



Musleha Islam no more

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Musleha Islam breathed her last yesterday, at the age of 93.

She passed away in her sleep due to old age complications.

Widowed at the age of 30 after her husband Farukul Islam -- an insurance pioneer and co-worker of young Bangabandhu and Awami League -- passed away in 1959, she raised her four children as a single mother and imbibed them with courage, patriotism, and values of serving the society.

She had a strong, charismatic personality and was deeply loved by everyone who got to know her.

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For Kamini (orange jasmine) to bloom, the stars have to align. The sun has to give way to the clouds and thunder has to cry. Kamini only blooms in monsoon. But for the rest of the year, there's Rabindranath Tagore's numerous poems and pieces to remind you of the flower, and the season that hosts it. On 22nd Srabon, the death anniversary of the Bard, may the Kaminis of the world and the bees around them remind all of him. This photo was taken on Tuesday from Khulna's Dumuria.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Declare vaccines as a public good

Civil society groups urge govt

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Civil society groups and private sector leaders from home and abroad yesterday called for lifting the restrictions set in the WTO's Trade-Related Intellectual Property (TRIP) rights and declaring Covid vaccine as public goods to fight the coronavirus pandemic.

They said the UN should work to lift WTO restrictions on vaccines and the Bangladesh government should also take an effective policy to ensure vaccines for all.

The calls came at a webinar titled "Emerging Issues in Access to Treatment for Covid-19 in Bangladesh" jointly organised by Equity BD, People's Health Movement Bangladesh and the Third World Network.

Prof Dr Rashid-E-Mahbub, former pro-vice chancellor of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, said, "We need a global socialistic view to ensure vaccination for all. We need vaccines on an equity basis, not on a profit base."

KM Gopakumar, senior researcher and legal advisor of Third World Network, an international non-profit based in Malaysia, said people in developing countries and LDCs need access to vaccines and other health products to survive the pandemic, which requires widespread availability of these health products.

TRIPS waiver offers the policy space to do away with the IP (intellectual property) monopoly and facilitate the scaling up or production through diversification of the manufacturing base, he said.

"There is an urgent need to negotiate a smooth transition period for graduating LDCs to address concerns on matters affecting peoples' health," he said.

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Sheikh Kamal's 72nd anniversary of birth observed

BSS, Dhaka

The 72nd birth anniversary of Sheikh Kamal, the eldest son of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, was observed in a befitting manner yesterday.

Marking the day, Awami League, its associate bodies and different political, socio-cultural and sports organisations drew up elaborate programmes, maintaining health protocols.

Leaders and activists of AL and its associate bodies paid tribute to Sheikh Kamal by placing wreaths at his portrait on Dhanmondi Abahani Club premises at 9am.

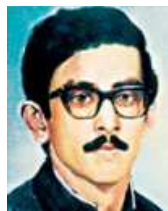
Wreaths were laid at his grave at Banani Graveyard at 9:15am.

Later, recitation of the Holy Quran, milad and doa mahfil were held.

Besides, Abahani Limited also chalked out various programmes to observe his birth anniversary.

Born on August 5, 1949 at Tungipara in Gopalganj, Sheikh Kamal was an executive member of the central committee of Chhatra League.

He was one of the pioneers of modern football in Bangladesh and also founder-president of Abahani Krira Chakra.



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HC clears way for by-polls to Sylhet-3

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday cleared the way for the Election Commission to resume the process for holding by-election to Sylhet-3 constituency.

The court said the EC is at liberty to hold the by-polls at any convenient date before September 7.

The EC postponed voting of the by-election, which was scheduled to be held on July 28, till further notice as the HC on July 26 had ordered for suspending the polling till August 5 due to the ongoing "strict lockdown".

During hearing a writ petition, the HC yesterday said there is a time limit for holding the by-election to Sylhet-3 by September 7 as per the constitutional provision.

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'He seems like a made-up person'

HC summons petitioner, who challenged transfer of Ctg ACC official, to confirm his identity

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday summoned one Md Shahidul Islam Liton, who filed a writ petition with this court challenging the transfer of an Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) official, Md Sharif Uddin, in Chattogram, to appear before it along with his lawyer on August 26 to be sure about his (petitioner) identity, apprehending him to be fictitious.

The petitioner and his lawyer Md Mahadi Hassan have been ordered to appear in person before the HC bench led by Justice M Enayetur Rahim at 10:30am on August 26 to explain their conducts.

"Md Shahidul Islam Liton has filed the petition claiming himself the president of Cox's Bazar's Chakoria Manobadhikar. But in the petition, it has been mentioned that his address is at Arambagh in Dhaka. He seems like a fictitious person. We want to see him in person," said Justice Enayetur Rahim.

The HC bench also directed the ACC to conduct an inquiry into the incident of fraud in its order regarding the transfer of ACC deputy assistant director Md Sharif Uddin.

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WORKERS STRANDED AT HOME

Revoke entry ban for those vaccinated: envoy asks Italy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has urged Italy to waive its present restrictive measures at least for the stranded Bangladeshi expatriates who have fully vaccinated and allow them enter the European country.

Bangladesh Ambassador in Rome Shameem Ahsan made the call during a meeting with Vice Minister (Deputy Foreign Minister) at the Italian Foreign Ministry Marina Sereni on Wednesday.

The issue of allowing few thousand Bangladeshi nationals, who are stranded at home due to existing measures on

movement for Covid-19, came prominently at the meeting, according to a Facebook post of the Bangladesh mission.

The Italian deputy foreign minister assured to convey Bangladesh ambassador's concerns to the highest level at the Italian health ministry as the issue is within their jurisdiction, reads the post.

Contacted, Arfaul Hoque, labour welfare counsellor at Bangladesh Embassy in Rome, yesterday said in June they had collected a list of about 6,000 stranded Bangladeshi expatriates from different travel agencies in Bangladesh.

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Piyasha's two aides remanded

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed Sharful Hasan alias Mishu Hasan and Masudul Hasan alias Jisan, associates of model and former TV presenter Faria Mahbub Piyasha, on remand in five cases with Bhatara and Khilkhet police stations.

Mishu was remanded for nine days against a 27-day remand prayer in three cases filed with Bhatara Police Station under the Arms Act, Narcotics Control Act and Pornography Act.

On the other hand, Jisan was put on a seven-day remand against a 27-day remand prayer in three cases filed with Bhatara and Khilkhet police stations under the Narcotics Control Act, Special Powers Act and Pornography Act.

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Barishal division sees highest daily deaths

15 die of Covid, 17 with symptoms; 858 more test positive

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

The Barishal division has seen the highest number of deaths and infections in the last 24 hours till yesterday morning.

A total of 32 people died in the division yesterday. Of them, 15 were Covid positive and 17 had symptoms, said Dr Shyamal Krishna Mandal, assistant director of the divisional health directorate.

He said yesterday, 858 people tested Covid positive out of 2,363 tests, taking the infection rate up to 36.31.

The total number of infected people in the division stands at 36,998 since the start of the pandemic, he confirmed.

The situation at Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital (SBMCH) reflects the state of the division. In the 24 hours till yesterday morning, 17 people, who had Covid-19 or showed symptoms, died at the hospital's isolation ward.

Dr Moniruzzaman Shahin, assistant director of SBMCH, said a total of 1,165 people died of Covid symptoms while 334 people died after testing positive at the hospital.

According to the hospital director's office, 343 people are being treated in the hospital's Covid unit at the moment.

It was also found that the hospital's RT PCR lab tested a total of 189 samples during the period, of whom 93 tested positive at an infection rate of 48.14 percent.

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'Train executive magistrates on conducting mobile courts'

HC verbally orders govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday verbally ordered authorities concerned of the government to provide training to executive magistrates concerned, so that they can conduct mobile courts properly and legally.

The HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim asked Attorney General AM Amin Uddin to talk to the cabinet division secretary to take necessary steps.

"After going through newspaper reports, I have noticed that some executive magistrates conducted mobile courts for punishing offenders a few days after the crimes were committed, which is not allowed under the relevant law. The mobile court must hold trial of the offence on the spot," Justice M Enayetur Rahim said.

The offence committed by a minor has to be tried by the children's court, the HC bench said, while hearing a petition filed

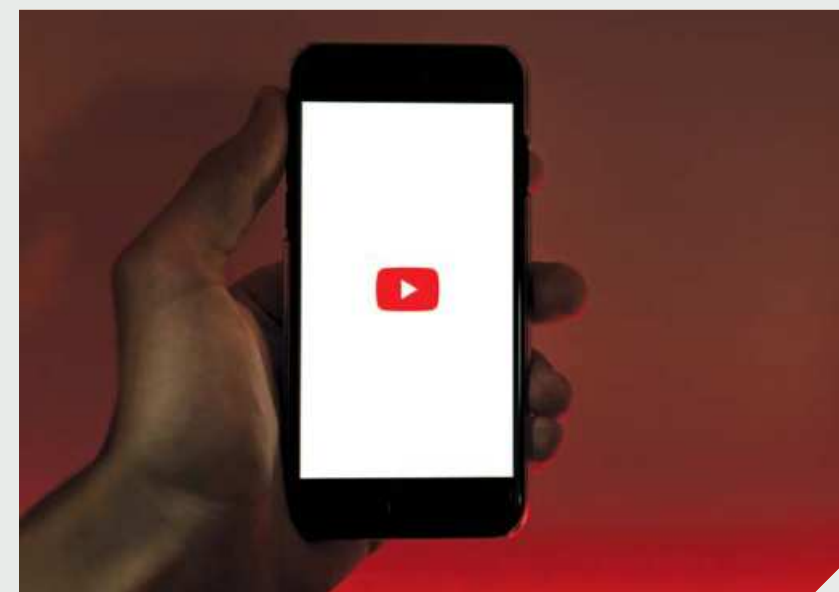
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The countrywide lockdown may have eased up a fair bit, but with public transportation yet to be available people are resorting to unconventional means of transport. Though inconvenient, at least there's something for those who can't afford to hail cars. This photo was taken yesterday from the capital's Airport Road.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

MINI BYTES



YouTube plans to take on TikTok, Snapchat with creator payment scheme

NAVEED HUSSAIN

YouTube is treating short video platforms as its competitors, but they are increasingly posing to be an existential crisis for the social media giant, apparent by its desperate move of paying creators.

YouTube Shorts, YouTube's TikTok rival, will pay content creators up to \$10,000 each month for producing popular short videos. YouTube intends to pay a total of \$100 million over the next year, with the first installments due this month.

The fund has the potential to pay out a lot of money to creators, but no guarantees have been made. The level of popularity required to earn money will be determined by the number of individuals that create and view Shorts each month, as well as the location of each creator's audience.

These must also be original videos, according to YouTube. Reuploads and videos with watermarks from other platforms will disqualify a channel from receiving payments.

On YouTube, creators have traditionally been compensated based on the advertisements that appear in front of their videos, with a direct correlation between the number of ad views and the amount of money received. YouTube, on the other hand,

doesn't want to put an ad in front of every quick clip, so it's developing this alternate method of payment to compensate creators.

YouTube's chief product officer, Neal Mohan, said that the Shorts Fund would eventually be replaced by a "long-term, scalable monetization program." The fund is "a way to get started and actually really start figuring out" how monetization for creators of these videos should work. "You're essentially consuming a feed of shorts, so the model has to work differently," said Neal in a recent conversation on The Decoder.

TikTok and Snapchat both pay creators based on video popularity rather than ad revenue. The result could be lucrative for creators, though there is less transparency about how much they might earn each month.

The fund provides a way for YouTube to jumpstart its late-in-the-game effort at a short-form video service. Though TikTok has a significant head start, YouTube is, after all, YouTube — a massive and massively popular video platform — which could give it an advantage as it attempts to launch YouTube Shorts, its own version of TikTok.

For the time being, the payments are only available in ten regions, including the United States, the United Kingdom, India, and Brazil, among others.