

GEN MOEEN'S BOOK LAUNCHED

Army chief to write undisclosed events in history of army

Hopes Prof Muzaffer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

TIB Chairman Prof Muzaffer Ahmad yesterday said he expects that Army Chief General Moeen U Ahmed would write undisclosed events in the history of Bangladesh Army and suggest ways to bring transparency to the armed forces.

He was speaking as the chief guest at the publication ceremony of a book titled 'Shantir Swapney: Samayær Smriticharan' (Dreams of peace: reminiscence of time) by General Moeen at Kurmitola Golf Club in the city.

Prof Muzaffer said it is not entirely clear what actually happened in the army during 1/11 and in 1975, and also the events that led to the assassination of President Ziaur Rahman and those related to the regime of Ershad still remain undisclosed.

"It is our sons and daughters who serve in the army. But the people generally do not have clear idea about them. General Moeen in his book talks about transparency in various sectors, but not in the army," he said and hoped that the army chief would elaborate on the undisclosed facts in the second edition of his book.

Prof Muzaffer also appreciated the efforts of General Moeen highlighting the family values of sharing in his book. "Many of us gain many things, but do not share them," he said.

Prof Dr Syed Anwar Hossain of Dhaka University said General Moeen's book is the one that will provoke thoughts and inspire the people to have dreams of a prosperous Bangladesh.

The book is a remarkable addition to the publications of Bangladesh, he said.

By writing this book of hope and peace, General

Moeen has become one of the writers in the history, who could make people optimistic about the future of the country, he added.

"This book will serve as a very important document having vital information. People usually do not write when they are in power. This book will be an important evidence of history," Prof Anwar said.

Speaking on the occasion, General Moeen said he was inspired by readers of his first book 'Nirbachita Sankalan' to write the second book.

"I love the soil of this country and the people and dream of their well-being. I hope the future generation will be inspired by it," the writer said, pledging that he would provide part of the royalties on this book for a school.

Novelist Imdadul Hoque Milan and publisher of the book Ismail Hossain Bakul of Asia Publications also spoke.

One held for making fake nat'l ID cards

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab)-4 arrested a man for making fake 'National Identity (ID) Cards' in Savar on Wednesday night.

They also seized 34 fake cards from his possession. Rab-4 also seized a personal computer, a scanner and a printer from Dallas Studio owned by the culprit at Ulain in Savar.

He was identified as Mahibur Rahman, 32, son of Abdul Hakim of Kamapara in Savar.

Lt Commander Ariful Islam led the Rab team which conducted the raid at around 9.30 on Wednesday night. Mahibur said he had been making the fake cards for over three months, Rab sources said.

He said that he would make fake ID cards for the people who cannot get jobs in local garment factories, as they are under the age of 18 and not legally eligible to work at the factories.

Mahibur said he charged over Tk300 for each fake card.

Programme on Waheedul Haque's death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Soroj Sangskriti Britta will hold a daylong programme at Bhawal Monoharia in Keraniganj today to mark the 2nd death anniversary of Waheedul Haque, eminent Tagore song exponent and journalist.

The programme will begin at Ati Bhawal High School with a drawing competition for children from 10:00am to 12:00 noon. An exhibition of drawings will also be held there.

A discussion and cultural programme will begin at 3:00pm. Economist Dr Atiur Rahman and cultural personality Aly Zaker will take part in the discussion.

Mita Haque, Khairul Anam Shakil, Partha Tanvir Noved, Chandana Majumder and Kajal Dewan will perform at the cultural programme.

DU SOCIAL WELFARE INST

Protest on against semester system

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students of social welfare institute at Dhaka University (DU) yesterday made their teachers hostage inside the institute building by locking the main gate to press home their demand for cancelling the decision of introducing semester system at masters level.

They locked the gate at around 4:30pm after getting a news that the academic committee meeting failed to take any decision regarding their demand.

The meeting was held to solve the problem after the students locked the institute building for about three and a half hours demanding the same on Wednesday.

Vice-Chancellor AAMS Arefin Siddique rushed to the institute and assured the students of getting a solution by Sunday about their demand.

The students then unlocked the gate at around 5:30pm.

They said they have passed the honours examination under traditional system, and if the semester system is now imposed on them at the masters level they will have to suffer a lot.

The institute authorities said they have introduced the semester system considering the future of the students.

They said the students need to show results under grading system to get admission in foreign renowned universities.

Death anniversary

Today is the 37th death anniversary of freedom fighter Shaheed Lt Selim Md Qamarul Hasan Bir Protik, says a press release.

On the occasion, Qurankhwani will be held at the Dhaka Cantonment graveyard, a discussion, milad mahfil and special prayers will be held at Shaheed Lt Selim Shikshalaya at Modhubagh, Moghbazar in the city after Asr prayers.

Pass Upazila Parishad Ord to strengthen local govt

Speakers urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a view exchange meeting yesterday urged the new government and parliament members to pass the Upazila Parishad Ordinance 2008 for strengthening the local government.

They also demanded of the government to enact new law so that lawmakers cannot interfere with the activities of upazila parishad.

The meeting titled 'Expected upazila parishad: Strengthen local government' was organised by Governance Advocacy Forum at the National Press Club in the city.

Eminent economist Dr Qazi Kholiqzaman Ahmad

said lawmakers of the ninth parliament should pass the Upazila Parishad Ordinance.

"The new government will have to adopt proper policy about the relationship among the different bodies of local government. Relations among the union parishad, upazila parishad, district parishad, pourasava and city corporation will have to be clearly defined," said Kholiqzaman, also president of Bangladesh Economic Association, while speaking as chief guest.

Dr ASM Atiqur Rahman, professor of social welfare institute at Dhaka University, suggested enacting new law so that lawmakers cannot interfere with the activities of upazila parishad.

Dr MM Akash, professor of economics at Dhaka University, urged the Awami League government to keep its election pledges for strengthening the local government.

Mahsin Ali, coordinator of Governance Advocacy Forum, called upon the government and Election Commission to hold zila parishad, pourasava and city corporation elections as soon as possible.

Dr Jarina Rahman Khan, professor of public administration at Dhaka University, and Ranjan Karmaker, executive director of Steps Towards Development, also addressed the meeting.

Newspaper office ransacked in Gaibandha

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Some unruly youths ransacked the office of a local daily yesterday evening for publishing a news item on the expulsion of Fulchhari upazila Awami League president Akbar Hossain, also the upazila chairman.

Police said being enraged at the publication of the news item against Fulchhari upazila AL president, a group of youths attacked the office of the Janosanket.

Led by Jimmy, grandson of Akbar, the local goons vandalised the office furniture, telephone set, fax machine and left the spot threatening the journalists.

The news published in the daily mentioned that Fulchhari upazila AL committee at an extended meeting expelled three office bearers, including president, for working in favour of JP candidate in the last parliamentary election.

Youths urged to follow Shawkat Osman's ideals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 92nd birth anniversary of Shawkat Osman was celebrated yesterday with paying a befitting tribute to the memory of the eminent litterateur.

To mark the day, Shawkat Osman Smriti Parishad organised a programme on the Liberation War Museum premises in the city.

The speakers at the function said Shawkat was dynamic, creative and modern both in his dress and address and the young generation should follow his life and works.

Through his writings, the great writer had taught us to become real and ideal human beings and to stand against fundamentalism, they said, adding that everybody should follow his ideologies.

They further said that his creativeness and thoughts on the spirit of the liberation war were a source of inspiration of the young generation to go ahead.

The writer's son and State Minister for Science and ICT Yafes Osman said his father was, in fact, a humanitarian and politically conscious person.

"Though my father was a litterateur, he actually wanted to be a politician. He wrote in his works that he could not be a politician due to his weakness to his family members," he added.

Artist Hashem Khan said Shawkat Osman could attract the people by his creative and humorous personality.

