



The Truck Stand Road near the level crossing in Tejgaon of the capital has been in a dismal condition for a while but the authorities concerned are not paying any attention to it.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

10 DU students get Prof Sitara Parvin Award

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ten students of the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism of Dhaka University (DU) have received Prof Sitara Parvin Award for their excellent performances at BSS (honours) examinations in 2011.

The awardees are-- Muhammad Rezaul Islam, Muhammad Mahbubul Haque Bhuiyan, Tahmina Haque, Arifa Alam, Sara Monami Hossain, Sumaiya Sifat, Sabina Yesmin, Pranab Bhowmik, Muhammad Furkan Ahsan and Tarekuzzaman Shimul.

Prof Sitara Parvin Trust Fund gave the awards.

Vice-Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique distributed cheques among the awardees at the university's RC Majumdar Arts Auditorium yesterday.

Prof Akhtar Sultana, the department chairperson, presided over the function, which was also addressed by Prof Ahaduzzaman Muhammad Ali, and novelist Selina Hossain.

Prof Arefin called upon the awardees to follow the ideology of Prof Sitara, former chairperson of the department who was killed in a tragic road accident in 2005, in their life and work.

Humayun Ahmed to live in hearts of millions

Say eminent citizens

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Illustrious writer Humayun Ahmed will forever be alive in the hearts of the millions he charmed for several decades through his creations, said eminent citizens and cultural activists yesterday.

The charismatic storyteller immensely enriched Bangla literature, film and drama, enhancing Bangladesh's image abroad, they said at a citizens' memorial meeting on the writer organised by Sammilito Sangskritik Jote in the capital's Osmani Memorial Auditorium.

Humayun's grief stricken ex-wife Gultekin, their children -- Bipasha, Nova, Sheela and Nuhash -- and Dr Muhammad Zafar Iqbal's wife Yasmeen Haque were present at the meeting.

The 64-year-old writer breathed his last at a New York hospital on July 19 after fighting against colon cancer for nine months. He was buried at Nuhash Palli in Gazipur on July 24.

"Thousands paid their respects to Humayun at Central Shaheed Minar with flowers and tears the other day. It is because his creations deeply touched their lives," said Prof Emeritus Anisuzzaman of Dhaka University.

It will take time to realise his surprising creations. "Humayun influenced several generations. We both condole and take pride in him," he said.

Taking a trip back down memory lane, Humayun's younger brother, Dr Muhammad Zafar Iqbal, said growing up together, they never realised that Humayun would become such a popular writer.

"My brother was extraordinarily creative.

He wrote novels, lyrics, dramas and films, and knew painting. He even knew how to perform magic tricks," said Iqbal, who was by his brother's side during the latter's last days.

An interesting coincidence was that their mother was very worried a day before the death. "If Humayun were alive today, he would have interestingly written about this event," said Prof Zafar.

SSJ Vice President Golam Kuddus said Humayun was the first to use a drama, Bohubreehi, to speak out against Razakars (collaborators of the Pakistani forces during the 1971 Liberation War).

The Liberation War was the context of many of his novels and films, he said.

"Many who used to read foreign horror books turned to Bangla literature just because of Humayun," he said.

Humayun's friend Asaduzzaman Noor, who acted in many of Humayun's dramas, said they spent many memorable years working and enjoying moments together.

"Many of my achievements are just because of Humayun. I want to live with the happy memories of him," he said while wiping tears off his eyes.

Cultural activist Ramendu Majumdar said one of Humayun's great qualities was his ability to speak the truth without antagonising anybody.

Referring to Humayun's dream of establishing a cancer hospital, he said citizens could take an initiative instead of waiting for Humayun's family.

Writer Syed Shamsul Huq, filmmaker Morshedul Islam and the jote General Secretary Hasan Arif also spoke at the programme. (Photo on page 20)

University student sets himself on fire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A university student attempted to commit suicide by setting himself on fire in Tejgaon Industrial Area of the capital yesterday as a schoolgirl refused his romantic advances.

Monirul Islam Shraban, 22, a sixth semester BBA student of Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology, was admitted to the burn unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Doctors stated his condition was critical with 55 percent of his face, neck and chest burned.

Shraban of Khulna used to live in the university hostel.

Police said Shraban went to the girl's apartment on the second floor of a ten-storey building around 11:00am. Her mother opened the door and with her permission Shraban went to the bathroom.

After a while, the house dwellers came to know about the incident when inside the bathroom he set himself on fire and shouted for help. A security guard of the door of the bathroom and rushed him to the hospital.

Police said the girl's mother let him enter the house as she knew him.

Sabbir Ahmed Kajal, A friend of Shraban, said Shraban was romantically inclined to the girl, who is studying in class VIII. She refused his advances, he added.

He also claimed that he did not know anything more.

No alternative to 3rd party

Say left leaning intellectuals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a views exchange meeting yesterday said the country is in dire need of a third political party as two major parties are allowing only rich people to have political prominence.

Both Awami League and BNP allow the people who have lots of money to take part in elections, and invite them to get involved in politics, they said.

The Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) and Bangladesh Socialist Party jointly organ-

ised the programme at Jatiya Press Club.

CPB General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim said, "Two leading parties spend huge amount of money in electoral campaigns. So, they welcome only rich people to their parties."

Prof Asif Nazrul, Prof Ajoy Roy and Prof MM Akash, among others, also spoke on the occasion.

A 15-point initiative was also announced at the programme to build a third political power in the country.

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