

King Charles III pays tribute to his 'darling mama'

Vows 'lifelong service' in first address as monarch

AGENCIES

Britain's King Charles III, in his first national address after succeeding his mother Queen Elizabeth II, yesterday remembered his "darling mama" as "an inspiration and example to me and to all my family".

He vowed to emulate his late mother's long life of service to Britain and the Commonwealth, and elevated his heir William to become the new Prince of Wales, in an emotive televised address.

Charles also declared his "love" for his estranged younger son Harry and Harry's wife Meghan. The new monarch further said he could "count on the loving help of my darling wife, Camilla" after she became queen consort.

Charles said he shared the public's "sense of loss beyond measure" after his mother passed away on Thursday aged 96, after a record-breaking reign of 70 years, reports AFP.

"That promise of lifelong service I renew to you all today," he said.

"As the queen herself did with such unwavering devotion, I too now solemnly pledge myself, throughout the remaining time God grants me, to uphold the constitutional principles at the heart of our nation."

Addressing his "darling mama", joining his father the late Prince Philip, who died last year, "I want simply to say this: thank you", the new king said.

"Thank you for your love and devotion to our family and to the family of nations you have served so diligently all these years. May flights of angels sing thee to thy rest."



The Death Gun Salute is fired at the Tower of London by the Honourable Artillery Company, British Army, taking place to mark the death of Queen Elizabeth II, in London yesterday. 96 rounds were fired, one round being fired for each year of the Queen's life.

PHOTO: AFP

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S REIGN

Golden age, or last embers of a bygone era?

REUTERS, London

Queen Elizabeth II, who died on Thursday, broke record after record as monarch, becoming an enduring symbol of the country over which she reigned for 70 years even as it changed beyond recognition, losing its empire and undergoing social upheaval.

Some commentators describe her reign as a "golden age" reminiscent of that of her namesake Elizabeth I, who ruled England 400 years ago during a period of growing power and cultural flourishing. "I think that we are partly

viewed through the prism of the queen: the consistency, the wisdom that she has shown, all of that has been apparent in the way that people view Britain," said Valerie Amos, a former politician and the first Black person appointed by the monarch to the ancient "Order of the Garter".

Others say the 96-year-old's impact on the nation was less profound than that of her illustrious forebear, the monarch's powers

having shrunk since the first Elizabethan age.

Some critics argue she leaves no tangible mark, only an institution unfit for purpose in a world of egalitarian aspirations, irreverent social media commentary and scrutiny by round-the-clock media outlets.

Yet her legacy is still remarkable: ensuring the monarchy survived an era of rapid change. Elizabeth ascended the throne aged 25 on

Feb. 6, 1952, on the death of her father George VI, when Britain was emerging from the ravages of World War Two. Rationing was still in place and Winston Churchill was prime minister.

Since then, presidents, prime ministers have come and gone, the Soviet Union has collapsed and Britain's empire has gone, replaced by a Commonwealth of 56 nations which Elizabeth was instrumental in creating.

"None of the other imperial powers have achieved that..." said Professor Vernon Bogdanor, an expert in British constitutional history.



No visible gain

FROM PAGE 12

one person was killed at the Dinajpur border and two others went missing. This is the outcome [of the prime minister's visit]."

Fakhrul said though there was no fruitful outcome of the visit, the ruling Awami League leaders in their statements are expressing their "love" for India.

"The government has become desperate [to stay in power]. You must remember that before this visit the foreign minister [AK Abdul Momen] had said that he requested Indian leaders to take measures to keep the Awami League government in power by any means," he said.

The BNP secretary general said his party believed that all democratic countries would play their role in upholding democracy and establishing people's rights around the world.

"India is our good friend and a democratic country. We believe that India will also keep its democratic character intact," he said.

SL down Pak

FROM PAGE 12

Sri Lanka registered their fourth straight victory.

It was the Sri Lankan bowlers who began the team's domination as debutant fast bowler Pramod Madushan struck in his first over.

He sent the in-form Mohammad Rizwan, who is second to Virat Kohli in the tournament's run-scoring charts, back to the pavilion for 14.

Chamika Karunaratne ended Fakhar Zaman's stay on 13 and Pakistan slipped further when Hasaranga bowled Azam.

Pakistan kept losing wickets and Hasaranga finished his spell with two successive wickets to flatten the Pakistan batting, which survived only 19.1 overs despite a late cameo of 26 by Mohammad Nawaz.

Spinner Maheesh Theekshana and Madushan took two wickets each.

Stone Age

FROM PAGE 12

and complex medicine," said Maxime Aubert, a professor at Griffith University's Centre for Social and Cultural Research in Queensland, via email.

"They had to have a profound knowledge of human anatomy, how to stop the blood flow, anaesthesia, and antiseptics. All of these only became the norm very recently," Aubert wrote.

Experts had thought humans lacked the expertise to perform difficult procedures like amputation until the emergence of agriculture and permanent settlements transformed human society within the last 10,000 years.

A life devoted to welfare

FROM PAGE 12

guidance in anti-corruption movement and establishing good governance in the country. He will be a source of inspiration to us as an honest and patriotic man."

In a statement, Shujan, a civil society platform, said, "The country has lost a patriotic and meritorious person who dedicated his life to the welfare of the people."

Bangladesh Economic Association expressed deep shock at the death of Akbar and said his writings and creative activities will remain with them forever as a symbol of "social commitment".

In a statement, it also said the association's relations with him will always be a source of strength and motivation for the people's wellbeing.

Akbar breathed his last on Thursday night. He was 78.

Born in 1944 in Brahmanbaria, he graduated in history from Dhaka

University and later emerged as an economist. He completed his post doctorate in economics from Queen's University in Canada.

He started his professional career in the civil service of Pakistan in 1967. He actively participated in the Liberation War in 1971 and was sentenced to 14 years rigorous imprisonment in absentia by a Pakistan military court for this, according to the brief bio in one of his books.

Akbar was the finance secretary and chairman of the National Board of Revenue. He was appointed as cabinet secretary in 2001.

He also held the position of alternate executive director in the World Bank.

Akbar became an adviser to the 2006-07 caretaker government and later resigned in protest of the chief adviser's failure in ensuring a free, fair and impartial election.

BNP looks to turn up

FROM PAGE 1

programmes were attacked and the houses of BNP leaders and activists were vandalised in 18 places.

Yesterday, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir slammed the government for attacking the party's peaceful programmes and implicating their leaders and activists in "false and fictitious" cases.

"False cases were filed against many of our leaders and activists over the last few weeks. Fictitious cases are also being lodged against us like they [government] did in the past. You know that three of our leaders have already been killed," he told reporters at the capital yesterday.

He said many leaders and activists of the party and its associated bodies have lost their eyesight while many others are maimed by injuries.

"They [government] have again unleashed a reign of terror all over the country," Fakhrul alleged.

Ruhul Kabir Rizvi, senior joint secretary general of BNP, said the Dhaka city units of the party and its front and associated bodies have already drawn up some protest programmes.

"A meeting of the party's standing committee will be held on Sunday and then some fresh programmes may be announced."

He said Dhaka North and South city units of BNP will hold rallies

every alternate day at the capital's 16 points.

The two BNP units have already written to the Dhaka Metropolitan Police seeking permission for those rallies, to be attended by senior party leaders.

BNP leaders said it was high time for the party and its allies to tap into the growing public discontent over the rising living costs.

The BNP's agitation programmes before the 2014 national election drew a huge flak from home and abroad due to its violent nature. Before the last parliamentary election in 2018, the party failed to wage any strong movement.

This time, BNP leaders say they will stage protests over pro-people issues.

The party's standing committee, its highest policymaking body, already held a meeting and decided to continue the ongoing movement till the next general election, scheduled to be held in late December next year or early January in 2024.

Cops sue 2,000

FROM PAGE 12

leaving several police personnel injured, including OC Dulal Hossain.

Waheduzzaman, president of Gangachara upazila unit BNP, said the clash erupted for the police's provocation.

Police filed the case to harass the BNP activists, he said.

A Gazipur village

FROM PAGE 12

Actually, the entire Bairagir Chala had a makeover, he said, adding that the residents felt proud seeing their neighbourhoods in the national news for days.

The late HM Ershad, who was the president at the time, accompanied the queen, said Shakhwat, adding that they also paid tribute to the martyred freedom fighters at the National Memorial in Savar.

Chand Miah, 70, said, "The queen talked to us. But we didn't understand her words. Some other people interpreted what she was saying. We are really shocked at her death."

Madu Ibne Mobarak, a school teacher, said the queen released fish fries in a pond which has almost dried up due to lack of maintenance.

Queen Elizabeth II also visited Dhaka in 1961, reports UNB.

AL leader shot dead

FROM PAGE 12

On information, police rushed to the spot and recovered the body.

Talking to The Daily Star, the victim's wife Dilruba Jahan alleged that her husband had a long-standing conflict with Alauddin over the char land.

"My husband had good relations with Alauddin Malitha. But conflict with him started brewing when he tried to occupy our land on the char. Recently, he threatened my husband repeatedly. Alauddin and his men killed my husband in broad daylight over the land dispute."

Russel Ali Biswas Masud, organising secretary of Pabna Sadar upazila unit AL, said the conflict was personal; no political rivalry was behind the killing.

Jahangir Alam, incumbent chairman of Hemayetpur Union Parishad, said, "We have tried to settle their dispute through arbitration, but failed."

Several cases are pending with court over the issue, he added.

A tense situation is prevailing in Bangabaria area after the incident, the chairman added.

Speaking to journalists after visiting the spot, Akbor Ali Munshi, superintendent of Pabna police, said police were deployed in the area to fend off further untoward incident.

"Police are investigating the incident. Criminals must be punished."

Despite repeated attempts over the phone, this correspondent could not contact Alauddin Malitha for his comments.

Tk 30cr lost to purchase

FROM PAGE 1

The gulf of difference between the buying and the market prices was also seen in procurement of drugs and pathological accessories.

Take, for instance, KBFHG's procurement of Meropenem Igm injection, a high-end antibiotic used to treat severe infection.

When it was priced at Tk 1,300, they bought 1,000 of the injections for Tk 2,210 each and 6,500 of them for Tk 1,955 each. Through this procurement of a single drug, the government lost a total of Tk 51.675 lakh, the report said.

Authorities of the National Institute of Cardiovascular Disease and Hospital misappropriated Tk 18.55 lakh in purchasing echocardiography paper and reagent at a price much higher than the market rate, the report added.

It also found irregularities in the payment of quarantine bills for medical professionals to various contracted residential hotels in the city.

Mugda General Hospital authorities signed a contract with the Asia Hotel and Resort in Dhaka for Tk 2,950 per day for each of its 45 rooms.

But the hotel was paid an additional Tk 15.90 lakh every day between 23 April and 17 May in 2020 for renting more rooms, which the hotel did not have, the report said.

Dhaka Medical College Hospital authorities made additional payments of Tk 6 lakh to Hotel New York in Dhaka, the report added.

The differences between buying and market prices and anomalies in quarantine bills reflected the long-heard irregularities and incapacity in public procurement in the health sector, experts said.

Infant dies falling from

FROM PAGE 1

for treatment, but the pick-up killed him," said Abul Kalam while crying inconsolably at the complex.

Sizan was the younger of two sons of Shanta and Shihab Hossain of Choto Simla village in the upazila. He had been suffering from cold and fever for the last five days.

Shihab has been working in Saudi Arabia for the past eight years.

The air in the village after Sizan's tragic death was heavy as friends and family mourned. Sizan, who should have been back home safe

'Our hearts are broken'

UK newspapers mark queen's death

AFP, London

Poignant photographs of Queen Elizabeth II dominated the front pages of Britain's grieving newspapers yesterday, charting her journey from coronation to matriarch of the nation. A picture of the 27-year-old Elizabeth taken at her 1953 coronation, full of regal splendour clasp the Sovereign's Orb and Sceptre in the vaulted walls of Westminster Abbey, covered the front pages of The Times, Guardian, Daily Star and Independent. The Sun, Daily Telegraph, Daily Express and Daily Mirror instead chose images of the white-haired monarch as she neared the end of her record-breaking 70-year-reign. The Telegraph carried a quote made by the queen for the victims of the September 11, 2001 attacks. "Grief is the price we pay for love," it said. Most tabloids marked the occasion with subdued black-and-white front pages, although the Sun splashed its header in royal purple, above the headline "We loved you Ma'am." The Daily Express carried the headline "Our Beloved Queen is Dead", while the Daily Mirror simply wrote "Thank you". "Our hearts are broken", said the Daily Mail headline.

Domestic rice

FROM PAGE 12

However, Nirod Boron Saha, president of Naogaon Dhanno-Chal Aratdar O Babosayee Samity, an association of rice and paddy wholesalers, said, "Border trade will resume on Monday after the weekend. We will have to wait until then to know whether the [Indian] move will affect us."

Import will no longer be profitable if 20 percent export tax is imposed on the varieties of rice that Bangladeshi traders import, he added.

Bangladesh, the world's third-largest producer of rice, earlier gave permission to private firms to import over 10 lakh tonnes of rice, mostly from India.

The government also took an initiative to import wheat and rice under state-to-state contracts. The food ministry is in the process of buying 500,000 tonnes of wheat from Russia.

It also signed a contract with Vietnam to buy 230,000 tonnes of rice and is expected to ink a deal with Myanmar to import another 200,000 tonnes. The food directorate signed a contract with its Indian counterpart to buy 100,000 tonnes of rice, officials said.

"If any of the doctors [hospital directors] are really misappropriating money from these purchases, they must be punished. But before blaming them a reality check is a must, because doctors are often helpless in front of the syndicates," Syed Abdul Hamid, a professor at the Institute of Health Economics at Dhaka University, told The Daily Star recently.

He said the existing public purchase procedure has many flaws which need to be revised.

"We have studied that many competent doctors do not want to take charge of the healthcare organisations. Many hospital directors do not even want to spend the allocated money to avoid audit hassle," said Hamid.

He also said the doctors lack skills related to public procurement. "They often fail to negotiate properly."

Asked, Mohammad Shahadat Hossain, additional secretary (Financial Management and Audit) at the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, informed that they have received additional audit objection of Tk 10 crore, in addition to Tk 29.94 crore mentioned in the 2021 audit report.

"We have received replies against half of the audit objections and we have forwarded those to the auditor general's office with recommendations," Mohammad Shahadat Hossain told The Daily Star on Wednesday.

"There is no scope for defending any anomalies. Simultaneously, we have to consider that quarantine arrangements and ensuring timely medical supplies were a big challenge during the beginning of Covid-19 emergency."

in his mother's arms, was buried at the family graveyard in the evening following a namaz-e-janaza, with his mother still unconscious.

Majharul Islam, a doctor at the health complex, said Shanta was under observation and they would transfer her to Jashore if her condition remained unchanged.

Kalam filed a case with Kaliganj Police Station in the afternoon, accusing the driver of the pick-up.

Police arrested the driver and seized the vehicle, said Abdur Rahim Mollah, officer-in-charge of the police station.