



Abul Mansur Ahmad’s 123rd birth anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today marks the 123rd birth anniversary of renowned litterateur, journalist and politician Abul Mansur Ahmad. He was born in Dhanikhola village of Mymensingh on this day in 1898.

He was one of the leading satirical writers of Bangla literature and had an illustrious career as a journalist and a politician.

In 1946, he was the founding editor of The Daily Ittehad [in Kolkata]. He earlier worked at daily newspapers Krishak and Navajug and many other periodicals.

He was a pioneer of modern and progressive journalism.

An immensely successful politician, Ahmad was the provincial education minister of Sher-e-Bangla

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A little bit of relief came to the hustle and bustle of city life in the last couple of days, as spells of rainfall brought serenity to the city’s punishing demands. But life is so busy, and the weather so fickle, that this tranquility doesn’t take long to get swept away. But where we fail, nature thrives. As rainwater clings on to leaves for hours after the drizzle, the least we can do is take a look and feel rejuvenated for a bit longer. This photo was taken from the capital’s Jatiya Press Club area yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Keep your homes, surroundings clean

PM urges all to take precautionary measures against dengue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called upon all to keep their houses and surroundings clean to prevent the breeding of Aedes mosquitoes that spread the dengue virus.

The premier while speaking at the parliament said the city corporation authorities and the government are taking all the necessary steps, but people should remain careful in this regard.

Hasina, also leader of the House, said this while participating in a discussion on an obituary reference placed in the Jatiya Sangsad to express grief at the demise of Awami League’s sitting MP Hasibur Rahman Swapon from Sirajganj-6 (Shahjadpur).

“People are now suffering from dengue (fever). So, I would like to urge everyone to keep their houses, gardens and surroundings clean so that the water doesn’t remain stagnant anywhere and (Aedes) mosquitoes cannot breed,” she said.

Hasina said the city corporation authorities and the government are taking all necessary measures, but people should remain careful in this regard.

Hasina, also AL president, asked all to use mosquito nets while sleeping as part of precautionary measures against dengue.

The premier also said there is no problem regarding vaccines in the country. “We are bringing vaccines from anywhere by any means.”

She said her government has already booked six crore doses of Covid-19 vaccine and money has been paid in advance.

In a bid to contain Covid-19, the prime minister requested people to maintain health safety guidelines including wearing masks, washing hands and avoiding

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Capt Nawshad laid to rest



PHOTO: COLLECTED

Fellow pilots stood in a line to receive Capt Nawshad’s body after it arrived at Dhaka airport yesterday morning. His colleagues carried the coffin on their shoulders while others paid their last salute to the reputed aviator.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In tears and with profound grief, pilots and representatives from all airlines and operators of the country paid their last respects to Captain Nawshad Ataul Quaiyum in Dhaka yesterday.

A Biman Bangladesh Airlines flight carrying the body of the Biman pilot landed at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport around 9:12am.

The flight came to the HSIA from Doha, landing at Nagpur Airport on the way to pick up Nawshad’s body.

His fellow pilots stood in a line and paid their respects by removing their caps to receive him. They paid their last salute to the reputed aviator and carried the coffin on their shoulders.

Mahbub Ali, state minister for civil aviation, and Air Vice Marshal M Mafidur

Rahman, chairperson of Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh, placed wreaths at Nawshad’s coffin.

State Minister Mahbub Ali told reporters, “We are deeply saddened by the untimely death of pilot Nawshad. His death is an irreparable loss for Biman.”

Flanked by Biman officials, Biman Managing Director and CEO Dr Abu Saleh Mostafa Kamal also paid tribute to Capt Nawshad.

From the airport, the coffin was taken to his Uttara residence in the capital.

Later around 3:50pm, Capt Nawshad was laid to eternal rest at Banani graveyard.

On August 27, Capt Nawshad had suffered a massive heart attack mid-air while commandeering a Muscat-Dhaka flight with 124 passengers on board.

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Dengue claims three more lives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three more people died of dengue, while 330 more dengue patients were admitted to hospitals in the last 24 hours till 8am yesterday.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services, among the new cases, 46 are from outside Dhaka.

As per DGHS data, 48 people have died of dengue in the country this year. All of them succumbed to the disease in July, August and September.

Twelve people died in July, 30 in August while six have died in September so far.

Among the deaths, 38 persons have died in Dhaka, two in Chattogram, and one each in Rajshahi and Khulna divisions.

With the new cases, a total of 625 people were diagnosed only in two days during the running month out of the total 10,981 infected. Of the total infected, 928 are from outside Dhaka.

At least 7,698 patients were hospitalised in August, 2,286 in July, 272 in June, while 43 were infected in May.

Though most of the patients who were hospitalised have so far been released, 1,262 are still undergoing treatment at hospitals in Dhaka, and 131 outside the capital, the DGHS data shows.

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Reform DSA to stop harassment of women

Speakers tell Mahila Parishad webinar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Although the Digital Security Act was enacted in 2018, the law is yet to play a significant role in curbing cyber harassment and bullying of women, said speakers at a webinar yesterday.

The law must be reformed and enforced properly in order to prevent all crimes in the digital space, including violence against women, rather than used arbitrarily to suppress dissent, they highlighted.

human rights of all citizens,” she stated.

