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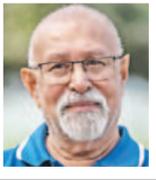
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Veteran journo Saleem Samad no more

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Saleem Samad, an award-winning investigative journalist, writer, and media rights defender, passed away yesterday while undergoing treatment at Bangladesh Medical College Hospital in Dhanmondi.

He had been suffering from cancer, according to his family.

Saleem, a member of the Jatiya Press Club, had served as a special correspondent for the English dailies The News Times, The Bangladesh Observer and The Asian Age.

His first namaz-e-janaza was held at the Jatiya Press Club around 2:30pm, SEE PAGE 9 COL 1



Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus being welcomed with a flower bouquet by colleagues at the Yunus Centre in Mirpur yesterday, as he resumed his previous duties following the end of the interim government he led for 18 months. Yunus also plans to return to his residence in Gulshan, Dhaka, by the end of this month. PHOTO: STAR

আন্তর্জাতিক অপরাধ ট্রাইব্যুনাল INTERNATIONAL CRIMES TRIBUNAL

MIRPUR-10 KILLINGS Father recounts son's death at ICT

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A father's trembling voice describing the moment his fingers touched his teenage son's shattered skull left the International Crimes Tribunal-1 in stunned silence yesterday, as he recounted how the boy was killed in Mirpur-10 during the July 2024 uprising.

Alongside him, an injured survivor gave harrowing testimony in a crimes against humanity case against former law minister Anisul Huq and former prime minister's adviser Salman F Rahman.

Survivor Emran Hossain and Kamal Hawlader, father of 18-year-old Sifat Hawlader, described how Awami League cadres, alongside police, unleashed deadly attacks on student protesters at Mirpur-10 on July 19 and 20.

Kamal, the second prosecution witness, told the tribunal that on the afternoon of July 20, he had gone to buy vegetables with his son Sifat, an eleventh-grader. Spotting his classmates protesting at the Mirpur-10 roundabout, Sifat joined them.

"Within minutes, three armed Awami League processions converged from different directions and started firing indiscriminately," Kamal said. SEE PAGE 9 COL 3

13th JS convenes on March 12

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 13th Jatiya Sangsad will go into its maiden session on March 12.

Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed disclosed the information yesterday while speaking to reporters after a meeting with Prime Minister Tarique Rahman at the Secretariat.

Ordinances promulgated during the tenure of the interim government will be placed before the House on the first sitting of the maiden session of the 13th parliament.

The home minister said a summary on convening the session would be sent from the Jatiya Sangsad Secretariat to the president through the Prime Minister's Office.

President Mohammed Shahabuddin will convene the session in line with the Constitution.

The 13th Parliament will have to go into its maiden session within 30 days of the oath-taking of the newly elected MPs, according to sources at the parliament secretariat.

As speaker of the 12th Parliament Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury has reportedly resigned, a senior BNP leader will preside over the first sitting of parliament, an official of the parliament secretariat said. SEE PAGE 9 COL 4

DU VC Niaz Ahmed Khan resigns

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr Niaz Ahmed



Khan submitted his resignation letter yesterday.

The resignation letter was handed over to Education Minister ANM Ehsanul Haq Milon, said Mohammad Firoz Shah, protocol officer to the vice-chancellor.

"The letter will be forwarded to the chancellor through the appropriate ministerial channels," Firoz said.

No let-up in mugging in Mohammadpur, Adabor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Muggers, extortionists and teenage gang members continue to operate in Mohammadpur and Adabor, locals alleged, citing a series of recent incidents that have renewed fears among residents and business owners.

On Saturday night, a group allegedly attacked staffers of an embroidery factory, Abir Fashion, in Adabor after demanding extortion money, leaving at least two people injured.

In protest, local factory owners and workers surrounded Adabor Police Station for several hours.

Mustafizur Rahman, 44, owner of Abir Embroidery Factory, filed a case with the police station over the incident.

In his complaint, he alleged that the accused had long been demanding money from him and had at times snatched cash and mobile phones from his workers on their way to and

from the factory.

According to the complaint, the attack took place around 9:40pm on Saturday, shortly after workers received their monthly wages and were leaving the factory. The

Residents demand tighter security

Factory workers attacked over extortion

CCTV captures daylight mugging

Market threatened over extortion

IGP orders crackdown on crime

accused allegedly tried to snatch their cash and phones.

Police said five people, including prime accused Rohan Khan Russell alias Kala Rasel, 22, have been arrested. The others are Maruf, 35, Hasan, 23, Md

Raihan, 22, and Md Roman, 24.

Police also detained Russell's father for questioning and later released him.

Mustafizur said factory owners, workers and residents gathered in front of the police station demanding the arrest of those involved and tighter security in the area. The demonstration began around 10:30pm and continued until about 3:15am.

As traffic came to a standstill on the road in front of the station, army personnel stepped in and brought the situation under control.

In a separate incident in Mohammadpur, CCTV footage from a three-road intersection in Basila shows a pedestrian being mugged in broad daylight. During the scuffle, alleged teenage gang members are seen striking the victim with a sharp weapon before he runs away.

Locals accused a group known as "Killer Badal" of being SEE PAGE 9 COL 6

JP alleges 'engineered' defeat in polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party yesterday alleged that the interim government "orchestrated" its electoral defeat in the 13th parliamentary polls through "widespread irregularities and engineering" of the results.

Speaking at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity, the party's Secretary General Shameem Haider Patwary claimed the interim government did not want the party to secure even a single seat.

"We believe the outcome was manipulated with the support of officials. While we are disheartened by the result, we are not discouraged. Our votes were taken away through fraud," he said.

In the February 12 polls, the Jatiya Party failed to win any seat.

Shameem alleged that of the party's 196 candidates, 45 had their nominations cancelled. He described SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Inu's defence witness testifies before ICT-2

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Counsel for JSD President Hasanul Haq Inu yesterday played two video clips submitted by a defence witness in a crimes against humanity case, and told a tribunal that Inu's remarks in the footage reflected his positive and supportive stance towards protesting students during the July uprising.

Testifying as a defence witness, Shoriful Kobir Shopon, public relations affairs secretary of the Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, placed the two videos before International Crimes Tribunal-2.

In the first clip, Inu is heard saying there had been many deaths. "I regret that, and the government must take responsibility for it..." he said.

In the second clip, Inu says, "The quota system should neither be retained nor scrapped entirely; rather, it needs reform. As a freedom fighter, I believe the quota system should be reformed. The students have taken to the streets demanding quota reform, and their concerns are resolvable."

However, the prosecution told the tribunal that Inu had taken a double stand during the uprising.

During cross-examination, prosecutor Minazul Islam said although Inu spoke in favour of the students in the media, he actually took a position against them and supported suppressing the movement by using lethal weapons. SEE PAGE 9 COL 4

A century of flavour at Ananda Confectionery

HELEMUL ALAM

At Abul Hasnat Road in Satraowza, Old Dhaka, the aroma of sizzling paratha and simmering halim drifts through the narrow lanes every afternoon during Ramadan. Inside the century-old Ananda Confectionery, customers crowd the counters, carrying forward a culinary tradition that has endured for more than a hundred years.

Established in 1920, the bakery has grown into a cherished name among residents of Old Dhaka and beyond. Its iftar offerings, rooted in tradition and family recipes, draw customers from across the capital, with many travelling from outside Dhaka to savour its signature items.

A wide range of delicacies awaits customers each Ramadan. Among the most popular are chicken tikka, chapli kebab, nimak para, chicken kofta, chicken paratha, tana paratha, paneer paratha, chicken drumstick, chicken cutlet, chicken sizzler, doi bora, firni, jilapi and halim.

Mohammad Ramjan, who travelled from Gazipur to buy iftar items for his family of five, said, "I have bought

tana paratha and dudh malai and will purchase some other items as well. My family loves traditional food from this shop."

"I grew up eating their food. The taste hasn't changed," he added.

Echoing him, Emiazur Rahman, now a resident of Hatirpool but raised in Old Dhaka, said Ramadan feels incomplete without a visit to the shop.



"I come here for their halim, jilapi and other special items. Due to traffic and work, I cannot come every day, but during Ramadan I manage to visit three to four times to buy my favourite items," he said.

Nayeem Ahmed from Wari SEE PAGE 9 COL 4



Customers throng the 'Holiday Market' on the first Sunday of Ramadan to buy clothing for their families on Salimullah Road in the capital's Mohammadpur area yesterday. The makeshift market is set up every Sunday, and many shoppers got a head start to purchase items at reasonably bargained prices ahead of expected Eid-centric price hikes. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS