

Mahtab Uddin passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Mahtab Uddin, a freedom fighter and mentor to a number of journalists in Rajshahi, passed away in Dhaka yesterday morning. He was 80 years old.

Mahtab left two sons and four daughters. He breathed his last at 7:45am, after complaining of chest pains at his son's house in Dhanmondi.

Mahtab studied honours in Bengali literature at Rajshahi University.

In the 1960s, Mahtab Uddin founded Surjo Shikha, an organisation for practicing theatre and Tagore songs.

He actively participated in the country's Liberation War of 1971 and led several groups of freedom fighters and guerrilla warfare. After the liberation, he dedicated his life to research on the war and providing support to poor freedom fighters.

He was the editor of weekly Gono Khobor in the 1990s. Mahtab also wrote numerous songs, poetry, stories and novels.



WHOSE FOOTPATH IS IT ANYWAY? An access ramp has been built occupying a part of this footpath to facilitate exit and entry of cars in Dhaka's Siddheshwari. City corporation authorities had demolished such illegal extensions in the area few months ago, but several building owners have rebuilt these, in a blatant disservice to pedestrians.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

NEWS IN brief

Navy Anchorage School students get JSC scholarships

CITY DESK

Thirty-three of the 40 Junior School Certificate (JSC) candidates of Navy Anchorage School and College in Dhaka have won scholarships for their outstanding performance in 2018's JSC examinations, said a press release.

In the same exams, 34 students had scored GPA-5. The JSC exams were held in November last year, and Dhaka board published the list of scholarship-winners on Tuesday, said Commander M Ismail, principal of the institution.

The English version school began its journey in 2012, and will start enrolling students at higher secondary level this year.

Syed Ahmed Mortada passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dr Capt (ret'd) Syed Ahmed Mortada passed away on May 13 at Combined Military Hospital (CMH) in Dhaka. He was 74.

He left behind his wife, two daughters and three grandchildren to mourn his death, said a press release.

Syed Ahmed Mortada was born on August 28, 1945 in Sylhet. He was a student of the second batch at Sylhet Medical College.

He received guard of honour for his professionalism and integrity during his military career.

A doa mahfil was arranged by his family members at the Raowa Club in Dhaka to pray for the salvation of his departed soul.



Dr Ashequr Rahman Khan dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dr Ashequr Rahman Khan, the first director of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), passed away in Dhaka yesterday. He was 92.

He left behind his wife Prof Akhtar Jahan Farida Banu, son Advocate Adilur Rahman Khan, daughters Dr Tashmim Farhana Dipta and Taskin Fahmina, and a host of relatives and well-wishers to mourn his death.

His namaz-e-janaza will be held today after Zohr prayers at Gulshan Azad Mosque in Dhaka, said a press release.

He served as the director of Holy Family Red Crescent Hospital, superintendent of BSMMU, acting vice principal of Sir Salimullah Medical College, and deputy superintendent of Mitford Hospital.

Dr Ashequr played active roles in the Language Movement in 1952 and Liberation War in 1971.



Child drowns in pond in Ctg

CU CORRESPONDENT

A child drowned in a pond near his house in Foy's Lake area of Chattogram yesterday morning.

Nine-year-old Md Rasel, son of Md Nayan, was playing with his friends when he went for a dip in the pond around 9am, said Mohammad Alauddin Talukdar, assistant sub-inspector of Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) Police Outpost, quoting locals.

Hearing screams of his friends, locals rushed to the spot and took him to CMCH where doctors declared him dead around 12pm.

TRADE UNIONS

Social barriers hindrance to women's participation: study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Discriminatory attitude towards female workers and social barrier are the major reasons behind lack of women's participation in trade union activities in the country, a study has found.

Bangladesh Labour Institute (Bashi), a non-government labour welfare organisation, conducted the study through interviewing labourers [both male and female] and trade union leaders in Dhaka's Mirpur, Kalyanpur and Savar areas earlier this year.

Analysing data of 20 labour associations, the study finds that only 15 percent members of the associations are women, although the country has a big female workforce, particularly in the readymade garment sector.

As active trade unions help ensure labour rights, the low participation may put the female workers at a risk of self-security, sexual harassment and violence, it says.

The findings were unveiled at a discussion organised by Bangladesh Labour Institute at Moni Singh-Farhad Memorial Trust Bhaban in the capital yesterday.

During interviews, most female workers said they face various barriers from their family and society to participate in trade union activities, like meetings, rallies and processions -- which mostly

takes place far away from their homes.

Those who somehow manage to remain active, face discrimination at their own associations, according to the study report.

In most cases, their male counterparts claim the top posts of the associations and do not accept opinions of female members.

Some women even alleged that they were sexually harassed by male members of the associations, said the report.

To overcome the situation, the study suggested to bring a change to the social system.

It also urged men to change their mindset towards female workers.

Speaking at the discussion, Bangladesh Labour Institute Trustee Board Chairman Shah Atiul Islam said, "The patriarchal mindset exists everywhere in our society, which is the reason behind the current situation."

A decent environment -- booth at workplace and in the associations -- have to be ensured to increase women's participation in the trade union activities, he added.

Jahangirnagar University (JU) Associate Professor Mahmudul H Sumon and Bangladesh Trade Union Centre President Shahidullah Chowdhury, among others, also spoke at the programme.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT OF PEER

M'singh medical college students postpone demo

OUR CORRESPONDENT, M'singh

Mymensingh Medical College students, who had been demonstrating since Thursday protesting authorities' inaction regarding alleged sexual harassment of a female student by an outsider, have postponed their agitation till June 30.

