

Journalist Hasanuzzaman passes away

BSS, Dhaka

Hasanuzzaman Khan, former managing editor of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS), died of a cardiac arrest at a hospital in the capital yesterday. He was 90. Khan left behind his wife, a daughter, and two sons.

His body will be kept at Jatiya Press Club after Zohr prayers today, says a press release. After a namaj-e-janaza, he will be buried at Mirpur Martyred Intellectuals' Graveyard.

Khan was born in Keraniganj of Dhaka on September 5, 1926. In his 60-year journalism career, he worked in Azad, Swadhinata, Pakistan Observer, New Nation, Bangladesh Today, and Financial Express newspapers. He received the Ekushey Padak for journalism.



Residents of Sylhet city pay floral tributes at a wall painting unveiled yesterday in memory of secular writer and blogger Ananta Bijoy Das, who was hacked to death by unknown assailants near that place in Subidbazar area on May 12. The painting titled "Eternal" was commissioned by the locals, and it spans around 20 feet across.

PHOTO: STAR

Ordinary people help trafficked migrants as Asia mired in crisis

AP/UNB, Kuala Lumpur

For hundreds of migrants stranded at sea in sinking boats, the first helping hand came not from governments but from fishermen who towed them to safety. The desperation of migrants from Myanmar and Bangladesh has not compelled neighbouring countries to take them in, but has inspired compassion - and pleas for help - from ordinary people across Southeast Asia.

Sympathetic Malaysians have launched donation drives to help feed migrants who have flooded ashore in the past two weeks. In Indonesia, where fisherman rescued three boats last week and saved 900 lives, villagers have donated clothing and home-cooked meals.

Aid groups estimate that thousands more migrants - who fled persecution in Myanmar and poverty in Bangladesh - are stranded in

the Andaman Sea after a crackdown on human traffickers prompted captains and smugglers to abandon their boats.

But more than two weeks into the spiralling humanitarian crisis, the stance of Southeast Asian governments remains unchanged - none wants to take the migrants in, fearing that accepting a few would result in an unstoppable flow.

A political cartoon in Thailand's *The Nation* newspaper yesterday summed up the official reaction, showing a boatload of Muslim Rohingya refugees being kicked back to sea by people on the shores of Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Myanmar and Bangladesh.

"On the one hand, we're seeing governments quibbling and struggling to find ways to deal with these boat people. But on the other hand, it's encouraging to see that the people in this region have responded very generously to these boat people," said

Vivian Tan, a Bangkok-based spokeswoman for the UN refugee agency, UNHCR.

"The public response has been overwhelming and governments really need to follow this example and let people disembark as soon as possible," Tan said.

One prominent Islamic scholar in Malaysia noted that the government is still searching for a Malaysia Airlines plane believed to have crashed at sea over a year ago, "while those who are still alive, we leave to die out at sea."

"Where is our humanity?" Asri Zainal Abidin, a former state mufti in Malaysia, wrote on his Facebook page.

Navy ships from Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia intercepted boats last week packed with desperate, hungry migrants, giving them food and water and then sending them away - a move that drew strong international criticism. The UN warned that pushing away boats of starving people could

create a crisis of "floating coffins."

It also sparked outrage in Malaysia, a predominantly Muslim country, where sympathetic citizens and Muslim groups have launched donation drives to collect food, clothing and medical aid for a boatload of more than 1,100 migrants who landed at a Malaysian island on May 10 and are being held at a detention camp.

Another prominent Malaysian, Marina Mahathir, a social activist and daughter of former Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, issued an appeal last week for anyone with seaworthy boats to send aid to the migrants still at sea.

Malaysian officials have said they will not take in more refugees. Malaysia is the desired destination for most of the migrants - it has already hosted more than 45,000 Rohingyas over the years, according to the UN - but now says it can't accept any more.



Activists of Gonoshonghoti Andolon try to break through a police barricade after being obstructed on their way to the home ministry to lay siege to it yesterday demanding that the government rescue Bangladeshi migrants stranded at sea on boats near Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia, and arrest and punish those responsible for human trafficking.

PHOTO: STAR

Small enterprise dev fund for disabled people sought

BSS, Dhaka

Speakers at a discussion yesterday called for enhancing the budgetary allocation for people with disabilities to ensure their normal living.

Mohua Paul, chairperson of Access Bangladesh Foundation (ABF), at the event in the capital's Dhanmondi also proposed to establish a "Small Enterprise Development Fund for Disabled" in the upcoming budget to assist in improving financial security of people with disabilities.

Programme Officer Jahangir Alom placed a set of pre-budget proposals including setting up of a sports complex for the physically challenged people, easy access of them to educational training centres, taking programmes for their self-employment, removal of obstacles on way to easy access of them to railway stations, bus terminals, hospitals, government and non-government offices, filling up all quota at government services and increasing their allowances.

Mohua said special projects should be taken under all ministries to empower people with disabilities to bring them into the mainstream of development.

Al-Badr's killing

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statements of the witnesses, investigation officer, and ICT-2 verdict to the SC.

On the night of December 10, 1971, seven to eight youths, wearing ski masks and carrying rifles, abducted Serajuddin from his house in the capital's Chamelibagh. He never returned.

The ICT-2 judgment says it is quite evident that Al-Badr men had abducted Serajuddin.

Mojahed was a leader of Islami Chhatra Sangha, then student front of Jamaat. Most of the Sangha's members joined the Al-Badr. Mojahed filed his appeal with the SC on August 11, 2013 after the ICT-2 gave him the death penalty in connection with three charges on July 17 the same year.

According to the verdict, Mojahed had led a "death squad" named Al-Badr that worked as an auxiliary force for the Pakistani army.

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Chhatra Union launches campaign

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include immediate arrest of the molesters, removal of the proctor and punishment for the cops for negligence on that day, and enforcement of the 2009 High Court guideline to prevent harassment at education institutions.

Salma Begum, director of the geophysics department at the mineral resources ministry, said the guideline aimed to stop all

forms of harassment including stalking.

Ex-professor of Notre Dame College AN Rasheda criticised the police chief's comments on the April 14 attack as irresponsible and said he never would have said that his family member been a victim of that assault.

On May 12, Inspector General of Police AKM Shahidul Hoque referred to the sex assault as "three or four boys making mischief."

and asked the law ministry to make necessary arrangements for the judicial magistrate.

The law ministry was delaying to take steps to send the judicial magistrate to South Korea, according to sources.

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The chief justice nominated two officials -- one additional district judge and another judicial magistrate.

The SC authorities made arrangements for the additional district judge

SC extends

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resort through cancelling a 30-year lease with Jamuna Resort Ltd, a consortium of Bangladeshi and foreign companies.

The SC passed the order following a government appeal against an HC order that on April 23 allowed JRL to run its lawful business at the resort for the next three months.

It also stayed a Dhaka court order that upheld the BBA notice that on April 1 cancelled a 30-year lease of the resort with JRL.

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