



Wife of poet Shamsur Rahman grieves over the body of the poet at their residence at Shaymoli in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Death of poet Shamsur Rahman condoled

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different political, social and cultural organisations yesterday expressed deep condolence over the death of the country's premier poet Shamsur Rahman.

They also expressed sympathy for his bereaved family members and prayed for eternal peace of his departed soul.

Expressing condolence, Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain said death of poet Shamsur Rahman, one of the most prominent personalities of Bangla literature and culture, is a great loss to Bangladesh and her people.

Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh President Dr AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury in his condolence said the nation would remember him for generations for his contribution through his sharp and encouraging writings in during Liberation War and all the democratic movements.

Expressing deep condolence, BNP Secretary General and LGRD Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan said the write-ups of poet Shamsur Rahman inspired the countrymen during the movement for self-reliance, mass upsurge and liberation war.

Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon and General Secretary Bimal Biswas in a statement said Poet Shamsur Rahman has been an active fighter for independence, democracy

and deprived people and against communalism and fundamentalism.

Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) President Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul and Secretary General Abdul Jail Bhuyian and Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) President Altaf Mahmud and General Secretary Omar Faruque expressed deep shock and condolence over the death of premier modern poet Shamsur Rahman.

Communist Party of Bangladesh President Manjurul Ahsan Khan and General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim in a statement said the write-ups of poet Shamsur Rahman will be invaluable resource for Bengali literature.

Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal Central Committee Convenor Comrade Khalequzzaman in a statement said the country lost a progressive poet who has always been against communalism and fundamentalism.

Jatiya Mukti Council President Badruddin Umar and Secretary Faizul Hakim in a joint statement said, "Shamsur Rahman and his poems will always inspire the people of the country in moving against imperialism and fundamentalism."

Bangladesh Chhatra Moitree, Bangladesh Chhatra Union, Bangladesh Jubo Union, Bangladesh Udichi Shilpi Goshthi, Bangladesh-

Bharat Friendship Society, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, Dhaka University Teachers' Association, Chhayanaut, Gonosanghati Andolon, Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation, World Poem Centre, Sonar Bangla Parishad, Charan Sangskritik Kendra, Kobitapatra, Christian Writers' Forum, Gonotantri Party, Bangladesher Narimukti Sangsad, Bangladesher Khetmajur Union, Chittagong Association, Democratic Lawyers Association of Bangladesh, Dhaka and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (Rob) also condoled the death.

Prof Fayeze new VC of Islamic University

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has appointed Prof Fayeze Mohammad Sirajul Huq of English Department as Vice Chancellor of the Islamic University for a term of four years.

Khaleda Zia is also chancellor of the university.

Prof Huq's appointment would come into effect with the date of his joining, an official handout said yesterday.

Foundation stone of Foreign Service Complex laid

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan yesterday laid the foundation stone of Foreign Service Complex at Baridhara in the city.

The Complex will provide facilities for foreign policy related service, conference and other discussions on international issues.

Moreover, the Complex would provide temporary accommodation for Foreign Service Officers and facilities for recreation would also be made at the Complex.

Speaking on the occasion, Morshed Khan expressed gratitude to Prime Minister

Khaleda Zia for her support for allocation of the land to build the Complex, which was a long-felt expectation of Foreign Service Officers.

He hoped that the Foreign Service Complex would contribute to strengthening interactions among diplomats at home and abroad.

Foreign Affairs Advisor Reaz Rahman, Foreign Secretary Hemayetuddin, Housing and Public Works Secretary Iqbal Uddin Chowdhury spoke at the function.

CPD concerned at tendency to question healthy debate

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The board of trustees of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) at a special meeting yesterday expressed deep concern over the recent tendency among some persons to question the tradition of healthy debate on public policy.

The board observed that such tendency threatens freedom of speech and democratic practice, undermining the country's image as a tolerant democracy with a vibrant civil society.

The board also unanimously reiterated its support for CPD's involvement in pre-election activities, which are fully consistent with its institutional mandate.

It noted with regret the public controversy initiated by the unsubstantiated and slanderous remarks made by the Board of Investment (BoI) executive chairman questioning the integrity of CPD as an organisation, and the personal vilification directed at the executive director of CPD.

The board expressed its shock that an issue related to data and their interpretation, which should have been addressed through professional discussion, invoked such highly offensive public

remarks directed at CPD by a person holding positions of public responsibility, said a press release issued by the CPD.

The CPD board deemed it no less unfortunate that the BoI executive chairman should have moved the courts to seek arrest of five CPD board members, on an unsubstantiated allegation of slander which was publicly and formally denied by the CPD.

CPD Chairman Prof Rehman Sobhan presided over the meeting held at the CPD dialogue room in the city.

CPD trustees Prof Muhammad Yunus, managing director of Grameen Bank, Fazle Hasan Abed, chairperson of Brac, Dr Anisuzzaman, former professor of Bangla, Dhaka University, Khushi Kabir, coordinator of Nijera Kori, M Syeduzzaman, chairman of Bank Asia, Laila Rahman Kabir, managing director of Kedarpur Tea Company, Syed Manzur Elahi, chairman of Apex Tannery, Nurul Haq, former member of Planning Commission, and Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, executive director of CPD, attended the meeting.

Anisul Fatema Yousef, additional director and head of dialogue and communication division of

CPD, attended the meeting on invitation.

The board noted with appreciation that CPD is carrying out intensive research, dialogue and publication programmes under its approved work plan for 2006.

It also recorded with deep appreciation that the executive director of CPD and his team are tirelessly carrying out their work under the mandated programmes of the organisation.

The board wishes to put on record unanimously that the CPD has, since its establishment over more than a decade ago, pioneered the tradition of open and inclusive public discussion and policy-oriented research. These dialogues and research have contributed directly to the good governance and development process of the country, it said.

The board hopes that any disagreements with the findings and analysis of research work sponsored by the CPD should be addressed professionally through evidence-based dialogue for which CPD will continue to provide a public forum.

Jute workers demand wage commission

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The CBA and non-CBA Samannoy Parishad of Bangladesh Jute, Yarn and Apparel Mills workers yesterday formed a human chain at Muktagang in the city demanding immediate declaration of minimum wage commission and its implementation, says a press release.

They also held a rally where they said workers of the jute, yarn and apparel mills under private ownership are paid Tk 560 while the workers of the government sector received Tk 950 and 1550 back in 1991 and 1997.

Soon the government is going to announce another pay hike for them, they added.

Since 1991, the workers of the non-government jute mills have been agitating to realise their demand of salary hike but the government remains indifferent to them, the press release said.

The workers took different agitation programmes, including a sit-in at Muktagang on September 4, protesting inaction of the government and demanding immediate pay hike.

Attack on Janmastami procession condemned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Several organisations yesterday condemned the attack on Janmastami [the birth of Lord Krishna] procession in the capital that left at least 10 people including a child injured.

Bangladesh Hindu Boudhdhha Christian Oikya Parishad and Bangladesh Chhatra Jubo Oikya Parishad in separate press releases expressed their concern over the attack saying it proves that the communal and militant forces are still active in the country.

The attack took place in front of Alia Madrasa on Wednesday evening when a truck laden with the youths of Goalnagar Tarun Sangha were heading to join the Janmastami procession.

The parishad leaders also protested a remark made by BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan at a religious programme in Chittagong where he said, "Only those having lands outside, have left the country."

The leaders included three parishad Presidents CR Dutta, Advocate Siril Sikdar and Ushatan Talykdar and General Secretary Nimchandra Bhoomik, and Jubo Oikya Parishad's President Advocate Satyendra Chandra Bhakta and General Secretary Nirmal Chattergy.



PHOTO: STAR

Family members of slain former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria and civil society members form a human chain at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city as part of 'Blue for Peace' programme yesterday demanding proper investigation into the murder of the former minister.