

## Hasina exchanges Eid greetings with people

Men, women and children, from all walks of life exchanged Eid greetings with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her Gonobhaban official residence on Monday, reports BSS.

On the occasion of holy Eid-ul-Azha, the main entrance of Gonobhaban remained open for all citizens without any kind of security or protocol.

People in one file queued up the Gonobhaban walk beginning at Mirpur Road and ending at the prime minister's portico where Sheikh Hasina stood hours to exchange greetings with visitors.

She received the common people from 9 am to 10 am, the diplomats from 10-15 am to 11 am and again the common people from 11 am to 12 noon.

Those who came to the sprawling green of Gonobhaban included ministers to litigations, lawmakers to litigations, millionaires to beggars, city elite to street sweepers, university vice-chancellors to primary school teachers, house wives to garment factory workers and intellectuals to cultural activists. Even present were war-wounded freedom fighters in wheel chairs, mentally retarded people on crutches, the blind and deaf and dumb people.

Mothers came in carrying babies in their laps fathers came with their offsprings while happy couples also came in to exchange greetings with the prime minister on the occasion. Some people simply conveyed Eid Mubarak from a distance, some touched her feet in

a traditional way of showing respect to the elders while elderly women embraced Sheikh Hasina with joy and wonder. Beggars, day labourers and street urchins were seen in the long queue where dozens of ministers and other heads of organisation were standing, a true demonstration of the spirit of Islamic teachings befitting the occasion.

Some of the visitors, nevertheless did not forget to bring applications to seek help.

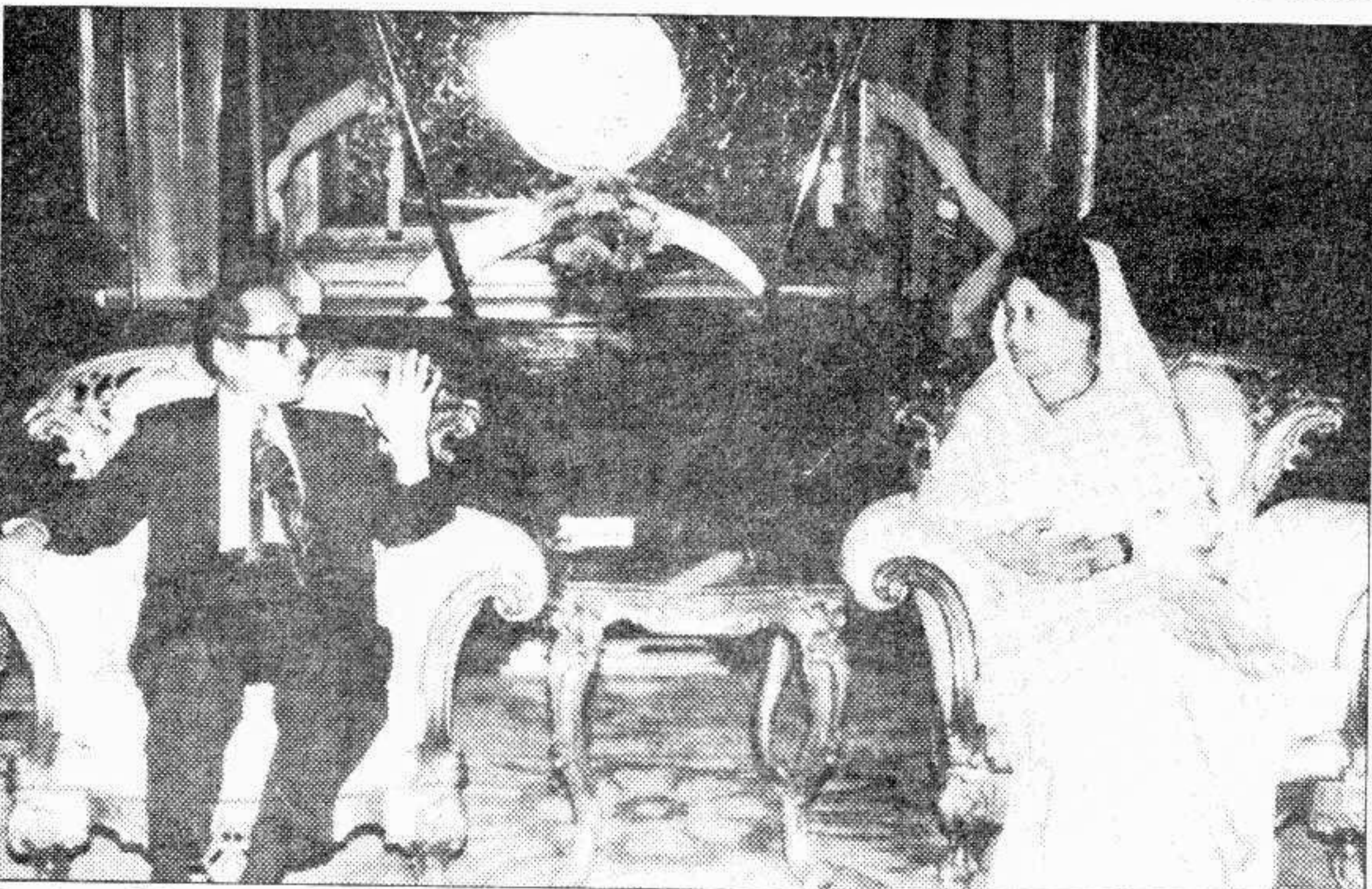
To tackle the situation, the prime minister on the spot assigned some personal staff to note down the grievances of the visitors and received their applications. She strictly instructed her assistants to scrutinise the applications and take necessary steps to help.

