

# Tributes paid to Azadi editor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Speakers at a condolence meeting yesterday paid rich tributes to late Prof Md Khaled, the octogenarian editor of the Azadi.

They said he was a man of simple and humble nature, but uncompromising as far as the morality and ideology were concerned.

He will remain ever alive in the hearts of the journalists, they added.

The condolence meeting was organised by the Chittagong Union of Journalists (CUJ) at the Chittagong Press Club (CPC) auditorium yesterday.

The speakers regretted that proper evaluation of Prof Khaled could not be made during his lifetime.

They said he should be honoured with a national award in recognition of his legendary contribution to journalism as well as to political and social movements of the country.

The speakers said he refrained from participating in politics actively to engage himself in fighting for common people with his pen and wisdom when the politics started to be influenced by narrow and vested interests.

They urged the journalist community in Chittagong to introduce Professor Khaled Memorial Journalism Award.

Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalist (BFUJ) President Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, also the editor of the Bangladesh Observer, addressed the meeting as chief guest with CUJ President Mostaq Ahmed in the chair.

Iqbal Sobhan said BFUJ in collaboration with CUJ will organise a meeting in Chittagong on December 21 every year in memory of Prof Khaled.

News Editor of the Azadi MA Malek, BFUJ Secretary General Akhter Ahmed Khan, CPC Acting President Ali Abbas, the Prothom Alo Resident Editor Abul Momen, elderly journalist Obayedul Haq, CPC General Secretary Kalim Sarwar, CUJ General Secretary Shahid Ul Alam, Prof Dr AQM Sirajul Islam Chowdhury and former CUJ president M Nasirul Haq spoke at the meeting.

## BUET '90 Forum founding anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BUET '90 Forum will celebrate its founding anniversary at the auditorium of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology on December 25.

The forum is an organisation of students of batch 1990 of the BUET.

The daylong programmes also include Eid reunion, says a press release.

Students of all departments of the BUET batch '90 have been requested to contact the following persons for registration: Khasatagi (0171-026436), Biplob (019-350257), Rakshit (0171-591541) and Parvez (0171-544592).



Prime Minister Khaleda Zia speaks at the inaugural ceremony of National Imam Conference 2003 at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city yesterday.

# PM urges Imams to develop human resources

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday expressed her government's willingness to involve religious leaders in poverty alleviation programmes.

"We hope that the Imams (religious leaders) would play a wider role in turning our people into human resources in real sense in the light of the teachings of the holy Quran," she said while inaugurating the National Imam Conference-2003 at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre.

The prime minister sought cooperation of the Imams for integration of women in workforce to eradicate illiteracy and raise mass awareness about health, environment and planned families.

The country has four lakh Imams and Muazzins in about two lakh mosques and they have acceptability in the society, she mentioned.

Jointly organised by Ministry of Religious Affairs and the UNFPA, the conference was aimed at providing training to the Imams on reproductive health, mother and

child healthcare, rights of women and children, HIV/Aids and environment.

Some 700 Imams and Muazzins from different parts of the country took part in the conference.

Ministers, MPs, diplomats, representatives of development agencies and Islamic scholars were also present at the function.

Referring to the advancement of science and knowledge in the world, the prime minister said, "We have no scope to lag behind in the present situation."

She also called for removing illiteracy and ignorance from the society as these are the main obstacles to changing the lot of the people.

"We want to come out of the grip of poverty that makes human life undignified and meaningless. So, we want to involve the Imams in our programmes for poverty alleviation."

The prime minister recalled late president Ziaur Rahman's initiative to train up the Imams to make them aware of modern knowledge and technology and the establishment of Imam training Institute in 1979.

"As a continuation, we have taken a programme to involve the Imams in different development programmes in phases," she said.

Referring to the government's programme for expansion of women education, Khaleda said Imams can make a meaningful contribution to this end.

She said majority of the women who constitute half of the population are still deprived of their legitimate rights even at the family level because of ignorance and personal interest.

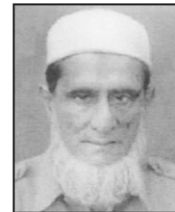
"We would never march forward keeping the women behind," the prime minister said.

She said Bangladesh has already got recognition in the world as a liberal, non-communal, democratic and modern Muslim majority country. People of all religions are practising their respective religions freely here, she added.

"The respected Imams would have to play a pioneering role to sustain this tradition."

Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman, State Minister for Religious Affairs Mosharraf Hossain Shajahan, Secretary of the Ministry Syed Sajedul Karim, UNFPA Representative Suneeta Mukherjee, Islamic Foundation Director General AZM Shamsul Alam and representative of the Imams Al-haj AFM Najmus Salehin also spoke.

## Obituary



Noted educationist Professor Dr Md Ishaque of Bangladesh Agricultural University died of a cardiac arrest at his residence at Kewatkhali in Mymensingh on December 14 at 65, says a press release.

Born on January 11, 1939 at village Chandpur in Comilla, Dr Ishaque also served as professor of chemistry in Sunamganj College, Sylhet and Rajendra College, Faridpur.

He is survived by his wife, four sons and three daughters.

He was buried at the university graveyard.

## MA Kabir

MA Kabir, a tea planter and senior manager of Shumshernugger Tea Estate, died of a cardiac arrest on December 21 at 52, says a press release.

Bangladesh Tea Association, Luskerpore Valley Club, Bangladesh Tea Estate Staff Association and Bangladesh Cha Sramik Union expressed condolence his death.

## Begum Hasna Hussain

Begum Hasna Hussain, wife of late Md T Hussain, ex-joint secretary, and mother of Md Afzal Hossain, advisor to the weekly Ekhon, died on December 21 at 78, says a press release.

Her namaz-e-janaza will be held at Baitul Mukarram after Zohr prayers on December 25.

She is survived by one son and four daughters.



State Minister for Agriculture Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir speaks at a seminar on 'Farmers' Field School as an effective extension vehicle' in the city on Monday. Department of Agricultural Extension in association with the DANIDA organised the event.



An exhibition titled 'Beautiful Bangladesh' concluded on the Public Library premises in the city yesterday. The National Association of Unesco Clubs in Bangladesh organised the event.

## Reunion

Bandhura, an organisation of SSC 1985 batch of Comilla Zilla School and HSC 1987 batch of Comilla Victoria College, will hold its reunion at Ranir Kutir on the bank of Dharmasagar in Comilla on December 25, says a press release.

Interested persons have been requested to contact Naimul (018264291, 9145881) or Prabhash (011807421) for registration.

## Zonta Int'l executives

The election to the District 25 of Zonta International comprising Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka was held in Mumbai recently, says a press release.

The office-bearers for 2004-2006 are Dilruba Ahmed (Chittagong) -- governor; Manthri Pereira (Colombo) -- Lt. governor; Nazneen Mahbub -- district treasurer; Kanan Verma (Madras) and Nilufer Zaharullah (Dhaka) -- area directors; Shahnaaz Ahmed -- corresponding secretary; Naheed Moyeen -- recording secretary; Tannaz Tanapore (Mumbai) -- nominating committee chairperson; and Dolly Mustafiz (Dhaka) and Chaturani Ranasinghe (Colombo) -- nominating committee member.



The office-bearers of District 25 of Zonta International pose for photograph after the election in Mumbai. Sitting from left are Kanan Verma, Manthri Pereira, outgoing Governor Freny Gimi (Mumbai), Dilruba Ahmed, Nilufer Zaharullah and Tannaz Tanapore. Standing from left are Shahnaaz Ahmed, Naheed Moyeen, Dolly Mustafiz and Chaturani Ranasinghe.

### DHAKA TODAY

**Exhibition**  
The inaugural ceremony of a photography exhibition titled 'Pakhi' (Bird) by Enam Ul Haque, photographer and bird watcher, will be held. Venue: BANDHU office premises, 15/10 Madhubagh, Maghbazar. Time: 10.00am. The exhibition will remain open till December 28 from 10.00am to 4.00pm daily.

**Drama**  
Natyadhara will stage a drama titled 'Atish Dipankar Sapaarja' directed by Alok Basu. Venue: Mohila Samity auditorium, Bailey Road. Time: 6.30pm.

**Film show**  
Academy Film Society will screen a British thriller titled 'Heaven'. Venue: Society auditorium, 21/C Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.

**Launching ceremony**  
Sheva launches Proyash in a bid to combat domestic violence. It will be followed by a fundraising musical evening. Venue: Hotel Purbari. Time: 6.00pm.

**Workshop**  
UNFPA organises a workshop on 'The image of women in media' with its Director Wasim Zaman as chief guest. Venue: Hotel Sheraton. Time: 10.00am.

**REHAB fair**  
The opening ceremony of REHAB Housing Fair 2003 will be held with Housing and Public Works Minister

Mirza Abbas as chief guest. Venue: Hotel Sheraton. Time: 11.30am.

**Founding anniversary**  
The 4th founding anniversary of Krishak Sramik Janata League will be held with eminent lawyer Dr Kamal Hossain as chief guest. Venue: Mohanagar Natyamancha, Gulistan. Time: 10.00am.

**Seminar**  
A seminar on the 'Cooperation of the Imams to make the sanitation programme of the government a success' with LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan as chief guest. Venue: Osmani Memorial auditorium. Time: 10.30am.

**Discussion**  
Swadhinata Chikitsak Parishad organises a discussion to mark the Victory Day. Venue: Mohanagar Community Centre, Dhanmondi. Time: 2.00pm.

**Installation ceremony**  
The installation ceremony of Jibon Bima Jatiyatabadi Karmachari Union will be held with Advisor to commerce ministry Barkatullah Bulu as chief guest. Venue: Mohanagar Natyamancha, Gulistan. Time: 5.30pm.

**AGM**  
The annual general meeting of the Development Organisation of the Rural Poor will be held. Venue: 152/21, Green Road. Time: 10.00am.

## WEATHER TODAY

### Temperature may fall

UNB, Dhaka

Weather will remain dry over the country during the next 12 hours till 6.00pm today.

Light to moderate fog may occur over the river basins in the morning, Met office said, predicting slight fall in night temperature.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 29.1 degree Celsius was recorded at Cox's Bazar and the lowest of 11.2 degree at Ishwardi.

**The sun sets in the capital at 5:18pm today and rises at 6:39 am tomorrow.**

The highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

| City/Town   | Temperature In Celsius |      | Humidity in percentage |         |
|-------------|------------------------|------|------------------------|---------|
|             | Max                    | Min  | Morning                | Evening |
| Dhaka       | 26.6                   | 17.1 | 72                     | 60      |
| Chittagong  | 28.3                   | 16.2 | 70                     | 86      |
| Rajshahi    | 27.2                   | 12.2 | 61                     | 66      |
| Khulna      | 27.2                   | 15.1 | 60                     | 72      |
| Barisal     | 27.2                   | 15.0 | 86                     | 83      |
| Sylhet      | 27.9                   | 15.5 | 77                     | 62      |
| Cox's Bazar | 29.1                   | 18.0 | 73                     | 71      |

