



Abul Mansur Ahmad’s 42nd anniversary of death today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 42nd death anniversary of Abul Mansur Ahmad, a renowned litterateur, journalist, and politician of the sub-continent. He died in 1979. One of the greatest satirists of Bangla literature, he was also a pioneer of modern and progressive journalism. He worked for prominent newspapers such as Krishak, Nabajug, Sultan, and Mohammadi, and was editor of the Kolkata-based Daily Ittehad from 1946 to 1948.

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Working for a better future for children: PM

President, premier pay homage to Bangabandhu marking his birth centenary, Nat’l Children’s Day

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the government is doing everything possible for ensuring a better future for the children of the country. “We want to make the lives of children more colourful, beautiful, successful and fruitful. This is our aim,” she said. The PM was addressing a children’s rally and cultural programme marking the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and National Children’s Day on Bangabandhu Mausoleum Complex premises at Tungipara, Gopalganj. She joined the programme virtually from her official residence Gono Bhaban. “We’ve become a developing country, we won’t just stop here. Bangladesh should move forward further. Now our aim is to make Bangladesh a developed and prosperous country by 2041,” she said. Hasina said the government is taking all the necessary steps and formulating all the policies to make Bangladesh a developed country by 2041.

“Those who will come to power in the future will follow the policies and continue the trend of development. That’s what we want,” she said. The prime minister briefly mentioned the steps taken by her government for the children during its different tenures. She urged guardians, teachers, eminent personalities, religious leaders, public representatives and others to remain alert so that the children do not fall prey to any destructive behaviour. Hasina said the government has amended the Women and Children Repression Prevention law to ensure tougher punishment for offenders. The prime minister said the pandemic will fade away and the schools will be reopened then. She urged the children to continue their studies staying at home alongside continuing their cultural activities. “Sports and cultural activities are urgently needed.” Highlighting various measures taken by Bangabandhu for the welfare of children, SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



A woman walks to a latrine -- the sorry-looking structure made from crumpled corrugated tin sheets -- with a small water-pot in hand for ablution. The photo was taken yesterday from a slum in the capital’s Sher-e-Bangla Nagar area, but the situation is not much different in any of the settlement in the capital.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

DEPLORABLE SANITATION CONDITIONS IN DHAKA SLUMS

Women bear the brunt of it

NILIMA JAHAN

Thirty-year-old Aklima Akter of Mirpur’s Duaripara slum shares her tiny and slippery “hanging latrine” with over 80 people in her neighbourhood. The latrine is made out of tin and installed above a waterbody. It allows feces to fall through a pipe and contaminate the water. In absence of running water and hand-washing facilities, Aklima and her neighbours depend on one wash jug (bodna) of water to clean themselves after defecation. During menstruation, it becomes more challenging for the poorest of the poor like Aklima to wash unsanitary rags inside the tiny space with such a small amount of water. If she goes out to collect another

wash jug of water, she hears taunting words from the male neighbours. Duaripara slum houses around 6,000 families, where most of the inhabitants pull rickshaws, work in garments or as domestic help, or run small businesses. There are only 40 community toilets in the slum, while the rest are unsanitary hanging latrines. “In the morning, there is a long queue outside the latrine, and people like me who stay home usually don’t get any chance to use the toilet for long periods. Most of the time, I pile up my damp rags inside the room, and when there is lesser rush, I wash those to use further,” said Aklima. Although it causes discomfort, itching, irritation and urinary tract infections (UTI), Aklima says with certainty that “she has no other

options.” The scenario is similar in the Kalshi and Wapda slums in Mirpur. During recent visits, a large number of women and schoolgoing girls were seen sharing hanging latrines. The challenges of sanitation have intensified since a large number of women workers lost their jobs in the pandemic (mostly RMG workers and domestic help) and schools have been shut for almost a year. According to a 2018 World Bank report, about 50 million people in Bangladesh use shared, rudimentary toilets and only 28 percent of toilets are equipped with soap and water. Access to clean water, adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all, with special attention to SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Returnee migrants can go back as skilled workers with certificate

Says expatriates’ welfare minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With government-provided recognition of prior learning (RPL) certificates, returnee migrant workers will be able to go abroad as skilled workers, said Expatriates’ Welfare Minister Imran Ahmad yesterday. “They will be able to earn more,” he said while addressing a discussion at the auditorium of Bangladesh-Korea Technical Training Centre (BKITTC). BKITTC, Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Mohila Technical Training Centre (SFMMTTC) and Bangladesh German Technical Training Centre (BGITTC) organised the discussion marking birth centenary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and National Children’s Day. Addressing the event as chief guest, Imran Ahmad said about 4 lakh Bangladeshi workers returned home amid the pandemic last year. The ministry has undertaken initiative to provide them with RPL certificates based on skills they have amassed abroad, he said. Marking Bangabandhu’s birth centenary, he said the ministry has taken initiatives to create “Bangabandhu Corner” at each technical training centre (TTC) in the country. The minister handed over RPL certificates among three returnee migrants from Qatar, Jordan and Malaysia at the event. Besides, winners of an essay and drawing competition also received crests and certificates. Officials of the ministry and its different organisations as well as principals of the TTCs also addressed the programme.

Moudud’s body to arrive today

UNB, Dhaka


The body of BNP standing committee member and noted lawyer Moudud Ahmed will be brought back home from Singapore today evening. “All the necessary formalities have been completed to bring back sir’s (Moudud’s) body to the country from Singapore by a flight of Biman Bangladesh Airlines,” said the late BNP leader’s personal assistant Mominur Rahman Sujon. He said a flight of Biman carrying Moudud’s mortal remains is scheduled to leave Singapore at 3:50pm today. Upon arrival, Sujon said, the body will be taken to the mortuary of United Hospital. He said Moudud’s first namaz-e-janaza will be held on the High Court premises at 10am on Friday while the second one will take place in front of BNP’s Nayapaltan central office at 11am. Another janaza for the former six-time MP may be held at the South Plaza of the National Parliament, subject to the Speaker’s permission, he added. Later, Moudud’s body will be taken to his SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

BRTC launches special Tungipara-Mujibnagar service

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) yesterday launched a special bus service between Tungipara of Gopalganj and Mujibnagar of Meherpur to mark the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. State Minister for Public Administration Farhad Hossain inaugurated the service through video conference. BRTC Chairman Tazul Islam was special guest at the programme. Tungipara is the birthplace of Bangabandhu while Mujibnagar is a town in Meherpur where the provisional government of independent Bangladesh took oath on April 17, 1971. The special service will connect these historic places directly to encourage people to visit, BRTA said in a press release yesterday. Two AC-buses-- one from Tungipara and one from Mujibnagar -- will start from 6am every day. The route of the service will be: Mujibnagar- Meherpur town- Chuadanga- Jhenaidah- Magura- Faridpur- Bhanga- Gopalganj and Tungipara. The bus ride is priced at Tk 200 for the first 10 days, after which the fare will be fixed on the basis of passenger demand.

In memory of  
Bushra Hossain 1974-2020



The hours you were given were too short, but we know your life was long in moments of joy and happiness. In these times we cannot invite anyone to come for her prayers, but we hope you will take a moment to remember her today.

“Dentists in Bangladesh are now far more adept at treating major dental diseases”



Professor Dr Syed Morshed Moula  
Head of Dental Unit  
Dhaka Community Medical College

There has been tremendous development in every sector of the country. As part of the dentistry community, would you say there has been similar development in the oral healthcare sector?

In the past, there were not sufficient institutes in the country offering a degree in Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS). All over Bangladesh, we only had one dental college situated in Dhaka. But this scenario slowly changed with time. At present, there are around 20 dental colleges in Bangladesh offering the BDS degree. This expansion in the dentistry education sector has resulted in increase in knowledge regarding oral and dental healthcare as well. One very good trend we have observed is that nowadays parents are concerned about their children’s oral health from a very early age and they conduct regular dentist visits. We believe that accessibility to better oral healthcare treatment has caused this rapid increase in awareness among the general populace. We are now far more adept at treating all major dental diseases and disorders. As a result, many people are living healthier and happier lives.

What steps would you suggest everyone to take in order to properly care for their teeth and oral health?

It does not require much effort or money to properly care for one’s teeth. All it requires is the maintenance of proper oral hygiene. The only way we can keep our mouth and teeth clean is by regularly brushing our teeth. I recommend brushing twice a day; once in the morning and once before bed. I consider regular brushing to be a form of vaccination for the teeth, as it acts as the primary prevention mechanism against various ailments and diseases. Along with regular and

proper brushing of the teeth, it is just as important to monitor one’s diet. Foods high in refined sugar in particular can have damaging effects on one’s dental health and may lead to diseases such as gingivitis.

Teeth sensitivity has been a major topic of debate in recent times. What are the signs of someone suffering from sensitive teeth? How can we combat teeth sensitivity?

What we need to understand first is the difference between the terms sensitivity and hypersensitivity. Everyone’s teeth are more or less sensitive to environmental stimuli. Our teeth are naturally sensitive to foods and drinks that are too hot or too cold. But, if your teeth hurt when you bite into a cold ice cream or when you drink hot soup, your teeth might be suffering from hypersensitivity. This is when the outer coating of our teeth, called the enamel, gets damaged.

There are various reasons for this hypersensitivity starting from unhealthy, food habits to wrong brushing techniques. I recommend using anti-sensitivity toothpaste in order to combat this hypersensitivity. Along with that, it is also necessary to use the right set of toothbrush with soft bristles to ensure protection of the enamel.

Recently, we saw a campaign circulating called “Not a BDS, not a dentist”. What is the purpose behind this campaign?

The main purpose behind this campaign is saving people from quack doctors. A lot of people work in this profession although they do not have the necessary qualifications. It is very difficult for the ordinary person to judge whether the dentist they are going to has a proper educational background or not. Through this campaign we hope to shed light on this issue. At least a BDS degree is necessary in order to be a dental surgeon and treat patients.

Interviewed and written by Tasnim Odrika of The Daily Star.




শিরশির অনুভূতি দূর করে মাত্র ৩০ সেকেন্ডে

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