



Hundreds of thousands of people attend the namaz-e-janaza of Sharif Osman Hadi, spokesperson of Inqilab Moncho and one of the frontliners of the July uprising, at the South Plaza of the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban after Zuhr prayers yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

A sea of mourners bids Hadi a hero's farewell

The young firebrand laid to rest beside National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam at DU

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In an unprecedented show of grief and solidarity, hundreds of thousands of people filled the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban premises yesterday to bid farewell to Sharif Osman Hadi, the slain spokesperson of Inqilab Moncho and a key figure of the July uprising.

The vast 215 acre parliament complex could not hold the sea of mourners, with crowds spilling over onto the adjacent Manik Mia Avenue, one of the widest roads in the city.

The namaz-e-janaza of 32-year-old Hadi, the son of an imam, was held at the South Plaza, which resounded with "Allahu Akbar" yesterday afternoon. His coffin was draped in the national flag.

Speaking at the namaz-e-janaza, Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus said Hadi is a martyr who will never be forgotten. He will remain alive through the lessons he left for the nation.

"Oh dear Osman Hadi, we have not come here to bid you farewell. You are

in our hearts, and as long as Bangladesh exists, you will remain in the hearts of all Bangladeshis. Insha'Allah, no one can remove you from there."

Addressing the crowd, Abdullah Al Jaber, member secretary of Inqilab Moncho, said, "The two revolutionary



lines of Kazi Nazrul Islam that Hadi used to think were his ideal were 'ami chiro bidrohi bir, ami bishwa chhariya uthiyachhi eka, chiro unnoto shir! [I am the rebel eternal, my head held high across the world, high, ever erect and

alone!]"

Calling for calm, he said, "Refrain from violence and don't act on any propaganda. We will announce our programmes soon."

Hadi's elder brother, Mawlana Abu Bakar Siddique, administered the namaz-e-janaza, which was attended by Religious Affairs Adviser AFM Khalid Hossain and other advisers; the chiefs of the three armed services; leaders of BNP, Jamaat-e-Islami, Inquilab Moncho, the National Citizens Party (NCP), among others.

Hadi was laid to rest beside the grave of his favourite poet, Kazi Nazrul Islam, near the Dhaka University Central Mosque, around 3:48pm.

He was known for his fiery recital of the national poet's "Bidrohi" poem.

In an interview, he once famously said, "A person can die, but an idea cannot."

It was that very idea -- of nation-building, of social change, of just democracy -- that will live on in the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Hadi, you will be forever in our hearts: Yunus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus pledged that the nation would follow July frontliner Sharif Osman Hadi's message of walking before the world with heads held high.

Speaking at Hadi's namaz-e-janaza at the South Plaza of Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban in the capital, he said, "Oh dear Osman Hadi, we have not come here to bid you farewell. You are in our hearts, and as long as Bangladesh exists, you will remain



SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

ATTACKS ON STAR, PROTHOM ALO Condemnations pouring in from home, abroad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National and international rights groups have urged the interim government to take immediate action to halt the wave of violence that followed the murder of July uprising frontliner Sharif Osman Hadi.

They said such "coordinated" attacks signal a dangerous spread of extremist and violent ideologies across the country.

They have called for prompt, impartial and transparent investigations into Hadi's killing and into those responsible for attacks on media houses, cultural organisations and other key institutions.

In a statement last night, Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK) said that after Hadi's death, the offices of The Daily Star and Prothom Alo came under unprecedented attack, with vandalism and arson leaving journalists, staff and children at onsite daycare centres in a state of extreme insecurity.

ASK said obstruction of fire service personnel prevented the newspapers from publishing their print editions and forced the suspension of online operations, amounting to a direct and severe assault on press freedom.

The violence, it added, escalated further with the harassment of New Age Editor Nurul Kabir by a mob.

ASK also cited attacks on Chhayanaut, arson at the ruins of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's residence at Dhanmondi 32, demonstrations outside the Indian Assistant High Commissions in Rajshahi, Khulna and Chattogram, and the burning of an Awami League leader's home.

