



Sher-e-Bangla's anniversary of birth today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 134th birth anniversary of Sher-e-Bangla AK Fazlul Huq, a great leader of the sub-continent.

Different social and political organisations have drawn up elaborate programmes, including doa and milad mahfil, discussion and placing of wreaths at his graveyard.

Sher-e-Bangla Smriti Academy will hold a function to distribute Sher-e-Bangla Smriti award and a discussion at the National Press Club in the city at 4:00pm.

The Academy will also organise a discussion and milad mahfil at his birthplace at Saturia in Jhalakathi on October 28.

Jatiya Gonotantrik League, Mukti Joddha Anjib Parishad and Mukti Joddha Paribar Kalyan Sangsads will jointly organise a doa mahfil and discussion on the premises of the mazar of Sher-e-Bangla at 3:00pm.

Milad mahfil and qurankhwani will also be held at the residence of his grandson in the city.

Govt urged to allocate more funds for farm production

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government should allocate more funds for agriculture sector to ensure more food production to cut rural poverty, speakers suggested at a seminar in Dhaka yesterday.

They said around half of the total population of the country lives below the poverty level in terms of food consumption.

The poor people, who mostly live in rural areas, have to spend around 70 percent of their income on food purchase, the speakers told the seminar on food security organised by Equity and Justice Working Group (EJWG), an alliance of NGO, and National Committee for Observing World Women's Day (NCOWWD), at National Press Club.

The seminar was organised in observance of World Rural Women's Day that was observed in the country and elsewhere in the world on October 15. This year the theme of the day was Right to Food: Rural Women Produce and Provide'.

"Around 30 percent of the total population barely consumes around 1,800 calories a day while the daily need is estimated at 2,100 calories," Shamsudoha, secretary general of EJWG, said.

Awami League Agriculture Affairs Secretary Abdur Razzaq, BNP Agriculture Affairs Secretary Shamsuzzaman Dudu and Member of NCOWWD Swapan Guho also spoke. Bazlur Rahman of EJWG moderated the seminar.

Schoolboy missing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ahad Rahman Khandaker, a class six student of Banani Play Pen School, has been missing since Tuesday.

Ahad, 13, son of Khandaker Kudrate Azam, went out to play in the afternoon on the day but did not return to his home at House No.49, Road No.1/A, Block-I, Banani, Dhaka.

He is five feet tall and has fair complexion.

The boy was wearing navy blue pant and light pink shirt.

A general diary (GD) has been filed with Gulshan Police Station.

Anyone knowing the whereabouts of the boy is requested to contact nearby police station or call at 01552485777.

Correction

In a news item headlined 'Establish district government to strengthen local bodies' published in The Daily Star on Wednesday, Feroz A Hassan, chairman of Coalition for Good Governance, was mentioned as a leader of the LDP. In fact, Feroz resigned from LDP on June 25 and he is no longer associated with the political party. We regret the inadvertent mistake.

'Border management important for bilateral relations'

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury yesterday said border management is an important component of bilateral relations between Bangladesh and India.

He made the remarks to reporters after visiting Indian Border Security Force (BSF) chief AK Mitra made a courtesy call on him at the foreign ministry.

Mitra is leading his country's delegation to the director general level border conference that began at Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) Headquarters yesterday.

Expressing satisfaction at the ongoing discussions between the BDR and the BSF, the adviser said

this would result in agreements that would further strengthen bilateral relations between the two neighbouring countries.

"We are pleased that we have been able to structuralise negotiations with regard to these through more frequent meetings," he said.

Indian High Commissioner Pinak Ranjan Chakravarty and BDR Director General Maj Gen Shakil Ahmed were present in the meeting, among others.

Mitras leading his country's delegation to the director general level border conference that began at Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) Headquarters yesterday.

The foreign adviser apprised the president of various issues relating to his ministries.

He informed the president that bilateral relations with the neighbouring countries as well as friendly countries across the globe, especially with the USA and the EU countries, have strengthened significantly.

The president's upcoming visit to the USA also came up in the discussion.

The president gave a patient hearing and assured the foreign adviser of all cooperation.

Military Secretary to the president Maj Gen Mohammad Aminul Karim, Secretary Sirajul Islam and Press Secretary Abdul Awal Howlader were present at the meeting, among others.

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Proceedings of extortion case against Alena Khan stayed

UNB, Dhaka

Vacation bench of the High Court yesterday stayed the proceedings of the extortion case against Alena Khan, a human rights activist.

The case is now pending with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court there.

Passing the stay order upon a writ petition, Justice AFM Abdur Rahman issued rule upon the government to explain why invoking emergency rules in the extortion case should not be declared unlawful.

The court also granted Alena a fresh bail until the rule is disposed of.

On June 26, a construction contractor of the Roads and Highways Department filed an extortion case with Tejgaon Police Station against Alena Khan, executive director of Bangladesh Society for Enforcement of Human Rights (BSEHR) along with detained former communications minister Nazmul Huda and his wife Sigma Huda.

Huda is a member of the national committee of the BSEHR while Sigma is its secretary general.

According to the case, Huda called Wahidur Rahman Azad, the complainant, to BSEHR office in February 2003 and demanded Tk 10 lakh in cash.

Advocate Asaduzzaman appeared for Alena Khan.

Man held for murder attempt on wife

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Police arrested a man for alleged attempt to kill his wife at Hasli village in Manikganj Sadar upazila early yesterday.

The arrestee, Dulal Hossain Meru, 35, attacked her wife, who is the mother of two sons, at around 1:00am when she was asleep, said police and locals.

Hearing her scream, neighbours rushed there and handed Dulal over to Manikganj Sadar Police Station.

Mymensingh Cultural Forum anniversary programme tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A housewife allegedly committed suicide at Sutrapur area in the city on Wednesday night.

The dead was identified as Hamida Sultan Lucky, 28, wife of Didarul Alam, a businessman of Islampur, living at Dinonath Sen Road at Gendaria.

Police said Lucky was found hanging from the ceiling of the balcony with a sharee at their three-storied building at Gendaria at around 9:00pm on Wednesday.

Family members rushed her to Mitford Hospital where doctors declared her dead.

A suicide case was filed with Sutrapur police station yesterday.

On the occasion, the Forum will accord a reception to newly appointed Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the UN Offices in Geneva Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, Editor and Publisher of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam, litterateur Muhammad Zafar Iqbal, economists Prof Ani Mohammad and Dr Atiur Rahman, poet Dr Mahbub Sadik and media personality Monjurul Ahsan Bulbul at 4:30pm.

Chief Adviser to ATN Bangla Saiful Bari, poet Nirmalendu Goon, Editor of the Amar Desh Amanullah Kabir, dramatist Abdullah Al Mamun and Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation President M Hamid will attend the function as guests. President of the Forum ASM Abdul Halim will preside over the function.

Bahuban Theatre will stage a drama titled 'Prem Bara Kobra' (Love is the best doctor) by Moliere at the concluding session of the programme.

He noted that it was expected that at least one half of the students would be on full scholarship and the wide diversity of cultures, languages, religions and socio-economic backgrounds would also be captured in the student population.

He also reported that the University's preparatory programme, the Access Academy, will open in Chittagong in rented premises in March 2008 while the campus design and construction tasks are completed over the next two to three years.

General Moeen commented that he was deeply interested in the establishment of the Asian University for Women and offered to help in every way he can to expedite the launch of the University.

General Moeen exchanged views on a series of issues relating to land allocation and transfer and tax exemption to be provided by the government to the university under the provisions of its Charter as ratified through an Act of the parliament in Bangladesh that still remain pending.

Shyampur police said the deceased Rajon along with his seven accomplices snatched a cellphone set from one Belal Hossain at Donia Nurbagh in Shyampur on October 18.

Local caught Rajon, Johnny and Helal when they were roaming around at 8:30pm on Tuesday and handed them over to police after a mob beating.

Meyer expressed his great appreciation for General Moeen's support and accepted General Moeen's invitation to visit Bangladesh before the end of the year.



A colourful rally was brought out from Expanded Programme on Immunisation (EPI) Bhaban at Mohakhali in the city yesterday to mark the National Immunisation Day.

DRIVE AGAINST ILLEGAL CLINICS 6 arrested, 5 clinics sealed off

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A mobile court in a special drive against unauthorised clinics, pathologies and nursing homes in Rajshahi sentenced a clinic owner to one month's imprisonment and arrested five other people, including a professor of Rajshahi Medical College (RMC), in the last three days.

The court consisting of Metropolitan Magistrate Rabiu Alam, Lt Col Muhammad Aminul Islam and Major Abdullah Al Baki also sealed off five private clinics and realised over Tk 5 lakh from different clinics and pathologies.

Mustafizur Rahman, one of the owners of Al Arafa Clinic, was sent to jail and the clinic was fined Tk 50,000 for different irregularities, including running the clinic with

forged documents.

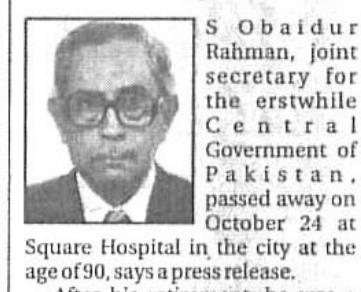
Dr Abu Raihan Khondoker, an associate professor of Biochemistry department of RMC, was arrested from Laser Diagnostic Centre after the court seized a number of blank papers of pathological reports carrying Raihan's signature.

Sources in the joint forces said, the clinic authorities used to cheat patients by giving medical investigation reports at their will using Dr Raihan's pre-signed papers.

Dr Raihan, however, was granted bail later.

Other arrestees include lab assistant Mirajul and technologist Shahadat of Laser Diagnostic Centre, Manager of Dolphin Clinic Badizzaman and laboratory assistant Lutfar Rahman.

Obituary

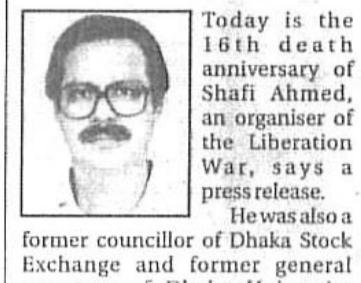


S. Obaidur Rahman, joint secretary for the erstwhile Central Government of Pakistan, passed away on October 24 at Square Hospital in the city at the age of 90, says a press release.

After his retirement, he was a member of Police Training Committee and chairman of Samabay Marketing Society.

He left behind two sons, grandchildren and a host of relatives, friends and admirers to mourn his death.

Death anniversary



Today is the 16th death anniversary of Shafi Ahmed, an organiser of the Liberation War, says a press release.

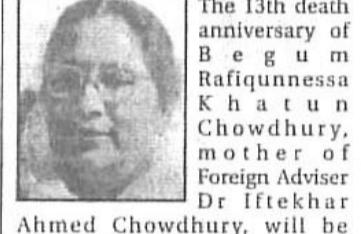
He was also a former councillor of Dhaka Stock Exchange and former general secretary of Dhaka University Central Student Council (DUCSU).

Fateha will be offered and wreaths will be placed at his grave yard at 7:00am and a milad mahfil will be held after Asr prayers at House 6, Block-A, Road-18, Banani in the city.

Relatives, friends and admirers are requested to attend the milad mahfil.

Rafiqunnessa Khatun

UNB, Dhaka



The 13th death anniversary of Begum Rafiqunnessa Khatun Chowdhury, mother of Foreign Adviser Dr Iftekhar

Ahmed Chowdhury, will be observed tomorrow.

On the occasion, doa and milad mahfil will be held in the capital