



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 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.

Nazreen 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 Herberson, 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.

Authorities' negligence

FROM PAGE 3 During their visit to Chandpur's Hajiganj and Cumilla, ASK team found that victims had repeatedly made complaints using the national helpline "999" but to no avail.

"It was due to the negligence of the authorities and the law enforcement agencies that the attack happened. Even though the situation was tense from the morning, the law enforcers played a questionable role in preventing the violence," said Kabir.

The organisation listed a total of 18 districts where 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 organisation found. One of those dead was a 15-year-old.

The organisation's secretary-general Md Nur Khan Liton said the steps currently being taken are not enough.

"This is not only a law enforcement issue. There needs to be a special session at the national parliament to discuss the violence and to decide on future steps," said Liton.

To begin with, the vandalised temples must be rebuilt. He also said there needs to be a public hearing so that people can give their testimonies without fear.

It has become a trend to have no accountability when conducting such investigations, said speakers, adding that the real culprits benefit from this.

"What we need more than police action is a consensus among all political parties that this kind of incidents cannot happen. It is our civic duty to reinstate trust among the population," said Liton.

Golam Monowar Kamal, executive director of ASK and Nina Goswami, its programme director, also spoke at the event.

LUXURIOUS RESIDENTIAL PLOT SALE At Nikunjo-1, Plot size- 7 katha plot, piling, plan pass, single plot available space- 3024 sqft. Please Contact: 01320775534

বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় জাদুঘর শাহবাগ, ঢাকা-১০০০ টেভার নং-০২/২০২১-২০২২/ তারিখঃ ১৯/১০/২০২১ খ্রিস্টাব্দ দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় জাদুঘরের সার্ভারে সংস্থাপিত এপ্রিকেশন সফটওয়্যার ম্যাকাফি এন্টারপ্রাইজ এন্ড পয়েন্ট সিকিউরিটি (৫২ ইউজারস), ওরাকল ডাটাবেজ (স্টোভার্ড) সফটওয়্যার ও জুনিফার ফায়ারওয়াল সফটওয়্যার এর লাইসেন্স নবায়ন কাজের জন্য মূল প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্রকৃত স্থানীয় প্রতিনিধি ও যোগা এবং অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন প্রতিষ্ঠান/ফার্ম-এর নিকট থেকে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তির বিস্তারিত তথ্যাদি দরপত্র দলিল (সিডিউল) বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় জাদুঘরের নিজস্ব ওয়েবসাইটে (URL: http://www.bangladeshmuseum.gov.bd) থেকে বিনামূল্যে ডাউনলোড করা যাবে। এই দরপত্র দলিলের শর্তানুযায়ী আগামী ২২/১০/২০২১ তারিখ থেকে ০৯/১১/২০২১ তারিখ দুপুর ১.০০ পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় জাদুঘরে রফিক টেভার বক্সে দরপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে। কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন/সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করে।

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Executive Engineer Education Engineering Department Tangail "শিক্ষা নিয়ে গড়ব দেশ দেখে হাসিনার বাংলাদেশ" Memo No. EE/EED/TANGAIL-751(8) Date: 19/10/2021 e-Tender Notice e-Tender Notice No. 02/ee/eed/2021-22: Date: 19/10/2021 Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of

10 injured

FROM PAGE 3 The victims told reporters at the institute that the fire originated at the ICU of Mugda Hospital and spread before they could run to safer place.

Nazma Akhter, duty officer of Fire Service and Civil Defence Headquarters, said the fire originated around 12:30pm at a building of the hospital. Seven firefighting units worked for around half an hour and doused the blaze around 2:15pm.

The cause behind the fire could not be known immediately.

Student

FROM PAGE 3 formed at the college. It was asked to file a report to the principal within three working days, he said, adding that all classes will remain suspended till October 26. Meanwhile, locals and students of the college blocked Sylhet-Dhaka highway at Chandipul from 3:30pm to 4pm, demanding prompt arrest of the murderer.

বাড়ি বিক্রয় গাজীপুর বোর্ড বাজার শহীদ সিন্দিক স্মরণী ৩০ ফিট রাস্তার উপর গ্যাস, বিদ্যুৎ, পানিসহ ৬টা দোকান ১৫টি রুমসহ ৬ কাঠার বাড়ি বিক্রয় হবে। (পেরিক সুরে মালিক) মোবাইলঃ ০১৮৭০৮৩৬৪১ D-143

প্লট বিক্রয় রাজউক পুর্নাল সেট্টার-৩, রোড-৩০০ ফুট, ৫৪ ফুট কর্ণার, ১০ কাঠার প্লট বিক্রয় হবে। প্রকৃত ক্রেতাগণ যোগাযোগ করুন। মোবাইলঃ ০১৯২২২২২৫৫৯, ০১৭২০২০১১০৯

পাত্র চাই ডাক্তার প্রফেসর বাবা ও উসমান হু বাবক কর্মকর্তা মায়ের কন্যা গ্রীন কার্ডধারী। USA Computer Science এ চার বর্ষে অধ্যয়নরত (৫-৪-২০) পাত্রী জন্ম উপযুক্ত VSA পাত্র চাই। E-mail: rpkonkhondokar505@gmail.com ০১৭

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 CIRDAP, 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 under 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 Shahden 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 Herberson, development director at British High Commission; and Corinne Henchoz Pignani, deputy head of cooperation at Embassy of Switzerland; among others, spoke at the event.

বাংলাদেশ পল্লী বিদ্যুতায়ন বোর্ড BANGLADESH RURAL ELECTRIFICATION BOARD www.reb.gov.bd পবিত্রজন্ম (২২১০-৫৭) ২০২১-২০২২