



## Abul Mansur Ahmad's 44th anniversary of death today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 44th anniversary of Abul Mansur Ahmad, a renowned litterateur, journalist, and politician of the sub-continent. He died in 1979.

One of the greatest satirists of Bangla literature, he was also a pioneer of modern and progressive journalism. He worked for prominent newspapers such as Krishak, Nabajug, Sultan, and Mohammadi, and was editor of the Kolkata-based Daily Ittehad from 1946 to 1948.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

The divider on this road that starts from the Khamarbari intersection and ends at Bijoy Sarani intersection is being expanded. The construction site was seen hosting a makeshift path for pedestrians to cross the road. Although there is a footbridge just some steps ahead of the divider, pedestrians cannot use it as it is currently under maintenance works as well. The photos were taken yesterday.



## Two killed in separate road crashes in the capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two people died in two separate road accidents in Dhaka's Kakrail and Jatrabari areas early yesterday.

One of the deceased was identified as Abdullah Limon, 26.

He was a battery and IPS trader, who hailed from Narayanganj.

The other deceased, aged around 35, could not be identified yet, said police.

Limon suffered critical injuries after a truck hit his motorcycle at Kakrail around 1:45am.

He was returning home after attending a wedding programme in Dhaka, his brother Mohammad Kazol said.

Limon was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead, said sub-inspector Mujahidul Islam of Ramna Police Station.

Law enforcers seized the truck and detained its driver, said the police official.

Meanwhile in Matuail, a man died after an unidentified vehicle hit him around 3:30am.

Both the bodies were sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy, according to police.

## Rainfall likely to increase in next 3 days

STAR REPORT

Rainfall or thunder showers may increase in the country in the next 72 hours, Bangladesh Meteorological Department said in a forecast yesterday.

The 24-hour forecast issued at 9:00am said that the trough of westerly low lies over West Bengal and adjoining area and the seasonal low lies over the South Bay.

The rain or thunder showers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at a few places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Khulna, Mymensingh and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Rangpur, Barisal and Chattogram divisions, it added.



Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 5:00	12:45	4:30	6:14	7:45
JAMAAT 5:35	1:15	4:45	6:18	8:15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

# The sudden disappearance of e-tickets

### Bus staffers unwilling to carry on with the service

MD ABBAS

Amid much hype and excitement, e-ticketing for all buses on the Mirpur route was launched to reduce conflicts between passengers and bus helpers over additional fares. However, just two months after its introduction, the service disappeared.

The initiative, which was appreciated by passengers, has been refused by bus helpers. They are refusing to use the POS (point of sales) machines provided by the bus owners association for e-tickets and collecting fares.

Moreover, a significant number of buses do not even have POS machines.

Upon boarding 15 buses in the Mirpur and Mohammadpur areas recently, this correspondent found that only 2 out of the 15 buses had POS machines for e-tickets, which were found in the helpers' pockets. In these two buses of Ayat and Shikar Paribahan, helpers were seen collecting fares manually instead of using the POS machines.

The remaining 13 buses did not have POS machines at all.

Md Arif Hossain, a private job holder and resident of Farmgate, shared his experience of boarding an Ayat Paribahan bus on the Chiriyakhana-Kamalapur route to



go to Mirpur 10.

"The supervisor took Tk 20. After a long altercation over an e-ticket, he brought out a machine from his pocket and gave me an e-ticket where the fare written was Tk 15," he said.

Hossain also mentioned that the helpers on the bus never willingly provided him with e-tickets and that he had to argue with them almost every time.

This correspondent boarded Malancha Paribahan on the Mohammadpur-Doyaganj, Ramjan Paribahan on the Mohammadpur-Demra staff quarter, and Midline Paribahan on the Mohammadpur-Khilaon routes. However, none of these

buses had POS machines to provide e-tickets.

A POS machine was found on a Paristhan Paribahan bus on the Bosila-Abdullahpur route, where the helper was seen collecting fares manually. Similar pictures were found of at least 15 buses in Shahbagh.

Mahbub Rahman Bhuiyan, a banker and resident of Bosila, got on Paristhan Paribahan from Mirpur 10 to go to Mohammadpur.

"Despite having a POS machine, the helper is collecting fares manually. He gave me an e-ticket only when I told him that I will not pay the fare without an e-ticket," he said.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

## Bangladesh elected vice chair of CFM

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has been unanimously elected as the vice chair of the Bureau of the 49th Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM).

Bangladesh's nominated candidate Sheepa Hafiza won the election of the Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC) Commissioner from Asia Group together with Iran and Turkey during the CFM held in Nouakchott, Mauritania on March 16-17.

Taking part in the CFM, Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen reiterated Bangladesh's continued engagements with the OIC.

This year, the CFM was themed "Moderation: Key to Security and Stability" where several political, economic, social, cultural and security issues have been discussed.

