

Ted Kennedy Jr to speak at DU today

BSS, Dhaka

Edward (Ted) M Kennedy, Jr, son of late US Senator Edward M Kennedy and nephew of late US President John F Kennedy, will deliver a public speech on “Commemoration of 50 years of US-Bangladesh Relations” at Dhaka University today.

The US Ambassador Peter D Haas and Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Md Akhtaruzzaman will be present during the landmark speech to be delivered at Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban.

Under the auspices of the US Department of State's Speakers Program, Kennedy will give the speech to commemorate the legacy of his father as a staunch advocate for Bangladesh's fight for independence and will visit the banyan tree his father planted to symbolize the friendship between the United States and Bangladesh.

“During my upcoming visit to Dhaka, my family and I will honour the 50th Anniversary of my father's pivotal role in the Bangladeshi struggle for independence,” Kennedy tweeted before arriving here.

Ted's father, the then US senator Edward M Kennedy took a bold stance against the genocide committed by Pakistan during the Liberation War of Bangladesh in 1971 despite the US government's tilted down foreign policy towards West Pakistan.

The Pakistan military administration under General Yahya Khan tried to suppress information regarding the genocide in Bangladesh launched on the night of March 25, 1971.

But Edward Kennedy exposed the brutality of the Pakistani occupation forces to the world communities after his visit to the refugee camps in India in August 1971.

Edward Kennedy planted a banyan tree at the famous “Bottola” on the Dhaka University campus during his visit to the newly born Bangladesh in 1972.

As a lawyer and advocate for the civil rights of individuals with disabilities, he will also deliver a lecture on the rights of challenged people at the Edward M Kennedy Centre for Public Service and the Arts here.

The US Embassy in Dhaka termed the visit as “historic” while Edward M Kennedy, Jr along with his family members arrived here on Saturday for a week.

His accompanying family members included Dr Katherine “Kiki” Kennedy (wife), Dr Kiley Kennedy (daughter), Teddy Kennedy (son), Grace Kennedy Allen (niece), and Max Allen (nephew).

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina meets American politician Edward Kennedy Jr and his family members at the Gono Bhaban yesterday. The Kennedys are visiting the country to celebrate the 50 years of the US-Bangladesh diplomatic relationship.

PHOTO: BSS

Schoolhouse damaged by Amphan still lies not repaired

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenaidah

Boichitala Secondary School in Moheshpur municipality, which was completely damaged when super cyclone Amphan ravaged the country's coastal areas in 2020, has still not been repaired, posing serious risks of accidents to the students and teachers.

Parts of the roof of building, which housed six classrooms, was blown away by gusty winds caused by the cyclone.

The institution, established on four acres of land at Boichitala village in 1968, has a total of 400 students and 10 teachers.

Although the school managing committee has somehow managed to repaired four out of the six classrooms, the remaining two are still in a dilapidated state for the lack of funds.

In 2020, Education Engineering Department built a one-storey building with three rooms as an alternative option for conducting classes.

However, those are being used as the



headteacher's office, teachers' common room and girls' common room.

Meanwhile, while classes are being held in the old tin-shed schoolhouse.

Villagers said a few local teachers took the initiative to build the school over five decades ago, to help children of the area with educational facilities.

During a recent visit to the school, this correspondent saw classes being conducted in a roofless classroom.

Wayez Uddin, the school's headteacher, said there are five secondary schools in Maheshpur municipality and the one in Boichitala is one of the oldest.

When they were already facing a classroom crisis, Amphan caused considerable damage to the school building and repairing the classrooms will cost at least Tk 2 lakh, he said.

Meanwhile, the school is also facing a crisis of teachers, as there aren't enough of them compared to the number of students, he added.

Wayez said they had informed the Non-government Teachers' Registration and Certification Authority about the crisis and the recruitment process is underway.

Contacted, Rafiqul Islam, president of the school managing committee, said he will take all necessary steps to repair the school as soon as possible.

Dinesh Chandra Pal, secondary education officer in Maheshpur, said he joined the office recently and was not aware of the damaged institution.

Girl killed as rod of under-construction school building falls

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

An eight-year-old schoolgirl died yesterday after iron rod being lifted to an under-construction building in her school fell on her at Sunamganj's Tahirpur upazila.

The deceased was identified as Usha Moni, daughter of Anwar Hossain and a second grader at Sreepur Government Primary School.

“The incident occurred after Usha stepped out of her classroom during class hours to drink water,” said Syed Iftekher Ahmed, OC of Tahirpur Police Station.

Critically injured, the girl died on her way to a hospital.

“Despite repeated requests and warnings, the contractor were lifting iron rods to the building's roof using ropes instead of carrying them via the stairs. His carelessness claimed the life of one of our students,” said Mofazzal Hossain, headteacher of the school.

The victim's father has filed a complaint. “The building is being constructed by the Local Government Engineering Department. We are looking into the matter and will take necessary steps soon,” said Syed Abul Khayer, upazila education officer in Tahirpur.

‘Drug addicts’ kill man, hurt 2 others

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A man was hacked to death while two others were injured allegedly by a group of drug addicts in Tangail's Nagarpur upazila on Saturday night.

The deceased was identified as Sultan Hossain Swapan, 55, of Shyampur village and an employee of Agnibina Ideal College.

“Sultan's son Polash was allegedly chased by four men after he barred them from taking drugs at Ghuni Government Primary School ground around 8:00pm,” said Sazzad Hossain, OC of Nagarpur Police Station, quoting locals.

“Polash took shelter in a tea stall near Singjora bazar where his father and others were present. The criminals attacked them with sharp objects, leaving Sultan and two others injured.”

They were rushed to the Nagarpur Upazila Health Complex where the doctors declared Sultan dead. Of the injured, Azmi, 28, was moved to Tangail General Hospital while Simul, 19, was discharged.

A case, against five named, aged between 18 and 45, and seven other unnamed, was filed yesterday.

Palestinian gunman shot dead after killing Israeli man

REUTERS, Hebron

A Palestinian gunman killed one person and wounded at least three others in a Jewish settlement in the occupied West Bank before being shot dead by a guard, the Israeli military, medics and a settlement spokesperson said.

The Islamist militant group Hamas claimed the slain Hebron gunman as its member.

People know

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I am lying on money. I would like to tell Obaidul Quader, 'Don't push us too hard. Earthworms can come out of the soil while digging.'

Fakhrul said everyone knows what the Awami League leaders do and how they make money. “The people of this country know what you have been doing since the creation of Bangladesh. You are going from rags to riches overnight.”

He said the people of Bangladesh have all information about who among the ruling party leaders are making second homes in Canada, Singapore and Malaysia and who are laundering money.

“We also know who own how many banks and who made how many houses in America...this is the money of taxpayers of this country. You are looting that money.”

Fakhrul said this is very unfortunate that the general secretary of a major party made personal attack on his counterpart in an indecent manner.

“If you launch attack on a personal level, you will not be able to deal with the consequence. One day the information about how you plundered public money will be revealed.”

On Saturday, addressing a rally organised on the occasion of the triennial council for Dhaka district AL in the city's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar area, Quader alleged that Fakhrul is receiving funds from foreign countries to wage movements against the government.

Trashing the allegation, Fakhrul said, “We do politics by selling our ancestral property. We don't do politics with anyone else's money. The people of our party and our every member are spending their money for our rallies. This is our character.”

Criticising the Quader's for his comment that AL's Saturday's rally was much bigger than that of BNP's in Rangpur, he said the ruling party brought people to their programme by vehicles and using public money, but it could not fill 22,000 chairs kept at the venue.

Fakhrul also questioned as to why the ruling party stop transport movement and attack opposition activists to obstruct BNP rallies if the party is so strong.

Denied again

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2010, 2013, and 2014. Each of them was snubbed for some unknown reasons.

Regarding yesterday's application, Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Haque, said, “We rejected the latest appeal because, as of February 8, 2022, we are no longer accepting applications for the recognition of martyred freedom fighters.”

However, on October 23, while speaking on this issue, the minister told this newspaper, “I don't know why the family's applications were rejected every time in the past. The recommendation from fellow freedom fighters alone is enough for state recognition.”

He even said, “If they submit a fresh application now, we will take the necessary steps.”

This comment was used in a report titled “Half a century gone chasing recognition” published on October 24 by The Daily Star, which detailed the struggle Hafiz's family has been going through just to get recognition for the contribution and sacrifice Hafiz made for his country.

Hafiz was a valiant member of the Crack Platoon, which consisted of a band of youths who were trained in urban guerrilla warfare to carry out covert operations during the Liberation War.

He executed a series of high-risk subversive attacks on army convoys and key installations in Dhaka. His expertise in laying mines and ability to plan effective ambushes had earned him the nicknames “Guerrilla Hafiz” and “Mine Hafiz” within his ranks.

He was captured on August 29 night with other guerrillas and was taken to the Pakistan military torture

Why DMP's curbs should not be illegal?

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peace or safety: provided that on such prohibition shall be remaining in force for more than thirty days without the sanction of the government.”

Law secretary and home secretary and commissioner of DMP have been made respondents.

The HC issued the rule following a writ petition by two SC lawyers and individuals challenging the legality of sections 29 and 105 of the Metropolitan Police Ordinance.

According to section 105, “No police officer shall be liable to any penalty or to payment of any damage

cell in Dhaka's Nakhhalpara, where he was grilled for information about his brothers in arms.

But as he was not one to break, his captors didn't let him return to his family, and his body was never found.

Five decades on, he has been recognised as neither a freedom fighter nor a martyr.

Following the minister's assurance in the October 24 report, Anwara Khatun submitted a fresh application to the ministry yesterday.

Along with the application, attached was the recommendation of veteran Awami League leader Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, Bir Bikram, a fellow Crack Platoon guerrilla.

Maya, however, declined to make any comment on the latest rejection of Hafiz's application.

Earlier in September, he told The Daily Star, “Hafiz Bhai was a fellow member of the Crack Platoon. I learned from his younger brother that he did not receive the recognition.

“It's a shame for all of us that Hafiz Bhai has not yet received recognition.”

Asked why families of martyred freedom fighters were no longer allowed to apply for recognition, Waqar Hasan, Bir Pratik, a member of the Jatiya Muktiyoddha Council, said the council made no such decision.

“We never stopped receiving applications for the recognition of martyred freedom fighters. Relatives of martyred freedom fighters can still apply at any time,” he told this newspaper yesterday.

“I don't know why the minister made such a comment. He alone can never take such a major decision without consulting all the members of the council.”

on account of an act done in good faith in pursuance or intended pursuance of any duty imposed or any authority conferred on him by any provision of this ordinance or any other law for the time being in force or any rule, regulation, order or direction made or given there under.”

Article 37 says, “Every citizen shall have the right to assemble and to participate in public meetings and processions peacefully and without arms, subject to any reasonable restrictions imposed by law in the interests of public order or public health.”

City

How many

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Mirza Fakhrul, addressing the party's divisional rally in Rangpur on Saturday, said the power has to be handed over to a caretaker government to oversee the next election.

“The government must step down. Our MPs are ready to resign from parliament anytime. Our MPs ... Rumeen, Harun, Zahid ... are here. They will resign whenever the party asks them to,” he added.

During yesterday's briefing, held after a preparatory meeting for AL's national council slated for December 24, Quader also said they will not hold any programmes to counter BNP's.

“The council meeting of Cumilla metropolitan Awami League will be held on November 5. We heard the BNP has a rally in Barishal that day. Will you call it a counter programme? There is no question of countering BNP programmes,” said Quader, also the road transport and bridges minister.

Mentioning that AL President Sheikh Hasina will join public rallies outside the capital from now on, he said, “She could not attend any outdoor programmes for long due to the Covid pandemic. She has been saying for the last few days that she would attend outdoor rallies. Initially, she specified two or three district units and gave instruction to hold rallies there and in other districts gradually.”

Claiming that the ruling AL did not create any obstacle to any BNP rally, the AL leader told reporters, “The transport people are afraid of BNP and that's why they called the strikes.”

Blaming the BNP as the main patron of communal forces, Quader claimed the BNP's rallies get paralysed without these elements. If the BNP resorts to arson again, it will be resisted by the people. Arson attacks will not be allowed in any way.

Speaking about the councils of AL's associate bodies and pro-AL organisations, Quader said those will be held before the party's national council, adding that the party chief has given instructions in this regard.

“We are monitoring ... the dates will be fixed upon discussions,” he added.

Rein in tax exemptions

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Customs Act and the Income Tax Act, which were taken up in 2012 and 2017 respectively. Both the amendment drafts are in the parliament, NBR officials told the mission.

Similar observations were made by the team during its meetings with the finance ministry's banking division and the Bangladesh Bank.

They demanded a strategy paper to bring down default loans -- another age-old problem of the economy -- as well as a status on the amendment of five financial sector laws including the Bank Company Act.

Their recommendations of moving to a true market-based exchange rate, withdrawing the prickly interest rate cap and putting an end to the practice of reporting gross foreign reserves were made many times by now.

“These are all known problems. If the government wants to, they will find a way to usher in the changes,” Hussain said.

Tigers win ‘twice’ in a match

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started brilliantly but Richard Ngarava produced four leg-byes before he swung one way over the deep fine-leg fence for six. Five needed off two deliveries and match on a knife's edge, Mosaddek showed nerves of steel and flighted one up that beat the batter and Nurul Hasan Sohan was quick to get the bails off. Five needed off one and Blessing Muzarabani gave it his all but got no bat on it as Sohan once again took off the stumps. Bangladesh celebrated as players left the field after shaking hands but it turned out that the wicketkeeper had collected the ball just in front of the line of the stumps. No ball called and the last delivery was a free-hit.

Mosaddek, asked to do the nerve-shattering last ball again, came up trumps again and Sohan made no stumping error this time as Tigers finally celebrated a three-run win in a nail-biter -- the first time they won two games in the second stage of a T20 World Cup.

Shakib looked both relieved and jittery at post-match presentations. Michael Atherton asked about the nervy moments. “When Sohan made

The team called for cutting down the number of bureaucrats occupying board seats in state banks and ensuring the autonomy of the BB.

“Forget about autonomy, the central bank governors do not exercise the full set of powers they currently have,” said Mansur, also the chairman of Brac Bank.

The mission directed reverting to the old practice of releasing a monetary policy statement every six months and eventually increasing the frequency to every quarter.

A quarterly monetary statement will only be possible once the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics begins releasing GDP data every three months, BB officials told the mission.

The team also wanted to know the steps taken to control inflation, which hit a 12-year-high of 9.5 percent in August.

Inflation will be in the neighbourhood of 9 to 10 percent, according to BB officials.

the stumping on the second last delivery, I told him that he was very close and the umpire had checked so be careful on the next one. I couldn't believe,” Shakib said with a smile.

“When I went to Mosaddek before the last ball, he said ‘don't worry, he won't be able to touch it’. That made me calm but I was so nervous. It was a good game,” he added.

Earlier, Bangladesh made 150, courtesy of Najmul Hossain Shanto's 55 ball 71, despite being unable to take full advantage of the opener's knock. The bowlers responded once again with Taskin Ahmed bagging three for 19 and Mustafizur Rahman scalping two in one over to leave Zimbabwe on the ropes at 69 for five. Sean Williams blazed a 42 ball 64 and almost took the game away before Shakib, who bowled himself in the penultimate over with Zimbabwe needing 26 off 12, produced a stunning direct-hit on the turn while fielding off his own bowling to get the Tigers into the game again. That proved to be the turning point of the match and now Bangladesh can look for something wonderful in the remaining two matches against India and Pakistan.