

His life, contributions should be studied more

Say speakers on Tajuddin Ahmad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tajuddin Ahmad, Bangladesh's founding prime minister, was an exceptionally honest, patriotic and brilliant politician. He materialised Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's dream by leading the country during the Liberation War on behalf of the father of the nation.

Researches with state patronisation should be commissioned to explore more about Tajuddin's thoughts, works and political contribution. Academicians made these remarks during a memorial lecture on Tajuddin Ahmad held yesterday at Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban, Dhaka University.

Dhaka University and Tajuddin Ahmad Memorial Trust Fund organised the programme titled, "Tajuddin Ahmad Memorial Lecture 2022."



Novelist Suhan Rizwan delivered the memorial lecture on different aspects of Tajuddin's life.

He said, "Why historians and novelists in Bangladesh become cautious while writing about Tajuddin? Why is it always difficult to talk about Tajuddin? This is because Tajuddin's introvert nature; his silence about certain aspects of our history."

"He never talked about his phenomenal 266 days experience as the prime minister of the Mujibnagar government. Historians, novelists like us are still trying explore his immense works and pioneering thoughts on national reforms," Rizwan added.

Sharmin Ahmad, Tajuddin Ahmad's daughter and founder of Tajuddin Ahmad Memorial Trust fund, said, "To truly appreciate what Tajuddin Ahmad has contributed for this nation, we need

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A jumble of internet and utility wires hangs on the footpath, obstructing pedestrian movement on Green Road. Although this isn't an isolated issue, the authorities do very little to address it. This photo was taken in front of the BEPZA office yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN



Acquire skills to become entrepreneurs

PM urges youths

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government is focusing on developing skilled manpower to transform the country's demographic advantage into dividends.

She said this while delivering her inaugural speech at the first meeting of the Governing Board of the National Skill Development Authority

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GOVT OFFICIALS

Petition seeks HC directive on unnecessary foreign trips

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A writ petition was filed with the High Court yesterday seeking its order on the government to stop unnecessary foreign trips of government officials -- "in the name of training, meeting, seminars" -- with taxpayers' money.

ASM Al Sonnet, from Barishal, submitted the petition to the HC, also requesting it to direct the authorities concerned of the government to hold judicial enquiry on the overseas travel of agriculture ministry officials in the name of horticulture exhibition in the Netherlands.

Petitioner's lawyer Syed Sayedul Haque Suman told The Daily Star that the hearing of the petition may be held within a few days.

Citing the petition, the lawyer said that around 100 officials of the ministry of agriculture have already visited -- "Floriade Expo 2022" -- an international horticulture exhibition held in Almere, Netherlands.

Some of those officials went to the exhibition with their wives or husbands, and some of them also travelled from the Netherlands to other Schengen countries in Europe despite travel restrictions.

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Two die in bus-human haulier collision

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two persons including a college student died and five others were injured after a bus and a human hauler collided in Dhaka's Mirpur Beribandh area yesterday afternoon.

The deceased are Zubair (22), a student of Dhaka Commerce College, and Rabiul Islam Rubel (37), a scrap material shop trader, both passengers of the human haulier.

Aminul Islam, officer-in-charge of Shah Ali Police Station, said the human haulier and the bus collided around 2:00pm leaving seven persons injured.

They were taken to Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital where Zubair died. Several of the injured were later taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where another injured passed away around 5:00pm, he said.

Police seized both the bus and human haulier but the bus driver fled. The human haulier driver is among the injured, the OC said.

Where did THE FROGS GO?

DIPAN NANDY

The two city corporations of Dhaka have tried many strategies in their war against the city's mosquitoes to prevent dengue from spreading. From flying drones to detect stagnant water sources to releasing frogs in ponds to destroy mosquitoes and their larvae, they explored so many avenues.

In March last year, Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) released more than 15,000 frogs in various lakes, ponds and other waterbodies, which are considered as popular breeding areas for mosquitoes. It was claimed by the authorities that frogs are capable of killing mosquito larvae.

However, the plan cannot exactly be called a success, according to entomologists, who called it an

The city corporation authorities have a tendency to control both Aedes and Culex mosquitoes by following the same methods. In reality, the two need different approaches.

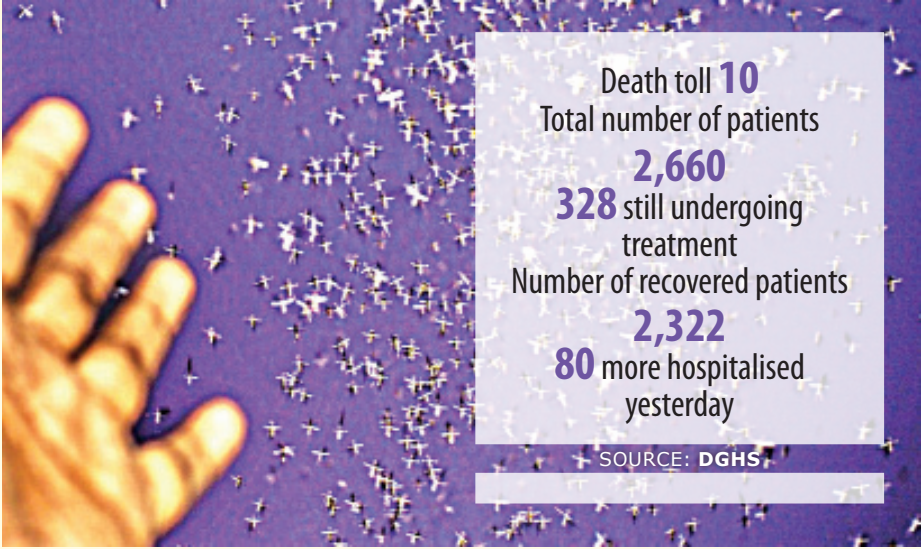
DR KABIRUL BASHAR
Entomologist

"unthinkable" solution to the problem.

This correspondent recently visited Ramna Kali Mandir and Azimpur Government Colony.

The frogs released into the pond inside Ramna Kali Mandir premises and two ponds in Azimpur Government Colony were nowhere to be found. It is as if they never existed in the first place.

Before the frogs, efforts were also made to control mosquitoes by releasing guppy fish in different drains of the



city, and ducks and tilapia fish in the lakes back in 2018.

That did not seem to have helped either, as all the fish died within a few days of releasing them into the drains. The number of mosquitoes was also on the rise.

In 2020, ducks and tilapia were released into the lake inside Ramna Park to destroy mosquito larvae. The animals were also released into Khilgaon Battala Jheel.

But within a few months, most of the ducks were stolen, while the others died.

The plans allegedly failed due to the lack of proper planning and maintenance. The plans were adopted on a short notice, without taking long-term consequences in mind.

This only increased the sufferings of city residents, some of whom have been calling these initiatives nothing but a set of publicity stunts.

Dr Kabirul Bashar, professor and entomologist of Jahangirnagar University, said, "Mosquitoes have never been controlled by ducks and frogs... But guppy fish could be an effective method to reduce Culex mosquitoes, as they can survive in dirty water."

"The city corporation authorities have a tendency to control both Aedes and Culex mosquitoes by following the same methods. In reality, the two need different approaches. Aedes mosquitoes can be controlled using copepods bacteria," he explained.

However, the DSCC authorities begged to differ.

"We don't think the project has failed. We are getting positive results. Mosquito larvae were completely destroyed in the lakes, ponds and waterbodies where frogs were released," acting chief health officer of DSCC Dr Fazle Shamsul Kabir told this correspondent.

When asked about the whereabouts of the frogs, he said, "They are still there."

"We will continue the project," he added.



TIPU MURDER

4 including AL, JP leader held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detective Branch of police arrested four more persons, including leaders of Awami League and Jatiya Party, in connection with the murders of Awami League leader Jahidul Islam Tipu and college student Samia Afran Jamal Party.

Following the arrests, a Dhaka court yesterday placed the four arrestees on a two-day remand each after DB inspector Mohammad Yasin Sikder, also the case's investigation officer, produced them before it with a five-day remand prayer.

The arrestees are -- local AL leader Mahbubur Rahman alias Titu (40), JP leader Zuber Alam Khan Robin alias Railway Robin (51), Arifur Rahman Sohel alias "Ghatak Sohel" (45), and Khairul Islam alias Khairul (44).

Sohel and Khairul are former BCL leaders, according to local sources.

Detectives arrested the four from Motijheel Bank Colony and Arambagh during a drive yesterday.

Their names came up during the interrogation of the other accused who was arrested earlier, said police. Detectives have arrested 20 persons in the double murder case so far.

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No bar on BNP to hold peaceful demos: minister

UNB, Dhaka

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal yesterday said the law enforcement agencies will not restrict BNP if they hold their programmes in a systematic way.

The minister was speaking to journalists after attending a meeting at the secretariat on law and order situation during the National Mourning Day on August 15.

"BNP is a political party. They have their own strategies. It's up to them whether they'll participate in the next general elections or not. But we won't let them to block the roads or damage peoples' lives and properties," said Kamal.

Kamal said the fact that the government isn't interrupting BNP's activities in front of Jatiya Press Club shows that the government has no objection to peaceful political activities.

"The people will decide whether they'll listen to BNP's call to come to the streets or not. The way the country is moving forward indicates that the people won't go back to darkness," added Kamal.

According to the minister, security will be beefed up in Dhanmondi and Banani areas on August 15.

Govt plotting to rig votes this time using EVM: BNP

UNB, Dhaka

BNP senior leader Nazrul Islam Khan yesterday alleged that the ruling Awami League is plotting to rig votes in the next general election using the Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) to hang onto power.

Speaking at a rally, he warned that the country's people will not allow the ruling party to rig votes in any way. "We have not leased this country to anyone. This country is our country and we'll surely save it."

As part of BNP's countrywide programme, its Dhaka district unit arranged the rally in front of Jatiya Press Club protesting the ongoing load shedding and "mismanagement" in the power and energy sector.

Nazrul, a BNP standing committee member, said no credible election can be held by keeping AL in power. "We have to make a permanent system for ensuring a fair election and the welfare of people."