

National Mourning Day today

BSS, Dhaka

The nation is set to observe National Mourning Day today.

The government and numerous political, socio-economic and cultural organisations have chalked out programmes to mark the 47th martyrdom anniversary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his family members.

On this day in 1975, Bangabandhu was brutally assassinated by a group of conspiring army officers.

Bangabandhu's wife, sons, daughters-in-law and other relatives were also killed in the massacre, one of the most heinous in world history.

Bangabandhu's daughters Sheikh Hasina and Sheikh Rehana, survived as they were abroad at the time.

Like previous years, along with the government, different political and socio-cultural organisations, educational institutions and professional groups have also planned elaborate programmes to pay utmost respect to Bangabandhu on the day of his martyrdom.

The nation started observing the month of mourning from August 1.

President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina have issued separate messages marking the occasion.

On the day, the national flag will fly half-mast

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Father assaulted, mugged by sons 4 including 2 brothers held

STAR REPORT

An elderly couple – Jaynal Abedin and Honufa Begum – were beaten up by their three sons and driven out of their house in the Manikdi area of Dhaka recently.

Jaynal then rented a flat to stay with his wife. On June 28, he sold two katha of land to meet their expenses for Tk 31 lakh and was returning home with the money on a motorcycle.

His three sons joined hands with several muggers, assaulted Jaynal with an iron rod and snatched the money, said detectives.

Jaynal has received treatment for the wounds on his knee and hands. He needed six stitches on his hand.

Detectives disclosed the incident yesterday after arresting four persons, including two of the sons.

A team of detectives arrested them from Tangail, Gazipur and Dhaka, and recovered Tk 29 lakh from their possession, Mashiur Rahman, deputy commissioner of (DB-Gulshan) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, told this correspondent. Jaynal filed a case with Cantonment Police Station in this regard.

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Passengers tuck themselves in protective plastic sheets inside a rickshaw, while vehicles ply the road with their headlights on as a gush of rain takes over the capital yesterday afternoon. This photo was taken in Karwan Bazar.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

FIVE FUGITIVE KILLERS OF BANGABANDHU Little progress in bringing them back

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

None of the five convicted fugitive killers of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who have been hiding abroad, could be brought back home despite the government's persistent efforts. The trial against the convicts ended 13 years ago.

The five fugitives are Khandaker Abdur Rashid, Shariful Haque Dalim, Nur Chowdhury, Rashed Chowdhury and Moslehuddin Khan.

Only two of them – Nur Chowdhury and Rashed Chowdhury – could be traced back to Canada and the USA. The government has yet to find out the whereabouts of



the other three despite a series of efforts made through diplomatic channels, intelligence and Interpol.

The government has failed to constitute a commission to find out the conspirators behind the killing of Bangabandhu and his family members on August 15, 1975, although it announced the plan to form one a few years ago.

However, the Sheikh Hasina-led government has moved another

step towards ensuring justice by executing convict Abdul Majed.

Abdul Majed, who had long been hiding abroad, was hanged on April 12, 2020, while five other convicts – Syed Farooq Rahman, Sultan Shahrir Rashid Khan, Bazlul Huda, AKM Mohiuddin Ahmed and Mohiuddin Ahmed – were executed on January 28, 2010.

Another convict Aziz Pasha died in

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DMP beefs up security measures

STAR REPORT

Dhaka Metropolitan Police have taken strict security measures in and around Dhanmondi 32, marking the National Mourning Day to be observed today.

People who will come to pay tribute at the portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Dhanmondi 32 must pass through security check, DMP Commissioner Shafiqul Islam said yesterday. He was speaking to reporters after assessing security arrangement at Dhanmondi 32.

Replying to a query, the DMP chief said intelligence agencies, including Special Branch of police, National Security Intelligence and counter-terrorism units, have not received any specific information about militant attack threats so far.

Adequate police personnel will be deployed and intelligence surveillance will be intensified to ensure the security. Archway and check-post will be installed at the Banani graveyard too, he said.

Police surveillance has been increased in hotels, guest houses and messes located in the adjacent areas of Dhanmondi 32 and the Banani graveyard.

Shafiqul also requested all not to bring any kind of backpack or tiffin carrier while visiting the areas.

NATIONAL MOURNING DAY

Star, Nagad launch essay competition

STAR REPORT

The Daily Star and Nagad Ltd have taken an initiative to revive Bangabandhu's ideal on the occasion of National Mourning Day, said a press release.

This thought led to the birth of "Tomar Chokhe Bangabandhu'r Bangladesh" campaign by The Daily Star and Nagad Ltd.

The campaign is an essay writing competition to engage and aware youths with Bangabandhu's vision for the nation.

The competition aims to inject the sense of patriotism among this generation who can be inspired by the ideology of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Both English and Bangla medium students can participate in the contest.

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The 18th graduation ceremony of Sunnysdale was held on August 13 at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Dhaka. Prof Perween Hasan, Vice Chancellor of Central Women's University, attended the event as the chief guest and conferred graduation certificates among 100 graduates. Chairman of Sunnysdale Tanvir Ahmed Khan and Head of School Tazeen Ahmed were also present at the ceremony.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

REGENT HOSPITAL SCAM

Trial of former DGHS chief, five others begins

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The trial of the graft case filed against former director general of Directorate General of Health Services Abul Kalam Azad and five others began yesterday with the depositions of the complainant.

The five others are: Regent Group chairman Mohammad Shahed, DGHS former director (hospitals and clinics) Dr Aminul Hasan, deputy director (hospital-1) Dr Younus Ali, assistant director (hospital-1) Dr Shafiqur Rahman and research officer Dr Didarul Islam.

Judge Al Asad Md Asifuzzaman of the Special Judge's Court-6 of Dhaka recorded the statements of Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Deputy Director Farid Ahmed Patwary, also the case's complainant, said ACC Public Prosecutor Mahmud Hossain Jahangir.

The court fixed September 7 for cross-examination.

During yesterday's hearing, Shahed, now behind bars, was produced before the court, while five other accused, including Azad, now on bail, were present.

ACC filed the case against Shahed and four others, excluding the name of Azad on September 22 of 2020.

According to the case statement, the accused embezzled over Tk 1.37 crore through testing samples of Covid-19 patients in a government-run lab Nipsom.

On September 30 last year, ACC

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‘Drilling yielded no results’

Says Nasrul Hamid on country's gas resources

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh is far behind the policies of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to be self-reliant in energy reserves, said experts at a seminar yesterday.

However, State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources claimed that there were no lack of efforts to use the country's gas resources.

The seminar, titled "Energy Security in Bangladesh: Unstable International Market" was organised by Forum for Energy Reporters Bangladesh (FERB) in the capital's Bidyut Bhaban.

Former DU Prof Badrul Imam said the five giant gas fields, which were nationalised by Bangabandhu in 1975 are now producing 82 percent of the total local gas supply by national oil companies.

"Within his three-and-a-half-year tenure, Bangabandhu prepared the gas blocks in the ocean and made a plan to allocate companies. But his successor governments failed to follow his footsteps," he said.

"We increased production and conducted multiple drilling spending nine to 16 million dollars. However, the drilling yielded us with no results," said Nasrul Hamid.

"We have appointed three companies to explore the deep sea. I also approved works at the Myanmar border. If they say it is not feasible, there is nothing we can do," he added.

Senior Secretary of the energy division Md Mahbub Hossain and Petrobangla chairman Nazmul Ahsan said they made a plan to increase the production of an additional 618 mmcfd (million cubic feet per day) by 2025.

Energy expert Prof Shamsul Alam asked how the energy division increased the fuel price, violating the law by not holding a public hearing.

However, the state minister did not reply to the question and said people need to be patient for a month or two.

FERB Chairman Md Shamim Jahangir presided over the seminar, while former chairman Mollah Amzad Hossain presented the keynote.

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