Departure of a true luminary

yesterday around 2:30pm at his Baily Road residence.

He was 78 years old.

The news was confirmed to The Daily Star by his daughter, renowned actor and director Hridi Haq.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and President Abdul Hamid expressed their shock and condolences in separate statements yesterday, citing the actor's death as a great loss to the cultural arena of the country.

"I cannot believe that he is no more," said distinguished actor Abul

"We talked over the phone just 10-15 days ago. I am shocked and I do not know how to take this. He was my friend for 55 years,

"I have never seen a humbler person... His ability to befriend people was unmatched. Everyone loved him. I just cannot believe that we lost him. I haven't just lost a friend but also a great artiste and a confidante."

Eminent cultural personality and Member of Parliament Asaduzzaman Nur told The Daily Star that just before the liberation war, Enamul's house was where they all practiced theatre.

"He was immensely patriotic and brave," he said. "During the movement against Ershad, he and his wife were at the forefront. My kids grew up in front of him, and we always considered each other no less than family. We lost a great soul."

Enamul Haque was born in Feni Sadar's Motobi area on May 29, 1943, to father Obaidul Haque and mother Razia Khatun. He completed his SSC from Feni Pilot High School and HSC from Notre Dame College in Dhaka.

He completed his bachelor's and master's in chemistry in 1963 and 1964 respectively, from the University

He joined BUET's department of chemistry as a lecturer in 1965.

He earned his PhD degree from the University of Manchester in 1976 in the field of synthetic organic chemistry.

Enamul worked as a post-doctoral research fellow in medicinal chemistry there from June 1976 to May 1977 and served for 15 years as the Dean of the Department of Chemistry in BUET, and two years in the same university as the Dean of Engineering.

Dr Enamul Haque's first acted stage play was "Bura Shaliker Ghare Ro", while "Bibaho Utshab" was the first play that he wrote. In 1968, he wrote

his first television drama, "Onekdiner which was directed by Ekdin", Abdullah Al Mamun.

"He was a gentleman and a model father. Of course, he was incomparable as an artiste, but what made him special was his politeness and humility. He instilled those values in his children as well." said veteran actor Dilara Zaman.

Noted thespian and actor Mamunul Haque said, "I first met him in 1968. He was an incredibly knowledgeable person and always wanted to learn more. His entire family is comprised of artistes and it's not surprising, given his talent. He acted in my troupe, Aranyak Natya Dal's play 'Kobor', originally by Shahid Munir Chowdhury. I directed it that time in 1972. He was absolutely brilliant. He is no more, but his legacy will live on."

Renowned actor Suborna Mustafa told The Daily Star that she had a hard time coming to terms with this loss. "He was my father's friend, so I never got to call him 'bhai' like others in the industry. I always called him 'sir'. Knowing that I can't meet him anymore really hurts."

He debuted on television with the drama "Mukhora Romoni Boshikoron", produced by Mustafa Monwar. Till date, he has written over 60 television dramas and was also a founding member of legendary theatre troupe, Nagorik Natya Sampradaya.

In 1995, he opened his own theatre troupe, Nagorik Nattyangan.

His most famous written work include "Onekdiner Ekdin", "Sheishob Dingulo", "Nirjon Shoikot", and "Ke Ba Apon Ke Ba Por". His notable theatrical productions include "Bibaho Uthshob" and "Grihobash".

Some of the most renowned acting appearances by Dr Enamul Haq include "Emiler Goenda Bahini" "Ei Shob Din Ratri", "Ayomoy", "Brihonnola", "Shuktara" and "Amar Bondhu Rashed".

The actor was working on his autobiography, as confirmed in a previous interview with The Daily Star.

His Namaz-e-Janaza will take place during Zuhr prayers today, after which he will be laid to rest at the capital's Banani Graveyard in the capital.

He is survived by his wife, noted actress Lucky Enam and two daughters, Hridi Haq and Proitee Haq. Hridi and Proiti are also talented actors. Hridi's husband, Litu Anam annd Proitee's husband, Shazu Khadem, are also renowned actors



Supporters of opposition political parties shout slogans during a Maharashtra statewide strike, after people were killed when a car linked to a federal minister ran over farmers protesting against controversial farm laws in the Uttar Pradesh state earlier this month, on a street in Mumbai, India yesterday.

