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Nation bids adieu to Rano

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prominent leftist leader and Marxist theorist Haider Akbar Khan Rano was laid to rest at Banani Graveyard next to his parents yesterday afternoon.

He was buried around 3:00pm, his niece, Ananya Laboni told The Daily Star.

His namaz-e-jaanaza was held at Dhaka University Central Mosque after Zohr prayers, around 1:30 pm.

Earlier in the day, he was given a guard of honour at Central Shaheed Minar in Dhaka, around 11:20 am.

People from all walks of life paid homage to Rano as his body was taken to Shaheed Minar around 11:15am.

Renowned academicians, theatre personalities, and artists paid rich tributes.

Dhaka University Professor Emeritus Serajul Islam Choudhury and theatre personalities Ramendu Majumdar and Mamunur Rashid were among them.

Prof Sejarul said, "We cannot define Rano in a word. Rano's lifelong pursuit was to fight for the liberation of the people. He [Rano] was engaged in that war until his death. He left the world fighting."

An Awami League delegation team, led by AL Joint General Secretary Mahbul Alam Hanif along with AL Presidium member Shahjahan Khan, AL Liberation War Affairs Secretary Mrinal Kanti Das, State Minister for Shipping Khalid

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A guard of honour being given to veteran leftist leader Haider Akbar Khan Rano at Central Shaheed Minar in Dhaka yesterday morning. He breathed his last on May 11. He was laid to rest at Banani Graveyard next to his parents at 3:00pm in a peaceful burial ceremony.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

All pending hajj visa applications to be expedited

Saudi envoy tells PM

UNB, Dhaka

Saudi Ambassador Essa Yousef Essa Alduhailan yesterday assured that he will take steps to clear all pending hajj visa applications from Bangladesh.

The ambassador made the assurance during a meeting with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her official residence Gono Bhaban, according to PM's speech writer M Nazrul Islam.

This year more than 83,000 Bangladeshis are scheduled to perform hajj. According to a report, more than 10,000 of them are yet to get visas due to some complications.

The prime minister requested the envoy to extend the visa approval time so all the aspirants can go to Saudi Arabia to perform hajj.

The Saudi envoy conveyed to the PM the interest of his country's investors and companies to make investments in some projects in Bangladesh. He also handed a list of those projects to the prime minister.

Hasina said her government will take steps following scrutiny of the proposals.

On the Palestine issue, the prime minister said Bangladesh is preparing another consignment of assistance for

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Development not possible without India tie: minister

BSS, Dhaka

Foreign Minister Hasan Mahmud yesterday said

Bangladesh's development is not possible without good relations with India as both the countries share common border of several thousand kilometres.

He said this while talking to reporters at the foreign ministry in Dhaka.

The minister said it is not possible to maintain peace and stability in Bangladesh without good relations with the neighbour.

Hasan made the remarks while responding to a question regarding BNP's programme on boycott of the Indian products.

"Their efforts [call for boycotting Indian products] went unsuccessful. They know it, too. It will be refused by the people of the country again if BNP comes up with

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Make gender budget transparent: speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a press conference yesterday urged the government to ensure the effective allocation, implementation, and evaluation of the gender budget designated for women's empowerment in the 2024-25 national budget.

They also highlighted that despite the increased allocation, doubt persists regarding whether the budget formulation and implementation processes effectively promote gender equality.

Titled "National Budget 2024-2025: Expectations from Women's Society," the press conference was organised by Bangladesh Nari Pragati Sangha at the Tofazzal Hossain Auditorium of Jatiya Press Club.

Dr Sayema Haque Bidisha, professor of economics at Dhaka University, said, "Gender-sensitive programmes of ministries often receive disproportionately low budgetary allocations and are not frequently aligned with the strategic objectives of women's development policies."

She advised that annual progress reports on gender budget

activities should be ensured for accountability and effectiveness.

Dr Sharmin Neelormi, professor of economics at Jahangirnagar University, noted that although the government budgets are gender-friendly, there is a lack of significant review or survey on actual progress.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- ▶ Annual reports on gender budget activities
- ▶ Collateral-free loan for women
- ▶ Making gender budget focal points accessible
- ▶ Sharing dev policy with public annually

Rokeya Kabir, executive director of BNPS, stressed the need for equitable resource distribution, stating, "With women constituting half of the population, it's imperative to ensure resource flows in an equitable and effective manner towards the vast majority of those who are resourceless, powerless,

have limited income opportunities and are dependent."

She urged for policies that will provide loans to women without collateral.

Speakers also called for ministries concerned to improve their understanding of gender budgeting, integrate gender perspectives into planning and service delivery, and enhance transparency by making information about gender budget focal points easily accessible on their respective websites.

They also demanded quantitative and qualitative analysis to determine the extent to which the strategies for women empowerment meet gender needs and progress.

Additionally, they called for progress reports on how gender budget activities align with the action plan of women's empowerment and national women's development policy to be presented to the public annually.

They emphasised the need for the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs, as the lead ministry, to enhance conceptual and monitoring capacity on gender budgeting.

Atiqul vows to go tough on grabbers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In the final year of his five-year tenure, Dhaka North City Corporation Mayor Atiqul Islam wants to prioritise working for the newly-added 18 wards.

"In my last year of this term, the newly-added 18 wards will be my priority. We have a master plan for those wards, and the first phase of work is ongoing," he said.

Mayor Atiq made the remarks at a press conference on the occasion of fourth anniversary of the DNCC mayor and councillors at Gulshan Nagar Bhaban yesterday.

He said the waste management department is managing the Amin Bazar landfill by collecting and transporting an average of 3,500 tonnes of waste every day.

He said the drive against illegal occupation of canals in Dhaka city will continue.

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DEATH IN ROAD CRASH HC directs Rab to arrest those responsible

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the Rapid Action Battalion to immediately arrest the accused persons responsible for a road accident in Mymensingh in which Zayed Akhter died and her one-year-old son got severely injured.

The bench of Justice Md Rezaul Hasan and Justice Fahmida Quader passed the order following a petition filed by Supreme Court lawyer Manzill Murshid on behalf of Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh.

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3RD PHASE UZ POLLS 130 withdraw candidacy

UNB, Dhaka

A total of 130 candidates have withdrawn their candidacy from the third phase of Upazila Parishad elections scheduled to be held on May 29, the Election Commission said yesterday.

Md Shariful Alam, director (public relations) of the EC, also said due to the withdrawal of candidacy, six aspirants will be elected unopposed.

Of those who have withdrawn candidature, 73 are chairman candidates, 43 vice-chairman

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DONALD LU'S VISIT

It is not important to BNP Says Nazrul Islam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

US Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Donald Lu's Dhaka visit is not important to BNP, said the party's Standing Committee Member Nazrul Islam Khan.

"We are more concerned about the situation in the country," he said while responding to journalists' questions after a meeting of the BNP's Liaison Committee at the party chairperson's Gulshan office yesterday.

He said the people of the country have always solved their own problems.

"We thank those who want to

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Outside patronage can't help BNP Says Quader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader said patronage from outside the country cannot make BNP active now.

"He [Donald Lu] is coming; we don't know if they have any intentions, but someone will come to our country and patronise BNP to strengthen the party again. However, I think the situation is not favourable for them in the context of global politics," said Quader.

The dominance of those who would patronise BNP has been reduced in the Middle East and there is no reason to think that it will

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Officials from Keeron Limited, an upskilling platform, and IDP Education Bangladesh Private Limited, a global leader in international education services and a co-owner of IELTS, signed a memorandum of understanding at the capital's The Daily Star Centre on May 12. The initiative aims to enrich educational opportunities for students in Bangladesh.

PHOTO: STAR

Keeron, IDP join hands to uplift education

CITY DESK

Keeron Limited, an upskilling platform, and IDP Education Bangladesh Private Limited, a global leader in international education services and a co-owner of IELTS, have forged an alliance through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enrich educational opportunities for students in Bangladesh.

The signing ceremony was held at the capital's The Daily Star Centre on May 12, said a press release.

This partnership aims to harness the expertise and resources of both Keeron and IDP to meet the evolving needs of students and educational institutions in Bangladesh.

Through this collaboration, Keeron subscribers will benefit

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