

AL lawmaker

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at the parliament secretariat said.

He had returned home after a successful surgery. But he flew to Turkey again on Sunday as his condition deteriorated due to post Covid and kidney-related complications.

The body of the former deputy minister for industries is likely to be brought home today. After the namaz-e-janaza, he will be buried in Shahjadpur, the sources added.

Educated up to HSC, Hasibur was involved with transport, contracting and hotel business, according to his biography published by the parliament secretariat.

Hasibur was born on June 16, 1956 in Dariyapur village of Sirajganj's Shahjadpur upazila.

He led Paribahan Samik Sangathan in the 1980s and was elected an MP from the then Sirajganj-7 in the seventh Jatiya Sangsad election in 1996 as a BNP candidate.

He joined the AL in 1998 and was elected a lawmaker from Sirajganj-6 in 2014 and 2018 national elections.

Hasibur, also the Shahjadpur upazila AL president, served as the deputy minister for industries (1998-2001) during the tenure of the then AL government.

Meanwhile, condolences and tributes poured in for the ruling party lawmaker yesterday.

In separate condolence messages, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Jatiya Sangsad Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, Deputy Speaker Md Fazle Rabbi Miah, Deputy Leader of the House Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, Chief Whip Noor-E-Alam Chowdhury, ministers, state ministers and distinguished personalities expressed deep shock at the demise of Hasibur.

They prayed for the eternal peace of the MP's departed soul and conveyed deep sympathy to the bereaved family members.

Lost ancient

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The site has yielded hundreds of items thought to have been buried in around 800 BC as part of a religious ritual. Such abundance is rare from French hillforts.

Indeed, it represents one of the richest metal deposits sites from the Bronze Age ever discovered in Europe, experts said.

The excavations also represent something of a victory for posterity over looters — who had begun to plunder some of the treasures from the site back in 2017.

During the time of the Gannat Hill Fort, the Allier region had significant economic value due to the navigable Sioule river and local tin deposits for making bronze.

Flight to India

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3 under the air bubble agreement.

It said passengers travelling from Bangladesh to India will be subjected to mandatory RT-PCR tests on arrival at Indian airports at their own expense.

Passengers holding tourist visas, however, will currently not be allowed to enter India, the circular added.

With rising demands in Bangladesh for resuming the flight operations, Caab on August 4 sent a letter to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) of India seeking approval for resumption of flights from August 11 under the air bubble agreement as daily Covid infections in both countries dropped significantly.

In response, the Indian civil aviation ministry issued a notice stating that it may resume the flights from September 3.

The circular said the ministry examined the proposal in consultation with the local health authorities and would recommend resumption of operations with seven flights a week.

Three Indian airlines will operate flights over a week -- three of SpiceJet; two of Indigo and two of Air India. The flights will be operated from the Indian cities of New Delhi, Kolkata and Chennai to Dhaka.

The Indian side is now awaiting information on flight details from the Bangladesh side.

Air bubble arrangements are temporary arrangements between two countries aimed at restarting commercial passenger services when regular international flights are suspended due to the Covid-19 pandemic. They are reciprocal in nature, meaning airlines from both countries enjoy similar benefits.

On August 17, Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen had announced that flight operations with India will resume from August 20.

He had said India agreed to resume flights upon a request made by Bangladesh considering demands for facilitating the movement of passengers and goods.

Bangladesh suspended flight operations with India in late April following a surge in Covid cases in the neighbouring country. Movement of passengers through the land ports was also restricted.

As a result, several hundred Bangladeshis have been stranded in India for months. Most of them went there for treatment.

Besides, many Bangladeshis are also waiting to travel to India for treatment.



Taliban fighters wave as they patrol in a convoy along a street in Kabul, Afghanistan yesterday. New Taliban rulers were preparing their government yesterday, more than two weeks after the Islamist militia's capture of Kabul brought a chaotic end to 20 years of war, while the economy teetered near collapse.

PHOTO: AFP

New Afghan cabinet 'today'

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Now, all eyes are on whether the Taliban can deliver a cabinet capable of managing a war-racked economy and honour the movement's pledges of a more "inclusive" government.

Speculation is rife about the make-up of a new government, although a senior official said Wednesday that women were unlikely to be included.

