



Mahbub Anam's sixth death anniversary today

Today is the sixth death anniversary of eminent journalist and author Mahbub Anam, former editor of the now-defunct Bangladesh Times, says a press release.

In a distinguished career as a journalist, he also served as a senior executive of the then Pakistan Observer, senior vice-president of Bangladesh Editors' Council and was actively involved with Bangladesh Sangbadpatra Parishad, Bangladesh Press Council and Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha Porichalona Board.

For his contribution to journalism, he received Swadhinata Padak, Sher-e-Bangla Gold Medal, Moulana Akram Khan Gold Medal, Kaloddhani Padak and Tribhuj Gold Medal.

Besides, during his long and successful professional career, Mahbub Anam also served as the general manager of Jamuna Oil Company and director of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation.

He was actively involved in politics from his student life. In addition to being the general secretary of Salimullah Muslim Hall of Dhaka University in 1954-55, he was appointed acting publication secretary of the Jukta Front on behalf of the Awami League in 1954.

Mahbub Anam actively took part in the Language Movement in 1952. He was jailed several times for his role in the movement as general secretary of Tamaddun Majlish, Mymensingh unit, joint secretary of Rashtrabhasha Sangram Parishad and general secretary of Salimullah Muslim Hall.

In recognition of his contribution to the Language Movement, he was awarded 'Bhasha Andoloner Bir Sainik Padak' by President Ziaur Rahman and Matribhasha Padak (posthumously) by Tamaddun Majlish.

Mahbub Anam authored a number of books on the cultural and political identity of Bangladesh, including 'Amra Bangladeshi Amra Bangali' and 'Itihasher Shikriti Banam Bikriti'. He also served as the president of Nattayamancha Bangladesh and Bangladesh Sahitya Sangskriti Kendro and was actively involved with Bangladesh Film Censor Board and Bangladesh Public Library Special Committee.

He was the second son of eminent litterateur, journalist and politician late Abul Mansur Ahmad and elder brother of Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star and publisher of the Prothom Alo.

On the occasion of his death anniversary, fateha will be offered at his grave at Banani and Qurankhwani and milad mahfil will be held at his Dhanmondi residence in the city.

'BCL leaders, workers united under Hasina's leadership'

DU CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), student wing of Awami League (AL), said it would not accept any reforms keeping the party president Sheikh Hasina outside.

In a statement, BCL president Mahmud Hassan Ripon and acting general secretary Shahinur Rahman Tutul said that the BCL leaders and workers are always united under the leadership of Hasina.

They also said that reform is a continuous process and it should come from within the party.

They said the reform proposals placed by some party leaders are inconsistent with the party's constitution.

They also said any reforms should be brought through the party council.

Domestic help commits suicide

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A teenage domestic help committed suicide at Siddheshwari in the city yesterday.

The dead was identified as Poly Khanam, 14, who had been working at the residence of Dr Golam Rabbani at Eastern Housing since her childhood.

Police found the body hanging from the ceiling with a rope inside the kitchen at around 5:00pm and sent it to Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsy.

Promote cross-border mobility to check human trafficking

Speakers tell seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Restrictions on cross-border mobility for workers should be relaxed to prevent human trafficking, speakers said at a seminar yesterday.

Terming human trafficking a 'commercial issue', former adviser to the caretaker government and Executive Director of Ain O Salish Kendra Advocate Sultana Kamal said, "Trafficking now has become a worldwide phenomenon which is driven by globalisation. If the labour market were flexible, women and children would not have been victimised in such a massive scale."

She was addressing an 'Advo-

cacy meeting at national level on prevention of human trafficking and reducing violence against women' as the chief guest. Mukti Nari-O-Shishu Unnayan Sangstha organised the advocacy meeting at National Press Club in the city with its Executive Director Mamtaz Rumi in the chair.

The organisation, an NGO that is based in Kushtia, Meherpur and Chuadanga, runs a shelter home for the rehabilitation of trafficked women and has built a network with other organisations for legal aid.

In her keynote speech, Sayeda Fayeza Mamtaz, director of the organisation, depicted the grievances of the trafficked women and

children and insisted on punitive actions against the criminals.

Citing the examples of ASEAN and EU countries where cross-border mobility has significantly increased, Advocate Sultana Kamal laid emphasis on regional advocacy in South Asia.

"Poverty remains the major driving force behind women and children trafficking and these segments of the community are sometimes lured by small criminal rings or organised gangs of traffickers," she said.

Participants from different NGOs pointed out a number of reasons behind human trafficking. The list was topped by negligence

or leniency of the law enforcers to the traffickers.

Professor Ishrat Shamim, chairman, Centre for Women and Children, said, 'Things are clearly moving ahead'. She apprised the discussants of the monitoring cell in home ministry and police headquarters, who are keeping records of trafficking. She also cited some irregularities in documentation and said that the number of missing children is almost equal to the number of children who were trafficked.

Besides, she stressed on strengthening the monitoring and follow-ups involving village police and community since examples were not few where the trafficked women turn 'traffickers'.

Aroma Dutta, executive director of Pip Trust, said human trafficking got institutionalised in border areas because of people's lack of access to resources. She insisted on addressing the issue of 'organ trade' too.

Executive Editor of the daily Janakantha Borhanuddin Ahmed underscored the need for concerted efforts of the organisations that are working with the same motive and asked the bodies concerned to look into the matters relating to physically and mentally challenged women and children.

Taslimur Rahman, executive director, Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST), and Mohammad Kabir Hossain, secretary, Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies, also spoke on the occasion.



PHOTO: STAR

Former adviser to the caretaker government Advocate Sultana Kamal speaks at an 'Advocacy meeting at national level on prevention of human trafficking and reducing violence against women' at National Press Club in the city yesterday. On her left is Professor Ishrat Shamim while on her right is Mamtaz Rumi.

New fertiliser distribution system from next season

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Agriculture Adviser Dr C S Karim yesterday said the government is to introduce a new fertiliser distribution system from next season stretching the network to union level.

"Fertiliser will be distributed directly from unions...and for transparency in fertiliser management, registers would be maintained at dealers' shops and farmers would be given cards," he said while addressing a meeting at the conference room of Rajshahi Deputy Commissioner in the afternoon.

"Fresh dealers will be appointed from among the locals at union level so that a dealer can have both the opportunities, to serve his neighbours as well as to have business," he added.

Dr Karim, also a nuclear scientist, informed that steps towards introducing the new system are already complete and necessary instructions were given after series of surveys and researches.

He asked officials concerned especially in the district administrations and agriculture to supervise and monitor the entire system with utmost

dedication to make it a success.

"Buffer stocks will be built up in old districts for helping those areas that are yet to have buffer godowns," he added.

The adviser asked the officials to enforce their highest power given by the law of the land to prevent smuggling of agricultural inputs, adulterated fertilisers and pesticides.

About reaching Tk 750 crore subsidies on diesel, he said those farmers, who are using diesel-run irrigation machines, would be given the subsidy directly through cards.

These cards will be distributed among the farmers in open meetings at union councils after proper scrutiny by union parishad members, chairmen, block supervisors and upazila administration, he added.

Dr Karim called for training and motivation of farmers for balanced use of fertilisers.

He instructed officials to empower farmers by ensuring their direct access to markets.

"Introduce farmers' markets at every district to fight middlemen who are eating up their benefits," he added.

He also gave order for taking all measures to control prices of essentials during the Ramadan.

Rajshahi Divisional Commissioner Mohammad Shafiq Alam chaired the meeting which was attended by Agriculture Secretary M Abdul Aziz and Director General of agricultural extension department (DAE) Abdul Bari.

Deputy commissioners, DAE deputy directors and forest officials from 16 northern districts were present at the meeting.

Qureshi for placing six nat'l leaders' portraits at govt & private offices

New party to emerge in Dec likely

BSS, Dhaka

Initiator of a new political party Dr Ferdous Ahmed Qureshi yesterday called for placing portraits of six national leaders at all government and private offices to inspire new generations to contribute to nation-building activities.

Addressing a press conference at the daily Desh Bangla office at Segunbagicha in the city, Qureshi described Sher-e-Bangla AK Fazlul Haque, Hossain Shahid Suhrawardy, Moulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, president Ziaur Rahman and Gen (ret'd) Ataul Gani Osmani as national leaders and the symbol of 'national unity'.

Qureshi said he has been working to form a new political party since the last one and a half months and would finish the task in phases.

He said the new party would be declared from a national convention, which is likely to be held in December once the ban on indoor politics is lifted.

He also expressed the hope that around 45,000 councillors would join the convention.

Qureshi said the new party would nominate candidates in all the 300 parliamentary constituencies.

Former minister Kazi Firoz Rashid Chowdhury, former state minister Abul Hasan Chowdhury, former lawmaker Tazul Islam, Moulana Sakawat Hossain, Col (ret'd) HMA Gaffar, Kamrunnahar Zafar and Abu Sayeed Khokon were present at the press conference.

Archbishop Kosta meets lajuddin

UNB, Dhaka

Archbishop Paulinas Kosta DD made a courtesy call on President lajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday.

He apprised the president of the activities of the Christian community during the meeting.

Appreciating the existing communal harmony in Bangladesh, Paulinas Kosta expressed his gratitude to the president for extending his cooperation to the country's Christian community.

lajuddin said that Bangladesh is a country of communal harmony where Bangladeshis irrespective of all religions are living together in a peaceful atmosphere.

"We all have to work together for the welfare of the country and the nation," he said.

Military Secretary to the President Major General M Aminul Karim and Secretary to the President's office M Sirajul Islam were present on the occasion.



PHOTO: STAR

Dr Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad speaks at a roundtable on 'Restructuring Biman' at National Press Club in the city yesterday. On his left is Sheikh Altaf Ali and on his right is Matuli Islam. Bangladesh Economic Association and Media Foundation and Trade and Development jointly organised the roundtable.

A fascinating way of taking children closer to nature

KAMRUL HASAN KHAN

The cheers of hundreds of children in the small auditorium of Vigarunnisa Noon School in the city yesterday drowned the hi-tech surround sound as they swayed to the captivating music of a snake charmer on the stage.

Born and brought up in the urban concrete jungle of the capital, most of these five to 10-year-old children had no previous experience of watching mystical dance of a female snake charmer.

So it was a little surprise that they were so mesmerised by the dance of a snake charmer right in front of them.

Everyday, they get up in the morning with the harsh jingle of crows and do not hear the sweet jingles of Doel or cuckoo in a calm and quiet dawn. They never know that fogs shout all the night at waterlogged lands after heavy rains.

In a bid to provide the little students with information about animals helping maintain nature's balance, Manimal Team, a production of 'Yes Media Presentation, launched a campaign with the help of living animals.

Similar shows will also be arranged at 100 schools in the city.

The team led by Sohail Hossain held colourful presentations on tortoise, fog, snake, earthworm, house lizard, mouse, cat and other neglected animals.

"All these neglected animals are constantly making our lives easy. We are afraid of them and often turn our nose up at them, but most

of us do not care about their contributions to maintaining balance in nature," said a team member.

"We are so cruel to them that we even do not think of them even for once before smashing them under our shoes and by doing this we become ungrateful. If we can only look at them with little sympathy and try to love them that do not deserve much effort, we can show our humanity; and by doing this we can help maintain balance in our own planet," said Sohail.

"I love this show. My parents take me to village in Bogra in every vacation so that I can run in the field and come across the nature. I have seen these animals in the village, but never thought that I could see them here," said Tasmina Jannat Rimi, a class four student.

