



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.

platform organised

The women's rights



Big excitement for small entrepreneurs

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Unnayan Mela comes to a close SAYYED MOHMUD ULLAH

Amid big excitement by small entrepreneurs, curtains dropped on the weeklong Unnayan Mela-2019 at

Bangabandhu International Conference Center (BICC) yesterday. The annual development fair, organsied by state-owned Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) is a paramount

event for a large number of micro- and small entrepreneurs

in rural areas, as they get a chance to connect with a wide section of prospective buyers. "Small entrepreneurs get bulk orders from different business houses of the country at the fair," said Dr Qazi

Khaliquzzaman, chairman of PKSF. He said such a fair could inspire marginalised people to be self-reliant, as PKSF has a wide range of progarmmes

including economic and non-economic support to change their standard of living. "Without long-term initiatives like training, education, healthcare and forming social capital, only economic

assistance could do nothing," he affirmed. His insight reflected in the beaming faces of small

entrepreneurs on the last day of the fair yesterday. "We make baskets, bags and shoes by weaving jute ropes, and then sell the products on demand both at home and abroad," said Shamsunnahar, a stall attendant of the

organisation "Taranga". She told The Daily Star that her organisation had trained up over a thousand women in different parts of the country, and they are now financially independent through working with them.

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'Include typed copies of autopsy reports'

HC directs doctors to also write those in clear handwriting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

the accused in the case.

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

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

The court asked the health secretary, director general

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

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 Nuru Salam filed the murder case with Cox's Bazar Police Station on February 22, 2017, against five persons including the 16-year-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.

Tapon 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. He recently filed the appeal with the HC challenging the Cox's Bazar tribunal's rejection order, and seeking bail in the case, 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, rights activists demanded yesterday.

They said in the lease papers, there is no mention of Khasi people living on 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 (hillock) 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 concerned, he stressed. 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

Among others, Oikya Nap President

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 the 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 a 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 case. At the same time, the bench ordered PBI to complete Md Aminur 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, 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 of

a case filed against actor Quazi Nawshaba Ahmed -- under the Information Communication Technology (ICT) Act -for allegedly spreading rumours on social media during last year's student

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

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

proceedings. Deputy Attorney General Rahman Chowdhury Tiku told The Daily Star that the HC stayed the trial proceedings against Nawshaba, who is now on bail, as the court has earlier stayed the proceedings of a similar case.

Earlier on May 15, police submitted charge sheet

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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, observed worldwide as World Children's Day. 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 9,000acre compact township on the west bank of the river Turag, with a view to conserve flood flow zones and wetlands along the riverbank in the city's outskirts.

Rajdhani Unnyan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) has also taken a simultaneous initiative to develop another 3,000acre 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

scheme is aimed at conserving and commercial, they added. 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 waterbodies -- 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 Turag township development the rest will be developed as residential

"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," he added.

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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

22nd & 23rd November





এতদারা 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 থাকিবে। এ বিষয়ে কমিশন সকল কর্পোরেট প্রতিষ্ঠানকে মোবাইল অপারেটরসমূহকে সহায়তা করার জন্য অনুরোধ জানাচ্ছে।