

Death anniversary

BSS, Dhaka

Today is the third death anniversary of Prof Moksedur Rahman, eminent educationist and former teacher of Teachers' Training College.

He was a teacher of Dhaka Government Laboratory School since its inception till 1973.

He also served at Barisal Residential College, Comilla Teachers' Training College, Feni Teachers' Training College, and Ahsania Mission Teachers' Training College.

MM Rezaul Karim
METRO DESK

The seventh death anniversary of MM Rezaul Karim, diplomat, columnist, rotarian and social worker, was observed on October 29.

During the War of Liberation in 1971, he played an active role in the United Kingdom in galvanizing support for the Bangladeshi cause.

He had the honour of welcoming to London the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, following the latter's release from imprisonment in Pakistan in January, 1972.

In post-liberation Bangladesh, Rezaul Karim served the country with distinction as ambassador in a number of countries.



Traffic presence remains unusually low at the Sonargaon Hotel intersection as many of the eid holidaymakers are still to return to Dhaka. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Obituary

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Pabna



Abdur Rahman Miah alias Rahman Master, former

headmaster of Natiabari Dhobkola Korneshan High School of Bera upazila in Pabna, passed away from a cardiac arrest on Monday. He was 86.

He was suffering from old age complications for long.

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

He was buried at the village grave yard.

Hashim Akhter Md Karim Dad

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Thakurgaon

Hashim Akhter Md Karim Dad, an educationist, litterateur, singer and dramatist of Panchagarh, passed away at Rangpur Medical College Hospital on Monday from old age complications. He was 67.

He left behind his wife, and two daughters.

He was buried at Central Graveyard in Panchagarh town yesterday afternoon.

Popularly known as "Bacchu Sir," Hashim taught at Panchagarh Bishnu Prasad Government High School.

Limon now advised

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student with possessing firearm in one case and with obstructing law enforcers from conducting their duties in another.

Limon told The Daily Star that DC Ashok Kumar Biswas had also assured him of sending a recommendation based on his application to the home ministry to withdraw the cases. But for that Ashok put a condition that Henoara Begum, Limon's mother, has to withdraw the case she had filed with Rajapur Police Station, accusing six Rab personnel of attempting to murder her son.

The unexpected move was made on October 24. Kabir, the official chauffeur of the Kawkhali upazila nirbahi officer (UNO), around 11:00am on the day informed Limon that UNO Rafiqul Islam would like to have a talk with him. Soon after Limon and his mother went to meet the UNO at his residence, Ashok reached there. The meeting lasted for nearly two hours when the DC

placed his proposal.

Hamida Hossain, chairperson of Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK), the organisation that has been giving legal aid to Limon, told The Daily Star that Rab should conduct an investigation and hold the people responsible to keep its image intact.

"If they [authorities] know that the cases against Limon are made up, why shouldn't they withdraw the cases?" she said.

Nur Khan, acting executive director of ASK, said such a conditional approach indicated the government's intention.

"It is unethical and deprives a person of his right to justice."

Nur also said such proposals put great mental pressure on Limon who, in fear of persecutions at his village of Jhalakathi, had been staying in a rented room in Kawkhali and continuing his study in Kathalia PGS Bilateral High School and College.

Asked, DC Ashok said he had coincidentally met Limon and his mother at

the UNO's residence.

"Limon is suffering because he somehow got involved in an incident. I told them [Limon and his mother] that they had the legal right to apply for clemency and this would help the young man continue his studies unhindered."

"But obviously Henoara Begum would have to withdraw her case."

Limon said he wanted justice.

"Through justice I want to ensure that nobody else in the country suffers the way I am suffering."

The Rab shooting happened on March 23, last year when he was fetching cattle from a field near his house in Chhaturia village of Rajapur upazila.

Meanwhile, Rajapur police on August 14 submitted a report to the Jhalakathi court, clearing all the six Rab personnel of the charges brought by Henoara. She then officially filed an objection to the police report. The court will give a direction on the objection on December 12.

Jt venture deal with India

FROM PAGE 1
Friendship Power Company (Pvt) Ltd.

The two countries have agreed on the appointment of VS Tamrakar as the first managing director. Tamrakar is now a general manager of National Thermal Power Company of India.

Like other private power bodies in the country, the power company would be exempted from corporate tax for 15 years. After 15 years, the PDB would pay the tax on behalf of the joint venture company.

The coal for the plant is planned to be imported from Indonesia or Australia, wherever the company could secure a long-term import agreement.

While environmentalists have expressed concerns about the coal power project being so close to the Sundarbans, a world heritage site, the government believes that

its environmental impact would be minimal.

"The plant will be built 14km away from the forest, while it is recommended to keep it beyond just 7km," said secretary Azad. "Besides the plant is not located within the airflow zone that might carry the plant's emission towards the forest."

The PDB acquired 1,800 acres of land for the project. The environmental impact assessment is now at its final stage.

"The plant will be built on fallow land opposite to the Chalna port. It has no economic use," Azad added.

"Many have expressed fear that the plant might cause acid rain over the Sundarbans and therefore it should be moved elsewhere. My question is would it be more desirable if such acid rain fell on farmland? No. We believe we will be able to implement a clean project as we are determined to use

supercritical technology where 99.9 percent ash will be captured before emission from the plant," he pointed out.

According to the summary for the power purchase agreement of this project, the PDB would sign the agreement with the company to buy power for 25 years.

The agreement does not have a power tariff profile. Instead, it spells out a formula to fix the tariff annually.

The tariff structure has two components: one is capacity price component with fixed charges for capacity, operation and maintenance and the other is a flexible energy price component that deals with fuel charge to generate power.

Power secretary AK Azad said the government has also initialled an implementation agreement between the two electricity companies of the two countries.

EC against

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He said the government scrapped the legal provision in 2009. "We do not want the provision to be restored now."

Before the 2001 parliamentary polls, the electoral laws were amended to give the armed forces the authority to arrest anyone without warrant for violating electoral laws within a radius of 400 yards of polling stations on election day.

After the debacle in the 2001 polls, Awami League raised questions about the role of some members of the armed forces and vehemently opposed the provision. The party formally demanded the provision's cancellation in mid-2004.

Interestingly, AL accepted it during the tenure of the last caretaker government.

However, assuming power through the 2008 parliamentary polls, the AL-led government

scrapped the provision in early 2009.

The previous EC led by Huda proposed restoring the provision, saying it would enable the armed forces to perform their duty smoothly alongside the regular law enforcement agencies in maintaining law and order during the election.

In defence of the proposal, Brig Gen (retd) M Sakhawat Hussein, a member of the previous EC, said if the armed forces are not given the authority while on duty during the polls, they will not be able to arrest anyone without a magistrate's order.

"So, if members of the armed forces are deployed for maintaining law and order during parliamentary elections, they have to be accompanied by magistrates. Thus, they will not be able to take prompt action to maintain law and order," Sakhawat told The Daily Star recently.

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