

Habibullah Khan no more
CITY DESK

Former Information Minister Habibullah Khan passed away on Saturday at a Dhaka hospital. Habibullah was also a former jute minister. Besides, he served as the first ambassador of Bangladesh in South Africa. His namaz-e-janaza will be held on January 10 after Jhr prayers at Gulshan Azad Mosque, said a press release. He will be buried at Azimpur Graveyard in the capital.



Seven cops withdrawn after accused escapes from police custody

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, City

Seven cops have been withdrawn from Chattogram court and attached to the district police lines in Halishahar after a drug accused managed to escape from police custody on Thursday evening.

Following the escape of the accused, police filed a case with the city's Kotwali Police Station.

The accused, Md Bacchu (60) is still at large.

Chattogram district police's Additional Superintendent of police (crime and operation) Sudipta Sarkar said, "Due to their negligence, the seven cops were withdrawn and a probe committee has been formed..."

Court sources said Bacchu was arrested along with 1,000 yaba pills by police from a bus at Gachbaria check post in Chandanish upazila on Wednesday. Later police sent him to court on Thursday. After hearing, he was ordered to be sent to jail and was taken to the court lockup.

However, he managed to escape from there, evading eyes of the law enforcers.



As the city's drainage renovation under Khulna City Corporation goes on in slow pace, commuters suffer long hours on the road, waiting in traffic. This photo was taken in front of Khulna's Sonadanga Bus Terminal yesterday afternoon. PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Road crashes have

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22.74 percent higher than the numbers in 2021.

Asked about the rise, Enayet said, "Although the number of deaths has increased, crashes have come down."

He said the number of deaths would not decrease unless operation of locally-made three wheelers like Nosiman and Koriman is stopped on highways.

When an accident involving Nosiman, Koriman occurred, all passengers on board got killed, he said. "So, the number of accidents decreased, not increased, but the number of deaths has gone up."

Asked about the basis of his claim, he said, "The number of accidents have gone down as per our statistics. I didn't bring the relevant papers, but I'm saying this on the basis of the information we get regularly."

He said the III-point recommendation, given by a committee led by Shajahan Khan, has to be implemented, and the speed of vehicles must be controlled by highway

police to curb crashes.

When a reporter said there is an allegation of over-speeding against buses of Ena Paribahan, owned by Enayet, he refused it. "This is propaganda against me."

SECOND PHASE OF E-TICKETING

Enayet said 1,643 buses under 30 Mirpur-based companies introduced e-ticketing on November 13 last year. He claimed that the system has been "70 to 75 percent successful".

For the second phase, 711 buses under 15 companies will be brought under the e-ticketing system from today. With the 711, a total of 2,354 buses will come under the e-ticketing system, under which bus conductors provide tickets using a POS machine.

He said they have a target to bring all 5,650 buses under 97 companies under the system within the next month and are hopeful about meeting the target. "There were allegations of overcharging. The new system will stop overcharging and bring discipline," he added.

The plane that brought

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by DAN-AIR was still fine. The cockpit was present, but there were no passenger seats.

THE JOURNEY

In his book, "Bangladesh: Quest for Freedom and Justice", eminent jurist and politician Dr Kamal Hossain - who was also in jail in Pakistan and accompanied Bangabandhu from Pakistan to Dhaka via London and Delhi - shed light on how the British authorities extended their hands by arranging the jet to carry Mujib.

After arriving in London, Bangabandhu met then UK Prime Minister Sir Edward Heath.

At one stage, Heath asked Bangabandhu, "Is there anything else we can do for you?"

Bangabandhu promptly replied, "Yes, you can do one more favour. If you could kindly help us with a plane to take us to Bangladesh as soon as possible."

Heath's response was positive. He instructed his secretary to see if the British prime minister's plane could be made ready and available.

The secretary came back after a few minutes and said the plane could be made ready by 7:00am the next morning.

"And so, we were able to leave by 7:00am on January 9. There were two stops, at RAF bases in Cyprus and Sharjah for refuelling, before we landed in Delhi to go to Dhaka," Dr Kamal wrote in the book.

The plane landed in Dhaka around 1:44pm on January 10, 1972, while a rapturous welcome awaited Bangabandhu.

New law

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according to the Constitution, the president now appoints judges to the High Court.

"In the case of appointment of judges, disqualification is mentioned, but eligibility criteria are not mentioned. In this case, if a specific law is made for the appointment of judges, there will be no

opportunity to question the appointment," he added.

JP MP Pir Fazlur Rahman said there was no law on the appointment of an Election Commissioner. Last year this law was passed and a new Election Commission was formed based on the law.

Similarly, a law for the

appointment of High Court judges was also supposed to be enacted. But it hasn't happened yet.

Later, the minister said he can assure that the government is working to enact a law on the appointment of judges.

The HC judges are now being appointed as per article 95(2) of the Constitution.

Cold taking

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children are being admitted daily at the facility on an average.

Seven children have died in the hospital last week from cold-related diseases, said the hospital's Director Dr Saiful Islam.

To deal with the rise in number patients, 71-new beds were dedicated for children yesterday.

"But there are only five child specialists and 15 nurses at the pediatric unit of the hospital currently. The number is not enough. Hopefully, this situation will improve soon," said Dr Saiful.

In a recent visit, this newspaper saw hundreds of patients taking treatment at the outdoor facilities, and on the floors of different wards. The beds were shared by more than one patient.

Dr Humayun Shaeen Khan, health officer for Barishal division, said, "Besides, Sher-e-Bangla Medical College, around 3,321 children have been admitted at different Barishal hospitals since November."

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.

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

Just shows how judiciary

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Court and subordinate courts have further eroded judicial independence and accountability. As a result, the judiciary is not perceived as independent, impartial and efficient and suffers from low public

trust."

BJAF Secretary General Barrister Kayser Kamal sent and signed the statement, saying that neither the first information report nor the charge sheet alleged that Zubaidda aided her husband in preparing the wealth statement that Tarique had submitted from inside the jail.

They also did not bring any allegation of her agency centring the statement's submission to the Anti-Corruption Commission,

the statement read.

In the process, Begum Khaleda Zia has been convicted in fictitious cases. Tarique has been convicted in a money laundering case, in which he was originally acquitted, and Zubaidda has been implicated in the false case, BJAF said in the statement.

"A judiciary must not allow itself to be a tool for legitimising illegal political actions and must not be subservient to any government," it mentioned.

Pension bill for SC judges

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retirement, resignation or removal, be paid a pension in accordance with the provisions of this Ordinance if he or she has completed not less than five years of service for pension and attained the retiring age; or completed not less than ten years of service for pension and, before attaining the retiring age, resigned; or completed not less

than five years of service for pension and, before attaining the retiring age, either resigned, his resignation having been medically certified to be necessitated by ill health, or been removed for physical or mental incapacity.

The chief justice will get Tk 4.50 lakh as injury gratuity and Tk 1.50 lakh for annual pension while amount for both is Tk

4.50 and Tk 1.40 lakh respectively for justice or additional justice.

The chief justice will get Tk 5 lakh as family gratuity and Tk 1.40 lakh for annual pension while amount for both is Tk 4 and Tk 1.20 lakh respectively for justice or additional justice.

The children of justices will get Tk 20,000 if the mother is not alive while Tk 12,000 if the mother is alive.

Govt overcame many hurdles

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or find another site for its turning. Now it is done that way."

The PM also mentioned that the metro-rail project was obstructed at Dhaka University area by students who said the infrastructure would destroy the academic atmosphere of the institute.

"I assured them that there would be no disturbance, as it will go through a corner of the university area," she said.

Hasina said the project was stopped after the Holy Artisan attack, in which

seven Japanese nationals involved with this project were killed.

"At that time, all Japanese people went back to their homeland. I expressed condolences at once to the then Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, and while visiting Japan I met the family members of the seven deceased officials," she said.

The PM recalled that the project faced obstacles again during the pandemic. "But during that time, the work

progressed slowly using the videoconferencing system."

Hasina urged all to carefully use the metro rail, which uses the most modern technology. "I will request all to use the rail with utmost care, as this is the asset of the whole country and its people."

She said the government is constructing an underpass to go from the airport railway station to the airport, with modern facilities for the convenience of passengers and hajj pilgrims.

Human chain

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not in the advice of others," Ajay said.

Dhaka South City Corporation councillor Hasibur Rahman Manik said they want justice for Faisal. The foreign ministry should take action in this regard, he added.

When asked about the matter, Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen said the US has a good judicial process and the authorities there will surely take action.

Meanwhile, the US Embassy extended condolences to the family of Faisal.

"The US Embassy extends its condolences to the family and loved ones of Mr Sayed Faisal. We support calls for a thorough and transparent investigation by the District Attorney's Office," US Embassy Spokesperson Jeff Ridenour said in a statement yesterday.

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LEGAL NOTICE IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH HIGH COURT DIVISION (STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION) COMPANY MATTER NO. 503 OF 2022. IN THE MATTER OF: Star Investment S.A.L. Off shore. -VERSUS- Petitioner Star Porcelain Ltd. and others Respondents.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Local Government Engineering Department Office of the Upazila Engineer Rangpur Sadar, Rangpur. www.lged.gov.bd. Invitation for Tender (Works) e-Tender Notice No. 03/2022-2023. e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of following works, details are given below:

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