

Khan Sarwar's anniversary of death today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the fifth death anniversary of Prof Khan Sarwar Murshid, an educationalist and a Liberation War organiser.



On the occasion, wreaths will be placed at his grave at 11:00pm in the capital's Mirpur Intellectuals' Graveyard, a doa mahfil will be held and food will be distributed among the poor, says a press release.

Born in 1924, Khan Sarwar was at the forefront of the 1952 Language Movement, 1969 Mass Uprising, Six-Point Movement and 1971 Liberation War.

He was a member of the planning commission of the Mujibnagar government in exile. He was also an adviser to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Tajuddin Ahmad.

Khan Sarwar served as the Bangladesh high commissioner to Poland, Hungary and the former Czechoslovakia and was appointed assistant secretary general of the Commonwealth in 1977.

He was the first chairman of Transparency International Bangladesh and was also its trustee board member till his demise.

Chehlum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The chehlum of Anwara Begum, wife of Faridpur district Awami League Vice President Firzoz Rahman, will be held today.



On the occasion, a doa mahfil will be held at her residence in Faridpur's Jhiltuli area after the Juma prayers, says a press release.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to attend the chehlum and pray for her departed soul.



Vehicles cross a muddy section of Bashbari Road in the capital's Mohammadpur yesterday. In the absence of maintenance and a proper drainage network, the road has been in a bad shape for a long time.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

NEWS IN brief

Army chief leaves for India

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Army Chief General Abu Bel Muhammad Shafiu Huq yesterday left Dhaka for India to attend a passing out parade at Indian Military Academy in Dehradun.

He will inspect the parade scheduled to be held tomorrow, says a press release of Inter Services Public Relations. The army chief's wife Shoma Huq is accompanying him.

During his visit, Shafiu Huq will also meet Indian Chief of Army Staff General Bipin Rawat, the release added.

Public Health Foundation's health fair, conference start today

CITY DESK

A two-day international scientific conference and a health fair begin at Bangladesh College of Physicians and Surgeons auditorium in the capital's Mohakhali today, marking the 5th anniversary of Public Health Foundation of Bangladesh (phfd).

The theme of the conference is "Public health approach towards achieving universal health coverage".

The health fair, first of its kind in the country, will display innovations in healthcare or health delivery system. Two best healthcare innovations to be displayed in the fair will be awarded by phfd, said a press release.

Three NSU students win Sweden-Bangladesh Nobel Memorial Quiz

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three students of North South University have won the Sweden-Bangladesh Nobel Memorial Quiz 2017.

As winners, Md Shahreer Zahan, Shahrin Hayder Suhi and Amrin Shalat Mim will have a one-week trip to Sweden where they will visit famous Swedish companies and famous locations, according to a press release.

The quiz focused on Alfred Nobel, the Nobel Prize, Nobel Laureates, and Sweden as a country. It highlighted Sweden as a country of innovation and enterprise, and featured works of Swedish companies in Bangladesh.

Swedish Ambassador to Bangladesh Charlotta Schlyter attended the grand finale as the chief guest in Buet (Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology) auditorium in the capital yesterday.

Journo Siddiquillah passes away

CITY DESK

Md Siddiquillah, former news editor of the erstwhile Bangladesh Observer, died of old age complications at his Khilgaon Chowdhurypara residence in Dhaka yesterday.

He left behind his wife, four daughters, a son, grandsons and granddaughters, says a press release.

Siddiquillah also served as a news editor at the then Morning News during Pakistan rule.



RU student expelled for assaulting teacher

OUR CORRESPONDENT, RU

A student, who allegedly assaulted a teacher of the Institute of Business Administration (IBA) of Rajshahi University, has been expelled from the university.

The decision against Nahid Haider, a student of Evening MBA programme of IBA, was taken at the 474th meeting of RU syndicate on Wednesday night, said Mamun Abdul Kaioum, a syndicate member.

The syndicate also decided to ask the professor to behave friendly with the students.

Nahid was doing internship under the supervision of Prof Hasanath Ali. The teacher claimed that at one point of altercation over submitting an internship report on September 25, Nahid physically assaulted him.

However, Nahid claimed that the professor made some derogatory comments about his parents, leading to the incident.

The same day, the academic committee during an emergency meeting formed a four-member committee to investigate the incident. It also submitted a letter to RU registrar with a request to take legal actions against the student.

BRTA to go fully digital

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

The longstanding harassment and practice of corruption in getting a driving licence and vehicle registration and fitness certificate is likely to end by this year as Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) is fully digitising its manual service.

Currently, one has to visit BRTA offices with a money receipt and other necessary documents in order to get a driving licence, which creates a scope for corruption as the offices are crammed with brokers.

On the other hand, the practice of getting fake driving licences taking the advantage of the manual process would also stop because of the digitisation, opined BRTA officials.

The Korea International Cooperation Agency (Koica) has already developed a data centre and a web portal for BRTA.

Visiting the BRTA Mirpur office in the capital recently, this correspondent saw a long queue of depositors in front of a bank inside the office. Brokers were trying to persuade people by offering various deals for respective services such as licences and vehicle registrations.

"It's painful. I've been waiting in the queue for around 30 minutes..." alleged Jahir Uddin, who

went there for a driving licence.

There was also a crowd of brokers surrounding the deposit collection booth, who impeded the progression of the queue purposefully.

