

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shefina Begum, deputy secretary to home ministry, died of a brain stroke yesterday morning while she was attending a training session at Savar on the outskirts of the capital.

Shefina, wife of Mohammad Enamul Kabir, deputy secretary to the Ministry of Liberation War Affairs, left behind her husband, two sons, a host of relatives and well-wishers.

She joined as a magistrate on April 1, 1993 and served as magistrate in Barisal, Patuakhali, Khulna, as Upazila Nirbahi Officer in Bogra Sadar and as an additional deputy commissioner in Jessore.

Shefina had a good reputation as a competent and active officer, says a press release from the home ministry.

The ministry expressed a deep shock at her death, it added.

Mujibar Rahman Khan

METRO DESK



Advocate Mujibar Rahman Khan, father of noted photographer Nasir Ali Mamun, passed away on Thursday. He was 88.

He left behind his seven sons, two daughters and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death, says a press release.

He was buried in Alipur graveyard in Faridpur. Mujibar Rahman Khan, son of late Mohsenuddin Khan, joined the High Court in 1947 and worked as a lawyer for more than five decades. During the period of his profession, he worked with many renowned jurists, including Justice AK Brohi.

He wrote many articles on law and justice and five books on poetry and prose.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inspects a guard of honour at Sheremetyevo International Airport on her arrival in Moscow yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

2 BCL men hurt in factional attack at RU

A RU CORRESPONDENT

Two Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) leaders of Rajshahi University unit were injured in an attack by the rival faction last evening over taking a girl into a male dormitory.

The injured were Muzahidul Islam Himu, joint secretary of Sher-E-Bangla Hall unit, and Md Shimul, deputy finance secretary of RU unit. They are loyal to the RU unit BCL secretary.

Sources said Himu took his girlfriend to his room at Sher-E-Bangla Hall around 3:00pm, defying hall disciplines. The authorities, however, got the girl out immediately.

Later, some 12 BCL men loyal to the RU unit BCL president beat up Himu and Shimul with iron rods and sticks. Himu was admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

Legal action against transport owners for fare hike sought

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Passengers' Welfare Association of Bangladesh yesterday urged the government to cancel the registration and take action against the owners of those buses and launches which already raised the transport fares following the latest fuel price hike.

The government is yet to take any decision about increasing fares, but diesel-run vehicles have started charging additional fares, said the association's Secretary General Md Mozammel Haque Chowdhury.

Also, owners of CNG-run buses are taking advantage of the fuel price hike, he told a human chain formed by Passengers' Welfare Association of Bangladesh before Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday.

The association's Vice President Sharif Rafiquzzaman said the government always neglected keeping representatives from passengers while forming the committee to re-fix transport fares following fuel price hike.

Such committees, formed mostly of vehicle owners and workers, hiked fares irrationally, keeping no note of passengers' interest, he added.

Communist Party of Bangladesh President Mujahidul Islam Selim said, "The government vowed not to hike fuel price following the previous hike. But it did not keep its words."

Country lost courage

Observes Binod Bihari at his 104th birth anniversary celebration

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country has lost its courage and sense of humanity, legendary anti-British revolutionary Binod Bihari Chowdhury said yesterday, on the occasion of his 104th birth anniversary.

He said even after years of struggle, the people of Bangladesh are still suffering the same brutality they suffered during the British and Pakistani rules.

"We defeated the British and then the Pakistanis, but I still see the selfishness, cowardice and superstition among us. However, I am an optimist and I believe that this sad state of our country will soon change for the better."

The revolutionary's birthday celebration programme was organised by DoccuFrame with support from Janata Bank Ltd at the capital's Liberation War Museum. A DoccuFrame-produced documentary called "Shurjoshathi", based on the life of Binod Bihari, was screened there.

Speakers said the country needs people

like Binod Bihari to ignite the people's sense of righteousness and truth.

"We need people like Binod Bihari Chowdhury to lead us in the right path and to rekindle the national sense of consciousness that led us to victory in the 1971 Liberation War," said researcher Ayub Hossain.

Everyone present at the programme saluted the revolutionary fighter's will to keep fighting for change even at this stage of his life.

Journalist Abed Khan said, "Binod Bihari Chowdhury has always come forward with extraordinary strength to fight against oppression and inequality."

Seeing a man of such stature and age still fighting for a just, equal society should instil a sense of courage in everyone to struggle, said veteran journalist Kamal Lohani.

Born on January 10, 1910, Binod Bihari is the only surviving revolutionary of the 1930 anti-British Chittagong Uprising led by Masterda Surya Sen.

CANADIAN STUDENT'S DEATH
Male friend on 3-day remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed a man, accused of murdering a Canadian female student in the capital on January 12, on a three-day remand.

The victim Munjerina Arabin Jerin, 22, died after being hit by a train. She was studying in Uttara Women's Medical College and residing in the college hostel.

Yesterday, the accused Mohiuddin Sharan, a cousin of Jerin's classmate, showed police that the incident took place near Khilkhet and not, as per his previous claim, near Cantonment Railway Station, behind Radisson Hotel, said police.

Jerin visited her aunt in Rampura on January 12 and left around 4:30pm. She then went for a walk with Mohiuddin around 6:30pm, said relatives.

One relative, who filed a murder case against Mohiuddin, quoting witnesses, said Jerin had engaged in a heated argument with Mohiuddin but no one saw what happened right before the impact.

"Mohiuddin took her to a nearby hospital after the incident," said Jerin's uncle, Abu Bakar Siddique.

Jerin's Bangladeshi parents and younger sister, who arrived in the country from Canada yesterday, demanded justice and said the burial will be held at Goihata village in Nagarpur upazila, Tangail tomorrow.

UNHCR worried at Rohingya exodus

FROM PAGE 20

remains uncertain. A record number of people have already made the dangerous journey in recent months. The latest rush of them is adding to the number.

Last year, an estimated 13,000 people set out on smugglers' boats in the Bay of Bengal. Among them were Rohingya Muslims from Rakhine state, some of whom had stayed in Bangladesh for long, and Bangladeshis.

Most appeared to be men travelling alone but increasing numbers of women and children were there -- often an indicator of growing desperation and lack of prospects.

At least 485 people are said to have died or gone missing in four boat accidents in the Bay of Bengal last year. The real death toll could be much higher.

There are unconfirmed reports in the media that smuggled passengers who get to the land are being detained by smugglers' networks on the Thailand-Malaysia border.

Deep in the Bay, the smugglers make the passengers

call their relatives and demand money for the rest of the journey. If payment is not made, the smugglers typically sell the passengers to trafficking networks as bonded labourers on fishing boats. Bonded labourers have to work until they can pay off their debts.

It is unclear how many of them reach their destinations, where they often risk being arrested, detained or forced to return to Myanmar.

The UNHCR continues to seek access to those individuals who arrive by boat and are arrested or detained by the government authorities.

"In Thailand, we have asked for access to newly-arrived people from Myanmar and are awaiting a response from the authorities," said a spokesperson for the refugee agency.

In Malaysia, the UN agency formally requests the authorities concerned and is usually granted access. "Our office there is eventually able to secure their release from detention if they are deemed to be people of concern to

UNHCR," added the representative.

The UN refugee agency fears that more people could venture into the sea out of desperation after communal violence broke out in Rakhine state in June and October last year. Some 1,15,000 people remain displaced within the state.

In Bangladesh too, there is a growing sense of hopelessness among the refugees who have fled from Myanmar since the early 1990s.

Some 30,000 refugees are hosted in two UNHCR camps in Cox's Bazar. Many more, however, are living in dirty and makeshift sites and among the local communities.

Faced with the growing crisis of the boat people, the UNHCR encourages the government of Myanmar "to intensify measures to address some of the main push factors [that make people leave the country]," said the spokesperson.

The factors, he added, include "the lack of sustainable development and the resulting widespread poverty, the lack of rights for an

important part of the population and recognition of the economic interdependence of all communities in Rakhine state."

At the same time, the UNHCR urges countries in the region to maintain open borders and ensure humane treatment of the displaced people.

The UN agency stands ready to support states in assisting people needing international protection. The agency also appeals to sea captains to continue the long tradition of rescuing boats that are in danger at sea.

In March, the UNHCR will co-organise a regional roundtable on irregular maritime movements in the Asia-Pacific, bringing together governments, relevant organisations and other stakeholders to discuss practical regional approaches to the problem.

The forum is expected to serve as a stepping-stone to concrete actions by states to enhance regional dialogue and improve responses to irregular maritime movements.



(From left) Prof Anwar Hossain, poet Belal Mohammad, Biplobi Binod Bihari Chowdhury, Prof Emeritus Serajul Islam Chowdhury, and journalist Kamal Lohani at the legendary anti-British revolutionary's 104th birth anniversary celebration at Liberation War Museum in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Border dists to be split into 4 zones

FROM PAGE 20

and Chittagong would be formally inaugurated by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on January 20, he said.

On the killings of Bangladeshi nationals by Indian BSF members, Aziz said, "The border killings are not acceptable in any way, our position is clear. We have told the BSF to arrest Bangladeshi nationals who enter

Indian territory illegally, and hand them over to police instead of killing them."

He, however, emphasised the importance of public awareness as most of the incidents occur inside the Indian territories. "Bangladeshis should not cross the border illegally," he told the reporters.

The BGB DG also said

the killings along the border marked a fall after the Coordinated Border Management Plan had been put in place.

He mentioned that the BGB formally protested all the killings of Bangladeshi nationals by the BSE.

Mentioning the changes and reforms in BGB's different units, he said the Rifle Security Unit has been renamed as

Border Security Bureau while Signal Battalion as Information and Communication Technology.

The DG also said some inaccessible border areas would be brought under the BGB's control and the number of border outposts would also be increased.

Four motorcycles would be given to each

outpost authority to enhance their operational capacity. "Some 1,700 motorcycles will be distributed next month."

On the 2009 Pilkhana mutiny, Aziz said departmental trials of the cases filed in connection with the mutiny have already been completed, but the criminal cases remain under trial.

Those who were found innocent and got released already joined the forces. Members of the BGB regained their confidence, the BGB chief said.

"The army personnel who had been deployed at the BGB headquarters and other outposts for security purposes were withdrawn. Policemen were withdrawn on December 31," he added.



MASTERMIND VACANCY

(All candidates must have a minimum of 2 (two) years experience)

FOR IMMEDIATE APPOINTMENT

- 1. FACULTY POSITIONS: (For Uttara & Dhanmondi Branch)**
Physics, Mathematics, Economics, English (Male/Female).
 Candidates must be smart, fluent in English and capable of teaching up to A-Level.
 Minimum qualification : Masters
- 2. ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF : Female only (For Uttara & Dhanmondi Branch)**
 English Medium background, smart and willing to work hard.
 NGO experience will be preferred.
 Qualification : Masters (Age not above 45 years.)
 (Excellent pay package).

Interested candidates are requested to drop their C.V in the school drop box by 20th of January 2013 or submit CV online.
School Address : House # 5, Road # 12 (New) 31 (Old), Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka.
E-mail : admin@mastermindschool.org, mastermind_dhan@yahoo.com

THOSE WHO APPLIED BEFORE NEED NOT APPLY