

Ruhul Amin passes away

Cry Desk

Ruhul Amin Mazumdar, a retired director of Bangladesh Tobacco Company Ltd (now British American Tobacco Bangladesh), passed away on April 7. He was 83.

He left behind his wife, two daughters, seven grandchildren and a host of family members, friends and admirers to mourn his death, says a press release.

Born in Chandpur, he started his career as an English lecturer at Dhaka College and later taught at Pakistan Air Force College at Lower Topa, Muree before joining Pakistan Tobacco Company.

Ruhul Amin Mazumdar was also a social activist and a promoter of arts and culture in Bangladesh. He was an active Rotarian, national commissioner of Bangladesh Scouts and president of Sandhani National Eye Donation Society for many years.

He was laid to rest at Banani Graveyard close to the grave of his only son, Ziaul Amin.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

A teacher of Grameen Shikha's (GS) non-formal primary school programme hands over food supplies to her students. GS has started a three-month food support programme for 163 destitute families living in slums of the capital's Mirpur.

Neither justice

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Buet, in its report submitted to the court said reckless driving was the "primary cause of the accident".

The report pointed out that the heavy vehicles were being illegally driven by drivers with licences to drive light vehicles.

On October 25 last year, the HC in its full verdict asked BRTC and Sajan Paribahan owners to pay in two months Tk 25 lakh each to Rajib's brothers.

Both BRTC and Sajan authorities later filed leave-to-appeals with the SC. The SC is yet to set any date for hearing on the appeals, BRTC lawyer Barrister Moniruzzaman told The Daily Star.

In the verdict, the HC directed authorities concerned to bring bus services in all metropolitan cities under the franchising system, and said trip-based or daily payment based appointment of public bus drivers should be banned; a company should recruit them with monthly salaries. The court also ordered authorities concerned to run vision and drug tests at the time of granting and renewing licences for drivers of all vehicles.

However, the scenario on the roads -- at least up till the countrywide closure of public transportation late last month -- has not shown any considerable improvement.

Many in Ctg

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Bangladesh Institute of Tropical and Infectious Diseases (the only organisation entrusted with testing in Chattogram), said, "We can still control the situation if we maintain social distancing strictly."

Contacted, Dr Hasan Shahriar Kabir, divisional director of Directorate General of Health Services, said, "We are trying to control the spread by locking down detected areas. Awareness is a must to control community transmission. We have to strictly follow the government instructions of staying home and maintaining social distancing."

Newly-recruited

FROM PAGE 3 once the newly recruited teachers get entry to IBAS++ they will get salary.

"The work is progressing slowly due to current situation. But there is nothing to be worried [about], everyone will get salary," he assured.

The Directorate of Primary Education started teacher recruitment for 61 districts in July 2018, and over 24 lakh applications were submitted.

Help us

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Syeda Nafisa, a physician, came to Australia as a visitor and has been stuck for a month. "I need to go back to my country to serve at this time of national crisis, since my hospital is already running short of doctors," she said.

Masrur Mahmood Shuvo, an employee of a private bank in Bangladesh, has been stuck with his spouse and daughter. Talking to this correspondent, he said if they fail to find an arrangement, they will have to be stranded there for next six months without income and limited access to funds. Many will have expired passports and visas, he said.

"Under these circumstances, we would request authorities to arrange a return flight for us. In case we can arrange a flight, we would need cooperation from the high commission, the foreign ministry and the aviation ministry to accept our landing proposals and formalities," Masrur said.

Meanwhile, most Bangladeshi students there have had their job hours slashed, while some lost jobs. Nearly half of them are from Victoria, while some are in New South Wales, Western Australia, South Australia and Queensland.

Taukir Muzib, a law student at Swinburne University in Melbourne, said he lost his job and his funds are depleting. "With this fund, I might be able survive a month," he said.

There are about six thousand Bangladeshi students in Australia, who have to pay USD 16,000 to 20,000 per semester. With the coronavirus hitting Bangladesh, many of them are not getting financial help from their families.

In reply to an email, the Bangladesh high commissioner said they are aware of the difficulties Bangladeshis in Australia are facing, and their officials are in touch with them.

"We've made our recommendations to Dhaka. Those include connectivity via Hong Kong or Guangzhou. As of now, we are awaiting a decision," he said.

He said they are also working with social, cultural and professional bodies to support Bangladeshis. "A pool of Bangladeshi doctors [for informal consultation] have been set up for supporting members of our diaspora in Australia."

"Additionally, the high commission has formally engaged Australian authorities to reduce tuition and ancillary fees for our students. Many universities are responding positively and have written back to us," he added.



