

Star journo wins 2 CRAB media awards

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Daily Star's senior reporter Jamil Khan has won two "CRAB Media Award 2022" for his work on graft.

Bangladesh Crime Reporters Association (CRAB) gives out the awards.

He won in the categories of "anti-militancy and extremism-awareness" and "cybercrime-awareness".

A total of eight journalists will receive awards tomorrow.

Other recipients (print and online category) include Nuruzzaman Labu, special correspondent of Dainik Bangla; Shahadat Hossain Parosh, special correspondent of Samakal; Nurul Amin Jahangir, staff reporter of Prothom Alo; and Adnan Rahman, senior reporter of Dhaka Post.

Abu Jahed Muhammad Selim, senior reporter of Maasranga Television, will get an award in the television and radio media category.



Police intercept the activists of Bangladesh Hindu-Buddhist-Christian Oikya Parishad at the capital's Shahbagh yesterday when its procession, right, was moving towards the Prime Minister's Office to submit a memorandum to ensure the rights of minorities. Later, an eight-member delegation took the memorandum to the PMO.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

BYLC celebrates 14th founding anniversary

STAR REPORT

Bangladesh Youth Leadership Center (BYLC) celebrated its 14th founding anniversary at a hotel in the capital on January 5, said a press release.

Since 2009, the institute has been standing by the young women and men of the country by equipping them with relevant skills.

Over the last decade and a half, BYLC has trained more than 50,000 youths through leadership, professional, entrepreneurial, and online education.

"BYLC's programmes have been proven to have a profound impact, not only in developing the skills of young people to act as leaders but also to create the motivation and attitude to do so..." said Chairperson of BYLC Akhter Matin Chaudhury.

Executive Director of BYLC Tahsinah Ahmed and its founder and president Ejaj Ahmad also spoke on the occasion.

One dead

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(28), an engineer of Bangabandhu Rail Bridge, and Kanai Haldar (30), a fisherman, said OC Humayun Kabir of Sirajganj Sadar Police Station.

A group of fishermen was travelling in an auto-rickshaw from Malshapara area around 5:00am yesterday. When they reached the New Market area, a bus hit the three-wheeler and sped away. Kanai Haldar died on the spot, Meanwhile, Hamidur was going to work on a motorcycle. When he reached Mulibari area, a speeding truck hit his motorbike. He died on the spot, said the OC.

TO LET

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47th DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF MOHAMMAD SIRAJUDDIN



Today the 8th January is the 47th death anniversary of Late Mohammad Sirajuddin founder Chairman & Managing Director of Modhumita Group, Sirco Soap & Chemical Industries, Kohinoor Jute Mills Ltd. founder Director of Standard Bank of Pakistan also the founder of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

Though he is not in this world, he lives in our hearts, in our minds, in our memory. Entrepreneurs like him are rare who left behind foot prints for generations to follow.

All friends, relatives and well-wishers are requested to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

All Members of Modhumita Family

Keeping the tradition alive

2 siblings successfully cultivating flowers in Fulgachh village

S DILIP ROY

Once upon a time, flowers were cultivated in acres and acres of fields in a Lalmonirhat village, so much so that the place was named Fulgachh, which literally means a flower tree.

But the tradition has almost died with the passage of time for some reason; almost no one cultivates flowers in their backyard anymore. No one except two siblings - Mbia Khatun (22) and Asadul Islam (21), the children of Fakhar Ali and Asma Begum.

Fakhar was a flower farmer himself, and passed his knowledge on to his next generation. The siblings are final-year undergrad students, studying political science in Rangpur Carmichael College.

They have been cultivating flowers near their house since their school days at Fulgachh in Lalmonirhat's Moghalhat union. The duo are currently growing different varieties of local and foreign flowers on one bigha of land.

They earn a handsome amount of money by selling flowers and flower seedlings. With that, they are not only meeting their educational expenses but

also providing for their family.

The flowers are cultivated from November to March every year. It costs them Tk 80,000 to 90,000 to grow them. They earn Tk 2.5 to 3 lakh by selling flowers and their seedlings.

The flowers on their orchard include marigold, rose, sunflower, dahlia,

now that scene is no longer visible at Fulgachh. Nawshed Islam, a flower trader at Misonmor area of Lalmonirhat, said he buys flowers from the siblings. "The demand for flowers increases during winter," he said.

Mabia Khatun told The Daily Star that flower farming is profitable, but

now that scene is no longer visible at Fulgachh.

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aparajita, keya, champa, chameli, zinnia, zooe, jasmine, togar, dolanchapa, nayanatara, madhabilata, malati, azalea, cosmos, krishnakali, camellia, calendula, gazania, chrysanthemum, zinnia, daisy, nasturtium, potuleka, morning glory, sylvia and various other domestic and foreign varieties.

Asadul Islam told The

it requires hard work and regular maintenance. Students can benefit by growing flowers.

Fakhar Ali told this newspaper that their two children learned floriculture from him, but now they are experienced. About 40 years ago, almost every homestead had flower plants and many people also cultivated flowers, but

of Agriculture Extension DAE, said many people are benefiting from seasonal flower cultivation in Lalmonirhat.

However, there is still no commercial cultivation of flowers on a large scale in the district.

"If anyone is interested in floriculture, necessary advice will be given from the agriculture department," he said.

AL always

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to bring BNP to the polls. It will be known by next September whether the party will participate. I strongly believe it will," he said.

The minister said even if BNP does not, the election will be accepted internationally. Some members of BNP may participate even if the whole party does not, and other parties will join the election. Ahead of the election,

BNP is trying its best to create anarchy in the country again, Razzaque said. Violent incidents in the name of agitation will be strictly dealt with. The party will not be allowed to hold blockades and strikes.

Deputy Commissioner of Tangail Jasim Uddin Haider, Superintendent of Police Sarkar Mohammad Kaiser, Madhupur Upazila Parishad Chairman Sarwar Alam Khan Abu and others spoke on the occasion.

US national

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the US wants to advance the relationship with Bangladesh and push for its foreign policy," a diplomatic source told this correspondent.

Foreign ministry officials said Admiral Laubacher is likely to discuss Bangladesh-US cooperation on counterterrorism, Bangladesh's demand for withdrawal of sanctions on Rab, Rohingya repatriation, Ukraine war and the return of killer Rashed Chowdhury.

Her visit is considered significant as the US is advancing its strategy of a free and open Indo-Pacific, and as part of this, considers Bangladesh as a very strategic partner.

Curtain falls

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year's Asian Art Biennale was the participation of 114 countries from all over the world. I hope Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy continues to enrich the young people of our country through its different exhibitions and programmes," said Speaker Shirin.

"The Asian Art Biennale is so popular among the youth that the line to enter the premises reached the main road on all days," said Liaquat.

He stated that they will arrange the exhibition for two months instead of one next year.

This year, the theme of the exhibition was "Home and Displacement". It displayed two- and three-dimensional artworks, including paintings, prints, photographs, sculptures, installations, and new media arts.

PRAYER TIMING

JANUARY 8					
Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha	
AZAN 5:30	12:45	4:00	5:30	7:00	
JAMAAT 6:05	1:15	4:15	5:35	7:30	

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Protect rights



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memorandum containing their demands to the PMO.

Earlier at the rally, Rana Dasgupta said, "We have seen the secular 72's constitution transformed into a communal one. We witnessed how the state religion got included in the constitution in 1988. It not only divided the nation on the basis of religion, but also turned the religious ethnic minorities of the country into state minorities. Many religious-ethnic minority people have been forced to emigrate due to years of deprivation, discrimination and oppression."

He said, "We want to make it clear that we do not want to be a commodity. Political parties use us as guinea pigs. We will not allow you

to use us again..."

Ushaton Talukder, who presided over the rally, said thousands of people from all over the country gathered there to talk about their sufferings.

The Oikya Parishad leaders said the ruling AL's promises in the 2018 election manifesto include enactment of the Minorities Protection Act, elimination of discriminatory law, and formulation of Intestate Property Conservation Act, National Commission for the minorities, proper implementation of Entrusted Property Transfer Act and Chattogram Hill Tracts Peace Accord.

The Oikya Parishad also demanded formation of a ministry for the minority communities.

Nurunnahar

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provides for the education and upbringing of her four sons.

Md Robiul Islam, her husband, said, "When my wife started agriculture work two decades ago, relatives and locals often mocked us, but we didn't care... We are all proud of her."

WATCHING OVER LOCAL WOMEN

Nurunnahar established "Joy Bangla Nari Unnayan Samity" for the welfare of underprivileged women in her village.

Md Shafiqul Islam, coordinator of the organisation, said over 1,600 women in Ishwardi upazila are members of this organisation.

"We provide training for agricultural work, dairy farming and financial assistance. We brought loans for 1,300 of our members from different banks of the district," he said.

But most importantly, these women get to learn from Nurunnahar and

become inspired by her journey to success.

"Women make half the rural population, so the society won't progress if they lag behind," said Nurunnahar.

Dr Saiful Alom, deputy director of Pabna's Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), said, "Nurunnahar is an example for working-class rural women. She has inspired many women to take farming as their profession."

ACCOLADES
Nurunnahar received Bangabandhu Krishi Award (gold medal) and AIP award in 2022 for her contributions to the agriculture sector. Besides, she achieved countless awards in the last two decades.

She now dreams of establishing a hospital and a home for the elderly at her village.

"I want the poor to receive all medical facilities for cheap and for them to live the last days of their lives with dignity," she said.

A move to make

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mainly involved in enquiry and investigation.

Mentionable, the secretaries are government officials in deputation who remain attached to the commission for only a fixed period.

Earlier, such decisions would be taken by permanent members of the commission only.

"According to the corresponding act, the executive power is given to the ACC's chairman and commissioners. In what logic has the power been given to the secretary?" said TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman.

"Was the concern of ACC's power being curtailed considered when

taking the decision? Did the commission decide this consciously?" he asked.

It is an ulterior move to transform the ACC into a "toothless tiger," he said.

"Why did the commission decide to hand over its power to the bureaucracy? This needs to be cleared up," he mentioned.

Expressing his frustration, Iftekharuzzaman said through the decision of giving "absolute power" to secretaries, the commission has destroyed the expectation of an independent and impartial commission.

TIB termed the decision to be against the prime minister's "zero tolerance" declaration.

Cold brings misery

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Pneumonia, caused by bacteria, viruses or fungi, leaves children to fight for their lives as their lungs fill with pus and fluid.

To avoid death, physicians urge parents to take extra caution if any child shows symptoms including cough, cold or high fever, and breathing problem.

Delayed hospital admission is the main reason behind deaths of such patients, according to Dr Jahangir. "If any child has a cold, parents should stay connected with physicians. If the child has problem breathing, parents should take them to the nearby hospital," he said.

As pneumonia is an infection of the lungs, its

most common symptoms are coughing, breathing problems and fever, explained Dr Iffat Ara Shamsad.

She said, "Children with pneumonia usually experience fast breathing and their lower chest may draw in or retract when they inhale. In case of normal cough or fever, there is usually no breathing issue."

Pneumonia is still the main cause of death of children aged under five in Bangladesh.

According to the icddr, around 12,000 children under five die of pneumonia every year.

But if intervened timely, many lives can be saved easily, according to the experts.