



Homage paid to writer Bulbul Chowdhury

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

People of all walks of life paid their last tributes to Ekushey Padak winning writer Bulbul Chowdhury at Bangla Academy premises yesterday.

They placed floral wreaths at the coffin and stood in silence to pray for his departed soul, while some bade him a tearful farewell.

The 73-year-old writer breathed his last around 6pm on Saturday at his Bangla Bazar residence in the capital. He was suffering from cancer, his son R Rafi told The Daily Star.

His body was taken to Bangla Academy premises around 11am yesterday for final respects after his first namaz-e-janaza was held at a local mosque in Bangla Bazar.

After his second namaz-e-janaza at the academy

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ, PALASH KHAN

Metro rail staffers take a moment to click selfies with the product of their hard work at Uttara North Station, as the mega-project began its performance test yesterday. Inset, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader waves a green flag to inaugurate the test runs at Diyabari's Metro Rail Depot.

SURGE IN DENGUE CASES

'DSCC must take responsibility'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of Old Dhaka residents staged a demonstration in front of the Nagar Bhaban yesterday, calling out the Dhaka South City Corporation for failing to control Aedes mosquitoes in the area.

Under the banner of "Old Dhaka Residents", around 20 people formed a human chain around noon, holding a jar in hand that contained Aedes larvae.

Bangshal resident Alauddin, one of the organisers, said, "We're here to draw DSCC's attention because nothing else

seems to be working."

When asked about the larvae in the jar, he told this correspondent they were collected from Kamrangirchar area.

"The city corporation is not taking experts' opinions regarding dengue-control seriously," said Mizanur Rahman, a resident of Jurain.

He said Jurain is particularly hard-hit by the mosquito-borne disease, as nine people from the area have died of dengue this month alone. "But there's still no effective initiative to destroy Aedes mosquitoes by

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2



PHOTO: COLLECTED

The protesters gathered in front of the Nagar Bhaban, bringing with them a jar containing Aedes larvae collected from Kamrangirchar. Though they planned to hand it over to the mayor, it ended up in the hands of an Ansar member, who left it on the road.



Death toll 42

30 died in Aug so far, 12 in July

252 more hospitalised yesterday

Another dies of dengue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One more dengue patient has died while at least 252 more were hospitalised in the last 24 hours till 8am yesterday.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), among the 252 new cases of infection, 50 are from outside Dhaka.

Meanwhile, 42 people have died of dengue infection in the country this year, all of whom have died in July and August. Twelve people died in July while 30 have died in August so far.

With the new cases, a total of 7,199 were diagnosed with the mosquito-borne virus

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

'A continuation of oppression'

Nine rights orgs condemn repeated violence against Garo, Khasia communities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nine rights organisations yesterday condemned and expressed concern over repeated incidents of violence on Garo and Khasia communities to evict them from their land in Moulvibazar's Kulaura upazila.

Sammilito Samajik Andolon, Nijera Kori, Manusher Jonno Foundation, Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST), Bangladesh Environment Lawyers Association (Bela), Association for Land Reforms and Development (ALRD), Nagorik Uddog, Bangladesh Adivasi Forum and Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) raised the concern at a virtual press conference.

In a joint statement, they raised concern over the "vicious effort" to grab jhum and betel trees of the communities in the name of social forestry, which put the forest department's role into question.

They also mentioned separate incidents on August 27, where three people from the Khasia community were attacked on their way back home, and five of the same community were assaulted.

On August 24, around 28,000 betel trees



The responsibility of the forest department is to conserve nature, but we find no sign of this among its officials. We have to let indigenous people live in nature and conserve the environment. The forest is in their thoughts and culture.

of the Khasia community at the upazila's Kormoda union were chopped down, incurring damages worth Tk 18 lakh, leaving five Garo and Khasia families in a destitute state, the statement said.

Bapa President Sultana Kamal, who chaired the conference, said this oppression is nothing new; it is just a continuation of previous incidents.

"It's our duty to let the people know about the development in the Garo and Khasia communities. The miscreants think they will be able to get away with it, given the impunity they enjoy in the country."

She lambasted the forest department for its questionable role in Kulaura upazila.

"The responsibility of the forest department is to conserve nature, but we find no sign of this among its officials. We have to let indigenous people live in nature and conserve the environment. The forest is in their thoughts and culture."

She said if a community of the country lives in constant fear, then it is presumed that there is violation of human rights. The government must ensure the safety and security for Garo and Khasia communities.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

BCL, Chhatra Dal activists clash at DU

DU CORRESPONDENT

Activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) locked into a clash on Dhaka University campus yesterday morning.

JCD activists claimed that BCL men attacked them when they were holding a scheduled programme. BCL activists denied the allegation.

The clash took place two days after Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader expressed fear of possible "instability" in educational institutions as they are preparing to reopen the institutions.

Rakibul Islam Rakib, convener of JCD's DU unit, told The Daily Star that they brought out a procession from Central Shaheed Minar around 10am, protesting the arrests of organising secretary of JCD central committee Saif Mahmud Jewel and assistant organising secretary Moshirur Rahman Rony.

BCL men attacked the procession when it reached near TSC, Rakib claimed, adding that at least 15 JCD activists were injured in the attack.

Among the injured, two were undergoing treatment

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

ADDRESSING CHALLENGES IN LABOUR MIGRATION

Media's proactive role a must: speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a dialogue yesterday stressed the need for media's proactive role in addressing different challenges in the country's labour migration sector.

Besides, they stressed the need for inter-ministerial coordination as well as public-private partnership in different areas of labour migration to overcome the existing challenges.

Bangladesh Parliamentarians' Caucus on Migration and Development (BPCMD) and WARBE Development Foundation, with support from British Council's project "Prokas" and Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, organised the participatory dialogue between the caucus and media professionals at a city hotel.

The dialogue was addressed by present and former parliamentarians, media professionals and migrant rights activists.

Highlighting parliamentarians' role and BPCMD's activities for migration sector development, WARBE chairman Syed Saiful Haque said there is a need for promoting such activities in media to ensure migrant workers' rights.

He said recommendations generated from the dialogue could be helpful for the caucus for future activities.

In her keynote presentation, BPCMD secretary general Mahjabeen Khaled said advocacy and building awareness are among the major activities of the caucus.

Since its inception, the caucus has been working nationally, regionally and internationally with participation in global forums to uphold migrant workers' rights, she said.

She stressed for future collaboration between the caucus and media professionals for migrants' wellbeing.

Mahjabeen also said a "one-stop service centre" under public-private partnership should be created in the country for providing all kinds of support to migrant workers.

Reaz Ahmad, executive editor of English-language daily Dhaka Tribune, said human trafficking posed a big challenge to the migration sector whereas the caucus can play effective role in eliminating trafficking nexus.

BPCMD member and former lawmaker Nabi Newaz stressed the need for categorising recruiting agencies based on their performances to ensure safe migration.

Lawmaker and BPCMD member Ahsan Adelur Rahman said proper skills certification of Bangladeshi migrant workers, especially in the caregiving sector, can create job opportunities for them in the North American and European countries.

BPCMD member and reserved seat lawmaker Adiba Anjum Mita said arranging separate accommodation for female migrant workers in the host countries could prevent them from being exploited by their employers.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



On Jatrabari's Demra Road, DSCC is implementing a project to renovate the area's drainage system to relieve waterlogging issues. But for such a risky undertaking, its workers were not seen wearing any kind of safety gears, with no other protective measures in place either. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON