

## Obaidul Huq's anniversary of death today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the fourth death anniversary of eminent journalist Obaidul Huq, former editor of The Bangladesh Observer, says a press release.

He was the first Bengali Muslim to make a feature film "Dukkhe Jader Jibon Gora" in 1946.

Later, he joined The Pakistan Observer (later called The Bangladesh Observer) in 1951 as joint editor and later in 1972 became its editor.

Obaidul Huq was honoured with a number of national and international awards. He was awarded the Ekushey Padak in 1983 and received Unicef God Medal for journalism. He was also awarded Bangla Academy Award in 1964 for drama writing.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

**Mohammed Ibrahim**

METRO DESK



Today is the 45th death anniversary of Justice Mohammed Ibrahim, says a press release.

On the occasion, milad mahfil will be held in the morning, food will be distributed among the destitute and floral wreaths will be placed at his grave at Azimpur Graveyard in the city.

**Mukundalal Sarker**

BSS, Dhaka



Today is the 32nd anniversary of death of Mukundalal Sarker, a prominent anti-British movement leader and a war veteran of 1971.

On the occasion, prayers will be offered at the Dhanmndi residence (Apt. Rajonigandha, B-2, House # 80, Road # 9/A, Dhanmndi R/A (Shankar), Dhaka) of his younger son Ajit Kumar Sarker, City Editor of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS).

He was very close to Hussain Shaheed Suhrawardy, Sher-e-Bangla A. K. Fazlul Huq, Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani and Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.



Dhaka Wasa demolishes illegal portions of structures to free Kalyanpur Kha Khal in the city yesterday from encroachers.

PHOTO: STAR

## PADMA BRIDGE WB move deliberate Says rights body

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The deliberate move by the World Bank (WB) suspending loans to the much-awaited Padma Bridge project is not rational, a rights group claimed yesterday.

"The World Bank is intentionally delaying the construction of Padma Bridge through illogical interference," said Kazi Shafiqur Rahman, a coordinator of Sushasone Jonno Procharavijan (Supro), or campaign for good governance, from a human chain in the city.

The WB-pledged \$1.2 billion, of the \$ 2.9 billion project, has been suspended over alleged corruption charges in the tender process favouring the Canadian company SNC-Lavalin for the job of supervising the construction of the main bridge, which apparently pushed the construction into uncertainty.

The Canadian firm which was short-listed as the lowest bidder is yet to get the contract for the \$50 million job.

The human chain programme in front of the National Museum at Shahbagh on Wednesday was organised to protest the unjust debt and foreign aid and uncalled for interference of international financial institutions (IFIs).

The rights group has taken up programmes at both national and district levels to observe "Global Week of Action against Debt and IFIs" from October 10 to 17.

It demands unconditional cancellation of all outstanding foreign debts by the rich countries and IFIs, pointing out that the country, on an average, has to spend a total of \$ 1,070 million on payment of interest and principal in a year.

The average public debt in Bangladesh was only \$6.56 per head in 1974 that reached a whopping \$151 in 2011. The country's debt to rich nations, WB, International Monetary Fund (IMF) and Asian Development Bank (ADB) comes at the expense of essential investment in education, health care and environmental services, Supro said from the human chain.

"We also want rich countries to keep their promise to provide 0.7 percent of their GDP (gross domestic product) to the poor countries to achieve the Millennium Development Goals," said Saifuddin Ahmed, another coordinator of the group.

*The average public debt in Bangladesh was only \$6.56 per head in 1974 that reached a whopping \$151 in 2011*

## CHT ACCORD IMPLEMENTATION Indigenous people feel betrayed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Representatives from indigenous communities yesterday said the government had "betrayed" them with "false" hopes and promises of constitutional recognition and implementation of the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Peace Accord.

They warned that if the promises remained unfulfilled, the government would have to take responsibility for any conflict that may break out in the CHT region.

They made these comments at a discussion on a national convention of democracy activists protesting "the crisis in national and individual lives" that would be held on October 29.

The organising committee of the convention arranged the programme at the Liberation War Museum in the city.

"The issue of the indigenous people has been a much talked about issue both nationally and internationally," said Sanjeeb Drong, indigenous community leader and general secretary of Bangladesh Adivasi Forum.

And yet it remains neglected by the government, and the indigenous communities are left with no other option but to highlight the issue in protests and in the upcoming national convention, he said.

Speaking as the chair, Gono Forum Presidium Member Pankaj Bhattacharya said the debate on constitutional recognition of indigenous people is just a ploy to divert attention from implementing the CHT accord.

## Developer penalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The environment authorities yesterday fined a private housing company Tk10 lakh yesterday for illegally undertaking a housing project without environmental clearance certificate.

The penalty was handed on Amin Mohammad Lands Development Limited, as they have earth-filled low-lying lands to develop a housing project in violation of environment law, said Mohammad Munir Chowdhury, director of Department of Environment (DoE).

## Wasa drive to recover canal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Wasa knocked down illegal portions of more than 20 structures, including four six-story buildings, to free Kalyanpur Kha Khal (canal) of encroachment at the city's Mirpur yesterday.

Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authorities (Wasa) launched the two-day drive at Baten Nagar in Mirpur Mazar (shrine) Road aiming at recovering a two-kilometre stretch of the canal from illegal occupancy.

The buildings have been built encroaching at least 10 feet on the canal, said Wasa Executive Engineer Ruhul Amin.

Rest of the structures built occupying the canal was makeshift and boundary walls.

## Jamaat now controls BNP: Muhith

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamaat-e-Islami now controls the leadership of its alliance partner and the main opposition in parliament BNP said Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith at a discussion yesterday.

"Different activities and speeches by Khaleda Zia and other BNP leaders prove that she (Khaleda) is trying to safeguard the war criminals. Now her party's leadership has gone into Jamaat's hands," he said.

Ekaturrer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee organised the discussion styled "Jamaat's violence and the lingering trial of war criminals" in the city's WVA auditorium.

## College student dies 7 days after beating

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A college student here yesterday succumbed to his injuries inflicted by some local miscreants seven days ago.

The deceased Sayeed Ahmed, 19, is the eldest son of Abu Taher and was studying in class 12 in the city's Eden Garden School and College.

A group of miscreants led by Murad and Mansur called Sayeed out of his house at Jatarpur area at midnight on October 5 and beat him with iron rods and pipes, said local sources.

The locals and pedestrians rescued Sayeed in an unconscious state and took him to MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital. He was later transferred to Ibne Sina Hospital, Sylhet.

Police conducted several raids at Bashir Miar Colony at nearby Sonarpara but none could be arrested.

The attack may be a sequel to a cricket match among the locals, added the locals.

**TEN YEARS AFTER**

HE PASSED AWAY AND PASSED ON THE BATON TO US ALL AT INTERSPEED. WE ARE STILL REMINDED OF HIM ON A DAILY BASIS.

WHEN WE WORK, WHEN WE PLAY, WHEN WE FEEL PASSIONATELY ABOUT ANYTHING, HIS SPIRIT IS WITHIN US AND WITHIN THE CORE OF OUR ETHOS AND CULTURE REMINDING US OF OUR REASON FOR BEING.

REMINING US THAT "IF WE'RE NOT PASSIONATE ABOUT WHAT WE DO, WE HAVE NO BUSINESS BEING IN THIS BUSINESS".

TODAY WE REMEMBER HIM, BUT THIS IS NOT A MEMORIAL. THIS IS A TRIBUTE TO THE SPIRIT AND PASSION OF THE MAN WHO GAVE US ADVERTISING. THIS IS LOOKING FORWARD TO MANY MORE YEARS TO COME.

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