



Shawkat Osman's death anniversary today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 12th death anniversary of eminent litterateur Shawkat Osman, says a press release.

Born in Hooghly, West Bengal in 1917, he started his professional career as a teacher by joining Chittagong Commerce College in 1947.

His real name was Sheikh Azizur Rahman. He wrote novels, short stories, poems, drama, stories for children and essays under the pen name Shawkat Osman.

His writings predominantly highlight messages against fundamentalism and chronicle tales of the oppressed.

His novel 'Kritodasher Hanshi', featuring an upsurge against dictatorship -- is considered a classic. His another classic, 'Janani', was translated into English and has been acclaimed in many countries.

He received many awards and accolades including Adamji Saitya Award in 1962, Bangla Academy Award in 1966, Ekushey Padak in 1983 and the Independence Day Award in 1997.

Shawkat Osman Smriti Parishad will hold a memorial meeting at the Liberation War Museum at 5:30pm today.

Raushan Jamil

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 9th death anniversary of Raushan Jamil, a renowned actress and director of Jago Art Centre, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil and quankhwani will be held at Jago Art Centre at 55 Swamibagh in the city after Asr prayers.

Raushan Jamil was awarded Ekushey Padak in 1995 in recognition of her contribution to dance practice.

Relatives and admirers are requested to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Aflatun

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 4th death anniversary of Aflatun, a noted journalist and litterateur, says a press release.

On the occasion, a doa and milad mahfil will be held at his residence at 482 North Shahjahanpur in the city after Asr prayers today and foods will be distributed among the destitute.

Friends, relatives and admirers have been requested to attend the milad.

Take action against students trying to spoil atmosphere

Hasina asks DU authorities

DU CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked Dhaka University (DU) authorities to take action against any students, irrespective of the student organisations they belong to, if they try to spoil the congenial atmosphere on the campus.

"She [Hasina] asked us to take action as per the university rules against members of any student bodies who will try to destroy the academic atmosphere," Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique said.

The directive came when an eight-member DU delegation, led by the vice chancellor, met Hasina at her office in the morning.

During the meeting, Hasina also asked

the DU officials to properly implement the development projects of DU and focus on its research activities, said Prof Siddique.

The delegation members included Pro-VC Prof Harun-or-Rashid, Treasurer Prof Mizanur Rahaman, DU Teachers' Association President Khondokar Bazlul Hoque, Prof Muhammad Samad, Prof Anwar Hossain, Prof Golam Rabbani and Prof Wahiduzzaman Chan.

Prof Anwar, also the convener of the pro-AL Blue panel of teachers, said the prime minister also asked the teachers to put in their best efforts to bring back the past glories of the university by improving the quality of education.

UNB adds: Hasina also told the teachers that a conspiracy is going on to desta-

bilise the campus environment across the country, and asked to remain alert to foil such conspiracies.

The government is committed to keeping all the educational institutions free from politicisation, she said, adding that her government will not spare anybody engaged in spoiling the academic atmosphere across the country.

Hasina also blamed the BNP-led alliance government for 'politicising the educational institutions, including DU, during its tenure.'

She said the government wants to establish a knowledge-based modern education system in the country and urged the DU to take lead in this regard.

Moriarty tells of US help for army

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The USA is committed to helping Bangladesh establish a more capable military answerable to civilian authorities, said US Ambassador to Bangladesh James Moriarty yesterday.

This will lead to a more stable and democratic Bangladesh, he claimed, adding that there will be increased first-hand cooperation to create a more secure and stable South Asia.

He said this while addressing, as the chief guest, the closing ceremony of a combined training at Jalalabad Cantonment in Sylhet in which a group of officers of Bangladesh Army and the US Army took part.

Fifty-seven commandoes of the First Para Commando Battalion of Bangladesh Army and nine members of Operational Detachment Alpha-1336 of the US Army took part in the five-week-long special training, the 18th such training with US forces.

In the training, touted Tiger Shark-2 and organised by the First Para Commando Battalion of Bangladesh Army, the US Special Forces team trained Bangladesh Army personnel on Combat Lifesaver, Combat Marksmanship, Close Quarter Battle and Heavy Rigger Training for Bangladesh's National Disaster Contingency operations.

The Bangladesh team imparted training on Unarmed Combat, Urban Tactics and Techniques in addition to Bangla language and culture training for the US team.

Moriarty said the training is one in a series of joint and combined exercise planned by the two militaries for this year and the next.

This year series of exercises will culminate in a combined Bangladesh-US exercise showcasing mutual capabilities to counter terrorism in the region.

He said the combined exercise Tiger Shark-2 is an example of rising contact between the friendly countries. The programme of instruction has not only developed the participants' combat skills, but has also furthered the mutual cooperation and understanding between the two militaries and the civilian governments.

Later the ambassador handed over certificates to Bangladeshi participants while the Area Commander gave away the certificates to the US participants.

The function was also addressed by Area Commander Major General Sheikh Md Monirul Islam, Commanding Officer of the Para Commando Battalion Lt Col Md Anwar Hossain, team leader of the US Special Force Capt Dustin E Delcours and Major Mizanur Rahman, officer in charge of the joint training.

MPO LIST Ministry busy doing final scrutiny

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The committee of the education ministry, which drafted the announced MPO-list, was doing its final scrutiny to submit the review report to the Prime Minister's Office.

Highly placed sources said the committee might submit its report anytime. But, none of the officials of the ministry ascertained the exact time of submitting it till filing of this

report at 9:00pm yesterday.

Meantime, fresh lobbying has been started in the education ministry and office of the education adviser following Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's directive on Monday to review the announced MPO list.

Many of the ruling party lawmakers and Awami League leaders of different levels were seen gathering in the ministry for the last two days for submitting the Demand Order (DO) letters in favour of their choices.

"I came here [in the ministry] with a demand order made by our local lawmaker for my institution which was not included in the earlier list," a school teacher from Satkhira told The Daily Star.

After a gap of six years the government on May 7 published the list of 1,022 new non-government secondary and higher secondary educational institutions for giving the monthly pay order (MPO) facilities.

But the prime minister directed the education ministry to review the list in the face of vehement demand of some cabinet colleagues.

The institutions on MPO list get government subsidy as monthly pay orders to meet a portion of their teachers' salaries and benefits.

Teachers and employees of many newly MPO listed institutions expressed their concern saying the process could be delayed once again.

BNP joint meeting tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) will hold a joint meeting tomorrow to chalk out programmes in observance of the 29th death anniversary of its founder former president Ziaur Rahman on May 30.

The meeting will be held at its central office at Naya Palatan in the city at 11:00am, says a BNP press release.

The press release signed by Joint Secretary General Muhammad Ruhul Kabir Rizvi urged vice-chairmen, joint secretaries general, secretaries and presidents and general secretaries of all front and associate organisations.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Kazi Shamsul Alam, a journalist and social worker, passed away due to old age complications at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) yesterday at the age of 70.

Alam, a lifelong bachelor, left behind a host of relatives and friends to mourn his death.

Starting his career as a family planning officer during the Pakistan era, Alam was the executive editor of the Daily Life, the first English newspaper published from Chittagong. He also worked for the New Nation.

He was buried at Tikapara graveyard in Rajshahi city.

Hafiza Begum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hafiza Begum, mother of Abahani Cricket Team Manager and former Abahani player Sheikh Masud Iqbal Mamun, passed away due to old age complications at her residence in the city yesterday at the age of 81, says a press release.

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

Abahani Governing Body has expressed deep shock at her death. They also conveyed sympathy to members of the bereaved family and prayed for salvation of the departed soul.

Nazrul Haque Khan

METRO DESK

Nazrul Haque Khan, a businessman and social worker, died of a cardiac arrest at Ibrahim Cardiac Hospital in the city on May 10 at the age of 76.

