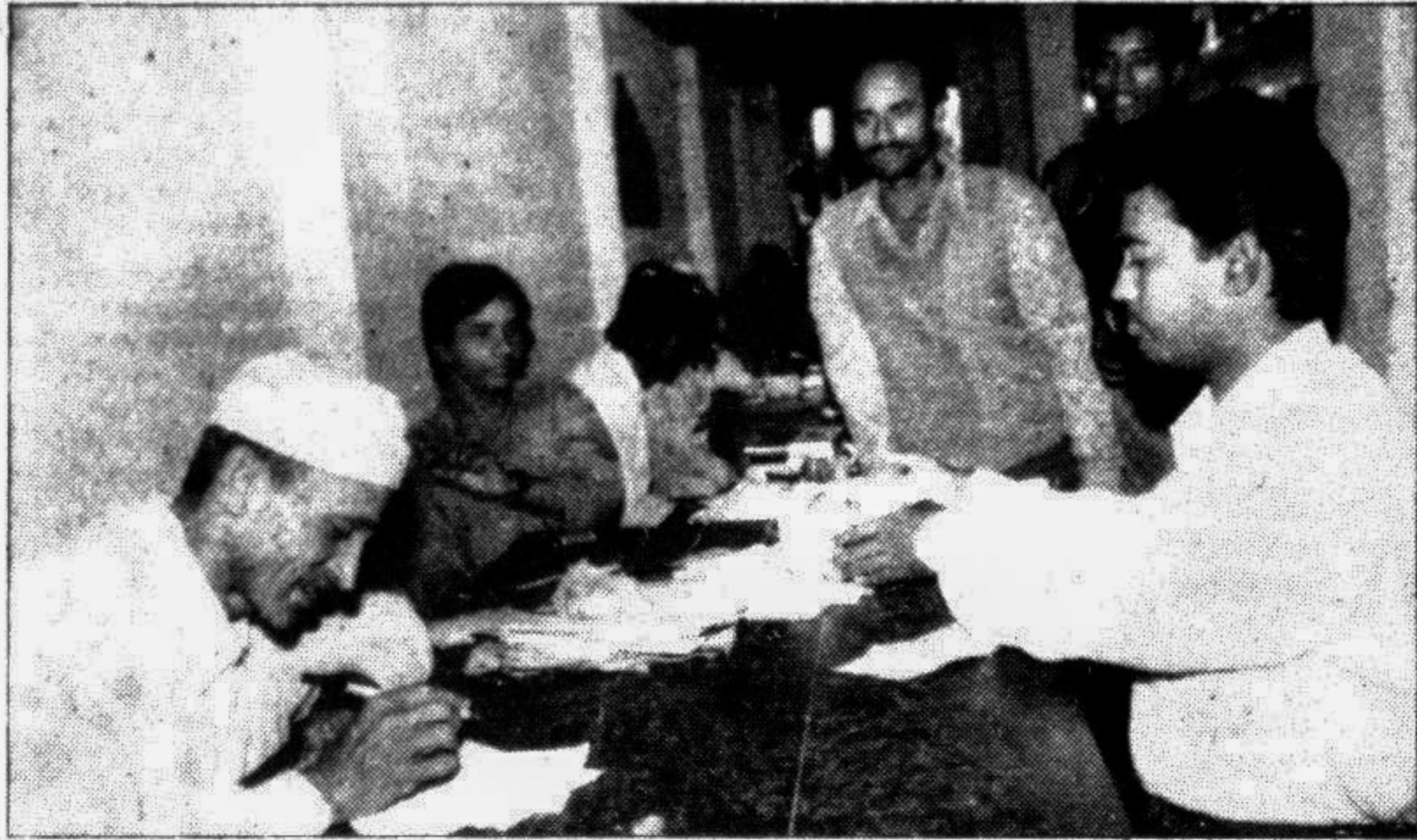


Dhaka Day by Day

Oddities are Life's Spice

by ASM Nurunnabi



Professional letter writers seen in front of the GPO.

— Photo by AKM Mohsin

Oddity perhaps makes life what it is. It perhaps adds variety to the mosaic of human existence. This quirkiness is embedded not only in the human character itself, but also in some professions which are followed in earning a living.

One such profession is that of letter writing of a personal nature. Its practitioners may be found around some post offices. For instance, a small tin-shed on the western side of the GPO houses several such writers. Such professional letter writing has its own history. Nobody knows for sure when the profession had its beginning. In the lode days when literacy was on a very low scale, particularly in the villages, the illiterate villagers used to through the village post offices, where a group of professional letter-writers used to sit on a wooden bench with a low desk before them. At those times the villagers used to come with letters or post-cards written by their relatives or friends from afar. As the villagers themselves could not read such missives, they used to seek the help of such professional letter writers in reading them out and when this was done, to write a few lines in reply. For such efforts, they used to get a small remuneration. In those days the professional writers used to earn a fairly good amount of money.

But as literacy spread, the institution of professional letter writing began to dwindle so much so that a skeleton group of such people is normally found operating near the precincts of some post offices.

With the decline of professional letter writing, such professional people took to other allied services, such as filling up money orders and visa forms, making up sealed parcels with pieces of cloth and strings. These alternative services reportedly bring in more income for them, even to the extent of Taka 100 per day excluding expenses.

Matin Mia (a pseudonym) is such a professional letter writer who occupies a slot under the tin shed on the western side of the GPO.

He offers the whole range of services including letter writing, filling up money order forms, making parcels, etc. The tragedy of his life lies in the fact that, though he has written hundreds of letters in the fifteen years of his career, of various forms, he hardly receives any letter of any kind except those from his family now and then complaining wants and asking for money.

Another queer character is Serajul Islam (also a pseudonym). His sources of livelihood are not very clear but the only thing that draws attention is his penchant for publicity. Every morning he scans the newspapers pasted on the walls near important road junctions of the city. He notes down the places where important places like meetings, seminars, conferences with unrestricted admission are held and there is a strong possibility of press photographers being present there and taking photos of such functions. Keeping this in mind, he makes it a point to take a front seat at such functions so that he can be clearly seen in the photographs taken on the occasion. To satisfy his craze for publicity, he keeps at the ready a set of good clothes, so that by virtue of his dress he can get easy access to the places of his choice at such functions. Later he finds satisfaction of his ego when he can see his picture in newspapers.

Another queer character is there who scans daily newspapers for a different reason. Every day there appear in newspapers announcements of quakhand, chehelum, death anniversaries of the notable deceased. Among such announcements, he selects the ones which appear to him to be making elaborate arrangements on such occasions. Normally well-to-do people are prone to spend lavishly on food and other benefits in financial terms. Posing as an invited guest, he mixes freely among the invited and takes full advantage of the care attention bestowed by the hosts.

These are oddities in human character, which make life spicy.



Visitors at a poster exhibition of Santu Saha at the Alliance Francaise in the city which began yesterday. — Star photo

Victory fair in Ctg begins today

CHITTAGONG, Dec 9: A week-long Muktijuddher Bijoy Mela (victory fair) begins at the outer stadium and its adjoining areas here tomorrow, reports BSS.

Addressing a press conference at the Mela Parishad office city mayor and chairman of the Mela Celebration Committee Alhaj A B M Mahiuddin Chowdhury and secretary general Prof Abdul Mannan said, the fair is being held every year to project the facts and information of the War of Liberation to the future generation.

One of the main objectives of the fair is to commemorate the heroic and painful events of the Liberation War by the persons who were directly involved with the war, they said.

They said, a committee and 20 other sub-committees have been formed to make the traditional fair a success.

Preparations had already been completed, they said.

Committee members Dr Abu Yusuf Alam, freedom fighters Kazi Enamul Haq Danu, Abul Hashem, Mohammad Ibrahim and Jafar elaborated various programmes of the week-long fair.

Exhibition of historical documents of Liberation War, reception to the members of the shaheed families, book fair, cultural function, staging of drama, sports competition and holding of victory procession are the main features of the fair.

Besides, ten persons, who worked with the Swadin Bangla Betar Kendra would be awarded with gold medal, they said.

Dr Meghna Guha Thakurta, a daughter of a shaheed family, will inaugurate the fair by lighting the victory flame from the Bijoy March.

Death anniversary of Sirajuddin, Nazmul Haq

By Staff Correspondent

On this day in 1971 as the valiant freedom fighters and the Bengali people were fighting all-out war to snatch victory from the occupation Pakistan army, two famous journalists Sirajuddin Hussain and Syed Nazmul Haq were picked up and killed brutally.

The Pakistan army and their local collaborators, the notorious Al-Badr, Razakar and Al-Shams started picking up university teachers, journalists, doctors, engineers and social leaders and started killing

Disaster management workshop ends

Motivation of people through implementing more programmes on disaster management is imperative for quick rehabilitation, Shipping Minister M K Anwar said here yesterday, reports UNB.

He was speaking as chief guest at the certificate-giving ceremony of 8th Workshop on Disaster Management at the conference room of Bangladesh Meteorological Department.

Eighteen officials from government, non-government and defence, took part in the three-week long workshop.

Week-long eye camp opens

Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khandkar Mosharraf Hossain yesterday said the government attached priority to the health sector to ensure health for all by the year 2000, reports UNB. Inaugurating a week-long eye camp in Sonargaon, he said many people of the country are suffering from easily preventable diseases only due to ignorance and stressed a campaign to be launched to educate the people about health problems.

Happy Birthday

to
Rahat Anjum
from
Parent, Md Shamim
and Farhat Sultana,
Mymensingh

Happy Birthday

to
Barsha
And many happy
returns of the day
From : Parents, Grand Parents,
Uncle, Aunts & Cousins.



হুমায়ুন আহমেদের আগুনের পরশমণি

অসাধারণ কাহিনীর অবিস্মরণীয় চিত্ররূপ

মহান বিজয় দিবস ১৬ই ডিসেম্বরে শুভমুক্তি



এক যোগে চলবে

ঢাকা • মধুমিতা (শীতাতপ) • জোনাকি (শীতাতপ) • নেপচুন • ঠার (শীতাতপ)

• পূর্ণিমা (শীতাতপ) • মল্লিকা • গ্যারিসন (ঢাকা ক্যান্ট) • শ্যামলী (শীতাতপ)

• সনি • সাপরিিকা (নেভী ক্যান্ট, ঢাকা)

চট্টগ্রাম • জলসা (শীতাতপ) • বুধমুর • ময়মনসিংহ • ছায়াবাণী

★ চিত্রিত হলে ভিডিও এডাবার জন্য এক সপ্তাহ আগে থেকেই টিকিটের বিশেষ ব্যবস্থা করা হয়েছে



Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Abdus Salam Talukder speaking at a discussion on the occasion of the third death anniversary of former prime minister Ataur Rahman Khan in the city yesterday. — Star photo

Poet Shamsur Rahman honoured

Jadavpur University of West Bengal, India, has nominated poet Shamsur Rahman for awarding honorary degree, the Doctor of Arts, reports BSS.

The university has decided to confer the degree on Rahman, one of the leading Bengali poets, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to literature, a letter from the Jadavpur University Vice Chancellor, SC Som to the poet, said.

The Doctorate degree would be formally awarded to Shamsur Rahman at a special convocation ceremony of the university to be held on December 31. Governor of West Bengal, who is the Chancellor of the university, will preside over the special convocation, the letter said.



6-00 Opening announcement
Programme summary
4-45 Shorghi
5-10 Sangbad
5-25 Kid songs
6-00 Programme for the youth:
Tarunnaya
6-30 Ongkar
7-00 Folk songs: Banashree
7-25 Comedy series: Mr Bin
8-00 News in Bangla
8-25 Janmabhumi
8-30 Maati O Manush
9-00 Abhinat
10-00 News in English
10-30 Drama series: Dymasty
11-30 Khabar/The News

Tributes paid to Ataur Rahman Khan

Tributes were paid to the late politician, lawyer and author Ataur Rahman Khan at a memorial meeting held at his residence in the city yesterday to mark his third death anniversary, reports BSS.

Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali spoke as chief guest while Deputy Speaker Humayun Khan Pannu, LGRD and Cooperative Minister Abdus Salam Talukder and Commerce and Information Minister M Shamsul Islam were special guests.

The late leader's younger brother and a former diplomat KM Shamsur Rahman, BNP central leaders AK Firoz Noon and Monsurur Rahman also spoke.

Senior politician leader Hashimuddin and lawyer Kazi Golam Mahboob were present.

The Ataur Rahman Khan Jatiya Smriti Sangsad organised the memorial meeting which was chaired by poet Ashraf Siddiqi. The meeting was followed by a milad mahfil and special prayers were offered for the eternal peace of the late prime minister.

Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali in his speech said that late Ataur Rahman Khan had always tried to give the nation a definite direction by keeping himself above self interest.

"He is one of those great souls whose deaths have left a void in our national life," he said and described late Ataur Rahman Khan as the greatest civil lawyer of a time in this land.

Referring to the honesty of

late Ataur Rahman Khan, Shaikh Razzak Ali said the books written by him were a testimony to his honesty as a politician and a lawyer.

Abdus Salam Talukder recalled his close association with the late leader and said Ataur Rahman Khan's political activities were aimed at the betterment of the nation.

"He was honest and sincere in his politics and legal profession and above all he was a true Muslim," he said, adding that the late Khan had always tried to uphold the 'Muslim-Bangali' tradition for which he could become a leader of the people.

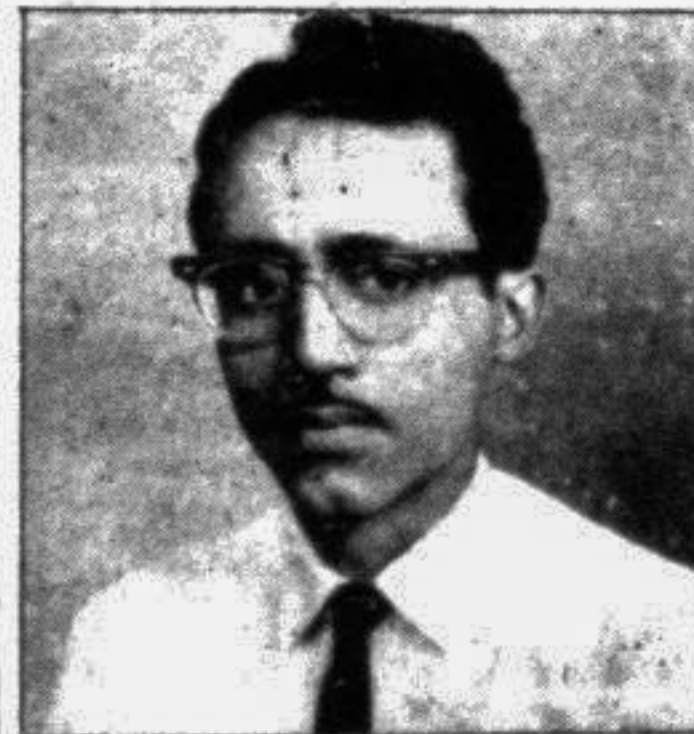
Salam Talukder said late Ataur Rahman Khan occupies a special position in our national life by dint of his integrity and honesty.

Commerce and Information Minister M Shamsul Islam said that late Ataur Rahman Khan had earned respect of all for his integrity in politics and profession as well as for vast knowledge in literature and history.

Shamsul Islam described the books written by Ataur Rahman Khan as valuable treasures for the country and said they would be immensely useful for the present and future generations.

K M Shamsur Rahman described his elder brother as a man who was committed to the welfare of the common man.

"I got all my teachings from my elder brother," he said.



Sirajuddin Hussain



Syed Nazmul Haq

them as part of a blueprint to cripple the emerging nation intellectually beginning this day in 1971.

Sirajuddin Hussain was the executive editor and news editor of the Dainik Ittefaq. He was also actively involved with the then East Pakistan Union of Journalists and became its uncontested president for two terms.

The Shaheed Sirajuddin Hussain Smriti Sangsad will observe his 23rd death anniversary today by holding a milad mahfil and Quran Khwani at the Shaheed's residence at Purbanchal at 3/11 Asad Avenue, Mohammadpur. Similar programmes has also been arranged at the village home of the Shaheed journalist in Magura district.

Nazmul Haq, another renowned journalist, was also picked up on this day by the notorious Al-Badr Bahini from his Purana Paltan residence and after merciless torture in the camp of Mohammadpur Physical Institute was brutally killed at the Rayerbazar brick-field in Dhaka.

Nazmul Haq was the Chief Reporter of the then Pakistan Press International and Resident Representative of Colombia Broadcasting Service (CBS) in Dhaka.

The Syed Nazmul Haq Smriti Sangsad has planned a programme to observe the death anniversary tomorrow. It includes Quran Khwani at 10 am, Kargilbhaj at 1 pm and milad mahfil at 4 pm tomorrow at 5, New Eskaton Road (first floor).

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