

Press Council honours late journalist Bazlur Rahman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Noted journalist and former editor of daily Sangbad Bazlur Rahman was honoured with lifetime achievement award posthumously by Bangladesh Press Council yesterday.

In recognition of the contribution to the media industry and ensuring quality journalism, Bangladesh Press Council Award-2022 also conferred on national Daily Jugantor in institutional category and regional Daily Purbanchal, published from Khulna, in regional institutional category.

Syed Monir Ahmed, Sonagazi correspondent of Dainik Bhorer Kagoj, got the award in rural journalism, Shahedul Islam, senior reporter of Bangla Tribune, in development journalism, Tulona Afrin, reporter of Bangladesh Television, in women journalism, and Sourav Laskar, of the New Age, in photojournalism categories.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Hasan Mahmud handed over the awards at the function jointly organised by Bangladesh Press Council and the information and broadcasting ministry at the capital's Tathya Bhaban.

Wife of Bazlur Rahman, Matia Chowdhury, veteran Awami League leader and former agriculture minister, received the award on behalf of her husband.

Jugantor Editor Saiful Alam and Purbanchal Editor Mohammad Ali received the awards on behalf of their newspapers.

Speaking at the ceremony, Hasan Mahmud urged journalists to keep in mind the reality of world while reporting on financial and electricity crises.

"There has to be criticism of mistakes, as well as praise for good work. Without the combination of the two, the country will not move forward... there should be criticism for faults of the government and we have the mentality to take that criticism," the minister said.

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Daily Jugantor Editor Saiful Alam receives a crest from Information and Broadcasting Minister Hasan Mahmud on behalf of his newspaper at the prize distribution ceremony of Bangladesh Press Council Award-2022 at the capital's Tathya Bhaban yesterday. Standing next to the minister from left: Bangla Academy DG Mohammad Nurul Huda, former agriculture minister Matia Chowdhury, Bangladesh Press Council Chairman Justice Md Nizamul Huq Nasim, and its member and Daily Observer Editor Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury. PHOTO: COLLECTED

Russia takes Ukraine 'dirty bomb' warning to UN

US warns Moscow against any nuke use; Kherson braces for battle

AGENCIES

Russia doubled down on a warning that Ukraine is preparing to use a "dirty bomb" on its own territory, an assertion dismissed by the West and Kyiv as false, and was expected to bring the issue to the UN Security Council later yesterday.

Moscow sent a letter detailing its allegations about Kyiv to the United Nations late on Monday, and diplomats said Russia planned to raise the issue at a closed meeting with the Security Council.

"We will regard the use of the dirty bomb by the Kyiv regime as an act of nuclear terrorism," Russia's UN

Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia told UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and the Security Council in the letter, seen by Reuters.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has said Russia's accusation was a sign that Moscow - which has threatened to use a tactical nuclear weapon in Ukraine - was planning such an attack and was preparing to shift the blame to Ukraine.

With Ukrainian forces advancing into Russian-occupied Kherson province, top Russian officials had phoned their Western counterparts on Sunday and Monday to air their suspicions.

France, Britain and the US said the

allegations were "transparently false" and Washington warned Russia there would be "severe consequences" for any nuclear use, while saying there were no signs of that yet.

Russia's defence ministry said the aim of a "dirty bomb" attack by Ukraine would be to blame Moscow for the resulting radioactive contamination, which Russia had begun preparing for.

The UN nuclear watchdog said it was preparing to send inspectors to two unidentified Ukrainian sites at Kyiv's request, both already subject to its inspections, in an apparent response to Russia's "dirty bomb" claim.

I will unite our country

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convinced than ever" that Britain needed to be "bold" in confronting the challenges it faced.

Sunak became the ruling Conservatives' new leader on Monday after triumphing over rival contender Penny Mordaunt, who failed to secure enough nominations from Tory MPs.

It had become a two-way fight after Johnson dramatically aborted a comeback attempt late Sunday, having failed to persuade Sunak to share power.

Breaking his silence, Johnson offered his "full and wholehearted support" to Sunak -- having blamed his ex-minister for toppling him in July, reports AFP.

Sunak, a Hindu, is the first British-Indian prime minister and, at 42, the youngest leader in more than two centuries.

US President Joe Biden called the choice "groundbreaking". France's Emmanuel Macron tweeted that "together we will continue working to tackle the challenges of the moment, including the war in Ukraine and its many consequences for Europe and the world".

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina greeted Sunak, saying she was looking forward to working closely with him in further strengthening "our long-standing political, economic, and strategic partnerships", reports UNB.

After delivering the now all-too-familiar new leader's speech, Sunak started appointing his top team before facing his first session of "Prime Minister's Questions" in parliament today.

He retained several senior ministers from predecessor Liz Truss's top team, including Jeremy Hunt as finance minister, as he bids for a stable transition.

