

Obaidul Huq's death anniv

STAR REPORT

Today is the 15th death anniversary of Obaidul Huq, a veteran journalist.

On this day in 2007, Obaidul breathed his last at his Banani residence, aged 96. He was the editor of the Bangladesh Observer for 12 years since 1972.

He was the first Bangalee Muslim to make a feature film "Dukkhe Jader Jibon Gora" in 1946. He joined the Editorial Board of the Pakistan Observer (later The Bangladesh Observer) in 1951 as joint editor.

He was the chairman of Press Institute of Bangladesh and chairman of Dainik Bangla and Bangladesh Times Trustee Board. He was the chairman of Nazrul Institute.

Obaidul was honoured with the "Ekushey Padak" in 1983. He was also recognised with Bangla Academy Award in 1964.



The Anjuman-e Rahmaniya Ahmadiyya Sunnis Trust in Chattogram city observed the golden jubilee of "Jashne Julus", an ostentatious rally of Sunni Muslims, brought out on the occasion of Eid-e-Miladunnabi -- the day of birth and passing away of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) -- on October 9. This photo was taken in Muradpur area. The trust's secretary general Mohammad Anwar Hossain said they have applied to the Guinness World Records to recognise it as the world's largest rally.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Looking after the neglected

FROM PAGE 3

"I think I won't be able to change my career even if I get better opportunities. I have an emotional attachment to this profession. I find peace in serving these people," she added.

Along with medication and care, the centre also provides assistive devices, such as wheelchairs, exercise balls, commode chairs, and walkers to elderly patients.

For example, although Asiya's sons made a separate tin room for her, the centre gave her the bedding, urine mats and other required items to maintain her hygiene.

Patients like Asiya, including children, also receive a monthly food pack with rice, lentils, oil, and salt. Those who are unable to eat normal food are provided with special food such as millet powder, eggs, biscuits, seasonal fruits and more.

Momotamoy Korail also provides outpatient services once a week, considering the massive

need for primary healthcare in the slum, as well as 24/7 tele-consultation and physiotherapy visits for palliative patients twice a week.

If any of the listed patients die, the PCAs also provide bereavement support to their families.

"Since 2020, a total of 31 such patients, including nine children, died in Korail. We still pay frequent visits to their families," said PCA Sumi Akhter.

Momotamoy Korail first started its journey in 2015, under a project jointly implemented by the World Hospice Palliative Care Alliance (WHPCA) and Centre for Palliative Care (CPC) BSMMU.

When the foreign funding was stopped, PCSB took the responsibility for its funding.

Dr Nezamuddin Ahmed, former chairperson of palliative medicine department at BSMMU, also the advisor of PCSB, shared the background story of the initiative.

Inspired by the Institute

of Palliative Medicine in Kerala, India, from where he took training in 2005, he found that these facilities mainly had a community-oriented public health approach to palliative care, which was far different from BSMMU's approach.

"Later, when I received the opportunity from the WHPCA, I started running an experiment of establishing community-owned palliative-care centres in two slums of the city -- Agargaon BNP slum and Korail," he said.

The BNP slum was later vacated. However, Momotamoy Korail sustained. It would be best to hand this responsibility over to the government. However, it is difficult, as the slum does not even have primary healthcare facilities."

"Although there is uncertainty, PCSB and its members have been trying to collect funds to continue it. We want support from all, be it the government or any agency or individual," said Dr Nezamuddin.

The curious case

FROM PAGE 3

Jatrabari, left home on November 3 last year.

He told the family that he was going to India to pursue higher studies and become a mufti (Muslim legal expert).

She even gave Hurayra Tk 6,000 for making his passport. However, she did not file any GD when Hurayra called her the last time as he told his mother that he was trying to arrange the money to go to India.

"He said it would take five to six years for him to complete his education there," said Poly Begum.

The case of another missing youth Tahiyat Chowdhury (18) from Sylhet's Bianibazar is different. He disappeared on November 15 last year for the second time -- several days after Counter Terrorism and Transnational Unit (CTTC) handed him over to his family that he was trying to arrange the money to go to India.

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Nasir Haoladar, the father of another missing youth named Rabbi Abdus Salam alias Nirob, complained of reluctance on the law enforcers' part when he went to file a missing complaint with Kotwali police station in Barishal.

Rabbi, who graduated from a madrasa and used to teach Arabic in Dhaka's Jatrabari area, disappeared around a year ago. Before he left, a family feud ensued after he remarried.

Nasir said he went to file a GD with the local police station but an officer rejected him and asked him to file a GD in Dhaka from where he went missing.

He went to the CID office in Dhaka and the police officials there reluctantly filed the GD. "The police officers told me that we hid our son on purpose to gain media attention. They said that Rabbi would turn up soon," said Nasir.

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