



Qulkhwani of Shawkat Jamil today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Qulkhwani of Shawkat Jamil, a senior photojournalist of The Daily Star, will be held at his parental residence at Katpatty Road in Barisal city today.

On the occasion, a doa and milad mahfil will be held seeking salvation of the departed soul.

His family members requested his relatives, friends and well wishers to attend the programme.

Jamil breathed his last in Dhaka Tuesday noon at the age of 56. Doctors could not ascertain if he died of cardiac arrest or brain haemorrhage.

He was laid to rest at Barisal Muslim Graveyard on Wednesday.

Doa mahfil for Ravi Khan

METRO DESK



The doa mahfil of Ravi Khan, the former head of sustainability at Viyellat Group, will be held at his residence in the city after Asr prayers today.

Ravi passed away in a tragic car accident while returning home on Airport Road in the city in the early hours of March 9. He was only 26.

He left behind his parents, brother, Amer Khan, and a host of friends and relatives to mourn his death.

Ravi finished schooling from Aga Khan School and graduated from North South University. He had a passion for sports from a very early age.

Friends, family and well wishers are requested to attend the doa mahfil.

Chehlum

METRO DESK



Chehlum of Emanuel Haq Bhuiyan alias Haq Bhai, former secretary of Banasree-2 unit of Awami League, will be held today.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held after Juma prayers at his Banasree residence in the city, said a press release.

He died of cardiac arrest on January 9.



Nongor, an organisation, forms a human chain before the Jatiya Press Club yesterday demanding an end to accidents in waterways.

PHOTO: STAR

No troops build-up by Myanmar: BGB

A CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A high-level team of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) yesterday visited Bangladesh-Myanmar borders but found no troops build-up by Myanmar.

Headed by BGB's Chittagong Sector Commander Col Bashirul Islam, the team visited the bordering Naikhangchhari upazila for about seven hours from 10:00am.

During the visit, the team members found regular patrol of Myanmar's border force, Nasaka, but no sign of additional military deployment along the Bangladesh border.

"We could not find any evidence of military build-up along the border during our investigation", said Lt Col Khalequzzaman, battalion commander of 17 BGB battalion in Cox's Bazar, after concluding the visit around 5:00pm.

He said BGB officials wanted to know about troops mobilisation when they met with Nasaka officials on Wednesday, but the Myanmar officers rejected the claim terming it propaganda.

Some newspapers and television channels reported in the last few days that Myanmar had mobilised huge troops along the border with Bangladesh.

BGB sources said that yesterday's visit was to verify if there was actually any such mobilisation.

Crimes in railways on rise: Poba

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Poribesh Bachao Andolon (Poba) yesterday urged the government to take immediate steps to strengthen the security of the country's railways to stop what they claimed as "subversive activities to make the railway sector ineffective."

The leaders, while talking to journalists at Jatiya Press Club in the city, also demanded to identify and ensure exemplary punishment to the criminals involved with robbery, arson and vandalism in the train across the country.

Poba organised the press conference to unveil an investigation report made by the five-member Nagarik Committee on an incident of robbery and arson in a train at Mymensingh on January 24.

At least 22 such incidents, including the Mymensingh one, were reported since the beginning of this year, showing that crimes have increased in the railways in recent times, said the Poba leaders.

They also demanded exemplary punishment to the group of people who allegedly set fire to a train in Mymensingh as part of a conspiracy.

Poba Chairman Abu Naser Khan presided over the programme while WBB Trust National Advocacy Officer Maruf Rahman moderated it.

SEA LIMIT ROW WITH MYANMAR Use natural resources

Urge political leaders, including Fakhru, hailing verdict

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country's major political parties welcomed the landmark verdict which upheld Bangladesh's claim on the Bay of Bengal and urged the government to use the natural resources there to the best of the country's interests.

International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, on Wednesday, read out the landmark verdict which sustained Bangladesh's claim to 200-nautical-mile exclusive economic and territorial rights in the Bay rejecting the claims of Myanmar.

Senior leaders of these parties also hoped that the verdict would help resolve existing disputes with India over similar maritime boundaries in the Bay.

Welcoming the verdict, BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir said it is "good news" for the country.

Talking to journalists at BNP's central office in the city, he said, "We are undoubtedly happy with the announcement of this verdict. Credit for the achievement should be given to the foreign ministry officials who dealt with the issue in the international court."

Awami League Joint General Secretary Mahbubul Alam Hanif sees the landmark verdict as a historic event for the nation and its people.

"I find the historic verdict a great achievement for the present government and people of the country. In line with this landmark ver-

dict, I hope Bangladesh will also win in the contest against India in the dispute over similar maritime boundary in the Bay of Bengal," he said.

Similarly terming it as good news, Communist Party of Bangladesh General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim said, "With the announcement of this verdict, our national rights got international recognition."

"Now it should be ensured that the resources available in the recognised area are used in the interest of the country's people."

Workers' Party of Bangladesh General Secretary Anisur Rahman Mollick said, "This verdict has brought a great win for Bangladesh in the international arena. But the matter of executing the verdict will depend on how much Myanmar respects it."

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal President Hasanul Haq Inu also welcomed the verdict and congratulated the government and the foreign ministry.

"The government showed its boldness and sincerity in protecting national interests by going to the international court to resolve the long-standing dispute with Myanmar," he said.

Jatiya Party Presidium Member Kazi Zafar Ahmad said, "The national rights were established with this verdict at the international court. We congratulate those who worked behind the success and the government, for the success has come during its tenure."

Minor boy killed in wall collapse

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A four-year old boy was killed and his mother injured when a boundary wall collapsed on them at Wazidia Madrasa area under Bayezid Police Station in the port city yesterday.

The deceased Abu Fayder Emon was the son of Abdul Mannan, a worker at a roadside eatery and a resident of the area.



Abu Fayder Emon

Minu Ara Begum, 35, along with her child Emon was walking along an alley south of Wazidia Madrasa, around 8:30am, when a decaying boundary wall of a two-storey house gave way and collapsed on them, killing the child instantly.

Police recovered the child's body from beneath the rubble and sent the critically injured mother to Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

Police have arrested Abdul Aziz, one of the residents of the building, and a case was being filed, as of 7:30pm yesterday, said Md Mainul Islam Bhuiyan, inspector (Investigation) of Bayezid Police Station.

On visiting the spot this correspondent found the remaining 70 feet of the wall still standing, posing a threat to passers-by.

"Lately, a portion of the dilapidated wall was extended to a height of 15 feet, increasing the risk," said Nizamuddin, a resident of the area.

CID men visit Nurul Islam's house

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Investigators yesterday again inspected former Ganotantri Party president Nurul Islam's Lalmatia house where the politician and his son died in a mysterious fire on December 3, 2008.

Rezaul Haider, special superintendent of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) who led the team of investigators, said, "I have joined the CID recently and will supervise the probe into the incident. So I came here to observe the scene to have a clear image".

He, however, denied commenting of what the team found during the inspection.

Earlier, sources at BCSIR, a scientific research body, told the media of having detected in the ashes Osmic compounds and arsenic, which release poisonous fumes and accelerate death.

Nurul Islam succumbed to his injuries after a 36-hour fight for life in Dhaka Combined Military Hospital (CMH) while his son Tamohar Islam died on the spot.

A few days before the incident, Nurul Islam had submitted his nomination paper to run in the 2008 parliamentary elections from Noakhali-1 constituency with Awami League ticket.

5 vehicles damaged for city road crash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Agitating mob vandalised four vehicles and set fire to a bus after a road accident that critically injured a school girl at Bijoy Nagar in the capital last night.

Shabnur Sabrin Sultana, 11, a student of class-V of Begumganj JK Model Government Primary School in Noakhali, was hit by a bus around 9:30pm. She was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

After the accident, the mob damaged the buses and blocked the road for around a half hour. Fire fighters rushed to the spot and doused the fire. Police held the bus driver, Suruj Miah.

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