

NOOR HOSSAIN DAY TODAY Memorial in the making



DESIGN: COURTESY

This year's Shaheed Noor Hossain Day, being observed today, is of special significance for the very place annually adorned with flowers in honour of the sacrifice of the pro-democracy activist is set to get a memorial, visibly influencing and inspiring generations all year round.

"Zero Point" in the capital's Gulistan was renamed Noor Hossain Chattar (square) after the young man was gunned down near it by police on November 10, 1987.

The valiant soul was taking part in a pro-democracy procession protesting against the autocratic regime of HM Ershad when a bullet pierced through his body. He had a slogan "Swairachar Nipat Jak, Gonotantra Mukti Pak" (down with autocracy, let democracy be freed) inscribed in white on his chest and back.

His ultimate sacrifice strengthened the movement and expedited the fall of the autocratic ruler and restoration of democracy in the country.

Currently a concrete structure stands at the spot, bearing distances of different districts from that point. Except for this single year, the structure lies year round in neglect and is an eyesore, with a thick layer of dust covering the cracked bricks and tiles and overgrown grass and with banners, placards and posters desecrating it.

The monument replacing it will be by Mrinal Haque. Talking to The Daily Star recently, the sculptor says his creation will symbolise Noor Hossain's struggle to free democracy which was in shackles. Moreover, the distances will circle it in a digital display at the base.

Hoping to start preparations to shift it to the spot after making it in an undisclosed location by this month, Mrinal Haque claimed that he has been digging into his own pockets for, till date, he has not got any sponsor.

He declined disclosing what the memorial will be known as.

Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) took

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DMCH burn unit service to get a boost

Bangladesh Bank donates Tk 50 lakh worth of equipment; urges contributions to meet many more shortages

When the whole country was literally up in flames in the pre-election violence last year, the burn unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) rose to become the last place of hope for victims.

Its doctors and staff with their sincere efforts saved many lives and cured scores. Yet they feel they could have saved many more if the unit was well-equipped with modern amenities.

Their longtime wish was partially fulfilled yesterday, through Bangladesh Bank's donation of 12 pieces of modern equipment including two cardiac monitors, one ABG machine with electrolyte, four pulse oximeters, a portable X-ray system, two syringe pumps, and two infusion pumps, worth Tk 50 lakh.

The handover ceremony was held on the burn unit premises.

"Earlier, for X-rays we had to move even the most critical patient to the radiology and imaging department, about 200 yards from our unit. With the portable X-ray system, the patient will be relieved of such hassles," said Tanveer Ahmed, assistant professor of the National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery, DMCH.

However, more facilities need to be added to the unit with 100 beds, which serves around 500 burn patients from across the country daily with its 72 nurses.

Many patients take treatment lying on the floor, while children and

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HOLDING PROFITABLE POST Legal notice served on 3 more minister, deputies

A Supreme Court lawyer yesterday served legal notices on a minister and two state ministers, asking them to vacate offices by 10:00am on November 15 for holding the government posts reportedly "in violation of the constitution".

The separate notices, served by Advocate ZI Khan Panna, state that Housing and Public Works Minister Engineer Mosharraf Hossain, State Minister for Health Zahid Maleque and State Minister for Land Saifuzzaman Chowdhury are holding profitable posts.

Article 147 of the constitution clearly prohibits ministers and state ministers from holding any office, post or position of

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Jabbar abetted, took part in killings

Testifies freedom fighter at war crimes tribunal

A freedom fighter yesterday told International Crimes Tribunal-1 that he had seen fugitive Abdul Jabbar abetting and participating in the killing of 25 persons, including freedom fighters, from May 16 to October 6 in Pirojpur during the 1971 Liberation War.

In 1971, Jabbar formed the Razakar Bahini, an auxiliary force of the Pakistani occupation army, and became chairman of another, Peace Committee, added Bacchu Akon, 62.

The commander of Mathbaria Upazila Muktijoddha Command also stated that he along with around 200 others had taken warfare training.

The 20th prosecution witness was testifying in the war crimes case against the former Jatiya Party lawmaker who is facing five charges of crimes against humanity.

Akon said Jabbar, at a rally at Tushkhali High School playground on May 16, 1971, instructed Razakars to kill local freedom fighters Motaleb Sharif and Abdur Razzaq Biswas.

Following his order, a Razakar commander, Iskandar Mridha, and his gang attacked Phuljhuri village and shot Sharif and Razzaq. "Motaleb died immediately while Razzaq died three days later," he said.

The next day, Jabbar, accompanied by 30-35 Pakistani army men, Iskandar and 40-45 Razakars, again attacked the village. "On Jabbar's direction, the Pakistani army shot dead Sarda Kanto Paik (a villager)," the witness said.

"They set fire to around 360 houses of our village," said Akon, adding that he had witnessed all this while keeping himself hidden.

On October 6, the witness stated to have got information from sources

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Eight fake note makers arrested in capital

Detectives arrested eight people for producing fake notes and seized fake notes of around Tk one crore in the capital's Mirpur on Saturday night.

The arrestees are Rafiqul Islam, Based Ali, Dulal Hossain, Shafiqul Islam, Rafiqul Islam, Kamal Farazi, Sentu Hawladar and Monir Khan.

Tipped-off, a DB team raided a house on Phalguni Road and nabbed Based Ali with Tk two lakh fake notes, said police at a press briefing yesterday.

Based on his information, the team nabbed seven others, including ringleader Rafiqul, from East Ahmednagar area.

The team also seized fake notes worth Tk 86 lakh, huge amount of note making papers, 20 frames, colour ingredient, security ribbons, five laptops, one desktop and five printers from their possession.

Road crashes kill seven, injure 36

Countrywide road accidents killed seven people and injured 36 others yesterday and Saturday.

Our Khagrachhari correspondent reports, Abu Bakkar, a police constable, died and 15 of his colleagues were injured when a police bus turned turtle as the driver lost his control over the vehicle in Alutilla area of Khagrachhari Sadar upazila on Saturday.

Our Manikganj correspondent reports, police constable Kafil Uddin, 42, of Sajjankanda village died after he was run over by a truck on Dhaka-Aricha highway in Bhatbaur of Manikganj Sadar upazila yesterday.

Our Netrokona Correspondent reports, Jasimuddin, 12, son of Lokman Hossen of Bhugapara village died when a truck hit his bicycle on Atpara-Barhatta road at Bhugapara of Atpara upazila yesterday.

Our Moulvibazar correspondent reports, Mamun Miah, 35, of Kodupur village died when a car hit his motorcycle as the driver lost

his control over the vehicle in Jail road area of Moulvibazar Sadar upazila yesterday.

In Sunamganj, Arfajan Bibi, 60, of Simulbagh village died when a Three-wheeler hit a Motorcycle on Jaganathpur-Dabor road in Soihara point area of Dakhin Sunamganj upazila on Saturday.

Our Pabna correspondent reports, 20 people were injured when two buses collided head-on on Dhaka-Pabna highway at Chinakhora point of Sujanagar upazila yesterday.

Our Gaibandha correspondent reports, Parvez Mia, 7, son of Abdus sattar of Purbo Mastia village died when a truck ran him over as the driver lost control over the vehicle on Bogra-Rangpur highway in the village yesterday.

Our Munshiganj correspondent, a man died and his one-year old grand son was injured when a motorcycle hit them while they were crossing the Shinbhar-Kathalbari road in Charkandi area of Munshikandirpur village under Shibchar upazila yesterday.

The deceased was Nurul Haque Bhangi, 70, of the village.

HC wants info about gazette

Petitioner's lawyer Syed Mohidul Kabir said the parliament passed a bill on the act in 2013 to stop the widespread food adulteration. The act has not yet come into effect, as the government has not issued a gazette notification yet, he added.

New secretaries to health ministry, PSC appointed

The government appointed new secretaries to the health ministry and the public service commission (PSC) yesterday, three days after resignation of two secretaries over the controversy of their fake freedom fighter certificates.

Shipping Secretary Syed Monjurul Islam has been made the health secretary, while additional secretary of the public administration ministry Shahjahan Ali Molla has been appointed as acting PSC secretary, according to separate gazette notifications.

Rector of BCS Administration Academy Shafiq Alam Mehedi replaced Monjurul Islam as

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FARUQI MURDER 'Spiritual leader of Ansarullah team' held

Detective Branch of police arrested a man in the capital's Mohammadpur on Saturday in the case filed for killing Supreme Court mosque imam Sheikh Nurul Islam Faruqi.

Arrested Mozaffar Bin Mohsin, 29, was placed on a two-day remand by a Dhaka court yesterday.

DB officials said Mohsin was a regular preacher of Juma prayers and often talked against Faruqi's thoughts.

DB has collected a video footage that shows Mozaffar preaching against Faruqi's ideology and saying that he should be slain for his "blasphemous ideology".

Important clues about Faruqi's killing could be learnt from Mohsin, they said.

On August 27, assailants slit Faruqi's throat at his East Rajabazar residence. The next day, his son filed two cases--murder and robbery--which were transferred to DB on August 30. Three suspects including a woman were detained.

Meanwhile, Dhaka Metropolitan Police Joint Commissioner Monirul Islam at a press briefing yesterday claimed Mohsin is a spiritual leader of the militant outfit Ansarullah Bangla Team.

The DMP official told journalists that Mohsin, who graduated from Rajshahi University, was also a panellist of Peace TV Bangla.

He frequently visits different madrasas and mosques and

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Drive against unfit autos starts today

The government will launch a clampdown on unfit vehicles and drivers, who either do not have licence or carry fake licence, across the country today to reduce road accidents.

A total of six mobile teams -- three of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) and three of Dhaka District Administration -- will conduct the drives.

The cabinet has recently sent a letter to all the deputy commissioners to this end. The drive will mainly focus on the capital as the majority of the country's 21 lakh vehicles ply there, said BRTA officials.

Vehicles without fitness certificates will be seized and fined while unlicensed drivers can face up to three months' imprisonment along with fines, they added.

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