

REMEMBERING PROF HUMAYUN AZAD Demand to expedite trial into murder attempt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Demanding an expeditious end to the trial of the case relating to the murder attempt on Prof Humayun Azad, the writer's ardent admirers yesterday recalled the brutal attack made on him eight years ago near the Amar Ekushey Bô Mela premises.

Their hands raised and holding black and red badges, several hundred people, including Humayun Azad's wife and family members, writers, poets, publishers and fans observed a one-minute silence at the fair at 5:00pm.

They also formed a human chain before the fair's information centre at the Bangla Academy premises in memory of the writer and to press home their demand.

Expressing dissatisfaction over the lingering trial process, they also threatened to go for tougher movement unless the perpetrators were brought to book within the next three months.

On February 27, 2004, Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh operatives stabbed the 56-year-old Azad, a professor of Bangla at Dhaka University, as he was trying to catch a rickshaw to go home from the fair, sources said.

He died from what an autopsy said was a

heart attack in Munich on August 12 that year.

Noted columnist Syed Abul Maksud, one of Azad's close friends, said a "reactionary" force tried to kill Humayun Azad, an attempt that eventually led to his death. Such a departure of the writer is a great loss for the whole nation, he said.

"We have to continue our movement to uphold the freedom of writers to think as a way of showing due respect to the late Humayun Azad," he said.

Poet Muhammad Samad said the act of awarding Azad with Ekushey Padak posthumously is commendable but the attackers are yet to be arrested.

Samad, also a DU teacher, said, "Although Humayun Azad is no more with us, he will remain alive forever through his writings."

Alleging that the Jamaat-e-Islami leader Delwar Hossain Sayedee was the main instigator of the attack, Ananya Azad, the poet's son, claimed that everything would be clear once Sayedee was interrogated.

Meanwhile, a total of 85 new books arrived at the fair yesterday. A discussion and cultural programme were held in the evening. The month-long festival, scheduled to end tomorrow, witnessed a low turnout yesterday.



Writers, poets, publishers, fans and family members of Prof Humayun Azad raise their hands while observing a one-minute silence at a human chain before Amar Ekushey Bô Mela's information centre at the Bangla Academy premises in the city yesterday demanding an expeditious end to the trial of the case on the murder attempt on the writer.

PHOTO: STAR

SHARIATPUR BY-POLLS Nahim elected unopposed

BSS, Shariatpur

Ruling party candidate Nahim Razzak, son of late Awami League lawmaker Abdur Razzak, was yesterday elected member of the parliament in Shariatpur-3 by-election unopposed.

Returning officer (RO) of Shariatpur Farhad Ahmed Khan declared Nahim elected as there was no other candidate.

Staff correspondent adds: Nahim's victory was clear after the Supreme Court (SC) yesterday stayed a High Court (HC) order that allowed his lone rival candidate to contest the election.

Chamber judge of the Appellate Division Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain stayed for six weeks the HC order that directed the Election Commission on Sunday to allow TIM Mohitul Gani to contest the by-election.

Death anniversary METRO DESK

Today is the 4th death anniversary of Imran Rahman, former managing director and CEO of Brac Bank Ltd, says a press release.

An alumnus of Shaheen School, Mirzapur Cadet College and IBA Dhaka University, Imran, died in Toronto, Canada at the age of 45.

On the occasion, Qurankhwani will be held and foods will be distributed among the destitute in the city.

Relatives and friends are requested to pray for his departed soul.

DISCUSSION

Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote will organise a discussion. Venue: Dhaka Reporters' Unity; Time: 11:00am.

Seminar
Bangladesh Institute of Journalism and Electronic Media will organise a seminar. Venue: Conference hall of the institute; Time: 11:30am.

Seminar
Centre for Sustainable Development will organise a seminar. Venue: Cirdap auditorium; Time: 2:30pm.

Discussion
Diabetic Association of Bangladesh will organise a discussion. Venue: Birdem auditorium; Time: 12:30pm.

Dialogue
Nagarik Sanghati will organise a national dialogue. Venue: Cirdap auditorium; Time: 10:30am.

Dialogue
Media Initiative for Public Policy will

Mozena lauds Dhaka's friendly ties with neighbours

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

The way Bangladesh is reaching out to strengthen relations with its neighbouring countries, despite the barriers, is good for its development and South Asia's stability and peace, said US Ambassador to Bangladesh Dan W Mozena yesterday.

"The 350 to 400 trucks crossing a day from India, this trade between Bangladesh and India, this is good for Bangladesh and India and good for the regional South Asia," he added.

Mozena was talking to newsmen on the Sonamasjid border yesterday on returning from a meeting with Border

Guard Bangladesh and Indian Border Security Force officials at Mohodipur land port of Maldah district in Paschimbanga.

With increasing trade flow, commerce and investment among the nations of South Asia and Central Asia, Bangladesh has become a symbol of regional cooperation for its neighbours, said the ambassador.

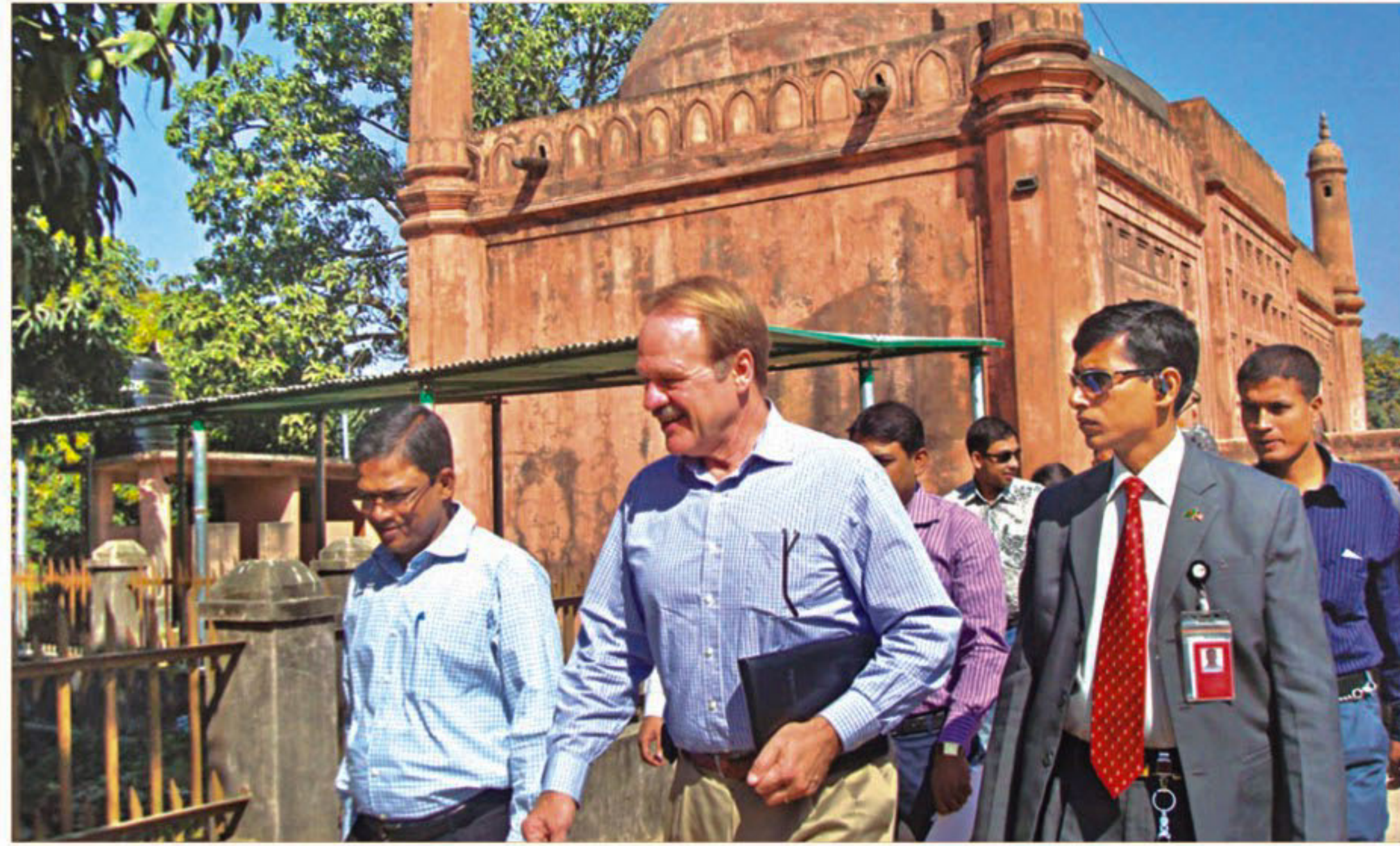
"I have the vision of the golden Bangladesh, the new Bangladesh that is an important player in the region of South Asia," he said.

The ambassador, his wife Grace Mozena and some US embassy officials visited different archaeological sites

including Sonamasjid, Tohakhana and the shrine of Shahneyamotullah and the community Radio Mohananda 98.8 FM station at Palsha of sadar upazila in Chapainawabganj.

He witnessed the traditional Gombhira, a stage performance of dialogues and songs, at Ranhati High School premises of Shibganj upazila and presented the headmaster with a laptop, a donation from a group of Americans of Bangladeshi descent in Oregon, US.

Another 100 laptops would be presented to other Bangladeshi schools as donation from the same group, he added.



US Ambassador to Bangladesh Dan W Mozena goes round an archaeological site in Chapainawabganj district yesterday as part of his 5-day visit to the country's northern districts.

PHOTO: STAR

India must fast settle Teesta issue

Comments Times of India

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

While India's assurance to Bangladesh on improving joint border management is welcome, New Delhi must follow it up by expeditious ratification of the land boundary agreement and settlement of the Teesta water-sharing issue, "The Times of India" newspaper editorially commented yesterday.

Referring to Bangladesh Home Minister Sahara Khatun's recent visit to Delhi and her talks with her Indian counterpart P Chidambaram, it said the two leaders "pledged to build on the positive momentum in bilateral relations at the end of their meet" by "reaffirming their commitment to fighting terrorism and jointly addressing common security concerns."

"Ties between the two neighbours have been on the upswing since the Sheikh Hasina-led Awami League government came to power in Dhaka in 2009.

"This has not only led to closer security cooperation with Bangladesh cracking down on anti-India insurgent groups but also provided a huge fillip to two-way trade which stood at \$ 1.7 billion in the first half of the current

financial year.

"However, irritants remain in the form of water sharing and border firing incidents.

"It is welcome that New Delhi has reassured Dhaka on improving joint border management. But this must be followed by expeditious ratification of the land boundary agreement and settlement of the important Teesta water-sharing issue", it said.

It pointed out that "there are massive opportunities for bilateral growth and synergy. Due to its strategic geographic location, Bangladesh can serve as a major connectivity hub, linking Nepal, Bhutan and India's northeast with Southeast Asia.

"In turn, Indian investment can boost Bangladesh's economy, which has been steadily growing at 5%. Already, over 100 Indian firms have a presence in Bangladesh, with many more queuing up.

"But investment plans such as Ceat's first tyre manufacturing plant in Bangladesh and Sahara India's Rs 80,000-crore 'New Dhaka' project need to be bolstered by greater people-to-people contact and cultural exchanges, it added.

Legal notice on govt to raise SC judges' remuneration

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A legal notice was yesterday served on the government for increasing the remuneration and other privileges of Supreme Court (SC) judges within a month as per recommendations of a parliamentary sub-committee.

SC lawyer Manzill Murshid sent the notice saying that legal steps will be taken against the government officials concerned if they don't act accordingly in line with an earlier High Court verdict.

The parliamentary sub-committee of law ministry in January, 2010, recommended making the salaries of the chief justice Tk 1 lakh, of an Appellate Division judge Tk 90,000 and of a High Court (HC) judge Tk 80,000 per month.

The committee also recommended increasing other privileges.

The HC in a verdict on June 15 last year directed the authorities concerned of the government to implement the recommendations immediately.

3 'robbed' of Tk 7.7 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A gang allegedly robbed Tk 7.7 lakh from three people in a city bus yesterday, by making them unconscious with drugs.

The victims were Mohammad Ali, 30, an expatriate in Italy, his nephew Mohammad Mamun, 28, and his relative Abdullah, 30. They were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

At the hospital, Ali said he along with the two was coming from their village at Kapasia to Banani to deposit Tk 7.70 lakh in a travel agency. Abdullah was carrying a bag containing Tk 7.50 lakh and Ali had Tk 20,000 in his pocket.

At Tongi, a hawker boarded the bus, selling herbs saying that those restore appetite. They took the herbs and chewed and could not recall what happened afterwards.

Stop Club Amazon activities for 3 months HC asks police

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed police to stop the activities of Club Amazon, situated in the city's Gulshan area, for three months.

In response to a writ petition, the court also issued a rule upon the authorities concerned of the government and the club to explain in two weeks why the allotment of the plot housing the club should not be cancelled.

Iftekharul Islam, owner of a plot near Club Amazon, filed the petition on February 23 saying that the club's activities were creating sound pollution in the residential area and damaging the environment, both of which are illegal.

Petitioner's lawyer Barrister Rakanuddin Mahmud told the court that as per the provisions of relevant laws and lease agreement for the plot, construction of any commercial structure is prohibited in the city's residential areas.

The HC bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik and Justice Jahangir Hossain Selim gave the order.

Log on to champs21.com

শুরু হয়েছে বিশ্বখ্যাত English Spelling প্রতিযোগিতা

● এই প্রতিযোগিতা বাংলা ও ইংরেজি মাধ্যমের ৬ষ্ঠ থেকে ১০ম শ্রেণীর ছাত্র-ছাত্রীদের জন্য ● বেজিটসিএন ও Online প্রতিযোগিতায় অংশগ্রহণ করতে
Log on করে champs21.com -এ অথবা SB লিখে SMS করে 16252 নম্বরে ● Online প্রতিযোগিতা চলবে ১ ফেব্রুয়ারি থেকে ১০ মার্চ
২০১২ পর্যন্ত ● বিস্তারিত জানতে যোগাযোগ করুন ০৯৬০৬২৯২৯২ নম্বরে

The Daily Star
Spelling Bee
Brought to you by Champs21
Powered by Horlicks

Title Sponsor: The Daily Star | Powered by Horlicks | Brought to you by Champs21 | Telecast Partner: Knowledge Partner: BRITISH COUNCIL