

# Syed Shamsul Haq poet of poets

Discussion marking his birthday told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Syed Shamsul Haq

A polymath litterateur, Syed Shamsul Haq was a teacher of literature and poet of the poets, said leading eminent writers and litterateurs while celebrating his 81st birth anniversary in the capital yesterday.

He consciously wanted to sever various social taboos and forge greater unity instead of compartmentalisation of literary works, said eminent writer Sajjad Sharif in tribute to the late poet at the celebration organised by Daily Star Books at The Daily Star Centre.

He paved the way for future writers both in prose and poetry, said writer Hamid Kamrul Haque, adding that he was industrious and courageous.

In creative pursuit, Syed Shamsul Haq was ahead of his time, said his wife noted author Anwara Syed Haq. He, however, was often misjudged by his literary compatriots, she said.

He will remain unforgettable for his omnipresence in Bangla literature, said noted author and teacher Prof Syed Manzoorul Islam, adding that his lifestyle was as elegant as the purity of his poetry. He fondly cherished the vigour of youthfulness in him and possessed the rare attribute of inspiring others, said Manzoorul.

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Ditiyo Syed-Haq, son of Syed Shamsul Haq, addressing a discussion organised by Daily Star Books at the capital's The Daily Star Centre yesterday, marking the late litterateur's 81st birthday. Sitting from left, Prof Syed Manzoorul Islam and Anwara Syed Haq, wife of Shamsul Haq.

PHOTO: STAR

# GLITCH IN PM'S SPECIAL FLIGHT 2 suspended Biman officials remanded

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed two suspended Biman officials on a seven-day remand each in connection with a case filed for a glitch in Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's special flight on November 27.

Metropolitan Magistrate Zakir Hossain passed the order after Mahub Alam, inspector of Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime Unit, produced the two suspended officials -- engineer Rokonzaman and junior technician Siddiqur Rahman -- before it with a prayer for 10-day remand for each of them.

Earlier on December 22, the two were sent to jail after their surrender before another court seeking bail in the case.

Nine employees of Bangladesh Biman Airlines were made accused in the case filed under the Special Powers Act with Airport Police Station on December 21. Wing Commander (ret'd) MM Asaduzzaman, director of engineering and material management of Biman, filed the case.

Seven of the nine suspended employees were arrested hours after the case was filed.

The same day, the seven were placed on a seven-day police remand each when they were produced before the court.

On November 27, a Biman flight carrying the prime minister had to make an emergency landing at the Ashgabat International Airport Turkmenistan on her way to Budapest as engine-1 of the plane was losing oil pressure.

After the landing, engineers found that a nut was loose causing the oil pressure loss.

The Biman authorities formed a technical probe

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# DU teacher sacked for sexual harassment

Another suspended over plagiarism allegations

DU CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka University (DU) teacher of the political science department has been sacked for sexually harassing a student while another of Islamic history and culture suspended following a departmental inquiry into plagiarism allegations.

Both decisions were taken at a syndicate meeting on Tuesday, syndicate member Prof Maksud Kamal told The Daily Star yesterday. Initially sent on forced leave in 2011, Dr Amran Hossain, an associate professor, was sacked on being found guilty, he said.

The punishment showed DU's zero tolerance towards such moral degradation,

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# Open space for children in urban plan urgent

Roundtable of BIP, Save the children told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Open space for children should be emphasised in urban plans for their healthy growth, said speakers at a roundtable yesterday.

Due to a lack of playgrounds and parks, and physical activities, children living in cities often suffer from obesity or other physical problems like vitamin D and calcium deficiency, said Moinul Islam, a town planner of Narayanganj City Corporation.

At the roundtable held in the capital's Planners Tower by the Bangladesh Institute of Planners (BIP) and Save the Children, speakers urged the government and planners to undertake area wise development plans including educational institution, hospital, park and playground.

Housing and Building Research Institute Director Mohammad Abu Sadeque said Dhaka can still become a better city through a proper plan where not only children but also women and people who are aged and have

disabilities will benefit.

Dr AKM Abul Kalam, president of BIP, said the city corporations and municipalities need more expert hands for preparing a better urban plan while government officials need to work more actively.

Ishita Alam Abonee, a project analyst of the World Bank, said proper monitoring is needed to implement the development plans of city corporations and municipalities.

Adil Mohammed Khan, joint secretary of BIP, urged the planners to take opinions from children while making their plans.

Prof Dr Shamsul Alam, senior secretary of Planning Commission; Mahmuda Sharmeen Benu, additional secretary (planning) to the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs; Mirza Ali Ashraf, deputy secretary to the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief; and Maruf Hossain, a programme manager of Work for a Better Bangladesh Trust; also spoke.

# Blogger murders accused dies at DMCH

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An accused of the murders of two bloggers died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital under jail custody yesterday, jail sources said.

Abul Bashar, 40, who was suffering from Hepatitis B, had been at DMCH since December 3, said Jahangir Kabir, senior jail superintendent of Dhaka Central Jail.

His body was handed over to the family after autopsy, Jahangir said.

Bashar was arrested in the capital's Fakira Pool in September 2015 on the charge of killing Avijit Roy and Ananta Bijoy Das.

Bashar took over the charge of banned militant outfit Ansarullah Bangla Team (ABT) after arrest of its chief Jasimuddin Rahmani and allegedly plotted murders of the two.

# Bangladesh must use its water properly

Minister tells water convention

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has to manage its water properly for ensuring a sustainable water regime, Water Resources Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud said yesterday.

Addressing the inauguration session of the National Water Convention 2016, he said 80 percent of the water that Bangladesh has flowed through the country in the four months of the rainy season, while the remaining 20 percent flowed in eight months.

"But we don't have a proper water distribution system," he said.

Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF), NGO Forum for Public Health, and Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad (BUP) jointly organised the two-day convention in the PKSF auditorium.

Dr Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad, chairman of PKSF, chaired the programme.

"When we get a huge amount of water, we don't preserve it. Our rivers, canals, haors, and bills should have held the water but we have filled them up and grabbed them to build houses," said Anisul, delivering his speech as chief guest.

"If we want to ensure availability of water, we have to

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# No e-token for ticketholders to get Indian visas

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

If air, train or bus tickets of authorised operators have been confirmed, Bangladeshis from 2017 will no longer have to obtain appointment dates or e-tokens to submit completed applications for Indian tourist visas.

The major step towards further liberalising and easing the visa process and strengthening people-to-people contact was announced in an Indian high commission press release.

This would eliminate unauthorised, illegal centres taking advantage of the rush to offer e-tokens for Tk 3,000-5,000.

The application forms and tickets can be submitted at Indian Visa Application

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Preparation going on ahead of month-long Dhaka International Trade Fair which starts in Agargaon on January 1.

PHOTO: STAR

# Woman, daughter die as train hits auto-rickshaw

Two others of the family also injured seriously

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two members of a family were killed and two others injured as a shuttle train hit a CNG-run auto-rickshaw carrying them at a rail crossing in Modhuban area of Bibir Hat in Chittagong city yesterday afternoon.

The deceased were Monwara Begum, 35, of Bagerhat and her daughter Afrin, 15. The injured -- Monwara's younger daughter Ayesha, 11, and sister-in-law Moni, 55 -- are undergoing treatment at Chittagong Medical College Hospital, said police.

Monwara with the three came to visit her parents' house in Panchlaish Nazirpara area of the city a week ago. They were going to Colonelhat area to get on a Khulna-bound bus to return home.

Quoting eyewitness, Sub-Inspector of Sholoshohor Police outpost Jakir Hossain said the accident occurred as there is no gate at the crossing. The shuttle train of Chittagong University, which was heading towards Bottoli railway station, hit the auto-rickshaw that was crossing the rail tracks around 3:15pm.



Ayesha being treated at CMCH. PHOTO: STAR

Monwara died on the spot while Afrin was declared dead at CMCH, the SI said.

Officer-in-Charge of Railway Police SM Shahidul Islam said during the accident the auto-rickshaw was dragged to some distance after it was hit. The auto-rickshaw driver escaped the accident without injury.

Sholoshohor station master Mohammed Shahabuddin said there is no gate at the level crossing is unauthorised.

# Terrorism no jihad: Inu

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Terrorism is neither a form of jihad nor religious revolution, rather a heinous and inhumane crime having no link with religion, said Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu yesterday, urging the media not to mix up Islam with terrorism.

Addressing as chief guest the annual general meeting of Crime Reporters Association of Bangladesh (CRAB) in the capital, he said the government would discuss about the 9th wage board for journalists in an upcoming meeting and he would talk on inclusion of "risk allowance" for crime reporters.

Rapid Action Battalion Director General Benazir Ahmed said the sudden rise of terrorism was countered professionally with people's support as it is not solely law enforcers' war but that of Bangladesh.

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Lotus president, Pantho general secy of DCAB

Rezaul Karim Lotus, special correspondent of The Daily Star, and Pantho Rahman, senior correspondent of Channel-I, were yesterday elected president and general secretary of the Diplomatic Correspondents Association, Bangladesh (DCAB) respectively for the year 2017.

The annual general meeting (AGM) and election to the 11-member executive committee were held at Jatiya Press Club with outgoing President Angur Nahar Monty in the chair. All the office bearers were elected unopposed except president and vice

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# SIX GAIBANDHA MEN'S CASE ICT wants charge submission Mar 21

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday directed the prosecution to submit formal charges on March 12 next year in the case filed against six Gaibandha men allegedly for committing crimes during the Liberation War, 1971.

The two-member tribunal led by Justice Anwarul Haque fixed the date after prosecutor Mukhlesur Rahman Badal yesterday sought three months for preparing the formal charges as he received the investigation report and other documents against the six on December 21.

The accused are Abdul Jabbar Mondal, 86, Jachijar Rahman alias Khoka, 64, Abdul Wahed Mondal, 62, Montaz Alia Bepari alias Momtaz, 68, Ajar Hossain Khan, 66, and Ranju Miah, 59, all from Gaibandha Sadar upazila.

Ranju is now in jail while the rest are on the run. Tribunal's investigation agency on December 21 completed the investigation. The six were involved in four incidents -- killing one Hindu man, torturing two Hindu women and forcing around 400 Hindus of the sadar upazila's Sahapara union to leave the country; killing nine people at Nandina village and looting around 50 houses; killing five people at Doulatpur village; and killing seven people at Sahapara union, said the agency's co-coordinator.

# Ex-BNP MP Salahuddin sent to jail on surrender

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday rejected the bail petitions of former BNP lawmaker Salahuddin Ahmed and sent him to jail after he surrendered before it in connection with 15 arson cases.

Of the cases, he was denied bail in 12 cases and granted bail in three cases as the charges brought against him are bailable.

Metropolitan Magistrate Golam Nabi gave the order after Salahuddin's lawyer moved the petition seeking bail in the cases.

During the hearing, advocate Sanaullah Miah told the court that his client could not surrender before the court seeking bail after filing of the cases as he had been suffering from different ailments for

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## STAR WEEKEND

in other news...

This week our Spotlight is about 10 Star Weekend stories published in the last one year, that we believe have changed us for the better. We also have a piece on two young Bangladeshi entrepreneurs and change-makers, who have recently won the Queen's Young Leaders Programme for 2017. Don't forget to grab your copy of the Star Weekend, tomorrow, Friday!