



Death anniversary of Tawfiq Aziz Khan observed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The eighth death anniversary of Tawfiq Aziz Khan, an eminent journalist, sports writer and commentator, was observed yesterday.

One of the leading journalists of the country, Tawfiq joined the then Pakistan Observer as a staff reporter in 1958 while he was a student of Dhaka University.

He worked as public relations officer at the erstwhile EPIDC (East Pakistan Industries Development Corporation) and Titas Gas Corporation from 1968 to 1975 before joining Dainik Bangla and Bichitra as general manager.

He joined The Daily Star in 1990 as its founder managing editor. He became executive editor in 1997 and worked in that capacity till his death.

The first English sports commentator of the country, Tawfiq Aziz worked in radio, and later in television, since 1958. He was also the resident editor of Cricketer Asia of Hong Kong and Sports Times of Lahore.

Tawfiq Aziz was the founder editor of the fortnightly Sports World (Kriya Jagat). He was also involved with the weekly Holiday at the initial stage of its publication.

A life member of Jatiya Press Club, he was elected president of Bangladesh Sports Writers' Association for six times.

He was also a national committee member of Fema (Fair Election Monitoring Alliance). He was a founder member and president of the country's first group theatre 'Drama Circle' and served the Rotary Club of Dhaka North-West as its president for two consecutive years from 1999.

He died of lung cancer at the age of 64 on February 11, 2001.

Read constitution before trying war criminals

Says SQ Chowdhury

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP lawmaker Salauddin Quader Chowdhury yesterday called on the government to read the constitution before initiating the trial of war criminals.

"Those who want to try war criminals should read the article 47 (A) and 47 (3) of the constitution to find out whether the people of the country are eligible to be war criminals," he said. "However, we want the trial of war criminals," he added.

The lawmaker was speaking as the chief guest at a discussion on Tifa, transit (corridor) agreement and regional taskforce in the context of Bangladesh's security at the National Press Club in the city. Bangladesh Mafaswal Manabadhikar Sangbadik Forum organised the discussion.

The BNP leader also said transit agreement can be signed with a country, but it is essential to know about that country and the pros and cons of such an agreement.

"We would be able to deal with transit issue when our economy would be strengthened and our per capita income would be \$1000," he said.

Criticising the proposal for a South Asian Taskforce, Salauddin said it is a new proposal to bring foreign soldiers to our land in the name of curbing militancy.

Former minister Nitai Roy Chowdhury, Jamaat-e-Islami Assistant Secretary General Abdul Kader Mollah, Editor of The New Nation Mostofa Kamal Majumder and forum secretary general Reza Kashem Raju also spoke.

Body recovered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pallabi police recovered body of an unidentified burglar aged about 25 at Eastern housing project in Rupnagar in the city early yesterday.

Police said the thief fell down from the third floor of the house of one Abul Khair at around 4:15am when he was cutting the grill of the house.

Introduce unified primary education

Speakers tell dialogue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a dialogue yesterday emphasised the importance of implementing a unified primary education system in the country.

Speaking as the chief guest, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Hasan Mahmud said several types of primary education is prevailing in the country which is producing discrimination among the quality of pupils.

He underscored the need for implementing a unified primary education system to remove the discrimination.

Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI) organised the dialogue on 'Education system and curricula in Bangladesh and its compatibility with the modern age' at the BEI auditorium in the city with its President Farooq Sobhan in the chair.

The minister expressed frustration on the

lavish lifestyle of the youths at present, saying that in past time young people of the country had at least some sort of sacrificing tendency which was found in a large scale during the liberation war in 1971.

Stressing the need for unified education and renovating madrasa, Independent University Vice Chancellor Bazlul Mobin Chowdhury said the meaning of madrasa is 'centre of learning'.

"So, it is not necessary to teach the students religion there," he added.

The BEI president said Bangladesh has several divergent streams of education that lead to fragment the social fabric.

He further said that some of those disparate streams have failed to equip the youth to face the challenges of modern age. Moreover, madrasa education has long been perceived as a breeding ground for radicalisation in Bangladesh.



Foreign Minister Dipu Moni speaks at the closing session of the 7th South Asian Free Media Conference at a hotel in Cox's Bazar yesterday.