He expressed his deep concern over the lack of tolerance and surge of terrorism in various parts of the world together with the rise of islamophobia. Momen particularly stressed taking proactive role by the member states and international actors to address the Rohingya issue and urged to remain involved to put continuous pressure on the Myanmar authorities to ensure safe and dignified return of the Rohingyas to their homeland.

## Better monitoring need of the hour

### Experts tell dialogue on preventing fire, explosions

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lack of maintenance and monitoring, absence of punishment for responsible officials and employees, and failure to follow existing laws and regulations are the primary causes of increasing incidents of fire and explosions in Dhaka, said urban planning experts yesterday.

During a virtual programme organised by the Institute for Planning and Development (IPD), experts emphasised the need to prioritise people's lives from all walks of life and manage resources to fulfill their respective responsibilities to build a safe city by learning from past accidents.

The experts also blamed the absence of standard planning and development management for densely populated cities like Dhaka and Chattogram, making the cities less liveable and secure for its residents.

They called for the creation of a "Building Regulatory Authority" to ensure compliance with construction standards.

In his keynote presentation, Prof Adil Mohammad Khan, executive director of IPD, emphasised that the overall preparation to build a safe city is still weak.

To make buildings in Dhaka safe, Md Ashraful Islam, town planner of Rajuk, recommended building owners submit structural designs in addition to architectural designs.

Ashraf also said Rajuk is introducing "third Party Monitoring" to oversee the construction process and prevent irregularities.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

## Next national polls as per constitution Says Quader

BSS, Dhaka

Awami League General Secretary and Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday said the poisonous tree of communal forces must be uprooted for building the "Sonar Bangla" as dreamt by Bangabandhu.

He said this after paying rich tributes to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman by placing a wreath at his portrait in front of Bangabandhu Memorial Museum at Dhanmondi Road-32 in the morning, marking the late leader's 103rd birth anniversary and National Children's Day.

About the elections, Quader said Awami League wants the elections to be held as per the constitution and keeping the constitutional provisions intact.

Whenever BNP assumed power, it repeatedly defamed the constitution, he said, adding that Awami League will protect the dignity of the constitution and hold the next election accordingly.



## AL destroyed electoral system Says Fakhrul, demands fresh SCBA polls

UNB, Dhaka

BNP yesterday alleged that Awami League has put the last nail in the coffin of the electoral system of the country by holding a lopsided Supreme Court Bar Association election, using police and outsiders.

The party also demanded a fresh election to the SCBA cancelling the results of the "so-called" violence-marred polls for the sake of the sanctity of the country's apex court.

"Awami League has turned into such a bankrupt party politically that it has to use police and outsiders to announce its candidates as winners in the Supreme Court Bar Association elections. It's a matter of great shame," said BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir.

Under the circumstances, Fakhrul said their party wants the chief justice to come forward and take necessary measures to protect the sanctity of the Supreme Court, the highest institution of the judiciary.

A day after the announcement of SCBA polls

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



## A lifeline for low-income people



SAJJAD HOSSAIN

In the heart of the crowded Dhaka, is a very special kitchen market which has been serving low-income people for decades now.

According to the vendors, it all started when those living near the rail lines began collecting vegetables that fell off wagons or were thrown out for being "damaged". They took the scraps and sold them for less than half the price.

Soon, this bazar came to be known as "Fokinni Bazar".

Rickshaw-pullers, day-labourers, shopkeepers, and other people from low-income

groups in the area depend on the market located under Bijoy Sarani-Tejgaon Flyover, to put food on their tables.

The transient bazar is set up on both sides of the rail tracks, where people living in shanties nearby sell daily goods. The sold produce is not particularly in good condition but for many people this is the only affordable means of subsistence.

People don't shop here for the month. Sometimes, they don't even buy for the day, they visit the market thrice daily and just purchase enough to prepare the next meal.

Before the independence of Bangladesh, beggars in the



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

surrounding areas used to sell rice, lentils, onions, garlic, and vegetables collected from whole sellers at this market. Even then, the consumers of the market were low-income individuals.

Currently, the market consists of 30 shops which sell daily commodities and other necessities.

The customers are regulars and do not need to ask the price or bargain as they already know the current rate in the market.

Parvin Begum, a housekeeper, said, "I come here every day, and I know everyone who sells products here. They know me too. It's like a small family."

"We depend on it to survive," she added.

One of the shopkeepers, Shahidul Islam, buys four eggs for Tk 28 from Tejgaon wholesale market and sells them for Tk 30.

"I buy the eggs, which are slightly damaged or cracked during transportation, at low price and sell them with a minimal profit margin," he said.

He manages to sell around 200 eggs every day on average.

Shamima Begum is one of the vendors who has been selling items at "Fokinni Bazar" for almost five years.

From here, shoppers can purchase grocery items in lower

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6



In memory of Bushra Hossain, 1975-2020