



## SM Ali's 32nd anniversary of death today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today marks the 32nd death anniversary of Syed Mohammad Ali, founder editor-publisher of The Daily Star and a luminary in journalism of Bangladesh.

In a career spanning 44 years, SM Ali made his way up from a cub reporter to becoming one of the country's most brilliant editors. He also led the Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) as its chairman.

Educated in Kolkata, Dhaka and London, he was one of the few Asian journalists who stood out in regional journalism.

Ali was born in a well-SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Teachers from non-government MPO-listed institutions hold a meeting at the Central Shaheed Minar in Dhaka yesterday, demanding nationalisation of their jobs and a 20 percent house rent allowance based on their basic salary. They later announced plans to go on a hunger strike today.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## HSC RESULTS Madrasa board fares better than technical

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amid an overall fall in this year's Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) and equivalent exam results, the Madrasa Education Board has performed far better than the Technical Education Board, topping all education boards with a strong pass rate.

The Madrasa Board recorded a 75.61 percent pass rate, leading the national charts. Female students performed slightly better than their male counterparts, with 77.01 percent passing compared to 74.43 percent of males.

A total of 4,268 students under the board achieved GPA 5, including 2,295 males and 1,673 females.

In stark contrast, the Technical Education Board saw a steep decline in performance.

Its pass rate fell to 62.67 percent from last year's 88.09 percent, while the number of GPA 5 achievers dropped sharply to 1,610 from 4,922.

Of the GPA 5 holders this year, 1,213 are female and 397 are male.

A total of 12,51,111 students – 6,18,015 were male and 6,33,096 female – registered for the exams under 11 education boards. However, nearly 27,000 students did not appear in the exams.

## Four JnU buildings risky, yet in use

Rajuk declared them unsafe in 2023, issued evacuation notice

RAKIB MADBER

In 2023, the Rajuk declared four of the eight buildings at Jagannath University unsafe and ordered their evacuation.

Two years on, the university authorities continue to conduct academic and administrative activities in these buildings – Obokash, Social Science Faculty, Language Martyr Rafiq, and an administrative building – without taking significant safety measures.

Several thousand students attend classes and staff carry out official activities daily in these risky buildings, located in densely populated Old Dhaka.

During a recent visit, this correspondent found cracks spreading across walls, plaster peeling from ceilings, and clear signs of decay. The Obokash, Social Science, and Rafiq buildings suffer from water leakage, exposed rods, and weakened beams, alongside a lack of emergency exits.

"While climbing the stairs in the Rafiq Building, a chunk of plaster suddenly fell in front of me the other day. This isn't a rare incident either. The administration must act before it's too late," said Nahin Nila, a student of the Bangla department.

Rafiq Building houses the Bangla and History departments, as well as the university's medical centre.

On April 29, a staffer was injured when part of a cornice collapsed from the second floor of the Obokash Building. Similar incidents have occurred in other buildings in recent months.

In 2021, Rajuk conducted a "Rapid Visual Assessment" of 3,252 government, semi-government, and autonomous buildings across Dhaka and adjacent areas under its urban resilience project.

A subsequent Preliminary Engineering Assessment identified 579 vulnerable

structures. Of these, 42 were marked as highly risky and recommended for demolition, including the four at Jagannath University.

In March 2023, Rajuk issued evacuation notices to the university authorities, giving seven days to vacate and three months to demolish the buildings.

Earlier, in 2013, a survey by Buet engineers also flagged several Jagannath University

Faculty members have voiced similar concerns.

Mozaharul Alam Salim, chair of the Bangla Department, said they requested renovation about eight months ago. "The engineering department assured us the matter would be addressed soon. We conduct classes amid risk every day. Accidents can happen anytime," he said.



buildings as hazardous. While minor renovation work was carried out, it did little to address the structural problems.

"We come to class and often see chunks of plaster from the ceiling lying on the floor," said Mahmudul Hasan Mamun, a History department student. "The administration is renovating its own offices, but not our classrooms. Does our safety matter less?"

JnU Chief Engineer Helal Uddin Patwary admitted that some buildings are structurally compromised. "We don't have enough space on our campus to demolish and rebuild, so we are trying to reinforce and strengthen the buildings as much as possible," he said.

Vice-Chancellor Prof Rezaul Karim said, "We are aware of the condition of our SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

## Amid jubilation, one father wept in silence

PALASH KHAN

Celebration echoed through the corridors of Notre Dame College yesterday as students basked in the glory of their success.

Yet, in one quiet corner, a different emotion unfolded. Morshedul Amin stood alone, phone in hand, eyes filled with tears. His voice trembled as he kept on whispering, "My son Junaed got GPA 5..."

Just 20 days earlier, on September 27, Junaed Amin Sardar Dalim had gone to visit his uncle's house. A boat ride with friends turned tragic when he fell into the river. Despite desperate efforts, he could not be saved. His lifeless body was recovered that evening.

Yesterday, the results of the Higher Secondary Certificate exams were published. Junaed had earned a perfect GPA 5 from the humanities division. His father came to collect the

result, holding in his hands the proof of his son's brilliance – his last academic triumph. "My son had so many dreams," said Morshedul.

Sitting in a classroom, he added softly, "May no one's



child face such an untimely death. May no father ever have to carry his child's body." "He was supposed to study, get a scholarship, and go abroad for higher education. He was keen to work for people, for society," he said.

Morshedul, a banker, said their home is in Chikundi SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

## No foreign link behind one-point demand Adviser Asif Mahmud tells tribunal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Adviser Asif Mahmud Shojib Bhuyain yesterday told the International Crimes Tribunal-1 that there had been no foreign instigation behind the one-point demand that ultimately led to the fall of Sheikh Hasina's government last year.

He made the remark during cross-examination by the defence in a case filed against then Dhaka Metropolitan Police commissioner Habibur Rahman and seven of his subordinates over the killings of six people at Chankharpul on August 5 last year.

Asif, a former key leader of the Students Against Discrimination movement, concluded his testimony before the tribunal yesterday, after which the defence began cross-examining him.

During questioning, Asif said, "There was no instigation from any foreign forces behind the one-point demand."

He further told the tribunal that primarily 58 coordinators and assistant coordinators had initiated the movement after the High Court verdict on the quota system and that no political party was involved in organising it.

Regarding funding to organise the movement, Asif said the organisers collected money from people who expressed solidarity with the movement.

"There was no mastermind; all coordinators were equal," he added, noting that they used Facebook and WhatsApp for communication.

He told the tribunal that he was present near the scene at Chankharpul on August 5 when SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



## A day of flowers

2-day Annual Orchid Show starts



CITY DESK

As the year draws to a close, flower lovers across Bangladesh have a reason to rejoice. The Bangladesh Orchid Society is hosting its Annual Orchid Show today and tomorrow; a two-day event that will showcase the beauty of orchids.

The Bangladesh Orchid Society, founded in 1989, has established itself as a key player in the horticultural landscape of the country. Starting small, it has now grown into a vibrant community, united by a shared passion for orchids.

This year the society expects to showcase some 7 to 8 varieties of orchids including Dendrobium, Cattleya, Phalaenopsis and Vanda.

According to the organisers, from the bold and vibrant to the subtle and understated, the orchids on display will enchant visitors with their range of colours, shapes, and sizes. Each bloom tells its own story, offering a visual feast for those with an eye for detail and a love for nature's wonders.

The show will be held from 10:00am to 6:00pm at House No. CEN-C2, Road-95, Gulshan. The show is open to all orchid lovers and enthusiasts.

## Women still struggle to break through in judiciary

Says chief justice

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed yesterday said women are still now underrepresented in legal and judicial arena as gender-balanced recruitment faces certain systemic challenge.

"In short, while classrooms have opened, the profession has not, women are comparatively visible in universities yet remain under-selected, under-promoted, and underrepresented in litigation leadership, bar governance, and senior judicial roles," he said.

He was speaking at a conference titled "Shift Underway- Advancing Gender on the Bench for Sustainable Development" on regional Convening on Judicial Leadership for Women Judges in Asia, organised by UNDP in Bangkok, Thailand.



Dhaka University students celebrate 'Sharat Utshob' (Autumn Festival) at Bakultala on the campus yesterday. The event was organised by the Faculty of Fine Arts with support from the university's music and dance departments and the Dhaka University Central Students' Union (Ducusu).

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED