



Discussants at a roundtable, "Barriers to mainstreaming of children with disabilities in education", jointly organised by Social Assistance and Rehabilitation for the Physically Vulnerable and The Daily Star and supported by Manusher Jonno Foundation at The Daily Star Centre in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

ASHULIA FIRE

Identifying bodies only consolation now

WASIM BIN HABIB AND SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Nothing can soothe him now. Mohammad Raju has been racked with guilt at losing the grip on her mother's hand while trying to escape Saturday night's blaze at Tazreen Fashions in Ashulia.

They were walking downstairs from the fifth floor of the eight-storey building. At one stage the two got separated.

A sewing operator, Raju managed to escape the inferno, but his mother Rehana Begum could not.

He had thought his mother would be able to escape. "But that was my biggest mistake," he told The Daily Star. "I at least want to see my mother's grave. If it is identified, I will go there occasionally to offer prayers and do penance."

From the burnt factory to hospitals in Ashulia, Savar and Dhaka, Raju made a long search for his mother.

He finally went to National Forensic DNA Profiling Laboratory at Dhaka Medical College yesterday to give his

blood sample in the hope that his mother's grave will be found at Jurain where 53 unidentified victims of the fire were buried.

Also, a class-II schoolgirl Rumi gave her blood at the lab to check if her DNA profiles matched that of any unidentified victims. Her mother Nazma Begum has been missing since Saturday.

"She is the only child of Nazma," said Rumi's aunt Beauty Begum. "If her mother's grave can be identified, she can get compensation from the authorities."

The number of people who gave blood at the laboratory stands at three. Bakul Miah, a Kishoreganj farmer whose daughter worked at the factory, went to the lab on Wednesday.

An officer at the laboratory said it would take at least two to three months to get results of DNA tests on samples collected from the 53 bodies.

The Tazreen incident left at least 111 workers dead and more than hundred injured.

FLYOVER COLLAPSE

CDA chairman among 6 sued

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A case was filed with a Chittagong court yesterday accusing six people, including the chairman of Chittagong Development Authority, for the deaths caused by collapse of girders of the under-construction Bahaddarhat flyover last Saturday.

The accused are Abdus Salam, chairman of CDA; AMM Habibur Rahman, flyover project director; Nasir Uddin Mahmud Chowdhury, chief engineer of CDA; Khujesta-e-Noor-e-Nahareen Munni, owner of construction firm Ekto Parishad Ltd; Md Abdur Razzak, managing director of Mir Akhter-Parisha; and M A Matin, project consultant of the flyover.

Mir Akhter-Parisha is a joint venture initiative with Ekto Parishad that got the contract to build the flyover.

Jadob Chandra Shil, general secretary of Bangladesh Nagorik Odhiker Foundation, filed the case, said court sources.

Metropolitan Magistrate Nure Alam Bhuiyan ordered Babul Chandra Banik, officer-in-charge of Chandgaon Police Station, to investigate the matter after plaintiff's counsel Mosharraf Hossain attributed the loss of lives to negligence of duty and not taking adequate safety measures during the construction work.

On November 24, three girders of the under-construction flyover fell on a kitchen market killing 12 people and injuring at least 50.

Police lodged a case with Chandgaon Police Station on November 26, accusing 25 people.

Following the incident CDA chairman suspended several officials of the project on Monday.

Three probe committees have been formed to investigate the incident.

Meanwhile, a probe body of housing and public works ministry visited the accident site yesterday. Led by Shyam Sundar Sikdar, additional secretary of the ministry, the team met police and locals and also spoke to newsmen.

The government has formed another team headed by the chairman of Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha to check the quality of work in the project, he added.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the third death anniversary of Akhtar Ahmed Khan, former secretary general of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ).

On the occasion, a milad and doa mahfil will be held at 35, Rajar Dewri in the capital, says a press release.

Aazharul Islam
METRO DESK

Today is the 24th death anniversary of eminent film maker and playwright Aazharul Islam.

On the occasion, a milad and doa mahfil will be held at his village home at Kaloi under Harirampur upazila of Manikganj.

Anwara Khatun
METRO DESK

Today is the 24th death anniversary of Anwara Khatun, a member of erstwhile Bengal Legislature Assembly, says a press release. She was a close associate of Hussain Shaheed Suhrawardy, Moulana Bhashani and Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.



Syed Mahbubul Haque's 13th anniversary of death today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 13th death anniversary of Syed Mahbubul Haque (Benu Mia) will be observed today.

A valiant freedom fighter and leading businessman in Magura, Mahbubul Haque died of colon cancer on November 30, 1999 at the age of 72.

A doa will be offered followed by feeding of the destitute after Juma prayers at his home in Magura.

Relatives and admirers have been requested to attend the doa and pray for eternal peace of the departed soul.

Death anniversary

METRO DESK

Today is the 14th death anniversary of science writer and educationist Abdullah Al-Muti.

On the occasion, a Qurankhwani will be held and food will also be distributed at a local orphanage, says a press release.

Agitators besiege Ruet VC's house

Demand resignation

RU CORRESPONDENT

A section of teachers, students and staff of Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology (Ruet) kept confined the university's vice chancellor and his family members to their residence for around one and a half hours yesterday.

The demonstrators alleged that VC Prof Sirajul Karim Chowdhury was involved in different types of irregularities in academic and administrative sectors.

Under the banner of "Progratishel Chhatra-Shikkhak-Karmakarta-Karmachari Oikya Parishad", they have been demonstrating on the campus since November 16 demanding removal of the VC.

No classes were held and academic activities came to a halt as the staff, teachers and students have been observing an indefinite strike since Monday, Ruet sources said.

Agitating students padlocked the VC's residence around 9:00am, while the others were demonstrating on the campus, witnesses said.

Later, leaders of the parishad went to the spot and freed the VC and his family members by opening the lock around 10:30am.

The agitators also brought out a procession on the campus and staged a sit-in before the academic building from 8:00am to 2:00pm.

They also burnt the effigy of Prof Sirajul Karim on the campus around 1:00pm.

Later, addressing a rally, the parishad Convener Dr Kamruzzaman Sarkar claimed that the VC had upgraded the result of a final year student to CGPA 3.00 from 2.97.

Ruet unit Bangabandhu Parishad President Dr Ashraf Alam alleged that Prof Sirajul Karim has been maintaining a secret contact with Jamaat-Shibir men.

Ruet unit BCL convener and also member secretary of the parishad, Harun-or-Rashid, said the VC did not take any step to complete construction of a Shaheed Minar on the campus during his tenure.

Meanwhile, some Ruet teachers and students alleged that the agitators paralysed the campus as some teachers did not get their desired promotions; and some students and staff did not get development work orders from the VC.

The agitators forced many teachers and students to join their movements, they said.

Ruet unit BCL convener and member secretary of the parishad, Harun-or-Rashid, said they started the movement against the VC's corruption.

Contacted, Prof Sirajul Karim Chowdhury denied the allegations and said some people were conspiring against him.

Know Bangladesh Better

This Saturday's

Star Insight
Know Bangladesh Better

Remembers Subhash Dutta, the man who was instrumental to bring Bangladeshi film industry into its golden era. This week's Farmers' Voice reads the untold suffering of the people living beside the river Kopotakkho. Also, read this week about a roundabout named after Baul Shah Abdu Karim and a little dancing queen from Lalmonirhat.

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Adieu to Silver Screen Legend
Subhash Dutta

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A Study on the Capacity of Journalism Schools in Bangladesh, May 2009

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