



Death anniversary of Tawfiq Aziz today

METRO DESK

Today is the ninth death anniversary of Tawfiq Aziz Khan, an eminent journalist, sports writer and commentator, says a press release.

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

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

The first English sports commentator of the country, Tawfiq Aziz had 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.

He 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 Fair Election Monitoring Alliance.

A founder member and president of the country's first group theatre 'Drama Circle', Tawfiq Aziz also served the Rotary Club of Dhaka North-West as its president for two consecutive years from 1999.

He passed away due to lung cancer on February 11, 2001 at the age of 64.

Hasib Uddin Ahmad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 7th death anniversary of Khandakar Hasib Uddin Ahmad, former district and sessions judge, Dhaka, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at his village home at Dashpara in Daudkandi after Zohr prayers.

Relatives and admirers are requested to attend the doa and pray for eternal peace of the departed soul.

Obituary

METRO DESK

Rawshan Ara, wife of former principal information officer (PIO) Harun-ur-Rashid, passed away at her Moghbazar residence yesterday at the age of 56.

She left behind her husband, three sons and a host of relatives to mourn her death.

Her body has been kept at mortuary as her second son will arrive today from abroad.

She will be buried at a family graveyard at Ghorasal tomorrow (Friday) afternoon.

Rakib Alam

METRO DESK

Rakib Alam, a newspaper agent of Lalmonirhat and father of Sajid Alam, agent of The Daily Star, passed away at Rangpur Medical College Hospital on February 7 due to old age complications at the age of 80, says a press release.

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

He was laid to eternal rest at Rangpur Kher Bari graveyard.

All have been requested to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Govt firm to overcome climate change impacts on economy

Hasina tells parliament

BSS, Sangsad Bhaban

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday told the parliament that the objective of the government is to keep wheels of the economy active through reducing losses caused by climate change by effectively lowering risks of disasters and overcoming it.

Replying to a question from treasury bench lawmaker Ilias Ali Mollah, Hasina said the disaster preparedness council, inter-ministerial disaster management committee, and district, upazila, union, city corporation and municipality level committees are working for raising people's capacity on pre-

disaster preparations, risk reduction, emergency response to overcome disasters.

For overcoming climate change impacts, various plans have been taken for further strengthening and raising embankments at coastal belts, constructing more shelter centres and barrack houses, she added.

Initiatives have been taken to modernise Standing Order on Disaster (SOD) and to include guidelines on post-earthquake measures in the SOD, she said adding: "Formulation of 'National Disaster Management Planning' and 'Disaster Management Act' are now at the final stage."

The losses due to disaster could be reduced through alerting people by weather forecasting and for this weather forecasting and disaster warning system has been simplified, she said.

As the people at coastal areas are vulnerable to climate change, steps have been taken to train members of district and upazila committees working in these areas with the new cyclone signals and climate risk reduction measures, she also said.

Hasina said 724 barrack houses and 52 flood and cyclone shelter centres have been constructed costing Tk 47 crore during 2009-2010 financial year for landless families,

hit by 2007.

Besides, Tk 101.85 crore have been allocated under the Food and Disaster Management Ministry for assisting poor and jobless people in 11 Aila-affected districts, she said.

Programmes have been taken to construct 47 flood shelter centres at Tk 13.18 crore during this fiscal year at the flood-prone and river erosion areas, she added.

As part of the government's vision for establishing Digital Bangladesh, she said initiatives have been taken to disseminate disaster alert message through mobile phones at the flood-prone Sirajganj and cyclone-prone Cox's Bazar districts.

She said the government as part of

its preparations on earthquake has already purchased machineries for post-earthquake search and rescue operations, which have been handed over to Armed Forces Division and Fire Service and Civil Defence and initiatives have been taken to buy more machineries worth Tk 69.9 crore.

For reducing earthquake risks, draft on 'National Contingency Plan' has been formulated, she said.

A total of 600 volunteers have been trained in Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet districts for conducting post-earthquake rescue operations, and the number of volunteers would be increased to 62,000 in three years.

ICHHAMOTI DREDGING

Dhaka-Delhi high level meet begins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

High level officials from Bangladesh and India held a meeting at Bongaon SDO office in West Bengal yesterday morning to survey the Ichhamoti River before dredging work begins.

The five-member Bangladesh delegation was led by Superintending Engineer of Bangladesh Water Development Board (WDB) Abdul Majid Mollah, while the five-member Indian team was led by Chief Engineer Director of Waterways SK Chattopadhyay.

The delegation will make a decision about

where to start the dredging from the zero line after a partial survey following international border laws is completed.

A spokesperson from the Khulna BWD office said that the delegates agreed to dredge the Ichhamoti River, which flows through the India-Bangladesh border, during a secretary level meeting on January 4 in Dhaka.

