

## Mostary Zaman's death anniv today

STAR REPORT

Today is the first death anniversary of Mostary Zaman, founder principal of Sharon's Sundori Mohila College, Faridpur, said a press release.



On this day last year, Zaman passed away at her residence in Dhaka, aged 76. She was buried at Banani graveyard.

Zaman, who had retired as principal of Fazlul Huq Mohila College in Dhaka, left behind two daughters and a son. She completed her masters in political science from Dhaka University in 1964.

All are requested to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

## Are upsets worth the trade-off?

FROM PAGE 1  
Club football's pinnacle tournament, the Champions League, pits Europe's most dominant forces against each other on a yearly basis, which can lead to a bit of boredom as the same elites largely tend to make the latter rounds. That makes the prospect of a fairy-tale run, such as Sevilla's and Ajax's march to the latter stages in recent years, more exciting because of the unpredictability it brings.

However, with the World Cup rolling around only once every four years, not only does the waiting make the ties more enticing, but the pre-determined bracket means that a Brazil-Argentina clash is, more often than not, a flight of fancy.

In fact, after being drawn in the same group of the 1974, 1978 and 1982 World Cups, Argentina and Brazil have played each other just once – in 1990,

when Diego Maradona's Albiceleste triumphed over Selecao in what so far has been their solitary clash in the knockout stages.

This time around, however, conditions are conducive – upsets notwithstanding – to the perfect storm.

The quarterfinals of 2022 could be the most tantalising ever, especially with Brazil and Argentina bunched into one side of the bracket. If everything goes according to plan and the South Americans win, one potential quarterfinal will see Argentina take on the Netherlands.

The other promises giant-killing Japan – whose win against Germany ultimately KO'd the four-time champions – a shot at the apex predator's scalp if they can make it past 2018 finalists Croatia and set up a date with Brazil.

It also perfectly tees up an Argentina-Brazil semifinal.

But despite two of the favourites being on one side of the bracket, reigning champions France will not have it easy. Their side of the bracket features the likes of Portugal, Spain, and England.

First, Didier Deschamps' team will be up against Poland. Many neutrals would hope France can dismantle the Poles, given how uninspiring their performance against Argentina was. France could likely meet England in the quarterfinals if Gareth Southgate's team can get past African champions Senegal.

Meanwhile, Spain will face Morocco, who have come to the round of 16 unbeaten and emerged as Group F toppers above Croatia and star-studded Belgium. If La Furia Roja make it through, it may set up a feisty quarterfinal against Portugal.

In terms of the semi-finalists from this side of

stages while Italy lost to co-hosts South Korea in farcical fashion in the round of 16. Afterwards, the only time two of the bigger teams clashed in that edition was when Brazil beat England in the quarterfinals and when Brazil beat Germany in the final. Interestingly, from the quarterfinals onwards, those were the only two matches when more than one goal was scored while all the other matches either ended 1-0 or 0-0.

That indicates, giants going out against the tide may provide a burst of excitement for fans of rivals, but ultimately it deprives neutrals of the best possible entertainment on the field.

And when the choices are between the aforementioned matchups like a Brazil-Argentina semifinal or even a Ronaldo-Messi final, the last thing anyone needs is an underdog throwing a wrench into those plans.

Underdogs do not often battle their way into the last 16 like Japan. A more common approach is the pragmatic option taken in 2022 by teams like Morocco and Poland. They tend to double down on such tactics, and lead towards a more conservative side, when stakes are as high as the World Cup knockouts.

That trend can be observed in the 2002 World Cup, when Argentina, France and Portugal crashed out in the group

for rice – which are much below the current market prices.

In Bogura, the district food control office bought 1 tonne of paddy as of November 28 out of its target of 10,222 tonnes.

"As the local market prices of paddy are higher than the price set by the government, farmers are reluctant to sell their paddy to us. But we are getting rice from millers."

The Gaibandha district food controller office is yet to procure any paddy.

"We have yet to start buying paddy and rice as the market price is high. We hope prices will come down and we will then be able to meet our target," said Antara Mallik, Gaibandha's food controller.

Abdur Rouf, a farmer from Rajosh village under Gobindaganj upazila, said they spent Tk 1,100 to Tk 1,150 to produce a Maund of paddy.

"If we sell paddy at the government rate of Tk 1,120, then how will we survive?" he said.

Paara Utshab also hosted talent shows, mini workshops on arts and crafts, street drama, CPR and first-aid sessions, fun street games and an exhibition on 50 years of Bangladesh's history, music and more.

Mayor Atiqul said they will arrange Paara Utshab in all areas of Dhaka gradually.

Paara Utshab arranged the event on Road 56, 60 and 62 in the capital's Gulshan 2.

LGRD Minister Md Tazul Islam and DNCC Mayor Md Atiqul Islam jointly inaugurated the programme.

The fair was divided into different zones that concerned health and well-being, knowledge and awareness, arts and crafts, and activities and plays.

Besides, the third session of The Daily Star's in-house event "Slam Poetry Nights", organised by SHOUT and The Daily Star Books, was also held at the premises – where people from all walks of life participated and performed.

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## Chattogram prepares

FROM PAGE 12  
Jamal Khan, Kazir Dewri, Lalkhan Bazar, Tiger Pass, Dewan Hat, Kadamtali, New Market and Anderkilla, to welcome Hasina.

Alongside the banners and posters, loudspeakers were also being used for publicity. The party leaders intend to gather over a million people from 15 upazilas on the occasion.

Multiple units of the AL and its associated organisations brought out processions to encourage mass people for joining the rally.

According to the party sources, the public representatives in Chattogram were given instructions in this connection.

The party high-ups also gave them targets to bring people from their respective areas, they said, adding that the target was set between 10,000 and 20,000 from each upazila considering the distance from the rally venue.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina would address a public rally as chief guest in

the port city after 10 years. "The last time our prime minister addressed a rally in Chattogram was in 2012. This time, we want the rally to be memorable in history," said Mafizur Rahman, general secretary of Chattogram (south) district unit AL.

"We are putting in all our organisational efforts to gather 10 lakh people in the rally," he added.

The prime minister will announce a package of development projects for the city dwellers from the rally, said Altaf Hossain Chowdhury, vice president of Chattogram city unit AL.

"This is one of the reasons why the party men and mass people are enthusiastic over the rally," he added.

Both the units, north and south, in Chattogram have jointly been working to make the rally a success, said AJM Nasir Uddin, general secretary of Chattogram city unit AL.

People will join the rally spontaneously, he expected.

## Father, son

FROM PAGE 3  
morning, Habibur went to the street with his son. The covered van hit them first and then veered into the roadside shops, hitting people at one of the tea stalls.

"Bodies of Shamsul, Touhidur and Ziarul were recovered from under the covered van," they added.

Following the accident, aggrieved locals blockaded the Jashore Chuknagar road for nearly two hours, during which, the vehicular movement remained halted, said witnesses.

After two and a half hours, the police normalised the traffic situation.

Meanwhile, Tahmina Khatun, mother of Taosin, is having a difficult time accepting the death of her son and her husband. "I lost my husband and my child. How am I supposed to endure this?" she said.

OC Moniruzzaman said police seized the covered van but the driver managed to flee. "The bodies were sent to Jashore General Hospital for autopsy," he added.

[Our Benapole correspondent contributed to this report]

## Northern smile

FROM PAGE 1  
Farmers from Bogura, Sirajganj, Joypurhat, Pabna, Dinajpur and Naogaon districts said they were selling their paddy in advance, even before harvesting began as millers are on a buying spree.

However, growers fear that a drop in prices would be devastating for them as the production cost this year was much higher due to fertiliser and fuel price hikes.

Aman paddy caters for over one-third of the country's annual rice production, with 2.16 crore tonnes produced last year, according to DAE data. The share of the six northern districts was 18.1 percent.

This year, the total Aman yield across the country is projected at 2.26 crore tonnes, according to Bogura DAE sources.

Safiqul Islam, a farmer from Gandagram village under Bogura's Shahjahanpur upazila, had cultivated BRR1 51 variety and got 22 maund paddy per bigha.

"I spent Tk 10,000 per bigha. With the current market prices, I can make some profit," he said.

Motiari Rahman, a farmer from Panitala Bazar in Gaibandha's Gobindaganj upazila, said he sold all his paddy grown on 17 bighas of land in advance for Tk 1,440 per maund.

A number of farmers in Dinajpur said the yield per bigha this year is up by 5-6 maund, although the cost is also higher. They said prices were falling over the last few days, expressing concern of big loss if prices fell further.

According to DAE data, farmers of the six districts cultivated Aman on more land this year and the yield increased by around 0.25 tonnes per hectare compared to last year.

Farmers in Bogura, Sirajganj, Joypurhat and Pabna alone cultivated Aman on 3,82,450 hectares of land, which is 6,101 hectares more than that last year, said Bogura Regional DAE officials.

Until November 28, around 70 percent of the paddy had been harvested, they added.

The production will be around 1.18 lakh tonnes higher this year, they predicted, adding that the average yield per hectare in the region this year is 4.66 tonnes per hectare, which was 4.41 tonnes last year.

"Although farmers suffered due to a lack of rain at the beginning, they got sufficient intermittent rainfall afterwards, which helped them see bumper yield this time," said Md Nuruzzaman, deputy director of the DAE, Dinajpur.

Lalmonirhat DAE Deputy Director Hamidur Rahman said farmers will be able to make a profit of Tk 7,000-8,000 from their yield per bigha.

GOVT PROCUREMENT FALLS SHORT

The food control offices in these districts are finding it difficult to procure paddy at the government-fixed rates – Tk 28 per kg for paddy and Tk 42 per kg

## Ruling class resorted

FROM PAGE 3  
organised by PCJSS and Bangladesh Adivasi Forum, marking the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Peace Accord.

The accord was signed on December 2, 1997, between the government and PCJSS.

Santu Larma said the accord was achieved by the indigenous people as a result of their struggle but its full implementation as promised by the government is a far cry now.

The accord will not see the desired light if democracy and harmony are not established, he said.

"It took about 15 years for the government to amend the CHT Land Dispute Resolution Commission Act, formulated in 2001 in line with the accord, while a set of rules for the act's proper implementation now seems like 'building castles in the air'," he added.

Santu Larma made a call for greater unity to wage a stronger movement to achieve due rights.

He blamed the government for "creating division" among the indigenous people and called upon them to establish rule of law in the CHT region.

Addressing the discussion, Workers Party

President and lawmaker Rashed Khan Menon said the CHT Peace Accord was signed as a means of resolving political issues in the region.

However, when it came to implementing the accord, it was not seen "politically but through the lens of security", he added.

Prof Mesbah Kamal, vice chancellor of Bangladesh University, said the CHT accord brought an end to an armed conflict in the hills. However, the question remains as to what extent peace has been established there.

He also mentioned that the problems of the region are political and those need to be resolved politically.

Rights activist Khushi Kabir said in the past, indigenous women of the region faced torture and violence.

"At present, the situation there is worrying, which leads to concerns that such incidents may recur in the future," she added.

Ruhin Hossain Prince, general secretary of Communist Party of Bangladesh, stressed the need for a specific roadmap to implement the accord fully.

Journalist Sohrab Hasan and indigenous community leaders Sanjeeb Drong and Rabindranath Soren spoke at the discussion among others.

## Aviation sector facing

FROM PAGE 3  
The seminar was held as part of the ongoing International Tourism Fair. Today is the last day of the three-day fair.

Mokammel Hossain, secretary of civil aviation and tourism ministry, said tourism and aviation are sectors related to each

other. No one doubts that there is huge potential in this sector in the country.

ATAB President SN Manjur Morshed Mahbub, Secretary General Abdus Salam Aref, Public Relations Secretary Atiqur Rahman, among others, were present at the event.

## WB to contribute

FROM PAGE 12  
Successful implementation of the project will help the country tackle key pollution issues, benefiting over 21 million people living in Dhaka and beyond.

The credit is from the WB's International Development Association (IDA), which provides concessional financing, and has a 30-year term with a five-year grace period.

"Bangladesh's rapid economic growth and urbanisation have come at a high environmental cost in terms of pollution. Not only that the pollution is impacting our health, but also it is eroding the country's economic competitiveness," said Dandan Chen, WB acting country director for

Bangladesh and Bhutan.

"The World Bank has been a long-standing partner to Bangladesh in tackling environmental challenges. This project will strengthen the country's environmental institutions to better control pollution and promote sustainable development," he added.

The project will help construct four VICs using private-public partnership modality to inspect about 46,000 vehicles a year. An e-waste management facility will be set up to process 3,500 tonnes of e-waste annually.

It will also help reduce over 1 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions from targeted sources.

## 25 years on, legal

FROM PAGE 12  
connection with CHT issues are related to each other.

He said they are prepared for placing arguments on this issue during hearing of the review petitions.

Speaking to this correspondent on November 28, Attorney

General AM Amin Uddin said that his office would place arguments before the Appellate Division in support of the appeals during the hearing.

"I hope the appeals will be included in the apex court cause list for their hearings in January or February next year," he added.

Let's Build A Beautiful Tomorrow

## Owners of land plots are invited to discuss their proposals

Dhanmondi, Gulshan, Banani, Old DOHS, Uttara, Banasree, Kalabagan, Pallabi, Mirpur DOHS, Shyamoli, Monipuripara, Green Road, Wari, Bashundhara, Shantinagar, Moghbazar, Eskaton, Segunbagicha, Paribagh, Indira Road, Mohammadpur, Lalmatia, Khilgaon, Malibagh, Bashabo & Siddheswari.



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