Together, the incidents, ASK said, pointed to "coordinated efforts to destabilise the country".

"Given these circumstances, ASK suggests that the state must deeply review why law enforcement and the army on duty were unable to ensure effective security at high-risk locations in a timely manner," the statement said.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

AK Khandker Deputy commander of Liberation War no more

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Abdul Karim Khandker, former deputy commander of the Liberation War and the first chief of the Bangladesh Air Force, died yesterday from old-age complications at the age of 95.

Khandker, who was awarded Bir Uttam, had been undergoing treatment at the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) in Dhaka since December 7 for multiple ailments, according to a press release from the Inter-Services Public Relations.

His namaz-e-janaza will be held tomorrow after Zuhr prayers at Bangladesh Air Force Base Bashar in Dhaka Cantonment. Following the janaza and state honours, he will be buried at the military graveyard.

During the Liberation War, Khandker, a retired vice marshal, played a pivotal role in organising the armed struggle. In March 1971, he was serving as a group captain at Dhaka Cantonment.

On May 15, 1971, he crossed into India with fellow officers, reaching Agartala in Tripura.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Arrest the killers or face indefinite blockade Inqilab Moncho issues 24hr ultimatum

DU CORRESPONDENT

Moncho has warned of an indefinite blockade at Shahbagh intersection if the government fails to arrest those behind the killing of Sharif Osman Hadi by this evening.

The ultimatum was announced after Hadi's funeral yesterday, when thousands of activists and members of socio-cultural and political

groups gathered at Shahbagh around 3:30pm.

Demonstrators blocked the area for nearly two hours, chanting slogans demanding justice for Hadi's killing.

At 5:15pm, Abdullah Al Jaber, member secretary of Inqilab Moncho, declared the ultimatum. He called for the resignation of the Home Adviser Lt Gen (Retd) Jahangir

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Thousands of activists and members of socio-cultural and political groups gather at Shahbagh intersection yesterday afternoon after Hadi's funeral. They blocked the area for nearly two hours, demanding justice for Hadi's killing.

PHOTO: STAR

UN secy gen condemns killing of Hadi Urges calm

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has called for calm and urged all parties to exercise maximum restraint to ensure a peaceful environment ahead of Bangladesh's February elections, following a surge in violence triggered by the killing of a prominent youth leader.

Speaking at a briefing in New York on Friday, Guterres condemned the killing of Inqilab Moncho spokesperson Sharif Osman Hadi, a key figure in the July uprising, and extended his condolences to the victim's family.

He also called on the relevant authorities to carry out a prompt, impartial, thorough, and transparent investigation in line with international human rights standards.

7-year-old killed as BNP leader's house locked, set ablaze



OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

A seven-year-old girl was killed, and her father, a local BNP leader, along with two sisters, sustained severe burn injuries after their home was set ablaze in Lakshmipur Sadar upazila early yesterday.

The incident occurred around 1:00am in West Char Mansa village under Bhabaniganj union.

Ayesha Akter, 7, was trapped inside the house and died in the fire, said Wahid Parvez, officer-in-charge of Lakshmipur Sadar Model Police Station.

Her father, Belal Hossain, assistant organising secretary of BNP's Bhabaniganj union unit, and his daughters, Salma Akter Smriti, 18, a kindergarten teacher, and Samia Akter Bithi, 14, an eighth-grade student, suffered critical burns.

Belal is undergoing treatment at Lakshmipur

SEE PAGE 5 COL 4



Refrain from violence and don't act on any propaganda. We will announce our programmes soon.

Abdullah Al Jaber, member secretary of Inqilab Moncho, while speaking at the janaza of Osman Hadi

NOTICE

Due to severe disruptions caused by arson and vandalism targeting The Daily Star, we are compelled to limit today's edition to eight pages, continuing the reduced format from yesterday.

We are working tirelessly to restore full operations as soon as possible. We sincerely regret this inconvenience and thank you for your continued support and understanding.