

Mushtaque, a hero!

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son of the soil".

This crown for Mushtaque was from BNP, a political party founded by Gen Ziaur Rahman who was the biggest beneficiary of Bangabandhu murder. The sixth parliament dominated by Khaleda Zia-led BNP took an obituary reference following Mushtaque's death.

Mushtaque died on March 6, 1996 and the parliament formed through the one-sided election on February 15 the same year adopted the obituary reference on March 19.

There was no opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad to the obituary reference condoling Mushtaque's death. Citizens were not too aware with this development because of the then uncertain political situation.

The opposition parties--led by Awami League--were in the streets to wage a violent movement to force the then BNP-led government to introduce the non-partisan caretaker government.

The condolence motion passed unanimously in the inaugural sitting of the sixth parliament.

Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali moved the obituary reference to mourn deaths of Mushtaque and some other who had died since December 1995 to March 19, the time since dissolution of the fifth parliament to the inaugural of the sixth one.

In the obituary reference, Mushtaque was portrayed as a "seasoned politician". It made mention of his political career.

"He took charge of the presidency after the political changeover in 1975 and he remained in the office for around three months," said the obituary reference about his grabbing the state power.

"The country lost a seasoned politician and parliamentarian and skilled lawyer for his death. This parliament is expressing deep sorrow and condolence for his death and seeking salvation for his departed soul," it added.

The House also expressed sincere sympathy to family members of Mushtaque and decided to send a copy of the obituary reference to them.

A brief discussion was held before the passage of the obituary reference. Participating in the discussion, senior BNP leader Dr. Khandaker Mosharrar Hossain, the then home minister, highlighted his political career. "He contributed to the great Liberation War in 1971," he said.

It is a convention for the parliament to make obituary references at the beginning of each session to mourn the deaths of eminent persons and victims of any tragic incident that occur during its recess or in between

the dissolution of one parliament to the formation of a new one.

But the inaugural session of the second parliament in 1979 began differently.

Dominated by the then BNP-led by military ruler Ziaur Rahman, the second parliament completely ignored the brutal assassinations of the four national leaders --Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmed, Mansur Ali and Kamruzzaman -- inside the Dhaka central jail on November 3, 1975.

It did not even mention their names in the obituary reference let alone mourn their deaths.

In the condolence motion, there was no mention of Bangabandhu's family members and others who were murdered on August 15.

The House mourned the death of Bangabandhu. It however described his gruesome assassination as "a political changeover".

Before the House took up the motion, AL leader Asaduzzaman Khan, the then leader of the opposition, met newly elected Speaker Mirza Golam Hafiz and appealed to him to ensure that parliament paid due tribute to Bangabandhu in the obituary reference.

But the speaker, who was a BNP MP, rejected the opposition's appeal. He placed the proposal for the obituary reference with a half-hearted tribute to Bangabandhu.

Even Bangabandhu's portrait was removed from the chamber of the House before the second parliament started its journey.

In comparison to Bangabandhu and the four national leaders, Mushtaque was fortunate. He was given honour by the BNP. Taking the obituary reference for his death exposed BNP's sympathy for him.

MUSHTAQE IN CONSPIRACY
Khandaker Mushtaque Ahmed was the foreign minister of the then government in exile that led the country's Liberation War in 1971. But he was relieved of this position only a few days after the Mujibnagar government came back to Dhaka from India after the Liberation.

He was replaced by Abdus Samad Azad in the first reshuffle of the then cabinet. The reason for the removal was one of his surreptitious moves during the Liberation War to enter negotiation with the Pakistani military junta to reach a compromise to keep Pakistan united by forming a confederation.

With this agenda, Mushtaque held a meeting with a representative of State Department of USA. He found Mahbubul Alam Chashi, the then foreign secretary of the government in

exile, on his side.

After the meeting with the US official, Chashi asked a Bangladesh representative to open negotiation with the Pakistani military junta through the USA.

But the secret message was intercepted by Indian intelligence agency, RAW.

