

Discussion marking death anniversary

'Sikandar Abu Jafar' was courageous editor'

Noted writers, poets and academicians yesterday said apart from contributions in the field of music, poetry and journalism late Sikandar Abu Jafar disseminated revolutionary messages to make the nation sovereign and to create cultural resurgence among the youth, reports BSS.

They were speaking at discussion on the writer at Poet Sufia Kamal auditorium of the National Museum marking the 24th death anniversary of Sikandar Abu Jafar.

Poet Shamsur Rahman, writer Abdul Mannan Syed, Poet Abdul Hossain, Poet Belal Chowdhury, Director General of Bangla Academy Prof Syed Anwar Hossain, Artist Aminul Islam, Dr Mahbuba Siddiqui, former civil servant and a family friend of the late poet Mujibul Hoque, and Poet's friend Mohammad Serajuddin, among others, took part in the discussion.

Poet Shamsur Rahman said apart from his great identity as a writer and composer of songs, Sikandar Abu Jafar was a courageous editor and had

shown his efficiency and profound love for the colleagues by keeping their names hidden even when the Pakistani intelligence officials mounted tremendous pressure.

Poet Abdul Hossain paying tribute to late Sikandar Abu Jafar said his works and skilled editorship for Samakal played pivotal role in national resurgence.

Abdul Mannan Syed said Jafar Bhai was popular synonym of the poet. The poet could easily read the minds of the young. He motivated them to be courageous and bold in their expressions, he added.

Prof Syed Anwar Hossain said though the poet had opted for journalism as career he contributed tremendously to the cultural resurgence of the Bengali nation and we could easily define him as a "cultural freedom fighter" who possessed deep commitment for freedom of the conscience.

Earlier, a group of artistes led by Sudhin Das rendered poet's song "Janatar Sangram Cholbei, Amader Sangram Cholbei..."

Tagore's death anniversary observed

The 58th death anniversary of Nobel laureate Poet Rabindranath Tagore was observed throughout the country yesterday with due honour, reports BSS.

Different socio-cultural organisations observed the day with elaborate programmes including discussions, cultural functions and recollection of the life and works of the wizard of versatile genius.

Bangladesh Shishu Academy held a discussion and a cultural function to mark the occasion. Presided over by Rokunuzzaman Khan Dada Bhai, the function was addressed, among others, by poet Shamsur Rahman, journalist and exponent of Tagore song Wahidul Huq and Golam Kibria.

Poet Shamsur Rahman dwelt on the intellect of Rabindranath Tagore and said the great poet had learnt from nature in one hand and enriched himself by learning different subjects on the other.

Tagore songs, recitation and dances marked the cultural programme.

Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy also observed the day, holding discussions and cultural function.

The death anniversary of Viswakabi was also observed at Gazipur with due honour.



Prof M R Khan's birthday celebrated

By Staff Correspondent

The 72nd birthday of National Professor M R Khan was celebrated yesterday.

The eminent child specialist was felicitated by a large number of friends, colleagues, admirers and patients.

To mark the occasion a *doa mafil* and discussion was held at the Shishu Sasthya Foundation of which he is the founder.

Barrister Mainul Hossain, Chairman of the Editorial boards of the Ittefaq and New Nation, Mahfuz Anam, Editor, The Daily Star, were the chief guest and special guest on the occasion.

Motivation of agro-tech needed for CHT regions

KHAGRACHHARI, Aug 6: The public representatives and social leaders of the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) have been requested to play a pioneering role in encouraging the peasants about agriculture technology, suitable for the hilly regions, and also its latest concepts, reports BSS.

The request was made by speakers at a function organised to apprise and inspire the local peasants about the sustainable technology on cultivation based on locally devised research in the (CHT).

Presided over by Chief Scientific Officer of Hill Tracts Research Centre Dr Sabjali Uddin the function was addressed, among others, by Chairman of Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board Bir Bahadur MP as the chief guest, Chairman of Khagrachhara Hill District Council, Jatindra Lal Tripura, Scientific Officer Munir Ahmed

and local public representative Shaktipad Tripura.

Speaking on the occasion, Bir Bahadur underscored the need for introducing latest agricultural system in the hilly regions where lives of the people are linked with hilly soil and agriculture.

Economic prosperity as well as overall progress, he said, could be attained through available modern agri-technology in the hill tracts.

He observed that the new administrative system in the CHT would bring about a positive change in the life style of the hilly people.

In his speech Jatindra Lal Tripura said under the changed scenario the expectation of the people in the Chittagong Hill Tracts has risen. The socio-economic condition of the farmers, he said, could be improved through modern method of cultivation.

Massive implementation of development projects'

HABIGANJ, Aug 6: Finance Minister Shah A M S Kibria today said the government of Sheikh Hasina is implementing massive development programmes in health, education, communications and other sectors, reports BSS.

Addressing a number of functions here, the minister urged the people to engage in income generating activities like pisciculture which will help change people's condition and develop the country.

He said the government is implementing development programmes on priority basis

5 unclaimed bodies of Ghatail road mishap buried

TANGAIL, Aug 6: Five unclaimed bodies of Monday's road accident at Dhopaziran, Ghatail were buried on Tuesday at Ghatail graveyard by police and local people after autopsy, reports BSS.

Of the rest, 16 bodies were handed over on Monday and two on Tuesday to the relatives, police sources said.

The tragic road accident occurred on Monday when a truck loaded with cement, potato, ginger and onion, which was also carrying 30 persons including nine women and three children, skidded off road and fell upside down in a road side ditch. Twenty three persons died on the spot. However, seven persons including one minor boy were saved.

considering the country's resource constraint. All other problems accumulated over the years would be solved gradually, he said.

Kibria today inaugurated the newly-built building of a girls' high school in Nabilganj thana, laid the foundation of the thana building. He also visited Kalidanga Union Parishad and inaugurated the 'dak bungalow' of Nabilganj Zila Parishad.

The minister also reviewed progress of development works in Nabilganj thana. Members of Parliament Enamul Huq Mostafa Shahid, Dewan Farid Gazi, Husneara Wahid were present.

The finance minister said the government had distributed goods through 35,500 VGF cards after last year's flood. 500 VGF cards will be distributed in every union in next three months, he said. He also mentioned of the ongoing allowance for the elderly people and low-interest rate house building loan for the poor.

Later, Kibria inaugurated a branch of Sonali Bank at Enatganj.

He said the role of banks are important in flourishing rural economy. He also called upon the entrepreneurs to infuse dynamism in the rural economy.

Enamul Huq Mostafa Shahid, MP, Secretary of Zila Awami League Dr Mushfiq Hossain Chowdhury, business leaders and Managing Director of Sonali Bank Mahbubur Rahmani Khan spoke on the occasion.

Another incident, a mircrobus driver was killed on Dhabka-Khulna highway at Kusundi in sadar thana today at a Faridpur-bound truck rammed into his vehicle.

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The villagers deserted their houses following the attack.



South Asian Network of Gender Trainers and Activist (SANGAT) organised a candlelight vigil to mark the Hiroshima Day in the city yesterday.

— Star photo

17,000 village community clinics to be set up in 5 years

CHITTAGONG, Aug 6: The government will set up 17,000 village community clinics in the country at a cost of Taka 130.5 billion during the next five years to ensure better and standard health services to the common people. Minister for Health and Family Welfare Salahuddin Yusuf disclosed here today, reports BSS.

"Of those, six thousand village community clinics will be set up in the current fiscal year," Yusuf said while inaugurating the Alhaj Mustafa Hakim Maternity Centre at north Kattali here this morning.

The health minister said the present government has identified the basic problems of the health sector and extensive programmes have been executed to create massive awareness

among the people about the primary health education during the last three years.

Chaired by local ward commissioner Alhaj Manzurul Alami Manzu, the inaugural function was also addressed, among others, by Chittagong City Mayor Alhaj A B M Mahiuddin Chowdhury, Country Representative of the UNFPA Shuyan Xu, special guest and eminent educationist Rezaul Karim Chowdhury, reputed gynecologist Prof Sayeda Nurjahan Bhuiyan, Director of Urban Primary Health Care Project Dr Nurul Islam, Project Coordinator Dr Mohammad Ashrafuddin and other city corporation officials.

He commended the role of Chittagong City Corporation for establishing health care delivery system for the city dwellers.

Later UNFPA representative over the keys of two ambulances to the mayor for the three storied Mustafa Hakim City Corporation Maternity Center built at a cost of Taka around one crore.



Udichi brought out a procession in the city yesterday demanding trial of attackers and those responsible for the Jessore blast in which several of its activists were killed.

— Star photo

Two arrested for trying to blackmail shop owner

By Staff Correspondent

Two people were arrested from the Baitul Mukarram market for trying to blackmail a shop owner on Thursday evening.

The two were identified as M.M. Morshed, son of Shamsul Huda of East Dhulaiapar in Demra and Farhad Hossain, son of Abdur Jabbar of Lahariya of Ullapara in Sirajganj.

Quoting the FIR, Motijheel police said that Morshed and Hossain appeared at Nazim crockery at about 5 pm and identified themselves as editor and commercial representative of the weekly Aparadhi Chitra. They showed Abdur Razzaq, owner of the shop, a picture where he is in the nude, and demanded Tk 5 lakh, saying that otherwise they would publish the picture in the weekly.

Asking them to wait in the shop, Razzaq immediately informed the market authority of the incident. Soon several businessmen rushed to his shop, caught the two red-handed and beat them up.

Later, they were handed over to Motijheel police.

They were produced before the court yesterday and the court sent them to the Dhaka Central Jail.

2 killed Clash over cutting of tree in Magura

MAGURA, Aug 6: A clash between rival villagers and a road accident left two people killed and one injured in sadar thana here today, reports UNB.

Hasan Ali, 30, son of Raushan Ali of Rajarampur village, was killed and his cousin injured in a clash between rival villagers, reports UNB.

Police said the clash ensued at about 7 am between the supporters of Maqbul Hossain and Raushan Ali over cutting of a tree in the village.

The body was sent to Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy. The injured, identified as Golam Nabi, was also sent to the same hospital.

In another incident, a mircrobus driver was killed on Dhabka-Khulna highway at Kusundi in sadar thana today at a Faridpur-bound truck rammed into his vehicle.

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Creating separate departments for audit and accounts

By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a discussion on Wednesday suggested creating separate departments for audit and accounts and said that the audit department should be made accountable to the parliament directly to make it independent and effective to fight corruption.

Addressing the launching ceremony of the "Annual Report 1998" of the Comptroller and Auditor-General at the Financial Management Academy, they said that governance was more important than development at present and governance could be ensured only through an effective parliament.

The speakers argued that development cannot be sustainable if good governance was not ensured.

The launching ceremony was addressed, among others, by chairman of the Public Accounts Committee SM Akram MP, Comptroller and Auditor General M Hafizuddin Khan, Finance Secretary Dr Akbar Ali Khan and resident representative of UNDP David Lockwood.

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News

Prof K Ali dead

Professor K Ali, an eminent historian of the country and author of nearly 50 books, died in the city yesterday evening. He was 78, reports BSS.

Prof Ali who had been suffering from cancer, was admitted to a city clinic few days ago.

Hailing from village Kagojpara under Dumuria upazila of Khulna district, Prof Ali served a number of colleges including Narayanganj Toram College and BL College at Daulatpur during his long teaching career. He left behind his wife, three sons and five daughters.

Workshop on environmental reporting opens

Sustainable Environment Management Programme (SEMPP) Coordinator Dr Mahiuddin Haque yesterday emphasised the need for raising awareness among the people about environmental degradation and ecological imbalance reports BSS.

He was addressing the inaugural session of the two-day workshop on environmental reporting organised by the Forum of Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh (FEJB) with support from the Ministry of Environment and Forest and UNDP at the National Press Club in the city.

Presided over by FEJB chairman Quamrul Islam Chowdhury, the inaugural session was