

A fitting farewell

People pay last respects to Abdul Gaffar Chowdhury

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

People from all walks of life gave an apt farewell to columnist Abdul Gaffar Chowdhury, best known for penning the immortal song “Amar Bhaier Rokte Rangano”, before his burial yesterday.

In 1952, the adolescent Gaffar was heartbroken by the death of Language Movement hero Rafiq Uddin Ahmed, and wrote the iconic lyrics to honour the movement’s martyrs.

So, fittingly, everyone said goodbye to Gaffar at Central Shaheed Minar, the monument built in memory of the Language Movement martyrs.

The body of Gaffar, who died on May 19 in London, was brought to Bangladesh yesterday morning. Many paid their last respects by joining janazas at Jatiya Press Club and Dhaka University Central Mosque in the afternoon.

He was buried at Mirpur’s Martyred Intellectuals Graveyard, beside his wife’s grave.

When his body was then taken to Central Shaheed Minar, he was given a guard of honour by Dhaka district administration.

On behalf of the president, his military secretary Maj Gen SM Salahuddin Islam, and on behalf of the PM, her military secretary Brig Gen Kabir Ahmed paid homage. Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury paid respects on behalf of the parliament.

Led by Awami League general secretary Obaidul Quader, the party’s

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After the body of Abdul Gaffar Chowdhury was taken to Central Shaheed Minar yesterday, for everyone to pay their last respects, Dhaka district administration gave him a guard of honour. The premises was echoing with the tales of Gaffar, who penned the immortal song “Amar Bhaier Rokte Rangano Ekushey February”. The noted columnist was laid to rest at Mirpur’s Martyred Intellectuals’ Graveyard.

PHOTO: STAR

‘Those in power want police to do their bidding’

Says ex-IGP Shahidul Hoque at launch event of his book

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former inspector general of police (IGP) AKM Shahidul Hoque yesterday said those in power always want police to do their bidding. And so, it is difficult to face these challenges and at the same time perform duties properly.

“In the context of Bangladesh, political forces and bureaucracy never want changes in police. The ruling party wants police to do what they say; the MPs want OCs [officers-in-charge] to do their bidding,” Shahidul said at a programme organised to launch his new book.

“It is very difficult to overcome these challenges and obstacles,” he said at the event, in which

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A boost for battered tourism

3-day int’l tourism fair starts Thursday, participated by 50 orgs from home, abroad

RASHIDUL HASAN

With things slowly getting back to normal, airlines, tourism and hospitality sectors are expected to turn around this year, following immense loss due to the pandemic.

To kick-start that change, the 17th edition of Dhaka Travel Mart will begin on Thursday.

The three-day international tourism fair will take place at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Dhaka.

Kazi Wahidul Alam, editor of travel and tourism publication The Bangladesh Monitor, shared the

information at a press conference at a city hotel yesterday.

A total of about 50 organisations – representing airlines, tour operators, hotels, resorts, travel agencies, healthcare providers – from home and abroad are taking part in the fair, said Wahidul.

With a view to accelerate the recovery of the travel and tourism sector, The Bangladesh Monitor will organise the fair.

The adverse effects of Covid-19 were profound in Bangladesh’s hospitality and tourism sector, as it

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BNP trying to create anarchy: Quader

BSS, Dhaka

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday said BNP is making ill attempts to create a chaotic situation in the country in the name of mass movement.

Quader, also road transport and bridges minister, said this at a press conference at his official residence in Dhaka.

He said people are so pleased with the development and achievement that they don’t respond to BNP’s repeated calls for movement in the last 13 years.

“I believe they will do the same in future too. So, BNP’s desire for movement will turn into despair soon,” he observed.

In response to BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir’s comment that movement has spread all over the country, Quader said, “Through this comment we are noticing their evil attempts to create a bad situation in the country.”

Govt behind attacks on JCD members

Alleges Khandaker Mosharraf

UNB, Dhaka

BNP senior leader Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain yesterday alleged that the attacks on the leaders and activists of JCD were carried out by BCL in Dhaka University area at the behest of the government.

The videos containing the attacks on peaceful processions of JCD and repression on female JCD leaders by the goons of Chhatra League and Jubo league have gone viral, he said. “We would like to say the perpetrators indulged in such misdeeds at the behest of the highest leader of Awami League and the highest position of the government,” he said. Speaking at a rally, the BNP leader also strongly condemned the attacks. Jubo Dal arranged the rally in front of Jatiya Press Club.

PRAYER
TIMING
MAY 29



	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
Azan	4-05	12-45	5-00	6-43	8-05
Jamaat	4-40	1-15	5-15	6-47	8-35

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



A performance art consisting of 70 women across all generations and professions titled “Himmati Mai” was held on the road beside Shilpokala Academy yesterday. Performers took to the streets for an hour jointly hitting the bamboo they were carrying in expression of anger, protesting various forms of violence against women. Himmati Mai is the Bangla translation of the play “Mother Courage and Her Children” written by German dramatist and poet Bertolt Brecht.

PHOTO: STAR

DHAKA NAGAR JADUGHAR

A museum with no visitors

DIPAN NANDY

Even on a good day, five to 10 people visit Dhaka Nagar Jadughar, the one inside Nagar Bhaban of Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC). On some days, not even a single visitor can be seen on the premises.

Visitors complain that the museum, maintained by three staffers, does not have enough publicity as well as an adequate collection, hence the establishment’s miserable state.

Despite the situation, the museum’s trustee board did not see any measures to develop the place, even after making repeated proposals to the mayor and officials since 1996.

THE HISTORY

Dhaka City Museum was first opened on June 20, 1986, in a



house on Panch Bhai Lane, Old Dhaka. Its main initiator was historian Muntasir Mamoon; others involved in the endeavour were historian Sirajul Islam, city expert Nazrul Islam, architect Rabiul Hussain and artist Hashem Khan.

The museum was inaugurated on July 20, 1996, by Sheikh Hasina, then prime minister. From that day, Dhaka City Corporation got the responsibility to maintain the museum. Currently, it is under the jurisdiction of DSCC.

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