

Troubles of a national awarded poet

Poet Omar Ali, 'Pride of Pabna', now lies in bed

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR
TOPU, Pabna

Poet Omar Ali, is one of the most noted poets in this region. 74 years old he is lying on bed from fatal paralysis since a year. Poet Omar Ali hailed from village 'Komorpur' village in Pabna Sadar upazila struggled his entire life due to poverty.

Born on October 20 in 1939 Poet Omar Ali was impressive in literature from his early years. The writings of Poet Rabindranath Tagore, and T.S Eliot inspired him.

"Though he followed the classicism of both his writings are somehow different from the rest. Poet Omar Ali, boy of a remote village drew inspiration from village ground, surrounding atmosphere and the entire nature. He painted the natural beauty in his writings on his own way." Sayed Hassan Dara, renowned novelist of Pabna said.

In the same way he presented the harsh reality of life in his writings. Woman and nature are the main subject matters of his works. 42 books of poetry and 2 novels of the poet are published.

His first book 'A Desher Shamol Rong Romonir Shunam Shunasi' was published in 1960. 50 poems were published in this book and most of the poems are based on romanticism. There is a fine picture of nature and

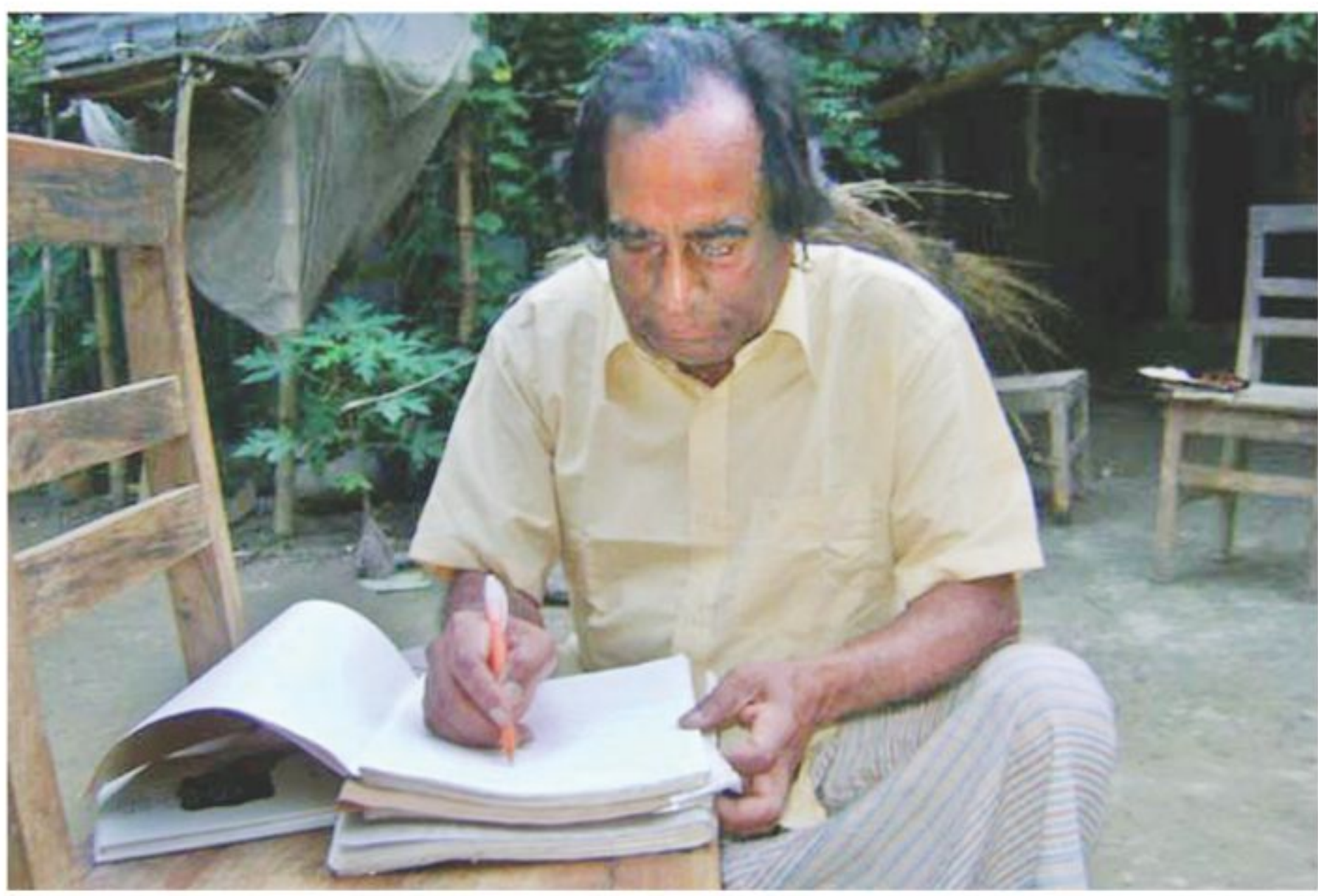


PHOTO: STAR

Poet Omar Ali wrote when he was in a better physical condition.

beauty. Poet Omar Ali got the Bangla Academy Award in 1981 for this book. He also received Abul Monsur Ahmed award and many local awards for his brilliant contribution in literature.

"When I was in class four, I had written a poem named 'Akti Edurer Mrittu' it was never published. Formally I started writing in 1954 when I was in class ten. During this time I had recited my own poems in Dhaka Radio." Poet Omar Ali said. My first poem was published in Daily Sangbad in 1954 he added.

Of his famous books 'Aronna Akti Lok', 'Temathar Shesh Nodi', 'Ful Pakhider Desh', 'Khan Manshoner Meya' is well known to the readers. In

Daily Sangbad, 'Mahinaha', Daily Azad, "Natun Shahitta of Calcutta, Desh in Calcutta published poet Omar Ali's writings at a very early stage of his literary life.

Poet Omar Ali, after completing his studies stayed at the resident of Poet Ahasan Habib as a login master. After completing the Matriculation Omar Ali joined in Daily Sangbad.

Later he returned in Pabna and admitted for BA (Bachelor of Arts) in Pabna Edward College. In the mean time he had a clerical job in Pabna municipality and Kamarkhand upazila of Sirajganje. After completing his BA he joined Rajshahi Radio as a scrip writer.

Later he joined 'Jublee High School' in Pabna as a teacher.

But he was a man of indomitable will. Through his service life Poet Omar Ali passed the MA in English from Dhaka University in 1970.

After completing MA he joined as an English teacher at 'Nandigram College' in Bogra in 1970. Later he joined 'Veramara College' of Kushthia district. At last he joined as an English teacher in Pabna Govt. Bulbul College in 1978. He went on to retire from this college.

Though the poet Omar Ali was an English teacher he also possessed vast knowledge in Bangla literature. He also completed MA in Bangla from Rajshahi University in 1975. Poet Omar Ali said he had tried to learn English and Bangla literature simultaneously.

Sabur changes view with papaya

AZIBOR RAHMAN, Jhenidah

An unemployed man at Ram Nagar village under sadar upazila in Jhenidah is now eyeing change of his lot through papaya cultivation.

Cultivating 'Indian high breed, he is now a source of inspiration for many others in the area.

He along with his laborers remains busy in the papaya plot and nurtures it with dream of success.

Gazi Abdus Sabur told this correspondent that he started to cultivate papaya since 2000. In 2011 he cultivated

14 bighas (measurement of land) of papaya and sold at Tk 10 lakh while in 2013 he had extended to 20 bighas. Papaya can be sold after 36 months of planting and can bring huge amount of cash.

Visiting Ram Nagar village one may see a lively atmosphere as traders from different bazaars flock the plot to purchase papaya while interested farmers from different areas come to see the farm and enquire about the profitable cultivation.



PHOTO: STAR

Physically challenged Azad now supplies candles.

Candle factory brings light to a man

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Abul Kalam Azad is poor and physically disabled but he dreams to stand on his own feet. He thought about his dream from childhood but he didn't receive support from his family; as they live from hand to mouth. The physically impaired boy builds candles at a factory named 'Azad Mombati' (Azad Candle) in his home. His produced candles create a high demandable market in Lalmonirhat. Abul wants to expand his factory but he lacks proper capital. He is still adamant about reaching his destination.