Enayet addl attorney general

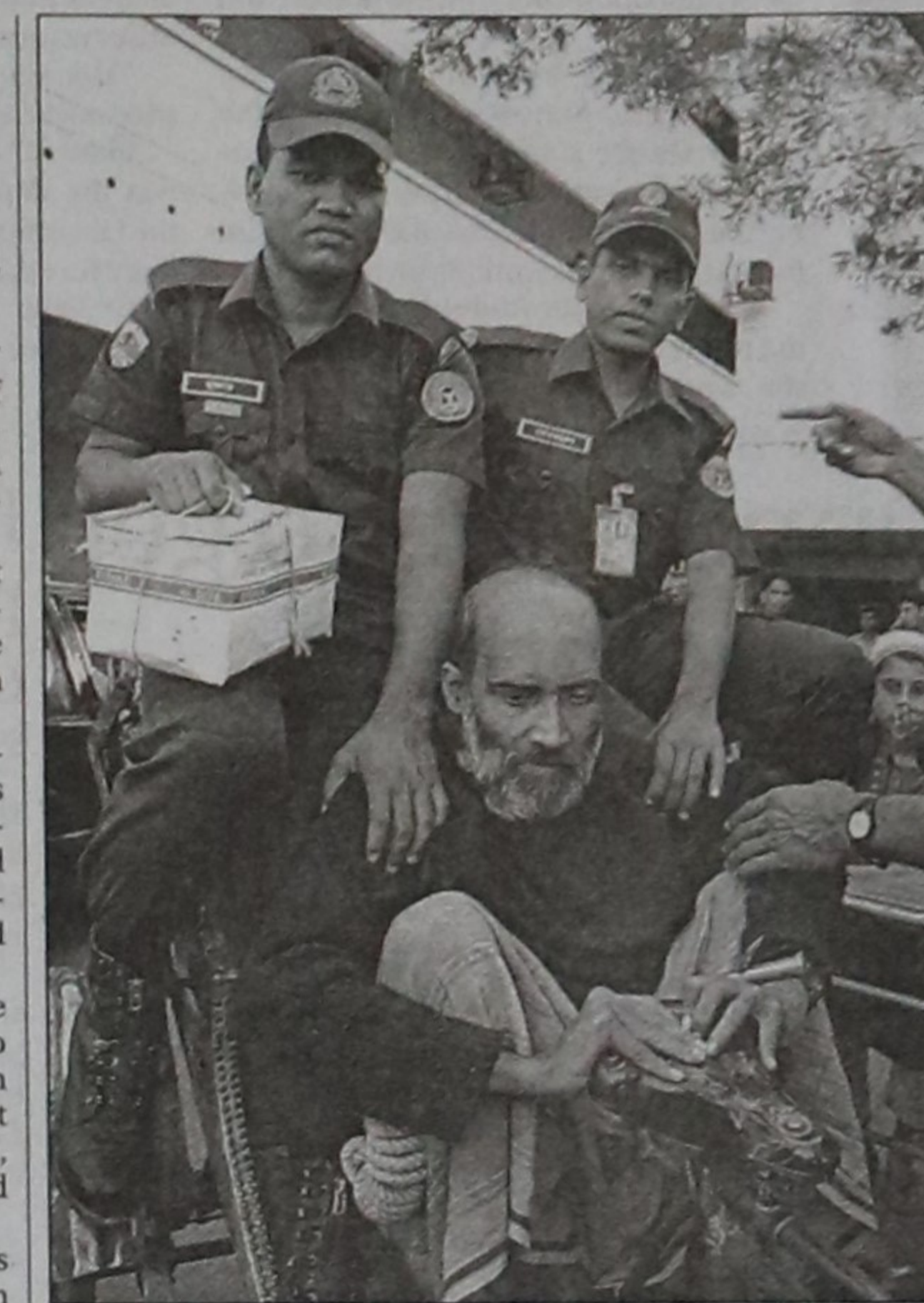
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Supreme Court lawyer M Enayetur Rahim was appointed additional attorney general (AAG) of the country yesterday.

