

## Shahidur Rahman passes away

CITY DESK

Shahidur Rahman Shaheed, former chief administrative officer, Ministry of Defence, breathed his last on April 21. He was 85. Born in Calcutta, British India, Shaheed was the third son of late Atiqur Rahman Mahmood, scholar and civil servant of British India, Bengal and late Laila Mahmood, daughter of Khan Bahadur Arshad Ali. Shaheed is survived by his son, two daughters, six grandchildren and a host of relatives and friends. He was buried at the Army Graveyard.

## Death anniv of Fawzia Samad

CITY DESK

Today is the 12th death anniversary of Begum Fawzia Samad, wife of late MA Samad, founder of Bangladesh General Insurance Company Ltd. Fawzia devoted her life to the cause of the country's women, serving in different capacities, which include presidentship of Dhaka Ladies Club for 38 years. In 1949, Fawzia along with her litterateur husband ran a magazine named "Minar" for children. She also established an educational institution named Kusum Koli for underprivileged children. Born in Sylhet in 1929, she passed away on April 25, 2011 in a Singapore hospital. She was the mother of Towhid Samad, chairman of BGIC; Fancy Samad, Tamju Samad and Sabrina Samad.

## ALIMUDDIN'S GRAVEYARD

# A family legacy of helping the poor

MD ABBAS

At the heart of Dhaka's Baridhara block-G, lies a one-acre graveyard that has been serving as the final resting place for thousands of people for decades. But what sets this graveyard apart is its unique story of generosity. Established around 150 years ago by a local businessman, the graveyard was initially intended for the burial of his family members. However, after his death, his son Alimuddin decided to open it up for the public, particularly for those who couldn't afford a burial at the city's government graveyards. Alimuddin's wish to give back to the community didn't end there. Before his death, he donated an additional acre of land as a waqf estate (permanent endowment by a Muslim of any of his property for a purpose recognised by the Muslim Law as 'religious, pious or charitable'), with the intention of building a mosque and an orphanage. At present, the graveyard is maintained by Alimuddin's son Tota Miah, 90, and grandson Akhter Hossain, with donations from the well-

off. Besides, the mosque and orphanage stand proudly on the donated land. "The graveyard also provides free clothes to those who cannot afford one, and anyone with a national identity card and a phone number can bury a family member in the graveyard," said Tota Miah.



As Dhaka city corporations charge a fee of over Tk 1,100 for a burial, the generosity of the Alimuddin family has provided a vital service to the underprivileged families in the area. Akhter Hossain, current supervisor of the graveyard, said, "It would not have been possible to maintain the graveyard and run the mosque and orphanage without their generous contributions." Mamun Ali, a 70-year-old local, echoed him.

## 70pc Boro

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Boro paddies were sown on 452,000 hectares of land in haor areas of seven districts this year. A total of 953,000 hectares of Boro paddy has been cultivated in the highland outside of the haors. The production target is 40 lakh tonnes of rice, said the release. Recently, Agriculture Minister Abdur Razzaque launched the Boro paddy harvest in haor areas of Sunamganj ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr. At the time, he said if there was no natural disaster and rice can be brought home on time, there will be record production in Boro this year. He said only in Sunamganj, around 1,000 combined paddy harvesters are working, adding that there will be no problem in harvesting paddy this time. According to the Department of Agricultural Extension, Boro has been sown on 50 lakh hectares of land across the country this year, while the production target is 21.5 million tonnes of rice.

## Tourist spots abuzz with Eid

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19,000 visitors on Sunday and 10,000 visitors on Monday. Patenga Sea Beach was another popular tourist destination during Eid holidays. People with family and friends rushed to the beach on all three days. **KUAKATA: A POPULAR CHOICE** A good number of tourists came to Kuakata to enjoy natural scene on their five-day holiday marking Eid-ul-Fitr. Tourists are visiting Kuakata's Kua, Lemburbagan, estuary of rivers, Gangamati Lake, Lal Kakra Char, Misripara Buddhist temple, Sri Mangal Buddhist temple, and Rakhine Women's Market, Oyster Market, Misripara handloom's villages are all crowded with shoppers. Selina Mozammel Haque, a tourist coming from Cumilla, said, "This is the first time I have come

to Kuakata by car. Kuakata was not so beautiful when I came before." Abul Khayer Mollik, a tourist from Pabna, said, "I got 5 days off in a row and came to spend some time on the beach with my family. I feel relaxed and everyone's having fun." Abdul Motaleb Sharif, general secretary of the Kuakata Hotel Motel Owners Association, said all 130 hotel-motels and resorts were booked in advance. Kuakata Tourist Police Assistant Superintendent of Police Abdul Khaleq said a number of safety measures had taken to ensure safety of tourists. Additional police had been deployed. **BARISHAL ABUZZ WITH TOURISTS** A large number of holidaymakers thronged the tourist spots, amusement park and other entertainment centres of Barishal during Eid. Among the tourist spots, Muktijoddha Park

and Trish Godown area on the Kirtankhola riverbank were the most crowded areas. Crowds also gathered at Bangabandhu Uddyan, Durgasagar and Planet World Shishu Park. Due to the extreme heat, Kirtankhola riverbank became a popular tourist destination. Many were seen taking boat rides, reports our Barishal correspondent. People with families and friends were thronging the bridge over Lebukhali river and Shaheed Abdur Rab Serniabat bridge at Dapadapiya section of Kirtankhola river. Aminul Hasan, who came to the bank of Kirtankhola with his daughters, said it was a hassle-free journey to his village home in Barishal from Dhaka this year. Apart from Barishal, Bhola's Meghna riverbank and Betua Ghat were also popular sites among Eid holidaymakers.

## Pabna celebrates as its 'son of soil'

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reputed newspapers. He is a life member of Pabna press club. "We are very proud of him. We feel he is one of us," said Soikat Afroz Asad, secretary of Pabna press club. Different organisations and people also hanged banners, festoons around Pabna congratulating the new president. Md Shahabuddin was born on December 10, 1949 in Laxmisagar area of Shibrampur upazila of Pabna city. His father Sharfuiddin Ansari was a businessman and his mother Khairun Nessa was a housewife. Shahabuddin is the eldest of

four brothers and six sisters. He is the father of a son. In 1966, Shahabuddin passed SSC from Radhanagar Majumdar Academy in Pabna city. After that, he passed HSC and BSc from Government Edward College. He received his MSc in psychology from Rajshahi University in 1974 and LLB degree from Shaheed Aminuddin Law College, Pabna in 1975. In his political career, he served as the president of Pabna District Chhatra League and president of the district Jubo League. When BAKSAL was formed in 1975, he was appointed joint secretary general of Pabna district committee. Following August 15 of that

year, he was arrested under martial law. In 1982, after qualifying for BCS, he started his career as an assistant judge. He retired as district and sessions judge in 2006. He served as commissioner of the Anti-Corruption Commission from 2011 to 2016. Professor Shibtaj Nag, an educationist of Pabna and a childhood friend of President Md Shahabuddin, said, "Md Shahabuddin has been working for the people since his student life. Although he served in many important roles of the state at different times, he never forgot about his roots and the people of the region."

## Dhaka for free

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Shahriar Alam said Dhaka considered four principles as the foundation of the Indo-Pacific Outlook that include Bangladesh's foreign policy dictum - "Friendship towards all, malice toward none", respect for national sovereignty and equality, political independence, and non-interference in internal affairs of other countries. Besides, the Outlook also wants peaceful settlement of international disputes, respect for international law and the principles enunciated in the UN Charter, and striving for renunciation of the use of force in international relations and for general and complete disarmament.

"Being a littoral State of the Bay of Bengal, Bangladesh considers the stability and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific to be a crucial factor in realising her 'Vision 2041'," said Shahriar Alam at a briefing at the foreign ministry yesterday. He said the Indo-Pacific area's collective share in global GDP, preponderance in international trade, enhanced climate action and growing technological dynamism can be key determinants for ensuring Bangladesh's long-term resilience and prosperity. "We want to foster cooperation among Indo-Pacific countries, collaborate with sub-regional partners, keeping with the vision of Smart Bangladesh," he added.

## Office of president

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Md Iqbal Kabir Lytton said in the 39-page full text of the order which was uploaded in the Supreme Court website yesterday. Md Shahabuddin, who was elected as 22nd president of Bangladesh on February 13, took the oath yesterday. "We hold that the 'election' and 'appointment' do not carry the same meaning as per the Constitution. The President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh is the elected representative and the 'symbol of the unity' of Bangladesh, and the individuals who serves in the Republic according to the Part IX of the Constitution are the appointed employees in the service of the Republic," the

HC bench said in the full text order. "We hold that the declaration made by the Election Commission represented by the Chief Election Commissioner at the Nirbachan Bhaban, Agargaon, Dhaka, under section 7 of the Presidential Election Act, 1991 is not illegal..." the HC bench said. On March 15, the HC bench summarily rejected two separate writ petitions challenging the legality of the process of electing Shahabuddin as president. Supreme Court lawyers MA Aziz Khan and Abdul Momin Chowdhury filed the petitions on March 7 and March 12 respectively. On March 21, the SC chamber judge upheld the HC order.

## BADC filling up water retention land in Gabtoli

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Visiting the site recently, this correspondent found that the BADC has put up a fence around the area. An excavator was levelling the land. The height of the ground has been raised by up to around six feet using a dredger. This correspondent found no project official at the site on April 6 and 8. Meanwhile, locals fear that the filling of the land will adversely affect the drainage in and around Gabtoli City Colony, Goldertak, Mirpur, Mazar Road, Mohammadia Housing,

Homes, Navodaya Housing, Shyamoli Housing, and Mansoorabad Housing. Jamal Uddin, a local, said, "When it rains, waterlogging occurs in the area. Water used to recede through this land. Due to the filling of the land, waterlogging will get worse." The DNCC on March 29 wrote to the BADC asking it to suspend the "land development work". The corporation said construction of the proposed building on the land would seriously obstruct drainage.

Selim Reza, chief executive officer of DNCC, said the city's drainage water ends up in Kalyanpur retention pond, which is adjacent to the land filled by BADC. "If the landfilling continues, it will increase the suffering of the locals and aggravate waterlogging," he added. Asked why the DNCC acted so late on this issue, Selim said, "We cannot declare war against a government authority." Rajuk, however, seems to have no idea about the present condition of the land.

Expressing concern over BADC's move, Ashrafur Islam, town planner of Rajuk and also the DAP project director, said, "The BADC did not obtain any permission from Rajuk,

and also did not submit any application." He said although the land-filling continued for several months, he learned about it only about a week ago. The DoE seemed to be in the dark about the matter too. Masud Hassan Patwary, director (monitoring and enforcement) of DoE, said, "I'm trying to find out about the issue." The BADC, however, claims that it is not a water retention land. ABM Golam Mansur, project director of Central Tissue Culture and Seed Health Laboratory at BADC, said, "There was no water retention land at the project site. We are using this land as a farm." He claimed that they obtained permissions from

the concerned government authorities when the project was approved by the ministry. When asked about permission documents, Mansur could not provide any answer. Experts have expressed concern about the government authorities' failure to protect the water retention land. Prof Adil Mohammed Khan of urban and regional planning at Jahangirnagar University criticised Rajuk, DoE, and DNCC for negligence. He also demanded legal action against the government officials who were involved in illegal activities such as filling water retention land. "The land should be reclaimed by removing the sand," he added.

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"We did not have to spend much money but it was an additional hassle transporting an injured patient." At National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases, ticketing master Kutubul Alam reported an increased number of patients after Ramadan compared to other Eid holidays. "In the first 10 hours of the day, we admitted some 106 patients, while 165 patients took treatment during this

period," he said. Nazrul Islam, 55, who has been taking treatment at the hospital since last month, said, "Other times, doctors visit us regularly. However, during Eid, we could not consult any doctors. I only wonder what would have happened if my condition was more critical." Contacted, Assistant Director of Dhaka Medical College Hospital Ashrafur Alam said, "All emergency services were kept open during holidays and we did

not receive any complaints regarding their services." They also distributed special food for the patients on the occasion of Eid, he said. Prof Abdul Goni Molla, director of NITOR, said, "We had a huge rush of patients, but we kept the hospital open with a limited number of staffers. We tried our best to provide services to the patients." When asked about other complaints, he said, "We will look into the matter."

## Rana Plaza victims remembered

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The demands also include 60 percent allowance until the wage increase, long-term medical care and necessary rehabilitation of injured workers, proper conservation and construction of a permanent memorial at the site of the collapsed building, formation of an

emergency fund for all workers and closure of all factories as part of a mourning and safety day on April 24. Bulbuli Akter, a worker who was injured in the collapse, said, "I didn't get any compensation except a nominal donation. I didn't even get justice. None of our demands have been

met yet." "We want compensation and maximum punishment for the criminals," she said. Taslima Akter, head of Garment Workers' Sanghati, said, "We have been raising various demands since the Rana Plaza collapse. Even though 10 years have passed, our demands have not been met yet."

## Give us another chance to serve


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The Prime Minister said Bangladesh has got recognition as a developing nation due to continuation of democratic process in the country and stability since 2009. Bangladesh, she said, has witnessed such a huge socio-economic advancement as the people voted the Awami League to power in 2008, 2014 and 2018 elections consecutively. Hasina said she loves the country and its people like a mother, adding that she has been working relentlessly to bring smiles on the faces of the distressed people by changing their fates. The PM urged the countrymen to remain alert against war criminals, corrupts and grenade attackers as they are out to destroy the advancement of Bangladesh. "The country and all of its advancement will be ruined if the anti-liberation elements, war criminals, killers, grenade attackers and corrupts are voted to power again. The countrymen have to remain alert," she said.

The premier hinted about involvement of the BNP Jamaat clique in the recent fire incidents in different markets and asked the authorities concerned to conduct a thorough investigation into the matter. She reminded all that the Awami League is a servant of the people as it (AL government) always serves the people. Hasina said this year's Eid journey was hassle free due to massive infrastructure development that included roads, highways, bridges, especially the Padma Bridge. **PM PAYS HOMAGE TO AUG 15 MARTYRS** Hasina on Sunday paid rich tributes to August 15 martyrs at the Banani graveyard. The premier along with her younger sister Sheikh Rehana went to the Banani graveyard and paid glowing homage by placing wreaths in the morning. After laying the wreath, they stood in solemn silence for some time. They also spread flower petals on the graves.

Sheikh Hasina and Sheikh Rehana also offered Fateha and prayed for eternal peace of the departed souls of the martyrs of August 15. At the Banani graveyard, their mother Bangamata Begum Fazilatun Nesa Mujib, brothers Sheikh Kamal, Sheikh Jamal, and Sheikh Russel and other martyrs of August 15, 1975 were laid to eternal rest. **Xi Jinping** FROM PAGE 3 attaches great importance to the development of China-Bangladesh relations, and stands ready to work with President Shahabuddin, to carry forward the traditional friendship between the two countries, jointly build "Belt and Road Initiative" with high quality and keep promoting the China-Bangladesh Strategic Partnership forward to better benefit the two countries. He expressed his wishes for prosperity to the country and happiness to the people of Bangladesh in the letter.

**"Rabbir Ham Huma Kama Rabba Yani Sogira"**



**Fawzia Samad**  
(1929 - 2011)

**On Her 12th Death Anniversary**

We Continue,  
*To remember her work as the Founder & Editor of Minar the first Bangla children's magazine in 1949. Her courage in allowing her home to receive the first cache of arms in April 1971 and sanctuary to freedom fighters. Her setting up Free community schools "Kushumkoli" and such other humanitarian facilities she founded as the longest serving President of Dhaka Ladies Club and which still continue to serve the community.*

A short silent prayer for her heavenly rest is requested.

**-Family and well wishers**