They took the decision after a four-hour meeting with the college authorities yesterday.

"The administration pledged to fulfil our 11-point demand by June 30," said Shehabul Hasib, a fifth-year student. He said their demands include ensuring security for students on the campus and arresting the person responsible for harassing the female student.

Earlier in the day, students staged a sit-in in front of the academic building. "Even though it was a holiday, we gathered here to realise our demands," said Md Robiul Islam, a fifth-year student. "We don't want outsiders entering the campus or hostels," he added.

Besides students and college authorities, the meeting, held in the afternoon, was also attended by police and local administration. Principal Prof Anwar Hossain chaired the meeting.

Talking to this correspondent, many students expressed skepticism over the matter. They alleged that the authorities often make pledges but do not follow through. They threatened tougher movement if their demands are not met.

WHAT HAPPENED?

On May 15, a miscreant made indecent gestures at a second-year student, while she was returning to her hostel in the afternoon.

Immediately afterwards, the girl and other students notified the hostel superintendent and the principal about the matter. The hostel superintendent failed to take appropriate actions and instead asked students to conceal the matter, the protesters alleged.

Refuting the students' allegation, the principal said authorities are taking necessary steps to strengthen security on campus.



Demanding enlistment in health cadre, non-cadre physicians, who passed the 39th BCS examination, bring out a procession in Jatiya Press Club area yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Equip yourselves with IT knowledge

JS Speaker urges youth

UNB, Dhaka

Speaker of the Parliament Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury yesterday urged the country's young generation to enrich themselves with knowledge on information technology (IT).

"Today's world is an IT-based one. Without keeping up with the global pace in IT knowledge, it will be very tough for the young generation to survive in the future world competition," she said while inaugurating an IT and bus driving training programme in Pirganj of Rangpur, said an official release.

The Speaker said the IT and driving training will reduce unemployment among small ethnic groups in the region.

She said the government, led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, took different initiatives to improve human resources. Benefits of the initiatives are reaching the grassroots people, she added.

Bangladesh expects to achieve 8.1 percent GDP growth in the current fiscal year. The per capita income is US\$ 1,909 in the country, she said.

All the people of the country will have to work together to make Bangladesh

a developed and prosperous country through enhancing the skills of the young generation, said Dr Shirin.

She also distributed sewing machines among women while agricultural inputs among farmers.

Pirganj Upazila Parishad Chairman Nur Mohammad Mondal and Pirganj municipality Mayor Abu Saleh Md Tazimul Islam Shamim, among others, spoke at the event, presided over by Upazila Nirbahi Officer TMA Momin.

Later, the Speaker offered Fateha at the grave of prominent nuclear scientist Dr MA Wazed Miah in Pirganj on the occasion of his 10th death anniversary.

She joined a discussion and iftar party arranged by Awami League's Pirganj upazila unit, marking the death anniversary of Dr Wazed Mia.

Dr Shirin also opened the double-decker BRTC bus service on the Rangpur-Pirganj route.

Pirganj upazila administration arranged the first-of-its-kind event in the upazila, under the "Improvement of living standard of small ethnic community people of plain districts project", undertaken by the Prime Minister's Office.

E-passports

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the e-passports illegally, the minister said allegations of information theft from the e-passport is "absurd".

"We are doing everything carefully," the minister added.

Last June, the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Necoc) approved a project to introduce e-passports, which many countries of the world are using nowadays.

In July, the government signed an agreement with German firm Veridos GmbH to promote Bangladesh into the e-passport era, which was expected to begin in December the same year. However, the process saw some unexpected delays, according to passport office sources.

Around 120 countries have already introduced e-passports.

As per a planning ministry proposal, Bangladesh introduced MRP and machine-readable visa system on April 2010, in accordance with the International Civil Aviation Organisation guidelines.

Crocodile lays 34 eggs at breeding centre

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

Female crocodile Juliet laid 34 eggs at 9am yesterday at Karmajal Wildlife Breeding Centre, Chandpai Range of Eastern Sundarbans division.

The forest department has kept 26 eggs in an incubator and eight in Juliet's nest, said Karmajal Wildlife Breeding Centre's officer-in-charge Mohammad Azad Kabir.

He said hopefully the babies will emerge from the natural and preserved eggs 90 days

from now. Juliet's previously intended mate Romeo had become unsuitable to mate as he was overweight, experts speculated.

Hence, another male crocodile was brought in from Bangabandhu Safari Park last year in August. Until now, Juliet has laid eggs 13 times.

For preservation and growth of crocodiles, the country's only crocodile breeding centre was built in Bagerhat's Karmajal in 2002. At present, there are six large and 200 small crocodiles there.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO WATCH VIDEO



Mob beats 'hijacker' to death in N'ganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

An angry mob yesterday lynched an alleged hijacker and injured his accomplice in Masdair area of Narayanganj.

The deceased was identified as Sajib, 30, while the injured was Mamun, 33, said Aslam Hossain, officer-in-charge of Fatullah Police Station.

Three men intercepted a rickshaw passenger in front of central Eidgah and tried to hijack him, the OC said quoting locals. Locals gathered and beat up the three men, one of whom managed to flee the spot.

Locals tied up Sajib and Mamun and left them there, the OC said. Around noon, the duo was sent to a local hospital when their conditions deteriorated. Sajib succumbed to his injuries at the hospital, while Mamun was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) for treatment.

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