

KERANIGANJ FIRE Last family member dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Another person who was burnt along with five other family members in a house fire on August 30 died at a city hospital early yesterday.

With him, all the six people, who were at the Keraniganj home that day, have passed away.

Mohammad Yeasin (12) breathed his last around 6:45am while being treated at Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery, hospital sources said.

He had 40 percent burns on his body.

Earlier, Yeasin's brother Shahadat Hossain (20), his grandmother Begum (60), aunt Sonia Akter (26), cousin Mariam (4) and relative Iduni alias Panna Begum (50) died at the hospital at different times.

The fire broke out on the ground floor when Begum lit the gas stove. Fire officials suspected that the fire originated from a leak in the gas line.

NORTH TO SOUTH

FROM Uttara (North)

TO	Fare (in Tk)
Uttara (Centre)	20
Uttara (South)	20
Pallabi	30
Mirpur-11	30
Mirpur-10	40
Kazipara	40
Sheurapara	50
Agargaon	60
Bijoy Sarani	60
Farmgate	70
Karwan Bazar	80
Shahbagh	80
Dhaka University	90
Secretariat	90
Motijheel	100
Kamalapur	100

Smart card, free ride, special concession

DTCA discloses details about metro rail fare

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Transport Coordination Authority (DTCA) spelled out the details and conditions regarding metro rail fare in a circular yesterday.

Citizens will get a 10-percent concession if they use their "smart card" to pay for their ride.

The circular also read that metro rail authorities can give special concession to people with special needs for each of their trips.

Wounded freedom-fighters would also be allowed to travel free of cost.

The maximum fare for a journey from Uttara to Kamalapur would be Tk 100, and minimum fare would be Tk 20. The fare for each kilometre is set at Tk 5.

DTCA also published a detailed fare chart, which will partially come into operation from December.

Shabiha Pervin, DTCA's executive director, confirmed the information with The Daily Star last night.

On Tuesday, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader announced that the metro fare has

been set following prime minister's approval.

Metro rail service from Uttara to Agargaon is scheduled to launch in December. The Agargaon-Motijheel route is set to be operational by December 2023.

Additionally, an extension from Motijheel to Kamalapur is scheduled to be constructed by December 2025.

As per the circular, the fare from Uttara to Agargaon (11.73km) would be Tk 60, and Tk 100 for both Uttara-Motijheel (20.10km) and Uttara-Kamalapur (21.26km).

The Uttara-Farmgate fare would be Tk 70, while Farmgate-Motijheel Tk 40.

Commuters will be able to buy prepaid cards that can be refilled by up to Tk 10,000, with a validity of 10 years. There will be monthly, weekly, and family cards.

Single-use cards will be available too, officials said. The Mass Rapid Transit Line-6 or MRT-6 was supposed to be implemented at a cost of Tk 21,985 crore by June 2024.



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SOUTH TO NORTH

FROM Kamalapur Station

TO	Fare (in Tk)
Motijheel	20
Secretariat	20
Dhaka University	20
Shahbagh	30
Karwan Bazar	30
Farmgate	40
Bijoy Sarani	50
Agargaon	50
Sheurapara	60
Kazipara	70
Mirpur-10	70
Mirpur-11	80
Pallabi	80
Uttara (South)	90
Uttara (Centre)	100
Uttara (North)	100

Govt won't obstruct BNP's peaceful movement Says law minister

BSS, Dhaka

Law Minister Anisul H u q yesterday said the government will not obstruct any peaceful movement of BNP, but it (government) will act strongly against any unruly activities in the name of movement.

"If they (BNP) try to bring back the days of arson and vandalism, the government will crush them with an iron fist. None will be exempted. The government is not arresting the leaders and activists of BNP in any new cases. Only the fugitive accused are being arrested in old cases," he said.

The minister said this while talking to newsmen after inaugurating the new building of Kalampur Sub-Registrar Office in Dhamrai.

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PRAYER TIMING
SEPTEMBER 9

Fazr	Juma	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:35	12:30	4:30	6:20	7:45
JAMAAAT 5:10	1:15	4:45	6:25	8:15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

'Munda's death: a failure of the state'

As a member of the majority community, I sometimes think, whether we have the right to live our lives with our heads held high when we hear about the rights of the minority communities being violated.

SULTANA KAMAL

I cannot send my children to school. I would like to draw the attention of the government so that exemplary punishment for the perpetrators is ensured.

RINA MUNDA
Daughter-in-law of Narendranath Munda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It is the primary responsibility of the state to protect the human rights of the country's people, said speakers at an event yesterday.

"Irrespective of the citizen's class and colour, the country's constitution says the state will treat all equally and will protect everyone's rights. But I must say with sorrow that the state has failed to save the human rights of its people," said rights activist Sultana Kamal.

The event was organised at Jatiya Press Club by nine rights organisations, demanding punishment of those involved in the killing of Narendranath Munda and in protest of grabbing land of indigenous communities in Satkhira.

The nine organisations are Bangladesh Adivasi Forum, ALRD, Jatiya Adivasi Parishad, Human Rights Culture Foundation, Kapeng Foundation, Ain o Salish Kendra, Swadesh, SAMS and Nagorik Somaj.

Speaking as chief guest,

Sultana Kamal said the state will have to take responsibility if it fails to protect the rights of the people.

She also said oppression, rape and killing of the country's indigenous peoples cannot continue like this.

"As a member of the majority community, I sometimes think, whether we have the right to live our lives with our heads held high when we hear about the rights of the minority communities being violated," said Sultana Kamal.

Pointing to the current government, she said, the ruling party took power by pledging to protect people's rights.

