

Minar died

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Dr Sohail said they have collected samples of liver, kidney, blood, stomach, heart and the powder from the body for visceral and chemical tests.

"The main reason of his death would be ascertained after getting the test report," he said adding that there were no internal and external injuries to his body which could have caused his death.

He also hoped to get the test reports within a month.

But there were wounds in his right wrist and hand which were not of much significance, he added.

Morgue sources, however, said the wounds indicate that he might have thrashed his right hand at something hard.

K M Firoz, inspector (investigation) of Khilkhet Police Station, said they found powder-like substance in Minar's nails and on the carpet of the hotel room.

A police team of Criminal Investigation Department also collected samples from his fingernails and the room for investigation, he said.

In the review of the hotel's CCTV footage, they saw Minar entering the hotel room with bare hands on Wednesday at 10:45am, the inspector added.

Meanwhile, Minar's body was taken to his Uttara residence and his first namaj-e-janaza was held after Juma prayers, his brother Mehedi Hasan told The Daily Star.

The body was taken to his ancestral home in Faridpur where his second namaj-e-janaza will be held at 9:00am today. He will be buried at Mirpur Martyred Intellectuals Graveyard today, he added.

Talking to The Daily Star over the phone, Minar's wife Lajuk claimed that Minar became quite annoyed with the media for the last three years as he did not get any better opportunity in the sector.

The 53-year-old journalist, who did his graduation in sociology from Dhaka University, returned home in 2009 from self-exile in the US.

Major rise

FROM PAGE 20

Blood in the urine can be an early sign that something is wrong.

But kidney cancer, if diagnosed early, can often be cured by surgery.

The experts say that being overweight increases the risk of this cancer, as well as others including breast, bowel and womb cancer, because it causes the higher levels of certain hormones to be produced, compared with those seen in healthy people.

Smoking rates in the UK have fallen over the last 35 years, but overweight and obesity levels are rising - with nearly 70 percent of men and almost 60 percent of women in the UK having a BMI of 25 or more - which means they are classed as being overweight.

However the five-year survival rate for kidney cancer has increased by 85 percent between the early 1970s and 2005-09.

HORMONE LINK

Professor Tim Eisen, a Cancer Research UK kidney cancer expert based at the University of Cambridge, said: "Over the last 10 years, Cancer Research UK has helped to develop new drugs which destroy the blood supply to the kidney cancers. These drugs control the disease in most patients but do not cure it.

"It is best to prevent the problem in the first place - maintaining a healthy weight and not smoking are the best ways of doing that."

Sara Hiom, director of information at Cancer Research UK, said: "Too few people know about the significant cancer risks associated with being very overweight."

"While giving up smoking remains the best way to cut your chances of developing kidney cancer, the importance of keeping a healthy weight shouldn't be overlooked."

Chittagong jives

FROM PAGE 1

former president of Bangladesh Economic Association (Ctg chapter) Prof Sikander Khan; former chief secretary to the prime minister Abdul Karim; and Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee leader Mustari Shafi.

Representatives of the partners of the festival Syed Tahmeed Azizul Huq, head of corporate communications of Grameenphone; Ali Hussain Akber Ali, chairman of BSRM Group; Abul Bashar, chairman of BSM Group; Saifuzzaman Chowdhury Javed, director of UCBL; Tariq Ahmed, director (operations) of TK Group; Tanvir Ahmed of Pacific Jeans; Khurshid Alam of RB Industries; BGMFA First Vice-President Nasir Uddin Chowdhury; Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industries (CCCI) President Morshed Murad Ibrahim; its Senior Vice President Mahbubul Alam; Managing Director of Western Marine Shipyard Shakhawat Hossain; and Trustee Secretary of AK Khan Foundation Salauddin Kashem Khan also took the oath on stage.

Binod Bihari, the 103-years-old living legend, with his inspiring voice urged the audience to love the country keeping all sorts of divisions aside. He hoped the festival would help revive the glorious past of Chittagong and make the young generation proud.

Chittagong City Corporation Mayor M Manjur Alam thanked The Daily Star for taking such wonderful initiative of highlighting the history, culture and other distinctive features of Chittagong.

In his speech, Mahfuz Anam said The Daily Star had initiated the festival to project the indomitable spirit of Chittagong. "We love our country, but many of us do not know the exact history of its different areas. Dhaka has a history of 400 years. But it is nice to hear that Chittagong has a rich history of more than 1,400 years," he said.

The festival would showcase Chittagong's golden history of revolution against the British colonial rule, successful trade, and to-be-proud-about socio-political role as well as immense prospect of a bright future, added Mahfuz Anam.

He said The Daily Star would continue to take such initiatives to solve problems of the port city. People of all strata of life

Showcasing

FROM PAGE 1

Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, said in his welcome speech that The Daily Star has organised the exhibition to highlight the history and heritage of Chittagong.

He added the event would be taken to Dhaka and other parts of the country so people across the country could know Chittagong and its potentials better.

Architect Abu Syed Ahmed thanked The Daily Star for the initiative. Shamsul Hossain, who planned and designed the entire programme, said numerous researches and studies are being done on Chittagong throughout the world at present.

The exhibition showcases the historical significance of Chittagong during five periods - pre-historic period, Harikela of the Pre-Medieval period, Chatigram-Chatigaon of the Sultanate period, Mughal Chhatgaon-Islamabad period and Colonial Chittagong period.

A total of 77 photographs, an artwork depicting the lifestyle of the people of Chittagong in pre-historic period, a model of a Mughal tomb and a painting on Karnaphuli battle of 1666 between Mughals and Arakans will be on display.

Also, there will be a map on the communication system of Chittagong in Sultanate and Mughal periods. Of the photographs on display, 18 are of various types of copper plates, vases and coins of Harikela periods; 20 are of tombs and mosques, among other things, of the Sultanate era; 25 of mosques, tombs and ruins of different structures of Mughal period and 14 are of different structures of colonial period.

Bin Laden fathered four

children while

on run: wife

AFP, Islamabad

Osama bin Laden fathered four children as he hid out in Pakistan after the 9/11 attacks, his youngest wife told interrogators, according to a police report seen by AFP yesterday.

Amal Abdulfattah's account provides rare details of the al-Qaeda leader's life from when he fled Afghanistan in late 2001 until his death aged 54 last May during a US Navy SEAL operation in Abbottabad, in Pakistan.

Abdulfattah, from Yemen, was arrested by Pakistani authorities following the US raid on bin Laden's compound near the Pakistani capital Islamabad, along with two of his Saudi wives, and her five children.

Popular musical bands LRB and Renaissance and soloist Arnob enthralled the audience with their performances.

The cultural programme ended at 9:30pm.

International

FROM PAGE 1

would take a message to Geneva that Bangladesh was characterised highly vulnerable to disasters but the people were also well known for their resilience.

She was speaking to journalists during a visit to a disaster-resilient habitat project at Bainpara of Dacope upazila in Khulna where cyclone Aila-affected people were staying.

Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CDMP) in partnership with local NGO Sushilan and with support from the UNDP, UKaid, European Union, Norwegian Embassy, Sida, and Australian AID, has been implementing a pilot project there.

During a meeting held there, members of local disaster-management committee said salinity of water and soil had been a huge problem for them.

Agricultural productivity plummeted with farmers growing only one crop a year. Their livelihood options also declined and many of them were exploiting resources of the Sundarbans.

Wahlstrom, who is based in Geneva, said she was convinced that climate-resilient houses, stronger and higher embankment along the coast, alternative sources of income could in many ways help address the climate-change impacts.

Not only agriculture, but also seasonal migration to townships, manufacturing industries in the urban centres could help generate employment for the poor, she said.

Bangladesh's economic growth is strong and the government is trying hard for sustainable solution, said Wahlstrom, adding that things, however, were not going to change overnight.

On the challenges that Bangladesh faces in tackling climate-change risks, she said the aspiration of Bangladeshi people was very high and they were quite impatient and want things done quickly.

Bangladesh government should engage people, have dialogue for better understanding of the issues and for better solutions to the problems, she said.

Wahlstrom responded in the positive when asked if Bangladesh had resource shortages but she said not everything could be done with money.

"See, 70 percent of Bangladeshis use mobile phones. Almost 100 percent children are going to schools. Could you think about it 10 years ago?" she said, adding that Bangladesh has a bright future but the efforts must continue.

World Food Programme Representative in Bangladesh, Christa Rader, Disaster Management and Relief Division's Secretary Aslam Alam, CDMP National Project Director Abdul Qayyum, UNDP Deputy Country Director Robert Juhkam, UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction Asia-Pacific Regional Programme Officer Madhavi Ariyabandu were also present at the meeting.

Land hitch bars

KEPZ

approval from the Board of

Governors." The private EPZ Board of Governors meets once a year even though the Private EPZ Act says that there should be at least four meetings a year.

This made investment opportunities inflexible and the KEPZ requested the Private EPZ Cell in 2010 to review the list and allow it to set up all kinds of industries permissible under the Industrial Policy 2010, including garments and textiles.

In the government-owned EPZs, there are no restrictions on setting up of any type of industries permissible under Industrial Policy 2010. The president of the KEPZ said Section 16 of the Private EPZ Act ensures that all concessions applicable to government EPZs are also applicable for the KEPZ.

