

Prof AR Khan intertwined with science in Bangladesh

Speakers tell DU memorial meeting

It is impossible to omit Anwarur Rahman Khan's name while penning circumstances leading to Bangladeshis growing an interest in science for he was one of the persons who wholeheartedly supported this growth, speakers told a memorial meeting yesterday.

The speakers termed Prof Anwarur a good, honest, simple and brave human being of multiple talents, a social worker and a seeker of truth in fields like physics, politics, philosophy and economics.

His death is an irreparable loss to Bangladesh, they added at the programme in Dhaka University's (DU) Mukarram Hossain Khundker Biggan Bhaban.

"Though Khan died at the age of 84, his death is considered untimely for...he had a lot more to give to society," said DU Vice-Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique.

Born in 1932, the DU professor passed away in May 25, 2015 in an accident in London. Over 20 of his research papers have been published both at home and abroad. He established Bangladesh Astronomical Society in 1984 and founded Anushandhitshu Chakra, an organisation promoting science.

Prof Ajoy Roy of DU physics, who was acquainted with Prof Anwarur for a long time, said his only identity was not an astronomer and he was known in many other fields for his contributions.

Over the past two decades since he retired, Prof Anwarur worked spreading science and astronomy in Bangladesh and always tried to encourage the young generation,



From left, Prof Ajoy Roy, Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, Prof Mohammad Ali Asgar, Maj Gen (retd) Dr Abdur Rahman Khan, and Prof Shamima Karim Choudhury at a meeting commemorating Dr AR Khan in the auditorium of Mukarram Hossain Khundker Biggan Bhaban at DU yesterday.

Rampal power plant to damage Sundarbans

Govt should cancel the project, says Dwijen Sharma

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ekushey Padak winning botanist Prof Dwijen Sharma yesterday said the government should cancel the Rampal power plant project as it would cause permanent damage to the Sundarbans.

"We are only noticing the apparent profit but not realising the long-term loss of the environment," he told The Daily Star at a programme in the capital's Shahbagh.

Tarupallab, a nature-study organisation, organised the programme marking the 85th birthday of the botanist at the Central Public Library which Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor attended as chief guest.

The professor said the forest robbers had been grabbing the Sundarbans but the



government's security forces failed to take action against them.

The government also cannot compel influential factory owners to manage waste in an organised system, he mentioned.

According to experts, the 1,320MW coal-fired plant's construction in Bagerhat would result in an ecological catastrophe for the mangrove forest and make it inhabitants vulnerable to natural disasters.

Prof Dwijen has a range of publications on ecological matters and biodiversity of Bangladesh. Any disquisition on Bangladesh's environment would remain incomplete without referencing his publications.

Halda sees drastic fall in spawn production

PRANABESH CHAKRABORTY, Ctg

Since the wee hours of yesterday, there were boatloads of fishermen drifting in the Halda river. They had waited for months because the day's catch would bring them the major part of their annual incomes. But it was a huge disappointment this time around.

Several hundred fishermen went back home with poor catches of eggs from Halda, the largest and lone natural spawning ground for carp fish in the country, and the major source of their livelihoods.

"With high hopes, we went down the river taking our boats and nets, but it was a big disappointment," said Dilip Das, fisherman from Madrasa area. "The fish laid a small amount of eggs." He collected only a bucketful yesterday.

According to Halda expert Manzoorul Kibria, at least 1,500 fishermen -- or 75,000 people if their family members are counted in -- are directly dependent on the spawns pro-

FRY PRODUCTION FROM HALDA	
2015	50kg (till June 12, with little possibility for further catch)
2014	275kg
2013	625kg
2012	1,559kg

KEY REASONS

- Rubber dam
- Netting mother fish
- Dumping waste

SOURCE: EXPERTS

duced in this river. They collect the eggs, hatch them, and then sell the fry at high prices, he said.

If the collectors of the fry and the people who eventually farm those in ponds are taken into consideration, this would be a huge network of people who live on Halda spawns, he told The Daily Star.

But there has been a drastic fall of spawn production in the river this year. According to fishermen, yesterday's total catch of eggs would produce around 30kg of fry. In April, the fishermen had catches which added up to 20kg of fry in all.

Kibria, also a professor of zoology at Chittagong University, said the mother fish released eggs between April and June every year while fishermen collected those immediately afterwards, especially when there were rain and thunder or high and low tides in the river.

"There is little chance of further catches of spawns this season," he said.

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Two 'robbers' killed by mob in Natore

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

Two alleged robbers were beaten to death by a mob during a robbery in Singra of Natore on Thursday night.

Momin Hossain, 21, died instantly; and Shihab Uddin, 20, at Singra Upazila Health Complex, said Rofiqul Islam, assistant superintendent of police in Natore.

Around nine robbers, including the two, riding motorbikes halted paddy trader Enamul who was returning home by his motorcycle after withdrawing Tk 10 lakh from a bank in Teghoir, he said.

After looting the money, the gang tried to flee but the mob caught them red-handed in Bingham and beat them up, he added.

Police recovered the money and arrested seven injured robbers who were admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

BNP dependent on Jamaat: B Chy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday criticised BNP as a party politically dependent on Jamaat-e-Islami and suggested that it should sever ties with Jamaat and follow the ideals of its founder Ziaur Rahman.

"BNP is now going through the third phase of its politics. In the first phase, it was Ziaur Rahman's BNP... Then it turned into Khaleda Zia's. Now it is following Khaleda with dependence on Jamaat," said the former BNP leader.

B Chowdhury, also a former president, made the remarks at the publication ceremony of a book titled "Attasattar Rajniti Ebang Amar Bhabna" at a hotel in the capital. The book was



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2 women killed 'by husbands over dowry'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A woman was killed allegedly by her husband over dowry in the capital's Pallabi early yesterday.

The deceased was Mitu Akter, 25, wife of Khairul Alam Sabuz. The couple and their six-year-old son lived in a slum on Parsi Road.

Quoting neighbours, Dadan Fakir, officer-in-charge of Pallabi Police Station, said the couple had been having arguments for the past few months over dowry.

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