"But they are not keeping their promises. Rather, it sometimes happens that they are breaking them, going against their own words," she added.

"In every case, we hear the same story of minority communities' land and properties being encroached upon. The people of these communities are being subjected to physical torture. Murders and rapes are happening

as well."

"We want justice and exemplary punishment for such incidents so that such incidents do not take place again. It is the responsibility of the state to compensate the people for the damage. This cannot go on in an independent country," added Sultana Kamal.

Pointing to the killing of Narendranath Munda, she said this type of incident is not acceptable in the time of the government that claims to be the force in favour of the spirit of the Liberation War.

"They are not using power to protect the people's rights," said Sultana Kamal.

Rina Munda, daughter-in-law of deceased Narendranath Munda, said, "Our crops have been destroyed. We cannot plant new seeds on the land as we do not have the money."

"I cannot send my children to school. I would like to draw the attention of the government so that exemplary punishment for the perpetrators is ensured," she added.

UGC declares America Bangladesh Univ illegal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The University Grants Commission yesterday announced activities of America Bangladesh University illegal and advised aspirants not to get enrolled there.

UGC made the announcement following recommendations of a probe committee formed by the commission.

The probe report was sent to the education ministry yesterday, said UGC in a press statement.

The activities of Bangladesh University are creating a negative impression on the country's higher education sector globally, said UGC.

UGC member, Prof Biswajit Chanda said the university has no VC, pro-VC or treasurer appointed by the president. So there is no legal authorities at the university right now.

According to section 17 and 19 of the Private University Act, 2010, the university's academic, administrative, financial activities, admission, examination and results and academic certificates are illegal as it has no valid syndicate and academic council, he added.

The university was formed in 2002 and the government announced

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Democracy will be restored soon Says Fakhru

UNB, Dhaka



BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir yesterday said things will change for the better with the restoration of democracy in the country.

Fakhru said this when he went to Popular Hospital in the capital's Dhanmondi area around 1:30pm to visit JCD leader Shrabon who sustained

critical injuries in police firing at a BNP rally at Pakundia upazila in Kishoreganj on September 3.

He talked to duty doctors and inquired about the JCD leader's physical condition and treatment.

Later, talking to Shrabon's mother, the BNP leader said their party will remain beside her family in ensuring proper treatment of her son.

BNP, anarchy go hand in hand Says Quader

BSS, Dhaka



Awami League (AL) General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday said the movement of BNP means instigating anarchy in the name of occupying the streets.

Quader, also the road transport and bridges minister, said the BNP is hatching a conspiracy to oust a democratic government, capitalising on the global economic crisis.

At the same time, he said, BNP is now becoming an anti-state and anti-people party by waging a movement against the incumbent government.

BNP is demanding the resignation of the government although it is isolated from the people, he added.

"Election is the only way to change the government. We will ask BNP to test its popularity by participating in the next elections," Quader said.

573 workers left for Malaysia in August

Show BMET data; after 4yrs absence, process of hiring, sending workers begins

JAMIL MAHMUD

As many as 573 migrant workers have gone to Malaysia for employment in August, shows latest data of Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training.

After nearly four years of absence, Malaysia started to intake fresh Bangladeshi migrant workers from early August in line with a new memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed between the two countries in December last year.

The MoU lifts an embargo imposed on Bangladesh by the Southeast Asian country in September 2018.

An official at BMET's emigration wing yesterday over the phone said after the market reopened, they have so far issued "emigration clearance" to about 1,000 Malaysia-bound workers.

The bureau has so far received documents for emigration clearance of more than 8,000 such migrant workers from at least 15 recruiting agencies, said the official, preferring anonymity.

These recruiting agencies have got the employment permits from the expatriates' welfare ministry, added the official.

The official said they are expecting that the number of Malaysia-bound migrant workers will increase further from October with about 10,000 to 15,000 workers may go there each month.

In 2018, Malaysia suspended hiring Bangladeshi workers on allegation of "syndication" and malpractices in the recruitment process and high recruitment costs.

The number of Malaysia-bound migrant workers will increase further from October with about 10,000 to 15,000 workers may go there each month.

After prolonged negotiations, Dhaka and Kuala Lumpur signed the MoU last year to start sending migrants from Bangladesh under a new arrangement.

After this, a first batch of 53 migrant workers left for Malaysia in a flight from Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka on August 8, according to BMET.

Malaysia is one of the largest labour

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A night for poetry

Star holds first Slam Poetry Night

SHOUT DESK

SHOUT and Daily Star Books organised the first instalment of their monthly event Slam Poetry Night in the capital's The Daily Star Centre yesterday.

More than 15 performers presented their works of poetry at the event. The age group of the performers ranged from tenth-graders to graduate students, who read their poetry in both Bangla and English.

The poems ranged from mental health issues to individual freedom of expression and every musing in between.

Many of the poets who took the stage were first-time performers, while there were other performers who were young published poets.

In between performances, the audience and performers interacted about what inspires them, how they deal with writer's block, and their writing process. A handful of performers made the decision to perform on the spot as the organisers encouraged them to take the stage in the impromptu session.

One of those performers was Noyolee Munim, a student of Economics at Dhaka University.

"I came here not expecting much, as



PHOTO: ORCHID CHAKMA

I've never experienced a slam poetry event before. But the ambience was amazing, the audience was supportive and interactive. The poetry I heard inspired me to start writing again. A lot of the topics they wrote about were very reliable as well. In the end, I even got to go on stage and recite a poem of

my own," she said.

"One special thing was that I got to meet many like-minded people and speak to them after the event. I have been craving this for a while, and the chance I got to meet these people really made this a great event for me," said Noyolee.