

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nusrat Jahan Mohima, daughter of journalist late Golam Mostafa, passed away due to irreversible cardio-respiratory failure at her Eskaton residence in the capital early yesterday. She was 52.

Mohima left behind her husband Md Jafar Ullah Gazi, son Gazi Md Itrat Shahriar Robin, a senior sub-editor of The Daily Star, two daughters and a host of relatives and well-wishers to mourn her death. She was buried at Jurain graveyard in the capital after a namaz-e-janaza at her residence at Eskaton following Zohr prayers.

A special prayer will be offered after Maghrib prayers at the mosque of 51 New Eskaton Road on Friday seeking divine blessings for her soul.

Death anniversary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Today is the 19th death anniversary of advocate Asaduzzaman, an organiser of Liberation War and former lawmaker.

Former secretary to the opposition parliamentary board of the parliament of 1986 and the then president of Magura district unit Awami League (AL), Asaduzzaman was elected member of parliament for four times.

Magura district AL and its front organisations have organised various programmes, including discussion, milad mahfil and mass feeding.

BSS reports, his third son, Assistant Private Secretary to the Prime Minister Saifuzzaman Shikhar, sought blessings from all for eternal peace of his father's departed soul.

Dr Sofia Hasna Jahan Ali
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 16th death anniversary of Dr Sofia Hasna

Jahan Ali, former professor of Department of Economics, Dhaka University.

Sofia, former president of Lioness Club of Dhaka East, was also a sports-woman and a sports event organiser, says a press release.

Her relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Community based rehab must

Discussion told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rehabilitating people with disabilities only with healthcare reforms is not possible and their rights will not be recognised if not provided opportunities to be rehabilitated within their own communities, stated speakers at a discussion yesterday.

The discussion, "Community based rehabilitation of persons with disabilities: Awareness and Possibilities", was organised by the National Forum of Organisations Working with Disabilities (INFOWD) in the capital's Biam Foundation.

Community rehabilitation is not only for medical rehabilitation but also includes social inclusion and equalisation of opportunities, stated HM Noman Khan, executive director of Centre for Disability in Development, in a presentation.

Five components -- health, education, livelihood, social development and empow-

erment -- which the community-based rehabilitation matrix, proposed by World Health Organization, focuses on need to be addressed, he said.

Proper attention should be given to ensure that people with disabilities get access to their desired facilities within their own communities, stated Social Welfare Secretary Ranjit Kumar Biswas.

This can only be achieved if all, including the government, non-government organisations and individuals, work together to ensure proper implementation of the community-based rehabilitation guidelines, the speakers added.

The guidelines could be a strategy to enhance inclusion of people with disabilities in social, economic and political arenas, ensuring their equal access to resources and services available to other people, asserted Christian Blind Mission Country Coordinator Mohd Shahnewaz Kureishi.



PHOTO: STAR



Mobile court fines food co in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A mobile court yesterday fined a food manufacturing company in Chittagong city Tk 1.5 lakh for using harmful textile dye and substandard ingredients in different food items, producing the products in an unhygienic environment, and marketing those using the label of the BSTI monogram illegally.

During a visit to BSP Food Industries Ltd in Kalurghat, the court of Joynal Abdin, executive magistrate of Chittagong City Corporation, accompanied by Bangladesh Standards and

Testing Institution (BSTI) officials and police, found drums full of textile dye, food ingredients lying on the bare floor and in unhygienic conditions, and bread, among other items, being packaged by workers with bare hands.

BSP Food produces chanachur, noodles, biscuits, pickle, vegetable sauce, and gawa ghee (butter oil) under the brand names "Cookme" and "Taaza". On October 15, the BSTI cancelled its licence for selling vegetable ghee in the name of gawa ghee. The company was asked to get the BSTI licence newly.



Ex-BTCL official confesses graft

COURT CORRESPONDENT

AKM Asaduzzaman, former divisional engineer of Bangladesh Telecommunications Company Limited (BTCL), yesterday confessed before a magistrate that he along with several other officials misappropriated government revenue totaling Tk 204.91 crore.

Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Moniruzzaman recorded the confessional statement of Asaduzzaman, now deputy general manager of state-run mobile operator Teletalk, and later sent him to jail.

On November 5, the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) filed five cases against 14 people, including Asaduzzaman and five other BTCL officials, in connection with embezzling Tk 204.91 crore by giving connections to some alleged international call carriers.

Yesterday, SM Sahidur Rahman, deputy director of the ACC and also the investigation officer of the case, produced Asaduzzaman before the court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Bikash Kumar Saha.

The CMM assigned Moniruzzaman to record the confession. Asaduzzaman was arrested on December 13 and the next day a Dhaka court placed him on a 16-day remand in two cases.

