

Sufia Showkat passes away

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

Sufia Showkat, mother of Dhaka Metropolitan Police Deputy Commissioner (Detective-Cyber and Special Crime unit-South Division) Mohammad Iqbal Hossain, passed away early yesterday. She was 71.

Wife of late freedom fighter and schoolteacher Showkat Ali, Sufia left behind her two sons, three daughters and a host of relatives to mourn her death.

She was buried at her family graveyard at Pirpur village in Monohardi upazila, Narsingdi following a namaz-e-janaza after the Asr prayers.

Textbooks

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“We don’t think there were errors in the textbooks. There might be some spelling mistakes. But we (NCTB), as a government body, tried to stay above controversy,” he said.

However, Ekattorer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee President Shahriar Kabir, who spoke at the event, alleged that the government in some cases were compromising with fundamentalists and the withdrawal of the books under pressure from fundamentalist quarters is an example of this.

Rasheda K Choudhury, former advisor to the caretaker government, claimed the state is now moving in the opposite direction of the ideology of non-communalism.

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad President Fauzia Moslem chaired the function, while Liberation War Museum Trustee Mafidul Haque; Rokeya Kabir, executive director of Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha; and Helen Monisha Sarker, general secretary of Young Women Christian Association Bangladesh, spoke at the discussion.

NCTB on February 10 withdrew two school textbooks in the wake of controversies over some contents. The books, which were withdrawn, are “History and Social Science: An Inquiry-based Reader” for classes 6 and 7.

High cost leads to poor

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at least Tk 6.83 lakh to perform hajj under government management, up by around Tk 1.61 lakh from the previous year. The minimum cost under private management has been fixed at Tk 6.72 lakh, about Tk 1.5 lakh more than that of the year before.

Apart from this, each pilgrim will have to pay about Tk 22,000 for a Qurbani coupon from the Islamic Development Bank in Saudi Arabia. The amount is used for meeting the expenses for sacrificing animals.

This year, the hajj will be held on June 27, depending on the sighting of the moon.

Abdus Salam Aref, general secretary of ATAB, yesterday said a

Bangladeshi pilgrim will have to spend around Tk 8 to 9 lakh on average to complete all formalities of hajj this year.

HAAB, a platform of around 1,500 private hajj agencies, said this year’s airfare was high, for which the cost of hajj packages have increased significantly.

“The airfare of Biman was Tk 1.40 lakh last year. But this year, it is around Tk 2 lakh, which is very high,” said HAAB President M Shahadat Hossain Taslim.

Sources at HAAB and ATAB said in India, the airfare is around Tk 1.25 lakh, and in Pakistan it is about Tk 1 lakh.

ATAB and HAAB leaders said due to the high prices, they are now worried whether the hajj agencies

and government will be able to send the targeted 1.27 lakh Bangladeshis to Saudi Arabia.

ATAB’s Aref asked if airfare of umrah can be around Tk 90,000, then why would hajj airfare be Tk 2 lakh?

“In most cases, intended hajis are saying that it is difficult to manage the additional money,” Md Khorshed Alam, managing partner of Al-Madina Travel & Hajj Kafela, told The Daily Star yesterday.

HAAB leaders said people from villages used to perform hajj in large numbers.

“But as the cost of hajj packages has increased, village people in general can’t afford to go,” said Khorshed.

27 DU students

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are bringing allegations against us by spreading propaganda. Are they following the right methodology to make the report?”

Asked, DU Proctor Prof AKM Golam Rabbani said, “We were not informed about such report and I have questioned why the authorities’ permission was not taken to prepare such a report. We are trying to understand their [the organisation’s] intentions.”

Bangladesh

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stronger bonds, Japan suggested partnering with Bangladesh in further developing the southern Chattogram area centring on the Matarbari Infrastructure Development Initiative (MIDI) project in the context of connectivity.

Both sides agreed that these projects should be built under Japan’s Big-B initiative. Bangladesh hoped that these projects will bring more Japanese investments.

Both sides discussed issues of bilateral relations in trade, investment, agriculture, ICT and high-tech industries, blue economy, health, human resource development, capacity development in maritime security, disaster management and defence cooperation.

Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen expressed his gratitude for Japan’s Covid-related assistance to Bangladesh and direct budgetary support for the next couple of years.

Japanese Senior Deputy Minister assured that Japan will continue to support all development projects of Bangladesh related to connectivity. Masud Bin Momen appraised Biman Bangladesh’s plan to resume its flights to Tokyo in the running year – an idea welcomed by Japan.

We’re doing

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it will become an asset for us.”

“When we are seeing an unstable situation across the world due to the war in Ukraine, we are witnessing a resurgence in Asia,” he added.

Prof Mizanur Rahman, director of BILLA, gave the welcome speech, while its researcher Sourav Ghosh presented the concept paper.

Former Supreme Court Justice AHM Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik said China will never solve the Rohingya problem, as it will harm its belt and roads project.

He said the Rohingya issue would have been resolved in 2017 if China and Russia had not vetoed the UN resolution on Rohingya people.

Mashlee Binte Shams, rector of Foreign Service Academy, and Prof Md Rafiqul Islam of Dhaka University’s peace and conflict studies department spoke among others, while BILLA Chairperson Amirul Islam presided over the programme.

Social norms a major barrier

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When the society became benefitted, they welcomed the initiatives,” said Nobonita.

She said no development project would be fruitful if social norms are not addressed.

Paola Castro Neiderstam, programme specialist, Human Rights, Democracy and Gender Equality at the Swedish embassy, said child marriage is a form of gender-based violence and is a violation against human rights of girls.

Kamrun Nahar Dolly,

assistant director and information officer of the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education, said the government can introduce the soft loan to the marginalised students targeting the lower developed areas in the country.

“If we can ensure the soft loan among the students, rates of dropout and child marriages will be reduced significantly,” she added.

MA Akher, planning director at the Department of Youth Development, said the government has taken some development

projects focusing on adolescent boys and girls. To eliminate the religious dogmas centring child marriage, the religious affairs ministry is working in this regard, he said.

Among others, Bridget Job Johnson, chief of the social and behavioural changes section at Unicef; Rawnak Jahan, director (acting) of the Women’s Global Education Project, and Tahera Jabeen, social development advisor of Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, also spoke at the event.

Traffickers enjoy impunity

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Runa Sultana, coordinator of Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF), noted that the enactment of a victim and witness protection law is crucial to protect victims.

Dipta Rakshit, team leader of Ashashash project, Winrock International, emphasised the implementation of a national referral mechanism with the support of government and non-government organisations to protect the victims.

Advocate Salma Ali, president of BNWLA, said, “Internal human trafficking is another burning issue. Many women have been trafficked from villages to cities as sex workers.”

The event was supported by The Embassy of Switzerland in Bangladesh and Winrock International.

Presided over by Salma Ali, the meeting was addressed, among others, by Jesmin Area Begum, retired senior district and session judge; advocate Jobaida Pervin, general secretary of BNWLA; and Abu Saleh Md Salauddin Khan, deputy secretary at the law ministry.

Inu’s wife Rina

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Abdul Baten told reporters that Rina submitted the nomination papers as a candidate of the Awami League-led 14-party alliance.

According to the schedule, the last date for submission of nomination papers for the by-election to the reserved seat was yesterday.

The nomination papers will be selected on March 2.

The last date for withdrawal of candidature is March 6. The election will take place on March

20. If there are no other candidates, Afroza will be elected unopposed. Rina was born on October 5, 1951, in Nawabganj, Dhaka. She joined the East Pakistan Chhatra League while studying at Eden College. In 1969, she was elected social service secretary in the student parliament election. In 1975, she married Inu.

Seven BNP MPs, including Rumeen Farhana, resigned from the parliament following the December 10 rally last year.

Below this institute

FROM PAGE 3  
the PTI centre in 1971, said, “Every night, the screams and cries of freedom fighters filled the area.”

Dipankar Mohanta, a Liberation War researcher, said at the beginning of the war, the Pakistan army used PTI as its brigade headquarters. There, they built an underground bunker, which was used as a torture cell.

“Many women were also raped and killed inside this place,” he said.

“We demand that the chairman of the district council and district deputy commissioner take appropriate steps to preserve this historic place. The authorities should build a monument in the memory of martyrs

and a Liberation War museum on PTI premise,” he added.


Tapan Palit, a history professor at Jagannath University, said after killing people, the Pakistan army would dump the bodies inside the PTI well or in and around surrounding forests and hills.

“Due to a lack of research, there is no exact data on how many people were killed and raped inside this building. People should know about this place,” he said.

Contacted, Moulibazar Deputy Commissioner Mir Nahid Ahsan said, “We are taking some initiatives to preserve the memories of the martyrs who sacrificed their lives inside this building.”