"They do this so that out of frustration many will seek their help," said Nazimuddin, another service seeker.

"You'll find brokers everywhere on the compound. It's difficult to seek help because you don't know who is a broker. Once they learn about your issue, they begin to follow you till the end," he said.

Meanwhile, after paying the fees, applicants face another problem -- getting the medical certificates.

But the brokers have that one under control too. "Pay me Tk 200 and I'll get you a medical certificate," said Hasan, a young boy outside the BRTA's Mirpur office.

Though the certificates are not genuine, it serves the purpose in most cases.

Contacted, Shitangsu Shekhar Biswas, director (operations), BRTA, said in the new digital service, one will be able to submit all the documents and pay fees online. "Once the application is submitted, people will be asked to appear for the licence or vehicle inspection on a specific date."

The new system will be launched by the end of this month, he said. "After that, people will get quality service from BRTA easily."



Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor inaugurates the "Parbattya Mela" at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

AG gets death threat again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Attorney General Mahbub Alam said to have received a death threat yesterday.

"I have received a letter in which its sender has asked me to prepare for death... The sender said they are conducting a judicial probe against me," he told The Daily Star.

He said the sender also added a report expressing anger towards the prime minister and the government over different issues including the killing of Ziaur Rahman and sending the BNP and Jamaat men to jail.

The sender of the letter claimed to be an expelled Awami League leader, he said.

A general diary was filed with Shahbagh Police Station, a duty officer confirmed The Daily Star last night.

Mahbub Alam said he got such death threats around five times after being appointed as attorney general in 2009.

Youth can help ensure rights of minority communities

Speakers tell DU, UNDP discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The youth of Bangladesh can play a vital role in ensuring the rights of the communities who are lagging behind in the country, said discussants yesterday.

Indigenous people and women are the vulnerable groups whose rights need to be ensured for the development of the country, they added.

The Department of Television, Film and Photography of Dhaka University (DU) and UNDP jointly organised the programme titled, "Uphold the Rights of Women and Ethnic Minorities in Bangladesh", at the Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhavan on the campus with an aim to make the youth vocal in the issue.

At the discussion, Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu said men generally belittle women and term them weak which is not right as they have already proven themselves in different professions.

"Women are now police, soldier, pilot, engineer and what not?" he stressed.

Putting emphasis on cultural activities, Inu

further said creating non-communal society is a challenge but the youth can bring a change by treating every citizen equally.

Dr Abu Jafar Md Shafiu Alam Bhuiyan, chairperson of the department, said the Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord signed on December 2 in 1997 is yet to be fully implemented. If it stays this way, the indigenous people will be frustrated, he added.

Urging the government to implement the accord fully, the teacher also called upon the youth not to demean the minority communities.

Sharmeela Rassoul, chief technical advisor to Human Rights Programme of UNDP (Bangladesh), explained that all religions support human rights of others and tell to respect all people.

Satej Chakma, a History student of DU, said each community has their own identity in the country. To ensure their human rights, all their cultures need to be respected and their identities require to be recognised the way they want it, he added.

Shankor Paul, communities and minorities expert of UNDP (Bangladesh), was also present.

Doa mahfil

CITY DESK

A doa mahfil for late Manzoor Ul Karim will be held at the capital's Gulshan Azad Mosque after the Maghrib prayers tomorrow.

All are requested to join the programme to pray for the salvation of the departed soul, says a press release.

Manzoor, a former secretary and president of Bangladesh Scouts, breathed his last on December 4.

Manzoor, who worked as a civil servant for 33 years before and after the independence, also served various private and international institutions, including Unicef and Brac in Bangladesh.

Less allocation for stipend can increase dropout rate

Save the Children seminar told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The total allocation of stipends for students from primary to higher secondary level has been reduced by 73 percent which might increase the dropout rate, said speakers at a seminar yesterday.

The seminar on, "Child Budget 2017-18 towards the Realisation of Child Rights in Bangladesh", was held in CIRDAP International Conference Centre in the capital.

Save the Children organised the event after analysing the Child Budget Report 2017-18, published by the finance ministry.

These stipends have played a major role in attracting and keeping children in schools, contributing positively to increas-

ing the enrolment rate as well as to reducing the dropout rate, said Md Ashiq Iqbal, deputy director (governance and public finance) of Save the Children.

Those stipend programmes helped ensure access to education for even the most marginalised children. Therefore, the allocation needs to be reconsidered, if possible, he added.

A total of Tk 56,000 crore has been allocated separately for children for 13 ministries and divisions in the budget of 2017-18 fiscal year, he mentioned.

State Minister for Finance MA Mannan addressed the seminar as the chief guest while Laila Khondkar, director of Child Rights Governance and Child Protection of Save the Children, chaired the seminar.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

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Corrigendum/Amendment Notice

for

Request for Expression of Interest (Eoi) for selection of Consulting Firm (Lump-Sum)

Eoi Reference No. 1418(2), Date: 20-11-2017 which is published in the (1) Daily Kaler Kontho, date: 22-11-2017 and (2) The Daily Star, date: 22-11-2017.

Field name	Old Value	New Value
Last date & time for Submission Proposal	12/12/2017 12:00pm	01/01/2018 12:00pm

N.B. All other Terms & Conditions will remain unchanged.

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