

## Death anniversary of Tawfiq Aziz Khan today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The sixth death anniversary of Tawfiq Aziz Khan, eminent journalist, sports writer and commentator, and former executive editor of The Daily Star, will be observed today.

One of the leading journalists of the country, Tawfiq Aziz Khan joined the then Pakistan Observer as a staff reporter in 1958 while he was a student of Dhaka University.

He worked as public relations officer at the erstwhile EPIDC (East Pakistan Industries Development Corporation) and Titas Gas Corporation from 1968 to 1975, before joining Dinakir Bangla and Bichitra as general manager.

He joined The Daily Star in 1990 as its founding managing editor. He became executive editor in 1997 and worked in that capacity till his death.

The first English sports commentator of the country, Tawfiq Aziz worked in radio, and later in television, since 1958. He was also the resident editor of Cricketer Asia of Hong Kong and Sports Times of Lahore.

Tawfiq Aziz was the founder editor of the fortnightly Sports World (Kriya Jagat). He was also involved with the weekly Holiday at the initial stage of its publication.

Six times he was elected president of Bangladesh Sports Writers' Association and a permanent member of Jatiya Press Club.

He was also a national committee member of Ferna (Fair Election Monitoring Alliance).

He was a founder member and president of the country's first group theatre 'Drama Circle' and served the Rotary Club of Dhaka North-West as its president for two consecutive years from 1999.

He died of lung cancer at the age of 64 on February 11, 2001.

## Narayani Bhattacharjee



The second death anniversary of Narayani Bhattacharjee, former headmistress of Mal Gram Government Primary School in Bogra, will be observed today, says a press release.

## Road crashes kill one, injure 25

STAR REPORT

One person was killed and 25 were injured in separate road accidents in Comilla and Narail yesterday and on Friday night.

A Correspondent from Comilla adds: An unidentified passer-by was crushed under the wheels of a bus at Barpara area in Daudkandi upazila on Dhaka-Chittagong highway Friday night.

Police and local people said, a passenger bus ran over a man aged about 30 when he was crossing the road at about 8.30pm, leaving him dead on the spot.

Police sent the body to Comilla Medical College Hospital for autopsy. UNB from Narail adds: A Jessore-bound bus from Kalna met with an accident in the outskirts of the town yesterday evening, leaving 25 passengers injured.

Survivors said the bus skidded off the road and plunged into a ditch at Dhopakholra at 7:15pm.

The Fire Brigade and locals rescued the passengers. The injured were admitted to Narail Sadar Hospital.

## Obituary

BSS, Dhaka

ABM Mahbubur Rahman, a former air commodore of Bangladesh Air Force, passed away due to a heart attack at a hospital in Maryland, USA on Friday at the age of 82.

Mahbubur Rahman joined Pakistan Air Force as a signal engineer after having graduation in electronics from the Bengal Engineering University of India.

Rahman, a close friend of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, was appointed the first chief of technical staff of Bangladesh Air Force, with the status of an air commodore in 1973 on his return from Pakistan.

He withstood inhuman torture in Pakistani jail during the liberation war. He was treated by Pakistani military ruler at the very beginning of Liberation War for his intimate relations with Sheikh Mujib. At one stage, he was brought to Dhaka Cantonment and then sent to Karachi to face court martial at a time Bangladesh attained independence.

# 'Establish separate court for quick disposal of acid attack cases'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a meeting yesterday called for formulation of rules and guidelines on sending women workers abroad.

They also demanded establishment of a separate court for quick disposal of 'acid attack' cases.

Bangladesh Society for the Enforcement of Human Rights (BSEHR) organised the third stakeholders' meeting in association with Manusher Jonno Foundation at the LGED Auditorium in the city.

Presenting the keynote paper, BSEHR Executive Director Alena

Khan said the government agencies should formulate rules and regulations to ensure security of women workers and to properly enforce laws against acid attacks.

She said the government should either directly supervise the sending of women workers abroad or keep private recruiting agencies under tight monitoring.

Stressing the need for forming an 'Acid case monitoring cell', she also called for setting up 'one-stop crisis centres' at all government hospitals for the victims of acid attacks.

She also called on journalists to have greater understanding of the law

and highlight violations of human rights through investigative reporting.

Speaking as the chief guest, Justice Fazlul Karim said those who are responsible for ensuring human rights, such as the police and the court, should avoid tendencies towards shortcuts to dealing with human rights issues as such practices create confusion.

Self-reform is the most effective way to protect human rights in Bangladesh, he said, adding that "No-one can reform individuals or institutions by chastising them; it has to come from within."

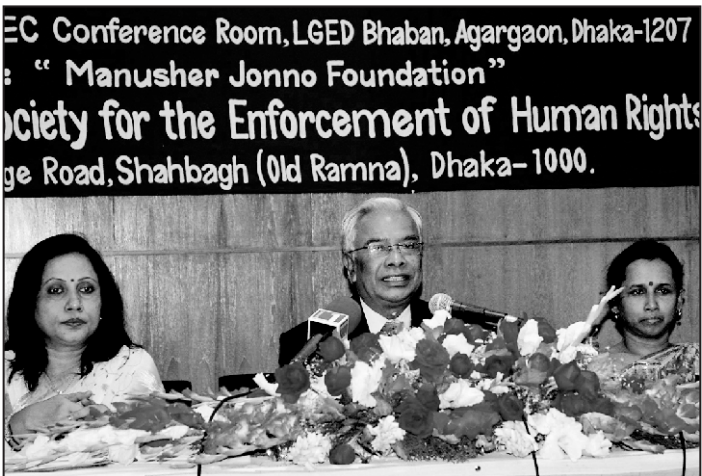
For the police, sincerity and honesty should be the main motivation for working, he added.

Rina Roy, director (rights) of Manusher Jonno, said that the police, medical institutions and court should provide services that match the people's expectations regarding the enforcement of human rights.

Rokonuzzaman, deputy commissioner of police of Lalbagh zone, lamented the lack of facilities for the police, saying that it adversely affects the police force and the implementation of human rights.

He also suggested conducting investigation against those who bail out criminals.

Secretary General of BSEHR Sigma Huda presided over the meeting while representatives of Nijera Kori, Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs, Samata and Naripakkha shared experiences at the meeting.



Justice Mohammad Fazlul Karim speaks at a stakeholders' meeting organised by Bangladesh Society for the Enforcement of Human Rights at LGED Bhaban in the city yesterday. On his right is Alena Khan and on his left is Rina Roy.

## SCUFFLE WITH TIGER

# Family members see Mujibar as hero

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A large number of people yesterday thronged Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) to see Mujibar Rahman Sheikh, who was injured in a scuffle with a Royal Bengal Tiger at Dhaka Zoo on Friday.

The tiger attacked Mujibar, who entered the cage to provide food, before getting out of the cage and roaming the zoo premises for about half an hour.

Family members of Mujibar now see him as a hero. "He has fought with the tiger. We are grateful that Allah saved his life," Mujibar's wife Rina Begum told The Daily Star.

"I came to see him as I could not believe that any human being can

save his life fighting against a tiger," said Anwar Hossain, a resident of Jatrabari.

Mujibar, 40, an employee of an animal food supply contractor at the zoo, who narrowly survived the attack, is now out of danger, hospital sources said.

"We have sent Mujib's blood sample to Mohakhali Infectious Disease Hospital to diagnose whether he got any infection from the injury," a doctor said.

The zoo authorities said the tiger came out of the cage because Mujibar and three other staffs of the zoo did not take proper security measures before providing food to the tiger.

According to the victim, they opened the gate of the first cage

because they did not notice the tiger into it.

Sanjoy, the 24-year-old tiger who was born at Dhaka Zoo, managed to come out of its cage at about 1:30 pm on Friday when its food supplier opened the cage to provide meat.

However, a rescue team made the big cat unconscious using tranquilliser gun and then carried it back to the cage. It took 14 people and a net to carry the animal.

Following the incident, the zoo authorities suspended two staffs of the zoo - Mohamed Ratan and Abdul Khalek - and issued show cause notice on Ratan Kumar Mandal, a zoo officer.



Dhaka city Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka unveils a plaque yesterday to mark the renaming of Dhanmondi Road No. 7 after language movement veteran Abdul Matin, 2nd from right.



## No change in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country having chances of rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind at one or two places likely over the country in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Light fog may also occur over the river basins of the country during early morning, Met Office said in a forecast.

It said night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

Highest temperature 31.6 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chittagong and lowest 12.8 degree Celsius at Dinajpur.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:51pm today and rises at 6:34am tomorrow.

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       | 28.3                   | 17.6 | 69                     | 48      |
| Chittagong  | 31.6                   | 18.2 | 86                     | 72      |
| Rajshahi    | 27.0                   | 15.5 | 85                     | 51      |
| Khulna      | 28.2                   | 17.5 | 85                     | 74      |
| Barisal     | 28.6                   | 16.4 | 80                     | 77      |
| Sylhet      | 30.3                   | 16.6 | 64                     | 46      |
| Cox's Bazar | 30.8                   | 19.2 | 71                     | 61      |

## Makhan's death anniversary observed

BSS, Dhaka

The 13th death anniversary of valiant freedom fighter Abdul Kuddus Makhan was observed yesterday in Dhaka and at his village home in Murail under Brahmanbaria district.

Makhan died on February 10, 1994 when he was undergoing treatment in Florida, USA, according to a press release.

One of the leaders of "Swadin Bangla Kendrio Chhatra Sangram Parishad", Makhan was born on July 1, 1947 at Murail in Brahmanbaria. He was also a central figure who organised the war of independence in 1971.

On his remembrance, a doa mahfil and quarakhwani was arranged at Shaheed Muktijoddha and intellectual graveyard at Mirpur in the city in the morning.

Separate milad mahfils were also organised in the afternoon in his Gulshan residence and at the village home in Brahmanbaria.



Baroness Pola Uddin of Bethnal Green and Lord Nazir Ahmed of Rotherham, call on Awami League President Sheikh Hasina, left, at Sudha Sadan and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, right, at her Banani office in the city yesterday. British High Commissioner Anwar Choudhury was present at the meetings.



## Rear Admiral Sarwar Jahan Nizam takes over as Navy Chief

BSS, Dhaka

Rear Admiral Sarwar Jahan Nizam took over as the Chief of the Naval Staff yesterday.

He replaced Rear Admiral M Hasan Ali Khan who went on retirement on completion of his tenure.

A handing-taking over ceremony was held at the naval headquarters in the morning, said an ISPR press release.

New Chief of the Naval Staff Rear Admiral Sarwar Jahan Nizam formally took over the command of Bangladesh Navy from outgoing Chief of the Naval Staff Rear Admiral M Hasan Ali Khan by signing handing taking over book.

Earlier, outgoing Navy Chief Rear Admiral M Hasan Ali Khan placed wreaths at Shikha Anirban and paid homage to the members of the armed forces martyred during the War of Liberation in 1971.

On his arrival at the headquarters, a smart Naval contingent presented a guard of honour to the outgoing Chief of the Naval Staff. He took salute and inspected the guard.

President and Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces Iajuddin Ahmed will welcome and congratulate newly appointed Navy Chief Rear Admiral Sarwar Jahan Nizam at the armed forces division today.

## Farmers lay siege to DC's office for fertiliser in Kurigram

UNB, Kurigram

More than one thousand farmers staged a sit-in in front of the deputy commissioner's (DCs) office here yesterday demanding fertiliser.

Failing to procure fertiliser from the dealers, the agitating farmers went to the DC's office in a procession and demonstrated there.

The farmers withdrew the programme after the DC assured them of taking necessary measures to ensure smooth supply of fertiliser.

Sources said the dealers have withdrawn 3,762 tons of fertiliser against the demand for 10,165 tons in February.

## Preparations for observing Amar Ekushey reviewed

BSS, Dhaka

A meeting of the Central Coordination Committee on Observance of Ekushey was held at Dhaka University administrative building in the city yesterday.

The committee was constituted at Dhaka University on observance of Amar Ekushey February and International Mother Language Day. Coordinator of the committee Prof Sadul Amin presided.

The committee reviewed various measures undertaken by its sub-committees and took some decisions.

It has requested all concerned not to paste any poster, picture and banner on the freshly whitewashed walls in the DU areas for upholding the solemnity of Amar Ekushey.

DHAKA TODAY

Roundtable

Sujan-Shushashoner Janney Nagorik-organises a roundtable on 'Good governance and development: Upazila election context'. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:30am.

Prize giving ceremony

The annual prize giving ceremony of Mohammadpur Preparatory and Higher Secondary School will be held. Venue: School premises. Time: 9:30am.

# Political commitment a must for full ratification of CEDAW

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Political commitment is a must for full ratification and implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the only bill of rights for women adopted in 1979, said the speakers at a workshop yesterday.

Bangladesh has placed itself in a controversial position for not ratifying the article 2 of the convention considered as the heart of CEDAW and article 16 (c) that deals with marriage and family law, they pointed out.

About the government's excuse of 'Shariah Law' with regard to the ratification of article 16 (c), the speakers argued that Bangladesh is not an Islamic Republic and here all other matters are dealt according to civil laws.

The daylong workshop on CEDAW for journalists was jointly organised by women and gender studies department of Dhaka University, Women For Women (WFW) and Bangladesh Nari Sangbadik Kendra at the National Press Club in the city.

Embassy of the Netherlands funded the programme.

While explaining the key concept of CEDAW, Prof Mahmuda Islam, president of WFW, said the convention was adopted over two decades ago but there was no significant positive changes in the condition of women as of today.

Bangladesh is yet to ratify article 2 that puts the government under an obligation to abolish all discriminatory laws against women, she

added.

Referring to article 7 and 11 that deal with women's right to employment and politics, Prof Mahmuda said these rights have been violated in the country in different ways.

There are no women in Election Commission and National Board of Revenue, she cited as examples.

Ranjan Karmakar, executive director of Steps Towards Development, pointed out that increasing the number of reserved seats for women in parliament will not ensure their equal political right, it is rather a 'positive discrimination'.

He stressed the need for budget allocation for implementing CEDAW and urged media to create public awareness highlighting the controversial stance of the government regarding the full ratification of the

convention.

Highlighting the importance of CEDAW as the most important among the seven conventions on human rights, Ayesha Khanom, general secretary of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, said there is a provision of monitoring system in it under which a country is bound to give reports on the condition of its women's rights after every two and five years respectively.

Nasimun Ara Huq, president of Bangladesh Nari Sangbadik Kendra, Prof Najma Siddiqui and Prof Dr Nazmunnessa Mahtab of women and gender studies department, Zakia K Hassan, development activist, and Nilufar Banu, general secretary of WFW, also spoke on the occasion.



A daylong workshop on CEDAW for journalists was held at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. Sitting from left are Prof Mahmuda Islam, journalist Nasimun Ara Huq, Ayesha Khanam, Prof Dr Nazmunnessa Mahtab and Nilufar Banu.

# I'm against AL deal with Khelafat: Inu

UNB, Dhaka

JSD President Hasanul Huq Inu, also a 14-party alliance leader, yesterday said the 5-point agreement between Awami League (AL) and Khelafat Majlis needs to be scrapped as he said it would destroy the country's communal harmony.

"I'm against the AL's 5-point deal as I think this agreement will destroy the communal harmony in Bangladesh and split the nation," Inu told a discussion meeting in the city.

The discussion titled 'Blasphemy Law and Teachings of Islam' was organised by Ahmadiya Muslim Jamaat marking its 83rd Salana Jalsa at its Bakshi Bazar central office.

Inu said he would try his best to prevent AL from implementing the 5-point deal if the alliance comes to power and his party remains its ally.

He took a swipe at Jamaat-e-Islami saying, "This party is the enemy of this country, its people, independence, constitution and democracy," and urged the people to unitedly resist this fundamentalist party.

Addressing the meeting, Workers Party president Rashed Khan Menon said any blasphemy law would be create trouble for the members of every community, not only the Ahmadiya.

"We're against any blasphemy law and will continue our struggle against such move," he said promising to build Bangladesh as a country where there will be no violation of

human rights.

Iftekhar Ahmed Aiyas, Consul General of Tuvalu, presented the keynote paper at the discussion.

He said blasphemy law is the most repugnant and loathsome act that touches the sensitivities of all decent-minded people.

Aiyas, also former Amir of UK Ahmadiya Muslim Jamaat, alleged that blasphemy laws are being used everyday (in many countries) to persecute the members of Ahmadiya community.

"There is a propaganda against Ahmadiyas of disrespecting prophet Hazrat Muhammad, but it's a wrong idea... Ahmadiyas give Hazrat Muhammad the highest place," he said.

Justice KM Sobhan said the 1971 genocide was committed using the name of Islam but it was resisted with the united efforts of all.

"No one could be pious by only following religious rules... forgiveness and love are also essential for being pious," Prof Kabir Chowdhury told the meeting.

Presided over by Mahmudul Hasan Sheraji, Amir of Chittagong Ahmadiya Muslim Jamaat, the meeting was addressed by JSD leader Mainuddin Khan Badal, professor AAMS Arafin Siddique, columnist Shaharir Kabir, Syed Anwar Hossain, Prof Dr Shawkatara and Prof Asif Nazrul.

## CG hailed for move against corruption

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sachetan Nagorik Committee (SNC), a body of conscious citizens working in 36 areas of the country to curb corruption, yesterday welcomed the caretaker government (CG) for its move against corruption.

At its annual conference at Biam auditorium in the city, the representatives of the Committee also urged the CG to take steps to stop corruption permanently.

While sharing their experiences, over 400 SNC representatives vowed to strengthen their social movement against corruption.

Hailing the CG for its steps to separate the judiciary from the executive, reform the Election Commission (EC) and Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), and its decision to sign the UN Convention against Corruption, they said these reflect people's longstanding demand.

The SNC representatives also called on the CG to create an environment where the law enforcement agencies, judiciary and administration can function neutrally.

They also called for free flow of information.

TIB Trustee Board Chairman Prof Muzaffer Ahmad was present on the occasion.



A group art exhibition titled 'Collaboration with Mithila Art' began at Galleri Kaya at Uttara in the city yesterday. M Sayeduzzaman, chairman of Bank Asia Limited, inaugurated the exhibition, which will remain open from 11:00am to 8:00pm daily up to February 20.