



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

PHOTO: AFP

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 Boughey 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.

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.

Modi offers

FROM PAGE 12

them at the mercy of big corporates.

In a speech beamed live to millions of farmers across the country, Modi sought to allay their misgivings, insisting the laws, passed in September, would give them the freedom to sell their produce "anywhere and to anyone they like".

"Lies are being spread that the local mandis (markets) will shut down, the minimum support price will be stopped... don't be misguided by those having political motives," Modi said.

"I am saying this with humility that we are ready to discuss every issue of the farmers, even with those (political parties) who are against us, for the sake of our farmers."

Modi also released \$2.5 billion to 90 million farmers under a financial scheme that his party launched last year.

Under the direct cash transfer scheme, small farmers get 6,000 rupees (\$82) in four instalments in a year.

Modi also interacted with seven farmers from different states via a video conference in which they praised the government's various farm schemes.

Agriculture employs about 70 percent of India's 1.3 billion people and accounts for 15 percent of its \$2.7 trillion economy.

But in recent decades farm incomes have stagnated, and experts say the sector badly needs investment and modernisation.

Farmer unions have demanded a total repeal of the laws and warned of a bigger agitation if their demands are not met.

Several rounds of talks between ministers and farmer leaders have failed to produce a breakthrough so far.

Russia opens criminal probe into Navalny ally over 'threat'

AFP, Moscow

Russian authorities yesterday opened a criminal probe into an ally of opposition leader Alexei Navalny after raiding her flat, alleging she threatened a man Navalny claimed took part in his poisoning.

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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 Mashiur Rahman Memorial in Jessore on December 26, 1972.

'Don't bargain with stranded

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,

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 ministership 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

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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 "guttured 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 from Scotland. It would be nice to feel we would be part of the EU still," he said.

His comment was echoed on Thursday by First Minister Nicola Sturgeon.

"Before the spin starts, it's worth remembering that Brexit is happening against Scotland's will. And there is no deal that will ever make up for what Brexit takes away from us. It's time to chart our own future as an independent, European nation," she said.

Turkey wants 'better ties' with

FROM PAGE 12

impossible for us to accept Israel's Palestine policies. Their merciless acts there are unacceptable," Erdogan told reporters after Friday prayers in Istanbul.

"If there were no issues at the top level (in Israel), our ties could have been very different," he said, adding that the two countries continued to share intelligence. "We would have liked to bring our ties to a better point."

Israel's Foreign Ministry declined to comment on Erdogan's statement. Turkey and Israel expelled each other's ambassadors in 2018 after Israeli forces killed dozens of Palestinians in clashes on the Gaza border.

In August this year, Israel accused Turkey of giving passports to a dozen Hamas members in Istanbul, describing the move as "a very unfriendly step".

Hamas seized Gaza from forces loyal to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in 2007, and the group has fought three wars with Israel since then. Turkey says Hamas is a legitimate political movement that won power through democratic elections.

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 Memo No. 25.36.0000.600.03.010.16.409 Date: 23-12-2020													
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											
KEY INFORMATION													
9	Procurement method	OTM.											
FUNDING INFORMATION													
10	Budget and source of funds	GOB.											
11	Development partners (if applicable)	N/A.											
PARTICULAR INFORMATION													
12	Project/program code (if applicable)	224029400											
13	Project name (if applicable)	Urban Building Safety Project.											
14	Tender Package No.	OTM-01/2020-21											
15	Tender package name	প্রকল্প বাস্তবায়ন ইউনিট, নগরায়নের ভবন সুরক্ষা প্রকল্প, গণপূর্ত অধিদপ্তর এ আউটসোর্সিং পদ্ধতিতে মাসিক মঞ্জুরী ভিত্তিতে ৪ জন পাতিয়ালক ও ১ জন অফিস সহায়ক সরবরাহকরণ কাজ।											
Date													
16	Tender publication date	23-12-2020											
17	Tender last selling date	12-01-2021											
Date													
18	Tender closing date and time	13-01-2021 12:00pm											
19	Tender opening date and time	13-01-2021 03:00pm											
20	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 12-storied 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-12/3/4, City PWD Division, Dhaka. iv) Sub-Divisional Engineer, Dhaka PWD Sub-Division-5, 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 12-storied 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.													
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER													
21	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.											
22	Brief description of services	Supplying of 4 (four) Drivers and 1 (one) Office Helper in Outsourcing basis.											
23	Price of tender document (Tk)	Tk 1,000/- (one thousand) only (non-refundable).											
<table><tr><td>Package No.</td><td>Identification of package</td><td>Location</td><td>Tender security amount (Tk)</td><td>Completion time in weeks/months</td></tr><tr><td>OTM-01/2020-21</td><td>প্রকল্প বাস্তবায়ন ইউনিট, নগরায়নের ভবন সুরক্ষা প্রকল্প, গণপূর্ত অধিদপ্তর এ আউটসোর্সিং পদ্ধতিতে মাসিক মঞ্জুরী ভিত্তিতে ৪ জন পাতিয়ালক ও ১ জন অফিস সহায়ক সরবরাহকরণ কাজ।</td><td>Dhaka</td><td>50,000.00 (fifty thousand)</td><td>12 months</td></tr></table>				Package No.	Identification of package	Location	Tender security amount (Tk)	Completion time in weeks/months	OTM-01/2020-21	প্রকল্প বাস্তবায়ন ইউনিট, নগরায়নের ভবন সুরক্ষা প্রকল্প, গণপূর্ত অধিদপ্তর এ আউটসোর্সিং পদ্ধতিতে মাসিক মঞ্জুরী ভিত্তিতে ৪ জন পাতিয়ালক ও ১ জন অফিস সহায়ক সরবরাহকরণ কাজ।	Dhaka	50,000.00 (fifty thousand)	12 months
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PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS													
24	Name of official inviting tender	Md. Anisuzzaman Ibne Omar.											
25	Designation of official inviting tender	Executive Engineer (Procurement).											
26	Address of official inviting tender	Urban Building Safety Project.											
27	Contact details of official inviting tender	Phone: 47120683	Fax: 9588700	Email: ee_ubsp@pwd.gov.bd									
28	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													
GD-2070													