

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

M Kafil Uddin, a freedom fighter and former lawmaker, passed away at a private hospital in the port city yesterday at the age of 73.

He left behind his wife and four sons and a host of relatives and well-wishers to mourn his death.

He was elected lawmaker in the general election in 1973 as a candidate of Bangladesh Awami League.

He was buried with state honour at his family graveyard in DC Road area of Chok Bazar in the city after namaz-e-janaza at Chok Bazar Parade Ground after Asr prayers yesterday.

Chittagong City Corporation Mayor M Manjur Alam, former mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury, Mahmudul Islam Chowdhury and Chairman of Chittagong Development Authority MA Salam condoled his death.

MR Mazumder

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Brigadier (Retd) M R Mazumder passed away on Monday due to old age complications at the age of 86.

Mazumder, a former lawmaker, left behind his wife, four sons and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death.

He will be buried at his family graveyard at village Boloramer Chok of Zakiganj upazila in Sylhet today after namaz-e-janaza at Zakiganj upazila headquarters after Zohr prayers.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 18th death anniversary of A S M Merajul Karim, a flight lieutenant of Bangladesh Air Force, says a press release.

He died in a BAF aircraft accident in 1993 near coastal area of Chittagong.

Meraj received the sword of honour.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at his residence at Shams Villa, Plot No-1433, Road No-6/A, Sector No-5 of Uttara in the city after maghrib prayers today.

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

Rally

Bangladesh Mukti Joddha Sangsad will hold a rally. Venue: Suhrawardi Udyan, Time: 11:00am.

Discussion

Bangladesh Tariqat Federation will hold a discussion. Venue: Diploma campus, 4, Embankment Drive Road, Time: 11:00am.

Human chain

Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote will form a human chain. Venue: Before Jatiya Press Club, Time: 11:00am.

Discussion

Society for Human Rights and Education will hold a discussion. Venue: Central Public Library seminar hall, Time: 3:30pm.

Human chain

Bangladesh Sammilita Gonotantrik Jote will hold its human chain. Venue: Before Jatiya Press Club, Time: 11:00am.

Conference

South Asia Network of Economic Research Institutes will hold its annual conference. Venue: Ruposhi Bangla Hotel, Time: 9:00am.

Award

UNFPA will hold a certificate award ceremony. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel, Time: 10:30am.

Convocation

International University of Business Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT) will hold its convocation. Venue: IUBAT campus, 4, Embankment Drive Road, Sector No-10, Uttara, Time: 11:00am.

Roundtable

Weekly News Magazine Shaptahik will arrange a roundtable. Venue: Biam Foundation, 63, New Eskaton, Time: 10:00am.

Cultural competition

Amra Kuri will hold a cultural competition. Venue: Bangladesh Shishu Academy, Time: 3:00pm.



Children were rushed to Chittagong Ma O Shishu Hospital as they fell victims of pneumonia due to severe cold in the country. The picture was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

ABOLITION OF CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

Keep schools closed one day to mark the anniversary

'No cane ever again' campaigner tells Nahid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anti-corporal punishment crusader Sir Frank Peters met Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid recently and informed the minister about his "No cane ever again" campaign, says a press release.

Sir Frank proposed the minister that all schools and madrasas across the country be closed next month for one day to commemorate the first anniversary of the abolition of corporal punishment in schools.

"The main reason behind closing the schools was partly in tribute to the two honourable High Court Judges, Justice Md Imman Ali and Justice Sheikh Hasan Arif, who declared the

practice unlawful and to give the pupils, teachers and parents time to reflect and instil in their minds that corporal punishment is wrong, totally unacceptable, and is no longer tolerated by law or society," he said.

"Corporal punishment is mistakenly equated with discipline, to which it has no relation whatsoever. On the contrary, it is a widely practiced form of mental and physical torture in Bangladeshi schools that causes humiliation, irreparable damage throughout the person's life and violates the rights of the child," said Sir Frank.

"Make no mistake, corporal punishment is the physical abuse of children that can harm their mind long after

their tears have dried from the physical inhuman punishment they have suffered," he added.

Sir Frank said his meeting with the education minister was cordial and fruitful, but the minister decided the schools would remain open on the first anniversary in 2012.

The Daily Star could not reach the education minister for his comment despite several attempts.

In response to a petition filed on July 18, 2010, the High Court outlawed corporal punishment on January 13, 2011 and declared it "cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment and a clear violation of a child's fundamental right to life, liberty and freedom."

Teenage boy dies after inhaling toxic gas

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A teenage boy died after inhaling toxic gas while scavenging for scraps inside a manhole in city's Kamalapur yesterday.

The deceased, Mohammad Shabuj, 16 worked as a scavenger, fellow worker Abdur Rahim told reporters.

Rahim told reporters that they both went to Calvert Road in South Kamalapur to search for metal scraps inside manholes. Sabuj got down into a manhole around 12:30pm.

"When he did not return, I called him several times. He did not respond and so I got down into the manhole myself and found him in an unconscious state. I called for help and people helped me get him out of the manhole," Rahim said.

Shabuj was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where doctors declared him dead on arrival.

DMCH sources said there were no signs of injury on his body and they suspected Sabuj might have died from inhaling toxic gas inside the manhole.

Akter Hossain, a scrap metal shop owner in South Kamalapur, said Sabuj came from Khulna and had been a scavenger for the last six or seven years. No one knew any more details about him.

Officer-in-Charge Toffazzal Hossain of Motijheel Police Station said a team has already visited the spot and DMCH.

The dead body was sent to DMC morgue for autopsy, he added.

SHOT BY INDIAN KHASIAS

BSF yet to hand over body of Bangladeshi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) is yet to hand over the body of Bangladeshi youth who was shot dead by a group of Indian Khasias two days ago.

The Indian Khasias took Badsha Miah, 28, of Dibir Haor village in Jaintapur upazila of the district to the Indian territory and shot him dead near the "no-man's-land" on Sunday.

On information, the Dibir haor camp commander of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) protested the incident and held a meeting with BSF at Dibir haor border at 4:30pm on Sunday.

Commanding Officer of BBG, 5 Battalion, Sylhet Lt Colonel Shafiqul Azam told The Daily Star that he communicated the BSF commanding officer, who admitted the killing by the Khasias and the body would be handed over soon.

There had been a long standing dispute over the land and water body near the border with the Indian Khasias.

Three held for stealing at DMCH

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) police yesterday caught three people at the hospital premises in connection with stealing two cell phone sets of patients of the hospital.

The arrested are Mohammad Gazi, 20, Sentu, 18, and Jewel, 18, of Nabaganj park area in old Dhaka.

They confessed to various crimes including theft and fraud to the police.

Later, they were handed over to Shabbagh police.



Shamprodaikata Jongibad Birodhi Mancha forms a human chain in front of the Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday urging people to be united to resist the evil design of foiling the trial of all war criminals including Ghulam Azam.

PHOTO: STAR

Six killed in road accidents

METRO DESK

Six people were killed and five others injured in separate road accidents in Panchagarh, Chapainawabganj, Faridpur and Brahmanbaria yesterday.

Our Thakurgaon correspondent reports: Motorcyclist Lutfar Rahman, 50, was killed and two others were injured when another motorbike collided head-on with the bike at Gitalgoch under Tentulia upazila in Panchagarh yesterday.

Injured Munir, 25, was sent to Rangpur Medical College Hospital while Akash, 25, to Panchagarh Sadar Hospital.

In another accident, a minor boy Ripu, son of Bablu of Tentulia upazila, was crushed under the wheels of a tank-lorry on Panchagarh-Dhaka Highway at Pathraj under Boda upazila in Panchagarh the same day.

Local people blocked the road protesting the accident. In Chapainawabganj, a pickup van hit Sadia Khatun, 30, wife of Abdul Mannan of Shibganj upazila, leaving her dead in Dhobra area of the upazila yesterday.

In another incident, a tractor knocked Abdul Matin, 80, of Bholahat upazila, killing him on the spot on Bholahat-Shibganj road in Khalealampur area in the upazila yesterday.

In Faridpur, Aleya Begum, 45, wife of Sham Molla of Modhukhali upazila, was killed and three others were injured as a speeding bus crashed a van from behind at Jahapur in the upazila yesterday morning.

In Brahmanbaria, a motorbike hit Md Nantu Chowdhury, 35, leaving him severely injured at Azampur level crossing under Akhaura upazila yesterday morning.

He succumbed to his injuries on the way to Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital.

Pak journos blame leadership for failure in avoiding '71 massacre

BSS, Dhaka

Two Pakistani journalists, reputed for writing political analysis and commentary, have blamed Pakistani military leadership--aided by Zulfikar Ali Bhutto--for their failure to avoid the killing and mayhem in 1971 in Bangladesh erstwhile East Pakistan.

The Pakistani journalists-- Saad Hafiz and Shahzeb Jillani--expressed their views respectively to the Daily Times of Pakistan and BBC World Service at such a time when Bangladesh is celebrating 40 years of independence and has started the war crimes trial.

"What can be said is that the murder and mayhem that followed the elections, which destroyed the lives of many Bengalis and non-

Bengalis alike, could have been avoided by statesmanship and sagacity sadly lacking in the leadership at the time," Saad Hafiz said in his column titled 'Witness to national disintegration' in the Daily Times of Pakistan in its December 13 issue.

He said the final nail in the coffin of a united Pakistan was the inability of the West Pakistani military leadership--allegedly aided by Bhutto--to accept the Awami League victory in 1970 general elections.

Some of the political causes of the separation of Pakistan could have been addressed and misgivings removed over time if democracy, which involved consensus, parliamentary sovereignty and judicial independence, had been allowed to continue uninterrupted, Hafiz said.

He said the primary cause of national disintegration was the political alienation of the Bengali population and economic imbalance between the two provinces.

He said it seems that a truncated Pakistan has not learnt a lesson from the history. Pakistan is still a national security state, which continues to look to military adventures as 'saviours' instead of building and nurturing democratic institutions, he added.

In an article titled "Scars of Bangladesh independence was 40 years on" Shahzeb Jillani, the South Asia Editor of BBC World Service, commented that it was perhaps the darkest moment and ultimate humiliation for Pakistan when its army stood accused of mass murder, torture and rape and tens of thou-

sands of them were taken prisoners of war.

Jillani, born in December 1971 in Sindh, said, "Forty years on, I decided to examine the legacy of the brief but bitter war."

Referring to his first visit to Dhaka he said it was immediately clear that the Bangladeshi narrative of 1971 remains firmly focused on the violence unleashed by the Pakistani army.

Many Bangladeshis still feel very bitter about their treatment by West Pakistan, with discriminatory policies over economy and language, Jillani said.

He said in 1971, the West Pakistan leadership appeared to have made up its mind to answer this resentment with military force.

Qulkhani - Dua Mehfil

Our beloved mother Alhaji Most. Anwara Begum, wife of Late Alhaji Afsaruddin Talukder, passed away last Monday 19th December 2011 at the age of 84. Qulkhani and dua mehfil will be held on Thursday 22nd December 2011 after Magrib prayer at the residence of her eldest son AKM Shamsuddin, "Charukunjo", 77 Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka. Relatives, friends and well wishers of the deceased have been requested to join the dua-mehfil and pray for the departed soul.

- Bereaved Family Members