



Family members offer prayers after placing wreaths at the mazar of poet Kazi Nazrul Islam on the Dhaka University Mosque premises yesterday.

## Islami Oikya Jote faction threatens to quit 4-party

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Maulana Ijharul Islam Chowdhury, president of a faction of Islami Oikya Jote, yesterday threatened to quit the four-party alliance if their demand for sharing seats in the upcoming election is not met by the alliance leaders.

Maulana Ijharul was speaking at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium.

Islami Oikya Jote led by Maulana Ijharul and Nezam-e-Islam Party jointly organised the press conference.

He said "During the last five-year tenure of the four-party alliance government we were mistreated and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia forgot her promise."

Maulana Ijharul said they should be invited for discussion over the expansion of the four-party alliance.

He demanded 30 seats, including Chittagong-15 (Bashkhali) for Maulana Ijharul Islam, Chandpur-1 (Kochua) for Maulana Abdur Rashid Mozumdar and Mymensingh-3 (Gouripur) for Maulana HM Abu Taher Khan, in the upcoming election.

## GNG stations across country in phases

Says Nazmul Huda

BSS, Dhaka

Communications Minister Nazmul Huda yesterday said compressed natural gas (CNG) stations would be set up in phases across the country.

The minister was addressing a meeting as the chief guest to distribute high security stickers to vehicles of Dhaka city.

Additional Secretary of communications ministry Abdul Wahab, Chairman of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) Abu Bakar Mohammad Shahjahan and Executive Director of Dhaka Transport Coordination Board Mohammad Shahjahan also spoke on the occasion.

To stop use of all kinds of illegal documents BRTA decided to distribute high security stickers among the vehicle owners.

Speaking on the occasion, the minister said, "It would be a positive step if we can convert all vehicles to CNG-run ones to reduce the expenses of imported oil."

Huda said his ministry is encouraging transport owners in introduc-

ing more CNG-run buses which is required to facilitate the passengers with comfort and less-expenses.

The minister ordered BRTA authorities to seize CNG-run auto rickshaws which have fake plate numbers, licenses and papers.

## Sri Lankan envoy calls on Hasina

UNB, Dhaka

New Sri Lankan High Commissioner V Krishnamurti made a courtesy call on Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina at her Sudha Sadan residence yesterday.

They exchanged views on bilateral matters, regional peace and development.

AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil MP and International Affairs Secretary Syed Abul Hossain MP were present.

## Nazrul's death anniversary observed

DU CORRESPONDENT

The 30th death anniversary of national poet Kazi Nazrul Islam, popularly known as Bidrohi Kobi (Rebel Poet), was observed across the country yesterday with due respect and tribute.

The daylong programmes included placing wreaths at poet's grave, milad mahfil and discussions on his life and works.

Different socio-cultural organisations, political parties, student bodies and individuals placed wreaths at Nazrul's grave on the premises of Dhaka University (DU) central mosque.

In the morning, relatives of the poet placed wreaths at his grave and offered munajat.

Besides, ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), main opposition Awami League, DU authorities, DU Teachers' Association, Workers Party of Bangladesh, Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal, Nazrul Academy, Nazrul Institute, Bangladesh Chhatra League, Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, Pragotishil Chhatra Jote, Bangladesh Chhatra Union, Samajtantrik Chhatra Front, Bangla Academy, Kobi Nazrul University, Shishu Academy, Shilpakala Academy, Bangabandhu Sanskritik Jote, Zia Sahitya Sanskritik Sangstha, different DU dormitories and other organisations and individuals placed wreaths and paid rich tribute to the great poet of the country.

Bangla Academy organised a discussion on 'Humanist Nazrul' and a poem-recitation programme to mark the day. Dr Alauddin Al Azad, Dr Abul Kalam Monjur Morshed, Prof Mohammad Abu Zafar, Shahabuddin Ahmad and Roushan Ara Mustafiz spoke at the discussion.

Nazrul Institute took a three-day programme, including discussion, cultural programme and launching of CDs of Nazrul Songs. It organised a discussion yesterday with Dr Ashraf Siddiqui in the chair.

Dhaka University observed the day by holding milad mahfil and discussion, and placing wreaths. The discussion was presided over by DU Vice Chancellor Prof SMA Faiz while Prof Abul Kashem Fazul Haq, Dr Ashraf Siddiqui, Prof Rafiqul Islam, Prof Shamsur Rahman and Prof Dr Mohammad Akhtaruzzaman attended.

Bangladesh Udichi Shilpi Goshthi held a discussion and a cultural programme at its central office in the city, where Prof Kazi Modina, Mahmud Selim and others participated.

On August 26 in 1976, Nazrul passed away in Dhaka after a prolonged illness. He was born at Churulia of Bardawan district in the West Bengal of India on May 24, 1899.