



Golam Sarwar's first death anniv on Tuesday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The first death anniversary of veteran journalist and freedom fighter Golam Sarwar is on Tuesday.

Sarwar died of old-age complications at a Singapore hospital last year at the age of 75.

He was the editor of the Bangla daily Samakal and president of Editors Council of Bangladesh at the time of his death.

Marking the day, Samakal, Golam Sarwar Foundation, and different organisations have chalked out various programmes, said a press release yesterday, signed by Samakal's chief reporter Loton Ekram.

Besides, milad mahfils will also be held in his residences at Dhaka's Uttara and in Barishal.

Born on April 1, 1943 in Banaripara of Barisal, Sarwar began his journalism career in 1962 as the university correspondent of daily Azadi, published from Chittagong.

His career in journalism spanned over five decades, with multiple professional accomplishments.

Sarwar served as news editor of Bangla daily Ittefaq for 27 years.

He was the founding editor of the Jugantor which began its journey in 1999 and Samakal, which launched in 2005.

A book of rhymes written by him, titled Rongin Belun, was published from Shishu Academy.

Sompadoker Jobanbondi, Aumio Gorol, Amar Joto Kotha, and Swapna Beche Thak are among his notable works.

He was awarded the Ekushey Padak in 2014 for his contribution to journalism.



Unable to find room inside carriages, people travel on the roof of a train as it leaves Airport Railway Station in the capital yesterday. Like every year, many make such risky trips ignoring scorching heat or rain to celebrate Eid with their loved ones back home.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

EID DAY

CCC to clean animal waste by 4pm

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

Chattogram City Corporation (CCC) has planned to remove all animal waste by 4pm on the day of Eid-ul-Azha.

CCC officials said their activities will start from 10am and by afternoon they are planning to remove 100 percent of the accumulated waste.

To facilitate the process, the city has been divided into four zones, under supervision of four ward councillors. Besides, a central monitoring cell has been formed with Mayor AJM Nasir Uddin leading it.

Some 2,500 tonnes of waste is generated daily in port city while the amount is likely to reach 5,000 tonnes on Eid day, according to city corporation sources.

"About 1.70 lakh sacrificial animals are expected to be slaughtered in the city," CCC Chief Executive Officer Mohammad Shamsudoha told this correspondent yesterday.

"A total of 4,152 conservancy workers will work [on the day] to clean the city," he added.

He said the city corporation has designated 314 spots in the city to slaughter the animals. People performing the sacrifice and butchers will be present on the spots to help city dwellers. In addition, they have made arrangements for people to sit while waiting, Shamsudoha said.

Last year, CCC did not get good response from people in this regard. But they are hoping it will be different this time around as they have taken additional measures. "Still, cooperation from all is vital," stressed the CEO.

CCC Chief Conservancy Officer Shafiqul Mannan Siddique also urged people to use the designated spots rather than slaughtering sacrificial animals on roads.

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BARISHAL LAUNCH TERMINAL

Pontoon shortage causes sufferings to passengers

M JAHIRUL ISLAM JEWEL, from Barishal

There has been a shortage of pontoon at Barishal launch terminal for a long time, causing sufferings to passengers in boarding vessels.

The situation worsens during Eid rush when passengers, in many cases, fall in water while getting on and off launches.

All Dhaka-bound launches cannot anchor to pontoon due to small space, according to sources at Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA).

Many are forced to anchor behind other vessels. As a result, passengers have to go through a docked launch to get on their desired ones. In such cases, they have to jump from one launch to another, putting themselves at risk of falling into the river.

Sometimes, passengers do not find their launches as those are very far from the berthing point.

Such a situation is very common during Eid when many passengers are in a hurry amid rush, said Shahin Hossain, a labourer at the terminal, adding that they often get

injured. Women, children and aged persons are the worst sufferers, he added.

Sabiha Sultana failed to board launch two weeks ago. "I along with my little son was not able to get on my desired vessel from another one. Eventually, I missed it," she said.

"The authorities seem to be silent although there is a possibility of fatal accidents," said Sadia Akter, a student of a private university in Dhaka who travels during Eid.

From overcrowded pontoons, passengers are often seen using small boats to get onto their vessels.

An elderly man died during last Eid while he was trying to squeeze a huge crowd, according to police.

All 26 luxury vessels plying Dhaka-Barishal route have to anchor at the launch terminal, according to BIWTA in Barishal.

Sometimes, those have to wait for a long time to get space to be docked at pontoon, said BIWTA officials.

Only six pontoons -- three for local and

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Demolition or renovation?

Rajshahi prison authorities' dismantling of pre-colonial building for restoration raises questions

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

Rajshahi prison authorities have partially dismantled a pre-colonial era building inside the jail complex in the city's Sreerampur area in name of renovation.

But the move was undertaken without involving any archaeologist, who said the building bore a cultural heritage of Bengal region, and it is crucial to engage someone with adequate knowledge for its proper conservation.

According to authorities, the building -- which has become dilapidated and unusable for over five years -- was being used as the bungalow of deputy inspector general (prisons) since 19th century, and they are renovating it keeping the original design intact.

But this correspondent saw a complete different picture upon visiting the area on Thursday. Without consulting an archaeologist, the authorities engaged Public Works Department (PWD) to do the job.

PWD, also without any expert's recommendations, recruited a contractor whose workers started the "renovation" work around four days back and they have already damaged the building's century-old traditional lime terracing roof.

"The structure has a complex blending of European and the then Bengal's vernacular designs," Muhammad Nurul Kabir Bhuiyan, assistant professor of Department of Archaeology at Jahangirnagar University, told this correspondent.

"This [blending of architectures] was later shaped into a unique Bengal heritage, which got popularity worldwide as bungalow," said Nurul Kabir, who is also researching on colonial architecture and cultural heritage management.

Meanwhile, while talking to The Daily Star, Rajshahi Deputy Inspector General of Prisons Altob Hossain said they took up the renovation work, worth Tk 70 lakh, as the building's roof has worn out. It leaked rainwater

and its brick tiles were coming apart, he added.

He said, "We are not changing the original design. We took photographs of the building beforehand for its proper conservation."

"Once renovated, it will look like the original one," he assured. "We also told PWD to complete the renovation keeping that in mind."

"We finally managed funds for renovation as a proposal for constructing separate residence for the DIG prisons remained shelved for a long time due to various constraints. Meanwhile, DIG prisons had to live in tin-shed house," he added.

Contacted, Masud Rana, executive engineer of Rajshahi PWD, said, "It's not mandatory for us to consult an archaeologist as the building is not listed as archaeologically-protected."

"We have our own expertise and experience of conserving such buildings," he claimed.

Prof Md Mozammel Hoque

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CATTLE MARKET IN SAVAR

An eyewash lease, and failed mobile court drives

AKIAKUR RAHMAN AKASH, Savar

An unapproved cattle market set up next to Dhaka-Aricha Highway in Savar continued to operate till yesterday despite mobile court drives, while an officially leased space for cattle market -- allotted hurriedly by local administration -- remains only on paper. Meanwhile, homebound passengers are suffering from traffic backlogs due to the illegal haat, allegedly run by ruling party men.

After a report was published in The Daily Star on the unapproved market Ulal Balur Matth in the municipality, local administration has visited the market several times, said Abdullah Al Mahfuz, assistant commissioner (land) in Savar and an executive magistrate. He said he conducted drives at the market along with police

but could not find those who were operating it. "We also hanged notices at several points of market area to close it down," said Mahfuz.

Several residents of the area, preferring not to be named, said the market was set up by influential locals backed by the ruling party and was being operated by one Saifur Rahman Sumon.

The Daily Star received a photo in which Atikur Rahman Atik, Savar upazila unit president of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), was seen with the magistrate during a mobile court drive at the cattle market.

When executive magistrate Abdullah Al Mahfuz was asked about an allegation of Atik controlling the market, and him being seen next to the magistrate, he said, "I do not know

who Atik is."

Atik had spoken to this correspondent inside the market on Monday and said he was an associate of Saifur Rahman Sumon, the operator of the market.

He rejected phone calls from this correspondent multiple times on Friday.

Contacted, Savar Upazila Nirbahi Officer Parvezur Rahman said, "Our team is conducting drives, but could not find anyone [who were in charge of the market]."

"If the mayor help us, it would be easy to take action," he added.

Municipality Mayor Abdul Goni, meanwhile, said the upazila administration were overseeing the matter.

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Workers dismantle roof of this colonial era building as part of a renovation project. Experts say conserving the building's heritage such way is not possible.

PHOTO: STAR



A myriad of cattle being showcased for sale at Kazirbazar cattle market in Sylhet city.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Cattle sale peaks in Sylhet

DWOHA CHOWDHURY, Sylhet

With Eid-ul-Azha only a day away, sale of sacrificial animals at cattle markets in Sylhet has finally picked up pace.

Traders said sales were not satisfactory almost the entire week, but the vibe at the market has turned festive since Friday. Taking opportunity of the weekly holiday, people are thronging the haats (markets) to purchase cattle.

Yesterday saw an impressive turnout with people inspecting the animals carefully, selecting one for the festival, bargaining with traders, purchasing the cattle and finally, proudly yelling the price to others while taking the cattle home.

Traders said the supply of cattle is good this year and price is also reasonable. But the number of illegal markets in the city and surrounding areas remain a reason for concern.

Excluding the permanent cattle markets at Kazirbazar, there are only two permitted temporary cattle markets at Tilagarh and Chowkidekhi. Two more markets are permitted by the district administration near the city at Tukurbazar and Pirebazar.

But there are at least 20 more markets selling sacrificial animals.

While visiting some permitted and illegal cattle markets yesterday, this correspondent saw that the supply was satisfactory compared to the number of buyers.

Many visited the markets with their family or friends to either purchase or check out prices.

This correspondent met Salah Uddin Ahmed, a businessman, at Kazirbazar haat who brought along his family members. "The price seems reasonable this year. I will drop by tomorrow [today] as the price may drop a bit," he added.

Shahadat Hossain, manager of the market, alleged, "Those behind the illegal cattle markets on way to Kazirbazar force traders not to sell here or showcase their bests."

"The number of cattle in our haat is satisfactory so far, but it may not meet the demand at the end and price may go up," he feared.

At the markets, a bull is ranging from Tk 50,000 to Tk 5 lakh while goat from Tk 5,000 to Tk 50,000. In Kazirbazar, some bulls even have a price tag of Tk 10 lakh. Traders said demand for local varieties was high this year as cattle import was less, and more breeders brought theirs to the markets.

Dr Atiar Rahman, district livestock officer, said, "Last year, 97,000 cattle were sold leaving a surplus of around 10,000 in Sylhet. This year, the number would be around 1 lakh while farmers are supplying 107,000."

"We have formed medical teams for all haats in Sylhet to monitor health of sacrificial animals. As many illegal cattle haats have been set up, we have instructed medical teams to visit them to stop selling of cattle with diseases," he said.

Three killed in road accidents

STAR REPORT

Three people were killed in road accidents on Friday, according to reports from our correspondents.

In Gopalganj, two people were killed as an unidentified vehicle hit a three-wheeler on Dhaka-Khulna highway in Sonakuri area of Sadar upazila.

The deceased were identified as Shohidul Munshi, 35, and Babu Munshi, 30, from Bhatipura village in the upazila. Shohidul was the three-wheeler driver, said police.

In Kurigram, a man was killed as a bus hit him on Kurigram-Rangpur highway in Khalilganj area of Sadar upazila, said police.

The deceased -- Hossain Ali, 63 -- was from Palashbari (Majhipara) village in the upazila.