

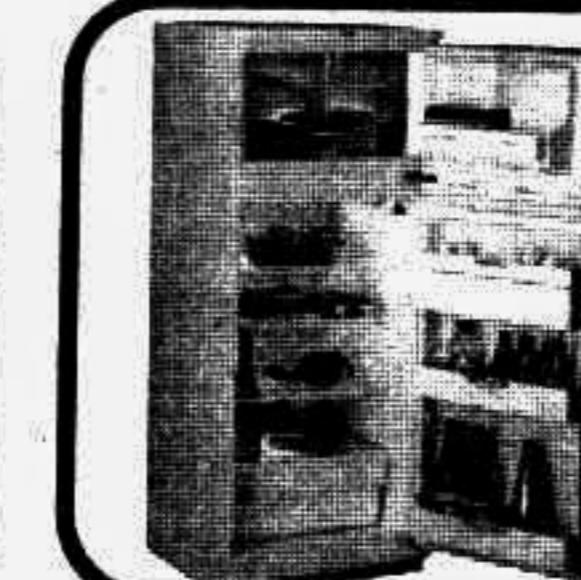
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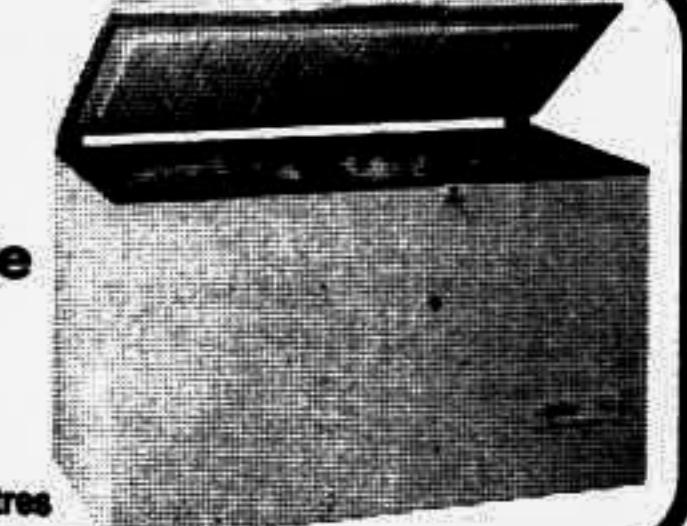
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Road accidents kill 15 in five districts

At least 15 people were killed and 87 others injured in separate road accidents in Gazipur, Comilla, Noakhali, Chuadanga and Mymensingh since Monday, reports UNB.

In Gazipur, at least five people were killed and 30 others injured, five seriously, in a road accident on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway at Bhogra in Sadar thana on Monday.

Police said the accident occurred when a Kishoreganj-bound passenger bus from Dhaka hit a rickshaw and fell into a roadside ditch at about 10 am.

Two of the victims were identified as rickshaw puller Liton Mia, 28, and Enayet Hosain, 25, of Halmiara under Faridpur district.

Enayet was going to his father-in-law's house in Kishoreganj to celebrate Eid-ul-Fitr.

Identities of the other bodies could not be ascertained.

The bodies were sent to Gazipur general hospital for autopsy.

Five of the injured people were rushed to Dhaka in critical condition while others admitted to different hospitals in Gazipur.

The bus driver managed to flee the scene.

In Comilla, three people were killed and four injured in two accidents in the district on Dhaka-Chittagong highway on Wednesday and Thursday, police and hospital sources said.

They said two people were killed and four injured when a timber-laden truck skidded off the road and fell into a roadside at Naatola in Chandina thana on Wednesday.

The dead were identified as Hajar, 20, and Buida, 25, of Jamalpur district.

The injured were admitted to Comilla sadar hospital and local thana health complex.

In another accident on Tuesday, a speeding bus hit a motorcycle from behind at Dowdar in Choudhogram thana

BNP to boycott

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"Government will have to bear the total responsibility for the future consequences if it fails to meet our demands," Mannan Bhuiyan warned. It also decided to form "Liaison Committee" at all levels of party units, including division, district and thana levels.

It was attended by BNP leaders M Shamsul Islam and Anwar Zahid, JP leaders Kazi Zafar Ahmed and Kazi Firoz Rashid Chowdhury, Jamaat leaders Kamaruzzaman and A T M Azharul Islam and IOJ leaders Mufti Fazlul Haq Amin, A R M Abdul Matin and Muslemin Abu Bakar.

Prior to holding of the adjourned meeting of the BNP Standing Committee on Thursday evening, JP, Jamaat, IOJ, Japga, Democratic League, PNP, NDA leaders sat with the BNP chief separately and discussed about the next course of action.

A senior leader of BNP, who assisted Begum Zia during Thursday's meeting, told The Daily Star that the smaller allies of the 7-party alliance requested Begum Zia to include at least one representative from each party in the Liaison Committee meeting. Currently the meeting is participated by only the representatives of BNP, JP, Jamaat and IOJ.

Supporting their demand to be included in the Liaison Committee, they argued that prior to JP and IOJ's joining in the current movement they had formed 7-party alliance and strengthened the hands of BNP. It is learnt that the smaller party leaders told Begum Zia that Ershad may again raise the issue of "women leadership" at any time and especially at the peak of movement.

Besides, they expressed their apprehension that a section of the present leadership of opposition movement may go under the control of Ershad.

Begum Zia assured them of looking into the matter soon.

Opposition sources said JP leader Kazi Zafar Ahmed was strongly opposed to joining of smaller parties' representatives in the Liaison Committee meeting.

Zafar's attitude seriously angered the leaders of the smaller parties on Thursday evening at 29 Mintu Road when Kazi Zafar and Japga chief Shafiqul Alam Prodhan exchanged hot words and adverse remarks.

The adjourned meeting of BNP Standing Committee held with Begum Zia in the chair, also decided to boycott the session of Presidential speech and future meetings of the Parliamentary Business Advisory Committee. BNP has three members in the committee while JP and Jamaat have one each.

Sources said leaders of the opposition parties during meeting on Thursday discussed and reached an understanding that the President has lost his neutrality by signing the CHT Peace

21 killed

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quarrel over distribution of iftar among the poor at Umerpara on the Eid day.

In Khulna: Mohib Hossain Gazi, 32, of Moheswar village in Koira thana at Paschimhadda area was shot dead while Ruhul Amin Sheikh, 26, of Bunaabard village in Batiaghata thana was slaughtered in a field near his residence on Wednesday.

In Mymensingh: Abul Kalam, 22, son of Kallimuddin of Baghbari village of Gaforaon thana, was hacked to death by armed men at a land near his house on Wednesday.

In Feni: Tofazzal Hossain, 48, succumbed to his injuries at Feni Sadar Hospital on the Eid day. He was attacked by miscreants on Monday.

Another unidentified man aged about 25 was hacked to death near the central Eidgah maidan in the town at North Daktarpara in early hours of Eid day.

In Chittagong: Two people were killed in separate incidents in the port city in last two days.

The deceased were identified as Ryo, 20, and Selim Mia, 30.

In Noakhali: A housewife Nahar Begum, 20, of village Charjangania in Ramgati thana was killed allegedly by her husband over dowry.

In Tangail: Two brothers Abdul Jalil, 50, and Asgar Ali, 40, of village at Tarotia Komali in Daulatpur thana were killed following a clash over land dispute.

In Magura: A middle-aged man Ali Mollah, 40, of village Horishpur in Shalikha thana was killed by unidentified assailants on Thursday night.

Editor : Mahfuz Anam

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4 murdered in Pabna during Eid holidays

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Jan 22: Four persons were murdered during the Eid holidays in three thanas of Pabna district. The thanas are: Chatmohar, Faridpur and Ishurdi.

The first incident occurred in village Umapur under Darsura union of Ishurdi thana on Eid day (January 19) at about 4.30 pm. Two groups of young people clashed over distribution of sweetmeats. At one stage, both the groups opened fire and one Mohammad Alam died of bullet injuries. Ten others received minor injuries.

In another incident, two persons were murdered allegedly by the activists of outlawed Purba Banglar Communist Party in village Shalikhpura under Faridpur thana on January 20.

Majid Mollah, an Awami League worker was shot and then slaughtered by the armed PBCP men. They also shot dead one Mozahar on the spot.

On January 21, Francis Palma, an income tax official of Bogra, was called out of his house in the morning by some unknown assailants at village Katuri under Chatmohar thana. He was later stabbed to death.

So far only one person was arrested in connection with the murder in Ishurdi thana.

Jubo Dal leader shot dead in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Jan 22: unidentified assailants gunned down a Jubo Dal leader at Mardul Monday night in Hatirjheel thana, police said.

The victim was identified as Md. Idris.

Police sources said, Idris was a joint secretary of Jubo Dal Hatazara thana unit.

Police said Idris was killed following a dispute with his rivals over non-payment of money.

Three assailants fired at Idris at 8.30 pm when he came out of a shop, police and party sources said.

The assailants then fled the scene.

However, none was arrested in this connection till filing of this report.

They observed

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They don't have radio or television sets in their upcountry areas to get the latest information about the moon. So they had their 'sehri' to keep fast accordingly. But they were taken back when they came to thana headquarters for work Tuesday morning and found Eid congregation being held. It was too late for them to do necessary shopping and go back for Eid celebrations.

They decided to celebrate the festival Wednesday. And so did the co-villagers.

APB from Khulna reports: Eid congregations were held twice on Tuesday and Wednesday as people in Khulna and the adjoining areas were confused on sighting of the Shawal moon.

The main Eid Jamaat in the city was held at the local circuit house maidan on Tuesday. Congregations were also held at more than hundred mosques in the metropolis on the same day. But many people observed Eid-ul-Fitr on Wednesday instead of Tuesday as they could not rely on the news of moon sighting over radio and television.

The places where Eid was observed on Wednesday were Chuknagar in Dumuria thana of Khulna, Chandkhali, Shapar and Amadi villages in Pakgachha thana and village Katta in Sathkhira.

A large number of people in Khulna city were fasting instead of observing Eid on Tuesday.

Another unidentified man aged about 25 was hacked to death near the central Eidgah maidan in the town at North Daktarpara in early hours of Eid day.

In Chittagong: Two people were killed in separate incidents in the port city in last two days.

The deceased were identified as Ryo, 20, and Selim Mia, 30.

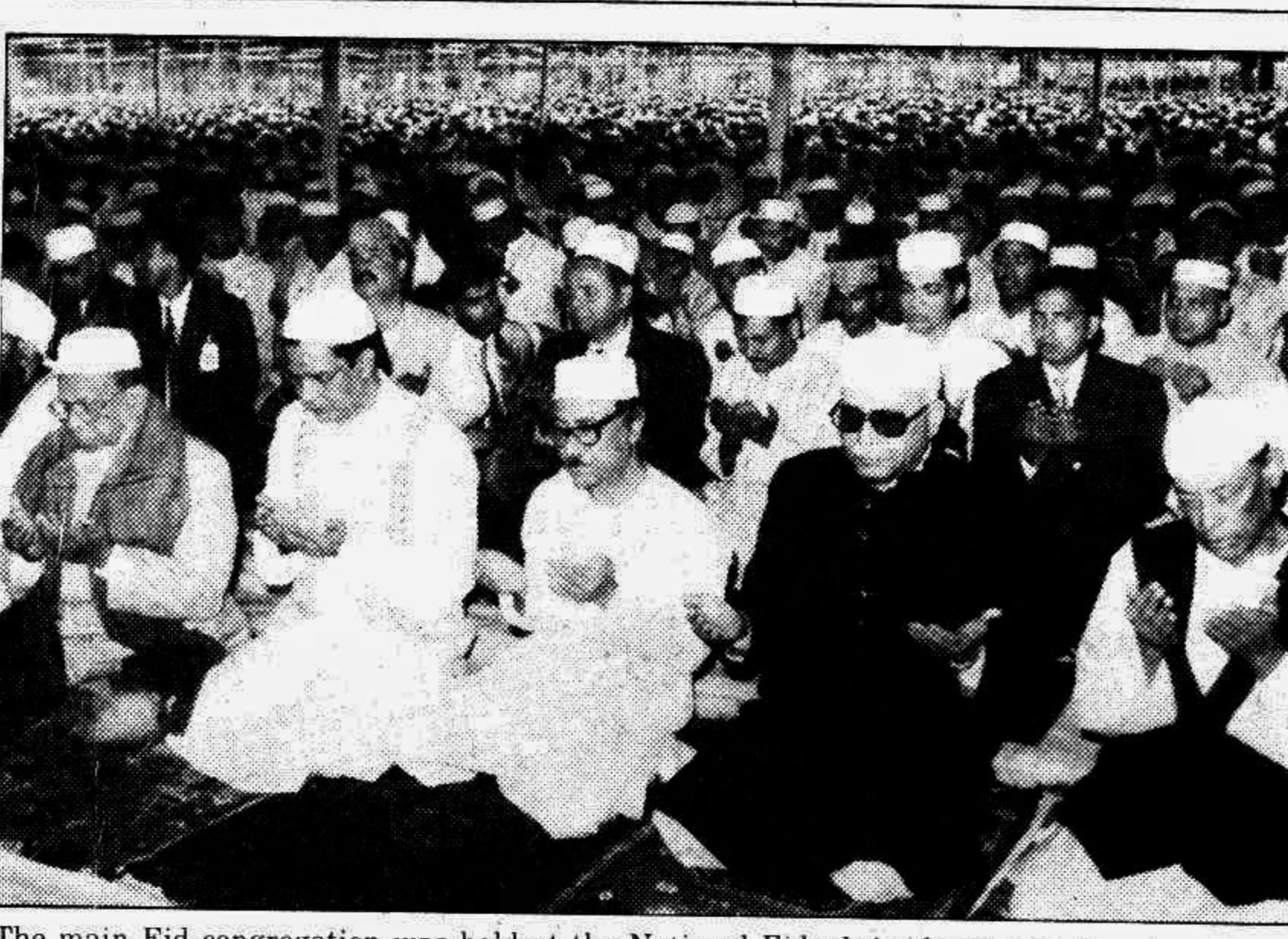
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The main Eid congregation was held at the National Eidgah in the city on Tuesday.

Shamsur Rahman

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7 pm. Shamsur Rahman recounting the incident said, "Some members of the group had come to see me about eight days back and requested me to attend a function of Jubo Sanghati as the chief guest."

"I, however, declined and said I was not in good health. They then requested me to write a poem."

On the day of the incident, when the three came to the house, the Poet's son, Faizal Rahman, recognising the same group who had come earlier, reminded them that his father had asked them to come after Eid for the writing.

They however insisted on meeting the Poet personally, saying, "We will talk to him for two minutes only."

Reluctantly the poet's son allowed them to move upstairs where the Poet has his reading room and living quarters.

Shamsur Rahman came out from his first floor room and told them that the piece was not yet complete. He requested them to collect it after Eid, as told earlier.

The Poet's son then led them down the staircase. As they descended the stairway, two of them suddenly grabbed Faizal from behind and tried to gag his mouth and push him into the ground floor toilet located at the foot of the stairs. Faizal Rahman put up a fierce struggle and after some time managed to free himself and rushed out of the house and screamed at the top of his voice.

Meanwhile, one of the assailants, Mahtabuddin, armed with a Chinese axe climbed upstairs and ran to attack the Poet. The assailant was resisted by the Poet's daughter-in-law Sahida and a housemaid, Nilufer Hossain and Sufaet Hossain.

CID police said the motive behind the murder attempt is still not clear but it is understood that the organisation whose name is not yet familiar is allegedly trying to win support of underground organisations in the Middle East by making such attacks.

Police said the arrested confesses that they had three more names in their hit-list for murder. The names are National Professor Kabir Choudhury, Poet Taslima Nasrin and Chairman of Islami Foundation Moulana Abdul Awal.

Protest rally

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tee with Professor Kabir Chowdhury and Justice K M Sobhan as Co-convenors and Professor Haroon-or-Rashid as member-secretary.

The meeting was attended, among others, by Ekhlas Uddin Ahmed, Principal Abdul Ahad Chowdhury, Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, Dr kazi Farooq Ahmed, A B M Musa, Amir Hossein Amu, Kazi Aref Ahmed, Shamsuzzaman Khan, Abed Khan, Prof Shamsul Huda Haroon, Dr B Jahangir, Monayem Sarkar, Advocate Syed Ahmed, Prof Abdul Mannan Chowdhury, Dr Mizanur Rahman and Azizul Islam Bhuiyan.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed her profound shock and sorrow at the death of Abdur Awal.

The Prime Minister also recalled his contribution to social and national life.

Barisal AL leader Nurul Karim dead

Nurul Karim (Khair Master), a veteran Awami League leader of Barisal and a former member of the Constituent Assembly.

He died of a heart attack Thursday morning at the Suhravard Hospital, he was 72, reports BSS.

Karim, a prominent freedom fighter and social worker left behind his wife, five sons, one daughter and a host of relatives.

Karim, popularly known as Khair Master was elected as a member of the Constituent Assembly from Hizla, Muladi constituency of Barisal in 1970 and a member of parliament in 1973.

WB to give \$ 177m to improve traffic system in city

WASHINGTON, Jan 22: The World Bank has agreed to lend Bangladesh 177 million dollars to improve traffic system in the capital Dhaka, the Bank announced on Tuesday, reports BSS.

The money will be spent to rebuild the city's sidewalks and major intersections, and to improve traffic flow by installing traffic lights and building lanes reserved for non-motorised vehicles.

Traffic problems in Dhaka are reaching 'crisis proportions,' the Bank said.

Meanwhile, of country's nine universities also condemned the attack on the poet.