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SMC invites tender from the potential bidders for supplying the Digital Blood Pressure (BP) Machines. The Tender schedule for the procurement of BP machines is available on the SMC’s website (<https://www.smc-bd.org/tenders>). Interested bidders having the relevant experience may submit their tender on or before March 12, 2023 by 2.00 pm at the tender box as stated in Tender schedule.  
Sr. Manager, Procurement, SMC  
Phone: +88-02-2222750/79 (Ext: 3370)

**We Remember**  
  
20.09.33 - 1.3.2003  
On his 20<sup>th</sup> death anniversary today, we profoundly remember late **Matiur Rahman**- a Freedom Fighter, Founder & Chairman of Kisan Group, Former Cabinet Minister and former President of Dhaka Chamber of commerce & Industries.  
Charity lunches will be served today at orphanage. Please pray for the salvation of his departed soul.  
Chondona, Robin, Shuvo & Amit  
&  
Members of Kisan Group  
mr Rahmanfamily@gmail.com

**Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF)**  
Plot: E-4/B, Agargaon A/A, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207.  
Phone: 8282658-61 Website: [www.pksf.org.bd](http://www.pksf.org.bd)  
**e-GP Tender Notice (Goods)**  
PKSF invites e-Tender in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following goods:  

Tender ID No	Description	Tender Publication Date & Time	Tender Closing/Opening Date & Time
794234	Procurement of Equipment [64 Nos. Laptop; 64 Nos. TV Screen; 64 Nos. Video Conference Webcam System and 64 Nos. Portable Trolley Speaker (PA System)] for Distance Learning System under SEP of PKSF	28-02-2023 & 15:00 PM	02-04-2023 & 14:00 PM

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP System Portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the national e-GP portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP helpdesk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

**A.T.M. Hemayet-Ur-Rahman**  
Deputy General Manager (Admin)

**Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh**  
Office of the Executive Engineer  
Magura PWD Division, Magura  
☎ 02477710105, ☎ 02477711005  
E-mail: [ee\\_magur@pwd.gov.bd](mailto:ee_magur@pwd.gov.bd)  
Memo No. 25.36.5500.270.35.024.23/567  
**e-Tender (OTM)**  
Following e-Tender are invited in e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Executive Engineer, Magura PWD Division, Magura for the Procurement of:  

Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Name of work	Tender last selling date & time	Tender closing/opening date & time
01.	794361	Construction of District Registrar’s Office & Sub-Registrar’s Office in Different District of Bangladesh (2 <sup>nd</sup> Phase) one at Shailkha Upazila Magura (Sub-Head: Civil works, Internal & External Sanitary works, Internal & External Electrification works, RCC Road, Boundary Wall, Furniture, Arboriculture).	22-Mar-2023 16:00	23-Mar-2023 10:30

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in e-GP Portal and offline & hard copies will not be accepted. e-Tender may be details obtained from e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

**Md. Sarowar Hossain**  
Executive Engineer  
Magura PWD Division, Magura  
GD-374

**Government of the people’s Republic of Bangladesh**  
Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources  
Geological Survey of Bangladesh (GSB)  
153, Pioneer Road, Segunbagicha  
Dhaka-1000.  
TENDER NOTICE NO: 28.05.0000.231.07.021.22.416 Date: 28.02.2023  
**e-TENDER NOTICE Procurement Method : OTM (NCT)**  
e-tender is invited in the National e-GP system portal (<http://www.e-procure.gov.bd>) for the Procurement of the following goods  

SL No.	Tender ID	Name of Goods
01.	774846	Supply of Bangladesh Mineral Museum android mobile application App and related services

for any information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)) no offline/hard copies will be accepted.  
Tender last Selling Date: 19.03.2023, Time: 16.00 & Tender Closing/Opening Date: 20.03.2023, Time: 12.00  
  
(Minhabul Abedin Shakik)  
Assistant Director (Procurement)  
For Director General  
G.S.B., Dhaka.  
Phone: 48314810.  
GD-383

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**GREEN DELTA INSURANCE**  
**Green Delta Insurance Co. Ltd.**  
Green Delta AIMS Tower (6<sup>th</sup> floor)  
51/52 Mohakhali C/A, Dhaka. Phone: 222281124 (PABX),  
E-mail : [info@green-delta.com](mailto:info@green-delta.com) : Web : [www.green-delta.com](http://www.green-delta.com)  
**PRICE SENSITIVE INFORMATION**  
This is for the information of all concerned that, the Board of Directors of Green Delta Insurance Company Limited in its 387<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting held on February 28, 2023 has decided to purchase a commercial land of 12.89 Decimal (approx.) at Plot # 36, Road # 46, Gulshan-2, Dhaka at a cost of BDT 75,00,00,000.00 only excluding registration and incidental costs; subject to relevant regulatory authority(ies.) approval (as applicable).  
Thank you.  
  
**Md Oliuliah Khan FCS**  
Company Secretary  
Date: 28 February 2023