



Papia Sarwar no more

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Papia Sarwar, renowned Rabindra Sangeet exponent and Ekushey Padak laureate, passed away at a private hospital in Dhaka yesterday. She was 72.

She breathed her last at 8:00am, said a family source.

Papia Sarwar had been battling cancer for several years. Last month, she was undergoing treatment at a hospital in Dhaka's Bashundhara Residential Area. She was later admitted to a private hospital in Tejgaon.

Papia Sarwar's condition became critical last night, prompting doctors to place her on a ventilator, said the source.

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The Scaly-breasted Munia, also known as the Nutmeg Mannikin, is a small, sparrow-sized bird native to tropical Asia. With its intricate plumage and social nature, it is a delightful sight in grasslands and farming areas. The photo was taken recently in the Mujgunni area of Khulna.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Region to benefit if SAARC revived

Says Prof Yunus

BSS, Dhaka

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday reiterated his call to the South Asian leaders to activate SAARC for the betterment of the people of the entire region.

"South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation [SAARC] is very important to me. I spoke about activating the forum immediately after taking oath as the chief adviser," he said.

He was addressing a conference of the SAARC Federation of Oncologists (SFO) via videoconference from the state guest house Jamuna in Dhaka.

A delegation of SFO also met Yunus at Jamuna. The Nobel laureate said the entire South Asia will be benefited from activating SAARC which remained dysfunctional due to some issues between India and Pakistan.

"Problems between the two countries should not affect other countries in South Asia," he said, adding, "If South Asian leaders meet every year, stand together and take pictures; then a message goes to the whole world that we are united. This will present the South Asian countries before the world in a positive way and will help us move forward."



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Nahid's remarks anti-politics

BNP says his comments hurt national unity

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP yesterday strongly criticised the recent remarks made by Information Adviser Nahid Islam and accused him of creating division in the national unity.

The party called the comments "anti-politics" and "inappropriate".

The criticism follows Nahid's remarks during a meeting with British Global Partners Governance delegation on Wednesday.

Nahid had said political parties were attempting to discredit the interim government as they want to be in control of reforms. "Thus, they [political parties] are putting more importance on elections rather than reforms."

In his reaction, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, upon returning from London, told reporters at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, "I don't know what his [Nahid] intention was or why he said this. But his statement is anti-political, and I don't expect such remarks. Political parties have supported this interim government with a purpose -- to re-establish democracy.

"We have been working on this for the last 15 years. We have struggled, we have fought, so I don't know why and with what objective he said this."

BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi also expressed discontentment over Nahid's comments.

"An adviser to the government has said political parties are attempting to discredit the interim government. I believe it is not appropriate for an adviser of the interim government to make such remarks," he said while handing over money to some families of those killed during the mass uprising in the capital.

In another programme, speaking at the party's Nayapaltan headquarters, Rizvi said, "If any confusing

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PRO removed for 'quoting Nahid Islam inaccurately'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The information and broadcasting ministry yesterday revoked the attachment of Public Relations Officer Jasim Uddin to posts, telecommunications and ICT ministry.

Principal Information Officer Nizamul Kabir signed the order with immediate effect.

The ministry made the decision after a report that Adviser Nahid Islam said political parties were attempting to discredit the government as they wanted to be in control of reforms.

Nahid's remarks following his Wednesday's meeting with British Global Partners Governance delegation were published in the media, quoting a press release Jasim issued.

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir and Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi yesterday criticised Nahid's and accused him of hurting national unity.

Meanwhile, speaking to the BBC Bangla, Jasim said adviser Nahid did not make such remarks and that he sent the press release, inadvertently misquoting the information adviser.

REGIONAL RESISTANCE

PART 9

During the 1971 Liberation War, dozens of regional forces emerged across Bangladesh. Just as the freedom fighters trained under the sub-sectors and the Bengal Regiment fought valiantly, these regional forces also put up tough resistance against the Pakistan army. In the month of victory, we bring you the stories of some of these heroic forces.

Palashdanga Jubo Shibir of Sirajganj

AHMAD ISTIAK

The remote village of Jangaliagati in Kamarkhanda upazila, Sirajganj, was the birthplace of the Palashdanga Jubo Shibir (Palashdanga Youth Camp) -- a regional force that defied all odds and persevered, significantly contributing to the liberation struggle of 1971.

Initiated by five student leaders, the group eventually grew to over 600 freedom fighters strong during the course of the war.

In May and November of this year, The Daily Star spoke to 30 freedom fighters of this guerilla force during visits made to several upazilas in Sirajganj and Pabna.

For the most part, Palashdanga Jubo Shibir didn't have a fixed camp. The freedom fighters used Chalan Beel as a base, mostly residing on boats. The remote nature of Chalan Beel made it difficult for the Pakistani forces to invade the region.

A member of the group, Abdur Rahman told this newspaper that they relied on a fleet of 54 boats for transportation and attacks on Pakistani camps.

