



Death anniversary of Anjuman Ara today

Today is the third death anniversary of vocalist Anjuman Ara Begum, a versatile artiste in the cultural arena, says a press release.

Although best known as an icon of modern songs and playback music, Anjuman Ara was an equally adept exponent of patriotic songs, folk songs, Nazrul songs, semi-classical songs and ghazal.

She started her career in playback music in 1958 at the age of 16 and also rendered one of the first songs telecast on BTV when it started its operation in 1964.

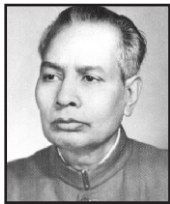
In an illustrious musical career spanning over 40 years, she lent her voice to numerous memorable songs. Aakash Haatey Achhe Ekrash Neel, Tumi Ashbe Bole, Obhimaan Korona, Chaadni Bhigi Bhigi Hawa, Kay Swaran er Prantare, Barkat Salaamer Shonite, Kedona Kedona Mago, and Brishti Jokhon Jhore are only a few of hundreds of her most popular songs that touched the hearts of people over the years. Several of them are archived in Gramophone Records and HMV while her popular songs for youngsters (such as Khokon Shona, Sathi'ni Ronger Majhe, Ko-Kho-Go) are recorded in an audio cassette 'Khokon Shona Boli Shono'.

Anjuman Ara represented Bangladesh in many cultural programmes at home and abroad. Besides being a member of the Film Jury Board and the Executive Board of Jatiya Mahila Sangstha, she also took part in various socio-cultural activities.

For her contribution to music, Anjuman Ara was honoured with several accolades, including the Ekushey Padak in 2003. She also received the Tarokalak Award, Gunjan Award (from Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy) and Koloddhani Padak.

To mark her death anniversary, a milad and doa mahfil and feeding of the destitute have been arranged by her family.

Dr Kasiruddin Talukder



Today is the 36th death anniversary of Shaheed Dr Kasiruddin Talukder, an eminent physician of Bogra, says a press release.

He was killed by the Pakistani occupation forces during the liberation war, as he led the doctors' movement in Bogra in support of the war and offered free medical services to injured freedom fighters.

A forthright, cultural minded and progressive social worker, Dr Kasiruddin was also imprisoned during the Ayub Khan regime in a conspiratorial case. In an active public life, he also served as a member of the legislative council of the undivided Bengal and president of the Doctors' Association of Bogra.

The road linking his dispensary and residence in Bogra has been named Shaheed Dr Kasiruddin Sarak.

To mark his death anniversary, a milad and doa mahfil and feeding of destitute have been arranged by his family members.

Begum Sabera Mashuur



Today is the eighth death anniversary of Begum Sabera Mashuur Rahman, wife of eminent politician Mashur Rahman Jadu Mia, says press release.

On the occasion, Qurankhwani and milad mahfil will be held at different places, including her residence at Radhaballav in Rangpur and her ancestral house at Kishoreganj in Nilphamari.

Besides, Qurankhwani will also be held at the residence of her eldest son Shafiqul Gani Swapan, chairman of NAP, at Dhaka and food will be distributed at an orphanage.

Mohammad Badsha Miah



Today is the second death anniversary of Mohammad Badsha Miah, a businessman and a social worker, says a press release.

On the occasion, Qurankhwani and milad mahfil will be held at his village home in Faridpur and at his residence in Dhaka.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the mahfil to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

INDO-BANGLA JC ON GANGES WATER TREATY MEET ENDS

We can't assure availability of water due to climatic reason

Says Indian JRC team leader

Bss, Dhaka

The 36th meeting of the Indo-Bangladesh joint committee on implementation of Ganges water treaty and sharing of Ganges water at Farakka concluded here yesterday expressing satisfaction over the joint assessment of the water flow at Hardinge bridge point.

Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission (JRC) member Mir Sajjad Hossain led the three-member Bangladesh delegation while Indian JRC member SP Kakran led five-member Indian delegation at this operational level meeting held at JRC office here

following a visit to the Hardinge bridge site on Sunday in a positive mood.

Briefing newsmen jointly after the meeting that lasted over two hours, JRC member Mir Sajjad said, "I think in the future, we can have a long term dry season flow augmentation to raise the Ganges water availability so that we (India and Bangladesh) don't need to differ about the availability. Yes, we need dry season flow augmentation and we can do it if we sit together regionally."

