

# War hero CR Dutta no more

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Uttam, who was the lighthouse of non-communalism, passed away in the US yesterday. He was 93.

The veteran freedom fighter who served in the top post of different government organisations, including Bangladesh Rifles (now BGB), breathed his last at 9:30am (Bangladesh time) at a Florida hospital.

In a press release, Bangladesh Hindu-Bouddha-Christian Oikya Parishad said CR Dutta had been suffering from various old-age complications.

Quoting his daughter Kabita Dasgupta as saying, Rana Dasgupta, general secretary of the organisation, said one of CR Dutta's legs was broken after he fell on Friday.

He was rushed to a hospital in Florida and had been kept on life support since Monday as his condition deteriorated, Rana said, adding that CR Dutta was living with Kabita in Florida.

In a message, CR Dutta's son Dr Chiranjit Dutta said his father died from surgical complications.

The war veteran had played an important role in holding trials of war criminals and establishing a secular Bangladesh.

He had been the founding president of Bangladesh Hindu-Bouddha-Christian Oikya Parishad, a platform of different religious minority groups, until his death.

CR Dutta, who was the founding director general of the now-defunct Bangladesh Rifles in 1973, left behind two daughters, a son, and a host of relatives and well-wishers to mourn his death.

He also served as the chairman of Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Kalyan Trust and Bangladesh Road Transport Authority and led various significant roles during his tenure to develop two key organisations of the government.

In 1927, CR Dutta was born to his parents Upendra Chandra Dutta and Labanyaprabha Dutta in Shillong, capital of Meghalaya state in India, where his father was posted as a police officer.

After completing his primary education there, CR Dutta returned to his ancestral village in Habiganj's Chunarughat upazila.

After finishing his secondary school certificate exams, he joined the then Pakistan army, Bangladesh Hindu-Bouddha-Christian Oikya Parishad said in the release.

He entered the army in 1951 and a few days later, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant.

During the 1965 India-Pakistan War, then Lt Col CR Dutta served as a battalion commander in the East Pakistan Rifles.

In the war, the Indian army captured Asalong Mouja in Chattogram Hill Tracts. But the Pakistan army recaptured it under the leadership of CR Dutta as the company commander, said Bangladesh Hindu-Bouddha-Christian

Oikya Parishad.

The then Pakistan government rewarded him for his courageous contribution to the war in Asalong.

During the Liberation War, CR Dutta became the commander of Sector 4, which covered the whole area of Sylhet division and some adjoining areas.

After the war, he was made the brigade commander in Rangpur in 1972.

In 1973, the government felt the need to form a border guard force for independent Bangladesh and gave the responsibility to him.

He later formed a border guard force and it was named Bangladesh Rifles, which is now Border Guard Bangladesh.

The city street from Katabon to Karwan Bazar Signal was named after Bir Uttam CR Dutta.

## CONDOLENCES

Immediately after the war hero's death, people from all walks of life expressed their shock and sent condolences.

President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina led the obituary to mourn the demise of war veteran CR Dutta while ministers, state ministers, distinguished personalities, top leaders of different political parties, various political, social, cultural, economic and religious organisations expressed deep shock at his death.

In a condolence message, President Abdul Hamid expressed profound shock and sorrow at the death of Major General (ret'd) CR Dutta, Bir Uttam.

He recalled with due respect the outstanding contribution of the Liberation War hero and said, "The nation will remember CR Dutta, Bir Uttam, forever."

In a separate condolence message, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said, "The country as well as the nation will remember your outstanding contribution to the Liberation War with due respect."

Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, a number of cabinet members including Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Haque, Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal, Industries Minister Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun, and Bangladesh Puja Udjapon Parishad, among others, expressed deep shock, prayed for eternal peace of the departed soul and conveyed profound sympathy to the bereaved family.

They described the war hero as a lighthouse of non-communalism. He worked to maintain communal harmony throughout his life. His death is an immense loss, they said.

## BODY

Rana Dasgupta, general secretary of Bangladesh Hindu-Bouddha-Christian Oikya Parishad, said they were trying to bring back CR Dutta's body home within a week and sought cooperation from the government in this regard.

