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KEEPING RICKSHAW ART ALIVE

With a brush in hand and a lifetime of stories in colour, Mohammad Hanif Pappu breathes life into another rickshaw painting at his workshop in Hossaini Dalan, Old Dhaka. His artistic journey began at the age of six or seven, and nearly six decades later, his passion remains undimmed. Since 1976, he has woven the colours, faces and stories into the vibrant, intricate designs that adorn Dhaka's rickshaws. Rickshaw Painting was officially inscribed on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in December 2023.

PHOTO: **MEHEDI HASAN**



Climate finance must come as grants, not loans

Speakers tell dialogue

$90b needed in int'l support | Greater access to Loss and Damage Fund sought | Youth-led climate action needs stronger support | Bangladesh to prioritise climate justice at COP31

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh should prioritise climate justice, secure grant-based financing and strengthen youth-led climate initiatives at the upcoming COP31 climate summit, said speakers at a dialogue yesterday.

They urged developed countries to honour their climate finance commitments, saying Bangladesh contributes less than 0.5 percent of global carbon emissions but remains among the countries most vulnerable to climate change.

The speakers also called for greater access to the Loss and Damage Fund to address climate risks and reduce dependence on volatile global fossil fuel markets.

The remarks came at a programme titled "National Position Paper Unveiling and Dialogue", organised by ActionAid at CIRDAP auditorium in Dhaka ahead of the 31st UN Climate Change Conference (COP31), scheduled for November 9-20.

Speaking as chief guest, State Minister for Foreign Affairs

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Journalist Shafiqur Rahman passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Freedom fighter Muhammad Shafiqur Rahman, a former lawmaker from Chandpur-4 and former president of the Jatiya Press Club, died at a hospital in Dhaka yesterday. He was 77.

He breathed his last around 3:00pm at United Hospital after suffering a heart attack at his Banani residence.

He is survived by his wife, a son and a daughter.

Journalist organisations, including Jatiya Press Club,

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Stranded at home, migrants fear losing Saudi jobs



Migrant workers wait at Dhaka airport. PHOTO: **ANISUR RAHMAN**

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

For Al-Amin, a migrant worker in Saudi Arabia's Dammam, seven days have passed since his leave expired, but he remains stranded in Bangladesh, uncertain when he can return to work.

He was scheduled to fly back on October 15, but his journey was cancelled. He secured another confirmed booking on Friday, only for that flight to be cancelled as well.

"The departure board showed that Check-in started for Dammam, but upon entering the airport, I came to know it was cancelled. My ordeal continues," he said.

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IN FOCUS

'We must keep returning to Abul Maksud's work'

Say speakers at Star Itihas Adda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Late writer, journalist and researcher Syed Abul Maksud was a man of conviction who challenged conventional wisdom, pursued historical truth and stood against injustice, speakers said at a discussion yesterday.

They said his meticulous research, reliance on historical evidence and objective assessment of historical figures reflected his commitment to truth, even when it meant confronting uncomfortable realities.

The remarks came at the 34th session of The Daily Star Itihas Adda, titled "Syed Abul Maksud: Reading History, Standing by Conscience", held at The Daily Star Centre in the capital.

Writer Ahmad Mostofa Kamal said Maksud was better remembered for his symbolic protests, during which he wore burial shrouds, than for his contributions as a poet and researcher.

He said Maksud's poetry and research, including his work on Syed Waliullah, demonstrated a deep understanding of Bangladesh's history, society, philosophy and political evolution.

"We should remember that Syed Abul Maksud was a deeply committed researcher, one whose



PHOTO: **STAR**

Participants at the 34th session of The Daily Star Itihas Adda, titled "Syed Abul Maksud: Reading History, Standing by Conscience", at The Daily Star Centre yesterday.

equal is not easily found," he said, calling for further research into Maksud's contributions.

Academic and researcher Mizanur Rahman said Maksud remained steadfast in his pursuit of truth, as reflected in his books on politician Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani.

Rather than merely praising or criticising Bhashani, Maksud examined both his strengths and limitations, while preserving valuable historical evidence through his collection of letters and other primary sources.

Mizanur said Maksud's accessible writing encouraged readers to reassess Bangladesh's history and national identity.

"We must keep returning to Syed Abul Maksud's work," he added.

Discussing Maksud's book "Dhakar Buddhadeb Basu", Md Shamim Mondol, head of the Department of English at Green University of Bangladesh, said it uncovered little-known aspects of Buddhadeb Basu's life in Dhaka.

Syed Nasif Maksud, son of Syed Abul Maksud, also spoke at the event.

Syed Abul Maksud's wife, Sultana Maksud, journalist Samsuddoza Sajen, along with poets, writers, students and professionals from various fields, attended the discussion.

The Daily Star journalist Emran Mahfuz moderated the discussion.

Islamic leaders want peaceful Ijtema

Place two demands before govt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Gazipur*

A section of Islamic leaders yesterday placed two demands before the government to ensure the smooth and peaceful holding of Bishwa Ijtema next year.

The demands are: not to allow followers of Maulana Saad to use the Ijtema grounds in Tongi, and expediting investigations into murder cases filed over incidents in Tongi in 2018 and 2024 and submitting charge sheets.

They made the demands at a consultative meeting at the Ijtema grounds in Tongi, said a press release sent by Habibullah Rayhan, media coordinator of Tablighi Jamaat Bangladesh's Shura-e-Nizam.

The meeting was convened by Muhibullah Babunagari, ameer of Hefazat-e-Islam Bangladesh.

At a press briefing after the meeting, speakers said the government had contacted Babunagari to seek his opinion on allowing Saad's followers to use the Tongi Ijtema grounds for three days during

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Trawlers lie anchored at New Fishery Ghat in Chattogram city following the start of a 22-day ban on hilsa fishing to protect the fish during the breeding season. The usually bustling harbour has fallen silent, with rows of idle trawlers lining the shore. PHOTO: **RAJIB RAIHAN**

Home minister busy with every ministry but his own

Alleges Shafiqur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Moulvibazar*

Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer and Leader of the Opposition Shafiqur Rahman yesterday criticised Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed for allegedly interfering in other ministries' affairs while failing to maintain law and order.

"Fortunately, we got such a home minister. He serves in all ministries. He neither controlled drugs nor weapons, nor was he able to restore law and order in the country," he told reporters at Moulvibazar Circuit House yesterday morning.

Shafiqur was on his first organisational visit to his home district of Moulvibazar since the national elections.

He said the home ministry was among the most sensitive and critical ministries, and its effective functioning was essential to maintaining law and order.

However, he alleged that Salahuddin had failed to manage his own ministry and was interfering in education, health and local government affairs, which he described as contrary to good governance.

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