

Freedom Fighter
Prafulla Ranjan
cremated

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The funeral of Freedom Fighter Prafulla Ranjan Singha was held with state honour in Raozan, Chattogram yesterday.

Prafulla died at a private hospital in the port city on Wednesday, aged 81. He had been suffering from kidney and heart diseases for a long time, said Raozan Municipality Mayor Debashish Palit. Besides, he tested Covid-19 positive a few days ago, he added.

He left behind a son, two daughters and a host of admirers to mourn his death.

Prafulla's body was taken to Kundeshwari Bhaban in Raozan yesterday morning, where he was accorded guard of honour by the upazila administration.

The freedom fighter was one of the main witnesses at International Crimes Tribunal against Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury who was sentenced to death for crimes against humanity in the 1971 Liberation War.

Prafulla, a patron of education, served as the governor of Lions in Chattogram, said Mayor Debashish.

Prafulla's father Nutan Chandra Singha, a philanthropist and founder of Kundeshwari Oshadhaloy, was killed by Pakistan army and their local collaborators on April 13, 1971.

Man gets death

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captured the girl, violated her, and strangled her to death on March 11, 2018, he added.

The body was then concealed at the family graveyard of Halim Master. Sensing bad smell there, locals informed police on March 13.

Police recovered the body and sent it to Barishal SBMCH.

The victim's mother Mahmuda Begum lodged a murder case accusing Kalu with Airport Police Station.

Police then arrested Kalu and he gave confessional statement under section 164 of CRPC before the court on March 14.

Inspector Abdur Rahman Mukul, investigation officer of the case, filed a charge sheet against the accused on September 30, 2018 and the court framed charges against the accused on January 20, 2019.

New artificial

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engineering professor at RMIT University and the project's lead researcher.

It could lead to groundbreaking innovations in prosthetics and robotics.

Just like real skin, the artificial version is designed to react when pressure, heat or cold surpass a pain threshold. Its outer layers sandwich electronic circuits studded with sensors, which respond to stimuli.

"The fascinating thing about our body is that it works by sending electrical signals into a central nervous system," says Bhaskaran. Electronic circuits work in a similar way, and are just as fast, she explains.

When we touch something burning hot, pain receptors in our skin send an electrical signal through our nerves to the brain. The brain sends its own electrical signal to initiate a response -- for example a withdrawal reflex to move the affected limb away from the heat.

In much the same way, when one of the sensors in the artificial skin detects a pain stimulus, it sends an electrical signal to the brain-mimicking parts of the structure, Bhaskaran says. This can be programmed to trigger a movement.

"The key here is thresholds," says Bhaskaran. She explains that although we sense stimuli constantly, we only react when the stimulus exceeds a threshold, "like touching something very hot." The brain and the skin compare stimuli and identify which are dangerous, she says.

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Palestinian demonstrators react from tear gas fired by Israeli forces during a protest against Israeli settlements, in Kafr Malik of Israeli-occupied West Bank yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Turning a lofty idea into reality

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Borhan expects over 100 trees to bear fruit by next summer.

"Some trees gave 50-60 apples and a few gave less than 10, but I am satisfied with the amount I got so early," he said.

He said the Indian producers assured him that with this being only the primary production, there was no reason to worry, as it would increase in the next three to five years.

The varieties Borhan planted in his orchard are HRMN-99, Dorsett Golden, Anna, Tropic Sweet, and Granny Smith.

Cultivation of these varieties is also new in India with farmers around the country growing the HRMN-99 variety in particular. The HRMN-99 was recently invented by a farmer from Himachal Pradesh and these varieties are all able to grow at low altitudes and higher temperatures.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Md Ajmal Haque, deputy assistant orchard preservation officer of

Ullapara's agriculture office, said Borhan's success was admirable given the unfavourable weather conditions and the newness of his venture.

"The agriculture office gave all necessary suggestions and support that we could for his orchard. Even though this is new here, we saw that he had received proper training on it."

"He has made the impossible possible by producing fruit normally grown in cold countries on this shoal land," Ajmal added.

The more commonly grown crops in Khas Char Jamalpur are radish and eggplant.

Given that apples are widely in demand in the country, and that imported fruit from neighbouring and other countries are mostly preserved with toxic substances, homegrown apple production would be a boon, said experts.

"Apples are only produced in one season everywhere in the world but we get the fruit year-round because they are preserved with toxic substances

to maintain the 'beauty' of the fruit," said agriculturist Zafar Sadek.

"If apple production becomes readily available in our country, it will be a great success for the agriculture sector," he added.

As his test production saw success, Borhan said he will progress with commercial production of apples -- probably the first commercial cultivation of the winter fruit in Bangladesh, he claimed.

While many still consider apple production impossible in our country, a few varieties can easily be grown here, Borhan said, adding that apple production is relatively cheaper than growing similar fruits.

"We still have no experience of directly growing the plant, so I am importing apple plants which is quite costly. But there are no extra expenses for cultivation."

If he is successful in commercial-scale cultivation of the fruit, he will proceed with also growing the apple plants here, he added.

Wait for Covid vaccine

FROM PAGE 12
it is going to take time to get enough vaccines in the first six months to really make a difference," he said.

Friedman said this is true for many parts of the world, including Bangladesh, as it takes time to develop capacity.

The current world population is around 7.8 billion and over 15 billion doses of vaccines are needed to address it globally.

The US expert said only 7 percent people of the world will be covered in the first six months considering the production capacity of three promising vaccines.

"So, we've to be very realistic here that the vast majority of people may have to wait for a year. It could be more than a year," he said, adding that he sees a real challenge for Bangladesh.

Friedman hinted that most of the vaccines will go to the US and European countries as there is an issue of prepayment (to purchase vaccines) and they are investing in the vaccine producing companies to get vaccines on a priority basis.

He also said many countries will show their high infection rates of coronavirus as the reason. "So, in the first six months, it's not going to be easy for many countries to get enough vaccines."

The US expert said developing one's own capacity and doing collaboration is the best way to get enough vaccines.

"I think Bangladesh is trying to do so, but it'll take time to develop such capacity. This is a very technical process having technical challenges," he said.

Friedman also talked about priorities and who should get initial doses.

He recommended that most high-risk people -- health workers, essential security forces, perhaps key decision makers in the government and the vulnerable groups -- should get vaccines on a priority basis.

The Bangladesh government has already signed a memorandum of understanding with the Serum Institute of India (SII) to collect three crore shots of Covishield, the Indian version of Oxford-AstraZeneca's coronavirus vaccine.

Health Secretary Abdul Mannan hoped that coronavirus vaccine will be available in Bangladesh by February 2021.

Bangladesh has highlighted the need for making the Covid-19 vaccines available, affordable and distributing those equitably to all countries that need those most.

A strong global commitment and collaboration to treat Covid-19 vaccine as a "global public good" is absolutely essential, Bangladesh says.

Unicef has begun laying the groundwork for the rapid, safe and efficient delivery of the eventual vaccine by purchasing and pre-

positioning syringes and other necessary equipment.

As soon as Covid-19 vaccines successfully emerge from trials and are licenced and recommended for use, the world will need as many syringes as doses of vaccine.

To begin preparations, this year Unicef will stockpile 520 million syringes in its warehouses, part of a larger plan of 1 billion syringes by 2021, to guarantee initial supply and help ensure that syringes arrive in countries before the Covid-19 vaccines.

During 2021, assuming there are enough doses of Covid-19 vaccines, Unicef anticipates delivering over 1 billion syringes to support Covid-19 vaccination efforts on top of the 620 million syringes that Unicef will purchase for other vaccination programmes against other diseases such as measles, typhoid and more.

"Vaccinating the world against Covid-19 will be one of the largest mass undertakings in human history, and we'll need to move as quickly as the vaccines can be produced," said Henrietta Fore, Unicef executive director.

"In order to move fast later, we must move fast now. By the end of the year, we will already have over half a billion syringes pre-positioned where they can be deployed quickly and cost effectively. That's enough syringes to wrap around the world one and a half times."

US imposes fresh Iran-
related sanctions targeting
individual, entity

REUTERS, Washington

The United States on Thursday imposed fresh Iran-related sanctions, blacklisting an entity and an individual as Washington continues to ramp up pressure on Tehran during US President Donald Trump's final months in office.

The US Treasury Department in a statement said that it had slapped sanctions on Shahid Meisami Group and its director, accusing the entity of being involved in Iran's chemical weapons research and linked to the Iranian Organization of Defensive Innovation and Research, blacklisted by Washington and formerly headed by the Islamic Republic's top nuclear scientist killed last week.

The move comes days after the killing of Mohsen Fakhrizadeh. Iran's supreme leader promised on Saturday to retaliate for the killing, raising the threat of a new confrontation with the West and Israel in the remaining

weeks of Trump's presidency.

"Iran's development of weapons of mass destruction is a threat to the security of its neighbors and the world," Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said in the statement.

"The United States will continue to counter any efforts by the Iranian regime to develop chemical weapons that may be used by the regime or its proxy groups to advance their malign agenda," he added.

Thursday's action freezes any US assets of those blacklisted, generally bars Americans from dealing with them and denies them access to the US financial system.

"The United States is concerned about the regime's true intent with regard to the testing and production of these so-called chemical incapacitation agents, which could be used either to further oppress Iranian citizens or for offensive purposes," U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said in a separate statement.

Nation pays

FROM PAGE 12
Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman today visits the mazar of Suhrawardy twice, once in the morning and again with President Justice Abu Sayeed Choudhury in the afternoon. He offers prayers and showers flower petals at the mazar.
COMMON BORDER WILL REMAIN A BORDER OF PEACE

Bangladesh President Justice Abu Sayeed Chowdhury and India President VV Giri have expressed their firm conviction in a joint communique that the common border between Bangladesh and India will always remain a border of peace and goodwill. The joint communique is issued at the end of President Abu Sayeed Chowdhury's state visit to India. The president of India is also confident that his country would continue to cooperate with Bangladesh in its massive task of reconstruction and rehabilitation of

the war-ravaged economy in a spirit of goodwill and mutual understanding.
PINDI WOMEN DEMAND EARLY RECOGNITION OF BANGLADESH
Thousands of anguished dependents of Pakistani prisoners of war now held in India today take out processions through streets of Rawalpindi in support of President Bhutto's policies for early recognition to Bangladesh and his efforts to secure repatriation of their men.

\$12M JAPANESE COMMODITY GRANT

An agreement providing for various commodities as outright grant to Bangladesh is signed between Bangladesh and Japan in Dhaka today. The grant worth 12 million dollars is part of Japan's contribution towards the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Bangladesh economy.

SOURCES: December 6, 1972 issues of Bangladesh Observer, Dainik Bangla and Dainik Ittefaq.

Poor could be 'trampled'

FROM PAGE 12
The worst affected country is the US with 276,401 deaths, followed by Brazil with 175,270 deaths, India with 139,188, Mexico with 108,173 and the United Kingdom with 60,113.

Britain has become the first Western nation to approve a vaccine for Covid-19, with the United States and other countries expected to follow soon and begin mass immunization drives.

A UN-backed Covax consortium has been set up to provide vaccines equitably around the world.

On Thursday, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres decried countries - without naming any - who rejected facts about the coronavirus pandemic and ignored guidance from the WHO.

Dozens of world leaders have submitted pre-recorded video statements for the two-day meeting.

"From the start, the World Health Organization provided factual information and scientific guidance that should have been the basis for a coordinated global response," Guterres said.

"Unfortunately, many of these recommendations were not

followed. And in some situations, there was a rejection of facts and an ignoring of the guidance. And when countries go in their own direction, the virus goes in every direction," he said.

US President Donald Trump cut funding to the WHO earlier this year and announced plans to quit the Geneva-based body over accusations it was a puppet of China, which the WHO denied. The US withdrawal would have taken effect in July next year, but US President-elect Joe Biden has said he will rescind the move.

Two killed

FROM PAGE 12
Burimari highway near Kakina railway station.

On its way back to Lalmonirhat, the same train ran over motorcyclist Rahidul on another unmanned rail gate in Shantiganj Bazar area near Kakina railway station around 1:30pm, killing him on the spot.

Arju Md Sajjad Hossain, OC of Kaliganj Police Station, said the railway police recovered the two bodies from the spots and sent those to Lalmonirhat Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsies.

Trump allies move SC

FROM PAGE 12
House of Representatives.

The court is expected to respond quickly in writing and is not obliged to explain whatever ruling it makes.

Trump is still refusing to concede defeat in the November 3 election, alleging without providing evidence that there was widespread fraud in both voting and vote counting, and that the election was stolen from him.

The Trump campaign and Trump allies have filed a flurry of lawsuits in battleground states that he lost, seeking to overturn the results. In some 20-odd cases, however, the courts have rejected these suits.

On Tuesday Attorney General Bill Barr, a close ally of the president, broke with Trump and said there was no evidence of significant fraud to invalidate Biden's win. Trump appointed three conservatives to the nine-member court during his presidency and said right after the November election he was prepared to go all the way to that tribunal to defend what he called his re-election victory.

SM Ali

FROM PAGE 3
was one of the few Asian journalists who stood out in regional journalism.

Ali was born in a well-known family in Sylhet, in 1928. He was the eldest son of the late Syed Mustafa Ali, an official of the Assam Civil Service, and nephew of famous litterateur Syed Mujtaba Ali.

He died in 1993 at a Bangkok hospital at the age of 65.

Ali started off as a reporter with the Pakistan Observer while he was a student at Dhaka University. He went on to hold important positions in various publications in Pakistan, Hong Kong, Thailand and Singapore.

He was the managing director of The Hong Kong Standard and The Bangkok Post.

He joined the Press Foundation of Asia as its executive director in the 1970s. In the mid-80s, he became Unesco's regional communications adviser for Asia and the Pacific based in the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur.

Ali returned home in 1989 and had a brief stint with the Bangladesh Observer as editor.

He launched The Daily Star in 1991 and worked tirelessly to establish it as a leading national daily. He injected a new life in the moribund English language journalism of the period.

Ali is respected by all as the most successful Bangladeshi journalist at the regional and international level.

শেখ হাসিনার নির্দেশ
জলবায়ু সহিষ্ণু বাংলাদেশ

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Divisional Forest Officer
Social Forest Division, Faridpur

Memo No. 22.01.2900.361.38.20.2296
Date: 02/12/2020

Invitation for e-Tender

e-Tender (OTM) are invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following goods:

e-Tender ID No.	Package No.	Name of goods	Last date & time for selling/ downloading	Tender closing date & time	Tender opening date & time
518283	Farid/SFD/SUFAL/2020-2021/GD-1	Supply of Polypropylene Bags.	20/12/2020 16.00	21/12/2020 15.00	21/12/2020 15.00
518423	Farid/SFD/SUFAL/2020-2021/GD-2	Supply of Materials for Strip and Model Upazila Nursery and Plantation.	20/12/2020 16.00	21/12/2020 16.00	21/12/2020 16.00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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Tender ID No.	Package No.	Description of works	Online (e-GP System) tender publication date & time	Online (e-GP System) tender closing date & time
523728	SPDP/W-8	a) Construction of a Public Toilet at Bazar Station under Sirajganj Pourashava. b) Repair a Public Toilet at Sheikh Rassel Park under Sirajganj Pourashava.	06-December-2020 10:00am	22-December-2020 13:00pm

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