



Zohra Islam no more

CITY DESK
Zohra Islam, wife of Md Matiul Islam, chairman of IIDFC, and former finance secretary, died of cardiac arrest at United Hospital around 2am on September 22, said a press release.
She was 83 years old.
She left behind her husband, two daughters, five grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and a host of relatives and well-wishers to mourn her death.
Zohra's namaz-e-janaza will be held at Azad Mosque, Gulshan today after Juma prayers.
She will be buried in Banani graveyard.



This has been the state of the Shahjahanpur intersection in the capital. For weeks, a part of the road has been cordoned off for Dhaka South City Corporation's development works, and commuters' suffering has reached an unbearable level as a result. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

A safe way to manage medical waste

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Biomedical waste management systems will be established at Bangladesh hospitals to manage medical waste properly. Initially, a system will be set up in a hospital on pilot basis, which will act as a model for other hospitals.
The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in collaboration with Bangladesh government, with financial support from Norwegian government, will initiate the project. UNIDO will start baseline survey in October to set up the treatment plant.
UNIDO representative, high officials of the government and ambassador of Norway to Bangladesh talked about this initiative in a webinar titled "Biomedical Waste Management in Bangladesh: Keeping People and Environment Safe" on Wednesday.
Norwegian ambassador Espen Rikter-Svendsen said, "According to media reports, at least 14,500 tonnes of medical wastes were generated in April, 2020, which was the first month of Covid-19 pandemic in Bangladesh."
"There is no doubt that the situation now is much worse than that... treating such huge amount of waste is a major challenge for Bangladesh, and Norway is very happy to assist Bangladesh government to mitigate this challenge."
According to SMGB Arafat, UNIDO national expert on biomedical waste management, the organisation will set up the system in a hospital that has at least 200 beds, to monitor its efficacy precisely. "...we are coordinating with the DGHS and DoE to implement the project," he said.
Shamim Al Razi, additional secretary, Ministry of Forests, Environment and Climate Change; Zaki Uz Zaman, country representative of UNIDO Bangladesh office; and Md Farid Hossain Miah, director (hospitals) of DGHS, also spoke at the event.



Ex-Star staffer Soleyman Hossain

passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Md Soleyman Hossain, a former staff member of The Daily Star, breathed his last early yesterday at his Savar residence. He was 49.
Family sources said Soleyman suffered brain stroke around 12:30am on the day at his house. Doctors of Enam Medical College and Hospital declared him dead around 12:45am.
He was buried in a graveyard at Savar after a namaz-e-janaza yesterday.
Soleyman, a former shift in-charge, Compose and Page Make-up, served The Daily Star from 1992 to 2020.
His former colleagues, friends and well wishers expressed deep shock at his death and prayed for the salvation of his departed soul.
Soleyman left behind his wife, a son and a daughter.

Success story comes

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The workshop is now run by Protibandhi Atma-Unnayan Sangstha, a forum led by Shefali. With its 20-worker strong team and 10 handlooms, it has the ability to produce around 15 to 20 items per month, worth around Tk 2 lakh.
But just as things were looking up, the workshop faced a serious blow with the arrival of the pandemic, as its production and delivery lines collapsed completely, said Shefali.

Wall mats, carpets and floor mats produced at the workshop used to sell in droves at plush stores in the capital and were exported to the US, the UK, France, Australia, Luxembourg, Belgium, Thailand and Japan.
The prices of wall mats range from Tk 2,000 to Tk 10,000, carpets from Tk 4,000 to Tk 20,000, and floor mats from Tk 1,000 to Tk 15,000.

"Many tourists come to visit the workshop and buy items straight from us," Shefali said. "Japanese and American visitors are particularly keen on our collection."

Shefali credited their high-quality materials and eye-catching designs for the demand. She said the materials are collected from Dhaka's Sadarghat.
Director of Protibandhi Atma-Unnayan Sangstha Shahadat Sarwar said as the pandemic brought a wave of order cancellations, they now have a stock of around Tk 10 lakh worth of unsold products.
"We are still continuing production at a small scale, mostly for the workers' interest, but we haven't got any new orders, from home or abroad," said Sarwar.

He said Mymensingh houses around 5,000 people with disabilities.
With financial and technical support from the government, enterprises like their workshop can generate enough jobs for all of them, Sarwar said.

He sought the government's help by providing them a piece of land to set up a new workshop, saying this would be a great way to assist people with disabilities in the region.

What a waste

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Chattogram Wasa has 60 posts for meter readers, but a total of 43 readers are now appointed and rest 17 posts have remained vacant for years.

Contacted, Tahura Ferdous Begum, deputy managing director (admin) of Chattogram Wasa, said they were taking steps to appoint readers and manpower in other posts. She claimed that initiatives have been taken to reduce system loss but declined to elaborate on the details.

Contacted, AKM Fazlullah, managing director of Chattogram Wasa, said system loss is a reality in Wasa and not a new concept.

"We are going to take a number of initiatives including digitalised the billing system, replacing the old pipelines with new ones and appointing manpower in vacant posts to reduce system loss," he said.
"We will also strengthen the monitoring system and drives to terminate illegal connections. System loss is expected to be reduced to single digit by the next year," he claimed.

Regarding the allegation of average billing or ghost billing, he said he had received many such complaints, adding that many of those have been addressed after investigation and many others were being processed.

'People losing interest in politics, parties'

GM Quader blames gov't for the apathy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party Chairman GM Quader yesterday alleged that different parties are losing supporters due to pressure from the government and administration.

"The people of the country are also losing interest in voting due to that. A multi-party democracy cannot evolve in this situation," said GM Quader, also deputy leader of the opposition.

He said this while speaking at a programme at the JP chairman's office at the capital's Banani.

The JP chief said depoliticisation can never be good for the country and its people. If the government exercises power in parallel with the Election Commission, the EC will never be able to function properly. Therefore, there is no alternative to enact law to form the EC, he said.

Quader said depoliticisation is going on in politics. If that continues, political parties will remain just in names only.



"If the candidates of the opposition camps are not given space in the elections, the political parties will become non-existent."

He said according to the constitution and in a democratic state, people's representatives will be elected through elections and the government will change through elections.

GM Quader said the caretaker government system is not a complete solution for holding a free, fair and credible elections.

"Therefore, in order to find a permanent solution, it is necessary to enact a law to form the Election Commission in light of the constitution."

According to the constitution, all the government departments will be under the EC. If the EC is formed with neutral people, the people's right to vote will be ensured, he added.

Now another

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Asked why they are going to enforce works abstention even though the home minister agreed to meet similar demands of the other platform, Osman Ali said "They called the strike only to foil our movement."

Rustam Ali Khan, convener of the platform, said the home minister will hold a meeting with them on September 26 to discuss their demands.

"We don't want to go for work abstention. We want our demands to be met," he added.

Many private univs

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courses and it is under process," he said.

Meanwhile, Southern University Bangladesh, ZH Sikder University of Science and Technology, Pundra University of Science and Technology, Gano Biswabidyalaya, Sylhet International University, Asian University of Bangladesh, Times University Bangladesh are also running unapproved programmes, said UGC.

At the same time, University of Development Alternative, Daffodil International University, Victoria University of Bangladesh and Southeast University are operating unauthorised campuses.

Southeast University VC Prof AFM Mafizul Islam said they are constructing permanent campus at Tejgaon and several departments are already running academic activities from there. "We are trying to shift all of our activities to the permanent campus by March next year," he said.

Contacted, director of students' affairs at

Daffodil University Syed Mizanur Rahman Raju said they have stopped enrolling students at their Sukrabad campuses.

"Many students are shifting to our permanent campus in Ashulia," he added.

Meanwhile, UGC also said trustees of Britannia University, Sylhet International University, IBAIS University, Southern University Bangladesh and Cox's Bazar International University are in conflict among themselves over ownership issue.

America Bangladesh University was closed down by the government but they are running activities with a court order.

The government also closed down Queens University and later in 2015 approved the university to run for one year with some conditions.

There are 107 private universities in the country. According to the UGC, around 350,000 students study at those universities.

The country's first private university was established in 1992.

Former DGHS driver Malek's wife sent to jail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday rejected a bail petition of Nargis Begum, wife of Abdul Malek, former driver of DGHS, and sent her to jail in a case filed over accumulating wealth beyond known sources of income.

Judge KM Emrul Kayesh of the Senior Special Judge's Court of Dhaka passed the order after she surrendered before it and sought bail.

During yesterday's hearing, the defense told the court that Nargis surrendered before the High Court on February 24, seeking anticipatory bail. The HC granted her bail for a period of four weeks and directed her to surrender to a sessions judge's court before the expiry of the period, but she failed to surrender timely due to lockdown.

As per direction, Nargis surrendered before it, seeking bail in the case, said the defense, adding that if she gets bail, she will not misuse it. The prosecution, however, opposed the petition saying that Nargis, a housewife, did not show source of income of Tk 1,10,92,000. Her bail petition should be rejected. On February 14, ACC filed the case against her.

ACC also filed another case against Malek for possessing more than Tk 1.5 crore worth of movable and immovable wealth, which does not adjust to his known income sources.

RAB arrested Malek from Turag of the capital on September 20, 2020 on charges of various terrorist activities. Malek also owns two seven-storey luxury houses in Turag.

On September 20, Malek was jailed for 30 years' in an arms case.

Advertisement for Bangladesh Bidding and Tendering Commission (BBTC) regarding the 2022-23 fiscal year. Includes details about bidding for various projects and services, with contact information for the Dhaka office.

Advertisement for 'Dhaka UH Men College' (ঢাকা উইমেন কলেজ) featuring a 'Pipe Squeezer' product. Includes contact details and a description of the product's benefits.

Advertisement for 'APARTMENT FOR RENT' in a furnished apartment with 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, and a dining/living area. Contact: 01954-467104.

Advertisement for 'RENT A CAR' featuring an Audi Q7 SUV. Includes mileage, diplomatic mission status, and contact information.

Advertisement for 'Garments Sale' featuring a small knit garment for sale. Includes address in Shyampru and contact number 01799562201.

Two professors of IUB get research grants

CITY DESK

Two professors of Independent University, Bangladesh have received prestigious research grants, said a press release.

Prof Dr Shah M Faruque, dean of the School of Environment and Life Sciences, has been awarded by UK-based The Wellcome Trust to fund his research on control of waterborne epidemics such as cholera.

The Trust will provide approximately USD 1.2 million over 2.5 years.

On the other hand, Prof Saleemul Huq, director of the International Center for Climate Change and Development, has won COLOCAL Grant with funding provided by Norwegian Program for Capacity Development in Higher Education and Research.

The total funding of this project is valued at USD 2,000,000.

Table with 2 columns: 'খুলনা শিপইয়ার্ড লিমিটেড' (Khulna Shipyard Limited) and 'দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি' (Tender Notice). Lists various items for sale/rent with details like quantity and price.

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