

Funeral of Raja Aungshoi Prue Chy held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Showered with wreaths and garlands from hundreds of people from all walks of life, the funeral of Raja Aungshoi Prue Chowdhury, chief of Bomang Circle, took place at Rajbari grounds in Bandarban yesterday.

The 15th Bomang chief breathed his last at his royal palace on August 8 at the age of 98. He was suffering from old age complications.

The body was brought to the grounds in a peacock-shaped chariot at noon where different cultural groups of Marma community performed traditional dances.

Afterwards the body was taken to Central Buddhist Cremation Ground around 5:00pm for cremation.

State Minister for Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Affairs Dipankar Talukdar, CHT Development Board Chairman Bir Bahadur Ushoi Singh and Chakma Raja Barrister Devashis Roy attended the funeral.

Born on August 1, 1915, Aungshoi was sworn in as the 15th Bomang chief on November 19, 1998. He was elected lawmaker twice in 1970 and 1979.



People from all walks of life pull the chariot carrying the body of Raja Aungshoi Prue Chowdhury, chief of Bomang Circle, towards Central Buddhist Cremation Ground yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

ACID ATTACK ON MONI

Still no arrest after 10 days

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Although ten days have passed, police are yet to arrest any of the culprits who threw acid on Masuda Aktar Moni on the night of August 13.

Two days after the brutal attack, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid visited Moni at Acid Survivor's Foundation in the capital's Banani.

Later the minister ordered the divisional commissioner of Rangpur to arrest the criminals immediately.

According to family members, on the night of August 13, stalkers Ariful Islam, Alal, Arefin and Dulal, who used to tease 15-year-old Moni on her way to school, broke into Moni's house and threw acid on her while she was

sleeping.

Moni's elder brother Majedur Rahman Sohel filed a case with Rangpur Kotwali Police Station in this connection.

Moni was first admitted to Rangpur Medical College Hospital. As her condition deteriorated, she was shifted to the foundation in the capital.

Altaf Hossain, officer-in-charge of Rangpur Kotwali Police Station, said after the incident all the accused went into hiding.

"But we are trying our best to arrest them," he said yesterday.

Meanwhile, surgery on Moni's face was completed at the Acid Survivor's Foundation last Thursday.

Her doctors said although the surgery was successful, Moni's right eye is completely damaged and

her left eye is still in danger.

Moni is now in intensive care, they said.

Sulekha Parvin, victim's mother, told The Daily Star that Moni had undergone an eight-hour long surgery on Thursday.

"The criminals destroyed my daughter's life," she said sobbing uncontrollably.

Moni's family expressed dissatisfaction with the ongoing police investigation.

Victim's brother Sohel alleged that police seem relaxed and not very interested in arresting the criminals.

Refuting the allegation, Mokbul Hossain, investigation officer of the case, said it has been difficult to arrest the culprits after they went into hiding but police are trying their best to capture them.

YEASMIN'S DEATH ANNIVERSARY Protection demanded for domestic helps

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Women leaders and professionals yesterday demanded immediate enactment of a specific law to ensure security, dignity and rights of domestic helps.

They also urged the government to ratify and implement the convention, "Decent Work for Domestic Workers", adopted by the International Labour Organisation (ILO). The speakers also called for bringing necessary amendments to the existing laws and their proper implementation to stop women's repression.

Karmojibi Nari, a platform for working women, brought up the demands at a human chain in front of the capital's Jatiya Press Club marking the Resistance Day Against Repression of Women in memory of Yeasmin killing,

says a press release.

Yeasmin Akhter, a 14-year-old domestic help of Golapbagh area of Dinajpur town, was gang-raped and killed by policemen in Dinajpur on August 24, 1995.

Rokeya Rafiq, executive director of Karmojibi Nari, said domestic helps had been being victims of repression, even murder, as there was no specific law to protect them. So a specific law should be passed to ensure security, dignity and rights of the workers.

Convener of Jatiya Nari Jote Afroza Haque Rina urged the government to formulate a comprehensive family law to ensure security of women.

She also demanded stop to all communal and fundamentalist activities going against women empowerment.

Half of work done

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how they expect to complete the remaining work in four months, he said the project had suffered eight months' delay due to legal complications in acquiring lands from Bangladesh Railway and private owners.

Moreover, the major time-consuming works, like the piling and foundation work, had been done and the rest would not take much time, he added.

The Rajuk official said of the flyover's four loops, loop-1 had been done and the works of loop-2 and -3 would be completed by the next two months while loop-4 by November. The 2-km internal road would also be completed by November, he said.

Besides, digging of a lake beneath the flyover and construction of two foot bridges on it would

also go alongside the main project.

Field-level workers, however, have doubts. "Given the pace at which the work is progressing, it will be impossible to finish the flyover within the scheduled time," said a worker seeking anonymity.

The objective of the 8.9-metre wide and 48-feet high one-way Kuril flyover was to ease the perennial traffic congestion in Banani, and on Kuril-Biswa Road, Airport Road, Pragati Sarani and the under-construction Purbachal link road.

Rajuk is constructing the flyover with its own fund while Project Builders Ltd Bangladesh and Major Bridge Engineering Corporation China (CPB-MBEC JV), are constructing it, said Mahubur Rahman.

Breivik jailed for 21 years

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his bomb and shooting rampage last July.

Justifying blasting a government building and gunning down dozens of teenagers at a summer camp as a service to a nation threatened by immigration, he had said only acquittal or death would be worthy outcomes. But his biggest concern was being declared insane - the sole verdict he had said he would appeal.

Judge Wenche Elizabeth Arntzen dismissed a prosecution call for her to label Breivik mad, a ruling that would have seen him confined indefinitely to psychiatric care rather than prison.

Some survivors of the slaughter at the Labour party youth camp on Utoeya island had been keen to see Breivik held clearly responsible for his actions -- and to avoid the insanity verdict that would have triggered lengthy and traumatic appeal hearings.

For many Norwegians, still shocked by their bloodiest day since World War Two, the details were academic, however.

"He is getting what he deserves," said Alexandra

Peltre, 18, whom Breivik shot in the thigh on Utoeya. "This is karma striking back at him. I do not care if he is insane or not, as long as he gets the punishment that he deserves."

Breivik, who had surrendered to police on the island without a fight, admitted blowing up the Oslo government headquarters with a fertilizer bomb, killing eight, on Friday, July 22, 2011, then shooting 69 at the ruling party's summer youth camp.

Dressed in a black suit with a tie and still sporting the under-chin beard familiar from the 10 weeks of hearings that ended in June, Breivik smirked when he entered the courtroom and gave his now familiar, far-right salute when his handcuffs were removed. He smiled again as the judge read out the verdict.

He will not appeal, his lawyer said. "He told me he will accept this verdict," Geir Lippestad told Reuters.

A lawyer for some victims and their families said they, too, were satisfied; "I am pleased, although that's not really

the right word, and relieved. This is what we hoped for," said Mette Yvonne Larsen, who represented some of those affected in court.

"I have already received many messages from clients telling me this is justice served and they are happy it's over and will never have to see him again."

The killings shook the nation of five million which had prided itself as a safe haven from much of the world's troubles, raising questions about the prevalence of far-right views in a country where oil wealth has attracted rising immigration.

Breivik will now be kept in isolation inside Ila Prison on the outskirts of Oslo inside relatively spacious quarters that include a separate exercise room, a computer and a television.

He had described an insane verdict as "a fate worse than death". Were he to have been found insane and decided to appeal, the entire trial would have had to be repeated.

Breivik justified his killing spree arguing that the centre-left Labour party is deliberately

destroying the nation by encouraging Muslim immigration.

His views, spread over the Internet and aired during the trial, drew support from a few in Europe but even most of the hardest right-wing fringe groups kept their distance from the self-confessed mass killer.

Although his victims were mostly teenagers, with some as young as 14, he rejected being called a child murderer, arguing that his victims were brainwashed "cultural Marxists" whose political activism would adulterate pure Norwegian blood.

He stalked his victims dressed as a policeman, tricking them into thinking he was the help sent from the shore after the initial attack. He then shot them from close range before finishing them with a shot to the head.

"I stand by what I have done and I would still do it again," he said during his court testimony.

Some Norwegians now believe their country must draw on the experience to debate issues like immigration as their oil wealth attracts large numbers of foreign workers.

Heritage sites in ruins

FROM PAGE 20

The impressive 17th century archways of Bara Katra and Chhoto Katra are hard to spot among the tangle of adjacent structures.

Bara Katra presently accommodates several commercial establishments. But because of the recent expansion of a madrasa on its premises, part of the edifice is being destroyed.

At Chhoto Katra, there is a medley of shops.

The 19th century pleasure palace Ruplal House is now being used as a vegetables warehouse by Farhad Rahman, 33, a wholesale garlic dealer in Farashganj. He claimed himself to be its owner.

The structure has been defaced at several places to construct some makeshift rooms.

Half of the mansion has been named "Jamal House" and is now being used by the Dhaka City Corporation to house its staff.

Asked about the maintenance of this site, Farhad said so far no government official told him about the importance of his mansion.

The related laws stipulate that the owner of a heritage site must be notified officially about the status of his holding.

Several structures have recently been razed, notably

the Radhakrishna Temple on Tipu Sultan Road.

The Raja Rammohan Roy library in Patuatali has been set to be demolished.

According to the provisions of the Antiquities Act, 1968, and the Building Construction Act, 1952, repair and maintenance of the antiquities must be done by the titleholders themselves. On failure, the government might relieve them of their properties.

Alternately, it can assume the guardianship of private properties and carry out restoration work.

"It would be an injustice if the government imposes the responsibility on the property owners without providing financial aid and technical know-how to them," architect Taimur Islam, heritage conservationist of Urban Study Group, told The Daily Star.

Garlic dealer Farhad Rahman cannot afford the costly preservation of Ruplal House. He said he was unaware of facing any legal action for causing damage to the property.

Rakhi Roy, assistant director at DoA, attributed their failure in repair and maintenance of the heritage sites to shortage of funds and manpower.

"Only Tk 1 crore was allotted last year for mainte-

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fokhrunnessa Khatun, wife of renowned politician of Indo-Pak sub-continent Abdul Matin Chowdhury, died at a Dhaka city hospital on Tuesday. She was 96.

She is survived by her son Juned Ahmed Chowdhury, daughter Aspia Chowdhury, and grandchildren.

Following a namaz-e-janaza, Fokhrunnessa was buried in the graveyard of Hazrat Shahjalal's Mazar in Sylhet on Wednesday.

A doa mahfil will be held at 5:00pm today at the Takhwa Mosque, Road-12A Dhanmondi, Dhaka.

Her relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to attend the programme.

Farida Khanam Rubi

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Farida Khanam Rubi, wife of journalist Abdul Matin Khan of village Gopalpur in Pabna sadar upazila, died in Dhaka Medical College Hospital on Thursday noon. She was 56.

She left behind her husband and son and daughter to mourn her death.

Rubi was buried in Arifpur sadar graveyard on Thursday night following a namaz-e-janaza on Pabna town hall premises.

Md Belal Hossain

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Mohammad Belal Hossain, a cultural activist of Naogaon town, passed away at sadar hospital in the town on Thursday night. He was 51.

He left behind his mother, wife and two sons.

He was buried in his family graveyard at Muradpur village in Naogaon sadar upazila following two namaz-e-janazas.

Abdul Haque Mia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhal

Abdul Haque Mia, former president of Baufal upazila unit BNP, died of cardiac arrest at a hospital in Dhaka yesterday morning. He was 86.

He left behind his wife, five sons and three daughters.

He will be buried in his family graveyard at Chandrapara village in the upazila today, family sources said.

Samsuzzoha

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhal

Samsuzzoha, a businessman in Patuakhal town, died of cardiac arrest at Patuakhal General Hospital on Thursday afternoon. He was 87.

He left behind his four sons, many relatives and friends.

nance of sites across Bangladesh. Routine maintenance like cleaning is also included in this, meaning little resources are left for major restoration initiatives."

The authorities need to acquire private property to be able to carry out major restoration works, she noted.

Asked why her department was not taking legal steps to acquire some properties for maintenance, Rakhi said they did not receive enough administrative support to prepare the required documents.

Taimur Islam, however, said acquiring private property was not imperative as the Antiquities Act grants the government guardianship rights and permits it to take action for preservation.

"Lots of acquisitions will also be costly, especially in cases where an entire neighbourhood requires restoration," he observed.

Contacted, Nurul Huda, chairman of Rajdhani Channayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk), denied any responsibility for protection of these sites.

"Our job was only to prepare the list. We only step in to protect when the Department of Archaeology asks for it," he mentioned.