In the eyes of RAW, Mushtaque was a CIA agent and had been working for the US intelligence agency since the formation of the Bangladesh government in exile in 1971. RAW also found Mushtaque in league with a CIA operative in a hotel at Calcutta.

Tajuddin Ahmed, Prime Minister of the government in exile, was informed about his minister's conspiratorial activities against Bangladesh's Liberation War. Mushtaque's move was against the decision of the then government.

Interception of the secret message prompted the then government in exile to scrap its earlier decision to send Mushtaque to attend a UIN conference as the leader of Bangladesh delegation.

However, Mushtaque could not accept his removal from the foreign ministry. In protest, he resigned from the cabinet and got admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. He took back his resignation letter on request of Dr. Wazed Mia, husband of Sheikh Hasina.

He agreed on condition that Wazed Mia would lobby Bangabandhu on his return from Pakistan jail for Mushtaque to reinstatement him as the foreign minister or to give him some other important portfolio like finance or industries and commerce ministry.

Wazed Mia went to the hospital to meet Mushtaque considering the prevailing situation in newly born Bangladesh when Pakistani forces were still in Dhaka and Pakistan trained armed collaborators were still active and the government had yet to establish a firm control over the administration.

Wazed Mia had thought the rise of any disunity and conflict within Awami League would jeopardise the country's independence.

After Bangabandhu's return, Mushtaque consolidated his position in Bangabandhu's cabinet. But within years, he engaged in another conspiracy to overthrow the Bangabandhu-led government and succeeded in his mission.

[The report is prepared based on the books "Mission R&AW" by RK Yadav, "Some Events Centring on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Bangladesh" by MA Wazed Mia, "My Life's Story and Liberation Struggle of Bangladesh" by Dr AR Mallick and preceding of the inaugural sitting of the sixth parliament.]

Govt trying to malign Bangladesh

Alleges 20-party

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP-led 20-party alliance yesterday called upon the people to remain alert and resist the government's "conspiracy to turn peaceful Bangladesh into a militant or terrorist state".

"The ruling party while in the opposition had tried to label this country a militant one. And now, they are trying to get sympathy from the world, saying the country could become a militant state," said BNP standing committee member Nazrul Islam Khan.

"That's why the killing of bloggers and children, repression against women and forced disappearances are taking place frequently, and perpetrators are not being arrested," he added.

The BNP leader was yesterday addressing a press briefing at BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's Gulshan office. The briefing followed a secretary general-level meeting of the opposition alliance.

After over nine months, Khaleda held a meeting of the 20-party combine at the same place on Wednesday night to discuss the alliance's internal issues and political situation of the country.

On the opposition's anti-government movement, Nazrul Islam Khan said their "democratic" move was going on and it would continue.

"Success of the movement to establish the real democracy and an elected government is now a matter of time," the BNP leader claimed.

Reading out a written statement, he said the opposition combine wants a free, fair and inclusive national election under a non-party administration to establish an elected government to stop killing and forced disappearance, and ensure people's basic human rights.

Asked about the BNP chief's upcoming visit to London, the senior BNP leader refused to comment. "It is Khaleda Zia's personal matter."

State minister's nephew

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A number of suspected ABT operatives, who were arrested earlier, had been kept under surveillance for quite some time and Nahin was one of them, according to a mid-ranking official of the Detective Branch (DB) of police. He preferred anonymity for he was not authorised to speak to the media about this.

The Daily Star phoned State Minister Chhunu several times for his comments but his cell phone was found switched off.

In the Asif Mohiuddin case, the three others to have been arrested with Nahin -- then an Evening MBA student of Dhaka University -- were Kawsar Ahmed, 28, a hawker in Mirpur; Kamal Uddin, 25, a carpenter from Noakhali; and Kamal Hossain, 30, a security guard of Mutual Trust Bank, hailing from Barisal.

Detectives claimed to have recovered several jihadi books and martial arts uniforms from them.

Nahin had directly taken part in the machete attack on blogger Asif, according to the detectives.

Meanwhile, Motijheel police yesterday summoned Deb Jyoti Rudro and Miraj Nazir, both friends of slain blogger Niloy, to their office but didn't talk to them.

Rudro said they were made to wait from 10:30am to around 1:00pm at the office of the deputy commissioner (Motijheel division) of the DMP but were not asked anything.

"The DC was busy perhaps," said Rudro, adding they were told that they would be summoned again.

In a Facebook post before his death, Niloy said he had gone to

Khilgaon Police Station to file a General Diary (GD) seeking security, but was refused. Rudro had accompanied Niloy to the police station.

A police probe committee, tasked with looking into the allegation, submitted its report on Tuesday without quizzing him, according to Rudro.

Niloy's wife Asha Moni, who was inside the house during the killing, filed a murder case with Khilgaon Police Station on the night of the incident against four unnamed assailants.

Later on Sunday, the DB took over the case from Khilgaon police.

IGP FOR DATABASE OF BLOGGERS
Inspector General of Police AKN Shahidul Hoque yesterday asked the DB, the Criminal Investigation Department and the Special Branch of police to make a database of bloggers and keep tabs on what they write in their blogs.

Based on the database, security will be provided to those who are on life threats, he was quoted as saying at the quarterly crime conference of the superintendents of police (SPs) and other police high-ups at the Police Headquarters yesterday.

Earlier on Sunday, the police boss warned secular bloggers against "crossing the limit", which drew flak from different quarters.

The IGP did the same again yesterday. But this time, he also asked the law enforcers to provide counselling support to online writers in order to discourage them from writing anything that might hurt religious sentiments, meeting sources said.

Conditions, rules flouted

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within seven years of their launch. Currently there are 83 private universities in the country but only 52 of them have passed seven years since their launch.

UGC Chairman Prof Abdul Mannan said that of these 52, only 17 have shifted to their own campuses while seven are operating on the land owned by their foundations, nine partially on their own building and 17 are building campuses on their own land.

"Though academic activities and research activities of some universities are satisfactory, yet there are questions over the standard of education in most of the universities," he said.

The UGC boss also said the authorities of most of the universities are reportedly holding syndicate meetings without the members nominated by the government and the UGC.

Speaking at the meeting, the minister asked all of the 52 private universities to report by September 30 on the progress of shifting to their own campuses.

"The universities which have not moved to their own campuses will have to submit a progress report showing their current status by September 30," he said.

Based on the report submitted by the universities, the government will have "one to one" meeting with them to take further decision on the matter, Nahid said.

On January 26 last year, the education ministry set September 15 the deadline for universities to relocate to their own campuses, a condition set out in the Private University Act-2010, as many universities had failed to comply with it.

In the event of their non-compliance

with campus relocation, the ministry warned them of cancelling the temporary approval they got from the government and directed them to stop admitting new students.

Speaking on the issue, VCs and chairmen of trustee boards of different private universities admitted that some of them did not follow the private university act properly, and urged the government to take action against those violating the rules.

They, however, requested the minister to withdraw the 7.5 percent VAT imposed on them in the budget.

They also criticised the UGC decision to collect Tk 1 lakh from every university for monitoring the universities. The demanded review of the decision.

Prof Dr Perween Hasan, VC of Central Women's University, said, "Since the UGC is monitoring the activities of the private universities, then why is a separate cell required for monitoring?"

University of Development Alternatives VC Prof Emajuddin Ahmed suggested the government allocate land for the universities which have yet to manage any.

Mohammed Farashuddin, trustee board chairman of East West University, stressed the need for increasing the UGC's financial and legal powers to better supervise private universities.

Private University Owner's Association President Sheikh Kabir Hossain urged the education minister to withdraw the recently imposed VAT saying all the students will have to bear the brunt of it.

In reply, Nahid said he would speak to the prime minister and the finance minister about withdrawing the VAT.

LA fights drought

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The balls also form a protective barrier across the surface that helps keep birds, animals and other contaminants out.

Dr Brian White, a now-retired Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP biologist), was the first person to think of using shade balls for water quality. The idea came to him when he learned about the application of 'bird balls' in ponds along airport runways.

His in-house solution has been used in LADWP's open-air reservoirs since 2008 to block sunlight, prevent

chemical reactions and curtail algae blooms. The balls, around the size of a large apple, cost 36 cents each and are black because it is the only colour that is able to deflect UV rays.

They are currently in place at Upper Stone, Elysian and Ivanhoe reservoirs, and come with the added benefit of reducing evaporation off the reservoir surfaces by 85 to 90 percent.

Mayor Eric Garcetti joined officials on Monday to release the final 20,000 shade balls as part of the region's \$34.5 million water quality protection project.

A gift from bird lovers

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trees. Settling themselves nimbly on a sturdy branch, they tied fat earthen pots with the trunk or the branches around.

These are not traps. Quite the opposite, these are set to provide the local birds with shelters and nesting sites.

Even a few weeks ago, villagers ridiculed them, saying all this was a sheer waste of time. But the youths did not relent and went on setting these pots from one house to another. Birds of many local species have started to perch on them; many have built nests

in them.

When they approach a house now, they are given a warm reception.

Two friends, Mamun Biswas and Emon Sarkar, have taken this initiative in the village to save local species of birds from extinction.

"We have already set 237 pots in the trees of our village, including roadside trees. Birds easily take shelter in these tree pots," Mamun told The Daily Star.

The project is on and they want to extend it other villages in the upazila, Emon said.

'An atomic bomb?'

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containers caught fire beforehand. Industrial accidents are not uncommon in China following three

decades of breakneck economic growth. A blast at an auto parts factory in eastern China killed 75 people a year ago when a room filled with metal dust exploded.

Xinhua said 1,000 firefighters and more than 140 fire engines were struggling to contain a blaze in a warehouse that held "dangerous goods".

"The volatility of the goods means the fire is especially unpredictable and dangerous to approach," Xinhua said.

Several fire trucks had been destroyed and nearby firefighters wept as they worked to extinguish flames, the Beijing News reported.

President Xi Jinping demanded that authorities "make full effort to rescue and treat the injured and ensure the safety of people and their property".

Xi said in a statement carried by official media that those responsible should be "severely handled".

City officials had met recently with companies to discuss tightening safety standards on the handling of dangerous chemicals. The Tianjin Administration of Work Safety posted a notice about the meeting with companies at the port on its website a week ago.

Anxious residents rushed to hospitals to seek news about injured loved ones. Dozens of police guarded the entrance of the TEDA hospital, a Reuters witness said.

Pictures on Chinese media websites showed residents and workers, some bleeding, fleeing their homes. Xinhua said people had been hurt by broken glass and other flying debris. Authorities told reporters they expected the blasts to have forced 6,000 people from their homes by nightfall.

Interference made cops'

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He claimed that performances of around 40 percent SPs were good while the rest were mediocre.

"I'll later notify those SPs with poor performance. Those who will fail to improve will face action," the IGP was quoted by an official assaying.

Referring to a recent arrest of a Special Branch of police official by the Rapid Action Battalion in Feni with Yaba pills, the IGP said many policemen in Cox's Bazar had long been involved in Yaba smuggling, but the SPs failed to take any action against them.

"Had the SPs taken punitive actions against such corrupt policemen, the policeman would not have been arrested with Yaba," he was quoted as saying in the meeting by a source.

A number of SPs mentioned that

several thousand seized vehicles were rusting away inside the compound of police stations across the country.

They asked for permission to use and maintain those since they have a shortage of vehicles.

Sources claimed that whether such use of vehicles was legally possible was being looked into.

Police officials also appealed to the chief justice to take action for quick disposal of 256 cases stayed by the High Court.

Addressing the conference the chief justice said police and judges were inseparable parts of the judiciary. Justice could not be expected leaving either of the two out.

The chief justice discussed different aspects of coordination among investigation, prosecution and judges. He also gave police officers strategic directions

on bringing in witnesses, sources said.

He patiently listened to the field-level police officers' challenges.

The IGP said special care should be given to stop oppression on women, especially, trafficking of women and children and gender violence.

He ordered officials concerned to investigate rape cases with utmost sincerity and bring the real culprit to book.

The IGP urged police officers to apply "zero tolerance" on drugs.

The police chief also said patrolling and surveillance should be beefed up to prevent robberies on highways.

Additional DIG (Special Crime and Prosecution) Jahirul Islam Bhuiyan presented an overall picture of crime in the last three months. Compared to this time last year, robberies, piracy, and murders have reduced this year, he said.

ISIS blast kills 76 in Baghdad

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neighborhood is one of the biggest in Baghdad selling wholesale food items. A Reuters witness at the site saw fruit and vegetables mixed with shrapnel littering the blood-soaked blast crater.

Smoke rose from charcoaled debris. Rescuers pulling bodies from the rubble stumbled over sheet metal that had formed the walls and roofs of vendors' stands.

People gathering at the scene cried and shouted the names of missing relatives; others cursed the government.

"We hold the government responsible, fully responsible," witness Ahmed Ali Ahmed said, calling on the authorities to dispatch the army and Shia militias to man checkpoints in the capital.

Abadi took office last summer following the army's collapse in the

face of Islamic State's takeover of the northern city of Mosul that left the Baghdad government dependent on militias, many funded and assisted by neighboring Iran, to defend the capital and recapture lost ground.

Security forces and militia groups are fighting Islamic State in Anbar province, the sprawling Sunni heartland in western Iraq.

In Baghdad, Abadi has proposed sweeping reforms aimed at reducing corruption and patronage, the biggest changes to the political system since the end of US military occupation.

The US Army's outgoing chief of staff warned Wednesday that reconciliation between Shia and Sunnis in Iraq is becoming harder and that partitioning the country "might be the only solution."

General Raymond Odierno, who once served as the top US commander in Iraq and retires today after nearly

40 years in uniform, said the US focus for now should be on defeating the Islamic State, the jihadist group that has seized large portions of the country.

But in a valedictory news conference he took a pessimistic view about the underlying conflict between Shias and Sunnis that brought the two communities to brink of civil war in 2006, reports AFP.

Asked if he saw any possibility of reconciliation between the two, Odierno said "It's becoming more difficult by the day" and pointed to a future in which "Iraq might not look like it did in the past."

Asked about partition, he said: "I think that is for the region and politicians to figure out, diplomats to figure out how to work this, but that is something that could happen."

"It might be the only solution but I'm not ready to say that yet."

Bangladesh Municipal Development Fund (BMDF)

(A Govt. owned Company under the Bank and Financial Institutions Division, Ministry of Finance Grameen Bank Bhaban, Level-13, Mirpur-2, Dhaka-1216



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Applications are invited for the following post under Bangladesh Municipal Development Fund (BMDF) from bonafide Bangladeshi nationals. BMDF is a Government owned company established under the Companies Act, 1994. The main function of BMDF is to provide financial support to the City Corporations and Municipalities for urban infrastructure development.

- 1. Name of the Post :** Managing Director
- 2. Job Responsibilities :** The MD will be initially responsible for operation of BMDF. He/She will act as Chief Executive of the organization. He/she will be responsible to the Board of Directors of BMDF.
- 3. Educational Qualification :** A post graduate degree from a recognized university.
- 4. Experience:** At least 20 years of experience as Class-1 Officer or equivalent position in a government/semi-government organization. Or At least 25 years of experience including experience as CEO in a national level autonomous body/private organization.
- 5. Remuneration:** A monthly remuneration of Tk. 1,30,670.00 will be offered which includes monthly basic salary Tk. 73,000.00, House Rent 60% of basic salary and other admissible allowances with two festival bonuses and a full time transport with driver.

Application should be addressed to the Secretary, Local Government Division and Chairman, Board of Directors, Bangladesh Municipal Development Fund (BMDF), Grameen Bank Bhaban, Level-13, Mirpur-2, Dhaka and should reach to the above mentioned address by 05.00 pm on or before 30 August 2015 positively.

Only short listed candidates will be invited for an interview.

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