

Shamsul Hoque
Mojumder’s death
anniversary

CITY DESK
The 17th death anniversary of Shamsul Hoque Mojumder, a retired engineer of PWD and social worker, was observed yesterday, said a press release.



On this occasion, a doa and milad mahfils were held after the Juma prayers at Amjad Mojumder Bari Jame Mosjid, Hosne Ara Bulbul Hifzul Quran, Wadarul Orphanage Mosque, Al-Haj Shamsul Haque Mojumder Jame Mosjid, Purba Deypur Patuabari Jame Mosjid, Addadar Bari Jame Mosjid and Ferdous Nagar Jame Mosjid in Amjadhat union of Fulgazi upazila, Feni.

The friends, relatives and well-wishers of Shamsul Hoque Mojumder, father of Zakir Hossain Mojumder, BJMC retired engineer, and Ferdous Alam Mojumder, chairman and managing director of Frontline Communications Limited, are requested to attend the programmes to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.



Chickens perch on a bamboo pole after their coops were destroyed by the waters from the Padma. Many crops were damaged and some livestock lost to foxes. As the water recedes, villagers are returning to their ravaged homes with whatever poultry they managed to save. The photo was taken in the Madhya Char area of Paba upazila, Rajshahi yesterday.

PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

KCC halts dog

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Animal welfare activists condemned the move. “Any form of culling is illegal and inhumane,” said Bappy Khan, a member of a local group. “The government must prioritise vaccination and sterilisation. Dogs are part of the ecosystem.”

The High Court banned dog culling in 2020. Under the Animal Welfare Act, 2019, stray dogs cannot be killed or displaced unless proven rabid or dangerous. Khulna had carried out vaccination campaigns in recent years, with 5,900 dogs vaccinated in 2023. However, sterilisation programmes have lapsed.

“There are more than 6,000 stray dogs in the city,” said KCC veterinary surgeon Dr Perugopal Biswas. “Sterilising a dog costs Tk 500 to Tk 1,500 and requires several days of care. Without proper budget and ministry approval, the programme cannot continue.”

Residents say the problem is worsening. “We cannot even ride motorbikes without being chased by packs of dogs,” said Wahiduzzaman. “Every day someone is bitten. As a public servant, I feel helpless.”

At the same time, pet owners are also worried. A Maheshwarpasha resident said one of his dogs was nearly seized during the drive after neighbours complained. “Local youths intervened, and I am now treating the dog at a vet,” he said.

MAWLANA BHASHANI BRIDGE
Incomplete approach road
poses risk for vehicles

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Around three kilometres of the approach road on Kurigram’s Chilmari side of the newly built Mawlana Bhashani Bridge remain unfinished, forcing buses and goods-laden trucks to navigate it at risk every day.

Heavy rainfall on August 27 caused two portions of the incomplete road to collapse. Although the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) carried out emergency repairs, the road has yet to be fully carpeted.

The 1,490-metre-long bridge over the Teesta River, connecting Chilmari upazila in Kurigram with Haripur in Gaibandha’s Sundarganj upazila, was inaugurated on August 20.

Since then, thousands of light and heavy vehicles have been crossing the bridge daily, improving connectivity between Chilmari, Gaibandha, Dhaka, and other parts of the country.

Rafiqul Islam, 40, a resident of Chilmari, said, “The incomplete road has made our movement difficult.”

Truck driver Jahurul Haque, 50, said,

“The bridge has eased travel from Chilmari to Gaibandha and Dhaka, reducing both time and costs. But driving heavy trucks on the unfinished road is still risky.”

Bus driver Mizanur Rahman, 55, echoed him.

According to LGED sources, a total of 57 kilometres of approach roads has been built on both sides of the bridge. Of this,



51.77 kilometres in Sundarganj upazila of Gaibandha have been completed, while 5.23 kilometres in Chilmari upazila remain partially unfinished.

Chilmari Upazila Engineer Julfikar Ali said, “Out of 5,230 metres of approach road, carpeting of 2,150 metres has been completed. Another 2,380 metres are

ready for carpeting. But 700 metres have been delayed due to land acquisition complications. Although heavy rainfall caused some damage, we repaired it quickly. At present, there is no major problem for movement.”

Executive Engineer of LGED in Gaibandha, Uzzal Chowdhury, said, “We have instructed the contractor to complete the remaining work in Chilmari quickly. The entire approach road will be finished within this year.”

The project was implemented by China State Construction Engineering Corporation under LGED, with joint funding from the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD) and the Opec Fund for International Development (OFID).

The bridge was built using 290 piles, 30 pillars, 28 spans, and 155 girders. In addition, 12 bridges, 58 box culverts, and 57 kilometres of approach roads with river training works were constructed after acquiring 133 acres of land.

The core bridge structure cost around Tk 367 crore, while approach roads, river training, culverts, and land acquisition required another Tk 363.85 crore.

Umama eyes major
Haunted by scars, still waiting

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and ensure political coexistence of all views,” she said.

She added, “Before August 5, I was involved in numerous movements and student-oriented initiatives, while continuing my studies. I tried to balance academics and activism.”

“After August 5, when the country was in crisis, I stepped forward as one of the faces of the July movement – working on issues from ensuring treatment for the injured to holding the government accountable,” said Umama.

Now, according to Umama, she wants to do something concrete for her alma mater.

“I want to continue working on the campus issues I have long been engaged with. Recently, through our science organisation, I arranged a science fest. I have also called for a healthy campus environment and hall politics. Dhaka University has long suffered from partisan politics, and I want to end that,” she said.

The former spokesperson of Students Against Discrimination also stressed the lack of female representation in the Ducusu leadership.

“Since independence, no woman has ever been elected VP. Women themselves can best raise their safety concerns and rights on campus. For decades, women led movements, but when it came to securing rights, they were sidelined.”

Umama said female

students at DU face various academic and non-academic problems including accommodation and security.

“I believe female students will vote for me to ensure their rights and representation,” she said.

On the election environment, she noted it was largely positive but expressed concerns about whether all students can vote due to shortage of polling centres.

“The number of polling centres is not enough, creating doubts about whether all students can vote on time. Besides, online harassment and cyberbullying are also ongoing, and the administration has not acted effectively,” she said.

Umama said their panel includes diverse voices to tackle the various issues they face. “We tried to select candidates from ordinary students, ensuring representation from different departments, faculties, and social backgrounds so that Ducusu reflects an inclusive body.”

“If students want representatives beyond political parties – who are only for students – they will turn to our panel,” said Umama.

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demanded an end to the culture of state violence. “Almost a year has passed, but many remain missing, and there is still no clarity on how trials will take place. It is very frustrating,” he said, urging that secret detention centres be preserved as evidence.

These testimonies are among 1,752 complaints now under investigation by the Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearances.

Human rights groups say the scale of disappearances remains alarming. Odhikar recorded 708 cases between 2009 and June 2024, Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) listed 629 from 2007 to 2023, HRSS counted 392 from 2015 to 2024, Human Rights Watch estimated nearly 600 from 2009 to 2021, while the International Federation for Human Rights reported 709 cases between 2009 and June 2024.

Of these, 471 people eventually returned or were produced in court, 83 were found dead, and 155 remain missing.

At the event, HRSS Secretary General Muniruzzaman presented seven key demands, including Bangladesh’s full implementation of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

He urged that families be informed of relatives’ whereabouts, each case investigated, perpetrators brought to justice, and victims and witnesses

given protection. He also called for public awareness through textbooks and the media.

Nur Khan Liton, a member of the inquiry commission, said political parties have pledged commitments, but accountability is essential.

“We must ensure that the word ‘disappearance’ no longer exists in Bangladesh. While we say we have defeated fascism, we must also remove the fascism that lives in our

and false cases.

“Civil society has long demanded this, but political leaders are the ones in power. We want this promise from them.”

Huma Khan, chief of mission of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, urged Bangladesh to act urgently to ease families’ suffering.

She highlighted three priorities: ensuring victims’ families’ right to death certificates, property transfers, and bank access;

the need for nationwide consultations with victims and families.

Regarding the reliance on the death penalty, she said, “What is needed is an impartial and efficient justice system.” She appealed to the interim government and the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs to prioritise accountability and meaningful justice over rushed legislation or symbolic punishments.

Political representatives present at the event, including Mahdi Amin of BNP and Advocate Ehsanul Mahbub Zobaer of Jamaat-e-Islami, promised to address enforced disappearances in their election manifestos.

International Crimes Tribunal Prosecutor SM Mainul Karim, Inquiry Commission Member Nabila Idris, Jatiya Nagorik Party’s Senior Joint Convenor Ariful Islam Adib, and Nagorik Oikya’s General Secretary Shahidullah Kaiser also spoke.

Meanwhile, in a statement yesterday, ASK urged the government to ensure justice, compensation, protection for families and witnesses, and rehabilitation for victims of enforced disappearances. It also called for exemplary punishment for perpetrators and effective steps to prevent such violations in future.

ASK added that these measures are essential not only for victims but also for the safety of society and the rule of law.

Despite these challenges, the market remains a key source of quality bamboo.

JP, Gono Odhikar

FROM PAGE 4
Jatiya Party Secretary General Shameem Haider Patwary said Gono Odhikar Parishad carried out the attack from its procession.

He said several JP leaders suffered injuries and were admitted to hospital.

He alleged that the interim government failed

to provide safety for people and political parties.

“The government has also lost the capability of holding free and fair polls,” he added. Shameem Haider said Gono Odhikar Parishad must apologise for its “misdeeds” and the government should take punitive actions against the party.

Red crab, turtle

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Tushar echoed the concern, saying, “No conservation effort survives here due to poor supervision. We need planned and sustainable initiatives.”

Kalapara UNO (acting) and member secretary of the Kuakata Beach Management Committee, Yasin Sadek, said, “We will look into the matter and take necessary steps. Action

against noise pollution will be taken immediately.”

Contacted, Patuakhali District Fisheries Officer Md Kamrul Islam said, “Ecofish never handed over the project to us. Moreover, sustaining such an initiative on an open beach is very challenging. If the fisheries department had been involved from the beginning, it could have yielded long-term benefits.”

PRAYER
TIMING

AUGUST 30

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:30	12:45	4:45	6:33	8:00
JAMAAT 5:05	1:15	5:00	6:36	8:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION