



Sufia Kamal was ahead of her time

Speakers tell memorial

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Begum Sufia Kamal's thoughts and ideologies were ahead of her time, and she will continue to inspire all those who work for women's rights in the country, speakers at a memorial said yesterday.

The programme was organised to mark the 20th death anniversary of the prominent poet, activist and founding president of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BMP) Sufia Kamal.

The women's rights platform organised
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The 2019 edition of the Development Fair saw a large turnout, with people thronging the stalls to check out a diverse range of products; *inset*, indigenous artisans display raw materials and weaving techniques, aside from finished products made from jute.

PHOTO: COLLECTED / COURTESY OF PKSF



'Include typed copies of autopsy reports'

HC directs doctors to also write those in clear handwriting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday ordered doctors concerned to write post-mortem reports in clear hand-writing, and to add a typed copy with the report, so that it can be read easily.

The court asked the health secretary, director general of Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) and all civil surgeons across the country to take necessary steps to implement this directive.

The HC bench of Justice Obaidul Hassan and Justice AKM Zahirul Huq passed the order on a voluntary move, while hearing a bail appeal of a 16-year-old accused in his classmate Md Saiful Islam's murder case in Cox's Bazar.

The bench also granted six months' ad-interim bail to the accused in the case.

Saiful, an eighth-grader of Khurushkhul High School in Cox's Bazar was killed on February 20, 2017 after he was beaten up following an altercation in the classroom on February 19, 2017.

Dr Soltan Ahmed Shiraji, medical officer of Cox's Bazar District Hospital, issued the autopsy report on Saiful, which the HC bench found unclear.

Saiful's father Nurul Salam filed the murder case with Cox's Bazar Police Station on February 22, 2017, against five persons including the 16-years-old accused.

The child accused was sent to jail after he surrendered to a Cox's Bazar court on November 19, 2018, his lawyer Advocate Das Tapon Kumar told The Daily Star.

He said the Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal of Cox's Bazar on September 12 rejected a petition filed by the child accused, seeking bail in the case.

The accused child recently filed the appeal with the HC challenging the Cox's Bazar tribunal's rejection order, and seeking bail in the case, Advocate Tapon added.

'We do not want to lose our home'

Khasis fear eviction in Moulvibazar; rights activists demand probe into Jhimai Punji Tea Garden's lease

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An investigation into the leasing of a tea garden in Moulvibazar, which was approved by the land ministry, should be initiated immediately, as it was mired in irregularities, demanded rights activists yesterday.

They said in the lease papers, there is no mention of Khasi people living in the land and as a result, they are now under fear of being evicted by the authorities.

The speakers said this at a press conference in Jatiya Press Club, organised by 10 rights organisations, including Bangladesh Adivasi Forum and Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST).

Reading out a statement, Adivasi Forum General Secretary Sanjeeb Drong said Khasis have been living in Jhimai Punji (hilllock) in Kulaura upazila for generations. Currently, around 500 people live on the 405-acre land in the area.

"There are graveyards, school, church and betel leaf gardens, but those weren't mentioned in the lease," he said.

He said the authorities once tried to fell 2,096 trees in the area where Khasis live. Because of a court order, they were unable to do so, Sanjeeb Drong said.

According to the statement, the garden authorities have been cultivating tea there since before independence on a part of the

leased-out land. In 2012, the government renewed their lease on 661.55 acres of land till 2052.

"In 2015, the garden authorities built a gate in the area, limiting locals' movement," said Rana Surong, headman (chief) of the punji. "It's our home, it's where we belong. We don't want to lose it," he added.

Surong also claimed that a zamindar (land owner) leased out the land to a Khasi chief for cultivating betel leaves in 1935. However, after the zamindar system was abolished in 1950, they did not have any legal document to claim the land as theirs, due to lack of awareness and remote communication.

Research and Development Collective Trustee Board Chairperson Prof Mesbah Kamal, said, "In 2016, Moulvibazar district administration submitted a memorandum to the land ministry, for its directive on providing land to Khasi people. But nothing has been done in this regard till now."

Nijera Kori Coordinator Khushi Kabir demanded a free and fair investigation into the matter.

BLAST legal adviser and former Supreme Court judge Nizamul Huq said indigenous people often face such incidents. Their land rights must be ensured by the authorities concerned, he stressed.

Among others, Oikya Nap President
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SAGIRA MURDER CASE

PBI gets 2 months to complete probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday gave two months' time to Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) to complete further investigation of Sagira Morshed Salam murder case, filed 30 years back. Yesterday, DAG Sarwar Hossain Bappi told The Daily Star that the lower court is supposed to finish the trial proceedings of the murder case in 90 days, once the investigation report of the case is submitted before that court.

The HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman passed the order, following a petition filed by PBI seeking more time to further investigate the case.

Deputy Attorney General Sarwar Hossain Bappi placed the time petition before the HC yesterday.

Sagira Morshed Salam, 34, was shot dead on the road while going to Viqarunnisa noon School to pick up her daughter Saharat on July 25, 1989.

Sagira's husband Abdus Salam Chowdhury filed a case accusing unnamed people with Ramna Police Station the same day. But trial of the case remained halted for the last 28 years, following an earlier HC order.

On June 26 this year, the HC bench led by Justice Enayetur Rahim cleared the way for the lower court concerned to resume trial proceedings in the killing case.

At the same time, the bench ordered the PBI to complete further probe into the case in two months and directed the trial court to finish trial proceedings in three months after the investigation report is submitted.

Following the HC order, the PBI recently arrested four persons in connection with the case and claimed to have found in its probe that Sagira was killed 30 years ago over a domestic dispute -- as opposed to the previous narrative that it was a mugging incident gone wrong.

The four arrested persons are Abdus Salam's elder
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'SPREADING RUMOURS'

HC stays trial of Nawshaba

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday stayed trial proceedings against actor Quazi Nawshaba Ahmed, in a case filed under the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Act, for allegedly spreading rumours on social media during last year's student protests for safe roads. Earlier on May 15, police submitted charge sheet against Nawshaba in the case to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka.

The court also issued a rule asking authorities concerned of the government to explain in four weeks why proceedings of the case should not be scrapped.

The bench of Justice Md Rezaul Haque and Justice Bishmadev Chakraborty came up with the order and rule, following a petition filed by Nawshaba seeking cancellation of the case proceedings.

Deputy Attorney General Md Aminur Rahman Chowdhury Tiku told The Daily Star that the HC stayed the trial proceedings
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WORLD CHILDREN'S DAY TODAY... While most Dhaka residents dread gridlocks, for Ity Moni it's an opportunity to earn some money. But she does not seek alms on the street. The nine-year-old sells hand towels to support her family, and offers a good bargain too -- seven for Tk 100! The photo was taken on Bijoy Sarani-Tejgaon Link Road yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

FEASIBILITY OF TWO NEW TOWNSHIPS

Rajuk signs deal with Chinese firm

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The capital city development regulator Rajuk is going to develop a 9,000-acre compact township on the west bank of the river Turag, with a view to conserve flood flow zones and wetlands along the river bank in the city's outskirts.

Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha (Rajuk) has also taken a simultaneous initiative to develop another 3,000-acre township styled Waterfront Smart City Dhaka, close to its ongoing Jheelmil residential area in Keraniganj.

To the end of developing both the schemes, Rajuk signed an agreement with Chinese firm China Road and

Bridge Corporation, at a city hotel yesterday to carry out a feasibility study.

The Turag township development scheme is aimed at conserving extensive conservable flood flow zones and wetlands along the western bank of the river, said high officials of Rajuk and public works ministry at the signing ceremony.

In the face of unrelenting conversion of flood flow zones and water bodies -- earmarked as conservable in the master plan -- through earth-filling in and around the capital, the Turag project has been undertaken to protect such ecologically sensitive regions along the river, they said.

Nearly 62 percent of the Turag township area will be conserved as water-based and recreational area and the rest will be developed as residential and commercial, they added.

"Conservation of the flood flow zones and wetlands is the aim of the scheme with well-designed development," said public works secretary Md Shahid Ullah Khandaker.

The city loses an unknown amount of wetland every day due to poor management, he said. "So, the Prime Minister has directed for conservation of the Turag flood flow zones and wetlands for a sustainable capital city."

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DHAKA TODAY

SEMINAR

Peasants' movement in colonial period
Organiser: Centre for Advanced Research in Social Sciences
Venue: Lecture Theatre, DU
Time: 3pm

AGRICULTURAL EXPOSITION

Organiser: Bangladesh Agro-Processors' Association
Venue: ICC, Bashundhara
Time: 11am

ROUNDTABLE

Realising Population Goals: Translating Strategies to Action
Organiser: The Daily Star and Options Consultancy Services Ltd
Venue: The Daily Star Centre
Time: 10:30am

DISCUSSION

Entrepreneurs' Talk
Venue: EMK Center, Dhanmondi Rd 27
Time: 4pm

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আইইবি ভবন, রমনা, ঢাকা-১০০০।

কর্পোরেট গ্রাহকদের তথ্য হালনাগাদ সংক্রান্ত

এতদ্বারা সকল কর্পোরেট গ্রাহকদের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, ইতোমধ্যে বিটিআরসি কর্তৃক সকল সেলুলার মোবাইল অপারেটরসমূহকে তাদের কর্পোরেট গ্রাহকদের তথ্য হালনাগাদ করার জন্য নির্দেশনা প্রদান করেছে। নির্দেশনা মোতাবেক সকল কর্পোরেট গ্রাহকদের তথ্য বিটিআরসি'র নির্দেশিত প্রক্রিয়াতে সম্পন্ন করার জন্য আগামী ৩০ নভেম্বর, ২০১৯ ইং তারিখের মধ্যে সংশ্লিষ্ট মোবাইল অপারেটরসমূহকে প্রদান করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হচ্ছে। অন্যথায়, কমিশনের নির্দেশনা মোতাবেক মোবাইল অপারেটরসমূহ তার কর্পোরেট গ্রাহকদের সংযোগ স্থায়ীভাবে নিষ্ক্রিয়করণ করতে বাধ্য থাকবে। এ বিষয়ে কমিশন সকল কর্পোরেট প্রতিষ্ঠানকে মোবাইল অপারেটরসমূহকে সহায়তা করার জন্য অনুরোধ জানাচ্ছে।