Senior leader Sher Mohammad Abbas Stanikzai -- a hardliner in the first Taliban administration -- told BBC Pashto in an interview that while women could continue working, there "may not" be a place for them in the cabinet of any future government or any other top post.

In the western city of Herat, some 50 women took to the streets in a rare, defiant protest for the right to work and over the lack of women's participation in the new government.

"It is our right to have education, work and security," the protesters chanted in unison, said an AFP journalist who witnessed the protest. "We are not afraid, we are united," they added.

Herat is a relatively cosmopolitan city on the ancient silk road near the Iranian border. It is one of the more

prosperous in Afghanistan and girls have already returned to school there.

One of the organisers of the protest, Basira Taheri, told AFP she wanted the Taliban to include women in the new cabinet.

"We want the Taliban to hold consultations with us," Taheri said. "We don't see any women in their gatherings and meetings."

Among the 122,000 people who fled Afghanistan in a frenzied US-led airlift that ended on Monday was the first female Afghan journalist to interview a Taliban official live on television.

Speaking to AFP in Qatar, the former anchor for the Tolo News media group said women in Afghanistan were "in a very bad situation".

"I want to say to the international community -- please do anything (you can) for Afghan women," Beheshta Arghand said.

'BUSINESS BELOW ZERO'

Women's rights were not the only major concern in the lead-up to the Taliban's announcement of a new government.

In Kabul, residents voiced worry over the country's long-running economic difficulties, now seriously compounded by the militant

movement's takeover.

"With the arrival of the Taliban, it's right to say that there is security, but business has gone down below zero," Karim Jan, an electronic goods shop owner, told AFP.

On Wednesday, a Qatar Airways flight landed at the trashed airport in Kabul -- a first step towards getting the facility back up and running as a crucial lifeline for aid.

Qatar is working with the Taliban to reopen the airport as soon as possible, its foreign minister said yesterday, urging the hardline Islamists to allow Afghans to leave.

"Hopefully in the next few days we will hear some good news," Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani told a news conference in Doha.

A source with knowledge of the matter said the goal was to resume flights both for humanitarian aid and to provide freedom of movement, including the resumption of evacuation efforts.

More than 123,000 foreign nationals and Afghans fled the country in the airlift operation, but many more are desperate to depart.

FIGHTING OVER VALLEY

Taliban forces and fighters loyal to

local leader Ahmad Massoud, fought in Afghanistan's Panjshir Valley yesterday, with each side saying it had inflicted heavy casualties in recent days of combat in the last province resisting Taliban rule.

Following the fall of Kabul on August 15, several thousand fighters from local militias and the remnants of army and special forces units have massed in Panjshir.

The Taliban said it has failed to find a peaceful resolution with the resistance movement due to the "irrational demands" it put forward, according to Al Jazeera's Rob McBride reporting from Kabul.

Taliban fighters had entered Panjshir and taken control of some territory, the group's spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said yesterday.

However, a spokesman for the National Resistance Front of Afghanistan (NREFA), a grouping of rebels, said it had full control of all passes and entrances and had driven back efforts to take Shotul district at the entrance to the valley.

The spokesman said NREFA forces had also killed large numbers of Taliban fighters on two fronts since clashes first broke out earlier in the week.

Dos and don'ts after bypass surgery

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body (chest, leg or arm) are removed and used to bypass the blocked coronary arteries to restore blood flow. "So, it is actually not a curative surgery," he said.

"It is important for such patients to know that the disease is still there and they must continue medicines to prevent its progression," Dr Tanvir said.

The patients are given medicines like a blood thinner (aspirin), a statin (cholesterol lowering drug) and a beta blocker (reduce heart rate and blood pressure). Other medications depend

on individual patients, Dr Tanvir further said.

If there are no post-surgical complications, patients need 8-12 weeks for full recovery but they are advised to visit cardiologists twice a year, the doctor said.

Healthy diet with low cholesterol and unsaturated fat, little carbohydrate with adequate protein and fibre are good for the heart -- slowing the progression of coronary disease, Dr Tanvir said.

Moderate exercise prevents progression of the disease. Walking

is the best form of exercise for post bypass patients, Dr Tanvir said.

Talking to The Daily Star, Dr Istiaq Ahmed, associate professor and head of the department of cardiac surgery at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, said that generally, bypass surgery is not routinely performed unless the person fits a criterion such as after a heart attack, chest pain (angina pectoris) and when coronary stenting fails.

Dr Istiaq said a post bypass patient has to limit strenuous exercise or work, avoid lifting more than 5 pounds for first three months and limit extra salt with

food. "If the patient is a smoker, he/she must stop smoking," the doctor said.

"The patient should never stop medications without consulting the surgeons," Dr Istiaq said.

The patient should be careful even after full recovery and must visit the surgeon if s/he suffers chest pain or breathlessness, palpitations, blackouts or syncope.

The cardiologists suggested that a disciplined lifestyle and healthy diet with regular exercise and follow up ensure a normal life for post bypass patients.

Nazrul's family refuses pension from Pakistan

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pension to the poet.

BHUTTO WARNS YAHYA

Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto warned the Yahya Khan regime that his party would not accept "any gimmick" in civilisation of the administration in West Pakistan. Commenting on the appointment of Dr AM Malik as governor of East Bengal, Bhutto said the mere appointment of a civilian governor was not an adequate step towards civilisation. It might be a step "in the right direction" if other steps towards genuine civilisation were also taken.

ON THE WAR FRONT

Mukti Bahini today exchanged fire

with Pakistan troops in Darsha in Kushtia-Jessore-Khulna sector and killed six Pakistani soldiers.

In the Dhaka-Chittagong sector, they raided Latifpur, Ghazipur, Banghara, Bagber, Koteshwar, Jambari, Solla, Noapur Bazar killing 51 enemies and injuring many.

'INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY SHOULD INTERVENE NOW'

HL Kirkley, director of Oxfam, in a letter published today in the Times (London), appealed to the international community to come forward to avert total famine in East Pakistan.

"This situation is clearly beyond the control of individuals and private agencies, but there is a role for

lesser groups to continue pressure for governmental and international action which could stave off famine now," he said.

"Indeed, the greatest problem is not the material shortage, which this technological generation could adequately combat, but the twin problems of starting up the lumbering machine of international compassion and then maintaining public and government interest. Refugees who are hungry today are likely to be hungry every day for a long time. Public response is inclined to be in the form of one instinctive donation and then forgetfulness," he added.

USA DOUBLING FOOD RELIEF

FOR EAST PAKISTAN

The USA was doubling its food relief programme for the war-torn East Pakistan, a senior state department official disclosed today. Deputy Administrator Maurice Williams, speaking to reporters after returning from the region where the food problem was now compounded by major flooding, said it appeared that a very large famine could occur. The USA was negotiating a new Food for Peace agreement totalling \$40 million to supply wheat and edible oils to East Pakistan.

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Countries eye UN deal to rein in plastic pollution

AFP, Geneva

The European Union and other countries yesterday called for negotiations towards a legally-binding agreement to reduce plastic pollution, including the microplastics infesting oceans and waterways.

Ministers attending a conference in Geneva hosted by the UN Environment Programme, UNEP, were presented with a draft resolution stressing the urgent need to address the global crisis.

UNEP has warned that "our planet is drowning in plastic pollution", with the world today producing some 300 million tonnes of plastic waste every

year.

Since the 1950s, it has been estimated that some 8.3 billion tonnes of plastic have been produced, with around 60 percent of that tossed on landfills or into the natural environment.

Millions of tonnes of plastic end up in our oceans each year, with the debris causing the deaths of more than a million seabirds annually, and over 100,000 marine mammals, from otters to whales.

And the pandemic is expected to worsen the situation, with participants at the Geneva conference pointing to the dramatic increase in single-use face masks and gloves.

The draft text, presented yesterday by Peru and Rwanda and with the support of the European Union, its member states and seven other countries, called for the creation of an intergovernmental negotiating committee to draft an agreement.

The committee, the text said, should "develop an international legally binding agreement based on a comprehensive approach to prevent and reduce plastic pollution in the environment."

This also includes microplastics, it said, referring to the tiny fragments that have been detected in every ocean on the planet and even at the bottom of the world's deepest

trench.

The aim should be "promoting a circular economy and addressing the full life-cycle of plastics from production, consumption and design to waste prevention, management and treatment," the draft text said.

It meanwhile goes further than marine pollution, pointing out that "80 percent of plastics ending up in the seas come from land-based sources".

The proposed resolution is due to be discussed during the United Nations Environment Assembly, which is due to be held in Nairobi from February 28 through March 2 next year.

Court gives bail

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and members of the local AL clashed with police and Ansar members over removal of banners from the Upazila Nirbahi Officer's office in Barishal.

UNO Munibur Rahman and police then filed two cases, naming BCC Mayor Semiabat Sadiq Abdullah as the prime accused for instigating the violence. The other accused were mostly local AL men.

Two days after the incident, the city corporation and local administration officials and the local AL leaders settled the matter at a meeting.

ACC sues

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the ACC found that these were bought in the last two decades, said an ACC source.

The Daily Star could not reach Junaid after repeated attempts over the phone.

Sources said that Junaid produced concocted documents to fake the original price before the commission.

According to the case statement, the ACC issued notice to Junaid and his wife for submitting a wealth statement. Junaid submitted it on September 9, 2018.

In his statement, it was mentioned that he bought 11.45 kathas of land in Adabar, 10.74 kathas of land in Banasree project, five katha plot in Uttara (third phase) residential area, 10 katha plot in Purbachal, 1,250 sq ft flat in Elephant Road and a shop in the Bashundhara City Complex at about Tk 1.45 crore.

Junaid also said that he obtained a 2,400sqft flat in Sobhanbag of Dhanmondi, one-sixth of two separate two-storied buildings in Mymensingh and Jamalpur as a gift.

Besides, he has Tk 50 lakh investment in business and other schemes.

Analysing documents, investigators found his acceptable income would be Tk 77.47 lakh and family expenditure Tk 25.35 lakh.

"His total acceptable income would be Tk 52.11 lakh," reads the FIR.

"No legal source of income of rest Tk 14,416,783 was found during the enquiry," it added.

Ansar Al Islam

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"We have already got details of a clinic run by the outfit in Dhaka and we are now collecting information on it," the officer told The Daily Star.

CITC officials claimed to have learned about the outfit's strategy following the arrest of a female member -- Zobaida Siddiqua Nabila -- of Ansar al Islam from the capital on August 26.

Mishuk Chakma, deputy commissioner of CITC unit, told The Daily Star that "analysing Nabila's social media ID and activities, we first thought that it was being operated by a male. We found some 25,000 followers and we are suspecting many of them are female, but we need time as they are using fake accounts."

"So far, we have managed to identify some 100 potential militant users and we are working on it," he said.

But it is a difficult task to get detail of these IDs as the outfit maintains a very segmented structure in their social media activities which promotes secrecy as many followers do not know details of other followers, he added.

Investigators said Nabila used to maintain communications with the outfit's mid-level leadership but never had any face-to-face contact with them.

Regarding top leadership, a CITC official who tracks the outfit's activities, told The Daily Star that top leaders of the outfit, Tamim Al Adnani and Syed Mohammad Ziaul Haque alias Major (sacked) Zia, are in hiding somewhere inside the country.

Meanwhile, Golam Mawla, father of Nabila, demanded punishment of those who dragged her into militancy.

"My daughter was very bright and got scholarship in class five and class eight. I really do not understand how my daughter got involved in militancy," Mawla told The Daily Star recently.

Nabila used to live in a two-storey building adjacent to a police station in Lalmoohan upazila of Bhola. Locals said they always found Nabila to be a quiet and calm person.

Due to a sudden change in her behaviour, the family members sent her to Dhaka 15 days back for treatment, but she was arrested by police.

Sayed Nasirullah, additional deputy commissioner of CITC unit, said Nabila used to work in the social media wing recruiting new members.

"The outfit recruits female members for the security of the outfit. We have got some communication details with Nabila and we are now working to trace them," he added.

It should be mentioned that around 90 female members of different militant outfits have so far been arrested by CITC since the attack on a Gulshan cafe in 2016. During interrogation, a majority of them told investigators that they were inspired into militancy following the instigation of their husbands.

Some of these militant suspects were self-radicalised and Nabila was one of them, said officials.

[Susanta Ghosh, our Barisal Correspondent contributed to this report.]