

Farid Gazi

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Mass Education, was admitted to the hospital on October 14. He was suffering from diabetes for a long time and had complications involving kidney and heart, reports our Sylhet correspondent. He let out his last breath around 5:40am.

He left behind five sons, two daughters and many friends and relatives to mourn his death.

President Zillur Rahman expressed deep sorrow at the death of Gazi who was elected from Habiganj-1 constituency in 2008 election.

In his condolence message, the president said Gazi always stood against all sorts of repression in the society.

"People will remember his contribution to the movement of independence and the struggle for democracy in the country," he said.

Prime Minister and AL President Sheikh Hasina in a message said, "The country has lost a dedicated leader."

She conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family and prayed for eternal peace of the departed soul, reports BSS.

After the death, Gazi's body was taken to his Segunbagicha residence in the city and then to the Baitul Mukarram National Mosque where his first namaz-e-janaza was held, according to a press release of Awami League.

His second namaz-e-janaza took place at the South Plaza of the National Parliament at 4:00pm. Ministers and lawmakers of different political parties including the main opposition BNP attended it.

The corpse was then taken to Gazi's residence at Lama Bazar in Sylhet.

Today around 8:30am, Gazi's namaz-e-janaza will be held at Bahubal Upazila Sadar Eidgah Maidan while at 9:30am at Devpara Eidgah Maidan in his village and at 10:30am at Nabiganj JK High School field, reported our Sylhet correspondent.

The body will be buried at the graveyard adjacent to the shrine of Hajrat Shahjalal (RA) in Sylhet after the Asr prayers. Before that, the body will be kept for some time at the Sylhet Central Shaheed Minar where people will pay homage to the veteran AL leader.

Dewan Farid Gazi was born on March 1, 1924 in Devpara village under Nabiganj upazila of Habiganj.

He completed his primary education in Moulvibazar Junior Madrasa and secondary education in Sylhet Rashomoy Memorial High School. Gazi studied Bachelor of Arts in Madan Mohan College in Sylhet. He also studied in Sylhet Alia Madrasa and MC College.

Gazi had been in politics since his student life and worked as a close associate of Father of the Nation

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

He played important roles in various national movements and had been the civilian adviser and administrative council chief in sector 4 and sector 5 during the Liberation War.

Gazi was elected member of National Assembly from Sylhet sadar in 1970. In 1973, he was state minister for commerce in the Bangabandhu's cabinet.

Reportedly, Gazi was forced to join the Moshtaque-led government as a state minister after the assassination of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. He was elected lawmaker in 1996, 2001 and 2008 elections.

Apart from political arena, he also made laudable contribution to different educational, cultural and social welfare activities.

Gazi served as editor of the then weekly Jugabheri (now daily) in 1952-54 and the weekly Esatern Herald (now defunct) in 1953-55. He was Sylhet AL general secretary from 1957 until the Liberation War. He participated in the 1962 education policy movement and the six-point movement before being arrested in 1969 for 11 months.

Girl commits suicide

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A class-V student of Siddheswari Girls' School committed suicide yesterday.

Suraya Akhter Mukta, 12, tied her neck with a scarf and hanged herself from the ceiling fan in her home at Shanti Nagar around 6:30pm.

Her parents unlocked the door, got her down from the fan and rushed her to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared her dead.

The family filed an unnatural death case with Paltan Police Station.

Cattle hides

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Khijir Ahmed to buy his cattle hide. Khijir told the gang that his cattle hide was not for sale, as he wanted to donate that to an orphanage house.

Meanwhile, the gang tried to snatch the cattle hide forcibly from them and started beating him up mercilessly. Seeing this, Khoka Mollah, brother-in-law of Khijir, came to save him. The criminals also beat him, leaving both of them critically injured.

Locals rushed to the spot and took them to sadar hospital where the on-duty doctor declared Khoka dead.

A case was lodged with sadar police station in this connection.

Dhaka rivers

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during the dry season automatically flushing pollutants.

The engineers and experts involved in the project, however, said restoring water flow alone cannot remove pollutants from the rivers.

Installation of effluent treatment plants (ETP) should be made mandatory for all industries and organisations, for instance Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa).

Humayun Kabir said they would start the dredging from Dhaka end where 23 kilometres stretch of an area unfortunately overlaps with the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority's dredging plan in the Buriganga and Turag. "We will soon find a solution," he added.

The dredging, both mechanical and at places manual, would reward 6.5 million cubic metres of sand, technically called dredging spoil. This sand is a highly demanded commodity in the construction sector with a market price of Tk 70.62 per cubic metre. The extracted sand in the project would generate around Tk 45.90 crore.

"We are not taking the trouble of managing the spoil rather decided to handover the responsibility to the contractor. While bidding for the work a contractor would be required to deduct the estimated amount earned from the sand," said Humayun Kabir.

During the dry season and about seven months a year the water flow in the entire river system of the capital remains cut off. The Buriganga, Turag, Balu and Shitalakkhya become stagnant during the time when millions of gallons of highly toxic industrial and human waste keeps accumulating in the water turning the

environment extremely unhygienic and ruining the biodiversity.

During monsoon rising water in the Jamuna floods the silted riverbeds at the confluence and flow into the river system around the city flushing polluted waters downstream.

The Buriganga River Restoration Project would also resume the age-old waterway after over two decades. Goods from the southern part of the country can be transported faster through these channels. Moreover, several regions along the route would benefit in terms of irrigation and transportation of goods by waterway.

The government is now headhunting for a candidate with thorough knowledge on river system for the proper implementation of the project as the incumbent project director is soon going on retirement.

"The project is going to change socio-economic scenario of the entire region and enhance the transport system reducing pollution," said Naimul Ashraf, a hydraulic engineer and river-system expert.

"Thousands of trucks transport goods from the southern regions of the country to the capital every day. This pressure on the highways could be drastically reduced by the opening of the channels at the Jamuna confluence," he added.

The institute of Water Modelling conducted the feasibility study on the project in April 2003.

Experts believe that diverting water will not affect the environment as over 2,000 cubic metres of water flows through the Jamuna every second usually during the dry

season. The government is out to create confusion, and has been able to confuse even some BNP leaders, he told the BBC last night when asked about Huda's remarks.

Khokan, also joint secretary general of BNP, said there was no scope to file another petition as the one already filed was yet to be disposed of.

Stalkers

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In Gopalganj, a mobile court sentenced a stalker to one-year imprisonment for harassing a schoolgirl at Chitrabani Cinema Hall of the town Wednesday evening.

Officer-in-Charge Motiar Rahman of Gopalganj Police Station said Anisur Rahman, 34, was harassing a student of class VII of Binapani Government High School when she went with her elder brother went to watch a movie. The hall authorities informed police as they got into a fight.

A mobile court team led by Magistrate Motassim Islam went to the spot and delivered the verdict.

In Rangpur, an upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) fined three youths Tk 5,000 each on charges of stalking a girl of Hajipur village Thursday night.

The three stalkers were Mohammad Ali, 15, Monir Hossain, 22, and Shahabuddin, 18.

UNO Rezaur Rahman Sarker of Baderganj upazila who is also an executive magistrate set a mobile court in Supri Bridge area after the stalkers were caught red handed by locals.

He ordered them to pay Tk 5,000 each in fine or serve a seven-day sentence if they failed to pay the fine.

The stalkers were released on payment of the fine the same night.

In Satkhira, a mobile court sentenced a motorcycle mechanic to one-month imprisonment for stalking a school student at Chupria village in sadar upazila yesterday.

Executive Magistrate Mushruha Ferdous delivered the judgment after hearing both sides.

Mobile court sources said Iqbal Hossain, 21, has been stalking Nipa, 14, daughter of Mujibur Rahman, on her way to school for months.

In Dhaka, a team of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested two youths Thursday night from Uttara on charges of stalking a schoolgirl on the city's outskirts Tongi on November 11.

The arrestees are Mohammad Riad Hossain, 22, and Hajrat Ali, 22, of Barodewrain Tongi.

Rab sources said Monir Hossain, father of a 13-year-old schoolgirl, filed a stalking case with Tongi Police Station on November 18, accusing Riad Hossain and Hajrat Ali.

Zahurul Islam, senior assistant police commissioner of Rab-1, said the youths harassed the girl on her way to school on November 11.

Our correspondents from Kurigram, Gopalganj, Rangpur, Satkhira and Dhaka contributed to the story.

Ashraf gives

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Ashraf, however, did not clarify his party's stance -- whether to be in the streets to resist the anti-government movement.

He said as BNP claims to be a democratic party, it should follow the democratic norms. Any sort of violence in the name of anti-government movement would not be tolerated, he added.

Ashraf's remarks came following BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's speech on Wednesday where she said her party would wage a tough movement across the country in protest of "evicting" her from the cantonment house.

State Minister for Local Government and Cooperatives Jahangir Kabir Nanak, lawmakers Habibur Rahman Mollah and Aslamul Huq, LGRD Additional Secretary Mahbub, DCC CEO and Chief Engineer, Abul Kalam Azad and Brig Gen Abdul Kadir accompanied the minister during the visit at the under-construction Mayor Mohammad Hanif Flyover.

The construction of the flyover is expected to be finished by December 2012. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the project on June 22, 2010.

Huda blames

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sightedness that led to her "eviction". "She [Khaleda Zia] would not have had to leave the house if her lawyers had sought a stay on the High Court order in the cantonment house case."

Criticising BNP's November 14 strike, Huda said it would have been better, had the programme been called after Eid.

"The sympathy that Khaleda Zia had earned faded soon partly due to the hartal," he added.

Meanwhile, Khaleda's counsel and party lawmaker Mahbubuddin Khokan said they have submitted an application for stay, which is still pending.

The government is out to create confusion, and has been able to confuse even some BNP leaders, he told the BBC last night when asked about Huda's remarks.

Khokan, also joint secretary general of BNP, said there was no scope to file another petition as the one already filed was yet to be disposed of.

First glimpse

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The pair are believed to be part of the Helmi stream, a group of stars that remains after its mini-galaxy was devoured by the Milky Way some six to nine billion years ago, said the study in Science Express.

"This discovery is very exciting," said Rainer Klement of the Max Planck Institute for Astronomy.

"Because of the great distances involved, there are no confirmed detections of planets in other galaxies. But this cosmic merger has brought an extragalactic planet within our reach."

Astronomers were able to locate the planet, coined HIP 13044 b, by focusing on the "tiny telltale wobbles of the star caused by the gravitational tug of an orbiting companion," the study said.

They used a powerful telescope owned by the European Southern Observatory at La Silla Observatory in Chile, located at an altitude of 2,400 meters (7,800 feet) some 600 kilometers (375 miles) north of the capital, Santiago.

The planet is quite close to the star it is orbiting, and survived a phase in which its host star went through a massive growth after it depleted its core hydrogen fuel supply, a phase known as the "red giant" stage of stellar evolution.

"This discovery is particularly intriguing when we consider the distant future of our own planetary system, as the Sun is also expected to become a red giant in about five billion years," said lead researcher Johny Setiawan of the Max Planck Institute for Astronomy.

The exoplanet is likely to be quite hot because it is orbiting so close to its star, completing each orbit in just over 16 days, and is probably near the end of its life, astronomers said.

The star may have already swallowed other planets in its

Rangamati

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Locals and police said a group of BCL cadres went to Arif's house and picked him up at gunpoint around 10:30am. Later, they killed Arif at a nearby jungle, they said.

Shyamol Kanti Barua, officer in-charge of Kawkhali Police Station, said Arif was accused in four cases including two for robbery.

Arif, jailed in a robbery case, was released a month back.

Bahar Uddin, victim's elder brother, filed a case accusing 15 AL and BCL activists with Kawkhali Police Station in this connection.

Eid-ul-Azha

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In Dhaka, the main Eid congregation was held at the National Eidgah, where President Zillur Rahman offered his prayers.

Chief Justice, cabinet members, MPs, high-ranking government officials and distinguished personalities, along with thousands of commoners, joined the congregation.

Maulana Muhammad Salah Uddin, khatib of Baitul Mukarram National Mosque, conducted the prayers seeking divine blessings for the Muslim ummah, as well as peace and prosperity for the people of Bangladesh.

The biggest Eid congregation of the country was held at Sholakia Maidan in Kishoreganj.

President Zillur Rahman, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and leader of the opposition Khaleda Zia greeted the countrymen on the occasion.

The "Festival of Sacrifice" also marked the end of Hajj, the annual pilgrimage by millions of devout Muslims to the holy city of Mecca.

From the very onset of the five-day Eid vacation, which included the weekly holidays following the three-day government holiday, the city looked deserted. An estimated three million people left for village homes to celebrate the occasion with their nearest of kins.

On the Eid day and the day after, parts of the city, however, wore a festive look. Main thoroughfares and road islands were decorated with miniature national flags and banners inscribed with 'Eid Mubarak'.

Dressed in colourful clothes, thousands of men, women and children flocked to public parks, lakes, Sangshad Bhaban area, Dhaka zoo and many other recreation spots of the city.

"There are not many options when it comes to recreation in the city. We have to visit some places over and over again," said Arif Ahmed, who came with his three children to the Shishu Park on Thursday.

Rickshaw pullers, who decided to work during the Eid holidays, enjoyed three days of unrestricted access to all VIP roads. Rickshaw owners also waived fees for the shifts. Sohail from Bogra stayed back in the city just to pull rickshaw during the holidays.

"Today for the first time I pulled rickshaw over the Khilgaon flyover, the owners won't charge fees and I feel very happy with the earnings. I want to return to my village after the holidays," he added.

Most drivers of three-wheelers, CNG-run vehicles and taxicabs also enjoyed the same exemption of rent from their owners.

Pavements in the city were free from encroachers. Many families were seen taking strolls on the streets till late at night, which was inconceivable a week ago.

Rab personnel patrolled the deserted city roads on motorbikes and vans, while police were also seen in pickups at different parts.

"This is the city where we want to live. The pavements are free from encroachers and we enjoy walking here, which we cannot do usually. The streets are free from vendors and many other nuisance," said Anisul Haque, a resident of Moghbazar.

Prison inmates, residents of vagrant centres and children at orphanages also enjoyed special meals on the Eid day.

Government and political leaders hosted receptions for dignitaries, the elite and cross-sections of people.

orbit, making the star spin more quickly and meaning that time is running out for the surviving exoplanet.

Astronomers were mystified as to how the planet might have formed, since the star contained few elements heavier than hydrogen and helium and planets typically form out of a complex cloud of spinning space rubble.

"It is a puzzle for the widely accepted model of planet formation to explain how such a star, which contains hardly any heavy elements at all, could have formed a planet," said Setiawan.

"Planets around stars like this must probably form in a different way."

3 murdered

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The body of about 25-year-old victim was recovered at 9:00am, says Md Sirajul Islam, officer-in-charge of Ashulia Police Station.

Police suspected attackers might have killed her elsewhere and later dumped the body there.

Dakshin Keraniganj police sources said locals chased a gang of alleged bandits as they were gathering at Polashpur Ferryghat area near Abdullahpur and planning to commit robbery Thursday night.

They caught and beat up seven of them severely. Police reached the spot after the incident and sent the injured to Mitford Hospital. Among the injured, Arzu, 30, died at the hospital.

Police later rescued another injured, Sirazul Islam, 30, from the spot yesterday around 2:00pm and rushed him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, where he expired around 5:30pm.

The injured claimed they went there to find out a lost truck, which was stolen a few days back from Uttarkhan of the capital.

Besides, unidentified offenders killed a mobile phone shopkeeper early on Wednesday when he was on way to Vaoalvita from Abdullahpur by a motorcycle, said sources at Dakshin Keraniganj police.

Chopper

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occurred minutes after its take-off from the Tawang helipad at around 12 noon. The helicopter was en route to Guwahati, capital of Assam state.

IAF officials said the wreckage of the copter has been located by the Army in Bomdir area.

Three bodies have been recovered so far, Kalia said adding, a search is on for the remaining bodies.

1 killed in train derailment in Gazipur

UNB, Gazipur

At least one was killed and 29 other people were injured when a compartment of an over crowded Mymensingh bound passenger train from Dhaka derailed on Tuesday.

The victim was identified as Abul Kashem, 30, of Nandaail. Six others were admitted to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital. Three of the injured were in critical condition.

Four hours after the accident, a relief train reached the spot at about 9:00am and began rescue operation.

Railway and local sources said the Bhowal Express boarded with passengers inside and rooftops departed for Mymensingh at about 2:30am.

When the train arrived near Kaoraid station in Sreepur upazila at about 5:15am, three compartments of the train derailed.

4 flats looted

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4:00am through the collapsible gate using duplicate keys, they added.

Delwar Hossain, sub-inspector of Sutrapur Police Station, said they could not ascertain the worth of the stolen goods as the owners of the houses are yet to return.

No case was filed yet in this connection, the SI said.

Meanwhile, a gang of robbers looted cash and gold ornaments from a house of an Italy expatriate tying up the family members at gunpoint.

Police sources said five to six armed criminals broke into the house of Golam Sarwar of 13/H Abhay Das Lane and looted gold ornaments and Tk 20,000 in cash tying up his family members at around 3:00am.

Sutrapur police said a case was filed in this connection but none was arrested.

Khaleda

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prepare for a movement.

A number of BNP leaders said the standing committee will sit shortly to chalk out the programmes. Non-stop hartal, long march or road march will be announced to "bring down" the government, they added.

The two-time premier, who owns a four-storey building on 35-katha land in Gulshan, said she is now "homeless" and asked the people to pray for her.

The government allotted her the house following the assassination of her husband Ziaur Rahman.

The government residence of the Leader of the Opposition in the parliament is also ready at Minto Road in the capital.

"Please pray for me as I'm homeless today," she said while talking to reporters at the reception. She was accompanied by senior BNP leaders.

Khaleda vacated her cantonment house on November 13 and later claimed that she has been evicted. Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) said the former premier left the house willingly.

Khaleda, however, thanked the countrymen for making the hartal, which BNP called the following day to protest the "eviction," a success.

She also conveyed her Eid greetings to the countrymen, expatriate Bangladeshis and Muslims across the world.

Talking to reporters, she said the government is filing "false cases" against BNP leaders and arresting them to destroy the party. Similar attempts were made in the past to eliminate BNP but they all went in vain, as people rallied behind the party with more vigour, she added.

She said it is now time for the government to accept failure and quit, or the country will go 40 years backward.

"It's not merely the issue of the house. The government has failed to fulfil its commitment...failed in all fronts of state affairs," Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, BNP's senior joint secretary general, told reporters yesterday.

He said they will map out the street programmes at the next meeting of the standing committee. He, however, could not give the meeting date.

MK Anwar, a standing committee member, said they will consider different programmes including hartal and road march.

William, Kate

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of William's position in the line of succession behind his father Prince Charles, plus a temporary separation when it all got too much.

The couple briefly split in 2007 as William's military career saw him cooped up in the barracks, while paparazzi photographers stalked Kate's every move.

The media attention she received reminded many observers of what William's late mother Diana faced when she became engaged to Charles in 1981.

But as they announced their engagement Tuesday, the couple said they felt stronger for having come through it all and feel ready to face the future together, which should see them becoming king and queen.

They met in September 2001 at the University of St Andrews, where they both embarked on art history degrees.

William struggled to adjust to student life and Middleton was credited with persuading him to switch to a geography course and carry on.

The following year, they moved into a shared student house with two other friends.

Relatively little is known of their time at St Andrews due to a privacy deal with the media.

"When I first met Kate I knew there was something very special about her," William said.

"We were friends for over a year first and it just sort of blossomed from then on. We just spent more time with each other had a good giggle, had lots of fun and realised we shared the same interests."

Middleton added: "I went bright red when I met you and sort of scuttled off, feeling very shy about meeting you."

"It did take a bit of time for us to get to know each other but we did become very close friends from quite early."

They were pictured together on a skiing trip and after graduation in 2005, they holidayed together in