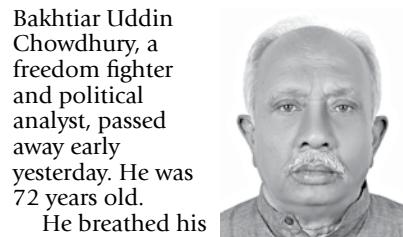




Residents make their way on a boat along a flooded street caused by heavy rain in Bandung, Indonesia yesterday.

Columnist Bakhtiar Uddin no more

STAR REPORT



Bakhtiar Uddin Chowdhury, a freedom fighter and political analyst, passed away early yesterday. He was 72 years old.

He breathed his last at BIRDEM hospital in Dhaka at 2:15am, said a press release.

Bakhtiar Uddin had been suffering from diabetes and kidney diseases. He was admitted to the hospital on Thursday night as his condition suddenly deteriorated.

He left behind his wife, two sons, a daughter, and grandchildren.

He was buried at his family graveyard at Nangalmora in Hathazari, Chattogram after a namaz-e-janaza.

Bakhtiar Uddin was born on August 17, 1948 in Hathazari.

During student life, he got involved in Chhatra League politics. Later, he engaged in national politics, did business, and then started writing.

For the past two decades, he had been a regular contributor to various national dailies and online portals where he wrote about political and international affairs.

Keep the nat'l icon intact

FROM PAGE 12

"It is a part of Dhaka's history. The extension of railway is needed but the authorities should try to do the work keeping that intact," said Taimur Islam.

In the last 100 years, Dhaka has grown up as a new modern city and Kamalapur is part of that history, he added.

MAKING OF KAMALAPUR RAILWAY STATION

Dhaka became the provincial capital of East Pakistan after the end of colonial rule in 1947. Fulbaria was the central railway station in Dhaka at the time.

But as the city was growing as an important commercial centre and expanding with the growth of its population, city planners in 1948 suggested shifting the station to the less populated Kamalapur.

It, however, took a decade for the then provincial East Pakistan government to start executing the plan in 1958. A new railway line from Tejgaon to Khilgaon, and then to Kamalapur was constructed.

On July 27, 1968, Kamalapur was unveiled, which also marked the last journey of a train from Fulbaria, with the otherwise vast paddy fields being turned into one of the most beautiful and modern railway stations in Asia.

Officially known as Dhaka Railway Station, it is now the central rail station of Bangladesh.

AN ARCHITECTURAL MARVEL

The parabolic umbrella structure at Kamalapur is considered one of the modern architectural ideas of the '60s. Daniel Dunham and Robert Bouhey were the designers of this gem.

The station's parabolic umbrella roof over the terminal was unusual for its time but the shape was quite fitting for a tropical country like Bangladesh, where rain is a dominant phenomenon.

Along with Louis Kahn's parliament building, Constantino Doxiadis' TSC, and Richard Vrooman's Architecture Building at Buet, the pioneering structure of the railway station symbolised a "golden age" of architecture in Bangladesh during the 1960s, according to Adnan Zillur Morshed.

The concrete roof structure provides a rhythmic visual effect, unifying the spaces below it. The parabolic roofline recalls other contemporary masterpieces, such as Danish architect Jorn Utzon's Sydney Opera House, the architectural historian mentioned in his book "DAC/Dhaka in 25 Buildings".

"Just as Utzon's Opera House shaped the skyline of the Sydney harbour, Kamalapur Railway Station's repetitive arches created a new skyline in this low-rise area of the city," wrote Adnan, also executive director of the Centre for Inclusive Architecture and Urbanism at Brac University.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Urban Building Safety Project (UBSP)