President Iajuddin Ahmed appointed the law officer who joined his office in the afternoon.

Enayet told The Daily Star that he would try to discharge his duties with honesty and sincerity.

A former secretary of Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA), Enayet was enrolled as an HC lawyer on January 2, 1986 and as an Appellate Division lawyer on May 15, 2002.



Policemen take an accused in a murder case from Dhaka Medical College Hospital to jail by a rickshaw yesterday. The accused, Harun, underwent treatment in the hospital for three days.



EA Chaudhury passes away

METRO DESK

EA Chaudhury, a retired inspector general of police and former chairman of Pubali Bank, passed away due to old-age complications at the United Hospital in Dhaka on January 28 at the age of 84, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, one daughter, one son and a host of relatives and well-wishers to mourn his death.

He will be buried in Sylhet after Juma prayers today.

His qulkhwani will be held at his Gulshan residence on February 2 after Maghrib prayers.

Presidential polls

FROM PAGE 1

proposal to Speaker Abdul Hamid for holding the election on February 18.

As per electoral laws, the EC had to consult the speaker since the election will be held when parliament is in session and the House will be used as polling venue, if the election is contested.

According to the polls schedule, nomination papers have to be submitted to Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) ATM Shamsul Huda, who is returning officer (RO) of the polls, from 9:00 am to 4:00pm on February 8. Scrutiny of those will be held at 10:00 am on February 9.

The last date for withdrawal of candidacy is February 11 till 4:00pm.

The EC has prepared electoral roll for the election with 294 legislators of the ninth parliament on the list, as by-election to six seats vacated by the chiefs of AL, BNP and Jatiya Party were yet to be held.

If everything goes smoothly, veteran politician and Deputy Leader of the House Zillur Rahman is going to be elected president uncontested on ruling Awami League nomination as the main opposition BNP will not nominate any contender.

Officials in the EC Secretariat said if there is only one candidate for the post, Zillur Rahman will be declared elected on expiry of the time

limit for withdrawal of candidacy - 4:00pm on February 11.

On February 12, the EC Secretariat will publish the election results in the gazette, clearing the way for Zillur to take oath as new president.

This will end the controversial tenure of incumbent President Iajuddin Ahmed. Since the restoration of parliamentary democracy in 1991, only the presidential election held in that year was contested as the then opposition AL had its nominee in the election.

And the presidential elections held in 1996, 2001 and 2001 were uncontested.

Meanwhile, Iajuddin's tenure as president expired on September 5, 2007 but a new president could not be elected as there was no parliament. So, he continued to hold the office.

As per constitutional provision, a new president is going to be elected within 30 days of first sitting of the 9th parliament held on January 25.

After the independence of Bangladesh, the first presidential election was held on April 8, 1973, the second on June 3, 1978, the third on November 15, 1981, fourth on October 15, 1986, fifth on October 8, 1991, sixth on August 22, 1996, seventh on November 14, 2001 and the eighth on September 16, 2002.

Prof Masuda Khanam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



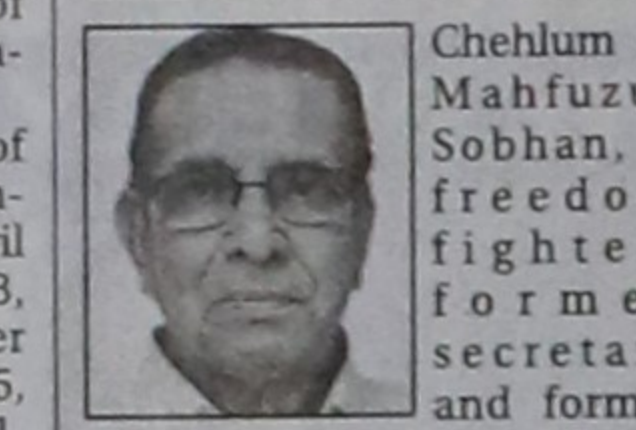
Prof Masuda Khanam, a teacher of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU), passed away due to a cardiac arrest at BSMMU in the city on Wednesday at the age of 58, says a press release.