Sub-assistant agriculture officer (SAAO), Julfikar Haider, of Maderganj upazila Agriculture Office said comparing with other vegetables, cucumber cultivation is more profitable as it can be cultivated three times a year and needs 65-70 days in each phase of the cultivation.

Tanvir Ahmed, the upazila agriculture officer, said with the co-operation of agriculture officials (SAAOs) about 200 poor and marginal farmers of the village have become affluent through the vegetable cultivation, encouraged by tremendous success of Mujammel.

Abul's father died 15 years ago, he is the youngest of three brothers. His other brothers are Chand Miah a rickshaw puller and Salam Miah works as day laborer. Abul Kalam Azad read till class ten in a local school for disabled at Khatapara Majhar village of Aditmari upazila in Lalmonirhat. Abul took training on how to produce candle. He started his new life through producing candles on a machine in his home. At first he took help of his aged

mother Amena Bewa to produce candles; he use to supply these in the market riding on a wheelchair. He produced 200 to 250 pieces of candle on the single machine everyday and he earned Tk 120 to 150 everyday three years.

Now he is the owner of three machines. His produced candle have high demand in the market but he cannot meet the demand.

"Now I have a market of one thousand dozen (12 thousand pieces). If I had ten machines, I would be able to fulfill the market demand.

Before starting the factory, they faced untold suffering. Mobarok Hossain, a shop owner at BDR railway gate in the town said, Azad Mombati is better than the competitors, resulting Azad Mombati has created high demand in the market.

"I ordered for 50 dozens but only 15 dozens were supplied to my shop. Customers always want to purchase Azad Mombati," he said adding he suggested Azad to expand his factory immediately.

BSF picks up man, takes away 34 cattle

A CORRESPONDENT, Chuadanga

Members of Indian Border Security Force (BSF) picked up a Bangladeshi cattle trader from Benipur border in Jibonnagar upazila early yesterday.

The man was identified as Billal Hossain, 40, son of Rabi Kamar of Dhanekula village in Moheshpur upazila.

Lt Col Gazi Asaduzzaman, commanding officer of 6 BGB Battalion, said a special BSF patrol team took away Billal from the border in early hours when he along with 7-8 other traders went there to bring cattle.

However, the rest of the traders managed to flee the scene.

Later a flag meeting between BGB and BSF was held at the zero point of the border around 11:00am where the BSF official said that they handed over Billal Kestoganj police in India.

Meanwhile, BSF men yesterday agreed to return the 34 cattle they took away from Bangladesh territory in Tentulia upazila of Panchagarh on Sunday, reports our Thakurgaon correspondent.

Locals said, the BSF members from Cemetery camp entered the Bangladesh territory through Sarialjoth border by opening barbed wire fence and took away the cattle in the evening.

The cattle had been grazing in the area near the border, they said. When locals tried to resist the BSF men, they threatened to open fire on them.

However, at a flag meeting with BGB, the BSF men yesterday agreed to return the cattle.

Company commander of the BSF camp alleged that the cattle had entered Indian territory and damaged crops.

After two days we will return the same number of cattle through the same border point, he said.

Company Commander of Tentulia BGB Mozzammel Haque however protested the statement saying that the BSF men took away the 34 cow ignoring international border rules.

Off-season tomato turns into moneyspinner

Sadullahpur farmers cultivate hybrid summer tomato that can be harvested in 70 days

KM REZAUL HOQUE, Gaibandha

Newly introduced hybrid summer tomato has already aroused interest among farmers in different villages of Sadullahpur upazila under the district as the off-season popular vegetable brings more profit than usual agricultural items.

This season 26 farmers of Sadullahpur upazila cultivated hybrid-4 species of summer tomato developed by Bangladesh Agriculture Research Institute on three acres of land and the harvesting has already begun.

The Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) trained up 26 farmers on farming hybrid summer tomato and prepared several demonstration plots at Taraf Bajit, Hamindpur,

Jamudanga, Damodorpur, Baro Daudpur, Molong Bazar, Dhaperhat, Naldanga and Protap villages in Sadullahpur upazila.

They also provided quality seeds and other inputs to make the programme a success.

"Summer tomato cultivation requires a bit high land for protection from water stagnation. The seeds are sown by May-June and the saplings are transplanted after 25 days," said Obaidur Rahman, agriculture officer of Sadullahpur.

"Farmers can harvest tomato after 45 days. Within a week, it turns reddish and becomes ready for marketing. A farmer can easily harvest from the same plants again in the winter season," he said.

Dilip Kumar of Hamindpur village said he

planted 900 saplings of summer tomato on a nine-decimal plot spending Tk 22,000 as input cost and expecting profit of Tk one lakh this season.

Wholesalers buy summer tomato for Tk 65 per kg, but in open market it sells for Tk 100 to 120 a kg, said Nazrul Islam, a farmer of Molong Bazar village.

Hearing the success of summer tomato cultivation, farmers from different areas are visiting the demonstration plots and showing much interest to cultivate it at their villages, said Mir Abdur Razzaque, deputy director of DAE, Gaibandha.

Farmers can harvest tomato twice from same plants in summer and winter and so, they can earn more for investment, he added.

Agitation for smooth gas supply on in Manikganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Students of Government Devendra College, joined by hundreds of local people, formed a human chain on press club premises yesterday, as agitation demanding smooth gas supply to houses continued in the district town.

The participants said they could not prepare food with the help of gas due to poor supply. They said the town's people including the students of hostels of the college have been facing acute gas crisis for over a year.

Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company Limited have been taking bill for long despite low or no supply of gas, they said. If the authorities did not take any steps to improve the situation, they will stop payment of gas bill, they warned.

Demanding gas supply at least two times a day, they also threatened to go for tougher programmes if the demand was not met immediately.

Earlier, the students brought out a procession from their college ground at around 10:00am and paraded the main streets of the district town.

The town's people blocked the Dhaka-Aricha highway on Sunday to press their demand. They also brought out a procession and besieged the office of the Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company Limited in the town on the day.

They submitted a memorandum to the deputy commissioner in favour of their demand and sent its copies to relevant departments.

Contacted, manager of the regional office of Titas Gas M Sirajul Islam told the journalists on Sunday that his office already wrote to the higher authorities for an immediate solution.

He had also assured the town's people that the situation would improve within the next 10 to 15 days.



PHOTO: STAR

Hearing and speech impaired Alpana Aktar Asha, an intermediate first year student of Kahaloo Women's Degree College, receives computer lessons from a teacher at the college laboratory.

Defying all impediments, Asha remains a hope

The meritorious girl needs help for proper treatment

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Alpana Aktar Asha, 16, an intermediate first year student of Kahaloo Women's Degree College, continues her study defying hearing and speech impairment.

Eldest of three children of Shah Alam, a small trader of Nalgharia village in Kahaloo upazila under Bogra district, Asha passed the SSC examinations in 2013 with GPA-3.44 (B grade) from Panchpir Girls' High School in the same upazila.

She can learn fast by reading the lessons in her books and write the answers well although she cannot hear instructions in the class, said her class-

mates, teachers and parents.

Shahnaj Sharmin, English teacher of the college, said, "I have found Asha good at learning. She can write after reading a lesson although she can neither speak nor hear the instructions in the class."

"My daughter is regular in study and homework and she can be taught to do different works through instructions with signals," said her mother Salma Begum.

"A few days after she was born, she showed some problematic symptoms, often crying long hours. Three months later, she received treatment from a doctor of a private clinic in Bogra town and got cured.

"A local health worker

detected Asha's hearing and speech impairment when she was one and a half years old. She was treated in Bogra and Naogaon towns where doctors suggested us to arrange her treatment in the capital. But we could not do it due to financial problem," she said.

Salma urged the affluent and benevolent people of the society to help for early treatment of her daughter.

Dr Rafiqul Islam, assistant professor of child department of Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College and Hospital, suggested consulting with an ENT (ear, nose and throat) specialist soon for diagnosis and treatment of Asha.



PHOTO: STAR

Mozaharul Islam Sarkar tends his Bari Hybrid-4 variety of summer tomato at his field of Jamudanga village in Sadullahpur upazila under Gaibandha district as the profitable farming has already attracted farmers in the area.