



Leader of the Opposition and BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia welcoming the JP leaders and activists from Tongi thana at her Minto Road residence yesterday who joined her party. — Star photo

**Youths urged to help eradicate unemployment**

Speakers at a seminar yesterday urged youths to engage their creativity and honest efforts for eradicating unemployment across the country, reports BSS.

They were addressing the inaugural session of a four-day workshop on "Unemployed Youth in Bangladesh" jointly organised by the Ministry of Youth and Sports and International Labour Organisation (ILO) at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel in the city.

Secretary of the Ministry of Youth and Sports A S M Shahjahan chaired the opening session which was addressed, among others, by Mohammad Fazul Huq, Director General of the Department of Youth Development and M A Hassanein, Director of ILO area office in Dhaka.

Dr Muhammad Masum of Economics Department of Jahangirnagar University presented the keynote paper in the workshop.

The speakers said the Department of Youth is conducting training programmes for the unemployed youth in all district headquarters and 470 thanas across the country including 10 metropolitan thanas.

They opined that more resources should be allocated in this sector by the government and non-government organisations should take initiatives to create employment for the youth.

They said at least 423601 youth had so far been given training under the youth training and self-employment project (up to June 1998) and the number of self-employed youth was 250,397.

**Khaleda warns of famine worse than '74**

By Staff Correspondent

Opposition leader Khaleda Zia has warned of a famine worse than that of 1974 if the government fails to launch immediate programmes for rehabilitating millions of flood-hit people in the country.

Government's failure may result in another famine and that may claim more lives than the '74 one did, the BNP chief said and made some suggestions to cope with the post-flood situation.

The suggestions include: creation of massive employment opportunities at the flood-ravaged areas, supply of food and pure drinking water to the affected, resumption of production in the industrial units, restoration of communication network and proper distribution of relief among the victims.

The opposition leader was addressing a large gathering at her Minto Road official residence yesterday evening on the occasion of joining her party of several thousands political activists from Tongi thana.

Led by Jatiya Party president of the thana, Nurul Islam Sarkar, the freshers in the BNP include eight commissioners of Tongi Pourashava.

Speaking about her suggestions, the BNP chief cautioned the absence of economic activities in the rural areas would force the people there to converge into the capital city turning the city life miserable.

"Under such a situation, people in their thousands will die in one hand and the law and order will go beyond control on the other... a mass upsurge or even a revolution can also take place," she said and commented those in power would then flee the country.

She also advised the government to restore road and rail links immediately so that relief goods could reach the flood victims and create fresh scope for works, especially in the villages.

Blaming the government for not yet spelling out its rehabilitation programmes, Khaleda Zia said, "We can just alert the government but the action will have to be taken by it."

The opposition leader also criticised the government for what she said not accepting the idea of an all-party relief and rehabilitation committee, continuing its practice of repressing her party, misappropriating relief and trying to gain political benefits out of public sufferings from the worst-ever flood.

In this regard, she alleged that the ruling party kidnapped two persons and attacked many others while they were coming to join her party yesterday and warned of a massive street agitation if such incident was repeated.

Criticising the government-sponsored relief operation, Khaleda Zia alleged that the people in the flood-affected areas, especially in the villages, were dying of starvation or taking harmful food. She claimed her party had served the flood victims better than the government had done.

**Several shops looted 35 injured as villagers clash in Jessore**

JESSORE, Sept 20: Thirty-five people, including three policemen, were injured and several shops looted in a clash between the members of two villages at Churamonkati bazar in the Jessore suburb on Friday night, reports APB.

Of the injured, three police personnel were identified as SI Atiar and constables Haroon and Kajal of the Kotwali thana.

Witnesses said, a young man of Churamonkati village first locked in a heated exchange of words with a youth of neighbouring Chhatiantala village over a silly matter.

In a sequel to the incident, several hundred residents of the two villages equipped with country-made weapons locked in a clash which left 33 of them injured.

The villagers also attacked the law enforcers when police rushed to the spot. Police then went into action to bring the situation under control.

Members of the law enforcing agency fired several blank shots and lobbed teargas shells to disperse the feuding villagers.

**6 get life-term for murder in Naogaon**

NAOGAON, Sept 20: A court here on Tuesday sentenced six people to life-term imprisonment in a sensational Antazul murder case, reports UNB.

The convicted Abdul Jabbar, Kasimuddin and Abdus Samad, sons of Sukusaha, Tozazzal and Mabud Ali, sons of Badar Ali in Manda thana and Abdus Salam son of Kasiruddin in Mahadevpur thana were also fined Tk 1,000, each in default, to suffer more one year rigorous imprisonment.

The prosecution, in brief, was that the convicted people called Antazul out his home on May 31, 1994 and on the following day he was rescued in an unconscious state from a field.

Later, Antazul succumbed to his injuries at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital on June 2, 1994.

The elder brother of the victim filed a case with the police.

After examining the records and witnesses Additional Sessions Judge (Number one) awarded the punishment in a crowded court.

Another report says: Police, at last, were compelled to record a rape case on Tuesday at the order of a court in Naogaon.

A housewife of Rangalhat village in Dhamoirhat thana was raped by Khairul Islam, a co-villager, in the absence of her husband on the night of August 1.

The victim went to the police on the following day, but they mysteriously showed reluctance in recording the case.

After the repeated failure to file the case, the woman then submitted a petition to the court of the District Sessions Judge who issued the order to the police.

**Five injured in clash**

APB adds: Five people were seriously injured in a clash over a disputed land between two rival factions of villagers in Dhamoirhat thana of Naogaon on Friday afternoon.

They were identified as Abdur Rahim, 37, Muzaffar, 40, Khairul, 38, Mamtal, 30, and Alimuddin, 40, of Singharul village in the thana.

The injured persons were rushed to the Sadar hospital. Of them, the condition of Alimuddin, was stated to be critical.

Witnesses said two rival groups of villagers equipped with lethal weapons locked in the clash in a sequel to a land dispute which left the five people wounded.



Salahuddin Azize (inset) won the Nikon Prize (Grand Prix) in the 1998 ACCU Photo Contest in Asia and the Pacific for this picture titled 'Waiting in the rain'. The photo contest was held in Tokyo.

**'HR & law awareness' workshop ends**

By DU Correspondent

The two-day workshop on 'Human Rights and Law Awareness' organised by Bangladesh Ain Samity concluded yesterday at the Science Annex Building of the Dhaka University, says a press release.

Sixteen representatives of the Dhaka University Employees' Association, Dhaka University Class Four Employees' Association and Dhaka University Technical Employees' Association took part in the workshop.

The workshop was addressed by Hasan Shahid Ferdaus, Advocate Rais Uddin Ahmed, Advocate Miftah Uddin Chowdhury Rumi, Khurshid Alam and Md Shahjahan Shahid.

Advocate Abu Muhammad Murtas Kachi, president of the Ain Samity, distributed certificates and delivered the closing speech.

**Rape incidents JU body to submit report today**

By JU Correspondent

The Fact Finding Committee formed to investigate incidents of rape on the Jahangirnagar University Campus will submit its report to the Vice-Chancellor today.

The seven-member committee was formed on August 20 after a series of demonstrations staged by the students demanding punishment of persons responsible for the rape incidents that occurred between June and August this year.

The committee members include Prof Anwarul Haq Sharif, Provost Nasim Akhter Hossain, Provost Kanchan Chowdhury, Dr Souda Akhter, Syndicate member AN Rasheda, Provost Abul Hossain and Proctor Abdul Mannan Chowdhury.

Meanwhile, some unidentified persons have been distributing leaflets with indecent comments on personal life of a teacher who was assaulted by the ruling party-backed Chhatra League leaders last month.

The General Students' Unity in a statement yesterday condemned the distribution of such leaflets and demanded punishment of those who are engaged in such heinous act.

The JU Teachers' Association (JUTA) at a meeting yesterday renewed their demand for taking action against all outsiders and terrorists immediately.

In another statement, 17 eminent citizens yesterday expressed concern at the delay in taking action against the culprits responsible for rape incidents and attack on a teacher.

The signatories to the statement included poet Sufia Kamal, Prof Kabir Chowdhury, poet Shamsur Rahman, Aly Zaker, Asaduzzaman Noor, Shahrir Kabir and Khushi Kabir.

**Photo contest to create awareness about natural disaster**

The United Nations World Disaster Reduction Campaign (UNWDRC) will organise an international photo contest to create public awareness about natural disaster prevention, reports UNB.

The slogan of the competition is "Prevention Begins with Information," said a UNIC press release yesterday.

The black and white or colour photographs of any type and format (hard copy) on 'Natural Disasters', 'Prevention Measures' or on the slogan itself will be the categories to be accepted by the IDNDR Secretariat.

The entries of interested people of Bangladesh is to be sent to UNIC office at House-60, Road 11A, Dhanmondi by September 24 for onward forwarding, the release added.

The best three photos in each category will receive prizes from the United Nations in Geneva and will be published in "Stop Disaster" magazine.

All photos will be shown at an exhibition at the UN in Geneva and at the IDNDR regional Unit in Costa Rica.

**Govt failed to bring adequate foreign aid: JP**

KURIGRAM, Sept 20: Jatiya Party chairman HM Ershad on Sunday alleged that the government could not provide with minimum quantity of relief materials to the distressed people, reports UNB.

Blaming the government for playing with the distress people, he said the government has also failed to bring adequate foreign assistance.

The JP chairman made the allegations at a rally at Chilmari sadar. Golam Hossain MP, Mozammel Haq Lalu MP, district JP president Shafiqul Islam, Anwar Hossain and Nure-e-Alam also addressed the rally.

Ershad demanded immediate launching of Test Relief and opening gruel kitchens in the affected areas. "If enough food was not made available to the distressed people, they will die from hunger."

He accused the government of doing politics with relief materials.

Criticising both the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition, Ershad said they do politics sitting in the capital.

**Organisations continue relief activities**

Various organisations yesterday carried out relief operations across the country to mitigate suffering of the flood victims, report agencies.

**Dhaka University authorities** distributed relief goods including rice, chitra, murt, gur, pure water and clothes among the affected people at Gulshan and Banani in the capital and in Narayanganj district.

**BNCC, Rover Scouts and Rover Units** distributed some rice, pure water and other goods among the flood victims.

The Council of Hill People distributed rice, ruti, biscuit and cooked food among the affected people of Sadar, Langud, Baghaichhari, Naniarchar, Kaptai, Kowkhal and Barkal thanas in Rangamati district.

**Dhaka Sheraton Hotel** distributed relief goods among two thousand flood affected people who have been sheltered at the relief centres of Shahjapur Government Primary School and Maddha Badda Primary School on Friday.

The relief goods included cooked food, clothes, milk for babies, essential medicines and water purifying tablets. Besides, the hotel's medical team led by Dr. Shahnaz treated some patients including children and elderly persons and gave them medication.

The Area Managing Director of Starwood Hotels and Resorts David Shackleton and General Manager of Dhaka Sheraton San Analan were present as chief guests during the relief operation. Besides, a good number of hotel employees including leaders of Employees Union took part in the relief distribution programme.

**Sammilito Sangskritik Jote** distributed rice, potato, saline, water purifying tablets and used clothes among the flood victims of Sadar and Chhatkhil thanas in Laxmipur district.

The Jote continued their relief operation in the areas for the last seven days and distributed relief goods among the victims.

**Bangladesh Chhatra Union** continued its relief activities in and around the city yesterday. They distributed ruti, chitra, gur, and ORS and medicines among the flood victims in Lalbagh and Sutrapur areas and in Demra.

None of their relief teams went to Madaripur yesterday to distribute ORS and water purifying tablets.

**The Old Rajshahi Cadets Association** distributed chitra, gur, bread, cooked food, used clothes, ORS and water purifying tablets among the flood victims in Dhamrai thana of Manikganj district on Friday. Also, its medical team provided treatment and medicines to 150 people there.

**Ansar and VDP** has been continuing their relief activities in the flood shelters in the city's Khilgaon area. They distributed cooked food and pure drinking water among 2200 affected people.

**Amra Kojona**, a social organisation, distributed four

maunds of hand-made bread among the flood affected people in Nagarpur, Tangali on Saturday.

**Confidence Tower Flat Owners' Cooperative Society** distributed relief goods worth about Tk 30,000 among the flood affected people of Salmashi, Baralia and Bachla under Keraniganj thana on Friday.

**Rotary Club of Gulshan** has opened a relief camp at the city's Azatpara of Tejgaon area. Packets containing rice, chitra, gur, buns and potato are being distributed among the flood victims.

**The Rotary Club of Shahbagh** has recently organised a health camp for the flood victims of Basabo area. The health camp was opened at the SRA Model Govt. Primary School. About 200 patients were given medical treatment and free medicine. A plastic drum and water purifying tablets were also given for providing safe drinking water to the flood-victims.

A 15-member medical team of Bangladesh Palli Chikitsak Samity distributed medicines worth Tk 40,000 among 1,000 flood victims at Kamargaon and Nagoriakandi in Narsingdi district.

Some 570 medical teams of the Samity continued their services in country's 52 flood-hit districts.

A 10-member mobile medical team of **Dhaka Community Hospital** treated the flood-affected people in the city's Ram-

pura, Badda and Baranari areas. They also distributed oral saline, water purifying tablets and emergency medicines.

**The Young One's**, a Dhanmondi-based social welfare organisation, has started a month-long programme to help the flood affected people.

The organisation distributed relief materials such as dry food, ORS and air-tight containers among the flood victims of Balurchar and Bottoli villages under Keraniganj thana.

The month-long programme includes relief distribution in view of the flood victims' rehabilitation after the prolonged flooding.

**Daira Sharif Welfare Association**, which has been distributing relief materials among the flood victims, is running a gruel kitchen at Azampur since August 29 to feed some 350 people of 90 families everyday. Daira Sharif has also started an oral saline making project.

Forest and Environment Minister Begum Sajeda Chowdhury and Haji Selim MP distributed khichuri and old clothes among the flood victims on Saturday at the Daira Sharif relief centre.

President of the association Dr Fazul Haque, general secretary Dr Khaled Monsur Murad and adviser Monjure Maola, Syed Shah Jalal Abedin, A K M T Hossain, Syed Nurul Huda Shamsuzzaman, treasurer Saifus Sayeed Sani, executive member Akbirul Zulfikar an Sarwar Jahan were present.

**Attack on journalists at Ctg stadium Judicial probe body to be formed**

CHITTAGONG, Sept 20: Home Minister Rafiqul Islam today said that an impartial investigation would be made soon to probe the attack on journalists and give exemplary punishment to those responsible for the incident which took place at MA Aziz Stadium here on September 14, reports BSS.

Exchanging views with journalists at Chittagong Circuit House here, the Minister said the present government is committed to ensuring all necessary protections to journalists for discharging their duties without any hindrance.

The Home Minister came directly to the port city from Chandpur this morning to express sympathy to the injured journalists and heard about the incident from the eyewitnesses.

Over one hundred soccer fans, including five photo-journalists, were injured critically when the police resorted to lathicharge at Abahani-Mohammedan's match at MA Aziz Stadium on September 14.

Minister for Labour MA Mannan, City Mayor ABM Mahiuddin Chowdhury, Abul Kashem Master, MP, also spoke on the occasion. The Azadi Editor Prof Mohammad Khaled, Managing Editor of the Daily M A Malek and journalist leaders Abu Sufian, Anjan Kumar Sen, Sayed Murtaza Ali, Nurul Ameen, Ashoke Chowdhury, Helaluddin Chowdhury, Tapash Barua, Kalim Sarwar, Pradeep Shil narrated the incident.

The Home Minister expressed profound shock at the incident and said steps would be taken to form a judicial inquiry commission to probe the incident.

The Minister reiterated firm determination of the present government led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to provide protections to journalists in discharging their duties even in adverse situation. He said that all steps would be taken to stop such incidents in future.

Referring to law and order situation, the Home Minister said various reform measures are being taken to restructure the police administration to ensure law and order in the country.

Rafique urged the citizens not to take the law in their own hands but to respect the law of the country.

Later the minister accompanied by Labour Minister MA Mannan and City Mayor ABM Mahiuddin Chowdhury visited the injured photo-journalist Mashur Rehman Badal of the Daily Janakantha at Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

Meanwhile during a meeting with senior police officials, Rafiq expressed dissatisfaction at the deteriorating law and order situation and waning confidence of the people on police.

Meeting sources said Home Minister cited the recent incidents in the port city which pointed to deteriorating law and order situation.

He wondered how culprits get released after the arrest and why prosecuting police official keep some holes open for offenders. The people get frustrated to see the culprits are set free without punishment.

Rafiq asked the police to make all-out efforts in regaining confidence of the people through dedicated service.



Dhaka Sheraton Hotel management distributing relief materials among the flood-affected people sheltered at Shahjapur govt primary school and Maddha Badda primary school on Friday.



Major M Atiqur Rahman (Retd), member, Executive Committee of Dhaka Club, distributing relief goods among the flood victims of Barua, Dumni and Shatarkul in the city.

**Over 100 muggings committed in city every day**

Over one hundred muggings are being committed in the city every day, and some places have become haven for muggers, according to police and local people, reports UNB.

Many low-lying areas of the city have been under flood waters for more than one and a half months, hindering free movement of police.

Taking advantage of the situations, muggers have become very active in the low lying areas of Gulshan, Uttara, Cantonment, Demra, Sabujbag and almost all areas of the old part of the city.

Of the affected areas, many parts of Sabujbag including the police station, are still under water, which has virtually stopped activities of patrol police teams in the area.

Some victims of mugging alleged that the Biswa Road and Gopibagh rail gate area have become a safe zone for the muggers, who boldly go about their business even in broad day light.

Narrating an incident, a victim from the Gopibagh rail gate area said: "One day, after wading through a stretch of flooded road on foot, I was putting on my socks seating on the rail track. Suddenly two persons came and sat on either side of me."

"They then showed me a revolver and asked me to hand over all my money and other valuables," said the victim, wishing anonymity for fear of reprisal by the miscreants who are known in the locality.

He said similar incidents of mugging are happening daily in the area, where some 13 to 14 armed muggers have established their supremacy.

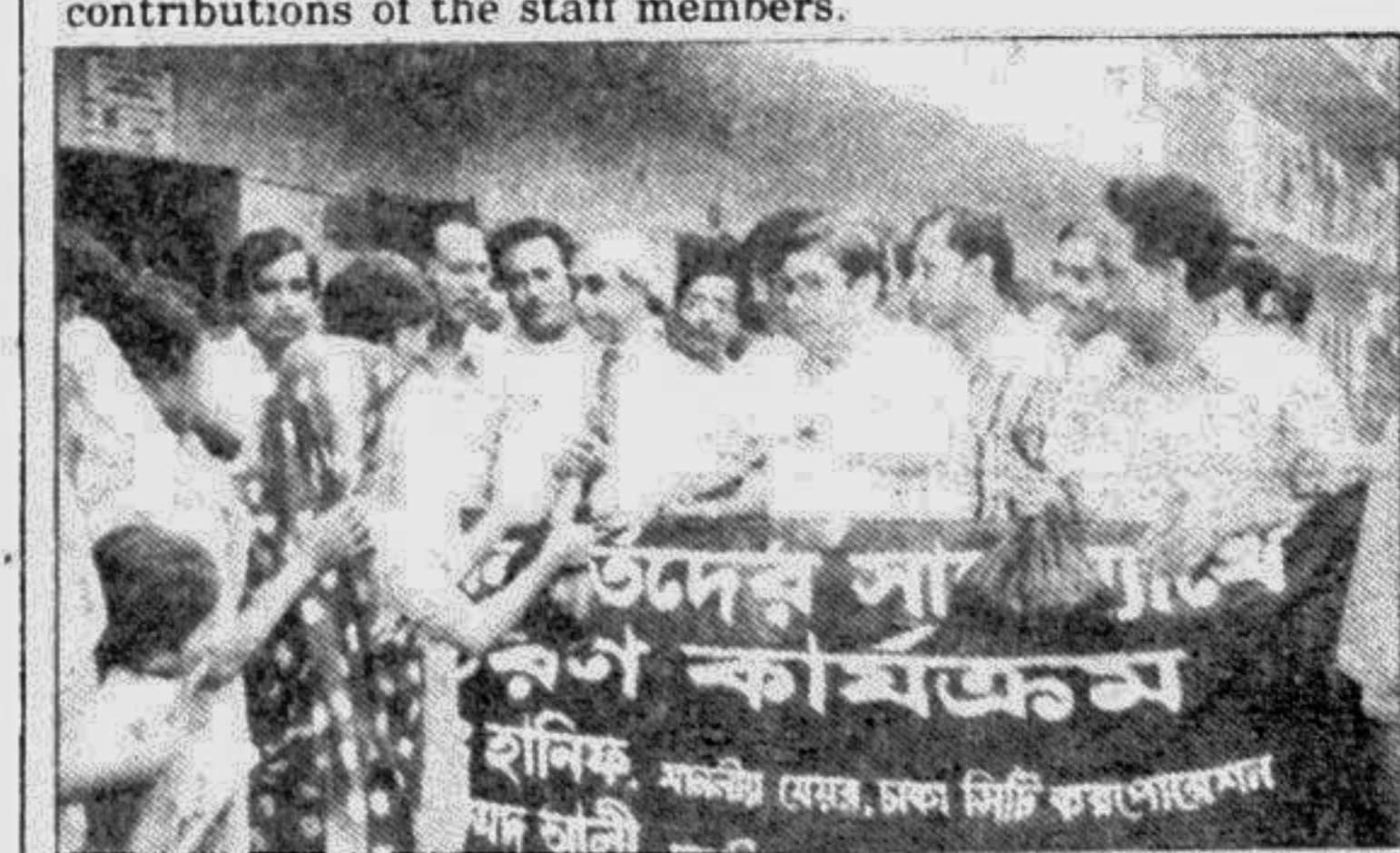
People in mugger-infested low-lying areas now try to return home before dark.

"We are most likely to lose all our belongings after sun set," said another victim.

The affected feel that there is no other way but to deploy mobile police teams round the clock to check mugging and such other crimes in the city.



International Voluntary Services (IVS) distributing relief to flood victims at Ford Nagar of Singair thana under Manikganj district recently from two-day salary contributions of the staff members.



Mohammed Ali, Chairman and MA Hashem, Managing Director, Janata Bank, distributing relief materials among the flood victims at the Motijheel Ideal Government Primary School camp in the city yesterday.

**Razzak seeks steps to provide farmers with seeds, fertilizer**

SAVAR, Sept 20: Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak today asked the officials concerned to take necessary preparations so that the farmers can get seeds, fertilizer and other agri-inputs in time, reports UNB.

Addressing separate review meetings with thana level officials and Union Parishad chairmen of Savar and Dhamrai thanas, he called for strengthening the post-flood rehabilitation programmes, specially agricultural rehabilitation.

Emphasising on proper distribution of relief materials among the flood-hit people, the minister said any misappropriation in this regard will not be tolerated and stern measures will be taken against the culprits.

He also stressed the need for ward-wise relief distribution in the affected unions.

The government will continue its Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) and Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) programmes for the next three months to feed the flood affected people, Razzak said.

Marium Begum, MP, Dhaka district Awami League president Shamsuddin Khan Majlis and general secretary Benazir Ahmed were present.



Resource Bangladesh distributing relief goods among the flood-affected children in city.

**Obituary**

BARISAL, Sept 20: Prof Ishaq Ali Neghaban, a noted educationist of greater Barisal district, died of old-age complications at his residence at Amanatganj here on Friday. He was 70, reports BSS.

He was a professor of physics at government Fazul Huq College, Chakhar for 33 years. He also taught at Barisal Islamia College.

Prof Neghaban leaves behind three sons and two daughters. One of his sons Ismail Hossain Neghaban is the Barisal district correspondent of the Bangladesh Observer.

He was buried at Barisal graveyard.