

Mujibur Rahman's anniversary of death today

CITY DESK

Today is the 38th death anniversary of Khan Bahadur Mujibur Rahman, says a press release.

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

Qulkhwani

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The qulkhwani of Syed Fazle Ali, a Language Movement veteran, will be held today after Maghrib prayers at Emmanuelle Convention Centre in Gulshan-1 of the capital.

He passed away at the age of 80 at a hospital in Dhaka on Thursday, says a press release.

Syed Fazle Ali left behind a daughter and a grandson to mourn his death.

Ali was the elder brother-in-law of noted lawyer Sigma Huda and Khushi Kabir.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to attend the qulkhwani and pray for salvation of the departed soul.



Projonmo 71 forms a human chain in Dhaka Medical College Hospital area yesterday urging all to stand against the ongoing violence during the indefinite blockade and hartals enforced by the BNP-led 20-party alliance. PHOTO: STAR

BCL factions clash at CU for over 7hrs

Two activists hacked, teacher assaulted, 60 detained

CITY DESK

Two activists were hacked and police detained 60 after a clash between two shuttle train compartment-based groups of the now dissolved Bangladesh Chhatra League's (BCL) Chittagong University unit over establishing dominance yesterday.

Varsity Xpress (VX) is led by organising secretary SM Ariful Islam and Choose Friends With Care (CFC) vice president Amit Kumar Basu, reports our Chittagong and Chittagong University correspondents.

Witnesses said Soheli Khan of English and Md Kawsar of Bangla were hacked allegedly by CFC men while they were leaving Shahjalal Hall around 1:30pm.

Police got them treated and arrested them in the Taposh Sarkar murder case. CFC supporter Taposh, a first-year Sanskrit student, was shot dead in a clash between VX and CFC on December 14, 2014.

Yesterday's clash, when the rivals hurled

stones and brick chips and chased each other, ensued around 6:00am when CFC members barred VX activists from entering the hall, said witnesses.

CFC activists locked the CU main entrance and vandalised two shops. Police unlocked the gate within 20 minutes and fired 10 tear gas shells, they said.

About 10:00am, the CFC men forced teachers off their buses. At 12:30pm, they physically assaulted a marine science teacher Shahidul Azam Sarkar at his dormitory and verbally abused Assistant Proctor Anup Barua's family and threatened of dire consequences if he patronised VX, confirmed a teacher requesting anonymity.

Proctor Prof Siraj-ud-Dollah asked police to identify the perpetrators.

In the afternoon, police detained the students and recovered two sacks of stones, eight sticks and three machetes. Both the leaders' cellphones were found switched off.



This rickety bamboo bridge is the only way from Nandipara Trimohoni area to Demra's Bhidpur area. The locals demand a permanent structure over fears it might collapse. The photo was taken yesterday. PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

No political talks, go tough

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Meanwhile, eminent jurist Barrister Rafique-Ul Huq told journalists at his Supreme Court Bar Association chamber that dialogue was a must for resolving the ongoing political crisis and that hartals, blockades, terrorism and torture were not the way out.

The 13-member "concerned citizens" committee of professionals headed by former Chief Election Commissioner ATM Shamsul Huda was formed on Friday by a group of eminent citizens.

Noted economist Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad said, "The things that are happening can clearly be termed as acts of terror. So the government must resist these with a firm hand." But it must be ensured that no human rights is violated, he said.

The prime minister should hold dialogue with pro-liberation professional, social and political forces, not with anti-liberation forces, he viewed.

About the ongoing violence and killings, National Human Rights Commission Chairman Prof Mizanur

Rahman said institutions wearing the mask of political parties were conducting extrajudicial killings.

He also criticised the dialogue initiative, claiming it might be a conspiracy for depoliticisation.

Former Bangladesh Bank governor Mohammad Farashuddin said the violence would be reduced if some more war criminals were immediately executed.

On the dialogue initiative, he said, "I think those who talk about dialogue are actually enemies of the people, enemies of society, enemies of the country."

Sector Commanders Forum (SCF) Vice Chairman Abu Osman Chowdhury demanded implementation of the shoot on sight principle against petrol bomb attackers.

Former Jahangirnagar University vice chancellor Prof Anwar Hossain said the government should issue an ultimatum with a certain timeframe for withdrawal of the BNP-led 20-party alliance's blockade because people were being killed during

the political programme called by BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

Ekattorer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee acting president Shahriar Kabir apprehended that worldwide circulation of photos of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina with Ahmed Hassan Imran, a Rajya Sabha member from West Bengal's ruling Trinamool Congress, would have a negative effect.

The photos will surely be taken when West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee comes to Dhaka on February 19. Imran, who allegedly has links with Jamaat, is likely to accompany her, he said.

Barrister Tureen Afroz, a prosecutor at International Crimes Tribunal, Bangladesh (ICT), demanded trying arsonists under the anti-terrorism act.

Abdul Hannan Khan, coordinator of ICT's probe agency, demanded establishing a separate Supreme Court bench for hearing appeals of convicted war criminals.

Dedicated comics stalls still elusive

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Except that of Panjeree Publications Ltd, stalls selling Bangladeshi comics are hard to find in the Amar Ekushey Granthamela-2015 despite its demand among young people.

Sales of comics and graphic novels constituted 30 percent of our total sales at the book fair last year, said Niloy Nandy, assistant manager of Panjeree's creative department.

Even Dhaka Comics, a dedicated publishing house of Bangla comics, enjoyed a total sale of 5,000 copies of its 13 titles last year even though they did not have a stall in the fair.

"Our books were available at stalls of some other publication houses," said Mehedi Haque, publisher and an artist of Dhaka Comics.

"This genre of books has huge demand among people aged between 10 to 35 years," said Nandy, adding that even the unfavourable political situation of the country has not much affected sales of these books.

Sharier Khan, creator of the popular comic characters Babu, Basic Ali and Laily, believes that the demand for comics is increasing, evident from the fact that since 2007 Panjeree has been publishing at least three to four of his titles.

"They are obviously not publishing these out of their own pockets. So it shows that there is a market," said Khan. He gave Dhaka Comics' emergence as an example of the growing market of comics in Bangladesh.

Noted cartoonist and writer Ahsan Habib, who inspired the formation of

AMAR EKUSHEY

For an exclusive interview of Sharier Khan, scan this QR code

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Dhaka Comics, said he had heard that Bangla Academy did not grant Dhaka Comics a stall in the fair as it did not recognise comics as books.

"That is why publishers often bring out comics in book format," he said adding that Onnesha last year brought out his comics "Hanon" in graphic novel format to avoid the categorisation as comics.

Ahsan's comics "Potla Keblar Joto Kando" and "Poltu Biltur Joto Kando" was published in black and white by Somoy Prokashon but is currently out of print.

Quoting a publisher, who was in

the committee that granted stalls in the Amar Ekushey Granthamela-2015, Mehedi Haque too said their publication house did not get permission as Bangla Academy does not deem comics as creative writing.

However, Prof Shamsuzzaman Khan, director general of the academy, denied the allegation. "If the comics are not against our culture, values, spirit of Liberation War, we would definitely grant stalls."

He said such allegations were irrelevant two weeks past the fair's inauguration.

While rain dampened books of some stalls, it however reduced the dust. In the absence of weekend visitors, book lovers thus got the chance to buy their favourite volumes at ease.

Kaniz Fatema Afroza and her sister from Dhanmondi were having difficulty carrying four big bags of books. "We did not come all these days in fear of crude bombs. After seeing that everyone visits the fair nevertheless, we decided to come today," said Afroza.

Ahmed Mahmudul Haque, publisher and CEO of Mowla Brothers, said sales have risen since Friday. "The trade fair had an effect on the first 10 days, but now sales have turned around."

Sales at Bangla Academy's stalls in the last two weeks was Tk 57,66,097, according to an academy press release.

Yesterday, 71 new books came to the fair while 10 were launched.



Book lovers at a kiosk of Amar Ekushey Granthamela-2015 at Suhrawardy Udyan in the capital yesterday. Some books, inset, being dried in the sun on the premises as a shower drenched those in the early hours of the day. PHOTO: STAR

Sajeda Chy undergoes bypass surgery

BSS, Dhaka

Deputy Leader of the House Sajeda Chowdhury underwent successful bypass surgery at Medanta Hospital in New Delhi on Friday.

She is now undergoing treatment at the post-operative care unit of the hospital, an official release said yesterday.

Deputy Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad Md Fazle Rabbi Mia prayed for early recovery of Sajeda.

Road accidents kill 5, injure 3

CITY DESK

Five people were killed and three others injured in road accidents in five districts yesterday and Saturday.

In Munshiganj, two people died and three others were injured as a bus rammed into a car carrying them in Sreenagar upazila yesterday.

The deceased were Abdur Rajjak, 42, a constable of Ramna Police Station in Dhaka and car driver Abdus Salam.

In Jhalakathi, Anwar Hossen, 35, of Chuadanga Sadar died when a bus hit him while he was crossing Barisal-Khulna highway at Naikathi village yesterday.

In Moulvibazar, Rumon Miah, 25, of Uttarsur village died when a pickup van hit him while he was crossing Sreemangal-Habiganj road in Uttarsur road area of Sreemangal upazila on Saturday.

In Thakurgaon, Sanjit Shah, 10, of Devnagar village died when a truck hit him while he was crossing Panchagarh-Tentulia highway in Magurmari Bazar area of Tentulia Sadar on Saturday.

Baby Nazneen

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office around 7:30pm, Sayrul Kabir Khan and Shamsuddin Dider, the BNP chief's press wing staff, told The Daily Star.

Nazneen tried to convince police to allow her to visit Khaleda, but the law enforcers picked her up around 8:10pm, said a witness.

The singer told police that Khaleda was like her mother, another witness quoted Nazneen as saying.

"I have come to know from media reports that she is starving. So, I have prepared soup for her by myself. Please, let me meet her," the witness continued. "I'm not a politician and not involved in any politics."

Police, deployed around Khaleda's office, continued barring food supplies from reaching her office staff since February 11.

AL-led

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The decision came at a meeting of the alliance at AL Chief Sheikh Hasina's Dhanmondi office yesterday.

Afterwards, Health Minister Mohammad Nasim, also a AL presidium member, made the announcement.

The ruling alliance will also hold a rally in Katakali of Rajshahi on February 23.