"As Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh told the last Saarc Summit, water problem can

be resolved by storing water in Nepal by taking cross-border projects to augment dry season flow for meeting demand of all the three countries," Mir Sajjad added.

SP Kakran said, "We are good friends and neighbours. But because of climatic reasons we can't assure the availability. We can only assure that we (India) will not take a single drop more than our requirement of 40,000 cusec. What we can assure that we will send all the rest to you. If the availability is 1,00,000 cusec than you will get 60,000 cusec. If, it is more than that you will receive even more."

Responding to a number of questions, the Indian Water Resources Ministry official pointed out that constructing a reservoir needed huge amount of investment and land area.

Kakran favoured solution of water problem bilaterally but did not rule out international discourse considering the nature of heavy investment it will require to approach the long-run water availability problem.

It was the second meeting of the joint committee this year. The previous meeting was held last month.



PHOTO: PID
Former US Ambassador William B Milam calls on Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed at his office in the city yesterday.

'Ensure access to skilled birth attendants for women'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday stressed the need to ensure access to skilled birth attendants for women to make every childbirth safe.

They also called for further strengthening health sector-based strategy in order to ensure the presence of skilled provider at every birth.

White Ribbon Alliance-Bangladesh organised the roundtable titled 'Skilled provider at every birth' in the city on the occasion of Safe Motherhood Day 2007.

The aim of the roundtable was to harmonise and intensify efforts to achieve Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) 4 and 5, which call for the reduction of child mortality by two-thirds and maternal mortality by three-quarters by 2015. The Daily Star was the media partner of the event.

Dr Halida Hanum Akhter, director general of Family Planning Association of Bangladesh, presented the keynote paper.

She stressed the need for skilled providers at every birth, saying that complications during pregnancy and childbirth are largely unpredictable and may rapidly become life-threatening.

She also called for further strengthening of the health sector-based strategy in order to complement the community-based skilled birth attendant strategy.

Jamil Osman, additional secretary of the Ministry of Health and

Family Welfare, said that maternal mortality has declined in the country from nearly 574 per 100,000 live births in the 1990 to 320 in 2001.

Dr Shahjahan Biswas, director general at the Directorate General of Health Services, urged the media to help build capacity in the skills of birth attendants.

Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, stressed his paper's commitment to be a partner in the total process of Safe Motherhood movement.

He cited several examples to highlight that there was definitely a gender bias as to why women are still dying giving birth.

He also said that professionals and activists should utilise the media to make the language of research easy for advocacy with the policymakers.

Tahera Ahmed, assistant country representative of UNFPA, also spoke at the roundtable sponsored by Concern Worldwide, Plan International and MotherNewBorNet.

Meanwhile, Karmojibi Nari, an organisation of working women, held a view exchange meeting on Safe Motherhood Day at its office in the city.

The speakers called for raising awareness among women about safe motherhood in order to reduce the maternal mortality rate.

They said safe motherhood is one of the fundamental aspects that need to be addressed properly and adequately.

Presided over by Karmojibi Nari Executive Director Rokeya Rafik, the meeting was addressed by Sharmeen Kabir, Mahmuda Imam, Arifa Akhter Anu and Dr Kallol Chowdhury.

Speakers at another discussion

Examine birth certificates during marriage

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Birth certificates should be examined during the registration of marriage to resist early marriage, said human rights activists at a press conference yesterday.

They also underscored the need for creating mass awareness to remove early marriage from the society, says a press release.

Gender and Development (GAD) organised the press conference at its central office in the city where former adviser to the caretaker government Sultana Kamal, GAD Secretary Ranjan Karmakar, Women leader Prof Mahmuda Islam and Taherunnesa Abdullah were present.

They said curbing early marriage won't be easy although there are laws regarding birth registration, marriage registration and early marriage because people in rural areas are not aware of the laws and impacts of early marriage.

They also urged government, NGOs, civil society and all educated people to come forward to resist early marriage.

HC RULE ON GOVT

Why cases against Hannan Shah, his son should not be quashed

UNB, Dhaka

The High Court yesterday issued a rule upon the government to explain why the extortion cases filed against BNP Chairperson Khaleida Zia's adviser Brig Gen (ret'd) Hannan Shah and his son should not be quashed.

On May 14, Hannan Shah along with his son Rezaul Hannan was arrested at his new DOHS residence at Mohakhali in the capital.

A division bench, headed by Justice MA Matin, also issued a separate rule asking the government to show cause why they should not be granted bail in connection with two extortion cases filed with Kapashia Police Station in Gazipur.

"The rule is returnable in two weeks," says the court order.

Since their arrest, Hannan Shah and his son have been implicated in at least four extortion cases.

Barrister Rafique-ul Huq with Barrister Mahbubuddin Khokon appeared for Hannan Shah, also a former minister, and his son.

Death threat to DU teacher

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A miscreant, identifying himself as a top-listed criminal, yesterday threatened to kill General Secretary of Dhaka University Teachers Association (Duta) Prof Dr MM Anwar Hossain if he fails to pay him Tk eight lakh before the day ends.

The threat was issued to Anwar Hossain, dean, faculty of biological science, by one Jisan over cell-phone at 8:45am.

"I am on the top of the criminals list prepared by the caretaker government. I have returned from India recently and my accomplices are also released. Give me Tk eight lakh by today (Monday), otherwise, you will be killed," Anwar Hossain quoted the caller as saying.

The miscreant also threatened to kill his son as the latter received another call after a few minutes at the cellphone of Prof Anwar.

"One of my articles on militancy was published in Prothom Alo on May 15. The article dealt with the recent incident at Jahurul Huq Hall of Dhaka University concerning militant activities. It might have a connection with the threat," said Prof Anwar.

DU authorities filed a general diary with Shabbag Police Station in this connection.

ActionAid convention begins in Cox's Bazar

Bss, Dhaka

A two-day convention of Society for Participatory Education and Development (SPED) and the reflect development unit of ActionAid Bangladesh began in Cox's Bazar yesterday.

According to a press release of the ActionAid, its country director Shoaib Siddiki inaugurated the convention that was attended by more than 350 NGO workers from home and abroad, including more than 65 affiliated organisations, 62 people's centres for the poor, CARE Bangladesh, Brac, national forum for the disabled, Kodek, CAMPE, Ain O Salish Kendra and Ashroy.

A number of delegates from ActionAid India and Kenya are also participating in the convention.

In the first day's session, discussions took place on reflect efforts, life and employment, reduction of risks, natural resources, people's rights in public service, women's rights, creation of proper environment for adolescent girls and boys, standard education and economic and social justice, and condition of the disabled.

LABOUR WELFARE FOUNDATION

Govt urged to allocate budget

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Trade union leaders and rights activists yesterday demanded that the government allocate budget for Bangladesh Labour Welfare Foundation and formulate rules and regulations to run its activities for welfare of the workers.

They said the government should make it mandatory for the employers through legal framework to give financial contribution to the foundation.

The demands came at a view exchange meeting on implementation of Bangladesh Labour Welfare Foundation Act 2006 at Dhaka Reporters' Unit in the city. Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF), Oxfam GB, Awaj Foundation, Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies (BILS), Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST), Incidin Bangladesh, National Garments Workers Federation (NGWF) and Karmojibi Nari jointly organised the programme.

According to the act that came into effect on October 1, a full time director general should be appointed for the foundation, but a joint secretary of the labour ministry has been appointed in the post, the speakers said.

"A full time director general for the foundation is very important for making it effective in true sense," said Dr Wajedul Islam Khan, acting secretary general of BILS.

tary general of BILS.

He said there are eight joint secretaries of different ministries in the board, but changes in their posts and transfers change the government representation to the foundation, which will be a setback for the board to implement the law.

Lauding framing of the law that also included the workers of the informal sector, BILS Assistant Executive Director Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmed said around three crore workers that is 80 percent of the total number of workers are deprived of due facilities and protection.

"The workers, especially those who work in the small factories at the peripheries of the cities, have no medical and urban facilities in cases of occupational accidents," he said, adding that effectiveness of the foundation is therefore very important.

NGWF Secretary General Amirul Haque Amin said most of the workers that also include a notable number of women workers are now out of the government's welfare and social protection schemes. In many cases, the workers also do not get the benefits provided by the government, he noted.

He said the foundation should prioritise the issues of informal sector workers' insurance, medical facilities and rehabilitation of the workers in the cases of accidents, injuries and deaths,

scholarships for the talented children of the workers, and ensuring fees during maternity leave of the women workers.

The foundation should also train up the workers who are getting unemployed because of the technological changes and create employment opportunities for them, said Amin, who read the written speech at the programme.

Rina Roy, director of Manusher Jonno, Nazma Akhter, general secretary of Awaj Foundation, Farida Yasmin, deputy director of BLAST, Advocate Rafiqul Alam of Incidin Bangladesh and Alok Sarker of Karmojibi Nari also spoke at the programme.

British HC staffs' help to build homes for the underprivileged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Staffs of the British High Commission visa section set a noble example by donating Tk 90,300 to the Habitat for Humanity, Bangladesh, a non-government organisation that builds homes for the underprivileged.

Deputy British High Commissioner Stephen Bridges handed over the contributions to the Chief Executive Officer Roger Bodary of the Habitat at a simple ceremony at its national office at Gulshan in the city yesterday.

This amount of money will be utilised to build houses for the underprivileged in Mymensingh.

In March, some 60 officials and employees of the British High Commission took part in house building activities at a remote village in Mymensingh as volunteers.

"Staffs of British High Commissions all over the world are engaged in such voluntary activities at personal level," said Stephen Bridges.

The Habitat has built 895 houses for the rural and semi-urban population so far this year.

Malcolm Gomes, Tanzeeba Moin, Carole Anne Mailly and Donna Watt of the high commission were present at the ceremony.

Obituary

RU CORRESPONDENT

Prof Sajal Kumar Mukharjee, a teacher of finance and banking department, Rajshahi University, passed away at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital in the early hours of yesterday at the age of 50.

He is survived by his wife and a daughter.

Prof Sajal was cremated at Panchaboti crematorium in Rajshahi city yesterday evening.

Jahanara Begum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jahanara Begum, mother of leading economist Prof Muzaffer Ahmad, passed away due to old-age complications at Birdem Hospital in the city yesterday at the age of 89.

She was buried at Azimpur graveyard beside the grave of her husband after a namaz-e-janaza held at Dhanmondi Eidgah Mosque after Zohr prayers.

She left behind five sons, two daughters and a host of admirers to mourn her death.

In a condolence message, Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) trustee board members, executive director, all officials and the conscious citizens' committee members and volunteers expressed deep shock at her death. They prayed for the salvation of the departed soul and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family members.

Shujon and Jatiya Kanyashishu Advocacy Forum also condoled the death of Jahanara Begum.

GRAFT CASE AGAINST MAMUN

Recording depositions of PWs completed

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A special court yesterday completed recording depositions of prosecution witnesses of a graft case filed against controversial businessman Giasuddin Al Mamun for not submitting his wealth statement within the stipulated timeframe given by the Anti-Corruption commission (ACC).

Two other special courts yesterday continued recording statements of prosecution witnesses in two graft cases against former state minister Mir Nasiruddin and his son Mir Helaluddin, and detained former state minister Aman Ullah Aman and his wife Sabera Aman.

MAMUN CASE
Judge Mohammad Ashraf Hossain of the Fifth Special Courtset up at Sher-e-Banla Nagar MP Hostel recorded statements of four witnesses including ACC field officer Ataul Kabir and fixed today for submission of Mamun's statement.

ACC Assistant Director SMM Akhter Hamid Bhuiyan lodged the case against Mamun on April 5 with the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka.

Following the case, Judge Mohammad Momin Ullah issued an arrest warrant against Mamun and directed the authorities concerned to send a copy of the arrest warrant to the police station concerned. It also directed the police station to submit a report.

On February 18, the ACC had directed Mamun to submit his wealth statement within 72 hours, but neither he nor any representatives on his behalf submitted the statement. The anti-graft body at a meeting on March 29 gave approval for filing of the case, sources said.

Meanwhile, Judge Firoz Alam of the First Special Court recorded statements of witnesses of a case filed against Amanullah Aman and his wife.

After recording their statements, the court fixed today for next hearing of the case.

In the case against Mir Nasir and his son, Judge AK Roy of the Second Special Court recorded the statements of witnesses. The court fixed today for next hearing of the case.

WEATHER TODAY

Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions in next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Mild heat wave is sweeping over Dhaka, Madaripur, Rajshahi, Tangail, Majidhe Court and Khulna and it may continue, Met Office said.

Day temperature may rise slightly over the country.

Highest temperature 37.8 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Tangail and lowest 22.8 degree Celsius at Mymensingh.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:41pm today and rises at 5:11am 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	36.3	26.5	77	44
Chittagong	33.2	27.2	81	82
Rajshahi	37.0	24.4	63	56
Khulna	36.0	25.3	79	63
Barisal	36.0	28.5	81	78
Sylhet	32.6	23.8	91	74
Cox's Bazar	33.8	27.8	70	75