalkers, fight them off'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Human rights and NGO workers demanded exemplary punishment of all stalkers, especially the killers of Chanpa Rani Bhownik and Mizanur Rashid.

Eight NGOs and human rights organisations yesterday demanded exemplary punishment to the stalkers involved in the recent incidents of stalking in a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity.

Leaders of eight NGOs and human rights organisations yesterday demanded exemplary punishment to the stalkers involved in the recent incidents of stalking in a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity.

Expressing their deep concern over the alarming rise of stalking incidents in the country, they also placed a seven-point demand emphasizing on necessary amendments in the existing laws to protect women from stalking.

Ten men and two women got killed by stalkers while 77 men and 166 women were assaulted since January this year, they said in a written statement.

Moreover, 26 women committed suicide

besides a father of a woman victim in this period, they claimed on newspaper reports.

Earlier, the organisations - Ain-o-Salish Kendra (ASK), Brac, Blast, Karmajibi Nari, Mahila Parishad, Nijera Bari, Nagorik Udyog and Steps - sent a 12-member team to Chanpa Rani's residence in Faridpur and a 10-member team to Mizanur Rahman's house in Natore on November 1 to investigate into the incidents.

After investigating Faridpur and Natore incidents, they alleged that some quarters are trying to divert the killing incidents to accidents there.

They also demanded security for the victims' families referring to the stalkers' previous criminal records.

Hamida Hossain, chairperson of ASK, expected a more concerted effort especially from the lawmakers and lawyers communities to stop the dangerous trend.

She, however, observed a strong consensus in the mass as well as in the administration against stalkers during the investigation tour.

ASK Director Nina Goshwami read out the statement that also demanded state allocation

for education expenses for Chanpa Rani's three daughters, awareness programmes in educational institutions, correction of young stalkers through institutional initiatives.

Khushi Kabir of Nijera Bari, Rokeya Rafique of Karmajibi Nari, Maksudha Laili of Mahila Parishad, Muhsin Ali of Blast, Shipa Hafiza of Brac, Ranjan Karmakar of Steps were also present in the conference.

Speakers at a human chain on Dhaka University campus yesterday demanded exemplary punishment to the stalkers and killers in the country.

For security of girls and women, they also urged the government to set an example by ensuring punishment of the killers.

Demanding the government's stern actions to uproot stalking, Faridpur Muslim Mission Students Association of Dhaka formed a human chain at Aparajeyo Bangla.

Proctor Prof AKM Saiful Islam Khan, Director of Darul Ehsan College Prof Farid Uddin Khan, Principal of Muslim Mission College collage Abdullah Al Mamun and hundreds of students attended the peace protest. The DU proctor urged people for a united

protest to eliminate the social malady.

Different organisations yesterday demanded impartial investigation into the suicide of teenage girl Rupali Rani and exemplary punishment to the stalker Sushil Shil, who kidnapped her and kept her confined in a room of his residence in Sirajganj.

In a statement, Bangladesh Mohila Parishad President Ayesha Khanam and Maleka Banu demanded necessary measures to ensure security for the victim's family members.

They also demanded formulation of separate law to stop staking and called upon all to launch social movement against stalking.

Another statement of Samajtantrik Mohila Forum said the organisation staged a demonstration rally demanding punishment of the stalkers who were responsible for taking lives of numerous girls.

Meanwhile, leaders of Samajtantrik Chhatra Front demonstrated yesterday on Dhaka University campus with the same demands and announced to hold protest programme in the all the education institutions, thanas, and districts across the country.

WEATHER section with a table showing temperature and humidity for various cities in Bangladesh.



Samajtantrik Mahila Forum stages a demonstration in front of the National Press Club in the city yesterday protesting stalking.