

Ex-chief justice Fazlul Karim passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former Chief Justice Mohammad Fazlul Karim passed away yesterday morning at the age of 81.

He breathed his last while undergoing treatment at a hospital in Dhaka.

Chief Justice Syed Rezaul Ahmed and Law Adviser Asif Nazrul expressed shock at the demise of Fazlul and conveyed their sympathy to his bereaved family members.

The chief justice suspended the judicial functions of both the Appellate and High Court divisions of the Supreme Court for today in honour of Justice Fazlul.

Justice Fazlul began obtaining his LLB degree from the University of Dhaka in 1964 and completed Bar-at-law in 1969.

He began his legal career by enrolling as an advocate of the district court in Chattogram in 1965. He was subsequently enrolled at the High Court in Dhaka in 1970 and at the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh in 1979.

He was elevated to the position of a judge of the High Court Division on November 1, 1992, and later as a judge of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court on May 15, 2001.

He served as the 18th chief justice from February 8, 2010 to September 29, 2010.



Workers fill a pickup with ropes made from Hogla leaves (elephant grass). The cargo will be transported to Rajbari in Faridpur, where it will be sold. The photo was taken in Laharhat area of Barishal Sadar upazila recently. PHOTO: TITU DAS

Bridge collapse severs vital Faridpur route

SUZIT DAS, Faridpur

People of at least 20 villages in Faridpur Sadar and Madhukhali upazilas have been facing immense sufferings as a bailey bridge on Kumar river in Chandpur area collapsed partially recently.

The 100-foot-long and 12-foot-wide bridge, built by the Local Government Engineering Department around 35 years ago, connects the two upazilas.

A part of the bridge's deck and railings collapsed around two weeks ago, said locals.

LGED has closed the bridge with bamboo poles on both ends and flagged it as unfit for use following the incident.

Even though vehicular movement has stopped on the bridge, people are still using it amid risk for lack of alternatives.

There are at least 15 educational institutions including primary and high schools on both ends of the bridge, alongside other establishments.

Tipu Sultan, a local resident, said a 10-wheeler truck was moving on the bridge late at night a couple of weeks back, causing it to collapse partially and damaging its railings and pavements.

Rasel Mia, a student of Kadir College, said they have to travel around 10 kilometres more if they do not use the bridge for commute. Debashish Bagchi, engineer of LGED in Faridpur Sadar upazila, said higher authorities have been informed in this regard.

"Officials from the design unit visited the bridge recently. We hope to open the bridge for all soon after renovations," he added.



Action if error found

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before a magistrate. However, providing a confession does not automatically prove the case. The individual has the legal right to alter, amend, or withdraw their confession at any point."

Asked whether it was a media trial by Rab, Lt Col Ferdous said, "Media briefings are part of social awareness and crime prevention efforts to educate the public and discourage such actions."

"Now, as new findings

emerge, the complete investigation may reveal different outcomes. We want to make it clear -- if any negligence, factual inaccuracies, or procedural errors are found in Rab's process, or if any personnel are found responsible, appropriate measures will be taken," the Rab spokesperson added.

On Thursday, police arrested three persons -- including the tenant of the house -- in connection with the murder.

Bhasani memorabilia

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(MoU) between the university and the Board of Trustees, many of the institutions have either closed or fallen into neglect due to insufficient funding and lack of coordination.

At present, at least 12 of the 25 educational and other charitable institutions founded by Bhasani have become defunct, said Azad Khan Bhasani, his grandson and

also president of Bhasani Parishad.

Contacted, Dr Anowarul Azim Akanda, vice-chancellor of MBSTU, said some initiatives have been taken to preserve Bhasani's memorabilia in Santosh.

"The institutions and establishments, founded by Maulana Bhasani and placed under the university's custody, will be maintained properly," he added.

Raas festival

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Seba Sangha, said, "We have been preparing for this festival for nearly a month. Many visitors came from near and far. The local administration, along with army, police, and BGB personnel, ensured security during the festival."

In Patuakhali, the Hindu community observed the Raas festival in Kuakata with various activities, including ritual bathing in the sea, prayers at the Radha Krishna Temple in the town, Gita recitations, kirtans, cultural performances, and the distribution of prasad among devotees.

Sushil Sheel, a devotee from Madaripur, expressed satisfaction with the arrangements and security measures during the festivities. Similar festivities were held in Sundarbans area of Bagerhat on the occasion.

PRAYER TIMING
NOVEMBER 17

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 5-05	12-45	3-45	5-21	7-00
JAMAAT 5-40	1-15	4-00	5-24	7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Rent

Furnished and unfurnished apartments are available for rent in Paltan, Dhanmondi and Bashundhara R/A. **01785075107**

Freedom of expression

FROM PAGE 3
reporting. On the other hand, neutral journalists are being unfairly labelled as accomplices of autocratic regimes. It is harmful for democracy," he added.

He said there was a positive shift during the tenure of the interim government, where people could express themselves freely.

"However, we need a legal framework to make such freedoms permanent. No law should be weaponised against freedom of expression or journalism," he added.

"If someone's opinion doesn't align with ours, they are seen as an enemy. This culture must change," he added.

Mahrukh Mohiuddin, managing director of The University Press Limited, said, "We remain stuck in preconceived notions about others' opinions. To achieve unity, we need meaningful exchanges of ideas." She also said there is a lack of reconciliation initiatives.

Mohammad Ashaduzzaman, director of the International Mother

IAB slams BNP for prioritising

FROM PAGE 3
Pointing to BNP leaders' recent remarks on election and ongoing reform works, Rezaul Karim said, "We observed with discomfort that BNP is prioritising elections over reforms and making elections their central focus. They are even questioning the legitimacy of reform initiatives, saying that they will implement reforms only after coming to power."

He said, "The first question here is, where did they get the certainty that they are going to win the next election? Even if they come to power, what guarantees do we have that they will implement the reforms as per the public desires?"

He also questioned,

"Wasn't the emergence of the 1/11 caretaker government and the subsequent birth of the Awami fascist regime a direct result of BNP's attempts to consolidate power?"

"That is why we are urging everyone to first focus on reforms, establish constitutional and institutional safeguards to prevent the rise of autocracy, and only then engage in discussions about holding elections," said the IAB member.

Regarding the interim government, Rezaul said, "Despite 100 days having passed, the government's control over state affairs remains unclear, revealing significant weaknesses. Issues such as uncontrollable commodity

prices, chaos in the garment sector, attacks on military vehicles in Dhaka, the inactivity of the police force, ineffective traffic management, and stagnation in ministerial activities are disheartening to the nation."

IAB also said the government must ensure transparency in all appointments, including the induction of new advisers.

In the briefing, the IAB chief also placed a six-point proposal to the interim government.

The proposals include establishing clear control of the state by the interim government, eliminating indecisiveness in government appointments, and controlling the price hike of essentials.

BDI holds

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included Dr Mushtaque R Chowdhury, former Brac vice chair, and experts like Dr Fahmida Khatun, Dr Birupaksha Paul, and Dr Selim Raihan, who discussed Bangladesh's economic prospects, and banking reforms.

Saturday's opening ceremony featured remarks from Dr Munir Qudus, BDI president; Dr Elora Shehabuddin, Chowdhury Center director; Dean Raka Ray at UC Berkeley, and US State Department Deputy Assistant Secretary Nicole Chulick, who highlighted US support for Bangladesh's interim government.

Following the opening, student leaders from the recent pro-democracy movement in Bangladesh joined virtually in a session moderated by Professor Farhana Sultana.

Sayedda Meher Afrog and Taposhi Dey Prapti, both students, participated in the "The July-August Pro-Democracy Movement in Bangladesh -- Success, Challenges and Opportunities" session.

The conference also featured presentations on climate and environmental challenges, including a documentary, "No Ark".

BNP activist

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Contacted, Masud Khandakar, member secretary of the Pabna district unit BNP convening committee, said he was not fully aware of the incident.

"We are looking into the matter. If any BNP activist is found guilty, they will face action," he added.

Eastern Bank PLC.
HEAD OFFICE, 100 GULSHAN AVENUE, DHAKA-1212

TENDER NOTICE

Eastern Bank PLC. (EBL) invites sealed bids from bona fide/eligible suppliers for the following services/items:

- Lot 1: Board Governance Solution**
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Interested bidders are requested to collect the RFP document electronically by sending an email from their official email address to bidit@ebi-bd.com mentioning lot & item names, name of the company and the authorized contact person, mailing address, telephone & mobile phone numbers on or before Thursday, 21 November 2024. Queries to be mailed by Tuesday, 26 November 2024.

Bids prepared in accordance with the instructions contained in the RFP document must be submitted in two separate envelopes, clearly marking 'Technical' and 'Financial' offers on the envelopes to the Office of the President, Purchase Committee, Head Office, Eastern Bank PLC., 100 Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka-1212 on or before Sunday, 8 December 2024.

Tenderers are allowed to bid for all lots or any lot separately. Bids not submitted separately for a lot will be rejected. However, common documents need not to be submitted for multiple lots, submission with one lot is enough.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD
Chattogram South Road Division, Dohazari, Chattogram
E-mail: eedoh@rhd.gov.bd

Memo No. 35.01.1582.414.36.01.02.24-1939 Date: 14-11-2024

e-Tender Notice

This is to notify for all concerns that e-Tenders is invited and published on 14 November 2024 in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for procurement of works for the following tenders. Interested persons/firms can see details by visiting the website www.eprocure.gov.bd.

Sl.	Tender ID	Tender Refere nce No.	Name of work	Date & time
01	1037199	e-GP/EE/CSRD/01/2024-2025	Emergency Repair of Damaged Road Pavement by Scarify, Base Type-1, Carpeting, Seal Coat at 11th Km. (Ch: 10+000) to 14th Km. (Ch: 14+000) of Patiya (Monosartek)-Anowara (Kosturighat) Road (2-1070) under Chattogram South Road Division during the year 2024-2025	Last Selling: 01.12.2024, 10:30 Closing: 01.12.2024, 11:30
02	1037200	e-GP/EE/CSRD/02/2024-2025	Emergency Repair of Damaged Road Pavement by Seal Coat at 3rd(p) Km., 4th(p) Km. and 5th(p) Km., Construction of Rigid Pavement on existing damaged pavement at 2nd(p) and 4th(p) Km. of CUFL Gate-Hazarat Mohsen Aulia (R) Majar-Juidondi Ferryghat Road (Z-1088) under Chattogram South Road Division during the year 2024-2025.	Last Selling: 01.12.2024, 10:30 Closing: 01.12.2024, 11:35
03	1037201	e-GP/EE/CSRD/03/2024-2025	Emergency Repair of Damaged Road Pavement by Seal Coat at 1st(p) Km. and 2nd(p) Km., Construction of Rigid Pavement on existing damaged pavement at 1st(p) Km. of CUFL Gate-Hazarat Mohsen Aulia (R) Majar-Juidondi Ferryghat Road (Z-1088) under Chattogram South Road Division during the year 2024-2025.	Last Selling: 01.12.2024, 10:30 Closing: 01.12.2024, 11:40

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NOTICE OF INVITING QUOTATION

Sealed quotations are hereby invited by National Credit and Commerce Bank PLC. (the Bank) from reputed Companies/local Agents/Suppliers/Authorized Distributors/Service Providers for the below mentioned requirement under the terms and conditions mentioned detail in the Request for Quotation (RFQ) documents.

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The schedule containing detailed Terms & Conditions may be collected from the Common Services Division, Level-5, NCC Bank PLC. Head Office, Dhaka and submit the same under sealed envelope to the Tender Box placed at Common Services Division (CSD). Manipulation or any kind of unusual approach or failure to submit offer within the stipulated time frame will be treated as "Disqualified" for the bidding. The Bank authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposal without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Vice President & Head of Common Services Division