



The staff of The Daily Star pay their final tributes to Shawkat Jamil, a photojournalist of the newspaper, at his office yesterday. In honour of a co-worker, photojournalists of different newspapers placed their cameras round the coffin at Jatiya Press Club.

PHOTO: STAR

Last respects to journalist Shawkat Jamil

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Journalists, politicians and socio-cultural activists yesterday paid their last respects to senior photojournalist of The Daily Star Shawkat Jamil.

They flocked in hundreds to Jamil's residence at Segunbagicha, Jatiya Press Club, his workplace--The Daily Star office-- and the corporate headquarters of Opsonin Group at Eskaton to show respect to him.

One of the talented photo-journalists of the country, Shawkat Jamil left behind his wife Syeda Khanam and only son Behag and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

Jamil, son of martyred freedom fighter Abdul Latif Khan, was the third among five brothers and two sisters.

The Daily Star deeply mourns his untimely demise.

He will be buried next to the grave of his mother at Barisal Muslim Graveyard after namaz-e-janaza at Ebadullah Jame Masjid in Barisal city at 11:00am today, reports our Barisal correspondent.

In a message, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has expressed deep shock at the death of Shawkat Jamil. Recalling his contribution to the media, she prayed for the salvation of the departed soul and expressed her deep sympathy with his bereaved family members.

Jamil went to Elephant Road at 10:00am yesterday to cover a fire incident. Feeling chest pains, he went to the Jatiya Press Club to rest for a while.

As the pain continued, he returned to his residence at Segunbagicha around 12:30pm. At home, he collapsed on the floor, which caused a slight injury to his head. He was rushed to the city's Birdem Hospital where doctors pronounced him dead.

A doctor at Birdem said the exact reason of the death of Jamil could not be known as he had died before arrival at the hospital. Hearing of his condition from his family members, the doctor suspected that cardiac arrest or brain hemorrhage might have caused the death.

From the hospital, Shawkat Jamil's body was taken to his brother's office at Opsonin Group in Estakon, where his first namaz-e-janaza was held. Then, his corpse was taken

to The Daily Star Centre premises at 3:30pm for a second namaz-e-janaza. Jamil's colleagues placed wreaths at his coffin and prayed for his departed soul.

His third namaz-e-janaza was held at Jatiya Press Club after Asr prayers. Awami League leader Mahbubul Alam Hanif, Prime Minister's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad, BNP leader Moazzem Hossain Alal, cultural activist Nasiruddin Yusuf Bachchu as well as different journalist and socio-cultural organisations paid their last respects to Shawkat Jamil at the Press Club. All photojournalists left their cameras for a minute to pay their respects to their colleague. The body was taken to his ancestral house on Katputty Road in Barisal from his Dhaka residence.

CAREER AS A JOURNALIST

After graduating in economics at Dhaka University, Jamil completed a diploma course on photojournalism at the International Institute of Journalism in Budapest, Hungary, and did a basic photography course in Begart Institute in Dhaka.

Despite his graduation in economics, he entered journalism out of his passion for the profession and sharing in the people's struggle for democracy. He joined the daily Sangbad in 1982 as a staff reporter.

In 1985, Shawkat Jamil joined the daily Khabar as a staff photographer and worked there for over six years. He also worked as a stringer photojournalist of the AFP from 2000 to 2003.

In 1991, he again joined the daily Sangbad and worked there until joining The Daily Star in 2005.

CONDOLENCES

Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) President Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, Secretary General Abdul Jalil Bhuyian and Dhaka Union of Journalists President Omar Faruk, Jatiya Press Club President Kamal Uddin Sabuj and General Secretary Syed Abdal Ahmed condoled the death of Jamil.

"Shawkat Jamil's death is an irreparable loss. He was a bright personality in Bangladesh's photography," said a statement of the Committee for Documentation on Architectural Sites in Dhaka.

Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa), Nagorik Sanghati, Bangladesh Chhatra League and Naripokkho also condoled his death.



Shawkat Jamil

'Implement laws on women's welfare'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Implement the formulated laws regarding women's welfare to establish their rights, said Bangladesh Mahila Parishad General Secretary Maleka Banu urging the government yesterday.

"The country's total development depends on the equal participation of both men and women. The government has to take steps to provide opportunities to women by implementing laws and principles for establishing a society based on equity," she said.

She was addressing a programme titled "Youths convention and cultural function" organised by Bangladesh Mahila Parishad at Liberation War Museum in the city marking the women's day.

She urged the youths to cultivate a society free of gender-based discrimination.

Farzana Yasmin, who divorced her bridegroom for demanding dowry on the very day of the marriage on November last year, also urged the youths to raise their voice against the injustice in the society.

11 foreigners on remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Eleven foreign nationals were placed on a two-day remand yesterday in a case filed against them for possessing fake currencies.

The foreigners are Itoulou Mdise, Tehosso Roger, Akounol Marie, Dipanda, Makondo, Aly, Emilie, Aziz Karim, Trobza Carios, Keita Usman and Ibrahim Sharif.

Metropolitan Magistrate Anwar Shahadat issued the order after Sub-Inspector Abdur Rahim, investigation officer of the case, produced them before it with a seven-day remand prayer for interrogation. But, the court rejected the remand prayer for six others in the case.

They are Bobby, Billi-P, Ngo, Monique, William and Mesacancos as their involvement with the incident was not primarily proved.

Meanwhile, Metropolitan Magistrate Utpal Chowdhury asked the police to interrogate the accused in jail gate in a case for possessing illegal liquor.

Police arrested the foreign nationals from Uttara in the city on March 5 on charges of staying illegally in the country and possessing liquor and fake currencies.

Worker electrocuted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A youth was electrocuted and his co-worker sustained injuries in the city's Mirpur area yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Mohammad Pappu, 20, an employee of Unico Refrigeration at Mohakhali while the injured Mohammad Rayhan was his helper.

Rayhan said they received electric shock at around 4:00pm while repairing an air conditioner of Brac Bank at Mirpur Section-10.

They were rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where Pappu succumbed to his injuries and Rayhan received primary treatment.

Marathon swimming in Bangla Channel Mar 17

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An international marathon swimming, first of its kind in Bangladesh, will be held in 16.1km-long Bangla Channel on March 17, organisers said at a press conference yesterday.

Everest hero Musa Ibrahim, reputed swimmer Lipton Sarkar and English Channel swimmers Van Gaul Milko from the Netherlands and Ferar Tulio from Italy will take part in it.

The marathon will commence around 6:00am, and it may take the swimmers five hours to cross the channel, Musa told the conference at the city's Liberation War Museum.

For the first time, two swimmers--Lipton Sarkar and Van Gaul--are

expected to doubly cross the channel, taking some 10 hours, he said.

Musa said foreigners' swimming Bangla Channel would help it to get recognition internationally.

Bangla Channel stretches from Teknaf to the Saint Martin's Island in the Bay of Bengal.

Everest Academy is organising the International Bangla Channel Marathon Swimming.

A press release said the incomes from the marathon would be donated to the Centre for Injury Prevention and Research, Bangladesh for teaching swimming to under-four children.

Extreme Bangla, Professional's System, and North Alpine Club Bangladesh will co-present the swimming marathon.



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DISTORTION OF HISTORY 6 exempted from appearing at HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday exempted six academics from personal appearance before it in connection with the allegation of distorting the history of the War of Liberation in two Bangladesh Open University (BOU) textbooks.

The academics are BOU Vice Chancellor Prof RIM Aminur Rashid, Dhaka University Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof Harun-or Rashid, Prof Shawkat Ara Hossain, Prof Sabiha Sultana, HM Delwar Hossain and Jobeda Akter, said Deputy Attorney General ABM Altaf Hossain.

During the hearing on a writ petition, the HC passed the exemption order considering their health conditions.

The HC bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik and Justice Jahangir Hossain Selim also adjourned the hearing of the petition till April 16.

Altaf said the remaining 18 academics against whom the HC recently issued a summons would have to appear before it on April 16.

All of them appeared before the bench yesterday as per its March 12 order, he said.

Supreme Court lawyers Altaf Uddin Ahmed and Mahmud Hossain filed the petition with the HC in January 2010, saying that Sociology 2nd paper and Civics 2nd paper of HSC under the BOU termed late president Ziaur Rahman as the individual who had declared the country's independence, although the HC in a verdict in 2009 ruled that Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman declared the country's independence.



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