

Mahfuz Ullah spoke truth even when it was risky

Eminent personalities say at memorial programme

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Journalist and writer Mahfuz Ullah will be remembered forever not only for his writing, but also for his courage to speak the truth and protest irregularities, eminent personalities said yesterday.

They made the remarks at a memorial programme for Mahfuz, who passed away at a hospital in Thailand on April 27. The meeting was organised by his friends and former colleagues at Jatiya Press Club.

Speakers also prayed for the salvation and eternal peace of the departed soul, and expressed condolences to the bereaved family members.

Gonoforum President Dr Kamal Hossain said Mahfuz through his writings and speeches inspired people to work for social change and uphold the spirit of Liberation War.

The prominent journalist did not limit himself to writing; he contributed to many political and social movements, said Dr Kamal.

"He spoke truth even when it was risky... To honour him, let us unite and realise his thoughts and ideas," he added.

About the current political situation, the Jatiya Oikyafront convenor said, "The tyrants who think they will remain in power for good, using money and influence, live in a fool's paradise."

"There is no place for autocracy in Bangladesh," he said.

Eminent economist Akbar Ali Khan said Mahfuz was a pioneer in environmental journalism in Bangladesh and his works will keep him alive.



Dr Kamal Hossain speaks at the programme.

PHOTO: STAR

"If he were with us now, he would encourage us and strengthen our mission towards democratic advancement," said the former caretaker government adviser.

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said Mahfuz, through journalism, was committed to truth, social change and upholding the country's democracy.

"His sudden demise is an immense loss for the nation. I believe, the void he left behind is irreparable," he said.

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) President ASM Abdur Rob said threats and intimidation could not shake Mahfuz. He continued to speak out against wrongs till his death.

Former Dhaka University (DU) Vice Chancellor Professor Emajuddin Ahamed; Gonoshasthaya Kendra founder Zafarullah Chowdhury; adviser to a former caretaker

government Barrister Mainul Hossain; New Age Editor Nurul Kabir; Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon; DU professors Robaet Ferdous and Asif Nazrul; BNP Standing Committee Member Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury; and Nagorik Oikya Convener Mahmudur Rahman Manna, among others, spoke at the programme.

Mahfuz had been suffering from various heart and kidney complications for a long time. As his health condition deteriorated, he was flown to Thailand in April for better treatment, where he died at the age of 69.

The author of more than 50 books is known for editing the biographies of BNP founder Ziaur Rahman and its Chairperson Khaleda Zia, and books on the 1969 mass uprising, insurgency in India's Assam, and post-independence Bangladesh.

Parliament's budget session to begin June 11

UNB, Dhaka

The first budget session of the 11th parliament formed through December 30 general election will begin at 5pm on June 11.

President Abdul Hamid yesterday summoned the third session of the 11th parliament exercising the power bestowed upon him as per Article 72 (1) of the constitution.

Before the House goes into

the session, the business advisory committee of parliament will sit in a meeting to fix the duration and businesses of the session.

Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal is likely to place the proposed national budget in the House on June 13.

On June 7, 2018, former Finance Minister AMA Muhiith placed a Tk 464,573-crore budget for the 2018-19 fiscal year.

SC rejects ACC's stay petition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday cleared the way for the High Court to hold hearing on the rule over compensating Jaha Alam, the man wrongly imprisoned for three years because of an identity mix-up.

A four-member bench of the Appellate Division, headed by Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain, dismissed a petition filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission seeking stay on the HC proceedings on the rule.

Now, the HC will set a date to hear on the rule, said Advocate Amit Das Gupta, the lawyer who moved for the suo moto (voluntary) rule before the HC for the compensation.

Advocate AM Amin Uddin appeared for Jaha Alam yesterday, while Advocate Khurshid Alam Khan argued for ACC.

Jute mill worker Jaha Alam, who had been wrongly languishing in jail since February 2016, was

released on February 4 this year following an HC directive after newspapers reported about his ordeal.

He was arrested in connection with cases filed by the ACC for misappropriation of Sonali Bank money. The HC exonerated him from the charges on February 3.

The HC bench of Justice FRM Nazmul Ahasan and Justice KM Kamrul Kader on January 28 issued the suo moto rule asking the ACC and government why they should not be directed to compensate Jaha Alam.

During a hearing on the rule on March 6, the HC bench said ACC must take the responsibility for Jaha Alam not getting bail much earlier.

Following the ACC's stay petition, chamber judge of the Appellate Division Justice Md Nuruzzaman on April 23 stayed the HC proceedings on the rule, and sent the petition to its full bench.

Foolproof security during Buddha Purnima: DMP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amidst media reports on possible terrorist attack during Buddha Purnima celebration, Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) will take adequate security measures for peaceful celebrations on May 18.

DMP Commissioner Asaduzzaman Mia assured foolproof security during a meeting with a delegation of Buddhist community leaders at his office yesterday.

However, the number of celebration venues has been reduced to four from six this year, considering the situation, said a police official who attended the meeting.

Buddha Purnima programmes will be held at four pagodas in Uttara, Bashabo, Badda and Mirpur on May 18. On May 17, a rally from Shahbagh to press club will be escorted by police, community leaders said.

The organisers have been asked to bring the venues under CCTV surveillance, engage volunteers and ensure arrangement of sufficient lights.

Additional policemen in uniform and plainclothes will be deployed at the venues as well as at important city points and establishments.

At the meeting, Monirul Islam, chief of DMP's Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime unit, said though there are different media reports -- citing foreign intelligence agencies -- of possible attack on that day, there is no specific threat.

Ashoke Barua, executive president of Bangladesh Buddhist Federation, said "We agreed not to arrange any programme at the two pagodas in Banglabazar and Narda area. We have been assured and are satisfied about the security arrangement police has shared with us."

A delegation of the community will meet Inspector General of Police, Mohammad Javed Patwary, today to request him to ensure security for peaceful celebration of Buddha Purnima across the country, he said.

IDEAL SCHOOL SSC RESULT

Top students score 'abnormally low' in English first paper

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Many guardians have raised concerns about 16 students of Motijheel's Ideal School and College receiving "abnormally low" marks in English first paper in SSC exam.

These students of English version scored between 55-64 in the exam, although they got 81-92 in English second paper, shows results published on May 6.

"They were the top students of their class. They scored more than 80 in all other subjects, according to the published results," said Ideal School and College principal Shahan Ara Begum.

One such student is Nafis Saadiq Bhuiyan, first boy of the class. He scored 63 in English first paper but his score in English second paper was 92. Besides, he scored 100 in mathematics, 99 in higher mathematics and physics and more than 80 percent marks in every other subject.

Shahan Ara Begum said she has already sent a letter to Dhaka Education Board to review the scripts of all 16 students.

Dhaka Education Board Secretary Tapan Kumar Sarkar said the matter will be given due importance during review of scripts.

Results of the review will be published in the first week of June, he added.

SIPHONING Tk 183.92CR TO DUBAI

ACC files case against Falu, three others

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday filed a case against BNP leader Mosaddek Ali Falu and three others, under the Money Laundering Act, for siphoning Tk 183.92 crore to Dubai.

ACC Public Relations Officer Pranab Kumar Bhattacharya said ACC's Assistant Director Gulshan Anwar Pradhan filed the case against Falu, a former member of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's advisory council, and three others with Uttara Police Station.

The other accused are: SAK Ekramuzzaman, managing director of RAK Ceramics and Rakhen Development Company Ltd; Syed AK Anwaruzzaman, director of Star Ceramics Private Ltd; and Md Amir Hossain, former director of RAK Consumer Products Ltd and Star Ceramics

Private Ltd.

According to ACC, Falu, along with the three businessmen, opened offshore companies -- named Al Madina International Ltd, Tri Star Ltd and Development EUE -- in Dubai in 2010.

Through this, they siphoned off Tk 183.92 crore amassed through illegal means from the country, reads the FIR.

It also says that Falu could not show source of the money. He also did not take permission from Bangladesh Bank in this regard.

"He misused his power and laundered the money," reads the FIR.

Ekramuzzaman and Anwaruzzaman could not show any legal source of their income, nor took approval from the central bank.



PHOTO OF THE DAY

AMRAN HOSSAIN



Effluents from a garment factory, thick with toxic paint and chemicals, flow into the river Buriganga. Despite all the outcry about saving the rivers, such malpractices continue to poison the freshwater. The photo was taken from Shuvadda area of Keraniganj yesterday.

ANTI-SEXUAL HARASSMENT COMMITTEES

High Court inquires progress of implementation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

High Court (HC) yesterday issued a rule to know progress on the implementation of its 2009 directive that asked all educational institutions and workplaces across the country to form sexual harassment prevention committees.

The bench of Justice FRM Nazmul Ahasan and Justice KM Kamrul Kader asked the authorities to explain in two weeks why they should not be directed to submit the progress report through the Supreme Court's registrar general.

The bench issued the rule following a writ petition filed by six rights organisations in April this year, including Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association (BNWLA) seeking necessary orders in this regard, said Deputy Attorney General ABM Abdullah Al Mahmud Bashar.

The petitioners also prayed to the court to ask the authorities to attach a list of such committees, if formed, along with the progress report, DAG ABM Abdullah added.

Advocate Fawzia Karim Feroze appeared SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

BODIES FOUND IN UTTAR KHAN

Woman, daughter strangled; son stabbed


STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Of the three bodies recovered on Sunday night from Dhaka's Uttar Khan area, the woman and her daughter were strangled to death while her son died due to a stab in the throat.

Sohel Mahmud, head of forensic medicine department at Dhaka Medical College, told reporters after conducting autopsies on the decomposed bodies yesterday.

Law enforcers suspect that 27-year-old Mohik Hasan Rochi might have committed suicide after killing his mother Jahanara Khatun, 48, and sister Tasfia Sultana Meem, 20.

"We recovered a kitchen knife stained with blood. All the doors and windows of their home were locked from inside. There is no sign of outsider's entry in the flat," SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Abu Hena M. Mahmud
(1949 ~ 2019)

We mourn the heartbreaking sudden death of Abu Hena M. Mahmud who left us on Friday, the 10th of May 2019 at 1:50 PM at Apollo Hospital during the Jumma Prayers.

إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ


He was suffering from terminal cancer for the past one year and was being treated at National University Hospital in Singapore. He was laid to rest and buried at Banani Graveyard after Asr Prayers.

We request all to pray for his departed soul and offer Dua for him so that Allah Almighty rests him in Jannatul Firdous. Ameen.

- Mrs. Shaheen Mahmud
Abrar, Ishrukh & Tanzeer

DHAKA TODAY


<p>CALLIGRAPHY EXHIBITION Sanctity by Saifullah Safa Venue: EMK Center Time: 9:30am</p> <p>APPAREL EXHIBITION Eid Exclusives Organiser: Gulshan Eventz Venue: Gardenia Grand Hall, Gulshan 2 Time: 10am</p> <p>FAIR Pre-Eid Fashion Carnival 2019</p>	<p>Organiser: Look n Buy Events Venue: Dhanmondi Party Centre Time: 10am</p> <p>SESSION Beach Themed Summer Camp 2019 Venue: Clay Station Dhaka, Banani Time: 11:30am</p> <p>HAIR-STYLING WORKSHOP Venue: Beauty Bar Makeover Salon, Mirpur Time: 11am</p>
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Fasting and Heartburn

Those who are regularly taking medicine for indigestion, such as antacids or proton pump inhibitors, can continue taking them during Ramadan, twice daily in sehri & iftar. Heartburn or hiccup, belching can be controlled by eating in moderation and avoiding oily, deep-fried or very spicy food. Reducing caffeine intake, stopping smoking and sleeping with head raised on a few pillows can also help.



Dr. Mohammed Mahub Alam
Consultant, Gastroenterology & Hepatology

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