

Sirajul Islam passes away

CITY DESK

Sirajul Islam, a former official of Padma Oil Company, died on March 26 in Lahore, Pakistan while undergoing treatment. He was 79, said a press release.



He left behind his wife Selima Islam, daughters Rumana Islam and Wajida Islam, siblings, grandchildren and numerous well-wishers to mourn him.

Sirajul Islam worked for Padma Oil Company for a long time. Prior to his retirement in 1999, he was the resident manager of the company.

His body will arrive at Dhaka airport around 5am tomorrow and will be kept for some time at his ancestral residence: 4/1 (B), Block-E, Lalmatia, Dhaka.

He will be laid to rest at Banani graveyard after a namaz-e-janaza at Lalmatia Bibi Mosque at 1:30pm on the same day. Family members of the deceased requested all to attend the funeral prayers.

'UN instrument key to upholding rights, protecting environment'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The UN draft resolution on business and human rights is crucial for upholding human rights, and protecting environment and labour rights, speakers said yesterday.

Talking at a webinar on the draft UN resolution, they also mentioned that Bangladesh will need to have an action plan on how the instrument will be implemented in the country.

International Business Forum of Bangladesh (IBFB) and Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI) jointly organised the webinar.

Distinguished Fellow of BEI Ambassador Farooq Sobhan said the international community has taken several attempts to prepare a resolution.

In the past, developing countries tried to impress on developed countries that transnational or multi-national companies should follow code of conduct in developing countries, particularly in regards to upholding human rights, protecting the environment, respecting labour rights and avoiding corrupt business practices.

But developed countries, and International Chamber of Commerce said there should be a code

for every party, not only multinational companies.

Bangladesh Environment Lawyers Association Chief Executive Syeda Rizwana Hasan presented the keynote paper.

She said: "We should be associated with such instruments, as foreign companies are working in almost all big mega projects."

Due to the way work of flyovers is going on, the country's air quality became the worst globally, she said. "If you ask the same companies to work the way they do in China and Japan, they would not be allowed to work in the same style."

Supreme Court Lawyer Jyotirmoy Barua said Bangladesh will need to address the issue of how the UN resolution would be implemented. "Until a domestic law recognises it or a local law was made, international instruments cannot be executed directly in Bangladesh."

Dhaka University's Assistant Professor of Law Mohammad Golam Sarwar said Bangladesh needs to revise its laws, so that it can make corporations accountable for environmental pollution.

BEI President Ambassador Humayun Kabir delivered the welcome remarks, and IBFB President Humayun Rashid presided over the webinar.

Language veteran Yusuf Kalu no more

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

Mohammad Yusuf Kalu, a Language Movement veteran, freedom fighter and journalist, died at Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital in Barishal on Monday, aged 90.

He left behind his wife, a son, and a host of relatives and well-wishers.

Born on January 18, 1931, Yusuf joined the Language Movement while studying at Barisal Brojomohon Institution.

In 1971, he joined the Liberation War under sector-9, said Putul Chandra Ghosh, a freedom fighter.

Yusuf was buried at Kanudaskathi Miyabari in Rajapur, Jhalakathi following state honour and namaz-e-janaza yesterday.

Two 'JMB men' arrested with firearm, ammo

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detectives yesterday claimed to have arrested two members of banned militant outfit Jamatu Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) with a firearm and ammunition in the capital's Tejguri Bazar area on Monday.

A pistol, two bullets and Tk 35,000 in cash were seized from Asifur Rahman (26) and Piash Sheikh (28), they said. They opted for robbery to avoid money, said Shahadat Hossain Suma, an additional deputy commissioner (Tejgaon Division) of the Detective Branch of DMP.

Accused in separate cases under the Anti-Terrorism Act 2013, both were arrested earlier, said Shahadat. The DB official said this group spends its robbed money for the fellow militants in prisons and financially insolvent ones.

They established a food delivery shop named "Halal and Fresh" and under its banner, they carry out militant activities and spread their ideology, the ADC said.

According to detectives, at least 14 persons were arrested in connection with at least six robberies in Hatirjheel, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar and Mohammadpur between October last year and February this year.

Some of them gave confessional statements before magistrates and revealed militants' involvement in robbery.

New political

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of which Dr Kamal Hossain is chairman. Amin is also chairman of the Center for Security and Development Studies, an NGO.

AMSA Amin said many political parties exist in the country but most of them create problems. "In the last 50 years, they couldn't be the part of resolving problem as anarchy is currently prevailing everywhere in the country."

Amin also said major political parties failed to bring honest, meritorious and quality individuals to politics.

"Today, democracy, election and human rights are at stake. We will have to establish morality in politics... To meet this necessity, Noitik Samaj [Moral Society] has been established,"

he added.

Welcoming the party, Dr Kamal emphasised that new generations should be taught morality.

"Morality and honesty must be nurtured. Wicked people cannot and will not lead us forever," said the noted jurist.

Dr Kamal also said everyone must be united against injustice.

Addressing the event, Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury said absence of morality is seen everywhere.

He said minorities are being persecuted one after another and the ruling party people committed all these heinous activities. "All these are happening due to a lack of moral sense," he added.

He also criticised the recent killing of Hefajat men in different parts of the country.

Asif Nazrul said, "I want to be optimistic when I see something new. We have lost morality from society. Without morality, no good initiative can take place. If there is morality, it is possible to stand up against injustice."

Pointing to Hefajat's vandalism, Asif Nazrul said, "Who had patronised Hefajat and brought them to the present state?"

"It is the present government that has given the scope," he said.

He further said, "What message is being given through not giving space to BNP, Jamaat and left parties to exercise politics?"

Noitik Samaj leaders -- former Justice Abdus Salam Mamun, and Maj (retd) Mujibur Haque -- among others, were present at the event on the occasion.

Renovation

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Under the project, four-foot deep drain has been constructed to improve the park's drainage system. Earlier, the park used to remain submerged due to rain. There are also benches, a fountain, and two restrooms inside the park. Also, the park's boundary railings have been removed.

There is also a plaque, highlighting when it was reopened.

"Seems like, that's all the city corporation did. They renovated the park, which we appreciated of course. But what about maintaining it?" said Anwarul Haque, an elderly Old Dhaka resident.

WHAT AUTHORITIES SAY

The park falls under ward-42 of DSCC.

Regarding its present situation, councillor Mohammad Selim (ward-42) said he has asked the city corporation for help but to no avail.

"Visitors cannot sit at the north side of the park as bus drivers park their vehicles there and urinate publicly. To solve the problem, we have a plan to turn it into a garden," he said.

"This is the only open place we have in the area. Some floating people and junkies occupy the area, but police are not doing anything about it. If they could be rehabilitated, it would have been better," he added.

"Besides, we need guards and dedicated cleaners for the park. I have to clean the park with cleaners of the ward," said Selim.

Asked, DSCC zonal officer-4 Haider Ali said, "It's an open space and accessible to all. Therefore, people from any tier of life can visit the place. But if the floating people sleep at the park and the situation is not environment-friendly, we'll look into the matter."

Regarding maintenance, he said, "Our workers keep the park clean regularly. However, visitors need to be aware too. They continue to make the place dirty by throwing garbage. We will take steps in this regard."

Contacted, Muhit Kabir Semiabat, additional deputy commissioner (Kotwali zone) of Lalbagh division police, said they have noticed that a small group of street children used to take shelter near the park.

"They used to sniff glue (inhalant) there. We often conducted drives and sent them to shelter homes. But more started to gather in Sadarghat area after travelling from different parts of the country," he said.

Police are also working to create awareness through bit-policing among shopkeepers and local inhabitants in this regard, said ADC Semiabat.

He appealed to voluntary organisations to come forward to help these children and said police would provide all necessary support.

Little heed to

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"It takes time to develop antibody after receiving vaccine. In fact, minimum two weeks is required to develop antibody in one's body after receiving the second dose of vaccine," added Dr Abdur Rob.

"Moreover, I think, some new strains of mutated coronavirus, which are more contagious, are responsible for the present sharp rise in Covid-19 cases," he said, "So there is no alternative to strictly following health rules until the pandemic is under control."

Contacted, Dr Hasan Shahriar Kabir said he wrote three letters to Chattogram District Administration to go for tough stance to ensure maintenance of health guidelines in the city.

"As we have received the 18-point instruction from the government regarding maintaining health rules, we have asked the restaurants to serve customers at half capacity. Same instructions have been given to public transport owners and recreation centres," he said, "I hope the administration would ensure that these instructions are being followed properly."

Contacted, Sumani Akter, additional district magistrate of Chattogram, said the district administration's mobile courts have already began drives in different areas to ensure adherence to health guidelines.

Asked why so many people are still seen in public without face masks, she said the administration would go for tougher action starting today.

Until March 7, there were 35,788 total cases detected in Chattogram, while the death count was 378. Within about three weeks, the number of total detected cases rose to 39,706, and the death count stands at 385.

Advertisement for 'দি ইনস্টিটিউট অব ব্যাংকার্স, বাংলাদেশ (আইবিবি)' featuring a portrait of a man and text about a seminar.

Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) TENDER NOTICE for OTM-Goods (Re-Invitation) for computer and printer equipment.

Ctg man FROM PAGE 3 of Sandwip police station told this correspondent, "Atikur first raped the girl at their house in 2011, when she was 16. Since then, he has raped her many times, threatening to withdraw support for her education if she didn't comply."

Large advertisement for 'বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক' (Bangladesh Bank) regarding recruitment and services.