Project Implementation Unit

Public Works Department, Purta Bhaban, Segunbagicha, Dhaka

Phone: 9588699, Fax: 88-02-9588700

Date: 23-12-2020

Memo No. 25.36.0000.600.03.010.16.409

Invitation for Tender

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Housing & Public Works (MoHPW)
2	Agency	Public Works Department (PWD).
3	Procuring entity name	Executive Engineer (Procurement), Urban Building Safety Project.
4	Procuring entity code	Not used at present.
5	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.
6	Invitation for	Procurement of Non-Consulting Services.
7	Invitation Ref No.	25.36.0000.600.03.010.16.409
8	Date	23-12-2020
9	KEY INFORMATION	OTM.
10	FUNDING INFORMATION	GOB.
11	Budget and source of funds	N/A.
12	Development partners (if applicable)	OTM-01/2020-21
13	Project name (if applicable)	Urban Building Safety Project.
14	Tender Package No.	
15	Tender package name	প্রকল্প বাস্তুর ইলিনিট, নগরাঞ্চলের ভবন সুরক্ষা প্রকল্প, গবর্নর অধিবক্তৃত এ আউটসোর্সিং পদ্ধতিতে মাসিক মহুরী ভিত্তিতে ৪ জন গাড়িগাড়ক ও ১ জন অফিস সহায়ক সরবাহকরণ কাজ।
16	Tender publication date	23-12-2020
17	Tender last selling date	12-01-2021
18	Date	12:00pm
19	Time	03:00pm
20	Tender closing date and time	13-01-2021
21	Name & address of the office(s)	Address
	- Selling tender document (principal)	Urban Building Safety Project, Purta Bhaban, Segunbagicha, Dhaka.
	- Selling tender document (others)	i) Office of the Divisional Commissioner, Dhaka Division, 1st 21-story Govt. Office Building, Segunbagicha, Dhaka. ii) Police Commissioner, Dhaka Metropolitan Police, 36, Shahid Captain Mansur Ali Sarani, Ramna, Dhaka. iii) Executive Engineer, Dhaka PWD Division-1/2/3/4, City PWD Division, Dhaka.
	No conditions apply for sale, purchase or distribution of tender documents	
	- Receiving tender document	Office of the Project Director, Urban Building Safety Project, Purta Bhaban, Segunbagicha, Dhaka.
	-Receiving tender document (others)	(i) Office of the Divisional Commissioner, Dhaka Division, 1st 21-story Govt. Office Building, Segunbagicha, Dhaka. (ii) Office of the Police Commissioner, Dhaka Metropolitan Police, 36, Shahid Captain Mansur Ali Sarani, Ramna, Dhaka.
	- Opening tender document	Office of the Project Director, Urban Building Safety Project, Purta Bhaban, Segunbagicha, Dhaka.
22	INFORMATION FOR TENDERER	
23	Eligibility of tenderer	This invitation for Tender is open to all eligible tenderers as mentioned below: a) The minimum number of years of general experience of the tenderer in contracting industries in public sector as prime contractor/sub-contractor/management contractor shall be five (5) years. b) The minimum specific experience as a prime contractor in providing non-consultant service of at least ONE contract of similar nature, complexity and methods/technology completed over a period of three (3) years each with a value of at least of Tk 11,00,000.00 (eleven lakh) shall be required. Contract for providing service will be treated as similar nature. c) The required average annual turnover of the tenderer shall be at least of the amount of Tk 7,00,000.00 (seven lakh) only over the last five years. d) The tenderer must possess: (i) Up-to-date valid trade licence, (ii) Up-to-date income tax clearance certificate, (iii) Valid VAT registration certificate. e) The minimum amount of liquid assets i.e. working capital or credit line(s) (as per Form PSN-5) of the tenderer shall be Tk 3,50,000.00 (three lakh and fifty thousand). The supporting bank documents submitted must be issued in between publication date and submission date of this tender. f) All other required qualifications, terms & conditions of the tenderer are shown in the Tender Data Sheet (TDS) & special terms & condition of tender documents. Necessary supporting documents are to be submitted as per requirement of ITT Clauses & Technical specification with the tender.
24	Brief description of services	Supplying of 4 (four) Drivers and 1 (one) Office Helper in Outsourcing basis.
25	Price of tender document (Tk)	Tk 1,000/- (one thousand) only (non-refundable).
26	Package No.	Identification of package
27	OTM-01/2020-21	প্রকল্প বাস্তুর ইলিনিট, নগরাঞ্চলের ভবন সুরক্ষা প্রকল্প, গবর্নর অধিবক্তৃত এ আউটসোর্সিং পদ্ধতিতে মাসিক মহুরী ভিত্তিতে ৪ জন গাড়িগাড়ক ও ১ জন অফিস সহায়ক সরবাহকরণ কাজ।
28	PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS	Md. Anisuzzaman Ibne Omar.
29	Designation of official inviting tender	Executive Engineer (Procurement).
30	Address of official inviting tender	Urban Building Safety Project.
31	Contact details of official inviting tender	Phone: 47120683 Fax: 9588700 Email: ee_ubsp@pwd.gov.bd
32	The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all the tenders or annul the tender proceedings.	Md. Anisuzzaman Ibne Omar Executive Engineer (Procurement) Urban Building Safety Project (UBSP) Public Works Department, Purta Bhaban, Segunbagicha, Dhaka

20 more die

FROM PAGE 12

the 500,000-mark on December 20.

The first death was reported on March 18 and the death toll exceeded 7,000 on December 12.