He was laid to rest near the Mazar of Hazrat Shahjalal in Sylhet on May 11 after namaz-e-ajanaza at his 41/6 Siddheswari Road residence in the city. He left behind his wife, two sons and a daughter and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

On the occasion, a doa mahfil will be held at his Siddheswari residence in the city after Asr prayers today (Friday).



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visits ailing Finance Minister AMA Muhith at the Square Hospital in the city yesterday.

WEATHER TODAY

Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Khulna and Sylhet divisions and the region of Comilla in next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Weather may remain dry elsewhere over the country, Met Office said in a forecast.

The mild to moderate heat wave sweeping over Rajshahi and Khulna divisions and the regions of Dhaka, Faridpur, Tangail, Chandpur and Rajshahi may continue.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:33pm today and rises at 5:16am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 39.2 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and Dinajpur and lowest 22.5 degrees Celsius at Sylhet.

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	36.2	29.2	70	67
Chittagong	33.0	28.5	73	77
Rajshahi	39.2	29.0	80	50
Khulna	36.4	29.0	77	68
Barisal	35.3	28.5	70	69
Sylhet	31.5	22.5	82	78
Cox's Bazar	35.5	29.5	68	72

NU exams postponed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National University has postponed the honours part-3 (special) examinations of 2007 due to unavoidable reasons, said a press release of the university.

Fresh schedule of the exams will be announced later.

Chehlum

METRO DESK

Chehlum of H a j i Mohammad Omar Belim, father of former national opener Javed Omar, will be held today.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at his Hossne Dalan residence in the city after Asr prayers.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to attend the milad.

Omar Belim died on April 9.

Australian Government **Australia Awards**
AUSTRALIAN LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Announcement for the 2011 Intake
Australian Leadership Awards (ALA) Scholarship

The Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) is pleased to invite applications to study in Australia under the 2011 Intake of the Australian Leadership Awards (ALA) program from interested candidates who are committed to contribute to the development of Bangladesh.

ALA Scholarships are academically prestigious awards, offered to high achievers having the potential to assume leadership roles that can influence social and economic policy reform, development and governance in their home countries and region. The purpose of ALA scholarships is to develop leadership in the Asia Pacific region. ALA scholars are expected to return to their home country after they have completed their studies. Recipients should also be willing to make a commitment to the exclusive AusAID alumni programme.

Scholars can apply for the following fields of study for a Masters or a Ph. D degree:
Disability, Economic Growth, Education, Environment, Food security, Gender, Governance, Health, Human rights, Infrastructure, Regional stability, Rural development, Water and sanitation.

Mandatory requirements for eligibility for ALA Scholarships:

- Must have an IELTS score of 6.5 or above (with no band less than 6) taken no longer than two years prior to the date of application;
- Must have an unconditional offer letter from an Australian university for entry into full time studies in the nominated subject area for masters or doctoral studies;

You will not be eligible if you:

- (a) Are holding or have been nominated to receive another Australian Government scholarship;
- (b) Have held a foreign scholarship in the 24 months preceding the application;
- (c) Are a permanent resident or have applied for permanent residency in Australia;
- (d) Are married or engaged to be married to a person who holds or who is eligible to hold Australian or New Zealand citizenship or permanent residence status.

Applications are now open for commencement at an Australian university from January 2011. Please note that the deadline for receiving hardcopy and online applications is **30 June 2010**. To apply online and for further information please visit the following website <http://www.ausaid.gov.au/scholar/ala.cfm>.

From Intake 2011, Australia Awards in the South Asia region are administered locally through the South Asia Scholarships Program (SASP). Hard copy applications can also be submitted at the SASP office. For any assistance or enquiries, please contact SASP Dhaka Office during business hours 9:00 - 5:00 pm.

South Asia Scholarships Program (SASP)
5th Floor, Plot # 4, Road # 12, Block-J, Baridhara, Dhaka-1212
Telephone: (02) 8824416/8826154, Mobile: 0173 0338495
Email: info@southasiascholarship.org, Web: <http://www.southasiascholarship.org>

Note: AusAID actively encourages enquiries from females, people with disability, applicants working outside Dhaka and indigenous applicants.

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