

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

ATM Mafizul Huq, a freedom fighter and former director of Bangladesh Betar, died of old age complications in his Gulshan residence on Thursday. He was 77, said a press release.

Mafizul played a vital role in broadcasting March 7 speech of Bangabandhu. So, the Pakistani army arrested him on March 26, 1971 and tortured him in jail during the Liberation War. He was released after the independence.

He left behind his wife, three daughters and four grand children. He was buried in the martyred intellectual graveyard at Mirpur yesterday.

Qulhwani

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The qulhwani of Ashfaq Ahmed, an eminent finance professional, will be held today after the Asr prayers in Gulshan Azad Mosque in the capital.

Ashfaq, who had a long



A worker puts the final touches on an iron gate in the capital's Segunbagicha beside the office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday noon. Around 16 of these gates will be set up at different points of the area along with private security guards by the local ward councillor to "ensure public safety and restrict entry of unwanted outsiders", according to the contractors. But these gates not only narrow down the road but also make pedestrian and vehicle movement troublesome. *Inset*, one of the gates in front of the Bangladesh Tariff Commission.

PHOTOS: ANISUR RAHMAN

MANIK SAHA MURDER Dhaka journos seek reinvestigation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The masterminds behind the murder of journalist Manik Chandra Saha went unpunished, said senior journalists yesterday, demanding reinvestigation into the case to identify and bring the real culprits under trial.

Journalists have been seeking "proper investigation" for the last 13 years as it was evident that the case was designed to leave the real perpetrators untouched, said Nikhil Chandra Bhadra, senior reporter of the daily Kaler Kantha, at a press conference in the capital's Mukti Bhaban.

Manik was killed on January 15, 2004. A speedy trial tribunal on Wednesday sentenced nine people to life term imprisonment in the murder case.

"Although the incumbent prime minister and information minister have assured us of reinvestigation, the officials concerned didn't take any steps in this regard," said journalist Shakila Parveen Ruma at the programme.

Abdul Jalil Bhuyian, former secretary general of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ), pointed out that due to a lack of proper investigation, all the accused in some sensational cases such as children's death in 2009 from toxic syrup and the murder of Rushdania Islam Bushra rape and murder in 2000 case were acquitted recently. Journalist Rahul Raha also spoke.



Cancer on the rise

Experts tell conference

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The number of cancer patients in the country is rising alarmingly; every year around 26,000 people are being diagnosed with head and neck cancer only, said noted physicians at a conference in the capital yesterday.

Head and neck region cancers, which include cancers of the lip, oral cavity, tongue, pharynx, larynx, nose with para-nasal sinuses, salivary glands and the neck, constitute 30 percent of all the cancers, they said.

Bangladesh has only one state-run cancer hospital so the patients are not getting proper treatments, the health experts said, adding that more hospitals must be set up immediately and more cancer surgeons should be trained.

Addressing as the chief guest, Health Minister Mohammad Nasim said the government will build another 1,000-bed hospital specialised in cancer treatment. The government is also going to recruit 10,000 more nurses at the state-run hospitals to ensure better treatment very soon, he added.

Almost 95 percent of the cancers of the head and neck are curable if detected earlier, the health experts mentioned at the 2nd International Conference on Head and Neck jointly organised by Head and Neck Oncology

Group and Bangladesh Society of Head and Neck Surgeons at a city hotel.

The risk factors of developing these cancers are consumption of betel quid and nut, jarda (aromatic tobacco), gul (tobacco powder), bidi (made of raw tobacco), cigarettes, viral infection, poor oral hygiene, exposure to radiation, industrial fumes, alcohol and chemicals, the doctors said.

Prof MA Hai, patron for Saarc Federation of Oncology and chairperson of Oncology Club of Bangladesh, said head and neck cancer management requires multidisciplinary approach like surgery, chemotherapy, radiotherapy and also palliative care.

"If the head and neck cancer is not detected early, it is hard to treat," observed Prof Belayet H Siddique, chief of Head and Neck Surgery Division at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University.

The minister requested businessmen and industrialists to come forward to build standard hospitals and diagnostic centres, where patients will get better treatment within reasonable prices.

Abul Kalam Azad, director general of the Directorate General of Health Services, and Prof Qamruzzaman Chowdhury of the National Institute of Cancer Research and Hospital also spoke.

SNAPS & snippets

AL holds nationwide prayers for PM

Bss, Dhaka

Awami League yesterday arranged special prayers at mosques, temples, pagodas and churches across the country for long life and good health of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

A special Doa Mahfil was held at Baitul Mukarram National Mosque after Juma prayers.

Earlier, a special prayer and discussion was held at Dhakeshwari National Temple at noon. Besides, special prayers were held at International Buddhist Monastery at Merul Badda and Bangladesh Baptist Church at Mirpur Senpara.

Special prayers were also held at all the houses of worship at divisional, district, upazila and union levels.

Dadabhai's death anniversary today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 17th death anniversary of journalist, litterateur and founding director of Kachi Kanchar Mela Rokonuzzaman Khan Dadabhai.



On the occasion, Qurankhwan and a food distribution among the destitute will be done at noon in his 38 Sarat Gupta Road residence in the capital's Narinda, said a press release. A memorial discussion and a milad mahfil will also be held after Asr prayers.

Road crashes kill three, injure four

A CORRESPONDENT, Comilla

Two people were killed and four others injured as a CNG-run auto-rickshaw carrying them collided head-on with a microbus on the Companyganj-Nabinalagar road in Muradnagar of Comilla yesterday.

The deceased were Al Amin, 20, and Sojib, 17. Both hailed from Bakhoranagar of Muradnagar. In another accident in Burichong of the district, Abul Kashem of Joypur in Comilla Sadar was killed on the spot as a covered-van ran him over on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway at Nimshar.



Barisal University Vice Chancellor Prof SM Imamul Huq inaugurates the administrative function of the university's Sheikh Hasina Hall on the campus yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

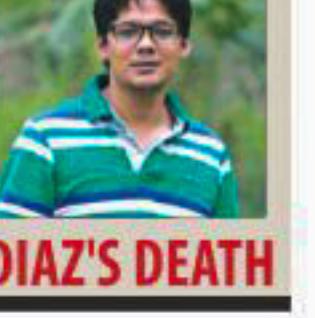


Children on a boat taking a look around the verdant surroundings when making garlands with flowers they plucked from cucumber plants of a vegetable garden in the saturated land in Pirojpur's Nazirpur upazila. Villagers grow different varieties of vegetables in wooden platforms over the land, which stays underwater all year round. The photo was taken at the upazila's Mugarjhor village recently.

BCL faction wants fair investigation

CU CORRESPONDENT

A faction of Bangladesh Chhatra League activists of Chittagong University unit yesterday demanded fair investigation into the death of its central leader Diaz Irfan Chowdhury and exemplary punishment for the killers.



DIAZ'S DEATH

They made the demand at a human chain, formed under the banner of Shacheton Chhatra-Chhatri Brinda, in front of Chittagong Press Club.

Rejecting the autopsy report, Diaz's elder sister Jobaida Sarwar Nipa, at the programme alleged that Chittagong Medical College Hospital prepared a "fake" autopsy report to cover up the actual incident. "If the [CMCH] principal's phone call list has been checked properly by the investigation team, everything will be cleared," she added. She also alleged that the killers are spreading rumour on social media trying to show the "murder as suicide". She demanded immediate arrest of the killers.

Awami League lawmaker Sabiha Musa demanded fair investigation into the death of Diaz.

Diaz, assistant secretary of BCL, was found hanging in his residence near Gate No-2 of Chittagong University on November 20. He completed his masters in finance and was doing MPhil at CU.

DHAKA TODAY

Symposium

Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs (BILIA) will hold a symposium on "Revisiting Divorce and Other Related Issues." Venue: BILIA, Time: 10:30am

Discussion

Barristers for Change will hold a discussion on militancy, communalism and rule of law. Venue: CIRDAP auditorium, Time: 10:00am

Home Fest Dhaka begins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Fest Dhaka 2016, an exhibition on home décor, began at International Convention City Bashundhara in Dhaka yesterday to bring the interior designers and manufacturers under one roof.

The two-day exhibition, which is the second edition of it, was inaugurated by Housing and Public Works Minister Mosharraf Hossain. The first one was held in November last year.

Windmill Advertising Ltd organised the event where many architects, interior designers and home décor manufacturers, including Hatil, Akij Ceramics, Berger Paints and Super Star Group (SSG), participated. The Daily Star is associated with the event as the youth engagement partner.

Around 28 companies participated in the exhibition by setting up 20 stalls

where 10 interior designers and architects displayed 18 model rooms which were designed under six categories, said the organisers.

Of these, seven best designs will be awarded and an art competition for kids will be held this morning, said Windmill Chairman Rashid Khan.

Speaking as the chief guest, Mosharraf said, "This type of exhibition is now necessary for our country as purchasing capacity of the people is increasing day by day, and their interest in using luxurious home appliances has also increased."

About the government initiative, he said they will build around one lakh apartments soon with the support of Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) to provide "easy accommodation facility" to the city residents.

The apartments can be bought from



Visitors at a home decor expo in the capital's Bashundhara International Convention Centre titled "Home Fest Dhaka - 2016" yesterday, organised by Windmill Advertising Limited.

PHOTO: STAR