"CR Dutta's last wish was to be brought back to Bangladesh after his death," said Rana, quoting his daughter Kabita as saying.

# Now train service to be normal

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video conference from his residence with officials of the Roads and Highways Department (RHD), Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) and Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRITC) of Cumilla region.

The developments came as the death toll from Covid-19 infections crossed the 4,000 mark yesterday. Besides, 2,545 people tested positive for the highly transmissible virus in 24 hours on Monday, taking the total number of infected people close to 3 lakh.

## RAIL SERVICES

According to the BR's directives, passengers would be able to collect tickets of intercity trains 10 days before the trip, which had been resumed to five days following resumption of services on May 31. No standing tickets would be sold for the intercity trains.

All trains will make stops at Airport, Joydebpur and Narsingdi stations, and Kalni Express at Bhairab Station from September 10.

The authorities had ceased stopping at those stations as the stations had no fences to bar passengers from travelling without tickets, a BR official said. The authorities have installed fences in those stations, he added.

The authorities are also going to

reinroduce some facilities such as the food service and blankets and pillows for passengers travelling on the AC berth overnight. The authorities had not offered these services when operations resumed.

BR had suspended operation of passenger trains on March 24 to curb the spread of Covid-19.

## BUS SERVICES

BRTA on Thursday wrote to the road transport and bridges ministry to take necessary steps regarding transport owners' proposal to operate buses at full capacity at previous fares.

The ministry yesterday sent the proposal to the cabinet division, an official of the ministry said.

As per a circular of the division issued on August 3, public transport would continue to operate on a limited scale till August 31, so an approval from the division would be required for normal operations of public transport, the official said. Following demands by transport leaders, the government hiked bus fares by 60 percent from June 1 on the condition that buses would carry passengers at half capacity and follow other health safety guidelines.

But complaints on the breach of the aforementioned conditions kept pouring in.

# 76,000 Rohingya children

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"I can't give them whatever they ask for as we don't have money. We can't fulfil their dreams. We can't love and take care of them properly. That's why I feel very sad. I can't even provide them with good food."

Some 750,000 Rohingyas fled a brutal military campaign against the Rohingyas in Myanmar's Rakhine state and joined around 300,000 others who had fled previous waves of violence.

Save the Children said that in Myanmar, displacement camps in central Rakhine have been housing Rohingya Muslims as well as Kaman Muslims since 2012, due to previous waves of ethnic violence.

Based on UNHCR data from Myanmar up to December 2019, the children's agency estimated that there are 32,066 children under seven years of age spread across 21 camps, representing over 25 percent of the displaced population.

Onno van Manen, Bangladesh's Country Director for Save the Children, said the birth of a child is a joyous occasion but these children have drawn the short straw.

"We teach our children to dream big but for a child who knows nothing but a refugee camp, many of their hopes and dreams will seem out of reach. The

people and government of Bangladesh welcomed the refugees when they fled violence in their home country but three years on we are no closer to a sustainable solution to this refugee crisis.

"Rohingya children and families must be able to return to their homes in Myanmar voluntarily and in a safe and dignified manner. World leaders -- particularly those with close ties to Myanmar -- must do everything they can to encourage a swift resolution to this crisis. We can't allow the years to pile up and for children to spend their entire childhoods in confinement."

Mark Pierce, Myanmar, Sri Lanka & Thailand (MST) Director for Save the Children, said more than 30,000 children in the Rakhine camps have known no other life, no opportunity to explore the world outside, or visit their towns and villages.

"We must avoid the harmful consequences of an entire generation of children growing up in enforced segregation, which only further divides communities," he said, adding, "Nearly three decades after Myanmar ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and pledged to protect children at all costs, it needs to make good on its promise to guarantee the rights of all children."



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina unveils the cover of a book titled "Making Vision 2041 a Reality: Perspective Plan of Bangladesh 2021-2041" during the Ecneec meeting at the NEC conference room in the capital's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar yesterday. The premier chaired the meeting virtually from the Gono Bhaban.

