



Floral wreaths covered the memorials of Bangabandhu across the country on National Mourning Day. People from all around, from locals to high-officials, went to the sites to pay their respects towards the Father of the Nation. The memorial at the capital's Dhanmondi-32 was flooded with innumerable wreath, showing the amount of admiration people have for Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, and just how much he matters to all Bangladeshis. Programmes were observed in many districts, including Cumilla, Manikganj, Moulvibazar and Chandpur. Meanwhile in the capital, Ramna police made special arrangements to distribute food among the poor.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS, STAR

ROHINGYA BOAT CAPSIZE UNHCR ready to support rescue work

UNB, Dhaka

UNHCR, the UN refugee agency, has said it is in contact with Rohingya communities both on Bhasan Char and in Cox's Bazar to support further rescue efforts following Saturday's boat capsizing in Bay of Bengal.

On the morning of August 14, UNHCR was alerted that a boat carrying dozens of Rohingyas had capsized close to Bhasan Char island overnight.

"We are devastated that reportedly many passengers, including women and children, have tragically drowned. The confirmed number is not yet known," UNHCR said.

The UN agency said they are grateful to Bangladeshi fishermen, who were first on the scene and alerted Bangladeshi authorities.

The search and rescue operation is being led by Bangladesh Navy and the Coast Guard. "We are seeking further information from the Government of Bangladesh at this time," said UNHCR.

Nation pays homage to Bangabandhu

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

People across the country yesterday paid rich tributes to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on the occasion of his 46th martyrdom anniversary and National Mourning Day.

In a somber mood and a befitting manner, the country observed National Mourning Day, the darkest chapter in the history of independent Bangladesh.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina paid rich tributes to Bangabandhu by placing wreaths at his portrait in front of Bangabandhu Memorial Museum at Dhanmondi Road-32.

Besides, distinguished personalities including Jatiya Sangsad Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain and several judges of the Supreme Court, ministers, state ministers, MPs and

Awami League leaders placed floral wreaths at Bangabandhu's portrait. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman -- the architect of the country's independence -- was assassinated along with most of his family members at the dawn of August 15, 1975 by a cabal of army personnel following a deep-rooted conspiracy against the country and its independence.

His two daughters -- Sheikh Hasina, now the prime minister, and Sheikh Rehana -- survived the massacre as they were abroad at that time.

Eighteen members of the family along with Bangabandhu's wife Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib, three sons -- Captain Sheikh Kamal, Lt Sheikh Jamal and Sheikh Russell, two daughters-in-law -- Sultana Kamal and Rosy Jamal, brother Sheikh Naser, peasant leader Abdur Rob Semiat, youth leader Sheikh

Fazlul Haq Moni and his wife Arzu Moni, Baby Serniat, Sukanta Babu, Arif and Abdul Nayeem Khan Rintu were killed on the fateful night.

Bangabandhu's military secretary Col Jamil Uddin Ahmad (Bir Uttam), who was later promoted posthumously to the rank of brigadier general, was also killed during the massacre.

Some members of a family at Mohammadpur in the capital were killed by artillery shells fired by the killers the same day.

The day is a public holiday. Meanwhile, tributes were also paid to Bangabandhu by placing wreaths at his mausoleum at Tungipara in Gopalganj.

The government, different socio-cultural, political and professional organisations, including AL and its associate bodies, observed the day with various programmes,

maintaining health protocols.

Special prayers were offered at all mosques across the country as well as in temples, pagodas, churches and other places of worship.

Bangladesh Betar, Bangladesh Television and private TV channels and radio stations aired special programmes highlighting the life, struggle and achievements of the great leader while newspapers published supplements on the occasion.

The national flag was hoisted half-mast at government, autonomous, semi-autonomous, educational institutions, private buildings and Bangladesh missions abroad, marking the day.

'FORM INQUIRY COMMISSION' AL general secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday stressed on forming a separate inquiry

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DENGUE CASES Hospitalisations cross 6,000 mark

198 new cases in 24hrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With 198 new hospitalisations in the last 24 hours till 8am yesterday, the number of dengue cases has crossed the 6,000 mark, indicating a fast rise of the disease.

A total of 6,100 dengue patients have been admitted to different hospitals across the country this year so far, data of Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) shows. Of the total infected, 308 were from outside Dhaka.

At least 3,442 people have been hospitalised in the current month so far, while 2,286 were admitted to hospitals in July, and 272 in June, while 43 were infected in May, according to DGHS.

Although most patients who were hospitalised have been released, 1,049 are

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ROHINGYA REFUGEES IN BANGLADESH 'Play a stronger role for their repatriation'

Speakers urge international community

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion urged the international community to play a stronger role in assisting Bangladesh diplomatically to put pressure on Myanmar to take Rohingyas back.

They said Bangladesh government has done as much as possible from its side to protect Rohingyas by sheltering them when they fled Rakhine in face of persecution, and now repatriation is the only solution for this crisis.

Academics, diplomats, government officials, researchers and security experts joined the webinar "Humanitarian Norms, National Security and the Rohingya Policy of Bangladesh", organised recently by Central Foundation for International and Strategic Studies (CFISS).

Dr ASM Ali Ashraf, professor at Dhaka University's Department of International Relations, suggested that the best course of action to deal with this crisis is repatriation.

The humanitarian aspect played a primary role during the initial period of the exodus, but now it is time to focus on Bangladesh's internal security, he said.

"The mass influx has changed the scenario of Cox's Bazar through deforestation, tension between Rohingyas and locals, arms and drugs trafficking among Rohingya groups, and the threat of rising extremism

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Six arrested for duping people with promise of govt jobs

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested six members of a gang in Dhaka yesterday for allegedly taking money from people in the name of providing fake government jobs.

The arrestees were identified as Shahrul Islam (29), A Kuddus (34), Mainul Islam (34), Billal Hossain (41), Towkir Ahmed (26) and Kafil Uddin (60).

The arrest was made during a raid by the Specialized Investigation and Operations unit of the Police Bureau of Investigation at the city's Banasree and Rampura.

The drive came following a case filed against the accused with Mohammadpur Police Station by a victim, said PBI in a media release.

The gang used to publish fake vacancy notice with handsome salaries at Union Health Community Center, Shukhi Paribar Health Centre, Ma o Shishu Health Centre, Apollo Consumer Products and many other fake companies through job related newspapers and online portals, said Sarwar Jahan, additional superintendent of the PBI unit (south).

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The clouds said yes to Md Masum yesterday. With the calendar on his side, he came out on his bicycle and carried his daughter to a delightful afternoon ride on the public holiday. This photo was taken from Chattogram's Akmal Ali Road.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

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