

Four journos attacked while reporting on Sayedee’s death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four journalists, covering the news of war criminal Delawar Hossain Sayedee’s death, were injured in an attack by a mob in front of the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University yesterday.

Jamuna TV’s senior reporter Shawkat Manjur Shanto, cameraperson Bishwanath Sarker, RTV’s reporter Sheikh Farid and cameraperson Md Manik were wounded.

Manik was admitted to BSMMU. People started gathering at the premises of the D-block of BSMMU since 9:00pm, minutes after Sayedee’s death.

Leaders and activists of Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami were seen there. They were chanting slogans.

Around 11:10pm, this correspondent saw some people looking for journalists from certain TV stations who had said in their reports that Sayedee was a war criminal.

SEE PAGE 7 COL 3

Extend support to Bangladesh in addressing Rohingya crisis

2 US Congressmen urge int’l community, visit refugee camp

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cox’s Bazar

The two visiting US Congressmen have urged the international community to stand with Bangladesh in addressing the Rohingya crisis.

Following a trip to the Rohingya camps in Cox’s Bazar yesterday, the Congressmen assured of increasing humanitarian aid for the refugees, whose food bill was recently cut from \$12 to \$8 per month.

“We spoke with the Rohingya refugees, and they informed us about the reductions in food aid as well as the poor state of their education and living conditions in the camps. They demanded that they be returned to their homeland in Myanmar,” said US Congressman Ed Case.

Democratic Congressman Ed Case and Republican Congressman Rich McCormick and other US officials had a meeting with the representatives of different UN agencies at the office of the Inter-Sector Coordination

SEE PAGE 7 COL 3



PHOTO: PTD

British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Sarah Cooke calls on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the Gono Bhaban yesterday.

Hawaii wildfire death toll nears 100

Survivors decry lack of warnings; search for the missing continues

AFP, Kahului

The death toll in Hawaii from the deadliest US wildfire in more than a century ticked towards 100 Sunday, fuelling criticism that government inaction contributed to the heavy loss of life.

At least 96 people were confirmed to have died as of Sunday night, but officials warned the figure was likely to rise as recovery crews with cadaver dogs work their way through hundreds of homes and burned-out vehicles in Lahaina.

The historic coastal town on the island of Maui was almost destroyed by the fast-moving inferno early Wednesday morning, with survivors saying there had been no warnings.

When asked Sunday why none of the island’s sirens had been activated, Hawaii Senator Mazie Hirono said she would wait for the results of an investigation announced by the state’s attorney general.

“I’m not going to make any excuses for this tragedy,” Hirono, a Democrat, told CNN’s “State of the Union.”

“We are really focused, as far as I’m concerned, on the need for rescue, and, sadly, the location of more bodies.”

More than 2,200 buildings were damaged or destroyed as the fire tore through Lahaina, according to official estimates, wreaking \$5.5 billion in damage and leaving thousands homeless.

“The remains we’re finding are from a fire that melted metal,” said Maui Police Chief John Pelletier. “When we pick up the remains... they fall apart.”

That was making identification difficult, he added, appealing for those with missing relatives to give DNA samples that might speed up the process.

Pelletier said cadaver dogs still had a vast area to search in the hunt for what could still be hundreds of people who are unaccounted for.

“We’re going as fast as we can. But just so you know, three percent -- that’s what’s been searched with the dogs,” he said.

The wildfire is the deadliest in the United States since 1918, when 453 people died in Minnesota and Wisconsin, according to non-profit research group the National Fire Protection Association.

The death toll surpassed 2018’s Camp Fire in California, which virtually wiped the small town of Paradise off the map and killed 86 people.

TK 50 LAKH EMBEZZLEMENT

Ex-BNP minister jailed for 3 yrs

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced former BNP leader and state minister for liberation war affairs Redwan Ahmed to three years’ imprisonment in a case filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission over embezzlement of Tk 50 lakh from the Bangladesh Muktijoddha Sangsad fund in 2007.

Judge Md Akhtaruzzaman of the Special Judge Court-2 of Dhaka handed down the sentence in his absence, said ACC Public Prosecutor Mir Ahmed Ali Salam.

Before that, the judge cancelled Redwan’s bail, declared him fugitive, and issued a conviction warrant against him after Redwan sought time petition through his lawyer.

The judge directed the authorities concerned to confiscate Tk 50 lakh that he embezzled.

His punishment will be effective from the day of his arrest or surrender, the judge said in his verdict.

The judge also acquitted Shah

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2



Redwan Ahmed

Khaleda Zia under close observation of doctors

STAR DIGITAL REPORT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia has been kept under close observation of doctors in a cabin at the Evercare Hospital, her personal physician Professor AZM Zahid Hossain said yesterday.

The medical board formed for her treatment is holding two to three meetings daily to review her health condition and to provide necessary treatment, the physician said.

Khaleda was admitted to the hospital for a health checkup on August 9.



Headteacher jailed for harassing schoolgirls

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A mobile court yesterday sentenced a school headteacher to one-month imprisonment for harassing schoolgirls in Tangail’s Sakhipur upazila.

As an executive magistrate, Sakhipur Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Farzana Alam handed down the judgement.

The accused Joynal Abedin, 52, headteacher of Jamalhatkhura Government Primary School in the upazila, was also fined Tk 5,000 at the time.

Joynal was accused of repeatedly harassing schoolgirls. Despite the fact that this was known to all and several complaints had been made against him, he did not correct his behaviour.

Later, some parents sent a written complaint to the UNO against him.

Taking the complaint into cognisance, the UNO went to the school yesterday and carried out the mobile court drive.

Several students testified face-to-face against Joynal, and when he pleaded guilty, the mobile court sentenced him to jail and fined him.

The UNO told The Daily Star that Joynal Abedin was given this sentence under Section 509 of the Penal Code following an investigation of the written complaint.

HC adjourns hearing on Khaleda’s plea over indictment in Niko case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday adjourned till Wednesday the hearing on BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia’s petition challenging an order of the lower court that framed charges against her and seven others in the Niko graft case.

The HC bench of Justice Mustafa Zaman Islam and Justice Md Aminul Islam heard arguments from Khaleda’s lawyer AJ Mohammad Ali during the proceedings.

On May 17, the BNP chairperson filed the revision petition with the HC through her lawyer Kayser Kamal seeking cancellation of the trial court order, arguing that the charges were framed illegally.

The ACC filed the case on December 9, 2007, accusing the eight of abusing power to award a gas exploration and extraction deal to Canadian company Niko when Khaleda was the PM between 2001 and 2006.

It could’ve been his grand return to DU

FROM PAGE 1

Talking about how this document remained traceless for so many years, he said after the assassination, “people were shocked and at a loss and they might have kept the citation out of sight willingly or unwillingly.”

In a couple of days, two silver crests bearing the DU monogram and a casket which was meant to contain the citation were also found in a safe at the Registrar’s Office. Bangabandhu was supposed to receive the crests at the reception.

Later in 2013, all these items were presented as memorabilia to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, eldest daughter of Bangabandhu, who, along with her sister Sheikh Rehana, was in Germany during the assassination.

All the items were put on display at the Bangabandhu Memorial Museum, also known as the Bangabandhu Bhaban on Dhanmondi 32, where the assassination took place.

On August 14, 1975, there was a festive mood on the DU campus. Murals of Bangabandhu’s smiling face were erected, walls were decorated and painted banners were put up.

The stage was all set. The university authorities and the students had made all preparations to hold the reception the next day for the larger-than-life politician, the then president of the republic, under whose leadership freedom fighters had joined the Liberation War and freed the country from the clutches of the Pakistan occupation army.

In fact, it would be his first official visit to the university as Chancellor of the university.

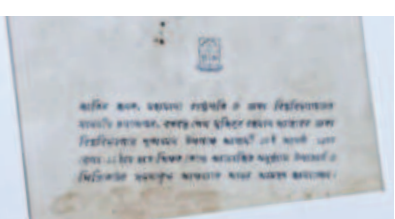
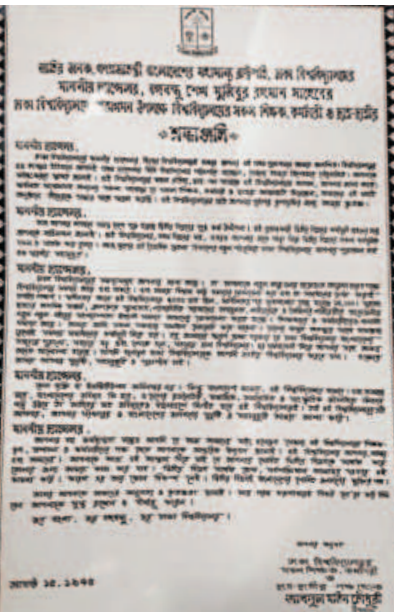
The then Dhaka University Central Students’ Union General Secretary Mahboob Zaman said the teachers and students were waiting eagerly for the moment when they would give a hearty reception to their beloved leader.

On August 15, several newspapers published special supplements to mark Bangabandhu’s visit to the DU.

Bangabandhu was supposed to arrive at the university at 9:55am. Upon entering the premises from the Curzon Hall area, he was

supposed to visit different faculties and departments, pay tribute to martyred intellectuals and freedom fighters before delivering a speech at the Teacher-Student Centre around 11:40pm.

The organisers had brought a special chair for Bangabandhu. No one knew about the chair till 2016



The citation, top, and an invitation letter for the reception that was supposed to take place on August 15, 1975.

as it remained uncared for in the TSC storeroom. Former TSC Director Mohiuzzaman Chowdhury renovated it and later the authorities put it on public display at the TSC.

In the citation, Matin says the DU authorities are proud that Bangabandhu is the first Chancellor to visit the university in 54 years of its history. On behalf of all the students,

teachers, officials and employees of DU, he congratulates Bangabandhu for initiating the “second revolution”, terming it ground-breaking.

The second revolution was a political move following the formation of Bangladesh Krishak Sramik Awami League (BAKSAL), in line with the fourth amendment to the Constitution of Bangladesh.

Referring to several issues regarding residence, classroom shortage and lack of resources in libraries and seminars that DU students faced, the citation reads, “We know that all the problems cannot be solved overnight. Initiatives to solve the problems should be taken on the basis of the country’s overall situation.”

Mahboob said he and Matin visited Bangabandhu at his Ganabhaban office on the evening of August 14. They briefed the president about their overall preparation.

“When we reported crude bomb blasts and the hoisting of a Pakistani flag on the campus earlier on the day, Bangabandhu said he was aware of all these,” reminisced Mahboob. “Bangabandhu said nothing will happen. He told us not to worry.”

Cabinet member Khandaker Mushtaque Ahmed was present at the meeting and he informed Bangabandhu that he would not accompany him to the DU next day, said Mahboob.

“Hearing this, Bangabandhu said he’d announce the beginning of a new era,” he added.

Commenting on the visit that never happened, Prof Arefin said it could have been a significant day for the university as well as the nation.

“Bangabandhu might have announced the Dhaka University as the National University. The then VC [Abdul Matin] hinted it in his citation. I believe perhaps he discussed the matter with Bangabandhu,” he said.

Addressing Bangabandhu, the citation reads, “You’ve said you want to turn Dhaka University into the National University. We want your kind sympathy, goodwill and consideration in this regard.”

But the citation was never read out. No sooner had the news of the assassination of Bangabandhu broken, a pall of sadness descended on the entire university.

The then DUCSU VP Mujahidul Islam Selim in the early morning of August 15 received a phone call from the dean office of the arts faculty, which informed him that Dhanmondi 32 was under attack, recalled Mahboob.

Mahboob, Selim and several others rushed to the home of Sheikh Shahidul Islam, secretary of Jatiya Chhatra League, on Green Road around 5:00am. “Enquired about the matter, Shahidul Islam replied everything has ended ... go to safe places. Bangabandhu has been assassinated,” Mahboob said.

Later in the morning, some army men and many unidentified people boarded into trucks, went to the DU and vandalised the banners, murals and all the other decorations put up for the reception. They also attacked Matin’s official residence.

It could have been Bangabandhu’s grand return to DU. He enrolled in the university in December 1947. The university authority in 1949 expelled him and several other students on charges of “instigating” a movement launched by class-four employees, demanding increase of salaries and allowances.

Sixty-one years later, in 2010, the university authority withdrew the expulsion order, terming it “undemocratic and unjust”.

The Dhaka University authority will award Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman an honorary degree of “Doctor of Laws” posthumously at a special convocation, which is likely to take place on October 26.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will be the speaker at the Convocation and her younger sister Sheikh Rehana will receive the degree on behalf of Bangabandhu, said Muhammad Samad, DU pro-vice chancellor (administration).

Private sector employers

FROM PAGE 1

those between the ages of 18 and 50 years; they will have to pay the instalment up to the age of 60.

However, those over 50 years of age will be able to participate in the scheme under special consideration. Such beneficiaries will have to pay monthly instalments for at least 10 years.

After that, they will start to get a pension every month.

The beneficiaries of the government’s social safety net programmes will be able to participate in the universal pension scheme. But if they sign up, they will not be considered for benefits under the social safety nets.

For registration under the universal pension scheme, an individual will have to apply online and submit a mobile number.

After that, they will get a unique identification (ID) number, monthly instalment options and the deadline for payment.

For expatriate Bangladeshis who do not have a national identity (NID) card, they can register with their passports.

The beneficiaries will be able to pay instalments at a bank branch or through mobile financial service, online bank transfer or a bank card.

If a beneficiary fails to pay the instalment on time, they will have 30 days to clear it without a fine. However, after that, they will have to pay 1 percent of the instalment as the late fee per day.

If a beneficiary fails to pay instalments for three consecutive months, the account will be suspended. The account will be reactivated upon payment of all dues.

If an individual is unable to pay the instalment because of a physical or mental ailment or unemployment, they have to notify the authority through an application.

In case of an ailment, a medical board will decide and may allow the beneficiary to continue the account for up to 12 months without paying the monthly instalment.

The pension authority will be able to announce banks, government offices and post offices as its ‘front office’ to provide various services to the beneficiaries.

Beneficiaries can find out the status of their accounts from the authority’s website, help desk and front office.

As per the gazette, the pension authority will announce a dividend each

year and such dividend will be credited to the beneficiary’s account.

The authority will determine how much money a beneficiary will get as a monthly pension based on the accumulated deposit.

If necessary, a beneficiary will be able to switch from one scheme to another by showing reasons. Besides, they will be able to take loans from the authority based on their schemes.

The gazette gives an outline of how much money a beneficiary can get as a monthly pension from the four schemes.

For the Surokha package, the monthly pension ranges from Tk 1,530 to Tk 172,327.

If a beneficiary under the scheme pays Tk 1,000 in monthly instalments at the age of 50, then they will have to continue the payment for the next 10 years. In return, they will get Tk 1,530 in monthly pension after the age of 60.

However, if a pensioner starts to pay the same amount in instalment from the age of 18 and continue it for the next 42 years, they will get Tk 34,465 a month.

Under the scheme, if a beneficiary pays the highest Tk 5,000 in monthly instalments for 10 years, they will get Tk 7,651 in monthly pension.

Such beneficiaries will get Tk 172,327 in monthly pension if they continue to put in Tk 5,000 a month for 42 years.

This time

FROM PAGE 1

Two autorickshaw drivers – Rabiullah and Abdul Quddus – told The Daily Star that some strangers boarded their vehicles, saying they were going on a picnic in Moulvibazar. One of them identified himself as a doctor.

This triggered suspicion in them, and all the five autorickshaw drivers took them to the union council office instead of Moulvibazar.

Muhibul Islam Azad, chairman of Karmadha UP, said the suspects bought 50 decimals of land in Purbo Tattuli area of Karmadha union and had settled there around two months ago.

“We were conducting our own surveillance since the police drive on Saturday. We caught them when they came out of their hideout to escape,” he said.

Earlier in three separate drives, CTTC arrested at least 21 members of the new militant outfits, police officials said, adding that the suspects had 11 children with them.