Yahya to call assembly session on Dec 27 Radhanagar on the Dhaka-Chittagong new constitution would be published Radhanagar on the Dhaka-Chittagong

He concluded that US had heavy responsibility to exercise its "great influence" with the Government of

 $Swaran\,Singh\,further\,said\,the\,US\,was$ attempting to bypass Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Keating told him that the American embassy in Islamabad, under instructions from Washington, had just finished urging Pakistan President Yahya Khan to establish a dialogue with elected representatives of East Pakistan, including Bangabandhu. The US would be delighted if President Yahya holds discussions with Bangabandhu, added Keating.
YAHYA'S BROADCAST

President Yahya today promised a new central government by the beginning of next year, but gave no indication of its likely composition and character. In a radio broadcast tonight, he said the

by December 20 and the reconstituted National Assembly would be called into session on December 27.

Yahya also mentioned the heavy Indian build-up all along the Pakistani border and the commando activities in which roads, railway bridges and power supply lines had been destroyed. He claimed that there existed a "serious possibility of aggression by India against Pakistan".

In a review of international opinions on East Pakistan, he expressed deep appreciation of the Chinese stand and spoke of the understanding shown by the USA.

ON THE WAR FRONT

There was a raid on Pakistani defences at Parshuram area today. Two sentries were killed and the guerillas withdrew immediately after the raid, lasting only 15 minutes. At 9:30pm, the guerillas ambushed the Pakistani patrol near

road. Two soldiers were killed and one was injured. In a raid in Mireswarai area of

Chittagong district today, Mukti Bahini killed 30 and wounded 10 enemy soldiers.

In the Rangpur-Dinajpur-Rajshahi sector, Mukti Bahini raided occupation troops' position in Joimonirhat, killing six and injuring 15 enemy soldiers. On the same day, they engaged enemy soldiers in Bhurungamari and killed three enemy soldiers. In another operation, they ambushed the Pakistani army patrol in Ulipur, killing four enemy soldiers and seven razakars. On the same day, Mukti Bahini ambushed occupation troops while they were crossing Nala and killed six enemy soldiers.

Shamsuddoza Sajen is a journalist and researcher. He can be contacted at sajen1986@gmail.com

Firm swindles

Musa and the aforementioned passengers are, according to Kamrul, among around 2,000 people who were defrauded by 24tkt.com since 2019.

CID officials arrested Mizanur Rahman Sohel, one of the directors of the online ticketing platform, from Dhaka's Sadarghat area yesterday.

On Sunday, they arrested another director, Rakibul Hasan, from Ahsan.

Chuadanga. CID discovered that 24tkt.com used to buy air tickets from large travel agencies on credit and sell those to small agencies and customers in cash,

the CID official said. "At the airport, customers used to find that their tickets were invalid as 24tkt did not pay the large vendors for the tickets. That is how the online agency swindled money," said the CID

Small travel agents were lured to 24tkt as the latter offered discounts that were much more attractive than what they used to get from airliners, he

Talking to The Daily Star, travel agent Musa said when he contacted 24tkt owner Abdur Razzak about the matter, Razzak told him that it was a server problem.

But when Musa went to their office, he found it closed. Phone numbers of owners and directors were also found switched off. Their website and online travel agent (OTA) portal were also not accessible.

"We had to buy tickets for many customers at higher prices and even then, we could not serve many as their visas had expired. This is a huge loss for us as well as the travellers," Musa said. Musa said 24tkt.com used to buy

tickets from some IATA agents. "After 24tkt.com fled the business, their IATA vendors got all their issued tickets refunded as they were owed money by 24tkt.com," Musa said, adding that he contacted some other small travel agents and found that they

suffered similar fates. agents -- AKM Two other travel Mahbubul Alam of Uni Fly Travels and Rakib of Universal Travel and Tours, are owed Tk 6.30 lakh and Tk 4.41 lakh respectively by 24tkt.com, according to the case statement.

CID official Kamrul Ahsan said they had taken steps to freeze the bank accounts of the online ticketing agency. 'CID SEEKS INTERPOL HELP TO **BRING BACK RINGID OWNERS'**

The CID will seek the help of Interpol to bring back Sharif Islam and Ayrin Islam, the Bangladeshi expatriates in Canada who own ringID, said Kamrul

The CID found recently that ringID

Kamrul added that Bangladesh Bank authorities have blocked around Tk 200 crore in three bank accounts belonging to ringID. However, the amount embezzled is much more and the CID is investigating it, Kamrul said.

Meanwhile, CID arrested a youth Redwan Rahman, a ringID agent, from Kamrangirchar area of Dhaka on Sunday who had stolen over Tk 1 crore from around 600 people by persuading them to open ringID accounts.

Officialssaid Redwan has been a ringID user since 2018, but became an agent seven-eight months ago. '30 E-COMMERCE PLATFORMS UNDER WATCH'

Talking at the press briefing yesterday, Imam Hossain, additional deputy inspector general of CID, said they have a list of around 60 e-commerce businesses and they are currently keeping watch on at least 30.

We got reports of numerous victims of their fraudulence. Many are still waiting for refunds as the platforms did not deliver the ordered products. Some of them are preparing to file cases against them," the official said.

Meanwhile the CID arrested six staff members, including the head of operations of two e-commerce platforms -- Tholay.com and WeCoom. com -- from Dhaka's Mirpur area on Sunday.

"The owner of both e-commerce platforms, Sakib Uddin, is still off the hook... He will be made accused in the cases to be filed," Imam Hossain said, adding that they have information that Sakib is still in the country.

CID officials said they are yet to assess the amount the e-commerce platforms swindled from customers.

Freedom of the press is alive

the prize on Friday for their efforts to 'safeguard freedom of expression". Since Duterte took power in 2016,

Ressa and Rappler have faced a series of criminal charges and investigations in what media advocates describe as state harassment over their reporting, including on the government's deadly drug war.

Duterte has called Rappler a "fake news outlet", and Ressa has been the target of abusive messages online.

"It's a victory for a Filipina and we're very happy for that," Duterte's spokesman, Harry Roque, told a

Ressa," Roque said, in the presidential and online threats.

palace's first public comments on the

Philippine press groups and rights

activists have hailed Ressa's prize as a "triumph" in a country ranked as one of the world's most dangerous for journalists. Ressa, 58, told AFP in an interview

Saturday that she was still battling seven court cases, including an appeal of a cyber libel conviction, for which she faces up to six years

Two other cyber libel cases were dismissed earlier this year.

Ressa, who is also a US citizen, regular briefing.

"Press freedom is alive and the shield her and other journalists in proof is the Nobel Prize award to Maria Philippines against physical attacks

the creation of the journalists, it was the creation of the people in power who wanted to use a type of leadership that divides society," Ressa said. 'I hope... this allows journalists to

"This 'us against them' was never

do our jobs well without fear."

Roque denied the government had created a "chilling effect" for media outlets, saying anyone who claimed that "should not be a journalist".

He also rejected suggestions Ressa's Nobel Prize was "a slap" for the government, insisting "no one has

ever been censored in the Philippines". "Maria Ressa still has to clear her name before our courts," Roque said,

"We leave it to our courts to decide

The ghost of 'Gono Rooms' still haunts

dormitories' guest rooms for political gatherings, violating a ban imposed by the university. As many students were gathered in the rooms, physical distancing could not be maintained. Several students said freshers are

compelled to attend the political gatherings. If they skip them, they might be driven out, they said.

Several teachers and common students said the "culture of Gono Room and Guest Room" continues to thrive because of political reasons, rather than an accommodation crisis. Citing a supposed accommodation

crisis, the dormitories previously did not allot seats to first year students. So, they had to move in with the help of BCL men and cram into the "Gono" rooms. The students are also forced into attending political processions and meetings.