So far 3,149,348 tests have been carried out, including 13,510 new ones. And the overall infection rate stood at 16.11 percent.

Bangladesh is seeing 2,978.54 infections, 2,635.26 recoveries, and 43.44 deaths per million.

Covid-sniffing

FROM PAGE 12

Passengers at an airport health checkpoint wipe their necks and wrists with gauze pads that are then put in glass containers and sent to the dogs to see if they detect Covid-19.

Sniffer dogs are best-known for finding drugs and explosives but have also previously been trained to detect malaria, cancer and Parkinson's disease.

Dogs trained to detect the coronavirus have already begun sniffing passenger samples at airports in the United Arab Emirates and Finland.

A study recently found dogs can identify infected individuals with 85% to 100% accuracy and rule out infection with 92% to 99% accuracy.

Chile's Carabinero police trained the dogs and Inspector General Esteban Diaz said dogs have more than 3 million olfactory receptors, more than 50 times those of humans, so were uniquely placed to help fight the coronavirus.

Infections in Chile are far down from a peak in June but have begun rising again with about 2,000 new cases on average reported each day, according to a Reuters tally.

Chile has a total of 589,189 confirmed cases and 16,217 deaths from the disease.

Don't squander sacrifices

FROM PAGE 12

"Despite so much loss, we have built so much hope. Vaccines are offering the world a way out of this tragedy. But it will take time for the whole world to be vaccinated."

According to the WHO's overview of different candidate vaccines, 61 have entered human trials, 16 of which have reached final-stage mass testing.

A further 172 candidate vaccines are being developed in laboratories with a view to eventual human testing.

Tedros said: "We must continue taking comfort in the fact that by caring for others, through acts of solidarity and safety, we can share the greatest gift of all: the gift of life."

SHARE VACCINES

Pope Francis said in his Christmas message that fraternity was a watchword for these unusually troubled times exacerbated by the pandemic.

"At this moment in history, marked by the ecological crisis and grave economic and social imbalances only worsened by the coronavirus pandemic, it is all the more important

for us to acknowledge one another as brothers and sisters," he said in his "Urbi et Orbi" message.

He said this call for solidarity was especially aimed at "people who are the most fragile, the sick and all who at this period find themselves without work or in grave difficulty due to the economic consequences of the pandemic and to women who have been subjected to domestic violence during these months of confinement."

The pontiff also called for nations to share Covid-19 vaccines, saying walls of nationalism could not be built to stop a pandemic that knows no borders.

Christmas festivities began yesterday, with hundreds of millions across the world under coronavirus restrictions celebrating a pared-down version of a holiday typically marked by travel and large gatherings.

The battle to halt the pandemic is far from over despite the launching of mass vaccine campaigns that offer the promise of an eventual return to normalcy.



Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman cannot hold back his tears while laying the foundation of Mashru Rahman Memorial in Jessore on December 26, 1972.

'Don't bargain with stranded

FROM PAGE 12

wipe out the armed miscreants and anti-social elements who have been harassing the peace-loving citizens. He cautions the people that Pakistani agents and collaborators of certain foreign powers are active inside the country to jeopardise the hard-earned independence. He declares that if necessary, the army will be deployed to crush these armed hooligans.

Referring to ensuring the general

elections, which will be the first in free Bangladesh, the prime minister says that people have confidence in him. "I will quit the post of prime minister if my people want me to do so," declares Bangabandhu.

The prime minister returns to Dhaka today evening after a two-day tour of Jessore and Faridpur districts.

SOURCES: December 27, 1972 issues of *Bangladesh Observer*, *Dainik Bangla* and *Dainik Ittefaq*.

Britons in two minds about

FROM PAGE 12

whether it's the council next door, or the countries next door, it works better if we work together. So that's the way I see it," he said.

In London the news of the deal was also met with relief.

"It would've been a disaster if there would've been no deal, so very pleased that there is," Shane O'Neill said.

O'Neill added he would have preferred for Britain to remain in the European Union but that ultimately "now the debate is over and we need to move on".

Student Harry Vincent said it was a "relief" to have a deal but questioned whether it would have been better to remain in the EU.

He said the compromises that had been necessary to strike a deal "sort of made me wonder whether it was worth it to begin with it all".

In the Scottish capital of Edinburgh, which voted overwhelmingly to remain in the European Union,

Sharmila Hutchinson, a bank employee, said she hadn't supported Brexit and was "gutted to not be part of Europe anymore".

"It does make me nervous to think how I'm going to visit the European cities and friends," the 35-year-old said.

Henry Gray, a charity worker, said Brexit had brought him to think Scotland should become an independent country.

"I think we could be led better