But the authorities are foot dragging. He even cited the Foreign Private Investors Promotion & Protection Act, 1980, which clearly stipulates that foreign investors must be accorded similar investment opportunities as are accorded to citizens of Bangladesh.

PERMISSION AUTHORITY On the issue of permission for setting up an industry in the KEPZ, Saadat pointed to the Private EPZ Act Section 14 (2), which clearly says that permission for setting up industries by enterprises in private EPZs shall be granted by the sponsor company based on the guidelines provided by the Executive Cell. This empowers the KEPZ with the authority to receive and evaluate an investor's application and approve it.

But, unfortunately in 2010, the Board of Governors of the Private EPZ passed a decision saying that the KEPZ would grant permission to investors but it would then have to be approved by the Private EPZ Cell. This blatantly disregards the provision of the Private EPZ Act and complicates and delays approval for setting up industries.

The KEPZ has filed an appeal with the Private EPZ Cell for reviewing the decision. With \$200 million, the KEPZ has so far developed a substantial area of land as industrial plots, 22km of internal road network, a facility for foreign investors and expatriate staff. When fully operational, the KEPZ aims at attracting investments over \$1 billion and employ around 100,000 people directly and another 200,000 indirectly.

Dr Md Shamsuddin, resident medical officer of the hospital, said the BCC authorities could construct the drain and footpath keeping the old trees in their places. He also mentioned that the hospital authorities recently constructed a new boundary wall without cutting down the trees.

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Dr Mizanur Rahman, member secretary of Barisal Nagarik Samaj, protested the incident of tree felling, saying "Any development work must not continue at the cost of our heritage or environment."

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'Earth Hour'

FROM PAGE 1

prime minister, told newsmen in the city on Thursday.

The government could save about 400 tonnes of liquid fuel and 1.6 million units of electricity if all people in the country observe the Earth Hour, said ASM Alamgir Kabir, chairman of Power Development Board.

Power Secretary Abul Kalam Azad said they have started a campaign for the event. "Letters have already been sent to all the deputy commissioners to ensure it is observed across the country."

The Earth Hour is a global event organised annually by World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) at 8:30pm on the last Saturday of March. Its aim is to highlight the charity's call on governments, organisations and individuals to pledge their commitment to tackle climate change.

The concept of Earth Hour was conceived by the WWF and The Sydney Morning Herald in 2007, when 2.2 million residents of Sydney had joined the campaign by turning off all of their non-essential lights.

Following Sydney's lead, many other cities around the world adopted the event in 2008.

Hundreds of millions of people and businesses unite each year to support the event. More than 5,200 cities and towns in 135 countries worldwide had switched off their lights for the Earth Hour 2011.

AL leader

FROM PAGE 20

On information, police rushed to the scene to calm the situation. They sent the body to Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital morgue for an autopsy.

Police arrested two youths Mohammad Mamun and Zafar Alam, in connection to Osman's murder, officials said.

"The situation is under control now," said Ranjit Kumar Barua, officer-in-charge of Moheshkhali Police Station, adding that additional police have been deployed there.

Osman Goni was the son of the district's first Liberation War martyr Mohammad Sharif, also the then chairman of Kalarmar Chhara union.

His brother Syed Noor was killed in a gunfight with Rapid Action Battalion in the upazila last year.

Old trees

FROM PAGE 20

Engineer Shahidul Alam, proprietor of the contractor firm Mahfuz Enterprise, however, denied the BCC official's claim, saying that they were felling the trees as per the approved plan, design and schedule of the tender contract of BCC.

If BCC authorities want to spare those trees, they have to revise the terms and conditions of the schedule, he added.

They are felling those trees to complete the construction work of footpath and drain speedily, an official of the construction firm told The Daily Star preferring not to be named.

They are doing the work at their own cost as the hospital authorities refused to cut down the trees, he said adding that the trees will be sold and the proceeds will be deposited to the hospital fund.

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BNP may go

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"The government's attitudes towards the opposition leader forced us to boycott the last sitting of the parliament's 12th session," a BNP MP yesterday told The Daily Star requesting anonymity.

He said if the situation deteriorates the opposition deputies would not return to the House.

"If the government does not change its position, opposition MPs' joining parliament will not yield any good result," said MK Anwar, a member of BNP national standing committee, when asked if the opposition would go for another round of parliament boycott.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, Anwar, a BNP MP and former minister, said they want to join the parliament to make it effective. "But the way the prime minister and her party MPs keep attacking the opposition proves that they do not want to make the House effective."

Mahburur Rahman, a member of BNP national standing committee, echoed the same view.

"We are seeking a fair political atmosphere. Discussion will take place in parliament to resolve problems. But we are very sorry to say that the government is not sincere in allowing the opposition to play its due role in parliament," Mahburur told The Daily Star.

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