

5YRS OF GULSHAN CAFE ATTACK

'Hate will never win'

Remembering the friends lost

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Envoys of various countries to Bangladesh, police officials, people of all walks of life and relatives have paid tributes to those killed in the militant attack at Holey Artisan Bakery in the capital's Gulshan on July 1, 2016.

Marking the fifth anniversary of the heinous militant attack, they also renewed their commitment to fight religious extremism and terrorism.

Five Bangladeshis, one Indian, nine Italian and seven Japanese nationals were killed in the attack at the upscale restaurant.

The deceased include Bangladeshi nationals Faraaz Ayaaz Hossain (20), Ishrat Akhond (45), Abinta Kabir (19), Rabiul Karim (34), Salauddin Khan (49); Indian national Tarishi Jain (19); Italian citizens Marco Tondat (39), Vincenzo D'Allerstro (46), Nadia Benedetti (52), Maria Rivoli (33), Adele Puglisi (50), Claudio Cappelli (45), Christian Rossi (47), Claudia Maria D'antona (56),

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Major thoroughfares in cities have once again become deserted as the strict lockdown came into effect yesterday. With law enforcers tasked with patrolling the roads alongside army and BGB, the situation is likely to remain like this until next week. This photo was taken from Chattogram city's New Market intersection. PHOTO: RAJIB RATHAN

LOCKDOWN OUTSIDE DHAKA

Streets empty, alleys packed

STAR REPORT

Most of the streets and intersections in the cities outside the capital were largely empty on the first day of the seven-day "strict lockdown" yesterday, but the alleys remained crowded with people.

Law enforcers, along with army and BGB, were seen active in the roads and highways making sure people were not stepping out of their homes without any valid reasons.

Meanwhile, mobile courts were playing "hide and seek" with law enforcers. Mobile courts filed cases and fined a number of people who came to the road to "see" the lockdown, or failed to give any valid reasons to law enforcers.

In the port city of Chattogram, police arrested 21 people in Agrabad area as they came to the road to see the lockdown. They were freed after two hours with undertakings, said OC Mohammed Mohsin of Double Mooring Police Station.

Meanwhile, mobile courts of Chattogram district filed 37 cases in different spots in the city. Nine executive magistrates conducted the courts and fined people Tk 13,700 in total.

Executive Magistrate Omar Faruk said the mobile courts fined those who stepped out of home without any valid reasons and restaurants that violated lockdown rules.

On the first day of lockdown, most of the city streets were almost empty with little to no presence of rickshaws, motorbikes and private cars.

However, the alleys remained crammed with people. Vendors were seen selling products to people while many crowded grocery stores for daily essentials.

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Migrant workers' inoculation could start from Tuesday

Says expat welfare ministry; workers must be registered with BMET to avail it

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The expatriates' welfare ministry yesterday said outbound migrant workers have to be registered with Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET) first to have access to the Surokkha app for Covid-19 vaccine registration.

"Once the [BMET] registration is done, your [migrant workers'] name and passport number will automatically reach health [authorities]," said expatriates' welfare minister Imran Ahmad.

He was addressing journalists at the capital's Kurmitola General Hospital where migrant workers gathered for vaccine.

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Repeal 'vindictive' actions against two CoU teachers

Univ Teachers' Network demands

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An alliance of university teachers yesterday strongly condemned what they termed 'vindictive' punishment against two teachers of mass communication and journalism department at Comilla University, and demanded that the decisions be repealed.

A written statement signed by 156 teachers of various public and private universities said the punitive action against Mahbulul Haque Bhuiyan -- on allegation of providing information to media about anomalies in admission test at Comilla University -- as "abnormal" and "indicative of ill-intention on the university authority's part".

Demanding repulsion of the decision, the statement said, "University Teachers' Network thinks such a decision does not only harm Mahbulul as a person, but is a threat to the dignity and safety of a university teacher, which is an ominous sign for the education environment."

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INDIGENOUS PEOPLE LIVING IN PLAINLANDS

Form a separate land commission for them

Speakers demand at MJF webinar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a webinar on Wednesday demanded a separate land commission for indigenous people living on plainlands.

Titled "Separate Land Commission for Plainland Ethnic People", it was organised by Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) and its partner organisations.

MJF executive director Shaheen Anam presided over the programme. She said, "Indigenous people are being evicted from their lands in different parts of the country. Land grabbers are acting up in various ways, and to stop this, everyone should be more vocal against them."

"The government must immediately set up a separate land commission for the indigenous people as promised in its

election manifesto," she added.

Bangladesh Indigenous Forum president Sanjeeb Drong presented the keynote paper in the webinar. He said the current government promised in 2008 to form a land commission for the indigenous people of plainlands.

"AL's election manifesto stated in paragraph 18 they will eliminate terrorism, discrimination and human rights violations against religious minorities, ethnic minorities, and tea garden workers; protect their lives, property and dignity; and ensure equality in every sphere of their life."

AL also mentioned that a land commission will be formed with special measures to protect traditional rights of

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Tanweer Karim passes away

CITY DESK

Mohammed Tanweer Karim passed away on June 29 in Dallas, Texas in USA.

He was 74, says a press release.

He left behind his mother, wife, two daughters, two grandchildren, three brothers and a host of relatives and friends.

Mohammed Tanweer Karim was born in Dhaka. He was an architect by profession and graduated from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) in its 1971 batch.

His namaz-janaza will be held today after Juma prayer at Plano Mosque, Dallas.

All are requested to pray for the departed soul.

Demand for ICU beds rising in Ctg

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

With the sharp rise in Covid-19 cases in Chattogram, accommodating the surge of patients is becoming difficult in government hospitals with limited ICU facilities.

Besides, most upazila health complexes do not have the facility of high-flow nasal cannula (HFNC). Many don't even have central oxygen supply.

Only three of 14 upazila health complexes in Chattogram have HFNC facility while eight of those have central oxygen supply system.

"We had over a year to fix those but we couldn't," said public health expert Prof Dr Shakeel Ahmed, also head of Bangladesh Institute of Tropical and Infectious Diseases (BITID) laboratory.

However, all health complexes have Covid-19 isolation beds. Dr Abdur Rob, a senior consultant of medicine and head of Covid-19 ward of Chattogram General Hospital, said only three ICU beds out of 18 in Chattogram General Hospital were available yesterday.

Meanwhile, sources at Chattogram Medical College Hospital said eight of 10 ICU beds dedicated for Covid-19 patients in the hospital were occupied.

Only these two government hospitals have ICU support in Chattogram where patients can avail the facility at a cheaper cost.

However, there are some 50 ICU beds in private hospitals in the city but most patients cannot afford those.

The private hospitals charge Tk 20,000 to Tk 30,000 a day for this facility, said patients and sources at the hospitals.

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Doa mahfil for Latifur Rahman, Faraaz held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A doa mahfil for Latifur Rahman, founder chairman and CEO of Transcom Group, and his grandson Faraaz Ayaaz Hossain was held at The Daily Star Centre yesterday.

Journalists and officials of the newspaper joined the event at the conference room, maintaining physical distancing.

The doa mahfil was arranged marking the first death anniversary of Latifur Rahman and fifth death anniversary of Faraaz.

Faraaz, a student of Emory University in Atlanta, US, was brutally killed by terrorists during the July 1 attack at the Holey Artisan Bakery in Gulshan in 2016.

Latifur was the founding director of Mediaworld, the company that owns The Daily Star, and chairman of Mediastar, the owning company of Prothom Alo. The newspapers are the leading English and Bangla dailies in the country.

Soft-spoken and humble, the visionary and ethical businessman passed away in

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MINI BYTES



Facebook gets into the newsletter game with 'Bulletin'

ZARIF FAIAZ

With a new service called Bulletin, Facebook is getting into the subscription newsletter business, allowing writers to create free and paid newsletters that can be shared across Facebook, as well as posted to the web and distributed to subscribers' inboxes. Facebook says that it would not charge writers a fee initially, and that writers will retain complete control over their work and subscriber list.

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg stated the new platform is "focused on empowering independent writers, helping them reach new audiences and supporting their businesses." Facebook has already signed up Malcolm Gladwell, Tan France, and Erin Andrews to cover a variety of topics, ranging from sports and finance to science and medicine.

Bulletin is a direct answer to Substack's and other newsletter software's increasing popularity. A number of well-known writers, like Glenn Greenwald and Anne Helen Petersen, use Substack, and the company has been recruiting talent with guaranteed rewards. Subscriptions are taken at a 10% discount through Substack. Revue, another newsletter platform, was also recently purchased by Twitter.

Bulletin, according to Zuckerberg, is part of Facebook's commitment to expand its creative monetization

options. He stated, "The goal here across the organization is to someday assist millions of people performing creative work."

Bulletin is currently closed to new signups. Facebook has hired a number of authors for a beta period, with the promise of adding more over time.

The social media platform has had a tumultuous relationship with the news industry, which reached a head in February after a spat with the Australian government over content payment. As high-profile journalists and writers have left media companies to strike out on their own in the last year, Facebook is attempting to compete in the fast-growing email newsletter trend. Facebook announced in April that it would pay \$5 million to hire local journalists to write for its new publishing platform.

Bulletin represents a common Facebook approach: developing competitor-like products within the company. While Facebook continues to grow its user base, it is wary of startups that could divert consumers away from its main platform and other apps. It occasionally acquires rivals, like it did with WhatsApp and Instagram in the 2010s.

One of such products, Live Audio Rooms, revealed earlier in June, was used by Zuckerberg to announce the debut of Bulletin. Live Audio Rooms was Facebook's response to Clubhouse, another budding media start-up.



Failing to get a ride amid the lockdown to catch his flight, Shahzada, a Bangladeshi expatriate working in Saudi Arabia, yesterday decided to reach Dhaka airport from Gabtoli Technical, a 15 to 20-km journey, on foot. Starting his journey around 8am for his afternoon flight, he got exhausted after reaching Jahangir Gate. After a bit of rest, a resolute Shahzada resumed his walk. This photojournalist could not confirm whether he was able to make it to his destination, but we sure hope so.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN