

Sayedee's doctor 'gets threats', files GD

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A professor at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University filed a general diary with Dhanmondi Police Station after he received "threats" following the death of war criminal Delawar Hossain Sayedee.

Last night, Prof Mustafa Zaman of the Cardiology Department lodged the GD that said, "As part of an expert team formed for his [Sayedee's] treatment, I performed my duty as a doctor. But some people on social media and video-sharing platform YouTube were issuing me death threats. I am worried and I apprehend that they could hurt me and my family."

The former nayeb-e-ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami died at BSMMU on Monday night. He was admitted to the hospital on Sunday.

Sub-inspector Md Moazzem Hossain of Dhanmondi Police Station who was assigned to deal with the GD told The Daily Star that Prof Zaman was threatened via messenger, YouTube, and over the phone.

"... Our patrol team will look after his home from now on," he said.

IS kills 3 pro-govt fighters in Syria desert

AFP, Beirut

Islamic State jihadists killed three fighters loyal to the Damascus government in an attack in the Syrian desert yesterday, a war monitor said, the latest such deadly assault.

The IS members attacked "a munitions depot in the Palmyra area in the east of Homs province", said the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

"Three pro-regime fighters were killed" and eight others wounded, some in critical condition, said the Britain-based monitor, which has a network of sources inside Syria.

The attack "comes amid a considerable escalation of IS operations against regime forces in the Syrian desert", known as the Badia, the Observatory added.

Despite losing their last piece of territory in Syria in 2019, IS has maintained hideouts in the vast Syrian desert from which it has carried out ambushes and hit-and-run attacks.

The jihadist group, which announced a new leader earlier this month, has been blamed for a string of deadly attacks on government loyalists in recent weeks.

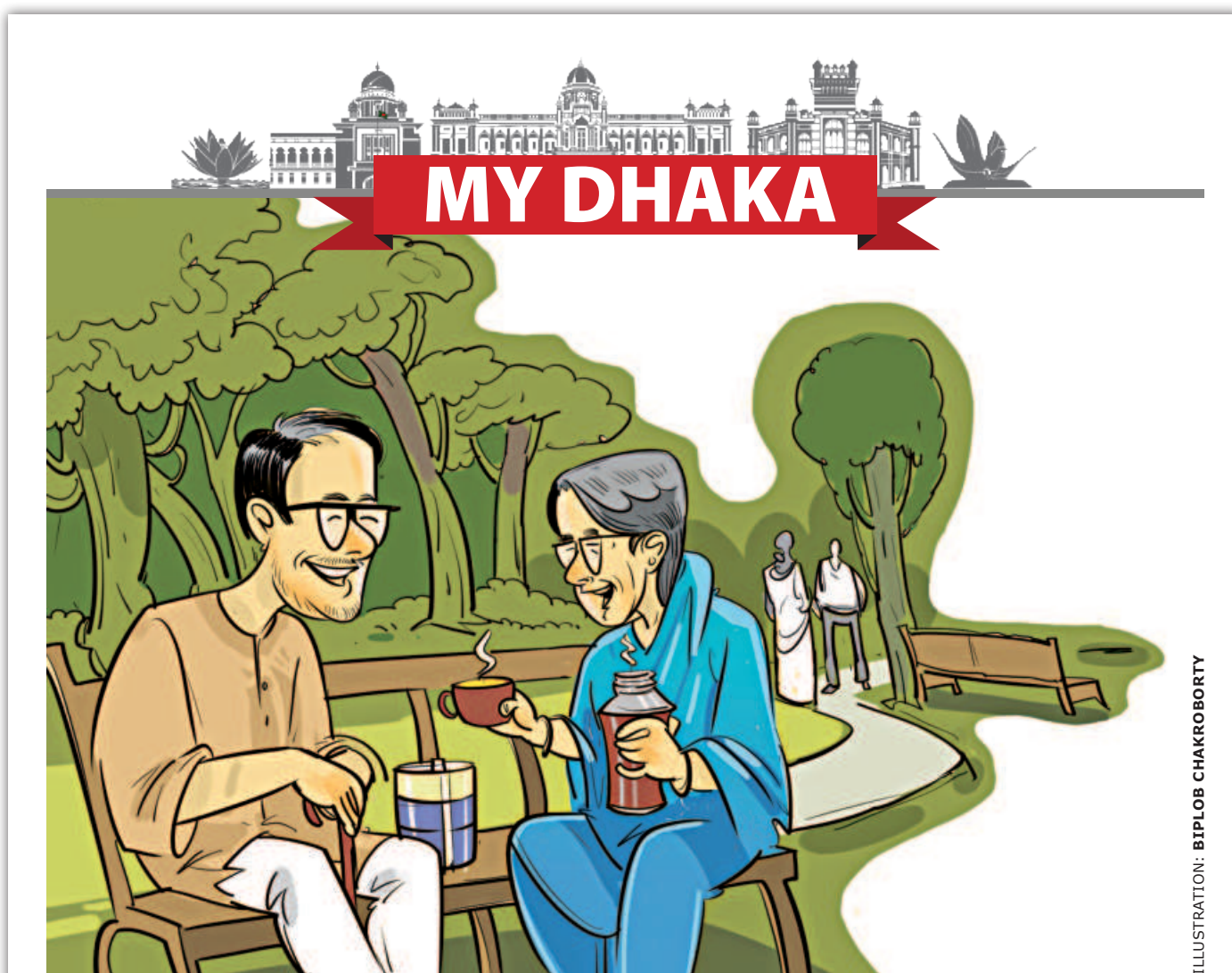


ILLUSTRATION: BIPOLO CHAKROBORTY

Enjoying life as an elderly couple

RBR

"Is Dhaka a city only for young people?" I was pondering for a while, and by people, I do not mean individuals only but also couples in their semi-retired or retired lives. Fun, entertainment, and romance are for people of all ages. Just because you are an elderly couple, you do not have to just take account of each other's daily medicines only. There is so much to life than feeling old.

The idea of date nights for elderly couples may seem borderline hilarious to many in Dhaka, but why should they be only for the young? There are no written rules that old people cannot date.

Try it, it can be fun to break the routine and do things you have never done together. The key word is impromptu, do things on the spur of the moment and do it together. There are plenty of activities for couples on offer; you just need to consider them and bring back carefreeness to life. Do

not let hard realities bog you down.

I mean why can't you text your husband to meet at a café to enjoy a crisp croissant or hot daal puri and a cup of frothy masala tea or espresso? Or, while you and your husband carpool from work, try a plate of crisp fuchka. It can surely add spice to a mundane evening after work.

Besides the usual art exhibition or going to the theatre, painting sessions, art appreciation classes; dance lessons are diversions you can consider. Learning to tango can be very interesting at fifty. It will do your old heart a lot of good, not only will it be fun but the unusual exercise can be relaxing. Music and a little bit of tapping your feet can do wonders for boredom.

To many, cooking is a great way to bond and it can also be therapeutic. For a change, you can ask your husband to try to make mutton rogan josh for

Friday lunch. A tough recipe but buying the ingredients for it together and going through the procedure can be a great way to connect. But you never know, you might discover a hidden talent in him. Allow the husband to make something special for you for a change.

Pottery-making couple sessions where you get to spin the pottery wheel can give you a child-like feeling. Getting wet in the rain on a rickshaw ride can be disastrous for your health, but imagine the magical feeling you shall experience.

Dhaka is offering interesting cinema releases both local and international. Watching Tom Cruise do death-defying skydiving off a cliff on a motorcycle is all the dopamine rush your old heart can take on a cinema date.

Now for many relationships, getting the grumpy old man out of his routine can be tiring or the frumpy old lady to venture out of her perimeter can be taxing. But in a city as colourful as Dhaka, everyone can find their kind of thing to do and their bit of heaven here. After all, age is just a number.

Nation pays tribute

FROM PAGE 1

of the nation by placing a wreath at the portrait as part of the state programme.

The president and the premier stood in solemn silence for some time to show profound respect to the great leader.

A smartly turned-out contingent of Bangladesh Armed Forces gave a state salute at that time, while the bugle played a tune of grief and somber to the last post.

A munajat was also offered seeking eternal peace of the departed souls of the martyrs of the August 15 carnage.

Later, flanked by senior Awami League leaders and her younger sister Rehana, Hasina, also AL president, placed a wreath at the portrait of Bangabandhu on behalf of the party.

Speaker of the House, chief justice, cabinet members and chiefs of army, navy and air forces, among others, were present on the occasion.

From Dhanmondi, the PM went to the Banani Graveyard where her 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.

She placed wreaths and spread flower petals on their graves. She also offered fateha and prayed for eternal peace for the departed souls.

Later, the premier went to Bangabandhu's mausoleum in Tungipara and paid tribute by placing a wreath.

The national flags are lowered to half-mast at all government, semi-government and autonomous bodies, educational institutions, private buildings and Bangladesh missions abroad.

The government, ruling AL and associated bodies, socio-cultural organisations and professional bodies have chalked out elaborate programmes to mark the day.

The day was also observed at Bangladesh missions in the world. To mark the day, Bangladesh high commission in New Delhi held a discussion on the life and struggles of Bangabandhu and later offered special prayers.

Tea gardens seeing fresh investment

FROM PAGE 1

Hasan, general manager of Ispahani Tea.

The demand for tea is increasing at an average rate of 5 percent every year, according to BTB.

Hotels, restaurants and tea stalls account for 50-55 percent of tea consumption in Bangladesh, according to industry people. Homes and offices account for the rest.

Tea consumption is bound to

increase further, said Kamran Tanvirur Rahman, chairman of the Bangladesh Tea Association, an association of tea garden owners.

The population increase and the economic lift from GDP growth would propel tea consumption to another level in the near future.

"That's why every garden owner is investing," he added.

There are 168 tea estates in the country, according to the BTA.

Had domestic production not increased, tea would have to be imported, said BTB officials.

In 2013, the average yield of tea per acre was 534 kilograms. In 2022, it stood at 664 kg, according to data from the Bangladesh Tea Board (BTB).

During the period, acreage increased from 146,000 acres to 175,000 acres.

New seedlings have to be planted

in a specific part of the vacant space of the garden every year, Hasan said. As such, many new places have come under tree plantation in the last ten years, he added.

In 2022, the country produced 9.4 crore kg of tea, up from 6.6 crore kg in 2013, according to BTB.

It will be possible to further increase the average production of tea per acre, said Ismail Hossain, director of Bangladesh Tea Research Institute.

For this, the tea garden owners and BTB should work together, he added.

Tea production in Bangladesh got a boost at the turn of the century after BTB officials came back from Sri Lanka, one of the main tea producers in the world. They came back with new plantation techniques and knowledge.

Around 2002, tea cultivation started in Panchagarh, Lalmonirhat, Bandarban, Khagrachhari, Rangamati and Cox's Bazar areas.

Before that, tea was produced in Sylhet and Chattogram.

Moulvibazar's 90 tea gardens account for 55 percent of the production. Habiganj comes in second, contributing to 22 percent of tea produced.

Bangladesh is currently listed as the world's eighth largest tea producer, accounting for about 2 percent of the total production.

1 killed, 70 hurt in violence in 3 dists

FROM PAGE 1

got involved in the chase, according to witnesses. In a press briefing, Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner Khandker Golam Faruq yesterday said they did not give permission for the gayebana janaza in Dhaka, considering the Jamaat-Shibir activists' vandalism on Monday night.

CLASHES IN CHATTOGRAM At least 25 people, including several pedestrians, were injured after police charged batons and fired rubber bullets to disperse Jamaat-Shibir men who gathered in the port city's Kazir Dewri and Wasa areas to offer gayebana janaza for Sayedee.

With a procession, they started gathering in front of the Jamiatul Falah mosque at Kazir Dewri from 2:30pm. A contingent of police were deployed to avoid any untoward incident.

Around 4:12pm, a group of around 100 Jamaat-Shibir men tried to bring out a procession from the mosque. As police obstructed the procession, the demonstrators retaliated by pelting stones at police, said eyewitnesses.

Several police were injured while more than 15 suspected Jamaat-Shibir men were detained from the spot.

Vehicular movement came to a halt in the areas at that time.

Around 4:40pm, Jamaat-Shibir supporters tried to bring out another procession but police foiled it again. They then fled to the city's Dampara Bus Counter area and started pelting stones targeting the Chattogram Metropolitan Police (CMP) Headquarters in Dampara.

Following the incident, police opened blank fires with sound grenades to disperse them. The tense situation prevailed till 5:00pm.

"We sought police permission to hold the janaza but we were denied it," Chattogram Jamaat Nayeb-e-Ameer Azm Obaidullah told The Daily Star.

CMP Deputy Commissioner (south) Mostafizur Rahman said Jamaat-Shibir men gathered in front of the mosque and tried to carry

out subversive activities without any permission.

"We dispersed them from the spot by charging batons after they attacked police."

Sayedee was handed death penalty by the International Crimes Tribunal-1 in February 2013 after he was found guilty of murder, rape, forced conversion, arson attacks and abduction in Pirojpur during the Liberation War.

In September 2014, the Supreme Court, in a majority verdict, commuted his sentence to imprisonment until death. In May 2017, the apex court rejected Sayedee's review petition and upheld his jail until death punishment.

SAYEDEE'S BURIAL Sayedee was buried yesterday at his village home in Pirojpur.

The Jamaat leader was buried beside the grave of his elder son — Rafiq Bin Sayedee — on Allama Sayedee Foundation premises near Pirojpur Bus Terminal.

[Our Correspondents from Chattogram, Cox's Bazar and Pirojpur contributed to this report]

Stay alert

FROM PAGE 12 his sacrifices and charismatic leadership across the globe.

Awami League leader Amir Hossain Amu said the BNP, which is demanding caretaker government and talking about democracy, has the track record of politics of killing and violence and sheltering the killers of Bangabandhu.

Amu said Hasina has taken the country to a new height in the global stage and the BNP is jealous.

He called upon the foreign ministry officials to tackle the challenges that the government faces today.

Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen and Foreign Service Academy Rector Mashfee Binte Shams also spoke at the discussion that featured a documentary on the assassination of Bangabandhu and his family members.

Elderly man dies in landslide

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A 75-year-old man died in a landslide in Cox's Bazar Sadar upazila yesterday.

The deceased, Mohammad Azam, was a resident of Purba Larpara under Jhlongjha union, said Rafiqul Islam, officer-in-charge (OC) of Cox's Bazar Sadar Police Station.

Quoting locals, the OC said Azam and his family members began cutting a portion of a hill Monday night to build themselves a hut in their area.

It was raining intermittently, and at one point in the night, there was a landslide, which buried Azam completely, the police official said.

He was rescued and taken to Cox's Bazar General Hospital, where duty doctors declared him dead, he said.

Azam's body was handed over to his family after legal proceedings, the OC added.

Fire guts garment factory

UNB, Chattogram

A fire broke out at a garment factory in Chandgaon area of Chattogram city yesterday.

Bahar Uddin, senior station officer of Kalurghat Fire Station, said the fire originated from an electric short circuit at the garment factory of KDS group around 6:45pm and spread quickly.

On information, two firefighting units from the local fire station rushed to the spot and extinguished the blaze after one hour.

The extent of the losses caused by the fire could not be ascertained immediately.

Al-Qaeda-linked group claims Mali attack on UN troops

AFP, Dakar

An al-Qaeda-linked jihadist group has claimed responsibility for an attack that wounded members of the UN's peacekeeping force in Mali, which is pulling out of the country, monitors said.

At least four members of MINUSMA were hurt on Sunday when they came under attack on a road in northern Mali between Timbuktu and Ber, according to the claim by the Support Group for Islam and Muslims (GSIM) monitored by SITE.

The GSIM, on its Al-Zallaqa propaganda outlet, also claimed on Monday an attack on Sunday against a Mali army position near Koroume, south of Timbuktu, in which a soldier was killed, the US monitoring group said.

MINUSMA -- the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali -- is one of the UN's biggest and most perilous peacekeeping operations.

Its deployment began in 2013 after separatist and jihadist rebellions broke out in northern Mali the previous year.

But, under pressure from Mali's ruling junta, the 13,000-man mission is to withdraw by year's end, a move that follows the pullout of French troops in 2022.

MINUSMA's withdrawal from its dozen bases began in early August at Ogossagou in the centre of the country.