

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



He has helped save many lives in his profession as a physician. But when it came to fight his own complications, Dr Reaz Feda Rubel could not help himself. The 44-year-old ever smiling physician of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) breathed his last midnight Thursday in the capital.

Medical officer of Palliative Care Department of the BSMMU, Dr Reaz was suffering from severe complications arising out of hypertension.

He was admitted to the BSMMU on May 19, from where he was transferred next week to the United Hospital for better treatment.

Born in Dhaka, Reaz studied medicine in Sir Salimullah Medical College. He pursued careers in different private medical facilities, including a pharmaceutical company, till he joined the BSMMU two years ago.

A mild mannered, humorous and popular person, Dr Reaz was also a musician and a concert organiser from his student life. He had formed two bands, Oasis and Icarus, in the late eighties and nineties and contributed to two albums of the two bands as bassist and back vocalist.

His untimely death left his wife, a son, two brothers, a sister and friends and relatives in deep shock.

His namaz-e-janaza was held at Paribag mosque after the Juma prayers yesterday and he was buried in the Shahjahanpur Graveyard.

His Qulkhani will be held at his sister's residence at Paribag Wapda Officers' Quarters after the Maghrib prayers. Relatives, friends and well wishers are requested to attend.

Death anniversary

METRO DESK



Today is the ninth death anniversary of Sajeda Islam, wife of late engineer

Fakhrul Islam, says a press release.

Man hacked to death in Ctg

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A man was hacked to death at Hathazari Upazila in Chittagong yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Md Badsha Mia, 30, son of Shab Uddin, hailed from Sholoshahar Gate number-2 area in the port city.

Sub-Inspector Nurul Hakim of Hathazari Police Station said, on information, police recovered Badsha's beheaded body from Baniapara cremation ground area in Hathazari at 10:00am.

Police suspected that the murder took place in between 2:00am and 8:00am yesterday.

The motive behind the murder, however, could not be ascertained, said police.



Local people use boats as the means of travel as heavy rains over the past few days flooded some parts of Teknaf in Cox's Bazar. The photo was taken in Chowduhury Para area yesterday.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Govt encourages river grabbing: Bapa

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has legalised and encouraged encroachment along the shorelines of the river Buriganga through conducting "controversial and improper" surveys and violating an order of the apex court, an environmental organisation said yesterday.

"Defying the High Court verdict, the encroachers continue grabbing the land of the Buriganga with assistance of a section of government employees. In addition, the authorities entrusted with protecting the river legalised and encouraged the encroachers", said Sharif Jamil, joint secretary of Bangladesh Poribesh Bachao Andolon (Bapa).

The Dhaka district administration sets up demarcation pillars along the Buriganga over and over again, and thus legalises illegal encroachment and wastes money, he said.

He said due to illegal encroachments in Pagla, Fatullah, Aliganj, Dakkhin and Pangaon,

the river had been reduced to a narrow stream.

Sharif Jamil made the observations at a press conference on "Demarcation of the Buriganga: Verdict of the Court and Reality" at Dhaka Reporters Unity.

The Dhaka district administration began setting up pillars for the demarcation of the rivers of Dhaka from April 2011 after the High Court issued an order to save the rivers of Buriganga, Sitalakhya, Turag and Balu in 2009.

Bapa General Secretary Dr Abdul Matin alleged that the encroachers were getting direct patronisation of some government officials.

Eminent columnist Syed Abul Maksud demanded the government implement the High Court's order.

Bapa has placed a five-point demand, including stop to setting up of demarcation pillars, removal of the pillars, and ensuring the trial and punishment of persons responsible for controversially setting up pillars.

Two Indian siblings touch motherland after 10 years

Our Correspondent, Benapole

Ten years after losing their way into Bangladesh, two Indian siblings were sent back to their homeland yesterday.

They are Mohammad Kamaluddin, 16, and Mohammad Ainuddin, 15, sons of Moinuddin Gazi of Dhannokura village under Bashirhat Police Station at South 24 Porgona district in India.

They were handed over to Indian Border Security Force through the Benapole check post yesterday afternoon.

In 2002, the two boys were left behind in the Indian Petrapole border area by a male acquaintance.

Later, Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) found them in the Bangladesh territory and handed them over to Benapole Port Police Station.

In 2007, Kishor Unnayan Kendra, under social welfare ministry, at Pulerhat in Jessore was given the custody of the two boys.

The Indian High Commission in Dhaka recognised Kamaluddin and Ainuddin as Indian citizens on May 27.

Rights Jessore, a human rights organisation and All Bengal Women's Union, an Indian voluntary organisation helped their repatriation process.



A sambar deer sits with its newly born foal at Chittagong Zoo yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Sambar foal born at Ctg zoo after 5yrs

MINHAJ UDDIN, Ctg

A sambar deer, a rare species of deer, gave birth to a foal at Chittagong Zoo yesterday.

Md Hanif, a caretaker at the zoo, told The Daily Star that the species of deer has given birth to a foal after more than five years at the zoo.

With the new foal, the zoo is now host to 25 deer of four different species, including eight spotted deer, 13 barking deer, one para deer and four sambar deer, he said.

The zoo's one of the two female sambar deer gave birth to the foal

around 11:00am, he said adding that the species of barking deer and spotted deer gave birth to foals last year.

Dr Manjur Morshed, veterinary officer at the zoo, said sambar deer become larger in size than any other species. They are usually found in Southeast Asian countries, including Sri Lanka, India, Myanmar, Thailand, Indonesia, Philippines and southern China.

In Bangladesh, the species were found in hilly areas of Sylhet, Chittagong and Chittagong Hill Tracts in the past. But they are almost extinct now in the country, he said.

RMG workers' unrest ceases in Ashulia

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The situation in Ashulia remained calm yesterday after four days of agitation by readymade garment factory workers demanding a salary hike, said locals.

"No unrest took place yesterday," said Officer-in-Charge SM Badrul Alam of Ashulia Police Station.

However, only one factory, of Ha-Meem Group, owned by FBCCI President AK Azad, was opened in the industrial zone.

"The factory opened at 8:00am. However, since workers' attendance was very poor, the authority shut it down at 1:00pm," said a worker of Ha-Meem Group, Hiron Mia.

The factory authority had asked them to inform other workers to attend work from today, he added.

"The factory management informed the workers present today that the authority will hold a meeting to increase their salary after the majority of the workers join work," he said.

Yesterday, some people were seen moving around almost every lane in Ashulia on rickshaws mounted with megaphones.

They were making announcements that the factories would be shut down if the workers did not join work and continued their violent protests today.

The workers claimed that these announcements were being made by the factory owners.

However, president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporter Association (BGMEA), Shafiqul Islam Mohiuddin, said he had no knowledge of any such announcement made in the area.

BGMEA leaders had issued the threat at a press briefing in the capital on Thursday.

From Monday to Thursday, around 400 people were injured, some 350 vehicles ransacked and about 130 factories vandalised in the industrial zone as the workers took to the streets demanding a salary hike, police and witnesses said.

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ADCOMM 2012

Use rainwater to meet crisis: Experts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rainwater can be a potential alternative source for tackling acute water crisis faced by rural and urban people, said experts yesterday.

Store and reuse of rainwater will also help coastal people tackle issue of salinity and reduce excessive pressure on groundwater, which is the major source of drinking water, they said.

The observation came at the inaugural session of a three-day convention titled "Bangladesh convention on rainwater harvesting" organised by WaterAid, Bangladesh with the assistance of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, Institute of Water Modeling, Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), and Rain Forum at Ruposhi Bangla Hotel in the capital.

The country is facing acute water crisis amidst rapid urbanisation and industrialisation, climate change impacts and fast depleting groundwater level, experts said.

Rainwater harvesting can be a way to reduce this crisis, said Water Resources Minister Ramesh Chandra Sen.

Dinesh Gunawardena, minister of water supply and drainage of Sri Lanka, Dr Md Khairul Islam, country representative of Water Aid, Bangladesh, and Suresh Kumar Rohilla, programme director of Urban Water Management, CSE, India, also spoke.

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