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49th death anniversary of Bhashani today

Weeklong fair, events planned in Tangail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

The 49th death anniversary of Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani, a legendary political leader in the sub-continent, will be observed today.



He passed away on this day in 1976, and was buried at Santosh in Tangail.

To mark the day, the authorities of Mawlana Bhashani Science and Technology University (MBSTU) in Tangail, along with various socio-political organisations, have chalked out elaborate events.

They will place wreaths at his grave at Tangail's Santosh in the morning.

Other programmes include doa and milad mahfils, food distribution, and discussions on the life and works of the leader.

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Vehicles struggle to pass Gulistan area as hawkers occupy a large portion of the street, creating severe congestion. Pedestrians also face difficulty as the pavement is occupied too. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

'Crossfire would have been an act of mercy'

Says survivor of kneecapping

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It would have been better to be killed by law enforcers in a "crossfire" than to be maimed, said a survivor of kneecapping as he recounted his experiences of torture at an event in the capital yesterday.

Samsul Alam Bulbul, who survived after being shot in both knees, had first thought that he was about to be shot to death, and passed off as a "crossfire" victim.

But what followed was years of excruciating pain, medical expenses of over Tk 60 lakh, a lifelong disability, and battling predatory cases.

He was speaking at a panel discussion titled "Kneecapping Democracy: Silencing Dissent by Crippling Bodies in Bangladesh", organised by Sapran (Safeguarding All Lives) at Bishwo Shahitto Kendro.

Bulbul said police arrested him on August 30, 2014, from Kolaroa in Satkhira. "They first put me into an interrogation cell and started beating me indiscriminately on the legs until they were fractured."

He said he was tied to a chair and beaten up for about two and a half hours straight on the legs. At one point, they blindfolded him and threw him into a police van.

"They took me to a place a few minutes later, and I felt myself being dragged out and dumped onto grass. I was sure that they would kill me right then and there."

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LIBYA'S COAST

Four Bangladeshi migrants dead as 2 boats capsize

REUTERS

At least four Bangladeshi nationals died after two boats carrying 95 irregular migrants capsized off the Libyan coastal city of Al Khums on Thursday, the Libyan Red Crescent said on Saturday.

The first boat was carrying 26 migrants from Bangladesh, four of whom died, the Red Crescent said in a statement on its verified Facebook page.

The second boat carried 69 migrants, including two Egyptians and dozens of Sudanese, the Red Crescent added without specifying their fate.

Khums is a coastal city, some 118 km east of the capital, Tripoli. On Wednesday, the International Organization for Migration said that at least 42 migrants went missing and presumed dead after a rubber boat sank near the Al Buri oilfield, an offshore facility north-northwest of the Libyan coast.

Libya has become a transit route for migrants fleeing conflict and poverty to Europe across the Mediterranean since the fall in 2011 of dictator Muammar Gaddafi during a Nato-backed uprising.

Pictures released by the Khums Red Crescent showed a line of bodies in black plastic bags laid out on the floor, while the volunteers are seen providing first aid to the survivors. Other pictures show the rescued migrants wrapped in thermal blankets sitting on the floor.

The statement added that Coast Guards and Khums Port Security Agency participated in the rescue operation. Adding that the bodies were handed over to the relevant authorities based on instructions by the city's public prosecution.

In mid-October, a group of 61 bodies of migrants were recovered on the coast west of the capital Tripoli. In September, IOM said at least 50 people had died after a vessel carrying 75 Sudanese refugees caught fire off Libya's coast.

ANGER OVER MAYOR'S DEATH

Gen Z-style protests spread in Mexico

100 police officers, 20 civilians injured in Mexico City

AGENCIES

Thousands protested across Mexico on Saturday under the banner of "Generation Z," denouncing rising violence after the public killing of an anti-crime mayor earlier this month.

In Mexico City, a small group of hooded protesters tore down fences around the National Palace where President Claudia Sheinbaum lives, prompting a clash with riot police who deployed tear gas, according to Reuters witnesses.

Mexico City's public safety secretary Pablo Vazquez said in a press conference that 100 police officers were injured, including 40 who required hospital treatment. Another 20 civilians were also injured, Vazquez told local media outlet Milenio.

The public safety secretary also said 20 people were arrested and another 20 "referred for administrative offenses."

Other marches took place in various cities across Mexico, including in the western state of Michoacan, where anger has flared over the murder on November 1 of Uruapan Mayor Carlos Manzo, who was shot dead at a public Day of the Dead event.

