



## Jahanara Imam's 13th anniversary of death today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 13th death anniversary of Shaheed Janani Jahanara Imam, an eminent litterateur and crusader against war criminals and fundamentalism.

About two and half years before her demise, Jahanara Imam initiated a citizens' movement in 1992 demanding trial of the collaborators of the Pakistan army during the liberation war. Bangladesh had suffered 15 years of military rule before she embarked on the move.

The valiant fighter against obscurantism travelled relentlessly from one end to another in the country in 1991 to wage the movement, which spread fast among the countrymen. The movement still acts as a platform for people to raise their voice against war criminals and fundamentalism.

In a press release, Ekatturer Ghatok Dalal Nimul Committee (Forum for Secular Bangladesh) yesterday said that rule of law can never be established in the country and we cannot stand with our head high if the war criminals are not brought to justice.

Nimul Committee has chalked out daylong programmes commemorating the death anniversary of Shaheed Janani today. The programme will begin with placing wreaths at her grave at Mirpur at 8:00am.

The daylong programmes also include a discussion and distribution of Jahanara Imam Memorial Award, which was introduced in 1995.

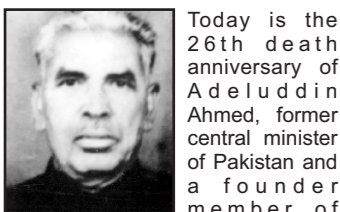
The discussion will be held at Bilia Auditorium in Dhanmondi at 4:00pm. Acting President of the Nimul Committee Shahriar Kabir, Dr MA Hasan, Convener of War Crimes Fact Finding Committee Bangladesh Justice KM Sobhan, Justice Golam Rabbani and son of Shaheed Janani Saif Imam Jami are expected to be present at the discussion.

This year Jahanara Imam Memorial Award will be given to Air Vice Marshal (retd) AK Khandaker Bir Uttam and Muktomona, a website on human rights and liberation war.

Meanwhile, Shaheed Janani Memorial Museum will remain open for visitors from 10:00am to 6:00pm today. The museum will also remain open from 10:00am to 6:00pm on every Saturday.

Jahanara Imam wrote a total of 26 books, including 'Of Blood and Fire' (Memories of a mother throughout the 9-month of war and birth of Bangladesh), 'Onnyo Jibon' (Another Life), 'Cancerer Sathe Basobash' (Living with Cancer), 'Mulधारaye Cholechhi' (I am on the Mainstream). She also wrote several articles on trial of the war criminals and spirit of the War of Liberation in various newspapers.

## Adeluddin Ahmed



says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at his Faridpur town residence after Asr prayers today.

He was a member of the legislative assembly and the constituent assembly of Pakistan. He was also elected member of the National Assembly of Pakistan in 1970.

He placed the bill in Pakistan Assembly to make Bangla and Urdu the joint state languages of Pakistan.

## Md Khairuzzaman

Today is the first death anniversary of Md Khairuzzaman, former deputy general manager of Biman Bangladesh Airlines, says a press release.

Relatives and admirers have been requested to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

## CPB president hospitalised

President of Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) Manjurul Ahsan Khan was admitted to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University for an eye operation, says a press release.

He is now undergoing treatment under the supervision of Dr Shafiqul Islam.

## ELECTION COMMISSION REFORM PROPOSAL

# Ensure 33pc representation of women in political parties

## Speakers tell discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday demanded implementation of the Election Commission (EC) reform proposal for 33 percent representation of women at policy making level in political parties for their empowerment.

Criticising the outlook of major political parties towards the proposal, they urged them to create supportive atmosphere for women to apply their skill and merit at policy making level.

The discussion titled 'The proposal for participation of women by 33 percent at policy making level in political parties: Recent thoughts and our demands' was held at the National Press Club in the city.

It was organised by Samajik Protirodh Committee, an alliance of 41 social, cultural and women's rights organisation.

Referring to EC proposal, Shahnaz Shumi, programme manager of Nari Pragati Sangha, said the initiative will pave the way for political empowerment of women.

Presenting a keynote paper at the discussion, she said even five

percent representation of women is not there in any major political parties at present.

There are only eight women members in 88-member central committee of Awami League representing only 11 percent participation of women, while 10 women members are there in 182-member central committee of Bangladesh Nationalist Party representing less than six percent participation, she added.

Shahnaz also pointed out that women are given nominations where the possibility of their winning in the election is very slim and they are also deprived of having the responsibility of significant ministries in the government giving a lame excuse of eligibility.

The New Age Editor Nurul Kabir said the eligibility of women cannot be judged until they are given chance.

He urged all including civil society and rights organisations to press the authorities concerned to implement the proposal soon.

Hailing the reform proposal, Ayesha Khanom, general secretary of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad,

said the overall democratic reforms in the government require equal participation of women and establishment of their rights.

Khairunnahar of Action Aid Bangladesh suggested the women to be sensitised to press the political parties to nominate more women and include them in different committees including the central one.

Representatives of different organisations of the alliance including Ain O Shalish Kendra, Bangladesh Mahila Samity, Awaj Foundation, Brac, The Hunger Project, Samata, Steps Towards Development, and Bangladesh Nari Sangbadik Kendra took part in the discussion chaired by Prof Mahmuda Islam, president of Women for Women.

Prof Mahmuda laid emphasis on the role of mass media to create pressure on political parties and government to implement the reform proposal.



General Secretary of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad Ayesha Khanam speaks at a view exchange meeting on women's participation in the policy-making process of political parties at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.

# Long-term strategy a must to prevent bird flu epidemic

BSS, Dhaka

Speakers at a discussion yesterday stressed the need for a long-term strategy to prevent bird flu epidemic in order to protect the country's Tk 12,000 crore poultry sector.

Nearly 30 lakh people are directly involved in this vital sector and making a significant contribution to the national economy, they added.

UNICEF held the discussion on bird flu at its conference room presided by President of Forum of Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh (FEJB) Quamrul Islam Chowdhury.

UNICEF Communication Officer Shamsuddin Ahmed, experts, professionals and journalists took part in the discussion.

Referring to the government's meticulous preparedness since the detection of bird flu, the speakers said the role of the mass media is significant to supplement the government efforts in this regard. UNICEF, with the help of the government of Japan, has provided \$1.2 million to Bangladesh government in combating bird flu.

So far, about 1.7 lakh chickens were culled at 68 affected farms in 14 districts since the detection of the

bird flu virus in the country, said the speakers.

UNICEF sources said as part of the government steps to check bird flu, the Livestock authorities have ordered stamping out and taking measures to disinfect all poultry farms around one kilometers radius of the affected farms, ban on transportation of poultry, chickens, eggs and pet birds within 10 kilometers radius of the affected areas.

Besides, deputy commissioners were asked to carry out intensive inspection at poultry farms while members of the armed forces were called out to assist the police in this respect.

Meanwhile, the ministries of Agriculture, Livestock and Health and Family Welfare have opened control rooms to monitor the situation and provide with preventive measures in places where avian influenza was detected.

According to Livestock Department statistics, there are 52,000 and 1.52 lakh poultry farms in the country while the estimated figure of poultry birds are about 20 crore.

International bodies, including World Health Organisation (WHO), UNICEF and Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), joined the campaign pledging to extend their technical and financial supports to face the

deadly phenomenon, which so far killed 169 people and attacked 281 others in 60 countries following the latest bird flu outbreak.

According to the officials, preparations have been underway since two years ago when National Avian Influenza Human Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and Response Plan Bangladesh 2006-2008 were formulated and a large number of doctors were trained to identify bird flu victims.

But World Health Organisation (WHO) representative in Dhaka Dr Duangvadee Sungkhobol earlier said the high population density exposed Bangladesh to the intensified avian influenza risks but "aggressive actions" involving all stakeholders and massive public awareness could help the South Asian country overcome this crisis.

The government has urged the people not to be panicked with the outbreak of avian flu as the human infliction of avian influenza were not reported from anywhere in South Asia including India despite its outbreak there.

Experts said that the chickens or eggs of even the flu inflicted poultry birds are safe after proper cooking and asked the people in handling them properly, to clean their hands and bury the poultry remnants underground.

In the latest outbreak, around 60 people in Asia have died, amounting to roughly half the known number of infections, which is a very high fatality rate.

## Justice Nazrul visits Barisal civil courts

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Justice Nazrul Islam Chowdhury yesterday concluded his two-day inspection of civil courts in Barisal laying emphasis on establishing the rule of law in the country.

Earlier, he was given a reception by the members of Barisal District Bar Association at its auditorium at noon.

Speaking as chief guest at the function, Justice Nazrul said only rule of law can bring prosperity and peace to the society.

He said no body is above law, but in the past some persons behaved in such a way as if they were above the law, and that attitude created many problems.

He called upon the members of legal profession to join in an effort to make the country habitable.

Dilip Kumar Ghosh, president of the association, presided over the function.

## TERA SHAHJAHAN MURDER

# Court grants prayer for revival of case

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A Barisal court yesterday granted a prayer for the revival of 'Tera Shahjahan Murder Case' against 21 accused, including Barisal City Corporation Mayor Majibor Rahman Sarwar.

Munim Hasan, Sadar Upazila magistrate, granted the prayer submitted by Sub-Inspector Abul Kashem.

The police submitted the appeal after conducting an investigation into the prayer of Shahana Parvin Renu, wife of Tera Shahjahan, for revival of the case and fresh inquiry into the murder.

The prayer would now be registered as a regular case, police sources said, adding that Sub-Inspector Mir Kashem has been asked to investigate the case.

In this case, Renu Begum alleged that the accused stabbed and shot her husband dead in Ruar Pool area in the city on September 16, 2003.

Md Shahjahan Howladar alias Tera Shahjahan was a notorious terrorist, BNP cadre and close aide to Mayor Sarwar.

## Govt urged to rehabilitate footpath hawkers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Sammilita Footpath Hawkers Parishad yesterday urged the caretaker government to rehabilitate hawkers who had been evicted from the city streets after the state of emergency was declared.

In a statement, Parishad President Md Waliullah Patwari said there are some three lakh hawkers in the city, but the 14 holiday markets can accommodate only about 15,000 hawkers.

The remaining 2.8 lakh hawkers along with their families are passing their days in inhuman condition as they are unemployed now, he added.

He also called on the government to provide financial assistance for the families of hawkers who were run over by a speeding truck at Gulistan recently.

## Cellphone set shop manager robbed of Tk 2.83 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Manager of a cellphone set shop robbed of Tk 2,83,000 in cash and a mobile phone set by a gang of muggers at Central Road in the city yesterday.

The miscreants waylaid Bazlur Rahman Apu, manager of MMN Telecom at Dhanmondi, when he was going to the residence of owner of the shop at Central Road in a rickshaw.

The muggers hit Apu with pistol in his head as he tried to resist them when they were snatching the bag containing the said money. He was rushed to a city clinic with head injuries. Owner of the shop filed a case with Dhanmondi Police Station in this connection.

## 3rd GP free eye camp begins in Natore

A two-day free eye camp began at Sher-e-Bangla High School at Horishpur in Natore yesterday, jointly organised by Grameenphone and Sight Savers International, says a press release.

This is the third free eye camp conducted in rural parts of Bangladesh, where people have little or no access to quality healthcare.

The two previous camps organised this year were held in Cox's Bazar and Bagerhat, in March and April respectively and provided healthcare services to over 2500 economically disadvantaged people of the area.

Deputy Commissioner of Natore SM Ehsan Kabir was present at the inaugural session of the camp as the chief guest. Dr Md Ishaq Ali, civil surgeon, and Md Rezaul Karim, superintendent of police, were present as special guests. Ermon Kalyan Dutta, head of Rajshahi region and Dr Arkanul Islam, manager, CSR Department of Grameenphone, were also present.

Speaking on the occasion, Ehsan expressed his appreciation of Grameenphone's efforts to come to the aid of the underprivileged people of Bangladesh.

More than 1100 patients arrived for care at the Sher-e-Bangla High School. All patients were given routine examinations and prescriptions for refractive error were given to those who required it.

Over 120 patients were referred for and administered Intra Ocular Lens (IOL) or cataract surgeries.



PHOTO: STAR

Joint forces conduct raids on the office of the divisional forest officer at Sholoshahar in Chittagong city yesterday.

## HERMAPHRODITES

# No policy to combat HIV/AIDS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Though hermaphrodites are one of the most vulnerable groups to HIV/AIDS, there is no sustainable and long-term policy for the community to combat the deadly disease, said the speakers at a seminar yesterday.

They said different projects have been taken in scattered manner depending on donor agencies, but these could not produce an optimistic result in the long run.

The seminar titled 'HIV/AIDS and Hijras: Role of Media and Other Stakeholders' was organised by Bandhu Social Welfare Society (BSWS) at the National Press Club in the city.

The speakers said the hermaphrodite population has been estimated at 10 to 15 thousand in the country and almost 62 of them were found HIV positive.

But HIV intervention programme for this community is negligible and activities are going on only in Dhaka and Rajshahi targeting this community, they added.

BSWS Executive Director Saleh Ahmed said hermaphrodites are highly stigmatised and have been facing discrimination in every sector of the society including in family.

"This stigmatisation doubles when a hermaphrodite is a sex worker or infected with sexually transmitted diseases," he added.

The speakers said hermaphrodites are also void of education, shelter, employment and even healthcare due

to social stigma.

They demanded proper education, alternative employment opportunity and lifeskill training for the sustainable development of hermaphrodites.

Termining poverty as the main cause of HIV/AIDS prevalence among the hermaphrodite community, Dr Khondokar Ejajul Haque of UNFPA said ignorance sprouts from poverty which should be addressed first.

Speaking as special guest, Country Director of Family Health International Robert Kelly said HIV/AIDS is a major threat to hermaphrodite community and this issue should be taken into state policy level where media could play an important role.

"Very few stories come out in print and electronic media about this marginal population," he said, adding that the media could work in removing stigma from the society about HIV/AIDS and hermaphrodites.

Representatives from hermaphrodite community said they want to enjoy their human rights and don't want to be called as 'hijra.'

With Executive Director of Bangladesh Manobadhikar Sangbadik Forum Khairuzzaman Kamal in the chair, the seminar was also addressed by Supervisor of Shustha Jibon Jaheda Laila, President of Badhon Hijra Sangha Pinki, and General Secretary Joya Sikder.



Grameenphone and Sight Savers International jointly organise two-day 3rd free eye camp that began at Sher-e-Bangla High School at Horishpur in Natore yesterday.



## Discussion

Department of Narcotics Control will hold a discussion on the occasion of The International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. Venue: National Museum auditorium. Time: 10:30am.

## Workshop

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society organises a three-day workshop on 'Agenda for cyclone preparedness programme: Experience sharing' beginning from today. Venue: Hotel Washington. Time: 9:00am.

## Seminar

Chittagong Samity-Dhaka organises a seminar titled 'Preserving fish breeding ground of the river Halda is a must for national interest'. Venue: Chittagong Samity auditorium, 32 Topkhana Road. Time: 3:00pm.

## Reception

Mystic Group will accord a reception to Dr AKM Munir and Dr Abul Barakat on their winning Grainger Prize for Sustainability 2007. Venue: Hotel Sonargaon. Time: 7:00pm.

## Award giving ceremony

The award giving ceremony of Jahanara Imam Award 2007 will be held. Venue: Bilia auditorium. Time: 4:00pm.

## Roundtable

Center for Rehabilitation of Torture Survivors (CRTS) and Nagorik Uddoyog will jointly organise a roundtable titled 'Measures to be taken to prevent oppression'. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:30am.

## Launching ceremony

International Organisation for Migration (IOM) organises the launching ceremony of 'Prevention and protection of victims of human trafficking in Bangladesh' project. Venue: Pan Pacific Sonargaon. Time: 5:00pm.

## Human chain

Bangladesh Human Rights Commission (BHRC) will form a human chain to mark the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture. Venue: In front of Supreme Court. Time: 10:30am.

## Workshop

Asiatic Society of Bangladesh is going to organise a three-day workshop on folklore beginning from today. Venue: Auditorium of Fellowship Building of the Society. Time: 10:30am.

## Discussion on drugs

Manash and East West University (EWU) will hold a discussion titled 'Do drugs control your life?'. Venue: EWU auditorium. Time: 11:00am.

## Obituary

Dr Mahbub Rahman, a child specialist and father of Rokeya Rahman, senior sub-editor of the Bengali daily Prothom Alo, passed away due to old age complications at a city clinic at the age of 70, says a press release.

He left behind his three daughters and three sons to mourn his death.

He will be laid to rest today at his family graveyard at village Naringpur under Shahrastra upazila in Chandpur district.

## Guley Ferdous Rahman



Guley Ferdous Rahman, a language movement veteran and a social worker, passed away due to old age complications at Bangladesh Medical College in the city on Sunday night at the age of 82, says a press release.

Her quikhwani will be held at 296/C, Rayer Bazar, Tali Office Road in the city after Asr prayers on June 29.

## Qamar Choudhury



Choudhury, passed away due to respiratory failure at Square Hospital early hours of yesterday at the age of 71, says a press release.

She is survived by her one son and one daughter.

She was buried at her family graveyard at Sarabo in Savar.

## Khandakar Saniyat Kamal



Khandakar Saniyat Kamal, a freedom fighter and son of former MP Khandakar Ilyas, passed away on Sunday night at the Islami Bank

Hospital at the age of 58, says a press release.

He left behind his wife and two daughters.

He was laid to rest yesterday with state honour at Shajahanpur graveyard after Zohr prayers after namaz-e-janaza at Shajahanpur Amtali Jame-e-Mashjid.

On the occasion, milad mahfil and doa will be held at his residence at 392, Uttar (north) Shajahanpur after Asr prayers tomorrow.

## S M Nazir Hossain

S M Nazir Hossain, former headmaster of Jamirita High School at Shahjadpur upazila in Sirajganj, passed away due to stroke at his residence early hours of yesterday at the age of 80, says a press release.

He left behind his sons, daughters, grandsons and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death.

## Debabrata Biswas



Deabrata Biswas, son of TP Biswas, managing director of Limco Electronics Ltd, passed away on June 20, says a press release.

He is survived by his wife, one son and father and mother.

He was cremated at Postagola Crematorium in Dhaka.

The post-funeral rites for the departed soul will be held at Dhakeswari Temple complex on July 2.

Officers, employees and workers of Limco Electronics Ltd expressed deep shock at his death and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family.