



PROUD CONSTRUCTION PARTNER OF PADMA BRIDGE



'Sufia's school', a heroine's legacy

Local gossip about the courageous career woman turns into admiration

DWOHA CHOWDHURY with ANDREW EAGLE

Sufia Akter Josna's bravery in saving four Emirati children from drowning in October 2014, which resulted in her own untimely death by drowning, impressed many in Bangladesh and abroad. But some of her fellow villagers doubted the authenticity of events.

Last year, the doubters were forced to reconsider. A Dubai charity began the process of establishing a high school in her village of Bhatapara in Sunamganj, in her honour. The planned school will greatly benefit the area's children, including the children of villagers who maligned her.

"When my daughter left for Dubai to support her family," recalls Sufia's mother, "some whispered that Sufia had destroyed the family's honour. Even after her death people gossiped that maybe she had been killed or punished for bad deeds."

"Nobody protested these slanderous accusations," she continues, "even at the time of her burial. They didn't believe the truth of her bravery."

With six children and a husband incapacitated due to illness, Sufia decided to go to Dubai in 2009 when her family was on the brink of financial collapse. She took responsibility for the whole family's finances. Through monthly remittances she brought them into solvency. But with stereotypical gender roles prevailing locally, many villagers were unwilling to understand her working as a nanny.

To recognise her self-sacrifice, charity Dubai Cares in conjunction with Brac is building the new high school under the direction of the UAE's honourable Vice-President, the Prime Minister and ruler of Dubai, Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum. The project's foundation stone was laid on May 10, 2016.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

Officials of Dubai Cares with the family of Sufia at her home in Bhatapara of Sunamganj during a foundation stone laying programme for a school in May last year. Migrant worker Sufia died in Dubai whilst trying to save four children from drowning in 2014.

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HIT-AND-RUN Actor Kalyan to be quizzed at jail gate

Zia's condition stable
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday allowed police to interrogate actor and model Kalyan



Corraya at the jail gate for three days in connection with a case filed over a hit-and-run incident that injured the chief photojournalist of daily Prothom Alo on Monday.

Metropolitan Magistrate Md Mazharul Haque passed the order after rejecting remand and bail petitions.

Earlier in the day, Kalabagan police sought a three-day remand for Kalyan. They arrested him on Tuesday in connection with the case filed with Kalabagan Police Station.

Sub-inspector of the police station Faruk Khan, who is also the investigation officer of the case, submitted the remand prayer.

Photojournalist Zia Islam suffered severe injuries when a speedy car hit his motorcycle from behind in front of Bashundhara City in Panthapath area on Monday night.

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PRAYER TIMING JANUARY 12
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5-30 12-45 4-00 5-36 7-00
JAMAAT 6-05 1-15 4-15 5-40 7-30
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

AFGHANISTAN BOMBINGS

Five UAE officials killed

Ambassador escapes unhurt; death toll hits 57

AFP, Kandahar

Five UAE officials were among 57 people killed in a string of bombings across Afghan cities, authorities said yesterday, as Taliban militants step up a deadly winter campaign of violence.

The Emiratis were among 12 people killed when explosives hidden in a sofa detonated inside the governor's compound in southern Kandahar on Tuesday, while the UAE's ambassador to Afghanistan escaped the attack with injuries.

Just hours before, twin Taliban blasts in Kabul tore through a parliament annexe, which houses the offices of lawmakers, killing at least 38 people and wounding around 86 others.

And earlier Tuesday, a Taliban suicide bomber killed seven people in Lashkar Gab, the capital of volatile Helmand province, as the militants ramp

up nationwide attacks in frigid winter months, when fighting usually wanes.

The carnage underscores growing insecurity in Afghanistan, where US-backed forces are struggling to combat a resilient Taliban insurgency as well as al-Qaeda and Islamic State militants.

Kandahar's governor Humayun Azizi and UAE envoy Juma Mohammed Abdullah Al Kaabi were wounded by flames from the explosion, but many others were burned beyond recognition, said provincial police chief Abdul Raziq, who was present when the blast occurred.

"I was in the room, but had to leave to offer my evening prayer," Raziq said. "I heard the boom from outside and when I came back I saw people were burning."

Kandahar's deputy governor Abdul Shamsi was

'Robber' killed in 'gunfight' with Rab

A CORRESPONDENT, Savar

An alleged robber leader was killed in a "gunfight" with the Rapid Action Battalion in Kaundia area of Savar early yesterday.

The dead is Anwar Hossain Anar, 40, of Kaundia. He was the ringleader of the robber gang named "Gangchil Bahini", said Rab sources.

Members of Rab-3 raided the house of late Liakot Mia in Kaundia Melartek area around 4:45am, acting on a tip-off that some robbers were staying there, Lt Col Khandker Golam Sarwar, commanding officer of Rab-3, told The Daily Star.

Sensing presence of the elite force, the criminals opened fire. The Rab members

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Scientists copy spider silk

AFP, Paris

Supple, light and biodegradable but stronger than steel: researchers said they have succeeded in producing synthetic spider silk, one of nature's strongest materials.

Refined through the long process of evolution, the silk threads spun by spiders are 30 times thinner

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