

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Tasnim Suman Haider Chowdhury, the eldest son of martyred professor Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury, passed away Tuesday night at the age of 47. He breathed his last in a Singapore Airlines aeroplane on the way to Singapore, where he was going for a vacation with his wife and children.

His body arrived in Dhaka yesterday. He will be buried in the city's Banani graveyard following his namaz-e-janaza at Azad Masjid in Gulshan after Juma prayers today. A doa mahfil will be held at the same mosque after Asr prayers tomorrow.



Lawmaker Tarana Halim sits in front of Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday with a placard expressing her sympathy for journalist Nikhil Bhadra who lost his leg on Wednesday hours after a BRTC bus ran him over and requesting all to be vocal in preventing road accidents.

PHOTO: STAR

Qulkhwani of Razzak today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The qulkhwani of former Awami League leader Abdur Razzak will be held at Kalabagan Club premises after Asr prayers today.

Razzak was one of the key organisers of the country's War of Liberation in 1971. He passed away in a London hospital on December 23 at the age of 69.

Considered a "living history" of the birth of Bangladesh, Razzak spent an illustrious political career of 50 years.

With kidney and liver ailments, he had been under treatment in King's College Hospital in London since September.

The veteran leader was laid to eternal rest with state honour at Banani Graveyard in the capital on December 26.

The ruling Awami League in a press release urged well-wishers, friends, and admirers of Abdur Razzak to attend the programme.

BDR CARNAGE TRIAL

Witnesses narrate murder of two officers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two witnesses to the 2009 carnage at the Pilkhana BDR headquarters narrated before a Dhaka court yesterday how mutineers tortured and killed Lt Col Luthfor Rahman and Major Dr Mamun.

The two witnesses, Sepoy Rakibul Islam and Lt Col Asif Abdur Rouf, gave the makeshift court in the city's Government Alia Madrasa playground a vivid picture of the atrocities committed during the two day carnage.

Rakibul said he hid inside the storeroom of the Sainik Lines in Pilkhana once the mutiny broke out in the morning of February 25 and came out after deciding to go home.

But on coming out, he saw some jawans including lance nayek Mozammel Hossain and sepoy Uttam Barua, Shamim Al Mamun Jewel and Tarequl Islam dragging and beating Major Mamun.

"At one point they took him to the north-west corner of Sainik Mess where nayeb subedar Islam Uddin ordered shooting him," Rakibul said.

When the defence lawyers, during cross-examination, accused Rakibul of giving false statements for personal gains, the witness

denied the accusations.

The Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka later recorded Lt Col Asif's deposition where he said the rebels hit him with a rifle butt, causing serious injuries, and later confined him to the quarter guard.

While being taken to the quarter guard, he saw some jawans led by subedar major Gofran Malik dragging and beating commander of 24 Rifles Battalion Lt Col Luthfor. Later, he came to know that the officer had been murdered.

During his confinement, sepoy Sohail tried several times to bring him out and kill him but failed as he did not have the key, added Lt Col Asif.

"Sohail tried to take revenge by killing me as I had punished him earlier on a charge of stealing fish from a pond," he continued.

The court then adjourned the proceedings till January 4. Defence lawyers will cross-examine Lt Col Asif when the court resumes. Earlier in the day, defence counsels completed the cross-examination of Major Abdullah Al Mamun.

A total of 57 senior and mid-ranking army officers, including the then BDR director general, were killed along with 17 others during the carnage.

Winter clothes for the poor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Ahsania Mission started distributing 6,000 blankets donated by The Emirates Airline Foundation among people, especially children, of 21 districts hit by the cold snap sweeping through the country.

As part of the programme, the mission President Kazi Rafiqul Alam and Executive Director M Ehsanur Rahman and Emirates' Sales Manager Bangladesh Ismail Bhuiyan distributed blankets among children of schools run by the mission on December 27.

Speaking on the occasion, Rafiqul said, "We are grateful to The Emirates Airline Foundation for extending this assistance."

"I am happy that we have been able to come to the assistance of these children," he said.

Warrant against former lawyer of Sayeede

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday issued arrest warrant against Barrister Fakhru Islam, former counsel for Delwar Hossain Sayeede, in a defamation case filed for making comments about the War of Liberation.

Metropolitan Magistrate Tanvir Ahmed issued the arrest warrant as Fakhru was not present during the yesterday's hearing.

The court also framed charge against Fakhru in his absence and fixed April 4, 2012 for starting trial of the case.



Human chain

The National Tenants Council will form a human chain. Venue: Before Jatiya Press Club, Time: 11:30am.

Seminar

A seminar on Tipaimukh Dam will be held. Venue: Jatiya Press Club, Time: 11:00am.

Anniversary

Bangladesh Short Film Forum will hold its 25th anniversary. Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, Dhanmondi, Time: 10:30am.

Human chain

Kendrio Khelaghar Asar will form a human chain. Venue: Before Jatiya Press Club, Time: 11:30am.

Mathematics utshab

Bangladesh Mathematical Olympiad Committee will hold a mathematics utshab. Venue: Govt Laboratory High School, Dhanmondi, Time: 9:00am.

Conference

Daffodil International University will hold its national conference. Venue: 4/2 Sobhanbagh, Time: 9:00am.

Reception

Manipur High School and College will hold a reception. Venue: 38/1, Shewrapara, Kafrul.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Dhaka Ahsania Mission President Kazi Rafiqul Alam and Executive Director M Ehsanur Rahman and Emirates' Sales Manager Bangladesh Ismail Bhuiyan distributing blankets among children of schools run by the mission on December 27.

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"Embracing English"

Aspirations

The main goal of englishinschools is to make English learning more accessible, enjoyable and meaningful for students and teachers all across the country. English often acts as a fear factor in many students and this initiative taken by Robi Axiata Limited and The Daily Star aims to help the students overcome this anxiety.



Accomplishments

On the 12th of October, 2011, the journey started at St. Joseph High School to introduce the initiative to the learners and the teachers. This rolled out the programme targeting 7,00,000 students in 1000 selected secondary schools.



Future plans

englishinschools started with 1000 secondary schools in Bangladesh but as a result of the overwhelming enthusiasm it plans to expand its operations in the coming year. 50 schools have hosted this fair so far, with 78 participating schools. Next year, the programme hopes to increase the number of participants and cover the rest of the 922 schools. The fair will come with more fun and exciting activities. It will also offer infrastructure and teaching and learning materials to improve the quality.



Achievements:

Total schools hosting the fair: 50
Participating schools: 78
Total participants: around 10,000 students



আফন্য আমবেই