Sunak kept James Cleverly as foreign secretary and Ben Wallace in defence, despite them both backing an aborted comeback by ex-leader Johnson.

In an astonishing return just days after she quit Truss's cabinet, he re-appointed headline right-winger Suella Braverman as interior minister, in charge of policing and immigration control.

Sunak also kept his most recent leadership rival Penny Mordaunt as Leader of the House of Commons.

The appointments appear aimed at signalling continuity in top portfolios after the dramatic upheavals seen under Truss.

Damage less than feared

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SEVEN FEARED DEAD

The body of one of the eight workers who went missing after Saikat 2, a dredging vessel, sank in the Sandwip channel in the Bay of Bengal was found last night, almost 24 hours after the boat sank amid strong winds, said Mirsharai Upazila Nirbahi Officer Minhajur Rahman.

Other workers of the dredging site found the body floating near the place where the vessel sank, he added.

In Sirajganj, a woman and her infant son drowned after a boat carrying them and three others sank around 8:00pm in the Mohonpur area, said Mosaddek Hossain, officer-in-charge of Bangabandhu Bridge West Zone Police Station.



A part of Cox's Bazar-Teknaf Marine Drive damaged by Cyclone Sitrang. PHOTO: MOHAMMAD ALI JINNAT

In Munshiganj's Louhajang upazila, a woman and her three-year-old daughter were crushed to death as a tree fell on their house in Kanaksar area.

The deceased were identified as Asma Begum Ashu, 28, and Suraiya, 3. Asma's husband Abdur Razzak, 35, was injured.

In Brahmanbaria's Kasba, a man named Joynal Abedin Bhuiya was killed when the branch of a tree fell on his house at Dhojnar village.

In Gazipur's Kapasia upazila, nine-year-old Anisur Rahman died as an earthen house collapsed amid heavy rain around 11:30pm on Monday. His elder brother Al Amin,

11, was injured.

In Bhola's Lalmohon, Rabeya Begum, 25, drowned in flood water while a man named Mofizul Islam of the Sadar Upazila died when his earthen house collapsed on him.

In Gopalganj's Tungipara, two women named Sharmin Begum, 25, and Romecha Begum, 58, died after trees fell on their houses.

A Myanmar citizen named Shouming, 71, died after falling from a ship at Teknaf land port in Cox's Bazar around 9:00pm. He was the chef of the ship, said Jasim Uddin, general manager of Teknaf port.

Nine others were reported dead previously.

After an official assessment, affected fish farmers will get interest-free loans while those whose homes

30 dead in Papua New Guinea island violence: police

AFP, Port Moresby

Thirty people have been killed and several more have been injured in a wave of intercommunal violence on Papua New Guinea's remote Trobriand Islands, police said yesterday.

The long-simmering dispute between two local football teams on sparsely populated Kiriwina Island first flared earlier this year in the wake of the country's general election, Provincial Police Commander Peter Barkie told AFP.

When residents of three villages stormed a government office Monday, police and "even church elders could not contain the fight and we recorded 30 deaths and several many injured", he said.

Barkie said things "got out of hand" after the recent "destruction of food gardens".

Additional forces are now being sent from the mainland.

Police clear

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In the probe report, the investigator said no evidence was found against Rozina and the case was a matter of factual error.

According to legal experts, the journalist would be cleared of the charges if the court accepts the probe report.

The filing of the case with Shahbagh Police Station on May 17 last year drew flak from netizens and a cross section of people. It also triggered strong protests from journalists and different local and international organisations.

Deputy Secretary Shibir Ahmed Osmani lodged the case under the colonial-era act, which criminalises sharing of government information.

The journalist's family members and her office, however, denied the allegations and said she was framed by the authorities.

Rozina, a special correspondent of the Bangla daily, wrote several in-depth reports on corruption in the health sector during the Covid-19 pandemic.

She was confined to the health ministry inside the Secretariat for more than five hours on May 17 last year before being handed over to Shahbagh Police Station.

She walked out of jail on bail almost a week after her arrest.

Why was Met forecast

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But why were the predictions inaccurate?

Experts say it was because the Met office lacks sufficient equipment to measure the meteorological variables.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Mohan Kumar Das, executive director of the National Oceanographic and Maritime Institute, said, "Bangladesh does not have sufficient buoy or ship observation data to measure the meteorological variables in the north Bay of Bengal."

He added that the tropical Cyclone Sitrang travelled through the north Bay and it was found there was almost six to seven hours of time gap in the forecast given by the BMD and various numerical models in their 48-hour forecast.

A similar error was also found in the 48-hour forecast by the Regional Specialized Meteorological Centre, he said.

He further said almost all the radar systems of Bangladesh are non-functional.

"Coastal radar and radar data utilisation are very essential for the accurate forecast of tropical cyclones with sufficient lead time."

Das, also joint secretary of South Asian Meteorological Association, said time and location-specific cyclone predictions require a continuous synoptic time scale (every three hours); ocean observation (buoy, ship) monitoring system; a modern functional radar system; qualified and capable scientists; and Ocean Forecasting Research initiatives.

He said forecasting tropical cyclones is a complex procedure. "Regional cooperation, and sophisticated Ocean Forecasting research initiative is necessary."

BMD officials, however, said they predicted the cyclone almost accurately although there were some time gaps in the landfall prediction, which occurred due to the cyclone's unpredictability.

Md Bazlur Rashid, meteorologist of BMD, said, "This cyclone was exceptional as it continuously changed its directions from the beginning. As it was a nominal [small] cyclone, its volatility was high and so was the uncertainty [in its behaviour]. That's why there was some time gap [in the predictions]."

Asked whether they analysed the open-source data and other available models, he said they considered all the information, but it took some time for them to make a concrete decision.

He, however, said they had made the correct prediction as it was said the wind speed could be 62-88kmph and the BMD recorded the highest to be 75kmph.

"So, our prediction was right."

Drug addicts kill their mothers in 2 dists

STAR REPORT

In separate incidents, two drug addicts killed their mothers in Tangail and Netrakona in the last two days.

In Netrakona, a court yesterday sent a 20-year-old man to jail in connection with strangling his mother to death, reports our correspondent in Mymensingh.

In the Enayetpur area of Tangail town, police yesterday arrested Abul Kalam, 30, on charges of killing his mother, reports our correspondent in the district.

Kalam admitted to officers that he had tortured his mother, Salma Begum, 50, to death, said Abu Salam Miah, officer-in-charge of Tangail Sadar Police Station, adding that locals said the suspect was a drug addict.

Unlicensed clinic owner lands in jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A mobile court yesterday sentenced an unlicensed clinic owner to four months in prison in Thakurgaon town.

Mahbubur Rahman Sumon, 32, the owner, was also fined Tk 5,000.

The court of Executive Magistrate Tanjila Tasnim raided the facility in the Kaharpara area in the afternoon and found that it had no name, signboard and valid documents, officials said.

The owner of the property, Kamruzzaman, 50, was also fined Tk 5,000.

HC stays recruitment of 1,350 EED employees

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The High Court on October 19 stayed for six months the recruitment of 1,350 employees of the Education Engineering Department.

The bench of Justice Zafar Ahmed and Justice Md Aktaruzzaman passed the order following a writ petition by Milon Hossain, an employee of the department.

According to the petition, some officials leaked the question paper of the written tests and recruited most of the employees in exchange for money.

The recruitments took place between 2020 and 2022.

The bench on June 26 issued a rule nisi (an order upon condition that is to become absolute unless cause is shown to the contrary) against the authorities.

In its ruling, the HC bench said it found substance in the writ petition and passed the stay order.

Asked about buoy observations in the ocean, meteorologist Abdul Mannan said, "Yes, we don't have any instrument in the ocean. If we did, we could have observed the situation more intensely and accurately."

SITRANG'S UNIQUE FEATURES
Met officials said Sitrang's distinct feature was its wide area coverage of heavy rainfall and fast movement.

"In our recent history with cyclones, we did not earlier find any that covered such a wide area with heavy rainfall. In many places the average rainfall was more than 200 millimeters," Mannan said.

According to the BMD, Barishal division witnessed the highest rainfall -- 324 millimeters, while Dhaka recorded 255 millimeters.

He added that the cyclone was so fast that it took only nine hours to cross the Bangladesh border from south to north.

"Usually, the lifespan of a cyclone is around five to seven days," he said, adding that Sitrang's was only three.

Stoinis blows

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until Stoinis arrived on the scene.

Sri Lankan fast bowlers kept the Australian openers in check and spinner Maheesh Theekshana got the big wicket of David Warner on his first ball after the left-hander gave away a catch to the fielder at cover.

Mitchell Marsh took stock and then attempted to break free with a four and six off Wanindu Hasaranga, but his extra aggression got him caught at long-off for 17.

Glenn Maxwell hit back with fours and sixes before he survived a nasty bouncer from Lahiru Kumara -- the ball caught his throat but after help from the physio the Australian got gingerly back on his feet.

Ashen Bandara dropped Finch on 23 but soon made up with a good catch at the boundary rope to help dismiss Maxwell, as bowler Chamika Karunaratne and Sri Lanka celebrated.

But the joy was shortlived as Stoinis took the game away from Sri Lanka with his bludgeoning knock.

CORRECTION

In a report titled "Journos not bound to divulge sources", published on October 24, 2022 (Monday), it was written "The short version of the judgement was delivered on June 21, 2021." However, it should have read, "The full version of the judgement was delivered on June 21, 2022". There was a similar mistake in an editorial piece titled "We must defend investigative journalism", published on October 25, 2022 (Tuesday). The Daily Star regrets the errors.