

# Child’s body recovered from Jamuna river

Student missing from Jhinai river

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Fire service recovered the body of a five-year-old girl from Jamuna river in Bhuapur upazila yesterday.

Locals and firefighters said Ershad Ali of Sirajkandi village in Bhuapur along with his family went to the river on Wednesday to celebrate Eid.

His five-year-old daughter Rabeya fell into the river when Ershad was taking her photo while making her stand on a docked boat, they said.

Fire service divers tried to recover her body for two days (Wednesday and Thursday) but could not find her.

Rabeya’s body was later found floating in the same area around 9am yesterday.

In a separate incident, Tushar Miah, 18, a college student, from Paikpara village in Mirzapur upazila, went missing after going with his friends to take a bath in Jhinai river.

Due to the strong currents, they were submerged in the water, but Tushar’s friends managed to resurface.

Fire service divers launched a rescue operation that same day but could not find him, said Mohammad Abdur Razzak, senior station manager of Fire Service and Civil Defence in Tangail.

The operation continued yesterday but Tushar was not found till filing this report.



A row of trees on Sylhet-Sunamganj Road is surely a refreshing and welcoming sight for people. And this was possible because of a laudable initiative taken by students of Anandaniketan School. They planted the trees using their pocket money and nurtured them with diligence. The little green activists have been planting trees in many areas of the city for a while. Their efforts not only drew praise from residents, the city corporation mayor also took part in this year’s tree planting event. The photos were taken recently.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

# Anti-liberation forces killed Bangabandhu

Says commerce minister at mourning day discussion

Bss, Rangpur

The anti-liberation forces assassinated Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as they did not want Bangladesh’s independence, said Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi at a programme on Thursday.

He also said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is working relentlessly to fulfil her father’s dream of building a “Sonar Bangla”.

The minister said this while speaking at a discussion, marking National Mourning Day and 44th martyrdom anniversary of Bangabandhu at Kawnia upazila of Rangpur as chief guest.

Tipu Munshi said the government under the leadership of Sheikh Hasina is working to improve the living standards of people and free the country from poverty.

“We have to take an oath to transform mourning into energy and work unitedly to build an exploitation-free, developed and secular Sonar Bangla,” he said. “We also have to root out corruption from the society,” he added.

In observance of the day, the Kawnia administration chalked out elaborate programmes in the upazila town.

The events included hoisting the national flag at half-mast, mourning rally, placing wreaths at the portrait of Bangabandhu, offering special prayers, drawing and essay writing competitions.

With Kawnia Upazila Nirbahi Officer Ulfat Ara Begum in the chair, upazila chairman Anwarul Islam Maya, vice-chairpersons Abdur Razzaque and Angura Begum, and local AL leaders addressed the discussion, among others.

# ‘The most alone of poets’

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and his origins. “I met reciters, and shot them reciting Das’ poetry in different locations based on the context of the poems,” said Sunairi.

When asked about his opinion on Jibanananda Das’ style and themes, Sunairi said he thinks Das found his language and style in his very early works. “The level of complexity in his work is a perfect fusion of western literary context and regional content,” he said.

Jibanananda Das’ nihilistic themes have been of interest to readers and critics for decades. Sunairi has a unique perspective on it: “Das’ obsession with death, for me, is a condition that creators often go through, because they strive to produce something that lives forever in the history of literature -- a world that’s complete in words. Though he based his experiences of nature during his time in Barishal, ultimately when he had to make sense in poetry that is a hermetic

world that exists only there. It resembles life but it is always fiction, because it’s a perfect fabrication of reality. When people strive so hard to create this art that lives on, often their own lives become less important. So, indulging in another world that’s not about living life, but living in words, is death, I consider. You are no longer living; you are trapped in the abstraction of your mind.”

Having made films in several countries and about different cultures in the past, Sunairi says he will take extra care to ensure that Bengali culture does not get diluted or commodified in the films, with help from local experts.

“However, I plan on showing Das’ life and work through a unique lens -- highlighting his lesser known poems, and the hidden sides of his life,” he said.

Sunairi’s films have been screened all around the world, from India and Vietnam to USA. The films on Jibanananda Das will tentatively be released next year.

# Poet Shamsur Rahman’s

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including four novels, 67 on poetry, a short story and six translations.

He also took part in various socio-cultural movements and played a vital role in the nation’s critical moments.

Rahman made his professional debut as a journalist of the daily Morning Sun in 1957. Later, he worked for Dainik Pakistan and Dainik Bangla, where he also served as its chief editor.

Major themes in his poetry and writings include humanism, relationships, romanticised rebellion of the youth, the emergence of and consequent events in Bangladesh, and opposition to religious fundamentalism.

He wrote most of his poems in free verse, often with the rhythm style known as “Poyaar” or “Akhshorbritto”. He also wrote poems in two other major patterns of Bengali rhythmic style, namely, “Matrabritto” and “Shwarobritto”.

Rahman also received a number of prestigious awards at home and abroad.

The eminent poet died at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) on this day in 2006 while undergoing treatment.

# Bangabandhu’s killer Rashed Chowdhury to be brought back

Law Minister Anisul Huq says efforts are on



PHOTO: COLLECTED

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday said that Rashed Chowdhury, a fugitive killer of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, will be brought back to the country from the USA in order to execute the Supreme Court verdict on him.

“Two of the six fugitive killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman are staying in the USA and Canada. The fugitive [Rashed Chowdhury] who is now in USA will be brought back to the country. Legal steps are on to bring the one in Canada back to the country as well. Initiatives are also on to trace the whereabouts of the four other fugitive killers,” he said.

The minister said this while addressing a programme organised to mark the National Mourning Day at Akhaura Railway Station premises in Brahmanbaria yesterday morning.

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court on November 19, 2009 upheld a High Court verdict, confirming capital punishment of 12 people, including the six, for killing Bangabandhu and most of his family members in a coup d’état on August 15, 1975.

Five of the convicts -- Syed Farooq Rahman, Sultan Shahriar Rashid Khan, Bazlul Huda, AKM Mohiuddin Ahmed and Mohiuddin Ahmed -- were executed on January 27, 2010. Another killer, Aziz

Pasha, died in Zimbabwe in 2001.

Those who remain fugitives are: Khandaker Abdur Rashid, Shariful Haque Dalim, Noor Chowdhury, Rashed Chowdhury, Abdul Majed and Moslehuddin Khan.

The government had also made global appeals in bilateral, regional and international forums to track down the convicts. However, only two of the six could be traced -- Rashed Chowdhury in the US and Noor Chowdhury in Canada.

Yesterday, the law minister said, “No matter where they are hiding, they would be extradited to the country and would be brought to justice.”

“After the assassination of Bangabandhu and his family members in 1975, conspiracy was on to turn Bangladesh into a mini Pakistan,” he said, adding that the plot was almost implemented.

Anisul Huq also said the fate of the country began to change for the better after Awami League, under the leadership of Sheikh Hasina, was voted to power in 1996.

Replying to a question from journalists about observing the birthday of imprisoned BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, the law minister said “her birthday changes often”.

Akhaura upazila unit of Awami League organised the programme to observe the 44th death anniversary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.



Artisans giving finishing touches to clay pots (or ghats) to be used in Manasa Puja. Hindus worship the goddess of snakes seeking protection from snake bites in the months of Asar and Sraban, the rainy season, when movement of the animal increases. The photo was taken at Sihipasha village in Barishal’s Agailjhara upazila on Wednesday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

# BNP accuses

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and senior joint secretary general Ruhul Kabir Rizvi, among others, were present.

Khaleda has been in Old Dhaka Central Jail since her conviction in Zia Orphanage Trust graft case by a lower court on February 8, 2018. The BNP chief was shifted to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University on April 1 for treatment and has been staying there since then.

Her party said she turned 75 on Thursday, though there is controversy over her actual date of birth.

# Dhaka, Delhi

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He said both countries have strengthened security cooperation and are committed to eradicating terrorism. Bangladesh’s avowed policy is not to allow its soil for any terrorist activity against India or any other country.

It has received full cooperation from India too, the envoy added.

# Medical waste dumped

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ruins soil for miles and pathogens contaminate healthy drinking water supplies and fresh air, they added.

According to World Health Organization (WHO), disposal of untreated medical waste in landfills can lead to the contamination of drinking, surface, and ground waters if those landfills are not properly constructed.

A 7km canal -- Sapanial Khal -- is flowing around the Puranpara landfill. Starting from Kalibabur canal, the waterbody merges with Lakutia canal, which flows into Sandhya river.

Arefin Badol, deputy director at the Department of Environment, Barishal, said lack of an incineration to dispose of the clinical waste properly may cause a long-term serious health and environmental crisis for the six lakh residents.

Lincon Bayen, divisional coordinator of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (Bela), said a landfill should be set-up far from a residential area.

Echoing him, green activist Subhankar Chakrabarty demanded relocation of the landfill.

NGO WORKS IN LIMITED SCALE Back in 2004, Prodiapan, along with 11 other NGOs, started collecting clinical waste from the city. It had also

installed a medical waste disposal plant at Puranpara. But the initiative stopped just after two years.

“Our plant got damaged in 2006,” said Mojibor Rahman, manager of Prodiapan. “Since then, we are the only ones collecting such waste,” he added.

He said their workers collect medical waste from private health care institutions and leave those at a designated corner of the landfill. “What else can we do? There is no proper way to dispose of the waste.”

“Our workers provide the service in exchange for Tk 500-5,000. In many cases, they find medical waste mixed with regular garbage in waste bins near healthcare facilities,” he said.

GOVT RESPONSIBILITY Conservancy officer Dr Rabiul Islam said, “The landfill went beyond its capacity six years ago. And medical waste is mostly responsible for this.”

Now, garbage is spreading to nearby land. At least 50 decimal of land has been occupied with garbage, said locals.

“As a result, many had left the area,” said Masud Mia, who lives near the landfill. Around three years ago, Masud said, two locals Enayet Hossain and Kader Khan along with their families shifted to Alekanda and

Amanatganj areas as their land was getting filled with waste.

“Many will follow suit if this continues,” he said.

According to activists, it is the city corporation’s responsibility to dispose of clinical waste properly, but they continue to turn a blind to the hazardous situation. BCC should have installed a waste disposal plant a long time ago, they added.

Rabiul Islam said, “We were not able to do so due to a lack of fund. But we have already sent a proposal to the LGED ministry for a modern plant to be installed in Taltoly outside the city.”

Dr Bakir Hossain, director of Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital, the largest healthcare facility in Barishal, where 80 percent of waste are produced, said due to a lack of fund and manpower they failed to dispose of waste on their own. “We have to rely on BCC to remove those.”

BCC Mayor Serniabat Sadiq Abdullah, who took over charge in October last year, said Tk 50 crore fund is supposed to be allocated for the city’s modern waste management project this fiscal year.

“Under the project, an incinerator, among other related arrangements, will be ensured,” he added.



Construction materials occupy a large part of this footpath in Shyamoli, forcing pedestrians to walk on Mirpur Road. The sight of sidewalks being occupied by stacks of iron rods, parked cars, motorbikes and illegal structures has become all too common in the capital. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN