

Dhaka Day by Day

Mangoes are Here

by Chapal Bashar

GOOD news for mango lovers! The production of the 'king of fruits' set a record this year in Chapal Nawabganj, the northern district famous for quality mangoes.

Over one lakh ton of mango was produced this season in Chapal Nawabganj alone, while other mango growing areas, mainly in the north of the country have also produced the fruit in abundance.

The fruit markets in this metropolitan city are already full with mangoes bearing various names with different sizes and looks. Vendors sitting wayside with basketload of this delicious seasonal fruit and their bid to draw attention of the passer-by is now a common sight. The fruit traders are expecting more supply of mangoes, particularly of superior qualities, from north.

"The supply of mangoes is the highest this season, if you compare with those of recent past", says Badal, a fruit merchant of Hatkhola. According to him, the price is also much lower than last year.

Lengra, Himsagar, Khirsapat, Gopalbhog, Lakkhanbhog — are a few of quality varieties now available in plenty in the city. Even

some Fazlee, otherwise known as Maldah, the king-size mango from Rajshahi, can also be seen. These are, however, of inferior taste. Traders say that better quality Fazlees are yet to reach Dhaka. It may take a couple of weeks for these to arrive.

"We are also expecting the best variety of Lengra very soon", says another fruit seller of Fulbaria. He considers Khirsapat as the best of mango variety that so far reached the capital city. Many others share the same view.

However, it is difficult for a buyer to distinguish Khirsapat from Himsagar, since both the varieties look almost same, although the tastes of the two differ.

Fruit experts say Bangladeshi mangoes have as many as two hundred varieties with various

names. Some are smaller weighing only a hundred grammes, while the bigger ones like Fazlee might weigh a kg. Some taste sour, but most of the varieties are, more or less, sweet.

Mangoes have curious names like Mohanbhog, Misribhog, Kacha-mitha, Maldah, Bombay, Nichhar Pachhand, Begum Pachhand, Maharaj Pachhand, Sinduri, Jafra, Kohitur, Bhaduria, Aswina and many others.

It will be an interesting research to find the background of such christening of mangoes. Experts believe that tastes, sizes and colours of the fruit as well as locations and time of production have much to do with the names. Even other factors like choice of dignitaries also influenced some of the namings.

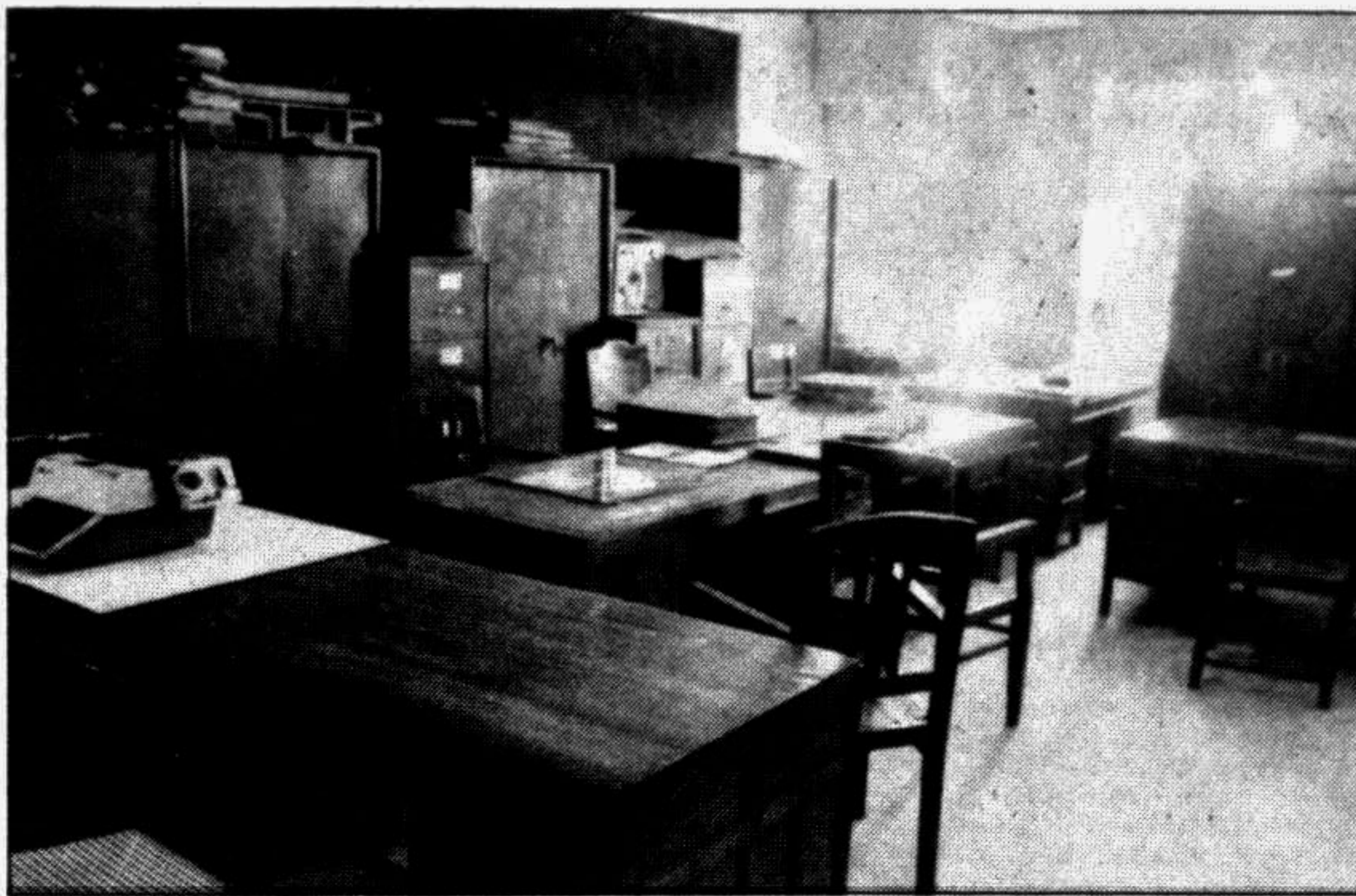
This year is undoubtedly a lucky year for the mango growers as well as for the traders. But the good luck is yet to brush all the mango lovers, particularly those of the low-income group.

True, the price is a bit lower than that of last year, yet, one kg of quality mango still costs Taka 30 or above in Dhaka. Traders say that mango sells at only five to ten taka a kg in Chapal Nawabganj, but it is the transportation problem that increases the price manifold.

Carrying cost of fruits by railway from the north becomes too high, while the traders have to face too many hurdles if they prefer to bring their merchandise by road. There are complaints of harassment by a section of law enforcing agency which causes delay in transportation by road. Delay is also caused at different river ferries on way from north to south that results in waste of large quantity of mangoes.

One is told that as much as 25 per cent of mangoes produced in Chapal Nawabganj go waste due to lack of transport facilities.

And that is a bad news for all.



Employees of Power Development Board began 72-hour strike on Sunday to press home their five-point demand. Seen in the picture are all chairs and tables deserted by the employees. — Star photo

Depletion of mangrove being surveyed

SPARRSO keeping watch on changes in river courses

Flood Control and Irrigation Minister Majedul Huq said Dhaka on Sunday that the main objectives of SPARRSO were to exploit the space and remote sensing technology for the survey of natural resources, observe natural disaster, collect data on the country's renewable and non-renewable resources and analyse them for utilisation in concerned areas, reports BSS.

Huq, who is in charge of the Defence Ministry in the Sangsad was replying to Principal M M Nazrul Islam (AL-Bhola) during question hour. The Minister said the prime responsibilities of SPARRSO include peaceful use of space and remote sensing technology, collection of data of the country's resources through the application of space and remote sensing technology, observation of research and collection of information regularly on natural calamities like cyclonic storm and tidal surge, flood and drought. The other responsibilities of this organisation are: collection of data and information in accordance with the requirement of different organisations and launching of computer system

and ascertaining production of these crops and till now it has got encouraging results, he said.

like geographic information system (GIS) for this purpose, installation of ground satellite centres and their maintenance and monitoring of weather and resources of the country, development of instrumentation system and infrastructure for application of remote sensing technology, conduct programmes on research and application on agriculture, water resources and flood, fisheries, forests, weather, geology and oceanography, chalk out programmes for cooperation at the regional and international levels on related matters, he added.

Majedul Huq further said that the SPARRSO has been working regularly for the survey of natural resources and monitoring natural calamities through the application of space and remote sensing technology. It is also engaged in collecting weather pictures from the ground satellite round the clock and helping the concerned organisations by supplying information and issuing warning forecast about daily weather, storm, flood and other natural calamities, he added.

Huq told the member that the SPARRSO gave early warning on the floods of 1987 and 1988 and forecast of impending cyclonic storm in 1985 and 1991. This organisation provided early warning about floods and cyclonic storms to the Met Office, Water Development Board and other concerned organisations. Besides, SPARRSO has been conducting research on the acreage of paddy, wheat and other crops

PROGRAMME

CPB

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) will hold a rally today (Monday) at 4.30 pm at its central office at Purana Paltan in the city on the occasion of demand day of the party.

General Secretary of the party Saifuddin Ahmed Manik and other central leaders will address the rally.

Monday

- 5-00 Opening: Recitation from Al Quran
- 5-15 Recitation from the Geeta
- 5-20 News in Bengali
- 5-30 Cartoon film: The Year Ling
- 5-55 Shikhhangon (Education Programme)
- 7-05 TV debate competition '97
- 8-00 Bengali News
- 8-30 Probaho
- 9-00 Geetanjalle (Tagore Songs Programme)
- 10-00 News in English
- 10-25 Parliament round up
- 10-40 Film: The Man from U.N.C.L.E.
- 11-30 Khabar/News
- 11-45 Closing

T & T employees demand new pay scale

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Telegogajoge Sramik Karmachari Parishad (BATESKOP) on Sunday held a general meeting and protest rally in which the parishad made some demands to the authorities, a press release said.

The demands include declaration of new pay scale, re-fixing office timings from 7.30 am to 2 pm, cancellation of all contracts for privatizing T & T Board, declaration of telephone operator post as technical post, and filling up of all vacant posts by promotion in departmental quota.

The meeting was presided over by Syed Kutubur Rahman, President, BATESKOP. Md. Rafiqul Islam, among others, addressed the meeting.

Weather

Heavy rainfall likely

By Staff Correspondent

Heavy to very heavy rainfall may occur at most places over Chittagong and Rajshahi divisions and many places over Dhaka and Khulna division, during the next 36 hours, Met office has forecast on Sunday.

It has also forecast no marked changes of weather during the next five days.

Heavy to light rain occurred at most places over the country on Sunday which were recorded at Kutubdia 85 mm, Cox's Bazar 51 mm, Rangamati 87 mm, Chittagong 101 mm, Sitakunda 45 mm, Sylhet 15 mm, Srimangal 16 mm, Tangail 18 mm, Khulna 12 mm, Satkhira 8 mm and Dinajpur 4 mm.

Day temperature remained unchanged over the country except Faridpur, Sitakunda, Chittagong, Matzdi Court and Kutubdia where it rose by one to two degrees.

The highest temperature recorded at Rajshahi at 35.0 degree Celsius and lowest at Mymensingh at 24.4 degree. Sunset at Dhaka on Monday at 6:48 pm and sunrise on Tuesday at 5:12 am. Temperature and humidity recorded at important cities and towns on Sunday.

Cities/towns	Temperature/in degree Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	32.5	36.5	86	91
Chittagong	27.4	25.4	98	90
Rajshahi	35.0	24.8	87	89
Khulna	33.0	26.0	87	97
Satkhira	33.5	26.2	84	97
Dinajpur	32.0	25.4	91	82
Srimangal	29.0	25.1	82	87
Sylhet	27.2	25.0	92	97
Mymensingh		24.4		

Biman raises fares every year

State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan told the Jatiya Sangsad Sunday that Biman fare on the international routes had been increased every year during the last 15 years from 1976 to 1990, reports BSS.

Replying to a question from Musharraf Hussain (AL-Mymensingh with Netrakona), Women neglected, says Hasina

Director of Youth and Women's Affairs Department of International Confederation of Free Trade Unions T Pathma met Awami League President and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina at Bangabandhu Bhaban in Dhaka on Sunday, reports BSS.

During the meeting, Hasina called for organised efforts for education and employment of women for their overall development.

"Many of our social problems will be solved if women are given proper position in society," she said.

Describing women as neglected part of society, the Awami League chief expressed her party's determination to bring about a change in their lot.

Among others, party leader M A Jalil was present during the meeting.

The State Minister said the rate of increase varied from three per cent to 18 per cent. On the domestic routes, Mannan said Biman fare had been increased eight times in seven years including twice in 1978.

He told the House that during 1978 Biman fare had been increased by 60 and 45 per cent on all points excepting Iswardj and Thakurgaon. The lowest rate of increase had been made at 10 per cent in 1984 only on Iswardj, Rajshahi and Sylhet points. Biman fare on domestic routes was not raised during 1976, 1977, 1979, 1982, 1986, 1987, 1988 and 1990.

Mannan said cargo fare on international routes had been increased 13 times from 1976 to 1990 at rates varying from 5 to 25 per cent. On domestic routes, he said, cargo fare had been raised in 1980, 1982, 1985 and 1990 at rates varying from 25 per cent to 40 per cent.

HOUSE TO LET

First Floor (approx. 3000 sq ft) of a luxurious two storied Building with all modern fittings at Dhanmondi, Rd No 9A, House No 44 A, just vacated by a foreigner. Phone: 326298 S-24

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Project Director Integrated Fisheries Development Project Matsya Bhavan, Ramna, Dhaka

Letter No. Int. Engg Sec- 5/8-91/3021

DL12/6/91

Tender Notice Inviting Quotation

Sealed tenders in Bangladesh Form No. 2911 are hereby invited from 1st class contractor firms enlisted with government/semi-government/autonomous organisations with minimum 5 years experience in similar works as mentioned, for the following work of Development of Pisciculture, in Metropolitan Dhaka Government Water-bodies Sub Project-3, Gulshan, Dhaka under Integrated Fisheries Development Project of the Fisheries Directorate. The tender will be opened on 27-6-91 at 12:00 hours at the office of the undersigned before the tenderers (if any) present. Tender should be submitted in sealed envelope superscribing the name of work thereupon. Tenders will be received up to 11-45 hours on 27-6-91.

Sl. No.	Name of work	Estimated cost	Earnest money	Time limit
1.	Repair of the office of Project Director on island No.3 of Dhanmondi Lake and development work around the office under Sub-Project-3	Tk 3,71,696/27	Tk 7,500/-	30(thirty days)

Tender document consisting Bangladesh Form No. 2911, schedule of work, additional terms & conditions, sample of work, design etc. may be seen and collected from the office of the undersigned during office-hours up to 26-6-91 on payment of Tk 425/- (Taka four hundred twentyfive) only (Non-refundable) for submitting each tender. Earnest Money should be deposited with the tender in the form of Pay-Order/DD/CD in favour of the undersigned 'Project Director, Integrated Fisheries Development Project' from any scheduled bank. For permission to purchase the tender document firms should produce their latest licence and original copies of certificate for completion of similar work valued at minimum Tk 4 (four) lakh under a single work order and the work order thereof. The original copies will be returned after scrutiny. Intending firms should submit the following documents with the tender to qualify technically. All the documents should be attested by any 1st class gazetted government officer. Otherwise tender will be treated as invalid for consideration.

1. Receipt of purchasing tender document.
 2. Attested copy of current Income Tax Certificate.
 3. Performance certificate by an Executive Engineer or equivalent officer with work order for work executed during the past 5 years.
 4. Attested copy of enlistment for five years including the current year.
- The authorities reserve the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason.

Shamsuddin Ahmed
Project Director
Integrated Fisheries
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CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- 1 Cul de —
- 4 "Sex, — and videotapes"
- 8 Expense
- 12 Lubricate
- 13 Toward and white
- 14 Fairy tale opener
- 15 "Here Come the —"
- 17 Plunge
- 19 Equally
- 20 Saily Field
- 21 Grain
- 22 Skill
- 23 Geradine —
- 25 Harvest goddess
- 26 Article
- 27 Paid notices
- 28 Imitate
- 29 Change
- 32 Agave plant
- 33 Draw
- 35 Brother of Odin

DOWN

- 1 Cry
- 2 Ventilator

Answer to Previous Puzzle

GAS LOPED AMA
AIT TRATE WIN
PLUMB TOTALLY
DIES NED
DESERTS REPEL
RA NAJAD LAMA
EGG LEGAL DEN
SLOW SETON NE
SEDAN SECONDS
KEA BATE
STREETS YEASE
TAU DOUSE ROW
DAM SPEED SSE



Anniversary of Akikunnessa's death today

The ninth death anniversary of noted litterateur Akikunnessa Ahmed will be observed today (Monday).

She played a pioneering role in the movement for women's emancipation in the thirties, forties and fifties.

She was a regular contributor to weekly 'Begum'. Her two books 'Adhunik Shami' and 'Adhunik Stree' (modern husband and modern wife) were universally acclaimed by the intelligentsia in those days.

Akikunnessa was the wife of late Abdul Mansur Ahmed, a renowned litterateur, journalist and politician of the sub-continent. Akikunnessa Memorial Committee has organised Quran Khwari and distribution of food among the destitutes at Dhaka residence in observance of the day.

Talim Hossain honoured

of Churulia on May 4 organised in connection with the 92nd birth anniversary of the rebel poet.

Poet Talim Hossain's wife Mafruha Choudhury, a litterateur and journalist, and eldest daughter Mrs. Shabnam Mushtari, an eminent Nazrul singer also accompanied the poet to the Kabitirtha.

Earlier, the 73-year-old

Bangladeshi poet, who spent his whole life in the research of Nazrul's work, was received by two nephews of Kazi Nazrul Islam, Kazi Mazhar Hossain and Kazi Rezaul Karim — at Asansol.

Besides, Asansol Press Club, Churulia village panchayet and Asansol municipality also organised respective receptions in honour of the Bangladeshi poet and gave him various awards in recognition to his contribution to the work of Nazrul.

The local press also gave wide coverage to his visit there.