A survey report by the India-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission published in September 2006 said that the last four-party alliance government highlighted serious problems caused by flooding on both sides of the border.



Maria Minna, chairperson of the Canada-Bangladesh Parliamentary Friendship Group, calls on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her official residence Jamuna in the city yesterday.

ONE YEAR OF AL GOVT

Politicisation of admin obstacle to good governance

Says Policy Research Centre report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Politicisation of the administration acted as a major barrier to ensuring good governance during the last one year of Awami League government, said an evaluation report prepared by the Policy Research Centre.

The report on the activities of the public administration was launched at the National Press Club yesterday. It especially points at the role of the advisers to the prime minister.

This is for the first time that seven advisers to the prime minister have been appointed, which largely contributed to the centralisation of decision-making and it goes against the spirit of democracy, said the report.

Referring to the removal of two judges of the Judicial Service Association, the report said an adviser even flouted the constitution by playing a role in this

regard.

The report also mentioned that transfer of administrative officials to certain posts was largely dependent on his/her affiliation with the ruling party instead of merit. In many cases, competent officers have been made Officer on Special Duty (OSD).

Political consideration also played an important role in promotion, causing disappointment to many officials, the report said, adding that even recommendations of the Superior Selection Board have been ignored in many cases.

The report also pointed out some positive outcomes of the one-year rule, which includes bringing the government agencies under 'Wide Area Network'. It will help bring the ministers and secretaries closer to the district level administration, the report added.

It also commended the new pay scale and the initiative to enact 'Civil Service Act'.

Prof Muzaffer Ahmad, president of Sushasoner Jonney Nagorik (Sujan), Prof Mobasser Monem, Prof Salahuddin M Anisuzzaman and Abu Sayeed Khan, managing editor of the daily Shomokal, discussed the report at the launching ceremony.

Prof Muzaffer stressed the need to restructure and decentralise the administrative system in order to establish good governance.

He also said the rivalry between different cadre services is an outcome of a faulty system. The new structure must decide the character of decentralisation and inter-relationship between the 28 cadre services.

Prof Salahuddin said the administration must get rid of party influence. The government should give direction and advice to the administrative officials while the opposition should ensure accountability of the administration.

Abide by rules of procedure Speaker urges lawmakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speaker Abdul Hamid yesterday urged lawmakers to abide by the rules of procedure of parliament in speaking in the House and expunged a lawmaker's remarks on a High Court's recent verdict declaring illegal the warrant of precedence.

Citing specific provision stipulated in the rules of procedure that impose restriction on making comments on any sub-judice matter, the speaker said recently some lawmakers have been making remarks on sub-judice issues.

As ruling Awami League lawmaker Brig Gen (Retd) SK Abu Bakr yesterday criticised the High Court for declaring illegal the warrant of precedence and bringing down the position of chiefs of three services under district judges, the speaker came up with the ruling.

The AL lawmaker made the remark while he was speaking on the thanks giving motion on

the president's address.

"He [Bakr] spoke the matter which is under sub-judice. Making remarks on such matter is clear violation of the rules of procedure. Therefore, the part of his said speech was expunged from the proceedings," the speaker said.

Earlier, the speaker informed the House about the Election Commission (EC)'s gazette published on February 3 vacating seat of AL lawmaker Major (Retd) Jasim Uddin from Bhola-3.

The High Court on February 26, 2009 declared Brigadier Jasim's candidacy in the December 29 parliamentary polls as before his participation in the polls five years were not passed since his compulsory retirement from the army.

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court rejected Jasim's appeal against the High Court ruling on October 18.

Criminal killed in Kushtia 'shootout'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A criminal was killed in a "shootout" between his cohorts and law enforcers at Chilmari Char under Daulatpur upazila in Kushtia early yesterday.

Police said the dead was identified as Hobibor alias Hobi Kabiraj, 40, son of Ahad Kabiraj of Philp Nagar in the upazila. He had been leading a notorious gang Panna Bahini after the death of its chief Panna in a crossfire with Rapid Action Battalion on July 21, 2006.

Daulatpur police raided Chilmari Char where Hobi and his men were holding a secret meeting around 3:15am, police said.

Sensing presence of the law enforcers, the gang opened fire prompting them to retaliate.

Hobi was caught in the line of the fire and died on the spot.

The accomplices of Hobi, however, managed to flee the scene.

Police recovered a light gun, seven bullets, nine bombs and two machetes from the spot.

According to police, Hobi was accused in 10 cases, including six murder charges.

CID prays for 5-day more remand for Rezzakul

BSS, Chittagong

Criminal Investigation Department (CID) yesterday prayed for another five-day remand for detained former National Security Intelligence (NSI) Chief Major General (Retd) Rezzakul Haider Chowdhury in connection with the biggest ever ammo haul case.

Earlier, after confessional statement by prime accused Hafizur Rahman with the revelation of some astounding information, a metropolitan magistrate court on Monday last granted three-day remand for the former NSI boss.

"We think that three-day remand would not be enough for interrogating him to the CID headquarters in Dhaka," senior superintendent of CID Mohammad Maniruzzaman told BSS.

So, we prayed to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM) for giving another five-day remand for proper quizzing. However, the court granted the prayer and fixed today for hearing, Maniruzzaman added.

Mother could not come to terms with death of Sumi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hasina Begum, mother of seven-year-old girl Sumi, could not believe that her daughter has died in a road accident that took place six days ago.

Rather, she strongly believes that Sumi has gone to any of their relatives' house and will return soon.

Sumi was killed in a road accident on Friday Nazrul Islam Avenue on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue. Her mother and 14-month-old baby brother were also seriously injured in the same accident. Since then, they had been undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

They returned to their home at West Nakhla Para yesterday afternoon after their release from the hospital. Until then, her mother had no idea about what happened to her daughter, as her father did not reveal the truth to her.

When their neighbours told Hasina Begum that Sumi died in the road accident, she burst into tears but refused to accept the grim reality.

Meanwhile, the police are yet to identify the bus that ran over Sumi. Neither could they arrest the driver and helper of the bus.

The accident took place

when Hasina Begum was crossing the road holding hands of Sumi and carrying Hasan on her lap in front of BAF Falcon hall at around 1:15pm on Friday.

After the news of the family was published in newspapers, many generous people came forward to help them and donated over Tk one lakh as Sumi's father Nazrul Sarkar could not afford their treatment.

Jamaat wants judicial probe

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami yesterday asked the government to form a judicial probe body to investigate all murders in educational institutions, including Monday night's killing in Rajshahi University.

"We want a judicial probe body to look into all the student killings, not only the recent RU one, to restore academic atmosphere," Jamaat Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahid told a press conference in the city.

He also urged the government to take steps rising above political interest for bringing an end to killing of students and campus violence.

SC decides fate of Jamuna Future Park today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court (SC) will order today on whether the Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) can demolish the unauthorised floors of Jamuna Future Park Shopping Complex in the city.

The apex court yesterday ordered the date for filing an order on a petition passed by the shopping complex authorities against the February 3 High Court (HC) order that rejected a writ petition challenging a Rajuk notice to demolish the unauthorised floors of the 10-storey building.

Earlier in the day, a six-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Mohammad Fazlul Karim concluded hearing on the petition.

The shopping complex authorities on February 4 filed the petition with the SC, seeking stay on the HC order.

The Rajuk on January 13 served a notice upon the authorities of Jamuna Future Park shopping complex, asking them to demolish four unauthorised floors of the complex within seven days.

Jamuna Future Park authorities filed a writ petition on January 17 with the HC challenging the legality of Rajuk notice that was summarily rejected by the HC on February 3.

Following the HC order, Rajuk moved to demolish the unauthorised floors on February 4 and stopped demolishing the same day following the filing of the petition with the SC against the HC order.

Barrister Rafique-Ul-Huq appeared for Jamuna Park authorities, while Attorney General Mahbubey Alam argued for Rajuk.

TAX DODGING CASE Charge framing hearing against Jalil on Mar 21

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday fixed March 21 for hearing on charge framing against former Awami League general secretary Abdul Jalil in connection with a tax evasion case filed in October last year.

Judge ANM Bashir Ullah of the Senior Special Judge's Court set the date after Jalil's lawyers submitted a petition seeking adjournment of the hearing saying that their client had gone to London for treatment on February 6 and was yet to come back.

The court also fixed the same date for hearing on the discharge petition submitted by Jalil's lawyers on January 18.

Mahmudur challenges govt action

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mahmudur Rahman, acting editor of the daily Amar Desh, yesterday filed a writ petition with the High Court (HC) challenging the government action barring him from going to Frankfurt in Germany.

Hearing of the petition may be held on February 14.

Immigration police on Tuesday night prohibited Mahmudur Rahman to leave Zia International Airport (ZIA) by a Qatar Airways flight to attend Frankfurt Spring Fare, as he has been accused in a number of cases.

Doa mahfil

METRO DESK

A doa mahfil in memory of A B M Motahar Husain, a retired joint secretary, will be held at his residence at Road-24, House-7, Block-K, Banani in the city at 6:30pm today, says a press release.

Motahar Husain, son of late Ali Azzam of Munshi Bari, East Ukil Para, Feni, died on February 7, at the age of 92.

He left behind three daughters and one son. He was buried at Banani graveyard.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to attend the doa mahfil and pray for the salvation of the departed soul.