

Shahadat Chy pioneer of modern journalism

Speakers tell first death anniversary discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a commemorative meeting yesterday paid tribute to eminent journalist and freedom fighter Shahadat Chowdhury, saying that he was a source of inspiration for all -- he inspired many people through his writings and intellectual leadership.

They said Shahadat Chowdhury was pioneer of modern journalism. The speakers urged all to work together to materialise his dreams of making Bangladesh a secular, democratic and prosperous country for which he fought in the Liberation War and dedicated his life to journalism.

Shaptahik 2000, a weekly magazine he edited, organised the memorial meeting at the Liberation War Museum in the city to mark his first death anniversary.

Presiding over the meeting, Prof Serajul Islam Chowdhury said Shahadat was a man of versatility

and he made his impression in various fields such as fine arts, literature, culture, politics and economy and all his works were constructive.

"We have owed our enlightenment to him," he added.

"Our collective dream of achieving our emancipation for which Shahadat fought in the Liberation War has been shattered as the personal ambition has driven out the collective dream," Prof Serajul Islam said.

Sultana Kamal, adviser to the caretaker government, said, "Shahadat fought in the Liberation War to materialise our dream of living with dignity."

He will be remembered forever as he became synonymous with the Liberation War, she added.

Writer and journalist Shahriar Kabir said that editing the weekly Bichitra is the greatest success of Shahadat as Bichitra was a milestone in the history of Bangla magazine.

Shahadat through the Bichitra upheld the spirit of Liberation War, he said.

"The Liberation war is the greatest achievement for Bangladesh in 4,500 years and we must keep the achievement alive," he said. "And Shahadat will be the source of our inspiration in this regard."

The nation needs persons like Shahadat at this critical period of the country, said eminent artist Rafiqunnabi, adding that he could have given the right direction if he were alive today.

Mahfuz Anam, editor of The Daily Star, Shasha Mansur Chowdhury, elder daughter of Shahadat Chowdhury, Asaduzzaman Noor, Maj. Gen. (ret.) Amin Ahmed Chowdhury, Golam Mortuza, acting editor of Shaptahik 2000, Faridur Reza Sagar, managing director of Channel i, Nasiruddin Yusuf and Jewel Aich also spoke.



PHOTO: STAR
Sultana Kamal, adviser to the caretaker government, addresses a memorial meeting at the Liberation War Museum in the city yesterday to mark the first death anniversary of Shahadat Chowdhury.

Political stability a must to achieve food security

Experts say at workshop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Experts at a workshop yesterday stressed on political stability and commitment in achieving food security in the country.

The workshop titled 'Informed policy making for food security', jointly organised by Ministry of Food and Disaster Management and Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), was held at Cirdap auditorium in the city.

The workshop aimed at seeking suggestion from experts on its ongoing study titled 'National Food Policy for Capacity Strengthening Programme (NFPSCP)' that is expected to be completed by next year.

Speaking at the programme, Chief of Agricultural Sector in Economic Development Service of FAO Dr Kostas Stamoulis said that Bangladesh has all the potentials to achieve its target of lowering the level of hunger by 2015.

He also emphasised national political commitment in ensuring food security for all its citizens.

Stressing on homegrown national policy in achieving food security for all, Chief Technical Adviser of NFPSCP Ciro Fiorillo said, "Who know Bangladesh better than Bangladeshi scientists?"

Speaking as the chief guest, Secretary to the Ministry of Food

and Disaster Management Ehsan ul Fattah said that with a view to ensuring food security in the country, the government is now revising production, import and export policies in a planned and integrated manner.

Director General of Ministry of Food and Disaster Management Dr Selina Ahsan chaired the inaugural session while Consultant of FAO Mohan Rao, Nur A Khondker and Ruhul Amin also spoke.



PHOTO: PID
Craig Genness, special envoy to UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, calls on President/Chief Adviser Iajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban in the city yesterday.



No change in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 29.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar.

The sun sets in the capital at 5.10pm today and rises at 6:24am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	26.1	15.0	60	51
Chittagong	28.7	16.2	66	59
Rajshahi	26.0	11.0	74	70
Khulna	26.7	14.4	69	66
Barisal	27.5	13.5	79	88
Sylhet	26.5	13.4	74	59
Cox's Bazar	29.2	17.0	57	46

TIB DEBATE BEGINS Students urged to help curb corruption

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A two-day debating competition marking International Anti-Corruption Day began in the city yesterday.

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) organised the competition in association with Dhaka University Debating Society, North South University, The Daily Star and Prothom Alo with a view to encouraging the young generation to raise their voice against corruption.

M Hafizuddin Khan, former adviser to the caretaker government, formally inaugurated the competition at the auditorium of East West University. Hafiz GA Siddique, vice-chancellor of North South University, poet Asad Chowdhury, Prof Syed Manzoorul Islam and TIB Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman also spoke at the inaugural ceremony.

Speaking on the occasion, Hafizuddin Khan called on the young generation to come forward to help curb corruption.

Corruption must be eliminated to make Bangladesh a successful country, he added.

Iftekharuzzaman said TIB organises various programmes involving the young generation with a view to raising awareness among them and developing leadership qualities.

"Though we are vocal against large-scale corruption, we often forget the small-scale corruption we commit in our daily life," said Hafiz GA Siddique.

Citing an example, he said, "We the teachers often do not fully prepare before delivering lectures in class and involve ourselves in outside consultations, ignoring our main duty."

A total of 181 students from different universities and colleges are taking part in the competition.

The prize distribution ceremony will be held at Brac Centre Inn at 3:30pm today.

'Recognise HIV as developmental problem'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As HIV/AIDS is not only a health issue but also interrelated with other social and political issues, it is imperative to include the HIV issue in the country's health and development policy, said speakers at a press conference yesterday.

HIV cannot be prevented only through treatment, as it is a developmental problem, they said, adding that poverty, unemployment, discrimination against women, prejudices and familial and social instability are interrelated with HIV.

They urged the government to recognise the HIV as a developmental problem.

Ashar Alo Society, Confidential Approach to AIDS Prevention (CAP), and Mukto Akash organised the press conference at the National Press Club in the city with the slogan "Stop AIDS: Keep the Promise."

Speakers said sex workers, injecting drug users and migrant workers are the most vulnerable to HIV, but they do not have access to the service centres.

They demanded providing Anti-retro Viral Drug (ARV) to the HIV infected people with free of cost, including all the drugs of ARV group to the essential drug lists in the National Drug Import Policy and formulating an integrated programme to combat HIV.

They also demanded providing free diagnosis of HIV to people in every upazila health complex and the branches of Infectious Disease Hospital (IDH).

Executive Director of CAP Dr Halida H Khandakar, Habiba Akhter of Ashar Alo Society and MS Mukti of Mukto Akash Bangladesh were present on the occasion.

CPB demands cancellation of polls schedule

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) will stage demonstrations across the country today demanding cancellation of declared election schedule and reform in the election system.

Blasting the president/chief adviser, CPB President Manjulur Ahsan Khan and General Secretary Muzahidul Islam Selim in a joint statement said people would not accept 'so-called election' to materialise the blueprint of BNP-Jamaat.

They also urged the caretaker government to take effective measures for creating atmosphere for a free and fair election.

INDEPENDENT PALESTINE

Bangladesh for greater int'l initiatives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expressing solidarity with the Palestinians, yesterday Bangladesh called for greater international initiatives to establish an independent Palestine before the next International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.

Foreign Secretary Hemayetuddin expressed the view following Palestinian Ambassador to Dhaka Shaher Mohammad's urge for seeking Bangladesh and international community's continuous support for the freedom of Palestine.

They were speaking at a symposium marking the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People organised by United Nations Association of Bangladesh (UNAB) at Scout Bhaban auditorium in the city.

This day commemorates UN General Assembly's first proposal for a two-state solution in 1947.

"The most significant and relevant aspect of international community's expression of solidarity with the Palestinians is the fulfilment of their fundamental right to their own homeland, free of foreign occupation," the foreign secretary, chief guest of the programme, said.

Too many sacrifices have been

made and too many innocent lives have been lost in the struggle of the Palestinians for self-determination and statehood. This must come to an end, he added.

"It is high time the international community took serious steps in alleviating the plight of the Palestinians and brought the peace process back on track," Hemayetuddin said and added one and a half million Palestinians, packed into a narrow strip of land, are being besieged, starved and bombed frequently.

The root cause of discontent and frustration fueling terrorism in the region and beyond must be addressed to win the so-called 'war on terror', Hemayetuddin, also a former Ambassador, said.

"We also call for an end to the hardships being faced by the Palestinians as a result of the increasing financial restrictions and political isolation imposed on the Palestinian authorities."

Referring to Israel's latest peace proposal, he said Israel must prove its sincerity and unconditionally pull out its forces from Palestine and the occupied Arab territories and help create the conditions for the negotiations begin.

Thanking Bangladesh for its support to the Palestinians, the Palestinian Ambassador said many peace initiatives were taken by the

international community and the UN, but none of them worked out. Israel continued its aggression ignoring all the conventions and agreements, he noted.

"Our government, which was formed legitimately for establishing its citizens' rights to an independent land, would in no way compromise with any unjust move," he said.

"For this we need greater international initiatives and pressures on Israel in support of Palestine", he added.

A message of UN Secretary-General read out by UNDP Bangladesh Representative Kazi Ali Reza said the deteriorating humanitarian situation in the West Bank and Gaza demands immediate attention.

Urging both the Israelis and the Palestinians, Kofi Annan said no one can make peace for them, impose peace on them or want peace more than they do, but the international community that played an important part in this conflict cannot escape its own responsibility to a solution.

Prof Akmal Hussain and UNAB President Prof Salahuddin also spoke at the programme.

'Strengthen community safety nets to prevent AIDS'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday suggested strengthening community safety nets and launching a sustainable national programme on the prevention of AIDS backed by government funds.

Although HIV prevalence in Bangladesh is still low -- less than one percent -- the infection is spreading among high risk transmission groups, they said.

"Though we have successfully run a number of intervention programmes to prevent the spread of the deadly disease, the situation is escalating among high risk groups -- youth and adolescents aged between 10 and 24, who account for 38 million people in the country," said Dr Tasnim Azim, head of the HIV/AIDS programme.

The Prothom Alo organised the roundtable entitled 'You have to know if you want to survive' in association with National AIDS/STD Programme, directorate of health, health and family welfare ministry and Save the Children USA at a city hotel.

Identifying homeless people, sex workers and injecting drug users as high-risk groups, Dr Tasnim called for addressing the issue of women drug users who faced greater stigmatisation and marginalisation than their male counterparts.

Most of the speakers, including Anuradha Hariyana, deputy country director, Save the Children USA, pointed out a strong link between poverty and HIV and stressed the need to impart life skills knowledge.

Asaduzzaman Noor, a cultural personality and former lawmaker, stressed the need for more open-



PHOTO: STAR
Former Awami League lawmaker Asaduzzaman Noor speaks at a roundtable at a city hotel yesterday. On his right are Dr Nizam Uddin Ahmed, Anuradha Hariyana, Maj. Gen (Retd.) ASM Motiur Rahman and Dr Sayeda Badrun Nahar.

ness in discussing HIV/AIDS. He also called on the people's representatives to make specific and comprehensive contribution in the fight against the infection.

Maj. Gen (Retd.) ASM Motiur Rahman, chairperson of National AIDS/STD programme (NASP) also emphasised the need for openness as did Dr Atiur Rahman.

Dr Rahman also emphasised the need to strengthen the family values, which he claimed have been declining in recent days.

He called for intervention programmes targeting the high-risk groups such as migrant workers, truckers and vendors who frequently cross borders.

Dr Iqbal Kabir of the Prothom Alo insisted on formulating a national communication strategy to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS. He also suggested arranging quiz, debate and essay competitions in this regard.

Dr Nur Muhammad, director,

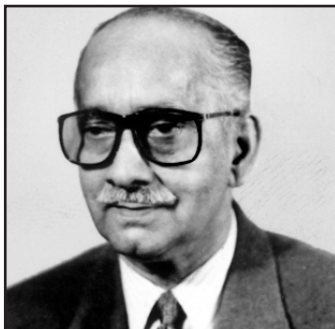
Youth Education, UNFPA, said sex education should be included in the textbooks properly so that the students could have a clear conception of HIV/AIDS.

Dr Nizam Uddin Ahmed of Save the Children USA said most people have a vague idea about the disease.

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, chairman of Masjid committee, said they are conducting awareness programmes through three million mosques across the country.

"Khutba guides to create awareness among people have already been sent to the mosques and we recently held a convention of 'Council for interfaith harmony' where representatives from all religions vowed to carry on the campaign," he added.

Mohammad Ali of Ashar Alo called for providing medicines and proper care for HIV positives to ensure their nutritional needs are met.



Death anniversary of Mostafizur Rahman today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the tenth death anniversary of former foreign minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman.

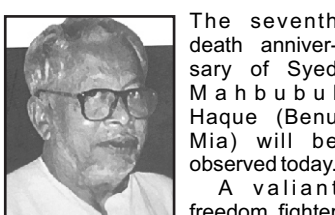
On the occasion, family members will offer munajat and fateha at his mazar. Doa mahfil and Qurankhwani will also be held today to mark the day.

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) will organise a discussion at Maulana Bhasani auditorium at Nayapalton at 3:00pm tomorrow.

Mostafizur Rahman, also former secretary general of BNP, was the home minister in late president Ziaur Rahman's cabinet and commerce minister in Justice Abdus Sattar's cabinet and foreign minister in Khaleda Zia's cabinet during 1991-96.

Syed Mahbubul Haque

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



The seventh death anniversary of Syed Mahbubul Haque (Benu Mia) will be observed today.

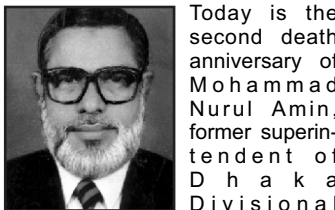
A valiant freedom fighter and leading businessman in Magura, Mahbubul Haque died of colon cancer on November 30, 1999 at the age of 72.

A doa followed by feeding of the

destitute will be offered after Asr prayers at his home in Magura.

Relatives and admirers have been requested to attend the doa and pray for eternal peace of the departed soul.

Mohammad Nurul Amin



Today is the second death anniversary of Mohammad Nurul Amin, former superintendent of Dhaka Divisional

Railway, says a press release.

To observe the day, a milad mahfil will be held at the Tejgaon railway station mosque after Asr prayers today.

Obituary

Haji Mohammad Yonus, president of Anam Rangs Plaza Owners' Association, passed away in the city yesterday at the age of 72, says a press release.

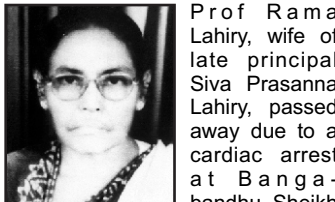
Association members, shop owners and employees of the market expressed deep shock at his death and prayed for the salvation of the departed soul.

Dr Abdul Based

Dr Abdul Based, a member of the executive committee of Brothers Union, passed away due to liver cancer at Shamorita Clinic in the city yesterday at the age of 51, says a press release.

Brothers Union executive committee, players and employees conveyed sympathy to members of the bereaved family and prayed for salvation of the departed soul.

Prof Rama Lahiry

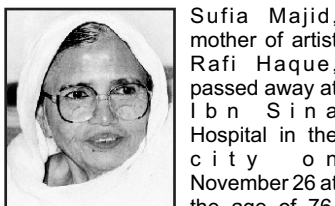


Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) on November 26 at the age of 72, says a press release.

She left behind her one son and one daughter to mourn her death.

On the occasion, a prayer and religious ceremony for eternal peace of the departed soul will be held at Dhakeswari temple on December 6.

Sufia Majid



Says a press release.

She left behind her two sons and two daughters to mourn her death.

Sufia was buried on Kutubuddin Chisty Mazar premises at Kumarkhali in Kushtia.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at 97/5, West Dhanmondi (Ground Floor), Shankar Chairman Lane, Shankar in the city after Asr prayers today.

All have been requested to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Killing of JSD activist condemned

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) President Hasanul Huq Inu and its General Secretary Syed Jafar Sazzad in a joint statement yesterday condemned the killing of Abul Kalam Azad, environment secretary of Chuadanga district committee of JSD.

They also demanded immediate arrest and exemplary punishment to Azad's killers.

Robbers slaughtered Azad on the spot when he protested their attempt to rob an Alamdanga-bound bus from Dhaka near Bondbil in Alamdanga.

The leaders alleged that police played the role of mere spectators while the incident took place although they were just 50 yards away.



Blue for peace

Family members of slain former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria and civil society members will stage a demonstration as part of their 'Blue for Peace' programme. Venue: In front of National Museum. Time: 4:00pm.

Dialogue

Bijoy Khela Ghar Ashor and Save the Children UK will jointly organise a dialogue on 'Child protection: Pre, post and during election period'. Venue: Spectra Convention Centre. Time: 2:15pm.

Seminar

Malaysian Palm Oil Council and Ibrahim Cardiac Hospital and Research Institute will jointly organise a seminar on 'Cardiac friendly edible oil'. Venue: Birdem auditorium. Time: 12:00noon.

Award giving ceremony

Award giving ceremony of the 11th Berger Young Painters' Art Competition 2006 will be held. Venue: Bangladesh China Friendship Conference Centre. Time: 6:30pm.

Launching ceremony

Launching ceremony of Supercete

Cement will be held. Venue: Radisson Water Garden Hotel. Time: 6:00pm.

Workshop

Astec Bangladesh, BNWLA, Uddipan and Incidin Bangladesh will organise a workshop on 'From national to regional perspective on human trafficking: Sharing reflection on Saarc Convention and Astec TIP Report 2006'. Venue: Brac Centre Inn. Time: 9:30am.

Book launch

The launching ceremony of a book titled 'Mosque architecture in Bangladesh' will be held. Venue: Goethe Institute auditorium. Time: 5:00pm.

Debate contest

The final round of a debate contest organised by Transparency International Bangladesh will be held. Venue: Brac Centre Inn. Time: 9:45am.

Film show

Dhaka University Film Society will screen a Russian film titled 'The Brothers', directed by A Balabanov. Venue: Russian Cultural Centre. Time: 3:00pm.