NIKO, BARGE CORRUPTION CASES Hearing on pending HC rules on Feb 15

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hearing on pending High Court (HC) rules on the proceedings of the Niko and barge-mounted power plant corruption cases filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) against Prime Minister and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina and others is due to be held on February 15.

The lawyers concerned of the cases could not specifically inform the legal status of the co-accused of the cases other than Sheikh Hasina and her Adviser Dr Toufiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury, since the original records containing the legal status of the co-accused are now pending with the HC.

Additional Attorney General Mansur Habib, ACC's lawyer Advocate Khurshid Alam Khan and Sheikh Hasina's lawyer Advocate AFM Mesbahuddin recently told The Daily Star that without seeing the case records,

it is not possible for them to make any comment on whether all the accused of the cases are on bail or in custody.

They said the trial courts are not proceeding with the trials of the cases since the HC had stayed their proceedings.

The HC had directed the law enforcers not to harass or arrest Sheikh Hasina in connection with the cases, which are now pending with the special judge's courts in Dhaka and Toufiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury got bail from the Appellate Division in the cases.

Upon separate quashment petitions, the HC on July 7 last year stayed all the proceedings of the corruption cases filed by the ACC and issued the rules asking the government and ACC to explain why the cases should not be quashed.

The Niko scam case awaits charge hearing and the barge-mounted power plant case is in the phase of cross-examination

of the prosecution witnesses by the defence. BARGE-MOUNTED PLANT CASE On January 10 of last year, the ACC pressed charges against Sheikh Hasina and seven others in the barge-mounted power plant corruption case.

The other chargesheeted accused of the case are Bangabandhu Memorial Trust (BMT) Curator Siddique, Toufiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury, former Power Development Board (PDB) chairman Noor Uddin Mahmud Kamal, Managing Director of Summit Industries and Mercantile Corporation Private Ltd Aziz Khan and Director Farid Khan, United Group Chairman Hasan Mahmud Raja and Director Abul Kalam Azad.

NIKO CASE The commission pressed charges on May 7 of last year against nine persons including Sheikh Hasina.

The other accused are former state minister for energy Prof Rafiqul Islam, former principal secretary to Prime Minister's Office Dr SA Samad, former energy secretaries Toufiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury and M Akmal Hossain, former Petrobangla chairman Mosharraf Hossain, and Vice-President (South Asia) of Niko Resources Bangladesh Ltd Kashem Sharif, former secretary of External Resources Division Dr AKM Moshir Rahman and former director of Petrobangla (mines, minerals and operation) Syed Anwarul Haque.

HC declares illegal forced retirement of 7 Biman officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday declared illegal the actions of Biman Bangladesh Airlines authorities giving forced retirement to seven senior officials, including its chief engineer Fakhru Alam Bhuiyan.

The HC bench of Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain and Justice Quamrul Islam Siddiqui also directed the authorities to reinstate them to their respective posts immediately.

The HC verdict came upon seven separate writ petitions filed by the forced-retired Biman officials.

Organisations greet Zillur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different socio-political organisations yesterday congratulated veteran Awami League leader Zillur Rahman on his being the next president of the country.

In separate statements, they said it is a matter of great pride to have such a patriotic and political heavyweight as the president.

Amra Muktijoddhar Santan President Md Humayun Kabir and General Secretary Syed Ashraful Islam Nayan greeted Zillur and expressed gratitude to the prime minister and the cabinet to nominate him.

Jatiya Party Secretary General Shahidul Islam also greeted the president-elect and hoped that he would help establish good governance and act neutrally for the welfare of the country.

ASM Abdur Rab also congratulated the new president and wished him success.

Gaziul Haque hospitalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Language movement veteran Gaziul Haque was admitted to Square Hospital in the city yesterday morning as his condition deteriorated.

He has been placed on artificial ventilator at the ICU of the hospital.

Born on February 13 in 1929, Gaziul Haque played a leading role in the language movement of 1952. He is also a valiant freedom fighter.

Gaziul Haque, a member of the advisory committee of Awami League, also took part in the mass upsurge of 1969 and anti-autocratic movement in 1990.



Mosatfiz, Azad DSEC president, general secretary

UNB, Dhaka

Mir Mostafiz Ahmed and Abul Kalam Azad were elected president and general secretary of Dhaka Sub-editors' Council (DSEC) on Tuesday.

Other office-bearers are: Vice-president: Jahangir Alam, Joint Secretary: Shahidul Islam, Treasurer: Ashraful Islam, Organising Secretary: Lutfar Rahman Himel (unopposed), Publicity and Publication Secretary: Nasima Akhter Shoma, Office Secretary: AKM Sakawat Hossain, Training and Research Secretary: Enayet Ferdous and Culture and Sports Secretary: Khairul Alam.

Executive committee members are Idris Madrazi, Sharmin Jahan Ajanta, Suman Islam, Shahana Shelly, M Shamsul Alam Shetu, Shah Matin Tipu, Uttam Kumar, Jakirul Islam, Tapan Bagchi, Soib Ahmed and Emdad Hossain Bhuiyan.

Birth anniversary of Hena Das today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 85th birth anniversary of Comrade Hena Das, a pioneer in women's rights movement in the country, will be celebrated today, says a press release.

On the occasion, CPB leaders and her admirers will greet her at a ceremony at her residence in the city.

5000 phones out of order in city, Tongi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

About 5000 telephones of different areas in the city and Tongi are remained out of order since Tuesday night as thieves took away cables, says a press release.

A total of 4000 telephones of Dhaka Medical College Hospital, Lalbagh, Islambagh, Posta, Subal Das Road, Raj Srinath Road areas were out of order as thieves took away cables from a manhole in front of Suhrawardy Hall of the Buet. It will take 4-5 days to repair the cables.

Meanwhile, 900 telephones were out of order in Cheralga market and adjacent areas due to stealing of underground cable from near Kaderia Textile Mills in Tongi.

Repairing of the cables will be started soon after getting permission of digging road from Roads and Highway Department.



Outgoing President Iajuddin Ahmed stands in silence after placing a wreath at 'Shikha Anirban' at Dhaka Cantonment yesterday to pay homage to the members of the Armed Forces who sacrificed their lives in the Liberation War.

'MUKTIJUDDHO O NARI' Demand for probe into plagiarism of manuscript

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Nari Pragati Sangha yesterday demanded the government investigate plagiarism of the manuscript of 'Muktijuddho O Nari' (Women and the Liberation War) from the ministry of liberation war affairs.

It also demanded punishment to the 'plagiarists' of the research work and confiscation of all the copies of the plagiarised version from the market.

Nari Pragati leaders said this at a press conference at the National Press Club in the city.

Executive Director of the organisation Rokeya Kabir claimed that under the project 'Muktijuddho O Nari' of Ihtas Bishoyok Grontho Prokash Prokolpo' of Bangla Academy, she along with Mujib Mehedi, a researcher and poet, started to work for the book in 1999.

But as the project was suspended and the manuscript was transferred to the concerned ministry, they finally published the book from the Institute for Environment and Development (IED) in 2006, she added.

She said: "But Dr Emajuddin Ahmed, former vice chancellor (VC) of Dhaka University, Dr Jasim Uddin, former VC of Jahangirnagar University, and Mehedi Hassan Palash, a senior sub-editor of a vernacular daily the Inqilab, plagiarised our research works," adding that the plagiarised version styled 'Muktijuddho Nari' (Women in the Liberation War) was published from Asia Publications in 2008 with some distortion and dropping out some sections.

"We have already sent letters to the liberation war ministry and Bangla Academy to investigate the issue as the real history of the liberation war and the

main philosophy of women in the war were distorted in the plagiarised version. At the same time, a huge amount of money was wasted for this," said Rokeya.

She also mentioned that the changes made in the plagiarised copy include proclaiming the country's liberation war on March 27, 1971, while the real history is that it was proclaimed on March 26, 1971, correctly mentioned in the original book.

The plagiarists also never mentioned Bangabandhu when they referred to Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. From page 28 to page 188 of the book was copied from the manuscript, albeit just conveniently dropping some sections.

Former director general of Bangla Academy Prof Syed Anwar Hossain, IED Executive Director Noman Ahmed and writer Mujib Mehedi also spoke.

3 DU JURNOS GET AWARDS

Regular Ducsu polls reiterated

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University Journalists' Association (Duja) yesterday awarded three journalists Shaheed Sangbadik Chishti Shah Helalul Rahman Award for their best reporting on the Dhaka University.

Jannatul Ferdous Tanvi, DU Correspondent of Bdnews24.com, won the award for her best report in 2008, while Saidur Rahman of the Ittefaq and Mahbubur Rahman of the Amar Desh received the awards for 2007 and 2006 respectively.

Tanvi received the award for her report on rare manuscripts, which were lying neglected at the central library, while Saidur got the award for his report on the postal system at DU and Mahbub for his report on

Ducsu elections.

Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique gave away the awards to the winners at a ceremony at Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban on the campus. Each award carries Tk10,000.

Speaking on the occasion, he reiterated the need to hold Dhaka University Central Students' Union (Ducsu) elections regularly.

There is no alternative to holding elections to Ducsu in order to bring a qualitative change to the student politics, the VC said, adding that the active student bodies should reach a consensus to this end.

Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof Harun-or-Rashid, Treasurer Prof Mizanur Rahman, Prof AFM Yusuf Haider and Proctor Dr Saiful Islam Khan were also present.

Commission concerned at HR violation by Tex Tech

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STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has expressed grave concern at the violation of human rights by the authorities of Tex Tech Company Ltd, a garment factory at Banani, as they sent out the female workers barefoot during the lunch break.

At a meeting on February 10, the commission asked the factory authorities to explain immediately their position in this regard.

The commission took the action following a report on such act published in The Daily Star on February 8 under the headline 'Barefoot, they sent out for lunch'.

"Take action against PSC chairman"

'Take action against PSC chairman'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Candidates, who were unsuccessful as per the second results of 27th BCS Examination, yesterday demanded stern actions against the PSC chairman.

In a statement, they wanted to know why the chairman is still in his post despite evidences of his corruption and fraud, says a press release.

They said any other way rather than reinstating the successful candidates of 1st-phase results will create more complications.

Meanwhile, the unsuccessful candidates are continuing their hunger strike to urge the government to remove the PSC chairman and his subordinates for fraud in releasing the 2nd phase results of BCS examination within 72 hours.

On the third day of the hunger strike yesterday, six more protesters fell sick bringing the total number to 13, the press release added.

Obituary

UNB, Dhaka

Alhaj Badrunnesa Khanam, younger sister of Bangladesh's first Prime Minister Tajuddin Ahmed, passed away due to a cardiac arrest at Combined Military Hospital (CMH) in the city early yesterday at the age of 68.

She left behind her one son, three daughters and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn her death.

Badrunnesa will be buried at her family graveyard after namaz-e-janaza at Dhalla College ground in Bhaluka upazila of Mymensingh at 11:00am today.

WEATHER TODAY logo

Moderate fog likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky having chances of light rain or drizzle at one or two places over Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Dhaka, Mymensingh, Tangail and Comilla in next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Light to moderate fog may also occur over the river basins of the country during late night till morning, Met Office said. Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged.

Highest temperature 32.0 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Hatia and lowest 10.8 degrees Celsius at Srimongal.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:52pm today and rises at 6:33am 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	29.2	15.0	61	48
Chittagong	29.0	15.7	62	62
Rajshahi	29.3	12.6	89	71
Khulna	30.0	17.0	95	63
Barisal	29.8	14.5	86	75
Sylhet	31.7	15.4	58	58
Cox's Bazar	31.2	17.6	53	62

DHAKA TODAY logo

- Seminar**  
BISS organises a seminar on 'Maritime security of Bangladesh' and the launching ceremony of the book 'Whither National Security Bangladesh 2007'. Venue: BISS auditorium. Time: 10:30am.
- Discussion**  
Alliance for Knowledge Development and Awareness for Sustainable Health Care organises a discussion to mark the World Cancer Day. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 3:15pm.
- Memorial meeting**  
A S Mahmud Smityy Sangsad organises a memorial meeting marking the fifth death anniversary of A S Mahmud, founder publisher of The Daily Star and founder chairman of Ekushey Television. Venue: Bengal Shilpalay, Dhanmondi. Time: 11:00am.
- Drawing competition**  
Bangladesh Labour Welfare Foundation organises a drawing competition on elimination of child labour. Venue: National Press Club auditorium. Time: 5:00pm.
- Roundtable**  
MMC organises a roundtable on 'Women in house and job: Difficulties and remedies'. Venue: Biam Foundation auditorium. Time: 9:00am.
- Cake festival**  
Drishy organises a cake festival marking its founding anniversary. Venue: TSC cafeteria. Time: 3:00pm.