Some demonstrators in

- Death of Michoacán mayor who fought drug trafficking sparks protest
- Demonstrators attack National Palace where President Claudia Sheinbaum lives
- Sheinbaum's govt questioned the motives behind marches

Generation Z refers to people born between 1997 and 2012, on the heels of the millennials, and protest groups in other countries across the globe have taken on the label to push for social and political change.

The assassinated mayor's widow, however, distanced her husband's movement from the demonstration on Saturday, reports AFP.

Bernardo Bravo, a leader of lime producers in the same region, had also been shot dead in late October.

Earlier this week, Sheinbaum questioned the motivations for the demonstration and said at her regular morning news conference that the protest was "inorganic" and "paid for."

"It is a movement promoted from abroad against the government," she said.

Demonstrators displayed banners bearing messages such as "We are all Carlos Manzo" alongside the iconic pirate flag from the Japanese manga One Piece, which has become a symbol of youth protest around the world, from Madagascar to the Philippines and Peru.

"You should have protected Carlos Manzo like this!" some protesters shouted at security forces, who responded with fire extinguishers and tear gas.



Demonstrators clash with police during a protest against insecurity and corruption outside the National Palace in Mexico City, Mexico on Saturday.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chattogram

5 killed as bus rear-ends truck in Sitakunda

At least five people were killed and around 12 injured after a bus rear-ended a dump truck on the Dhaka-Chattogram Highway and plunged into a roadside ditch in Sitakunda upazila yesterday evening.

The identities of the deceased, all male passengers of the bus, could not be known immediately, said police.

Police and fire service officials said the incident took place at the upazila's Bottola area of the highway at 5:55pm.

Highway Police (Cumilla region) Additional Superintendent of Police Kirtiman Chakma told The Daily Star, "A Chattogram-bound bus of CDM Paribahan hit a dump truck from behind on the highway after the driver lost control over the vehicle. The bus plunged into a roadside ditch, killing four on the spot."

Sitakunda Fire Service Senior Station Officer Belal Hossain said, "Firefighters rushed to the spot and recovered four bodies from the bus. Two were sent to the upazila health complex in critical condition."

Sitakunda Upazila Health Complex's doctor Altaf Hossain told reporters, "On duty doctors declared one-person death after he was brought to the hospital in critical condition. Two were sent to Chattogram Medical College Hospital (CMCH) for better treatment. Apart from that around 15 were given primary treatment."

In a Facebook video, it was seen that four bodies were kept in body bags on the street after being recovered from the bus wreckage. The front part of the bus was totalled.

Kumira Highway Police Station's Officer-in-Charge (OC) Zakir Rabbani said the bus driver tried to overtake the dump truck but lost control, hitting the truck from behind.

"Legal action will be taken in this regard and the bodies will be handed over to the victims' families after confirming their identities," he added.

ISS astronauts take cover for 'cannibal' solar storm

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Astronauts aboard the International Space Station (ISS) were forced to alter their routine sleeping positions due to the threat posed by solar particles from an extreme "cannibal" storm, an update from the orbiting outpost reveals.

Out of caution, the three Russian cosmonauts aboard the space station were instructed to spend the night in the ISS laboratory module, according to a recent communication between Nasa mission control and the crew.

"We entered into an energetic solar particle event this morning, and we're going to go in and out of holes of higher than the baseline [radiation] risk," a mission control operator told astronaut Mike Fincke aboard the ISS, according to Space.com.

The British Geological Survey had earlier warned that a series of solar storms released from the Sun this week could feed off another one, creating one of the biggest "cannibal storms" since 2005.

3 killed as Israel strikes southern Gaza

AGENCIES

At least three Palestinians were killed in Israeli attacks east of Khan Yunis in southern Gaza yesterday, a source at the Nasser Medical Complex said.

Israeli helicopters also bombed northern areas of Rafah in southern Gaza. Search efforts have resumed in Gaza City's Zeitoun neighbourhood, where teams from the Red Cross and the Qassam Brigades, Hamas's armed wing, were again trying to locate the body of a captive.

Israel on Saturday returned 15 more bodies of Palestinians detained in Gaza, bringing the total number of Palestinian dead received since the October 10 ceasefire to 330, reports Al Jazeera online.

Cold temperatures and heavy rainfall were worsening already dire conditions for displaced Palestinian families across Gaza.

Israel's Defense Minister Israel Katz and Foreign Minister Gideon Saar yesterday reiterated the government's stance that it will not accept a Palestinian state.

"Israel's policy is clear: There

PHOTO: REUTERS

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