



Dr Humayun Azad's death anniversary today

DU CORRESPONDENT

Today is the second death anniversary of eminent writer Prof Dr Humayun Azad.

Different socio-cultural organisations and student bodies arranged various programmes to observe the day with due respect to the unconventional poet and writer, who was a teacher of Department of Bangla at Dhaka University (DU).

Several programmes have also been taken at his village at Rarikhali in Munshiganj district.

Prof Azad was found dead in an apartment in Munich on August 12, 2004 as he went there on a scholarship from Germany-based international body of writers, Pen International, on August 7 in the same year.

Earlier on February 27, 2004, unknown assailants brutally attacked Prof Humayun Azad in a bid to kill him in front of Atomic Energy Commission near Bangla Academy premises when he was returning from the Amar Ekushey Book Fair.

Prof Azad's family members claimed that his death was not an ordinary case. They reiterated that he was killed in a cunning way by the fundamentalist forces that oppose the spirit of the liberation war.

But the government is yet to take any action against the culprits who attacked him or who were involved in his mysterious death.

Dr Humayun Azad Foundation has organised a discussion at the RC Mojumdar Auditorium of DU.

Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique will preside over the discussion, while Dr Jafar Iqbal, Prof MM Akash, Prof Anu Mohammad, Prof Mohammad Samad and other important persons will speak.

Villagers and Azad's fans will hold a programme at Rarikhali High School where he studied, family sources said.

Prof Azad was born at Rarikhali in Munshiganj on April 28, 1947.

NAVIGABILITY PROBLEM  
Vehicle owners asked to use  
Mawa instead of  
Aricha ferry ghat

BSS, Dhaka

The ferry movement between Aricha, Paturia and Daulatdia is facing serious problems due to navigability problem in the Padma, forcing vehicles to be stranded on both sides of the river.

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) officials asked vehicle owners to use Mawa Ferryghat as an alternative to Paturia and Aricha ghat to avoid the situation, a BIWTC release said here yesterday.

The BIWTC has already sent another ferry to the Mawa Ferryghat to take extra load of vehicles after the Aricha problem. Ferry movement is on with a few vehicles at Aricha and Paturia ghat due to the problem, the release added.

BIWTC Chairman Advocate Shamsur Rahman Shimul Biswas, Chairman of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) Dr Riaz Hasan Khandakar and Chief Engineer of Water Development Board yesterday visited Paturia-Daulatdia and Aricha ferry ghat.

Dredging is going on full swing on Aricha-Daulatdia-Paturia routes, officials said.

Besides, the chairmen of BIWTA and BIWTC had a meeting yesterday with Food and Disaster Management Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf to overcome the situation.

Kamal Ibne Yusuf, also minister in charge of Faridpur district, asked the law-enforcement agencies to deploy additional police force to maintain law and order at the ferry ghat.

He also assured the passengers of bringing back navigability in the river after quick dredging.

## Obituary

BSS, Joypurhat

Nurul Islam Chowdhury, chairman of Amdoi union and vice president of Joypurhat Sadar upazila BNP, passed away due to a cardiac arrest on Thursday afternoon at the age of 64.

He is survived by his wife, eight daughters and two sons.

He was buried at his family graveyard at Bakila village under Amdoi union yesterday after namaz-e-janazas at Joypurhat Eidgah and Bakila village.

# No election under 'shadow BNP govt'

Say AL leaders

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League (AL) top brasses yesterday warned they will not allow the next general election to be held under a caretaker government that will virtually be a shadow BNP government.

They said Awami League stands for free and credible elections and the government must ensure it in consultation with the political parties.

The AL leaders came up with the strong observations while speaking at a discussion at the Diploma Engineers' Institution auditorium.

Awami Svechchhasebok League organised the discussion to demand immediate execution of the court verdict in the Bangabandhu murder case.

Taking part in the discussion, Awami League presidium member Tofail Ahmed said the next caretaker government would be a shadow BNP government with BNP men in the offices of the presi-

dent and the chief advisor.

"We will not accept any elections under this shadow BNP government," he said, adding: "We will not allow such elections in Bangladesh even at the cost of our lives."

Tofail said the opposition would ensure free and fair polls through movement.

Another presidium member Amir Hossain Amu said constitution could not be an impediment on the way of greater national interest.

Citing constitutional problem in 1990, he said then Chief Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed could return to the bench after performing as acting President through a constitutional amendment on the basis of consensus.

Responding to criticism that AL sits idle at home, Amu said in metaphorical term, if AL sits at home, that is the greatest movement. There cannot be a greater movement than this.

"Our movement is to restore

non-communal political forces...our movement will not rest until our reform proposals are realised," he said.

Chaired by Svechchhasebok League President Bahauddin Nasim, the discussion was also addressed by AL presidium member Abdur Razzak, Prof Nazma Rahman, Pankaj Debnath, Abdul Hannan, Nirmal Ranjan Guha and Matiur Rahman Moti.

On the question of implementing the court verdict in the Bangabandhu murder case, senior AL leaders called for installing a government to be headed by Sheikh Hasina for implementing the verdict.

They said the defeated forces of 1971 had taken "revenge" by killing father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. "We'll have to turn our grief into our strength to materialise the dream of Bangabandhu."



Guests show the copies of the book 'Banchito Abdar', a collection of poems, by expatriate poet Hasan Imam, at a launching ceremony at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. From left are poet Rafiq Azad, Samudra Gupta, poet Hasan Imam, Bulbul Mohalanabish and writer Selina Hossain.



UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at few places over Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong, Sylhet and Rajshahi divisions in the next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy falls are also likely at one or two places, Met Office said, predicting nearly unchanged day temperature over the country.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 37.0 degree Celsius was recorded at Bogra and the lowest of 25.0 degree at Iswardi.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:34pm today and rises at 5:33am 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	35.0	27.1	69	60
Chittagong	34.8	25.8	82	68
Rajshahi	35.8	25.8	84	75
Khulna	33.0	26.0	77	89
Barisal	33.7	27.4	78	73
Sylhet	36.5	28.8	81	51
Cox's Bazar	32.5	26.0	66	72

## Mother, daughter injured in acid attack

UNB, Habiganj

A pregnant woman and her daughter received severe burn injuries when criminals threw acid on them at a village in Bahubal upazila on Wednesday night.

The victims identified as Hajera Begum, 22, wife of poor farmer Abdul Mannan, and their daughter Shapla, 4, of village Sheoratali were rushed to the Sadar hospital in a critical condition.

Local people said the gang entered the house at dead of night cutting its fence and threw acid on the mother and daughter when they were asleep. Hearing their scream, neighbours rushed them to the hospital.

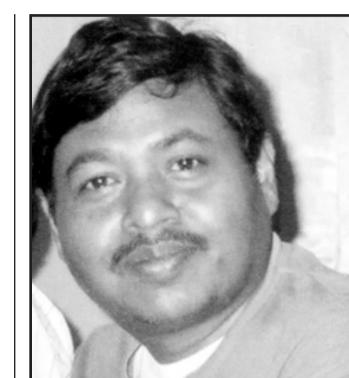
Local Brac officials visited the hospital to see the condition of the victims and assured them of all possible legal aid.

Police suspect that previous enmity might be the reason behind the acid attack.

The money is deducted from the official's salary, and if false or incomplete information is given, a penalty of up to 25,000 rupees can be imposed -- equal to the monthly salary of the most senior government official.

The law has proved too much for officials, say activists, with the government now considering an amendment that would prevent some applicants from seeing comments scribbled on files, so-called "file notings".

Officials and NGOs differ on the scope of the amendment but activi-



## BTTB officer missing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Inamul Haque Mohammad Al Mamun, chief assistant at the transmission region of BTTB, has been missing since Thursday morning.

Mamun, 52, went out of his house at 44/D Indira Road in Tejgaon, Dhaka, at around 7:30am for a morning walk but did not return home.

He was wearing a blue T-shirt, chocolate-coloured trousers, a khaki cap and black running shoes when he went out of the house.

He has been suffering from diabetes and other diseases.

Mamun's younger brother Jufikar Ali Manik filed a general diary with Tejgaon Police Station yesterday.

Anyone knowing his whereabouts has been requested to call his family on 9130655 or 0152364993.

## Body found in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the body of a man from an under-construction building at Kaful in the city yesterday.

The dead was identified as Mostafa Kamal, 44, a carpenter, who was working at the under-construction six-storey building at Kaful. He has been missing since Tuesday night.

Other workers of the construction smelled stink from a hole filled with rainwater and found the floating body of Mostafa when they were working yesterday morning.

On information, police went to the spot and recovered the body and sent it to Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsy.

Morgue sources said the body bears injuries in the head.

A case was filed at Kaful Police Station in this regard.

## Two get life for killing a youth

UNB, Mymensingh

A court here on Thursday convicted two young men and sentenced them to life term imprisonment for killing a youth in 1994.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Aminul Islam handed down the sentence on Masud and Ansarul Haque.

The convicts were also fined Tk 5000. They will have to suffer three months' more RI if they fail to pay.

However, four other accused were acquitted, as allegations brought against them could not be proved.

According to the prosecution, the convicts stabbed Shamsuzzaman Manik, 21, son of Abul Kalam Azad of Baluzuri village in Bhaluka, to death on July 12, 1994.

Security, cabinet papers and information protected by the courts.

For a fee of 10 rupees, officials have to deliver reports on the progress of applications for a passport, driving licence, voter's ID card, water and electricity connections.

If a reply to an RTI application is not given within 30 days, an appeal can be filed. After another month with no information, the concerned official can be fined 250 rupees per day, up to a maximum of 25,000 rupees.

The money is deducted from the official's salary, and if false or incomplete information is given, a penalty of up to 25,000 rupees can be imposed -- equal to the monthly salary of the most senior government official.

The law has proved too much for officials, say activists, with the government now considering an amendment that would prevent some applicants from seeing comments scribbled on files, so-called "file notings".

For his right-to-information grassroot campaign, Kejriwal was among this year's winners of the Manila-based Ramon Magsaysay Award.

### RAGS TO RICHES

According to global corruption watchdog Transparency International, India ranked 88 out of 158 countries in the group's "corruption perception index" in 2005.

A Transparency survey the year before placed India alongside Indonesia and Mexico in terms of corruption, with up to 20 percent of families saying they had paid a bribe at least once in the previous 12 months.

Since 2003, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), India's top crime-fighting agency, has launched special drives to weed out corruption: until June this year, the agency had registered nearly 3,000 cases.

"The number of cases is not important," says Kejriwal. "What is important is how many of these people get convicted. The conviction rate in India is less than five percent. This is more dangerous."

Armed with the new law, about 700 pressure groups and charities came together in early July to launch a nationwide campaign to make people aware of their rights.

About 1,500 volunteers set up information centre camps at key government offices in 47 cities, resulting in more than 14,000 RTI applications being filed.

"Now it has come to a stage that officers beg us not to file an RTI, promising they will do the work immediately," says Santosh Kumar, a 22-year-old campaigner for Parivartan.



A nurse attends to ailing poet Shamsur Rahman at Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) hospital in the city yesterday. His condition improved a little bit yesterday.

## Brown lauds Bangladesh's economic performance

BSS, New York

Mark Malloch Brown, deputy secretary-general of the United Nations, has praised Bangladesh's economic performance in recent times and observed that the country "had reasons to be proud of such achievements".

He made the remarks at a meeting with the visiting Bangladesh Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman on Wednesday evening, a press release said yesterday.

Saifur Rahman briefed the UN Deputy Secretary-General on the measures being adopted to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and poverty alleviation in Bangladesh.

He cited statistics that demonstrated the successes "despite many and varied constraints."

Malloch Brown also lauded Bangladesh's constructive role in