

## Obaidul Huq's death anniv

### STAR REPORT

Today is the 16th death anniversary of journalist Obaidul Huq.

On this day in 2007, he died at his Banani residence, aged 96.

Huq was the editor of The Bangladesh Observer for 12 years since 1972.

Huq joined the editorial board of the Pakistan Observer (later The Bangladesh Observer) in 1951 as joint editor. After leaving The Bangladesh Observer, he worked for the now-defunct "Daily News".

He was the chairman of PIB and Nazrul Institute.

Huq received "Ekushey Padak" in 1983. He was also recognised with Bangla Academy Award in 1964 for drama writing. He was also decorated with Unicef Gold Medal for journalism.

## Death anniv of Mukundalal Sarker

### STAR REPORT

The 44th death anniversary of Mukundalal Sarker, a leader of the anti-British Movement and the 1971 Liberation War will be observed today.

Special prayers will be offered. Besides, a discussion on a book titled "Gopalgonj Mukundalal: Janapader Janoneta", written by Bangla Academy Director Dr Tapan Bagchi, will be held at 6:00pm at the Dhanmondi residence of Sarker's younger son Ajit Kumar Sarker, former city editor of BSS.

He was detained several times for his role against the British rule. Sarker was close to Hussain Shaheed Suhrawardy, Sher-e-Bangla AK Fazlul Huq, Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani, and Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.



# POISONOUS BAITS a threat to Sundarbans fish

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

Sundarbans' marine resources, including fish and crustacean stocks, are depleting due to indiscriminate use of poisonous substances for fish baits, raising concerns among environmentalists.

Spearheaded by local fishermen and syndicates, this practice poses a substantial risk to the region's ecosystem.

Officials and environmentalists are concerned that the continued use of poison in fish extraction may lead to a significant depletion of fish stocks throughout the Sundarbans. Furthermore, the local flora and fauna could also face severe threats.

Joydeb Paul, district fisheries officer of Khulna, said some fishermen mix pesticides with prawns, rice, or other baits and place those in the canals just before the tide.

"Within a few moments, different species of fish in the water die. Then they catch and supply it to various markets," he added.

Notably, this practice also results in the poisoning of other aquatic animals, and the toxins enter river water, endangering the entire mangrove forest ecosystem.

Traditionally, a ban is enforced between June 1 and August 31, preventing access to the Sundarbans, as it coincides with the breeding season for many fish species. However, some fishermen resort to using poisonous baits to capture large quantities of fish during this period, capitalising on the lax monitoring of authorities concerned, said officials.

Joydeb said in recent years this practice has led to the poisoning of fish worth crores of taka, severely hampering fish breeding efforts. The fisheries department

is restricted from leading raids in the Sundarbans due to jurisdictional limitations, he added.

Locals alleged that fishermen from adjacent areas of the Sundarbans are primarily involved in this practice.

Afzal Farazi, president of Mongla Bazar Fisheries Association, said some influential individuals reportedly pay significant sums to fishermen to poison the fish in the Sundarbans.

Akkas Ali, a fisherman from Kalabogi village in Dacope upazila, said, "Wherever the poison is being used, we don't find any fish there for a week."

Seeking anonymity, a fisherman who was involved in the fish poisoning racket, said agricultural pesticides such as Ratanon, Diamgro, Fighter, Ripcord, and Pescile are commonly used as baits.

Prof Abdullah Harun Chowdhury of Environmental Science department at Khulna University warned that the poison not only harms all types of fish but also has long-term effects on the surrounding soil.

"Additionally, when the contaminated water flows towards deep sea, it adversely affects aquatic life in the area," said the expert.

Dr Sheikh Baharul Alam, owner of Community Surgical and Trauma Center and president of the Bangladesh Medical Association in Khulna, said consumption

of poisoned fish is detrimental to human health, potentially causing severe harm to the stomach, liver, and kidneys.

"It can also lead to cancer and sudden deformities," said the physician.

Efforts to combat this issue include increased patrols and monitoring during the ban period. Fishermen are now required to notify station officers of their fishing locations within the Sundarbans, reducing their ability to employ poison in the canals.

During the June-August period, the forest department arrested 168 individuals for entering the Sundarbans during the ban.

Around 1,072kg of prawns, 1,175kg of crabs, 27kg of deer meat, 750 metres of deer traps, 235 boats, 3 trawlers, and 45 bottles of poison were seized from their possession, said Abu Naser Mohsin Hossain, divisional forest officer of the West Sundarbans.

According to the Forest Department, the Sundarbans watershed, covering 1,874.1 square kilometres within the Bangladesh part of the forest, is considered a fisheries treasure.

It has approximately 450 canals and 13 major rivers and is home to 210 fish species, including bhetki, rupchanda, dhatina, and hilsa, along with 24 species of shrimp and 14 species of crabs.

One third of the total fish harvested in the southwest region comes from various river channels in the Sundarbans.



## Your time is up, resign: Fakhrul

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is going to different countries as part of her efforts to hang onto power and tackle the foreign pressure to hold a credible election.

"I would like to say your time is up and no maneuvering will do as people have got fed up with your misrule. They (people) want to get rid of repression, stealing and corruption. So, still, there's time to accept our demand for holding the election under a non-party neutral government," he said.

The BNP leader questioned why the government is afraid of a fair election when it claims to have popularity among people for its development activities.

"The Awami League is the most deceitful party that does the opposite of what it says. They told the US pre-election assessment mission that they held the last two elections fairly and we'll do the same in the next polls," he said.