49th death anniversary of Lt Col Abdul Qadir today

Cry Desk

Today is the 49th death anniversary of Lt Col Muhammad Abdul Qadir.

On this day in 1971, he was martyred, says a press release.

Qadirabad Cantonment in Natore was named after him for his contributions to the 1971 Liberation War. The government also issued a postal stamp recognising him as one of the martyred intellectuals.

Qadir's grave was found in 2007 and he was reburied with full state and military honour at Qadirabad Cantonment in 2011. He is the father of eminent journalist Nadeem Qadir. His family urged all to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Bangladesh will always stand

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SOLIDARITY WITH VIETNAM PLEDGED

Finance and Planning Minister Tajuddin Ahmed declares that the government and the people of Bangladesh will always stand by the oppressed people of Vietnam and also of any other country who are struggling for their emancipation from the clutches of imperialist powers. Addressing a mass rally organised in observance of Vietnam Day in Dhaka, he says that the independent and non-aligned foreign policy of Bangladesh does not in any way mean equating the imperialist aggressors with the victims of such aggression. Speaking highly of the gallantry and heroism of the Vietnamese people, Tajuddin Ahmed says that the national liberation war of the Vietnamese people is bound to succeed and expresses the confidence that the brave Vietnamese people are sure to make their mark in the comity of nations as a free and sovereign nation soon.

CONSTITUTION DRAFTING BODY MEETS

The Constitution Drafting Committee set up by the Bangladesh Constituent Assembly today has its first meeting. Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister and also the Chairman of the Drafting Committee Dr Kamal Hossain says at the meeting that the Constitution will be drafted incorporating the four principles

of democracy, socialism, nationalism and secularism. He reconfirms Bangabandhu's earlier declaration that all shades of opinion will be taken into consideration in framing the constitution. The Drafting Committee has been directed by the Constituent Assembly to submit the draft of constitution by June 10, 1972.

AL ORGANISING COMMITTEE FORMED Bangabandhu today declares the 44-member organising committee of Awami League. As per the request of the Awami League council members Bangabandhu will remain president of the party until the next session of the council. Zillur Rahman is nominated as the new general secretary of the party.

CONSTRUCTION OF LOW-COST HOUSES PLANNED

Public Works and Housing Minister Matiur Raman discloses that the government has started a plan to construct sufficient low-cost houses in the country to solve the housing problems of the displaced people. He further says that Bangabandhu observed keenly how similar problems had been solved in the Soviet Union by constructing low-cost houses on a mass scale and he recommended similar measures to be adopted to resolve the housing problem of the displaced persons in Bangladesh.

SOURCES: April 18, 1972 issues of Bangladesh Observer, Dainik Bangla and Ittefaq

Losses when profit

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This year, batik makers' business lies in tatters due to coronavirus outbreak, small boutiques and large shopping centres alike remain closed since March 25.

Bashar is one of several hundred factory owners and workers anxious about their livelihoods as they stay at home without work at Banti, a village in Narayanganj's Araihazar upazila.

Banti has earned fame for its batik clothes, mostly printed by hand, inspiring nearby villages to also take up the business.

During a visit to the village earlier this month, The Daily Star found shops closed on the deserted main road around noon. Two elderly men were talking in front of a closed shop.

Asked why there were no dyed cloths drying outside, one of them replied that all batik printing work has been off since March 26.

Around 200 metres to the west of the main road, Bashar's factory gates were locked. He was initially reluctant to come outside but later agreed to show this correspondent around his factory, which can produce around 1,500 three-pieces [shalwar kameez sets] every week.

"Don't know what will happen in the future. For now, I am accepting the loss," he said.

The situation of around 1,000 families who work in the business is similar. Several hundred families of nearby villages, whose livelihoods also depend on the batik printing business, share the fate.

Bashar and others reminisced how the demand for batik clothes and home décor items goes up at the onset of every summer, peaking just before festivals like Pahela Baishakh and Eid-ul-Fitr.

Ahead of these festivals, the whole area would usually be vibrant with batik cloths of different colours, shapes, and sizes hung out to dry under the sun after being dyed -- covering almost every inch of available space.

The area would buzz with energy as batik workers dye, print, wash, dry, fold, and package the material that constitutes a major part of the area's economy.

With the extra demand at this time, skilled workers from other areas would come to Banti in search of seasonal work. The workers printing patterns on fabrics would often work through the nights in order to fulfil their orders.

This year, however, is vastly different amid coronavirus. Helaluddin and two others were printing inside a factory, locked from the outside. He only agreed to come out and talk after making sure this correspondent was not from the local administration or the police.

The factory he works in produces around 1,000 three-pieces in a week.

"If we do not work, how we will get money?" asked Helaluddin.

A seasoned worker is paid Tk 20,000 per month, with less skilled workers getting around Tk 10,000, said locals.

"If the situation continues, we will lose our jobs. God knows what will happen," said Helaluddin.

Wholesale customers from nearby cities and towns, including Dhaka and Munshiganj, come to Banti and nearby bazaars to buy the batik clothes and materials produced here.

Now, with no shopping hordes and limited festivities across the country, demand has dropped sharply, and with it, the livelihoods of these workers and a business that usually thrives at this time of year.

While Helaluddin was talking with this correspondent, Milon Bhuiyan came forward.

He said had closed down his wax batik factory on March 26. He had six workers, who usually earn around Tk 3,000 a month.

"I have asked all my workers not to come to work. I don't have business, what else can I do?"

Keep your body

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There are plenty of online platforms from which one could take guidance and keep healthy, he suggested.

Jashim said the whole world is going through a stressful situation and this could negatively affect the immune system, but a consistent yoga routine can help to deal with the situation.

He suggested breathing exercises are a good way to go about it.

"To start yoga, simply focus your full attention to your breathing. One should sit straight and then close their eyes. Then the person can take a deep breath and exhale slowly," he said.

Jashim said this is very good for the lungs and it is also called the lung exercise.

As lungs are worst affected by coronavirus, this deep breathing technique is a very good activity to practise.

World Health Organisation Director General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus at a press conference recently said, "WHO recommends 30 minutes of physical activity a day for adults and one hour a day for children. If your local or national guidelines allow to go outside for a walk, [go for] a run or a ride and keep a safe distance from others. If you can't leave the house, find an exercise video online, dance to music, do some yoga or walk up and down the stairs.

"If you're working at home make sure you don't sit in the same position for long periods; get up and take a three-minute break every 30 minutes."

Trump plans to ease lockdown

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"We'll be the comeback kids, all of us," said Trump.

Leaders around the world are wrestling with the dilemma of how to return to normal and kick-start their shattered economies without risking a devastating second wave of infections.

Parts of Europe moved cautiously to reopen their streets and economies yesterday but the coronavirus pandemic was far from beaten and the World Health Organization warned the continent was still in the "eye of the storm".

In Germany, Chancellor Angela Merkel urged "extreme caution" as she announced initial steps to reopen some shops and gradually restart school.

Elsewhere in Europe, Denmark began reopening schools for younger children after a month-long closure and Finland lifted a blockade of Helsinki.

Lithuania allowed smaller shops to reopen from yesterday, while hard-hit Iran is set to allow some small businesses to restart operations.

New Zealand could start easing its nationwide lockdown next week, but Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern warned yesterday it would be far from a return to normal.

However, Britain was expected to extend its lockdown measures later yesterday and Belgium pushed its stay-at-home order back to May 3.

Even in countries trying to return to a semblance of normality, many citizens voiced fears the virus was not yet beaten.

"We remain in the eye of the storm," the WHO's regional director for Europe, Hans Kluge, said in an online news conference from Copenhagen.

Positive signs in Spain, Italy, Germany, France and Switzerland were overshadowed by sustained or increased levels of infections in other countries, such as Britain, Turkey, Ukraine and Russia, he said.

"It is imperative that we do not let down our guard."

In Madrid, deliveryman Gean Carlo Minaya told AFP: "I think people should still hold out a little longer because I think it's going to come back again, not as intensely, but the pandemic is going to come back a little bit."

United Nations chief Antonio Guterres said only a "safe and effective vaccine" can return the world to normal, hoping that could be available by year-end.

And the chief executive of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation laid bare the challenge facing humanity to shield itself from the virus in future.

"In the last war it was soldiers in uniform on the front line. This time our army are the doctors and nurses (in) uniforms," Moore told British TV earlier this week.

"We will survive this."

And in New Orleans, Burnell Cotton spent his life's savings to open a grocery store, providing a lifeline for many struggling to pay for food as a result of the coronavirus outbreak.

"The whole world has changed," he told AFP.

Many of his customers have been laid off and are struggling to provide for their families, he said.

"Because they're not working anymore, they don't have any money. But they still have to feed their kids."

"So people come in here all the time... looking for work, looking for food, looking for answers, just hope."

Red Chittagong Cattle (RCC) Improvement and Conservation Project

(Phase-II) Project.

Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute

Savar, Dhaka-1341.

Date: 15-04-2020

e-Tender Notice

e-Tender will be invited through the National e-GP System (<http://www.eprocurement.gov.bd>) for procurement of following goods details are given below:

Tender ID No.	Package No.</th