

Lest We Forget

Zulfaqar Ali : An eminent educationist, writer

Today is the second death anniversary of Prof S N Q Zulfaqar Ali.

Professor Ali was born on October 1, 1901 at Bhanga in the district of Faridpur. He was a distinguished student of Bhanga High English School. He passed his B A with Honours in English from Calcutta University. He passed the B C S examination and became a Sub-Deputy Magistrate but he did not like the job, as he was more interested in the study of literature than in the judicial functions. He gave up the job after two years of joining and got himself admitted to the Training College, Dhaka and passed the B. T. with proficiency in English and obtained first class. At first he was not interested in teaching. He, however, started liking the teaching profession after he joined the Training College, Dhaka as a lecturer of English and Bengali and soon became deeply involved in the profession and later earned for himself the reputation of being one of the most eminent educationists of the country.

Dr Sayed Ali Ahsan has written about the beginning of Professor Zulfaqar Ali's career as a teacher in the following words:

"A young teacher joined the Training College. He was a lively and a brilliant young man. A good talker and always smiling, he used to enquire about the welfare of all students. He brought about a wave of cultural activities in the Armanitola School and the Training College. We became deeply absorbed in drama, recitation of poems and round up of world affairs. When he came I was probably a student of Class V or Class VI. Sometimes he would take our entire class to the gallery of the Training College for practice teaching. Sitting in the gallery the students of the College used to learn his method of teaching. I have learnt a lot from him in these

practical teaching classes. He opened the doors of literature to us. We heard him explain Rabindranath's 'Shonar Tari' and a lot more which I can't remember now. He built in an endless exuberance a heaven of joy for us. In my early age I heard about Keats and Whitman and others from him



S N Q Zulfaqar Ali

whose names I can't remember now. The influence of Whitman and Keats on me is profound. In many of my poems, their vibrations may be felt. His influence on my young mind was tremendous." Elsewhere he said, "I got Zulfaqar Ali as a man with a precious heart. In my memory as a youth, he is a unique brilliance."

Professor Ali went up the ladder and became Range Inspector of Schools, Barisal; Principal, Teachers Training College, Mymensingh and retired from the then East Pakistan Senior Education Service as ADPI. Later, he became Inspector of Colleges of the Dhaka University, Provost of Dhaka Hall and worked as Professor of English in the Dhaka University. He was Co-Director of Institute of Education and Research, Dhaka University. After retirement from the University, he joined the Bangla Academy as special officer in the Department of Translation.

Professor Ali's study of both English and Bengali literatures was wide. It is said that it was he who made Prof Mohitlal Majumdar interested in modern English literature, as Prof Majumdar had the notion that there had not been any progress worthy of mention after the Victorian Era.

Professor Ali in his early age wrote some poems which drew the attention of Shajant Kania Das, Editor of 'Shonibar Chhithi' and many others, but he did not continue writing poems in his later life. He, however, wrote a book of short stories in Bangla by the title of 'Monideep'. His valuable book, 'The Modern Teacher', had earned wide appreciation of Dr Ramesh Chandra Majumdar, the then Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University. He has also written a number of text books in Bangla for schools.

As a member of the National Commission on Education, he wrote the syllabuses of English and Bengali for school children. He served as a member of the Educational Reconstruction Committee, set up in the then East Pakistan, and later helped in devising and drafting the syllabuses in English and Bangla as a member of the Syllabuses Committee at the centre which are being followed still now. He was a member of the Writers' Guild and other organisations. He presided over several district teachers associations.

During his retired life, the work he used to do religiously was to write for the Bangladesh Observer a weekly column, 'As I see it', under the pen name 'Astryx' — and write reviews of books on various topics in the same paper and the Wave every week. He was also a literary critic, broadcaster and telecaster.

An educationist of the stature of Prof Ali is no more with us. He breathed his last on January 01, 1991. May his soul rest in eternal peace.



CPB President Saifuddin Ahmed Manik addressing the discussion on Comrade Moni Singh at the party office yesterday.

'Dedicated leader like Moni Singh needed'

By Staff Correspondent

CPB President Saifuddin Ahmed Manik yesterday stressed the need for honest and dedicated leadership as possessed by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Moni Singh for protection of national interest.

"Let's proceed towards building up of such leadership", Manik told a discussion meeting held at the office of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) in observance of Moni Singh's second death anniversary.

Earlier on the day, the CPB leaders placed wreaths at Moni Singh's memorial at Shyampur. They observed one-minute silence at the venue.

Chaired by Manik, the discussion meeting was also addressed by party leaders Nurul Islam Nahid, Ajoy Roy, Nuh ul Alam Lenin and Abdul Gafur and Ganatantri Party leader Azrul Islam Khan.

Addressing the meeting, the CPB Chief said the BNP government had no right to stay in power since, what he said, it had failed to protect the basic rights of the people and to meet their demands.

He urged all social forces to look for an alternative saying otherwise 'this inefficient government will be ruling the country'.

Manik blasted the govern-

ment for politicising the administration, not annulling the black laws including the Special Powers Act and the Indemnity Act and attacking the Jatiya Party office. Commenting on the attack JP office he said, "the government is trying to harm democracy in the name of uprooting autocracy."

Nurul Islam Nahid accused the Jamaat-Shibir group of attacking the innocent people taking advantage of the situation triggered by the act of demolition of Babri Mosque.

Dacoits swoop on night coaches, loot valuables

Dacoits swooped on several night coaches and looted cash and valuables worth about Tk. 10 lakh injuring five passengers near Joypura bally bridge on Dhaka-Aricha highway yesterday, reports UNB.

Witnesses said a group of armed bandits barricaded the road near the bridge and attacked 10 Dhaka-bound coaches coming from northern districts at about 3 am.

Looters during their 30 minute operation beat the passengers indiscriminately and decamped with the valuables.

Shibir sweeps BL College polls

Islamic Chhatra Shibir swept the BL University College students union election held Wednesday, reports UNB.

College sources said Shibir bagged all the 17 seats. Zakirul Islam, Halim and Abul Kashem were elected V-P, G-S and AGS respectively.

Jatiyatibadi Chhatra Dal, the student wing of the ruling BNP, Chhatra League (M-I) and Chhatra Oikya took part in the election held peacefully, the sources added.

Songlu makes farewell call on Biswas

The outgoing Ambassador of China, Chen Songlu made a farewell call on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban yesterday, reports BSS.

During the meeting, they discussed matters relating to economic, trade and bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

The President hoped that this cooperation would continue for the mutual benefit of both the countries.

Asafuddowla gets Geetali awards

Mohammad Asafuddowla, Secretary, Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control who is also a renowned vocalist, yesterday had the distinction of receiving two Geetali awards as his cassette records of modern songs and ghazals hit the highest sales record, reports BSS.

Geetali, a local cassette recording company announced the awards at a ceremony held at a city hotel last afternoon. It also honoured three other artistes with distinction at the function. They are popular Tagore song exponent Kalim Sarafi for Tagore song, Nilufar Yasmin for Nazrul geeti, Stimul Mostafa's for recitation.



M Asafuddowla, Secretary, Ministry of Irrigation and a noted singer receiving Geetali award for Gazal at a city hotel yesterday.

Weather

Dry weather likely

By Staff Correspondent
Dry weather will prevail over the country during the next 24 hours commencing 6:00 am today (Friday).

The Met office forecasts, night temperature is likely to fall by one to two degree Celsius across the country.

The minimum temperature of 8.8 degree Celsius was reported from Srimangal yesterday (Thursday) and the maximum of 27.1 degree from Satkhira.

The sun sets today (Friday) at 5:23 pm and rises tomorrow (Saturday) at 6:42 am.

The maximum and the minimum temperature and humidity of some of the major cities and towns of the country yesterday were:

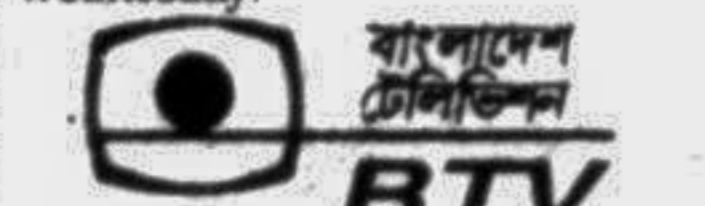
Cities/Towns	Temperature in degree Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	25.2	12.2	84	65
Chittagong	26.0	14.0	81	77
Rajshahi	24.5	9.2	81	82
Khulna	26.3	12.3	93	77
Cox's Bazar	27.0	15.0	75	68
Sylhet	25.0	13.0	93	74
Dinajpur	23.6	10.8	96	76
Barisal	26.0	11.4	96	86

Milk Vita earns Tk 80.43 lakh profit

By Staff Correspondent

Milk Vita has earned a net profit of Taka 80.43 lakh in 1991-92 for the first time since its inception.

This was disclosed by chairman of Milk Vita Quamruddin Yahya Khan Majlish, MP at the inaugural function of the 'cattle distribution programme' at the Barabil Primary Milk Producers' Cooperative Samity in Bangladeshirighat milk shed area Wednesday.



Friday

Morning Session

- 8:00 Opening announcement
- Al-Quran
- Programme summary
- 8:10 News in Bangla
- 8:15 Aler Dishaat
- 8:40 Cartoon: Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle
- 9:00 Moder Garab Moder Aaha
- 9:30 Cartoon: Candeed Camera
- 10:05 Moner Mukurey: Sangsaptak
- 11:15 Shikhyadikhya
- 11:30 The Girl from Tomorrow
- 11:50 World's Life One
- 12:25 Closing

Evening Session

- 3:00 Opening announcement
- Al-Quran
- Programme summary
- 3:15 Cartoon: Return of the Dogtarium
- 3:40 Full length Bengali Film: Debor Dhaat
- 5:10 News in Bangla
- 5:25 Sports programme
- 7:05 Barnab: SAARC Audio-visual Exchange
- 8:00 News in Bangla
- 8:35 Comedy series: Perfect Stranger
- 9:00 Dristhikon
- 10:00 News in English
- 10:35 Film: L A Law
- 11:30 Khabar/The News
- 11:45 Closing

Happy Birthday

To **'BORSHO'**

The only child of Mr & Mrs Kh Rakibur Rahman, Magistrate, Netrokona.

We are very happy & proud to have you amongst us on this very day.

— Nana, Aunty & All Uncles

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