PHOTO: BSS

# Way behind

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acceptable according to WHO -- out of over 203 research organisations working to develop a vaccine are in late-stage trials.

The phase-III trial or the final stage means the vaccine is given to thousands of people to confirm its safety -- including rare side effects -- and effectiveness. This trial involves a controlled group which is given a placebo.

Many countries are volunteering to be part of the phase-III trial of various vaccines.

On August 9, the Saudi health ministry announced that Chinese CanSino Biologics would run a phase-III trial in the oil-rich desert kingdom.

CanSino is one of the three Chinese candidates in the late stage of the trial.

Sinovac, another Chinese organisation developing Covid-19 vaccine, offered Bangladesh to be part of their phase-III trial.

Besides, more than 135 vaccine candidates are in pre-clinical or clinical trials, 21 in phase-I and 13 in phase-II clinical trials, according to the New York Times coronavirus vaccine tracker.

But Bangladesh is yet to decide on the clinical trial of the Chinese vaccine -- which is taking place in several countries including Brazil, the UAE, Indonesia, Chile, the Philippines, and Turkey.

A meeting between Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Health Minister Zahid Maleque, scheduled for August 17, regarding the trial of the Chinese vaccine was postponed.

A day later, Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen told his Indian counterpart Harsh Vardhan Shringla that Bangladesh is ready to collaborate with India in the development of a Covid-19 vaccine, including its trial.

The same day, the Times of India reported India was considering the vaccine of Oxford-AstraZeneca as the likely first shot against Covid-19 to be available for Indians by the end of this year.

Oxford-AstraZeneca of the United Kingdom is conducting the final phase of trial of its Covid-19 vaccine.

According to Prof Nazrul, the government said it is judging the Chinese vaccine. If Bangladesh takes part in the trial, it would be easy to get

the vaccine. "The government should take a decision soon," he added.

Prof Md Sayedur Rahman, chairman of pharmacology at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU), said although the vaccines under trial have yet to be proved safe and effective to obtain approval, many developed countries already made advance payment to the corporations who carrying out the phase-III stage of a clinical trial.

In order to provide information to select the best vaccine by the states and UN bodies, the WHO is going to conduct a robust study, named Solidarity Vaccine Trial in the last quarter of September to compare the efficacy of the potential candidate vaccines.

Although it is tough to measure the potential benefit of the vaccines now, developed and rich countries have already booked 30 crore to 100 crore doses from these companies.

The existing capacity of the innovators and rented manufacturers might be able to produce a maximum of 30 crore doses of single vaccine in the first six months after getting approval and those will be delivered to the rich countries, which have paid in advance.

"So, we are already lagging behind in this race," he said.

Prof Rahman thinks the government should negotiate with those corporations to invite them to produce their vaccine in the manufacturing plants here in Bangladesh. "This will put Bangladesh in a better position on the negotiation table and may save time as well," he added.

"So far we know, another new vaccine production plant might become functional within the next couple of months."

He, however, said the scientist community should be allowed with the freedom to apply the necessary scientific wisdom in order to help the country to join at right pace in the race of getting vaccines.

"Otherwise, we will not be able to collect the adequate number of doses required for a significant proportion of people in order to achieve herd immunity in the years to come," he added.

## WAYS TO GET VACCINE

According to experts, Bangladesh has

three ways to go about getting the Covid-19 vaccine.

Firstly, being a country with a GDP less than \$4,000, Bangladesh would get 20 percent of the vaccines it needs from the WHO and the GAVI.

This will be under the COVAX Facility, a mechanism designed to guarantee rapid, fair and equitable access to Covid-19 vaccines worldwide.

COVAX currently covers nine Covid-19 vaccine candidates and its aim is to secure supplies of and deliver two billion doses across countries that sign up by the end of 2021.

Around 172 countries -- representing more than 60 percent of the world's population -- are engaged in this programme, according to the WHO.

Many countries in this list will have to make partial payment under this programme.

The experts said the first option is a bit blurry for Bangladesh.

According to DGHS officials, the country has only submitted the expression of interest and the decision whether it will get the vaccine free or at partial cost is subject to a decision of a GAVI board meeting next month.

The second option is bilateral negotiations with the vaccine inventing companies or governments.

Bangladesh has not made any such efforts yet.

Thirdly, by being part of the trial of vaccines -- for example phase-III trial of Sinovac's vaccine by the icddr or trial of any Indian vaccines.

Shamsul Haque, a line director who overlooks the Expanded Programme on Immunisation (EPI) at the health directorate, said on Thursday, "Efforts to get the vaccine are underway. As far as I know the honourable health minister has been contacting different sources."

On Monday, Health Minister Zahid Maleque said, "All government departments on Covid-19 are active in bringing vaccines to the country."

Countries including the UK, China, Russia, the US, and India are working at the final stage of vaccine invention, he told reporters.

"Scrutinising the qualitative standard of these vaccines, the honourable prime minister will take the right decision at the right time," he added.

# Mother finds daughter, son murdered at home

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

Police have recovered decapitated bodies of two siblings from a house in Brahmanbaria's Bancharampur upazila, five hours after they went missing.

The bodies of the 14 and 10 year sister and brother were found from under two separate cots in their house at Solimabad village under Bancharampur upazila around 10pm on Monday.

The deceased were identified as Shipa Akhter, 14 and Kamrul Hasan, 10, children of a Saudi returnee Kamal Mia of the village.

Shipa was an eighth-grader student of Bancharampur Girls High School and Kamrul was a fifth-grader student of Salimabad Government Primary School.

According to police and locals, after the boy went missing, his mother Hasina Akhter went to look for him, while leaving his sister alone in the house.

Their father was also out of the house at that time.

After she returned home, both of the siblings were missing. Later, she found their bodies from under two separate cots at the house. Seeing both her children covered in blood, Hasina screamed and fainted. Learning about the matter, locals went to the scene and informed police.

On information, police came to the spot around 10:00pm and recovered their bodies.

Moqbul Hossain, assistant superintendent of police (ASP) of Nabinagar circle, told The Daily Star that they were investigating the case and primarily suspected that close relatives of the deceased might be involved in the killings.

# No PECE this year

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proposal for cancellation this year's PECE and equivalent exams, state minister for Primary and Mass Education Zakir Hossen said at a briefing yesterday at his secretariat office.

If schools reopen this year, the students may seat for annual exams at their own institutions, he said.

Primary and Mass Education Senior Secretary Akram-Al-Hossain told The Daily Star that schools would fix the modalities and question patterns for the school based exams.

The primary and mass education ministry on August 19 sent a proposal to the Prime Minister's Office seeking Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's approval to cancel this year's PECE and equivalent exams.

The move came after Primary and Mass Education Senior Secretary Akram-Al-Hossain, and Secondary and Higher Education Secretary Mahbub Hossain held a meeting with the PM's principal secretary and other top officials of the PMO in the second week of August.

The PECE and equivalent exams for the fifth graders is the largest public examination scheduled for November. This year, about 3 million students were expected to sit for the PECE exams.

Prof Mazharul Hannan, a teacher leader since 1972 and now president of Bangladesh Principals' Association, said this was for the first time any public examinations were cancelled since the independence of Bangladesh.

## NO SCHOLARSHIP TO 1.05 LAKH STUDENTS

As no board exams will take place, the primary and mass education ministry will not provide any scholarship based on the results this year, said Akram.

Directorate of Primary Education officials said that each year government provide scholarship to 105,000 students -- 82,500 from primary schools and 22,500 from madrassas -- for three years.

At primary schools, 33,000 students get scholarships under talent pool while 49,500 under general category. In madrassas, 7,500 students get scholarships under talent pool while 15,000 under general category.

A student under talent pool receives Tk 300 per month while those under general category get Tk 225 per month. They get the scholarships for three years from class VI to VIII.

## SCHOOL REOPENING IN SEPTEMBER UNLIKELY

A secretary of the government said that there was high possibility that educational institutions would not reopen in September as coronavirus situation is still bad in the country.

Akram said that they will take the decision regarding the school reopening only after consulting with top officials of education ministry.

"If we reopen the educational institutions, all exams and others activities should be carried out at schools following the health guideline strictly", he added.

## গণস্বাস্থ্য ICU দেশের সেরা ICU

\* বাংলাদেশের একমাত্র ইউরোপিয়ান ডিপ্লোমা ইন ইন্টেনসিভ কেয়ার মেডিসিন (EDIC) ডিগ্রীধারী অধ্যাপক নজীব মোহাম্মদ সার্বক্ষণিক ভাবে গণস্বাস্থ্য ICU তে থাকেন, চিকিৎসা দেন, জুনিয়র ডাক্তারদের শিখান। গণস্বাস্থ্য ICU তে CT MRI ছাড়া অন্য সকল পরীক্ষা এবং ওষুধ বাবদ দৈনিক ব্যয়-

গণ স্বাস্থ্যেরা ইন	শশী	উচ্চমধ্যবিত্ত	মধ্যবিত্ত	নিম্নমধ্যবিত্ত	দরিদ্র	অতি দরিদ্র
২৫০০০	২০০০০	১০০০০	১৮০০০	১৫০০০	১০০০০	৫০০০

সেরা বিশেষজ্ঞ অধ্যাপক নজীব মোহাম্মদের পরামর্শ ফি ১২০০ টাকা। ICU, মেডিসিন, বক্ষব্যায়ির পরামর্শ দুপুর ১২টা থেকে বিকেল ৪টা পর্যন্ত