Rekha Chowdhury, vice president of BMP, pointed out in her keynote that although the law ministry at the time of implementation of the DSA had assured rights groups that the law would not be misused to harass anyone, in reality the number of such cases are increasing day by day.

Meanwhile, the law is failing to address women’s concerns, she added.

“One might ask why women don’t

of the law in recent times.

“It is possible to make necessary amendments to the law. But law enforcement needs to be vigilant in applying the law, in order to stop crimes in cyberspace, including stopping violence against women,” he said.

He added that there should be a separate law to monitor social media.

Deputy Secretary (District Judge) of the Law and Justice Division, Begum Maksuda Parveen said cyber violence

One might ask why women don’t file cases under the DSA. According to data from Cyber Awareness Foundation, 30 percent of female victims don’t know where and how legal action can be taken, and another 25 percent believe that no action will be taken if they file complaints with law enforcers.

There are a total of eight cyber tribunals in Bangladesh. In order to establish women’s human rights through the Digital Security Act, it is necessary to ensure proper investigation and proper enforcement of the law.

The Digital Security Act 2018 could not play an important role to curb crimes due to some limitations and misapplication of the law in recent times.

REKHA CHOWDHURY,
VICE PRESIDENT OF MAHILA PARISHAD

BEGUM MAKSUDA PARVEEN,
DEPUTY SECRETARY (DISTRICT JUDGE) OF
LAW AND JUSTICE DIVISION

MUSTAFA JABBAR,
POSTS AND
TELECOMMUNICATIONS MINISTER

They made these observations at a webinar titled, “Digital Security Act: Women’s Human Rights,” organised by Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BMP).

BMP general secretary Maleka Banu said there is gender inequality in cyberspace. With the increasing use of digital technology, women in the cyber world are being subjected to various forms of violence.

“We hope that the existing digital security act will be reformed and implemented properly to ensure the safety of women and protect the

file cases under the DSA. According to data from Cyber Awareness Foundation, 30 percent of female victims don’t know where and how legal action can be taken, and another 25 percent believe that no action will be taken if they file complaints with law enforcers,” she said.

Posts and Telecommunications Minister Mustafa Jabbar, who was the chief guest of the event, said the Digital Security Act 2018 could not play an important role to curb crimes due to some limitations and misapplication

against women is increasing at an alarming rate.

She cited a survey by Plan International Bangladesh which found that 53 percent of women are victims of some form of cyber violence.

“There are a total of eight cyber tribunals in Bangladesh. In order to establish women’s human rights through the Digital Security Act, it is necessary to ensure proper investigation and proper enforcement of the law,” she added.

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Tk 1,100Cr SCAM E-orange CEO, former owners sent to jail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday rejected bail of four former and incumbent officials of E-orange and sent them to jail on expiry of their remand in a case filed over embezzlement of around Tk 1,100 crore.

The accused are former owners of the e-commerce platform -- Sonia Mehjabin and her husband Masukur Rahman, Chief Executive Officer Md Amanullah Chowdhury, and former Chief Operating Officer Md Nazmul Alam Russel, court sources said.

Metropolitan Magistrate Md Baki Billah passed the order after Gulshan Police Station Inspector Aminul Islam, the investigation officer, produced them and appealed to the court to confine them to jail until the investigation is completed.

A customer -- Md Taherul Islam -- filed the case on August 16 over embezzlement of nearly Tk 1,100 crore, according to police.

‘He sold over 200 firearms illegally’

Jashore BCL leader among 5 held in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday claimed to have arrested a member of Bangladesh Chhatra League, along with four others, over smuggling and illegally selling firearms.

Akul Hossain, incumbent secretary of Bangladesh Chhatra League’s (BCL) Sharsha Upazila unit in Jashore, used to smuggle firearms through Benapole border and supplied them in different districts, claimed law enforcers.

According to local political leaders and police, Akul has sold around 200 firearms in the last seven years. While doing so, he used his image of a politician to evade the eyes of law enforcers.

Detective Branch (DB) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) arrested the five from the capital’s Darussalam area. The four others are Ilias Hossain, Abdul Azim, Faruk Hossain, and Fazlur Rahman.

On information that members of a transnational arms smuggling racket are entering Dhaka, police conducted a raid around 3:15am and made the arrest, said AKM Hafiz Akhter, additional commissioner (DB) of DMP.

Eight foreign pistols, eight rounds of bullets, 16 magazines and one private car were seized from their possession.

The arrestees are involved in smuggling arms, snake venom, gold, and narcotics including yaba and meth, said investigators.

Akul is a listed criminal in Jashore’s Benapole. He has been accused in at least eight cases, said Hafiz, while addressing a briefing at DMP media centre.

Satkhira, Jashore and Chapainawabganj are the three key points for smuggling firearms. Robbers, thieves and land grabbers are mostly the buyers, the DB official said.

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This rider could be penalised for at least a couple of traffic rule violations: 1. There are four people on the bike, 2. no one is wearing a helmet, 3. no one is wearing facemasks. What’s worse, this kind of journeying is especially bad for children. While the child at the front is directly exposed to fumes and dust the bike is cutting through, the one at the back is being cradled by only one hand, which is also holding a juice pack. This photo was taken from Bosila at the capital’s Mohammadpur around 11am yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS