



Anwarul Islam passes away

CITY DESK

Anwarul Islam, a former secretary to the government, died of cardiac arrest at a hospital in Dhaka on Wednesday night. He was 82, said a press release.

He left behind his wife, one son, one daughter, three grandchildren and numerous well-wishers.

He served as secretary in various ministries including education, shipping, and religious affairs. Besides, senior positions held by him include member (administration), Water Development Board, and director (finance), Petrobangla.

He also served as commercial counsellor at the Bangladesh embassy in Kuwait. As a member of Rotary Club, he was active in social service.

His namaz-e-janaza will be held at Gulshan Azad mosque after the Juma prayers today.

Explain

FROM PAGE 3

Jamal, Mosaddique, and several other former officials of the national flag carrier were present at yesterday's meeting.

On September 8, the parliamentary body summoned all those of Biman involved in taking lease of two Boeing 777-200ER from Egypt in 2014, which caused losses worth Tk 1,223 crore.

Then secretary of civil aviation ministry Mohibul Haque had said that Tk 1,223 crore spent on the age-old planes is more than the price of a brand-new plane.

A probe by the ministry in March 2019 concluded that the terms and conditions of the "non-transparent" lease agreement clearly went against Biman's interests.

It found that a section of Biman officials inked the deal for personal gains, sources said, quoting the report.

A Biman official yesterday told The Daily Star that a section of former officials involved in the agreement signing actually didn't want the planes to fly. They reportedly benefited while the planes remained grounded.

Focus on helping

FROM PAGE 3

In his welcome remarks, The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam said people in extreme poverty already deal with tremendous challenges, but the pandemic made them even worse, adding that it is definitely a subject that should be talked about.

He said the media and civil society should fight for the cause of the country's poor.

Mahfuz Anam said the subsidies the government has provided to the private sector was necessary. Something like that, perhaps amounting to a similar figure, should now be directed towards the extreme poor.

UNDP Bangladesh Resident Representative Sudipto Mukerjee said as in many other developing countries, the pandemic has been a wake-up call to arrange for urban social protection in Bangladesh.

Jobs have been lost, and incomes have fallen or vanished, requiring many to draw on meager savings or take expensive loans to make ends meet, he added.

Nazneen Ahmed, country economist of UNDP Bangladesh, said during the

pandemic, many girls were married off or did not return to school.

"Now, we need to think of some special programmes for these girls, who are married off, so that they can continue their education," she said.

Judith Herbertson, development director at British High Commission in Dhaka, said Bangladesh has been a development success story. "However, the journey ahead is long and hard," she said.

Addressing the webinar as chief guest, State Minister for Planning Shamsul Alam said the government is working to recover from the Covid-19-induced poverty situation. For this, it introduced incentive programmes for almost every sector involved in production and business.

KAM Morshed, senior director at Brac, moderated the webinar.

Among others, Saiful Islam, additional secretary (planning, development and law), social welfare ministry; Phedra Moon Morris, head of aid at Canadian High Commission to Bangladesh; and Imran Matin, executive director of Brac Institute of Governance and Development, addressed the webinar.

Communalism

FROM PAGE 3

"The government didn't fulfil any of its promises to the minorities. On the other hand, they fulfilled Hefajat's demands by bringing changes to the textbooks."

Presiding over the meeting, founder convener of the parliamentary caucus Rashed Khan Menon said there should be an investigation into the law enforcement agency's negligence during the attacks.

"The recent communal violence is the result of a communal mentality, which has grown over the past three decades. Though the prime minister is against it, root level leaders and activists [of AL] are involved here. The organisation has failed to develop teenagers and youth with secular education," he added.

Former information minister Hasanul Haq Inu said the recent rise in communalism is connected to the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan.

Dhaka University's Department of History professor Mesbah Kamal said despite numerous development and mega-development projects, the current government has failed in the cultural development of the country.

Zannat E Ferdousi, technocrat member of the caucus, conducted

the meeting while, among others, parliamentarians Shirin Akhter and Aroma Dutta, and journalists Abu Sayeed Khan, Sohrab Hasan, and Pranab Saha spoke at the session.

'A FAILED STATE'

At a dialogue of the Citizen's Platform for SDGs at CIRDA, noted economist Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya said the recent communal violence in the country was not an isolated incident.

"These unfortunate events are the result of fundamental structural change in our constitution and the introduction of religion in politics after 1975, all for the sake of narrow political interests and short-term benefits," he said.

At the same programme, DU Professor Emeritus Serajul Islam Choudhury said, "We are in such a situation that we don't dare talk about secularism anymore... What's worse is that the state also has no sense of accountability."

He also said the failure of the police force to contain the violence should be investigated.

DU Prof Robayet Ferdous said after independence, the country has turned into "little Pakistan" from "big Pakistan".

"At least 3,600 attacks were carried out on the Hindu community in the last nine years -- 400 attacks every year -- all while a pro-liberation government is in power," she said.

Activist Khushi Kabir said the recent events only prove that the communal forces are more powerful than the state machinery.

Expressing doubts over the promise of bringing perpetrators of the attack to book, jurist Dr Shahdeen Malik said, "Media reports say that some 300, 500, 800 people were made accused in each case. This could very well be used to hold an arrest spree to dominate the political opposition [of the government]. But the one thing it will not do is stop future communal attacks," he said.

"The country has turned into a failed state with no accountability," he also said.

Chief Executive of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association Advocate Rizwana Hasan said the four components of the state -- democracy, human rights, constitution, and rule of law are all under threat. "Not only a specific community, but anyone with a different identity and different opinion is the minority now," she said.

Women worse off

FROM PAGE 3

At the event, Dr Fazle Rabbi Sadeque Ahmed, deputy managing director at Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation, said rural women do not only take care of homesteads during disasters but also play many active roles, including managing agriculture and livestock, and taking care of children, elderly and persons with disabilities.

He also stressed on the importance of women-friendly disaster shelters, saying that although the country has 35,100 such shelters, they are mostly unsafe and not women-friendly at all.

MJF Executive Director Shaheen Anam moderated the event and said rural women are powerful agents of

change. Their knowledge, skills, and innovative ideas have been found to be successful in combating impacts of climate change.

"Raising rural women's voices and helping them claim their rights have always been regarded as priority areas for MJF," she added.

Speakers said women have been playing an important role in mitigating effects of climate change by adopting climate tolerance strategies and doing seed conservation.

It is imperative to identify effective roles that women and girls are playing in addressing the risks of climate change, they added.

At the programme, several rural

women from the grassroots shared their experiences and discussed how they play vital roles in taking care of their homes and families, preparing food, arranging drinking water, and preserving valuables, grains and seeds during and after disasters.

Dilruba Haider, programme specialist at UN Women Bangladesh; Tapan Kumar Biswas, director at NGO Affairs Bureau; Swedish Ambassador to Bangladesh Alexandra Berg von Linde; Judith Herbertson, development director at British High Commission; and Corinne Henchoz Pignani, deputy head of cooperation at Embassy of Switzerland; among others, spoke at the event.

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Gulshan Society, Rajuk sign 2 MoUs between RAJUK and GULSHAN

বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় জাদুঘর শাহবাগ, ঢাকা-১০০০ টেভার নং-০২/২০২১-২০২২/ তারিখঃ ১৯/১০/২০২১ খ্রিস্টাব্দ দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

Chief Guest: Sharif Ahmed M... Gulshan Society and Rajuk have recently signed two memorandums of understanding on Gulshan Society Lake Park management and Gulshan-Banani Lake maintenance.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Executive Engineer Education Engineering Department Tangail

Authorities FROM PAGE 3 festival-related violence took place. At Chandpur's Hajiganj, police opened fire before attempting to disperse the crowd using the riot control mechanism, resulting in five deaths, the team found.

বাড়ি বিক্রয় গাজীপুর বোর্ড বাজার শহীদ সিন্দিক মন্ডলী ৩০ ফিট রাস্তার উপর গ্যাস, বিদ্যুৎ, পানিসহ ৬টা দোকান ১৫টি কক্ষসহ ৬ কাঠার বাড়ি বিক্রয় হবে।

প্লট বিক্রয় রাজউক পুটিচ দেউরা-৩, রোড-৩০০ ফুট, ৫৪ ফুট কর্ণার, ১০ কাঠার প্লট বিক্রয় হবে।

পাত্র চাই ডাক্তার প্রফেসর বাবা ও উজ্জ্বল বাবক কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক করা গ্রীন কার্ডধারী USA Computer এর ৩ বছর অভ্যন্তরিত (৫-৪-২০) পাত্রী জন্ম উপযুক্ত VSA পাত্র চাই।

"নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি" বাংলাদেশ পল্লী বিদ্যুতায়ন বোর্ড স্মারক নং-২৭/১২.০০০০.১২০.৫১.০০৭.১১.২৪০৫৫ তারিখঃ ১৯ অক্টোবর, ২০২১ খ্রিঃ