

Sharfunnahar Chowdhury passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sharfunnahar Chowdhury, mother of the Daily Samakal's city editor and Jatiya Press Club treasurer Shahed Chowdhury, died of old-age related complications early yesterday. She was 78.

Family members said Sharfunnahar underwent treatment at Birdem General Hospital from March 9 to April 14. She was in the ICU for ten days and breathed her last around 2:00am at her residence in Narsingdi.

She was buried in Narsingdi's Bhagdi graveyard after her Namaz-e-Janaza at Bhagdi Markaz mosque after the zuhr prayers. She is survived by her four daughters and one son.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader, and Information Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud expressed deep shock at her death.

IMF cuts GDP

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The IMF also revised down the projection of GDP growth for Bangladesh in the next fiscal year to 6.7 percent from 7.1 percent forecast in January's supplementary outlook.

"Compared to our January forecast, we have revised our projection for global growth down to 3.6 percent in both 2022 and 2023," said the IMF in the latest report.

"This reflects the direct impact of the war on Ukraine and sanctions on Russia, with both countries projected to experience steep contractions."

This year's growth outlook for the European Union has been revised down by 1.1 percentage points due to the indirect effects of the war, making it the second largest contributor to the overall downward revision, it added.

The World Bank projected Bangladesh's economy to grow at 6.4 percent in the fiscal year of 2021-22 and 6.7 percent in

2022-23.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) forecast that Bangladesh's GDP would expand by 6.9 percent in 2021-22 and 7.1 percent in the next fiscal year.

This week, the government projected that the economy would grow by 7.2 this fiscal year and 7.5 percent in the next fiscal year.

In the latest outlook, the IMF cut the GDP growth forecasts for other South Asian countries as well.

It projected that India would grow by 8.2 percent in the current fiscal year and 6.9 percent in the next year.

In the fiscal 2021-22, the Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Pakistan would grow at 6.1 percent, 4.1 percent, 2.6 percent, and 4 percent respectively.

The projected growth rate of the Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Pakistan in the next fiscal year is 8.9 percent, 6.1 percent, 2.7 percent and 4.2 percent.

Asked how a person or syndicate could abduct so many people, the joint commissioner said that it happened because the majority of victims did not go to police and file complaints.

"We have traced the syndicate and arrested the five, after a victim recently filed cases with Jatrabari Police Station," he said.

Police said arrested Barek is wanted in at least six cases, and each of the others are wanted in two.

Junaed Alam Sharke, additional deputy commissioner of the division, said Barek has been active in the crime world for the last eight to 10 years.

One of the abduction

victims was present at DMP's media centre on the capital's Minto Road yesterday.

Talking to reporters, Rustom Khan (68) said on January 25 this year, he was standing near Badsha Mia Road at Jatrabari around 8:20am, when the area was a little foggy. While he was waiting for his company bus, two people put him in a private car at gunpoint.

The gang members then started beating him badly and demanded Tk 5 lakh ransom. The criminals tortured him till 4:30pm, and only released him after his wife sent Tk 50,000 twice through a mobile financial service.

They finally dropped the victim off in a secluded place in Munshiganj.

Halimah, Momen

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discussion on bilateral cooperation including the opportunities for enhancing trade and investment between our

countries," President Jacob said in a post shared on her verified Facebook page.

She said they also discussed regional and global developments.

Fear of more delays

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ongoing. As a result, vehicles run slow on the existing road, which causes heavy traffic congestion.

Sultan Ahmed Sarker, president of Gazipur-district road transport labour union, said thousands of vehicles ply the existing road, and that number would further increase ahead of Eid. But as the new roads are yet to be completed, home-going passengers are fearing traffic jams.

Md. Mohirul Islam Khan, director of the project (Bangladesh Bridge Authority), said, "We expect to complete the whole

project in time, unless we face any new problems."

"But we have been facing several issues, as people and different institutions occupied two sides of the road by building markets and shops as well as dumping waste. In addition, electric cables were laid on Ahsan Ullah Master Flyover," he said, adding that it will cost a good amount of money to remove those cables.

A huge pile of garbage was dumped near House Building area. "We asked Dhaka North City Corporation [DNCC] authorities to clear the place some 14 times, but they have been delaying it," Mohirul said.

Contacted, SM Shafiqur Rahman, executive engineer (collection and transport, waste management) of DNCC, said, "We received two letters in this regard. We will remove the garbage in the next seven to 10 days."

Project director SM Elias Shah said overall progress at present is 73 percent. "We have also instructed to complete carpeting the new road under the flyover soon, so that vehicles can ply it during Eid."

Gazipur Metropolitan Police Deputy Commissioner (Traffic) Abdullah Al Mamun said according to a survey, some 60,000 vehicles ply the existing road every 24 hours. "We have instructed BRT authorities to open the new road, the part for which they have completed constructing more than one lane, by setting up a divider."

"It will be easy for us to manage traffic if they open some parts of the road by Saturday," he added.

New year

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Usually the potters start making clay essentials from Bangla months Kartik to Chaitra (November to March) to sell them round the year.

The potters said the traditional celebration including Ashtami Snan and Pahela Boishakh are the main source of their income.

Alongside the earthenware business, the sale of tradition Ashtami foods like binni khoi, khawia, khelna also peaked at city's Swadeshi Bazar and Zainul Abedin Park.

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Dhaka, Delhi

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Health Policy of 2011." She added that the country has officially recognised the potential contributions of Unani, Ayurvedic and Homeopathic medical services in its efforts to achieve SDG 3.

In addition to offering outpatient services by traditional medicine

experts, most district and sub-district level public health facilities are equipped with medicinal plant gardens, she added.

She mentioned that Bangladesh is looking forward to partnering with the Global Centre on critical issues like quality control, curriculum development and regulatory standards.

Policy gap to blame

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Hasan, Sebastian Groh, associate professor of Brac Business School; Dipal C. Barua, founder chair of Bright Green Energy Foundation; and Abeer Butmeh, coordinator of Palestinian Environmental NGOs Network also spoke.

CAREB is a citizen's alliance of five key organisations including CLEAN, Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association, Association for Land Reform and Development, Nijera Kori and Transparency International Bangladesh.

The

Titas asked

FROM PAGE 3

The issue drew special attention as the Titas Gas recently moved a proposal to the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) to raise the gas price by 117 percent.

As per the proposal, if it is accepted by the BERC, a single burner user will have to pay over Tk 2,000 per month.

The Titas Gas managing director, who was present at the meeting, was asked to explain as to why the company's prepaid gas meter project is being delayed.

Meeting sources said the Titas top executive failed to provide any satisfactory answer.

Rather, he said installation of a pre paid meter costs Tk 23,000 of which 14,000 is the meter's value.

The rest is data centre management cost.

There are 4.3 million gas consumers across the country where a total of six distribution companies are operating.

Among them, Titas is the largest operator having 2.8 million consumers and it is responsible for the supply of natural gas to Dhaka and its adjoining districts since its founding in 1964.

No extra passengers

FROM PAGE 3

buses have been instructed to park in a single line, so that space remains on the road for vehicular movement," he added.

Besides, steps have been taken to ensure parking facilities at markets and prevent vehicles from parking indiscriminately on the road, he said.

"We are also holding

talks with bus owners, so that no bus can take passengers outside terminals. Although during Eid rush, it may not be possible to take all passengers from inside terminals. In that case,

buses have been instructed to park in a single line, so that space remains on the road for vehicular movement," he added.

Regarding Eid security, the home minister said police and intelligence agencies are working to ensure law and order across the country.

Special check posts will be set up at intersections, and steps have been taken to prevent spread of fake notes, he said. During Eid holidays, there will be more police patrolling in diplomatic zones and all ports.

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(একিউএম গোলাম মাওলা)

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