"We had two training camps in Gaihaata and Kaliakoir, Ullapara, within the Chalan Beel region. We also had a secret hideout

in Dharail Beel," Arshedul Islam, another freedom fighter, said.

This force engaged in over 50 battles, resulting in the deaths of over a hundred Pakistani soldiers and Razakars, according to the book Muktiyuddho Kosh, Volume 8, written by historian Muntasir Mamun.

The battles carried out by Palashdanga Jubo Shibir between May and November include the raid on Tarash Police Station, Jhail Bridge operation, Ghatina Bridge operation, and Jamtoil Bridge operation in Sirajganj; Dilpashar Bridge operation and the battle of Koidanga Bridge, battle of Kashinathpur, battle of Dabbagan, battle of Santhia in Pabna; and attack on Gurdaspur Police Station in Natore.

They also frequently attacked various Razakar camps, which include those in Solonga, Bastul, Mannannagar, and Dhamaich Hat in Tarash upazila, Sirajganj.

The battle of Naogaon Bazar in Tarash on November 10 dealt the heaviest blow to enemy forces by the Palashdanga Jubo Shibir. This intense battle resulted in the deaths of over 100 Pakistani soldiers and Razakars, while the freedom fighters emerged victorious without any casualties.

FORMATION
Following the March 25 massacre, influential student leader Abdul Latif Mirza began

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Palestinian women weep over the body of a relative killed in Israeli air strikes on Gaza City yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

RMG WORKERS' INCREMENT 29 factories close amid demos

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Twenty-nine garment factories in the Ashulia industrial area were declared closed following continued demonstrations by workers demanding a 15-percent increase in annual increments.

The workers have rejected the government's decision to raise the increment by only 4 percent.

Production in the factories remained suspended due to the ongoing protests, according to sources from the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association.

Of the 29 factories, eight were closed under the "no work, no pay" provision as per section 13(l) of the Bangladesh Labour Act, eight were closed with paid leave for workers, and 13 had to be shut down as the workers either walked out or production was ceased.

However, Mohammad Mominul Islam Bhuiyan, superintendent of Ashulia Industrial Police I, told The Daily Star that workers of 13 factories stopped working yesterday.

He said 10 factories declared a general holiday yesterday. Additionally, 11 factories were shut down on Wednesday. Khairul Mamun Mintu, legal affairs secretary of the Bangladesh Garment and Sweater Workers Trade Union Centre, told this newspaper that the workers' demand for an increase in annual increments is justified, and the government's decision is unrealistic.

He added that raising wages by at least 10 percent alongside the annual increment would be a more realistic solution.



Assad's ouster and the ever-changing world

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Trump named Time's 'Person of the Year'

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তিতাস গ্যাস ট্রেডার্স এন্ড ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন পিএলসি
(পেট্রোবাংলার একটি কোম্পানি)
কলসেন্টার-১৬৪৯৬

আপনার রান্নার কাজ শেষ হয়ে থাকলে
একুনি গ্যাসের চুলাটি নিভিয়ে ফেলুন

জ্বালানি নিরাপত্তা সর্বোচ্চ অগ্রাধিকার

জরুরি গ্যাস শাট-ডাউন বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সম্মানিত গ্রাহকবৃন্দসহ সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, জিটিসিএল-এর আমিনবাজার সিজিএস-এ মোডিফিকেশন কাজের জন্য ১৩ ডিসেম্বর, ২০২৪ তারিখ (গুক্রবার) দিবাগত রাত ১২.০০ ঘটিকা হতে ১৪ ডিসেম্বর, ২০২৪ তারিখ (শনিবার) সকাল ০৬.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত মোট ০৬ ঘণ্টা তিতাস গ্যাস অধিভুক্ত সমগ্র সাতার, আমিনবাজার ও হেমায়েতপুর এবং ঢাকা মহানগরীর সমগ্র মিরপুর এলাকা, মিরপুর রোডের উভয় পাশের এলাকা, শ্যামলী, আদাবর, আগারগাঁও, মোহাম্মদপুর, লালমাটিয়া, ধানমন্ডি, হাজারিবাগ, কামরাঙ্গির চর, কেরানীগঞ্জ (খোলামোড়া হতে কলাতিয়া, হযরতপুর পর্যন্ত), হাতিরপুল, ফার্মগেট, আজিমপুর, নিউমার্কেট, লালবাগ, শাহবাগ এবং তৎসংলগ্ন এলাকায় বিদ্যমান সকল শ্রেণীর গ্রাহকের গ্যাসের তীব্র স্বল্পচাপ বিরাজ করবে। এছাড়া কোথাও কোথাও গ্যাসের চাপ শূন্যে নেমে যেতে পারে।

সম্মানিত গ্রাহকবৃন্দের সাময়িক অসুবিধার জন্য কর্তৃপক্ষ আন্তরিকভাবে দুঃখিত।

তিতাস গ্যাস কর্তৃপক্ষ