



"The blame for the tragedy we've seen in the Channel in recent days lies squarely in the hands of criminal gangs..."

UK PM Rishi Sunak on weekend deaths of six migrants



It could've been his grand return to DU

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR and SIRAJUL ISLAM RUBEL

A citation of historical importance faded into oblivion. Or so we believed. The citation addressed the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman for his visit to Dhaka University scheduled for August 15, 1975.

After 34 long years, on December 2, 2009, it was recovered from a room of the DU registrar building by sheer chance.

Prepared by the then VC Abdul Matin Chaudhury, this wooden framed gem of history was in fact a handwritten citation, which was to be read out at a gala reception for Bangabandhu on the DU campus on August 15, 1975.

But the reception did not take place as the darkest hours struck Bangladesh in its post-independence

era. Bangabandhu, along with most of his family members, was brutally killed in a coup carried out by misguided army soldiers in the early hours of that very day.

Former DU deputy registrar Amir Hossain retrieved the citation from the registrar building while searching for some of his personal documents.

He handed it over to the then VC AAMS Arefin Siddique two days later.

"I had a mixed feeling when this historical document was handed over to me. On the one hand,

I was sad as the then vice chancellor prepared the handwritten citation with love and care but it was never handed over to Bangabandhu and on the other, I was happy that the document was at last saved," Prof Arefin told this newspaper on Friday.

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NATIONAL MOURNING DAY

Elevated expressway to partially open Sept 2

PM to inaugurate Bangabandhu Tunnel October 28

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday announced the dates for the opening of two mega projects -- elevated expressway and underwater tunnel -- among the dozen development projects to be opened in September and October.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will partially open the long-awaited Dhaka Elevated Expressway on September 2 and the Bangabandhu Tunnel in Chattogram on October 28.

Meanwhile, 150 bridges under the Roads and Highways Department will be opened to the public in a single day in September, while the Agargaon-Motijheel section of the country's first metro rail will be opened in mid-October.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader made the announcement at a press briefing in the capital's Setu Bhaban yesterday.

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UNIVERSAL PENSION SCHEME

Private sector employers to contribute 50pc

Scheme to be launched by PM on Aug 17

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and JAMIL MAHMUD

Private sector employers have to contribute 50 percent of their employees' monthly instalments under the universal pension scheme, said a gazette from the finance ministry yesterday.

The package, called Pragati, is one of the four offered under the much-talked-about pension scheme for common people, which will be unveiled by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Thursday virtually from Gono Bhaban.

A select group of beneficiaries from 10 districts and under two foreign missions will join the launch ceremony virtually, said a finance ministry official.

The instalment options under Pragati are Tk 2,000, Tk 3,000 and Tk 5,000, as per the gazette yesterday that laid out the specifics of the four packages available. The other three packages: Prabashi, Surokkha and Samata.

Even if the private company does not want to

participate in the pension schemes, the employees can take part on their own.

On the other hand, the Surokkha package is designed for the self-employed and the informal sector workers like farmers, rickshaw pullers and day labourers. They can put in Tk 1,000, Tk 2,000, Tk 3,000 or Tk 5,000 a month.

The Samata package is designed for the ultra-poor, with the monthly instalment being Tk 1,000. The government will pay Tk 500 and the other Tk 500 will be paid by the beneficiary.

The Prabashi scheme is for expatriate Bangladeshis, with the monthly instalment options being Tk 5,000, Tk 7,500 and Tk 10,000. They will have to furnish the instalment in foreign currency.

Upon their return home, they can continue the scheme by paying in taka or switch to another package. But they will get their pension in taka.

The universal pension scheme is available to

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PAYOUT UNDER PRAGATI SCHEME			
SUBSCRIPTION (IN YEARS)	TK 2,000 MONTHLY PENSION	TK 3,000 MONTHLY PENSION	TK 5,000 MONTHLY PENSION
42	68,931	103,396	172,327
40	58,400	87,601	146,001
35	38,374	57,561	95,935
30	24,932	37,398	62,330
25	15,910	23,864	39,774
20	9,854	14,780	24,634
15	5,789	8,683	14,472
10	3,060	4,591	7,651

UK wants to see free, fair polls in Bangladesh

UK envoy tells PM

BSS, Dhaka

The UK wants to see a free, fair, and peaceful election in Bangladesh, said British High Commissioner Sarah Cooke.

The envoy said this when she called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the Gono Bhaban yesterday.

PM's Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim briefed the media after the meeting.

The PM told the UK envoy that she had to struggle long 21 years to restore democracy in the country.

Hasina said 19 attempts were made on her life, including the worst one on August 21, 2004, when 24 people were killed and over 500 others injured.

She said BNP-Jamaat celebrated their polls victory in 2001 by unleashing a reign of terror killing hundreds of people, committing rape and looting in villages.

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'KAFELA OPERATIVES' This time, 17 suspects held by locals

Counterterrorism police to raid another 'militant den' today

MENTU DESHWARA

Locals yesterday apprehended 17 people from Karmarha union of Kulaura upazila in Moulvibazar on suspicion of their involvement with a new militant outfit called "Imam Mahmuder Kafela".

They were later handed over to the counter-terrorism police. Police said the detainees include Sohel Tanjim, a physician, but did not disclose the identity of the rest.

Sohel's wife was among the 10 arrested from Moulvibazar in a raid on a suspected militant hideout on Saturday.

On news that locals captured the 17 and kept them in the Union Council office, a team of Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police went to Moulvibazar to take them into their custody.

The CTTC team reached the spot around 7:30pm and interrogated the suspects for about an hour.

In a press briefing after the interrogation, CTTC chief Asaduzzaman said they have information about another hideout in the area.

"We will go to the hideout tomorrow [today]. We will take you [journalists] with us. We will disclose more details tomorrow [today]," he said.

Asked about the identities of the detainees, he said there is a doctor and two students who have studied in a foreign university. He declined to disclose any further about the suspects, citing ongoing investigation.

After Saturday's raid on the Kulaura "hideout," locals were already on the lookout for suspected strangers in the area.

Police and locals said that when a large group of people hired five autorickshaws from Karmadha Union, the drivers grew suspicious. So, instead of taking them to their destination, the drivers took them directly to the union council, where locals apprehended them and confined them to the office.

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'I never thought he could take this path'

Says father of militant suspect

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

The father of a militant suspect arrested yesterday said he does not want to see his son's face, even when his son is dead.

Police detained Sohel Tanzim, a doctor at a hospital in Sirajganj, at Kulaura upazila of Moulvibazar yesterday.

Tanzim's father Helal Uddin, at his home in Saydabad of Sirajganj Sadar upazila, said, "Being the head of a low-income farmer family, I had to struggle a lot to make my son a doctor. I could never imagine that my son would take this path."

"I don't want to see my son's face, even if he dies," the 65-year-old told The Daily Star.

"When my son got into Rajshahi Medical College, everyone started calling me 'father of the doctor'."

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Even before its inauguration, the Chattogram-Cox's Bazar rail line has been badly damaged by floods in Keuchia of Chattogram's Satkania upazila. A vast swath of the upzaila went under water last week. The photos were taken on Sunday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

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জাতীয় শোক দিবস

“ মুজিব নামেই বিশ্ব মাঝে বীরের পরিচয় রক্ত দিয়ে আদায় করে বাংলাদেশের জয়। শোধ হবে না কোনোদিনও তাঁর ত্যাগেরই দাম মুজিব নামেই মিশে আছে বাংলাদেশের নাম। ”

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