Prof Masuda, wife of late businessman MA Rashid, left behind her one daughter and one son to mourn her death.

Her qulkhwani will be held at her Dhanmondi residence after Maghrib prayers tomorrow.

Chehlum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Chehlum Mahfuz Sobhan, a freedom fighter, former secretary and former chairman of Uttara Bank Ltd, will be held after Juma prayers today at his village home in Peerpur under Kuliachar upazila in Kishoreganj, says a press release.

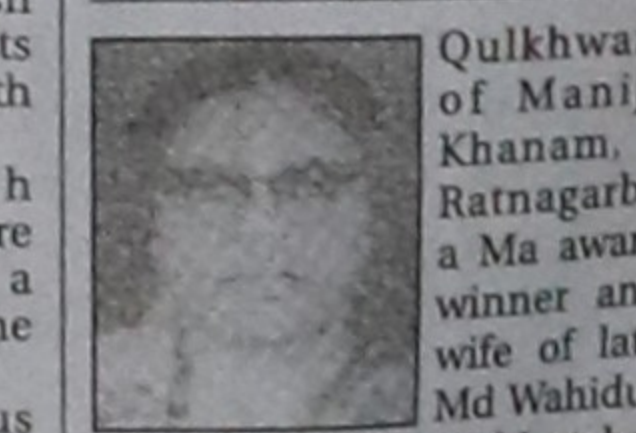
Relative and admirers are requested to attend the programme and pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Mahfuz Sobhan died last month and was laid to rest at his family graveyard with state honour.

He was one of the officials of Mujibnagar government in exile.

Qulkhwani

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Qulkhwani of Manija Khanam, a Ratnagarh Ma award winner and wife of late Md Wahidur Rahman, will be held at her Kalyanpur residence in the city after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

She passed away due to old age complications on January 25.

She left behind her four sons and five daughters to mourn her death.

Pillar damaged as steamer hits Rupsha Bridge

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Khan Jahan Ali Bridge (Rupsha bridge) suffered damage as one of its protection pillars was severely hit by BIWTC rocket steamer MV Ostrich on Wednesday morning.

The steamer bound for Dhaka from Khulna carrying less than 100 passengers also suffered extensive damages due to the accident.

The accident occurred at 4:15am on Wednesday as the pilot master of the steamer lost its control to move properly due to dense fog.

Eyewitnesses said two navigational lights were also badly damaged as the steamer collided with supporting pavement of the pillars of the Tk482-crore bridge.

Later, passengers awestruck by the accident were offloaded from the 80-year-old vessel and brought to the shore with the help of country boats and trawlers. None of them was hurt.

BIWTC Manager Sheikh Feroze claimed that the steamer suffered a severe damage of Tk30 lakh.

Pilot Officer of the steamer Md Lutfor Rahman and Caretaker of the bridge Md Monirul Islam lodged two separate general diaries with the Rupsha Police Station in this connection.

Some passengers alleged that the pilot officer was dozing when the accident occurred.

Documentary on gibbons

UNB, Dhaka

The Wildlife Trust of Bangladesh (WTB) and Global Science Productions (GSP) have jointly produced a documentary on gibbons (Ulluk) titled 'Gibbons: The Forgotten Apes in Peril'.

The documentary will be screened at WTB office in Cosmos Centre in the city's Malibagh area at 10am today.

Dr Elliott H Haimoff, executive producer of GSP, and his TV crews will be there to address the viewers, said a WTB press release.

Private TV, Channel i, will air the documentary some time later.

DHAKA TODAY. Annual conference, Memorial lecture, Documentary show, Roundtable, Seminar, Painting competition, Exhibition, Fashion show, Rally.

WEATHER TODAY. Fall in temperature likely. UNB, Dhaka. Weather is likely to remain dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.