It happens at a time when many former students -- mainly BCL leaders illegally occupy rooms showing muscle power.

The DU halls had reopened for honours fourth year and master's students on October 5. That day, Vice-Chancellor Prof Md Akhtaruzzaman sought help from all students to get rid of "Gono" rooms.

"Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina

does not like the 'Gono Room' culture. not ensure seats for all students. We She does not want students' living standards compromised. She has advised me on several occasions to address the issue... Now, we need help from everyone [to end this culture], the VC said.

Later, authorities of several dormitories said they were allotting rooms, occupied by former students, to new freshers. 'GUEST ROOM'

The ghost of 'Guest Room' has returned despite a ban by the university.

First-year students had to attend gatherings at the guest rooms of Shaheed Sergeant Zahurul Haque Hall, Mastarda Surjasen Hall and Kabi Jashimuddin Hall, among other dormitories, on Sunday night, said

One resident of Zahurul Haque Hall said seniors from the BCL had instructed them to be present at the guest room. "We were told that we must attend the programme if we want to stay here," he said. Asked, a BCL leader of the

dormitory said they asked freshers to go to the room to make them aware about hygiene amid the pandemic.

Hall Provost Prof Dr Delwar Hossain said, "Many students have to stay in Gono rooms because we could

want another week to accommodate them properly" He admitted that some students

gathered at the guest room, but said they left immediately after the house tutor informed him about the gathering. Contacted, Saddam Hussain, DU BCL general secretary, said there was

halls following an instruction from the university authorities. "We welcomed the authorities" decision. We will take action if we find that any of our leaders and activists

no scope to hold such gatherings at

violated it," he said. He denied BCL was involved in forcing anyone to do politics. He binned the other allegations against

the student organisation. DU Provost Standing Committee Convener Prof Abdul Bachir said, "It is true that first-year students went to Gono rooms. They will stay there for a

while. Rooms will be allotted to them within a few days. On the overall situation, DU VC

Akhtaruzzaman told The Daily Star, The halls have just opened. The longstanding accommodation crisis will be resolved with the cooperation of

2 arrestees sent to jail

Osman Ali, Jahangir Alam, Tara Mia, Mofiz Uddin and Ahmed Ali, of Polashikura village, the OC said.

They are aged between 30 and 42. Police drives are on to arrest them,

Quoting the case statement, Bashir Ahmed, Nalitabari Police Station OC, earlier said the mother along with her daughter was going to her husband's house in Tarakandi Baroghuria area in Sadar upazila on Saturday afternoon from Polashikura village. Omar Ali, a co-villager, offered to

show them around Polashikura village and drop them off later in Tarakandi Baroghuria, he said. The victims agreed. But instead

there, where they raped the mother and her daughter repeatedly at night, the OC said.

village after the perpetrators threatened them with dire consequences if the

sought the help of police, who rushed to the spot and rescued them. Medical tests of the victims were

conducted at Sherpur General Hospital on Sunday, the OC added. A Sherpur court yesterday recorded

Abul Kashem, president of Nalitabari upazila unit of Amader Ain, a rights body, said he met the OC of the police station and demanded immediate arrest of all the accused.

Md Azad Mia, chairman of local Puragaon union parishad, also sought exemplary punishment of those involved in the crime. Talking to The Daily Star, the elder

sister of the mother, said she had been staying in Dhaka for four years and returned home around 10 days ago to look after her bedridden mother. Mothers of accused Tara and Mofiz,

along with another accused Omar's mother-in-law, visited their house on Sunday afternoon and offered them Tk 2 lakh to settle the issue, but they turned it down, said the elder sister.

"It is painful that the accused have spoiled the whole life of my sister and her daughter and nothing could

all the culprits to bring them to book.

China, India

FROM PAGE 12

command. The statement did not say what the

demands were. In response, India's defence ministry said China was "not agreeable" to discussing "constructive suggestions... (and) could not provide any forward-looking proposals".

India said both sides have agreed to maintain communications and

China and India -- whose border runs for 3,500 kilometres (2,200 miles) -- fought a full-scale war in 1962 and have long accused each other of trying to seize territory along their unofficial border, known as the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

The latest talks focused on resolving 'remaining issues" along the LAC in eastern Ladakh, the Indian defence ministry said.

Long said China had tried to ease tensions along the boundary area, but warned India "not to misjudge the situation" and to act "in good faith". India has blamed the tensions on

what it calls unilateral moves by China to "alter the status quo", in violation of existing bilateral agreements. Earlier this month, India's army chief said China was sending "considerable numbers" of troops to

the border, prompting a matching deployment by New Delhi. His comments came after Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said Indian soldiers had made illegal

incursions into Chinese territory, an accusation that New Delhi denied. Media in both countries have reported a border confrontation between Indian and Chinese last month, but neither side has confirmed

Low BP

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to excessive heat, more often than not hypotension follows some other big health issues or events, like diabetes, heart problems, and even pregnancy.

Contrary to popular belief, hypotension can be prevented at home. A great way to start is to consume increased amounts of water. You might want to start getting up from bed slower than usual -- raising your pillow to about six inches to improve blood circulation, etc.

There are some hard "don'ts" as well. It is widely advised to avoid consumption of caffeine in large

Both high and low BP are common now. Some might suggest that elevated evels of stress in the modern world have made BP problems a part and

parcel of our lives. While that may be debatable, what loes not warrant argument is the need for a healthy lifestyle, with adequate physical activity and a good sleep

HC stays land

FROM PAGE 12

as published in various media outlets. where it was mentioned that 700 acres of forest land had been allotted for the construction of a training academy for government officials at Jhilongia. The area of Jhilongja forest adjacent to the Cox's Bazar-Teknaf Marine Drive is an ecologically-critical area, the writ said

The ministry of land has allotted the forest land despite opposition from the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. The area was declared reserved by the British government in 1935 and until now the forest

department was looking after it. According to the Forest Act, only the forest department has the jurisdiction to lease forest land with hills and waterfalls. But the land ministry allotted the land to the public administration ministry.

Petitioner Md Moniruzzaman said, The highest court of the country has passed the order to protect critically-endangered forest area, but a government ministry gave the order to destroy 700 acres of such land." Constructing the academy will

cause a terrible environmental hazard in the area, he said. Algerian president

demands 'total respect' from France

AFP, Algiers

President Abdelmadjid Algerian Tebboune on Sunday demanded France's "total respect", following a row over visas and critical comments from Paris about the North African country.

Last weekend, Algeria recalled its ambassador from Paris and banned French military planes from its airspace, which France regularly uses to reach its forces battling jihadists in the Sahel region to the south.

The moves came after a bitter row over visas, followed by media reports that French President Emmanuel Macron had told descendants of Algeria's 1954-1962 war of independence that Algeria was ruled by a "political-military system" that had "totally re-written" its history.

The office of Algeria's president responded by saying the comments,

which have not been denied, were an "interference" in the country's internal

Mars' Jezero crater They found that during its time as a lake the Jezero crater was steadily fed

by a small river, with occasional flash flooding events forcing the water to flow over the edge. This flooding was energetic enough to sweep up large boulders from tens of miles upstream and deposit them

rocks still lie today. Researchers based their findings on images of the rocks inside the crater on its western side, and compared them to earlier satellite images of the same outcrop.

into the lakebed, where the massive

When seen from above the crater resembled river deltas on Earth, where layers of sediment are deposited in the shape of a fan as the river feeds into a lake.

indeed a river delta, and according to the new study, it was calm for most of its existence. A dramatic shift in climate triggered episodic flooding at or toward the end

Taken from inside the crater, the new images confirm this outcrop was

of the lake's history, finally resulting in the dry, desert-like landscape we see

the police officer added.

of doing so, Omar took them to Osman's house in the same village. Omar then called in the other accused

On Sunday morning, the victims were left in a secluded place in the

incident was disclosed. The mother then called 999 and

the victims' statements. Terming the incident a heinous act,

console us," she said. She demanded immediate arrest of