২৪ঘণ্টা

খোলা

মার্কিন প্রটোকলে পরিচালিত দেশের বৃহত্তম কিডনী সেটোর ও হাসপাতাল

গণস্বাস্থ্য নগর হাসপাতাল ও ডায়ালাইসিস সেটোর

সকল বিভাগ ২৪ ঘণ্টা খোলা

ফোন: ১৪৮১, ১৪৮১৬, ১৪৮১৭, ১৪৮১৮, ১৪৮১৯, ১৪৮২০, ১৪৮২১, ১৪৮২২, ১৪৮২৩, ১৪৮২৪, ১৪৮২৫, ১৪৮২৬, ১৪৮২৭, ১৪৮২৮, ১৪৮২৯, ১৪৮৩০, ১৪৮৩১, ১৪৮৩২, ১৪৮৩৩, ১৪৮৩৪, ১৪৮৩৫, ১৪৮৩৬, ১৪৮৩৭, ১৪৮৩৮, ১৪৮৩৯, ১৪৮৪০, ১৪৮৪১, ১৪৮৪২, ১৪৮৪৩, ১৪৮৪৪, ১৪৮৪৫, ১৪৮৪৬, ১৪৮৪৭, ১৪৮৪৮, ১৪৮৪৯, ১৪৮৫০, ১৪৮৫১, ১৪৮৫২, ১৪৮৫৩, ১৪৮৫৪, ১৪৮৫৫, ১৪৮৫৬, ১৪৮৫৭, ১৪৮৫৮, ১৪৮৫৯, ১৪৮৬০, ১৪৮৬১, ১৪৮৬২, ১৪৮৬৩, ১৪৮৬৪, ১৪৮৬৫, ১৪৮৬৬, ১৪৮৬৭, ১৪৮৬৮, ১৪৮৬৯, ১৪৮৭০, ১৪৮৭১, ১৪৮৭২, ১৪৮৭৩, ১৪৮৭৪, ১৪৮৭৫, ১৪৮৭৬, ১৪৮৭৭, ১৪৮৭৮, ১৪৮৭৯, ১৪৮৮০, ১৪৮৮১, ১৪৮৮২, ১৪৮৮৩, ১৪৮৮৪, ১৪৮৮৫, ১৪৮৮৬, ১৪৮৮৭, ১৪৮৮৮, ১৪৮৮৯, ১৪৮৯০, ১৪৮৯১, ১৪৮৯২, ১৪৮৯৩, ১৪৮৯৪, ১৪৮৯৫, ১৪৮৯৬, ১৪৮৯৭, ১৪৮৯৮, ১৪৮৯৯, ১৪৯০০, ১৪৯০১, ১৪৯০২, ১৪৯০৩, ১৪৯০৪, ১৪৯০৫, ১৪৯০৬, ১৪৯০৭, ১৪৯০৮, ১৪৯০৯, ১৪৯১০, ১৪৯১১, ১৪৯১২, ১৪৯১৩, ১৪৯১৪, ১৪৯১৫, ১৪৯১৬, ১৪৯১৭, ১৪৯১৮, ১৪৯১৯, ১৪৯২০, ১৪৯২১, ১৪৯২২, ১৪৯২৩, ১৪৯২৪, ১৪৯২৫, ১৪৯২৬, ১৪৯২৭, ১৪৯২৮, ১৪৯২৯, ১৪৯৩০, ১৪৯৩১, ১৪৯৩২, ১৪৯৩৩, ১৪৯৩৪, ১৪৯৩৫, ১৪৯৩৬, ১৪৯৩৭, ১৪৯৩৮, ১৪৯৩৯, ১৪৯৪০, ১৪৯৪১, ১৪৯৪২, ১৪৯৪৩, ১৪৯৪৪, ১৪৯৪৫, ১৪৯৪৬, ১৪৯৪৭, ১৪৯৪৮, ১৪৯৪৯, ১৪৯৫০, ১৪৯৫১, ১৪৯৫২, ১৪৯৫৩, ১৪৯৫৪, ১৪৯৫৫, ১৪৯৫৬, ১৪৯৫৭, ১৪৯৫৮, ১৪৯৫৯, ১৪৯৬০, ১৪৯৬১, ১৪৯৬২, ১৪৯৬৩, ১৪৯৬৪, ১৪৯৬৫, ১৪৯৬৬, ১৪৯৬৭, ১৪৯৬৮, ১৪৯৬৯, ১৪৯৭০, ১৪৯৭১, ১৪৯৭২, ১৪৯৭৩, ১৪৯৭৪, ১৪৯৭৫, ১৪৯৭৬, ১৪৯৭৭, ১৪৯৭৮, ১৪৯৭৯, ১৪৯৮০, ১৪৯৮১, ১৪৯৮২, ১৪৯৮৩, ১৪৯৮৪, ১৪৯৮৫, ১৪৯৮৬, ১৪৯৮৭, ১৪৯৮৮, ১৪৯৮৯, ১৪৯৯০, ১৪৯৯১, ১৪৯৯২, ১৪৯৯৩, ১৪৯৯৪, ১৪৯৯৫, ১৪৯৯৬, ১৪৯৯৭, ১৪৯৯৮, ১৪৯৯৯, ১৫০০০, ১৫০০১, ১৫০০২, ১৫০০৩, ১৫০০৪, ১৫০০৫, ১৫০০৬, ১৫০০৭, ১৫০০৮, ১৫০০৯, ১৫০১০, ১৫০১১, ১৫০১২, ১৫০১৩, ১৫০১৪, ১৫০১৫, ১৫০১৬, ১৫০১৭, ১৫০১৮, ১৫০১৯, ১৫০২০, ১৫০২১, ১৫০২২, ১৫০২৩, ১৫০২৪, ১৫০২৫, ১৫০২৬, ১৫০২৭, ১৫০২৮, ১৫০২৯, ১৫০৩০, ১৫০৩১, ১৫০৩২, ১৫০৩৩, ১৫০৩৪, ১৫০৩৫, ১৫০৩৬, ১৫০৩৭, ১৫০৩৮, ১৫০৩৯, ১৫০৪০, ১৫০৪১, ১৫০৪২, ১৫০৪৩, ১৫০৪৪, ১৫০৪৫, ১৫০৪৬, ১৫০৪৭, ১৫০৪৮, ১৫০৪৯, ১৫০৫০, ১৫০৫১, ১৫০৫২, ১৫০৫৩, ১৫০৫৪, ১৫০৫৫, ১৫০৫৬, ১৫০৫৭, ১৫০৫