Lawyers, politicians call for culture of abiding laws

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lawyers and political leaders at a discussion yesterday stressed the need for building a culture of obeying laws in every sector to establish the rule of law in the country and suggested that the culture should start from within family.

Senior Supreme Court lawyer Barrister M Amir-Ul Islam said both the people and the government were habituated with breaking laws and violating human rights.

"There is no-one in Bangladesh who did not violate human rights of others and did not break laws. The situation of human rights and the rule of law will not improve unless we confess it," he told the discussion, "The rule of law and improvement of human rights" at the capital's Jatiya Press Club, organised

Amader Ain.

Amirul, also a constitution expert, said many thought the rule of law was a subject of the constitution and law, but it was a matter of culture.

The rule of law means the public welfare oriented laws and laws that can protect the rights of people, said Prof Asif Nazrul, who teaches law at Dhaka University.

Criticising the country's rulers, he said most of Bangladeshi laws were good, but the rulers used those as a weapon to hurt the opposition. The rulers are taking advantage of some constitutional loopholes to violate human rights, he observed.

Mahmudur Rahman Manna, convener of Nagorik Oikya, blamed rights violation on the country's sheer political polarisation.

Dipu Moni lauds Korean help

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni yesterday lauded continued Korean cooperation in the areas like human resources development, IT, power and energy, and infrastructure development in Bangladesh.

She specially pointed out the on-going cooperation of Korea International Cooperation Agency (Koica) and Employment Permit System (EPS) to develop skillful manpower in the country. She hoped that the cooperation would increase manifold in the coming years.

She made the remark when the newly appointed South Korean Ambassador Lee-Yun Young met her at her office yesterday, said a foreign ministry press release.

Dipu Moni also expected that Korean investment would continue to grow in Bangladesh.

She thanked the Korean government for offering duty and quota-free access of Bangladeshi products and requested granting DFQF access for some 41 additional items to help take bilateral trade to a new height.

The Korean envoy said his country was intent on bolstering cooperation in trade, investment and human resources development with Bangladesh.

Jewellery shop 'looted' in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Burglars allegedly looted gold ornaments from a jewellery shop in the capital's Bhasantek yesterday.

Shamsul Haque, owner of the shop, Swarnali Jewellers, claimed that ornaments of 500 tolas were looted.

The burglars entered the shop through a tunnel dug in the ground that ends at an adjacent shop, he added.

The employers of that shop called him yesterday after noticing the tunnel.

Bhasantek police were yet to file a case as

Shamsul could not give an estimate of the looted ornaments.

Road crashes kill 7, injure 18

METRO DESK

Seven people were killed and 18 others injured in separate road accidents in Gazipur, Netrakona, Jessor and Pabna yesterday.

A correspondent from Gazipur reports, a pickup carrying five members of a family, of Bhuiyan Char in Sherpur, crashed into a roadside tree at Beraiderchala in Sreepur after its driver lost control over the steering early yesterday, killing two of them instantly and injuring the other three.

The deceased were Khushi Akter, 8, and her six-month-old sister Halima.

Injured Khushi's father Abul Kalam, mother Anika Akter and brother Khorshed Alam, were taken to Gazipur Sadar Hospital.

Meanwhile, a covered van collided head-on with a three-wheeler

at East Chandana in Sadar upazila around 2:45am yesterday, killing Al Amin, 22, instantly and injuring four others, said Joydevpur police.

They were the passengers of the three-wheeler.

Our Netrakona correspondent reports, Shahor Ali, 60, of Uradigi in Barhatta upazila, died instantly as a pickup hit him while he was crossing Netrakona-Kalmakanda road at Kathuachura Bazar in the upazila of Netrakona yesterday noon.

A correspondent from Jessor reports, motorcyclist Shoriful Islam, 30, of Basundia in sadar upazila, was killed and his co-rider injured as a bus hit their motorbike near Basundia Bazar in the upazila of Jessor yesterday noon.

Injured Habibur Rahman, Shoriful's brother-in-law, was undergoing treatment at Jessor Medical College Hospital.

Our Benapole correspondent reports, bicyclist Haidar Ali, 14, a class X student of Sharsha Pilot High School and son of Md Ali of Pantapara in Sharsha upazila, died instantly as a vehicle (locally known as trolley) hit him on Benapole-Jessore highway in Amrakhalia area of Benapole in Jessor yesterday afternoon.

Angry locals blocked the road for about two hours.

Our Pabna correspondent reports, Md Akbar Ali, 52, of Jorpurkuria in Sujanagar, was killed and 10 others were injured as a Nosimon (three-wheeler) was hit by a bus on Dhaka-Pabna highway in Chinakhora area of the district yesterday noon.

The injured were admitted to Sujanagar Upazila Health Complex.