Speaking at a convention of students, the BNP leader said the AL held a "nice" election in 2014 where 153 MPs were elected uncontested while the voting in 2018 was held the night before the election day.

"They're now saying they will again hold a fair election... It's like keeping a chicken in the custody of a fox. You can't be given any more chances. Enough is enough," he said.

Fakhrul said the government destroyed the economy as the country would not have dollars to import goods as the reserves were falling drastically.

Fakhrul said there is no alternative to put up a strong resistance against the government to get rid of repressive acts and the ongoing fascist rule.

## BANGLADESH, INDIA Momen proposes visa-free travel

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen yesterday said he proposed visa-free travel between Bangladesh and India to enhance people-to-people connectivity.

Momen discussed the issue with his Indian counterpart Dr S Jaishankar when they met on the sidelines of the IORA meeting in Colombo on Wednesday.

The foreign minister said he received a good number of requests from Bangladeshis to help them in obtaining medical visas.

One such request came to Momen through a mobile message when he was in Colombo and he showed it to Jaishankar who was sitting just beside him.

After seeing the message, Momen said, the Indian external affairs minister assured him that he would talk to the Indian High Commission in Dhaka.

## Bela serves legal notice on govt

FROM PAGE 5

In the notice, S Hasanul Banna, lawyer of the Supreme Court, asked the authorities concerned to inform Bela about the steps they have taken in seven days after the serving date of the legal notice.

The respondents

are secretaries of the environment, land, water resources, LGRD and fisheries ministries; chairman of the National River Protection Commission, Director General of the Department of Environment, Director General of Water Development Board, and

deputy commissioner of Pabna, superintendent of police in Pabna, superintendent engineer of Water Development Board, DoE director of Rajshahi Division, deputy director of DoE in Pabna, Santhia UNO, and assistant commissioner (land) in Santhia.

## Two killed in road

FROM PAGE 5

The injured were admitted to various hospitals. Soon after the incident, locals torched the bus but its driver managed to flee the scene.

Police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control, the OC added.

In Dinajpur, Kafi Chowdhury, 65, lost both his legs after a goods-laden truck ran him over in

Phulbari upazila while he was crossing the road.

The truck driver -- Jewel Rana, 27 -- was detained following the accident.

In Manikganj, a man was killed as a microbus hit his motorcycle at Kholapara in Singair upazila.

Shahidul Islam, 35, from Barailbhikora village in Sadar upazila, died on the spot.

## Murder mystery

FROM PAGE 5

been working at her house as a carpenter, said police.

Nilufa threatened to inform Deloar's family members about their relationship, as he was refusing to marry her. That was when Deloar hatched the plan.

He booked a cabin on the Mitali 7 launch under the name of one of the victim's neighbours, Jahangir, with South Keraniganj Police Station a day later.

put the man's number in the register. They boarded the Dhaka-bound launch from Chandpur at 10:00pm on June 16, 2019. He raped her and then strangled her to death, said the PBI chief.

Nilufa was found dead inside the cabin the next morning, and her brother filed a murder case against Jahangir with South Keraniganj Police Station a day later.

He booked a cabin on the Mitali 7 launch under the name of one of the victim's neighbours, Jahangir, and

## Hospitals must follow

FROM PAGE 3

and health care providers.

It said posting of certified midwives and maintaining a functional standard labour room should be made mandatory for private hospitals and clinics.

Petitioner's lawyer

Barrister Rasheda Imam said the authorities concerned of health ministry, directorate general of health services, BMDC, hospitals, and doctors are bound to follow the guidelines.



## Regional Public Administration Training Center

Office of the Deputy Director  
Bohra, Khulna

Date: 11.10.2023

### e-Tender Notice

e-Tender will be available on 16 October, 2023 in the National e-GP System Portal ([https://www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd)) for the Procurement of Goods mentioned below:

SI. No.	Tender ID
01	879969

This is the online tender, where e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and No offline/hard copy's will be accepted. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@procure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@procure.gov.bd))

11. Taka 2.5

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GD-1581

Memo No. 45.02.0000.002.14.036.23-278

Dated: 12.10.2023

### e-Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following works, details are given below:

SI. No.	e-Tender ID No.	Package No.	Description of Work	Last Date & Time of Submitting Tender Document	Tender Closing date & Time
1.	886017	WP-HED-BCPS-1, Lot-1	Construction of 12 (Twelve) Storyed Multipurpose Building with 03 (Three) Basements Accommodating an Auditorium Having Capacity of 1500 Seat Including Internal Sanitary & Water Supply and Internal & External Electrification Works for Bangladesh College of Physician and Surgeons (BCPS) at Motihari in Dhaka.	06-11-2023 16:00	09-11-2023 14:00

This is an online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

To submit e-Tender registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@procure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@procure.gov.bd))

GD-1582

Brigadier General Bashir Ahmed, ndc, psc

Chief Engineer

e-mail: [hedq@yahoo.com](mailto:hedq@yahoo.com)

## RESEARCH GRANTS IN TOBACCO CONTROL

Bangladesh Center for Communication Programs (BCCP) has been implementing a Research Grant Program on Tobacco Control Policy since 2013 in collaboration with the Institute for Global Tobacco Control based at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore, USA and other stakeholders. The purpose of the program is to promote tobacco control policy research in Bangladesh. BCCP is now inviting proposals from postgraduate students and individual researchers for the Tobacco Control Policy Research Grant Program 2024. Around 10 grants will be available through this round.

We are seeking research proposals that will generate evidence and contribute to developing new policies or strengthening existing ones in line with the components of the World Health Organization's MPOWER package.

The proposal