



At Kamalapur Railway Station, this photojournalist met Shapna and her cat Tintin, who lives in Bashabo. Tintin, a member of Shapna's family, is always a travel companion during the vacations. This time, Tintin went to Rajshahi to spend Eid holidays with the other members of the family. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



Doa mahfil for AMA Muhith today

STAR REPORT

A doa mahfil for former finance minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith will be held at Gulshan Central (Azad) mosque after Asr prayers today.

In a statement, his family requested all of his well-wishers to join the programme for the salvation of his departed soul.

Muhith was a Language Movement veteran and valiant freedom fighter. He was elected member of parliament from Sylhet-1 constituency.

He passed away soon after midnight on April 30 in Dhaka.

He was laid to rest at his family graveyard in Rainagar, Sylhet.

He left behind his wife Sabia Muhith, daughter Samina, sons Shahed and Samir, and many family members, friends and admirers.

A digital disaster

Online ticketing service of National Museum, Ahsan Manzil makes visitors suffer, prompts black market sales

DIPAN NANDY

Bangladesh National Museum and Ahsan Manzil reopened yesterday after Eid holidays. Their doors were open from 3:00pm onwards, but visitors found themselves faced with a unique form of suffering.

Ticket counters of the two sites were closed, as all tickets were supposed to be booked online. But most of the visitors did not buy tickets online. Some of them tried to book online tickets on the spot but failed due to the complexity of the process and issues with the servers.

Those who were still adamant to visit, bought tickets on the black market, paying double to ten times the original entrance fee of Tk 20.

The National Museum reopened after the pandemic hiatus on August 23 last year. At first, some 600 visitors used to visit the museum every day. The number has now reached 1,500.

However, despite the increase in the number of visitors, there is no physical ticketing system in place. Visitors have to book tickets online and make online payments from the museum's website. The same goes for Ahsan Manzil.

Mazharul Abedin, an Agargaon resident who came to visit the museum yesterday afternoon, said, "The pandemic is now



Ever since Bangladesh National Museum and Ahsan Manzil shifted to an online ticket-purchase system, visitors have had to buy tickets off the black market, paying double the price. Those who did try booking them online were unable to do so due to the complexity of the process and server issues. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

under control. Why are they selling tickets online? They aren't even available online."

Mohammad Hossain, another visitor, who bought tickets in black, said, "I bought a Tk 20 ticket for Tk 100."

Asked about the source of tickets being sold in black, a security guard of the museum, requesting anonymity, said, "Museum tickets can be bought from the ground floor of Aziz Super Market and Shahbagh Biponin Bitan."

When this correspondent visited

Shahbagh Bipani Bitan, an advertisement for museum tickets was seen hanging.

Talking to this correspondent, an employee of Shahbagh Biponin Bitan's AG Drug Store, wishing to remain anonymous, said, "We buy tickets online, which we sell for a higher price." "We sell a Tk 20 ticket at Tk 50 to Tk 100. Tickets priced at Tk 300 for Saarc nationals and Tk 500 for foreign nationals are being charged from Tk 1,000 to Tk 1,500," he added.

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Build climate-tolerant infrastructures PM urges engineers

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has urged engineers to play more effective roles in constructing infrastructures suitable for coping with adverse impacts of climate change.

"Engineers must play more effective roles in building infrastructures tolerant to climate change and its adverse impacts, and ensuring food and energy security," she said in a message issued yesterday on the occasion of the 74th founding anniversary of Engineers Institution, Bangladesh (IEB) and the Engineers' Day.

Greeting all engineers on the occasion, the PM said the role of engineers is essential in the country's overall development.

The technological and engineering development is the key to the development of a nation, she said, adding that immediately after the independence of the country, the engineers had played a significant role in reconstructing war-ravaged Bangladesh under the leadership of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Sheikh Hasina said the engineers are leading the country forward through technical and engineering progress.



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AHSANULLAH MASTER KILLING CASE An 18-year wait for justice

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Eighteen years have passed since veteran freedom fighter and Awami League lawmaker Ahsanullah Master was brutally killed in a burst of fire at a rally near his house in Gazipur's Tongi.

But ultimate justice is yet to be ensured, because of the lengthy legal system.

Appeals in connection with the grisly murder have been pending with the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court for six years, depriving the deceased's family of solace.

But the apex court could not start hearing the appeals filed against the HC verdict in the related case, because regular judicial functions of the court remain disrupted due to the pandemic and long backlog of cases.

Advocate Khandker Mahbub Hossain, principal defence counsel of the case, told The Daily Star that the Appellate Division is now hearing and disposing of death references and appeals of 2016.

Appeals and death reference of Ahsanullah Master killing case were filed in 2016, and therefore, those might be heard and disposed of soon if they come up before the apex court, he said.

"We [defence lawyers] are ready for placing arguments on behalf of the convicted accused, as they have been suffering in jail for several years," Khandker added.

Contacted, Attorney General AM Amin Uddin told this correspondent that his office will place arguments on behalf of the state when the appeals will be heard by the SC.

On May 7, 2004, assailants killed Ahsanullah Master and student Omar Faruq Ratan, and wounded 17 at the rally of Swachhchasebak League, a pro-AL body, at Naogaon.

Ahsanullah's brother filed the case the next

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BANGLADESH-US TIES US Congress commemorates 50th anniversary

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The US Congress recently introduced a bipartisan resolution, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the establishment of Bangladesh-US diplomatic relations.

Democratic Congressman Brian Higgins of New York on Tuesday introduced the resolution in the Congress, which has been co-sponsored by Republican Congresswoman Amata Coleman Radewagen of American Samoa.

The resolution was referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, stated Bangladesh embassy in Washington yesterday.

The resolution highlighted that the US and Bangladesh share a rich and multifaceted relationship, focusing on cooperation on a range of issues, including economic, security, governance, and development, to advance a shared vision of a free, open, inclusive, peaceful, and secure Indo-Pacific region.

The resolution mentioned the recognition of independent Bangladesh by the US on April 4, 1972, and subsequent acknowledgement of the recognition by then Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman through a letter to President Nixon on April 9, 1972.

It also recognised the joint efforts made by Bangladesh and the US in combating the Covid-19 pandemic, as well as the contributions of the two countries towards assisting Rohingyas who fled genocide in Myanmar.

The Congress resolution also cited Senator Edward Kennedy's role in 1971 in support of Bangladesh's

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As the city is still relatively quiet owing to Eid holidays, the rickshaw-pullers have also been able to catch a break from their routines. Their vehicles were seen securely parked with chains at a stand in Tejgaon area. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS