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Even dead not spared

Long after their death, 2 local BNP leaders, another sued for vandalism; home boss asks IGP to look into it

SHARIFUL ISLAM, SHAHEEN MOLLAH and MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

They must be turning in their graves. Jahangir Hossain died one and a half years ago, Mansur Ali a year ago and Zillur Rahman six months back. Now all these months and years later, police have charged them with vandalising vehicles and planning subversive activities. The cases, mostly against BNP leaders and activists, were filed with the capital's Kadamtoli and Genderia police stations in recent weeks. The Daily Star has the death certificates of all the three, visited the grave of one and spoke with relatives and neighbours who were in their funerals. Mansur and Zillur were local BNP leaders, while Jahangir had no direct political link. Apart from these three, at least five other people, who died long ago as reported in the media, have been made accused in cases filed over the last few months -- one each in the capital's Chwakhazar, Jessore, Keraniganj and two in Habiganj. The Daily Star could not independently confirm those, but aware of such "ghostly" cases, the police authorities recently ordered the unit chiefs to scrutinise how such cases were being filed in different parts of the country. Mainly BNP leaders of all levels -- central, district, upazila, thana -- are accused in these cases. Contacted by phone on Thursday, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal said he instructed the inspector general of police to find out why

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Murad prays by the grave of his father Mansur Ali Master, who died a year back, at the Jurain Graveyard on Thursday. Police named Mansur as an accused in a case filed last month.



PHOTO: STAR Mansur Ali



Dignitaries and winners of The Daily Star-Standard Chartered Celebrating Life 2018 awards pose during the award ceremony at the International Convention City Bashundhara in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR



Honour for 3 cultural icons

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

Despite the uninviting, gloomy weather, an air of festivity and grandeur surrounded the capital's International Convention Hall Bashundhara yesterday for the award ceremony of The Daily Star-Standard Chartered Celebrating Life's 11th edition. This year's theme, "Architecture of Bangladesh", celebrated the literal pillars that the country stands upon -- its architectural heritage and beauty.

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INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR DISASTER REDUCTION TODAY

Disaster looms as fire safety ignored

Fire Dept inspects 2,612 hospitals, educational institutions, malls in the capital and outskirts, finds 2,538 vulnerable to fire incidents

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA and WASIM BIN HABIB

More than 2,500 hospitals, educational institutions and shopping malls in the capital and its outskirts lack adequate fire safety measures, posing a serious risk of casualties in case of fire, reveals an inspection report of the fire department.

Of the 2,612 establishments inspected last year, 2,538 were found to be either "risky" or "very risky" while only 74 had fire safety measures. Eleven teams of Bangladesh Fire Service and Civil Defence (BFSCD) carried out the inspection in 11 zones in the city and its outskirts. Based on their findings, they put the establishments in three categories -- "very risky", "risky" and "satisfactory".

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TOTAL ESTABLISHMENTS INSPECTED 2,612

	RISKY	VERY RISKY	SATISFACTORY
Hospital	247	174	11
Market and mall	523	623	45
School, college, university	91	880	18

GREATER UNITY PROCESS Parties plan to hold rallies in divisional cities

Announcement of unity likely in a day or two

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Political parties involved in the "greater national unity" process are likely to stage public rallies in the divisional headquarters from next week to mobilise public opinion in favour of their demand for holding the next general election under a nonpartisan interim government.

The issue was discussed yesterday at a meeting of the parties at JSD (Rob) President ASM Abdur Rob's home in the capital, said meeting sources.

Most of the top leaders of the parties favoured holding public meetings in

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