Noted artiste Shampa Reza, adviser to Yes Media Presentation, said in this urban society, children live in a concrete jungle from where the nature is far away. They are living without having any touch of nature and green. Day by day, they are becoming robotic and gloomy minded, she added.

"I tell the children that we should take lesson even from an ant or a snake. Against the backdrop of current volatile situation prevailing across the world and in our country, we should think who is better, man or these neglected animals?" said Shampa.

"I also tell all parents to teach their children, who are the next generation, to love the nature," she added.

Sigma shown held in extortion cases

FROM PAGE 16

Khondaker in connection with a cheating case while detained former state minister Amanullah Aman and his wife Sabera Aman were shown arrested in an extortion case.

Proceedings of an arms case against former state minister for home Lutfuzzaman Babar were adjourned yesterday, as the jail authorities could not produce him due to his illness.

SIGMA SHOWN ARRESTED Sigma, wife of barrister Nazmul Huda, was shown arrested in two extortion cases filed with Tejgaon and Shahbagh police stations.

Huda and Alena Khan were also sued in the same cases.

The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) Court, Dhaka passed the order after the investigation officers (IOs) submitted separate petitions to show Sigma arrested.

Sub-inspectors (SIs) Yusuf Ali and Akher Morshed, also the IOs of the cases, said Sigma was sent to jail on Thursday after she appeared before a special court. So, she needs to be shown arrested in the case.

According to the case filed with Tejgaon Police Station on June 26, Huda called Wahidur Rahman Azad, a contractor of the Roads and Highways (R&H) Department, to BSEHR (Bangladesh Society for Enforcement of Human Rights) office in February 2003 and demanded Tk 10 lakh in cash.

Huda also gave an alternative to Azad, asking him to construct a conference room for the organisation.

Azad said he agreed to build the conference room due to continuous pressure from Huda and it cost him Tk 5.5 lakh.

On completion of the work in three months, Azad demanded the money he spent for the work from Huda, Sigma and Alena.

They threatened to create problem in getting his payments from the R&H department if he demanded the money, alleged the plaintiff.

Huda is a member of the national committee of the BSEHR, Sigma is its secretary general and Alena Khan is its executive director.

According to the first information report (FIR) of another case filed with Shahbagh Police Station on the same date, Huda and his wife gave the plaintiff a verbal instruction to construct a boundary wall and a one-storey building for the BSEHR on College Road.

Later, Azad got a work order through a letter signed by Alena Khan on July 7, 2005 and completed the work at a cost of Tk 41.26 lakh.

When Azad went to submit the bill, Alena asked him to submit a bill between Tk 18 and 20 lakh.

Azad submitted a bill of Tk 19.71 lakh, which he said has not been paid yet.

PINTU'S BAIL REJECTED Judge Mohammad Azizul Haq of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka yesterday rejected the bail petition of Pintu in connection with a case filed for killing Mohammad Ali, son of a DCC ward commissioner in December last year.

The order came after Pintu's lawyers submitted a petition seeking bail against the rejection order of the lower court on March 13.

Pintu was shown arrested in the case on March 7 following a petition submitted by IO Rezaul Karim saying the former BNP lawmaker was directly involved in the killing.

A group of miscreants killed Ali at Soarighat of old Dhaka on December 28 last year.

TOYMUR CASE SI Arshed Ali of Paltan police yesterday sought a seven-day remand to interrogate the former BRTC chairman.

The CMM's Court fixed Wednesday for hearing on the remand prayer and directed the authorities concerned to produce him before the court on that date.

Mohammad Fazlul Haque, a leader of Dhaka Light Vehicles and CNG-Autorickshaw Owners and Workers Association, filed the case on Thursday with Paltan Police Station.

In the case statement, the complainant mentioned that in May, 2003 the accused pressurised him to include 50 fake names in the list of 200 deprived petrol-run autorickshaw drivers who were entitled to get CNG autorickshaws.

Fazul also alleged that later Toymur took the 50 CNG autorickshaws.

Joint forces arrested Toymur on April 18 from his Gulshan residence.

AMAN-SABERA SHOWN ARRESTED Aman and Sabera were shown arrested yesterday in an extortion case filed with Gulshan Police Station on June 26.

The CMM's Court passed the order after SI Afzal Hossain, also the IO of the case, submitted a petition to show them arrested in the case.

Khorsheed Alam, owner of Tanzir Constructions, filed the Tk 70 lakh extortion case against Aman and Sabera.

In the case, Alam alleged that Aman demanded Tk 2 crore for winning him the work of

IFPRI writing contest

BSS, Dhaka

The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) invites entries for a writing contest for the youth on 'How to arrive at a world where no one lives in poverty and hunger'.

Juveniles aged between 14 and 18 years are asked to send essays, short stories, short plays, poems and open letters to the national leaders.

The entries should be composed/written in English and have to reach Bangladesh National Commission for UNESCO (BNCU), Banbeis Bhaban, 1, Asian Highway, Palassy-Nilkhet, Dhaka-1205 by July 15.



Air chief leaves for China

Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal SM Ziaur Rahman left for China yesterday on a weeklong visit, says an ISPR release.

During his visit, the air chief will call on Chinese PLA Air Force Chief General Qiao Qingshen. He will also visit some important defence establishments of China.

His wife and a three-member Bangladesh Air Force (BAF) delegation accompanied him. He is expected to return on July 14.

Dhaleshwari Bridge in December 2005. He deposited Tk 70 lakh in Sabera's account.

BABAR CASE

Judge Sayed Jahed Mansur of the Special Tribunal-9 adjourned the proceedings of the arms case against Babar until Sunday.

Earlier on July 2, Babar was not produced before the court on the same ground.

The case was filed against Babar for possessing illegal firearms and ammunition.

Mehedi Hasan, son-in-law of Orion Group Chairman Obaidul Karim, was sent to jail yesterday after he was produced before the CMM's Court showing him arrested under 16(2) of Emergency Power Rules, 2007.

In the forwarding report, SI Helaluddin of Gulshan Police Station mentioned that Mehedi illegally used a sport utility vehicle (SUV) of the detained former state minister Fazlur Rahman Patal.

Moreover, Mehedi amassed a huge wealth through corruption. So, he needs to be confined in jail until the investigation completes, the IO added.

Joint forces arrested Mehedi at his house in Banani on Saturday and seized the SUV.

Patal, now detained, allegedly sold the Lexus SUV in 2004 to Mehedi, managing director of Hashem Real Estate, before using it for three years, which was mandatory for lawmakers buying vehicles under the duty-free vehicle purchase privilege.

Meanwhile, our Munshiganj correspondent reported that former communications minister Nazmul Huda was produced before a magistrate court yesterday in connection with three separate graft cases.

The court fixed dates for producing Huda before the court on different dates after July 22.

Executive Engineer of Munshiganj Roads and Highways Department (RHD) Piar Mohammad filed a Tk 16.60 crore graft case against Huda on June 10.

The two other graft cases involving Tk 4.53 crore and Tk 4.5 crore were filed by Taibur Rahman, deputy assistant engineer of RHD in Srinagar, and caretaker engineer of RHD in Dhaka, respectively.

WEATHER TODAY

Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

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

Yesterday's highest temperature of 34.5 degree Celsius was recorded at Ishwardi and the lowest of 24.5 degrees at Cox's Bazar and Comilla.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:50pm today and rises at 5:18am 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	32.2	25.0	96	69
Chittagong	31.0	25.9	83	90
Rajshahi	34.0	26.1	86	68
Khulna	31.5	25.3	93	78
Barisal	31.7	25.6	88	79
Sylhet	32.5	26.6	80	76
Cox's Bazar	31.5	24.5	95	96