Ansar and Sona Miah, two crippled friends who came to the Gonobhaban green on a single wheel chair from Mirpur, Kazi Shariful Islam Roni, a mentally retarded boy who won a number of medals in different sports events in many national and international events including the special Olympic games and Kazi Shariful Islam, whose agro-farm was destroyed, all told BSS that this day would remain as a red-letter day in their lives as they finally got the opportunity to personally air their grievances to the prime minister.

Sheikh Hasina then went round from table to table talking to her guests and supervising their entertainment.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina exchanging Eid greetings with President Shahabuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban on Monday. — PID photo



Leader of Opposition in parliament and BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia called on President Shahabuddin Ahmed to exchange Eid greetings with him at Bangabhaban on Monday. — PID photo

## Anti-autocracy Day observed

A meeting of the representatives of various professional groups has called upon the government to show due honour to over 140 heroic sons of the soil who laid down their lives in the movement for the caretaker government to establish the voting rights of the people, reports BSS.

While paying tributes to their memories, the meeting also noted with deep respect the sacrifices of thousands of political leaders and workers, professional leaders, cultural activists and democracy loving people for reestablishing democracy in the country.

Held at the Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) Bhaban on Tuesday evening to mark Anti-Autocracy Day, the meeting was presided over by acting president of Bangladesh College University Teachers Association Rangal Sen.

## SAARC team in city on goodwill visit

A SAARC expedition team, 'Hands Across Borders', arrived in the city yesterday on an eight-day goodwill visit to boost amity and fraternity among youths of the region, reports BSS.

Akhil Bakshi, president of the New Delhi based youth organisation 'Jubo Shakti' is leading the 16-member expedition team. Noted filmstar Sunil Dutt is serving as the chairman of the expedition committee.

The visiting team members yesterday afternoon placed floral wreath at Jatiya Smritishoudha at Savar. They will also visit the National Museum at Shahbagh, Bangabandhu Memorial Museum at Dhanmondi and the Youth Organization Moitree.

Before leaving for Comilla, Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and Sylhet, the team will meet State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury and officials of the ministry of youth and sports.

The team is scheduled to leave Bangladesh for Bhutan through Shillong-Cherapunji border adjacent to Sylhet district.

'Hands Across Borders' started its voyage on March 3 from Colombo, Sri Lanka. After criss-crossing the SAARC countries the team will wind up their tour in Amritsar and is scheduled to be back in Delhi on June 4.

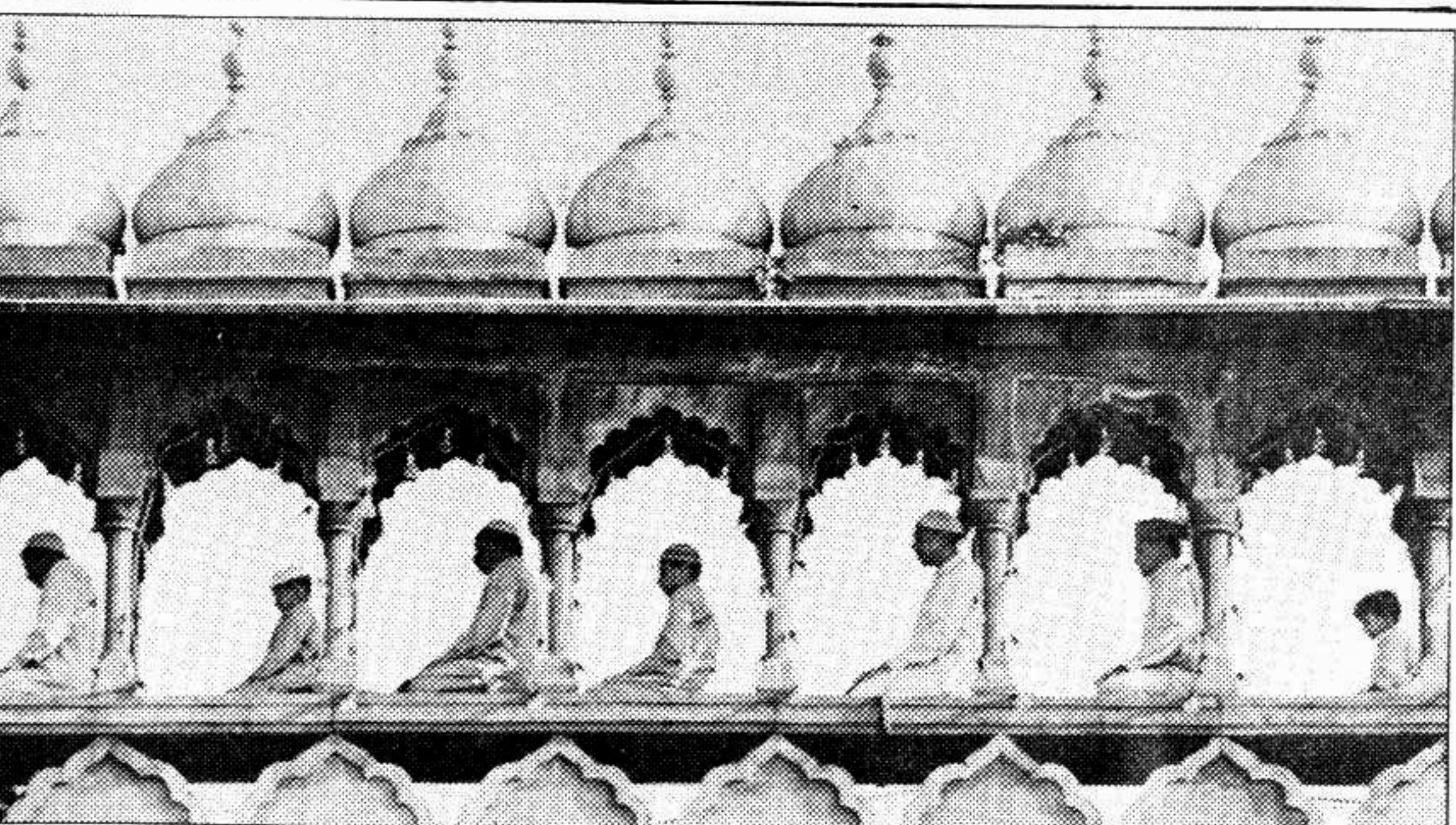
## Death anniversary of Sheikh Lutfur Rahman observed

The 24th death anniversary of Sheikh Lutfur Rahman, father of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, was observed on Tuesday in a befitting manner, reports BSS.

A *milad mahfil* was organised at Bangabandhu Smiriti Memorial Museum Tuesday after *Magreb* prayers.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim, MP, Sheikh Helaluddin, MP, Awami League leaders and relatives attended the *milad mahfil*.

Sheikh Lutfur Rahman, died on March 30, 1975.



Indian Muslims pray at the Delhi Jama Masjid Mosque as they celebrated the Eid-ul-Azha festival March 29. This year's festival coincided with a Hindu festival officially recognised as a non-violence day. — AFP photo

## 2 killed in Rangamati

RANGAMATI, Mar 31: Two men were killed in separate incidents in the district on Sunday and Monday, reports APB.

A young man was killed in an attack by elephants at Rangipara in Longdu thana of the district in the early hours of Monday.

Police said Jahurul Haq, 30, son of late Lalchan Mia of Rangipara was killed in an attack by elephants while guarding the paddy field along with his brother Shah Alam. The two brothers were trying to drive away the wild animals from the field, when Jahurul got killed.

His body was sent to Sadar hospital for autopsy.

Another man was allegedly killed in a gun fire at Bainyachara forest area of Kaptai thana when his friend mistargeted him while hunting beasts on Sunday.

## BRCT expresses concern

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Rehabilitation Centre for Trauma Victims (BRCT) has expressed deep concern at the recovery of a body from the water tank of DB office and termed the incident as a serious violation of human rights.

In a statement, general secretary of BRCT Akram Hossain, said the latest incident at DB office after the killing of Rubel, clearly proved that police show serious negligence in discharging their duties.

He apprehended that the security of the people may be hampered again by the police if a quick trial of the latest incident is not carried out, and it will also not be possible to establish rule of law in the country.



The ansar who was injured in a clash with muggers at Kaptan Bazar is being treated at the DMCH. A mugger was also killed during the clash on Sunday. — Star photo

## 'Humanity is the essence of all religions'

Parliamentary Advisor to the prime minister, Suranjit Sengupta yesterday said that the essence of all religions is humanity, reports BSS.

'Human religion is the main religion in the world' he said while addressing a discussion and cultural function in observance of the birth anniversary of Sri Ram Krishna Farankangsha Dev at Gopaldi Ram Krishna Ashram in Narsingdi district.

Presided over by Sri Nibash Saha, the function was also addressed, among others, by local MP Emdadul Haque Bhuiyan, Deputy Commissioner and Superintendent of Police, Narsingdi, Union Parishad Chairman Benazir Ahmed and Mizanur Rahman and General Secretary of the Ashram committee Shanti Bhushan Saha.

## BNP leader dead

RANGAMATI, Mar 31: Parijat Kushum Chakma, former Chairman of erstwhile Rangamati Hill District Local Government Council, died on Monday at his Tripdinagar residence here. He was 55, reports BSS.

Parijat, a teacher turned politician, had been suffering from liver cirrhosis, family sources said. He played an important role in the hill tracts peace process.

He is survived by his wife, five daughters and a host of admirers to mourn his death.

He was cremated at local Rajbari crematorium yesterday.

**Khaleda condoles**

Staff Correspondent adds:

BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia has expressed profound grief at the death of her party's ex-MP Parijat Kushum Chakma.

In a message of condolence yesterday, she prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul and conveyed sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

In separate message, BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan also condoled the death of party leader Parijat Kushum Chakma and prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul. He also expressed sympathy to the bereaved family members.

## Danish minister due April 15

Danish Minister for Development Cooperation Poul Nelson will visit Bangladesh in the third week of April to discuss promotion of bilateral cooperation, reports APB.

Bangladesh has excellent economic cooperative ties with Denmark — a member of the European Union (EU). The Scandinavian country is a member of the Bangladesh Development Forum, the aid consortium.

Denmark, through DANIDA, extends financial assistance to welfare oriented programmes like poverty alleviation in developing countries including Bangladesh.

The Danish Minister, who is due to arrive on April 15 for a four-day trip, will meet Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria and Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs Abdul Matin Khashru.

## Eid-ul-Azha celebrated

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tended the Eid congregation at National Eidgah.

Four congregations were held at Baitul Mukarram National Mosque at 6:30 am, 7:15 am, 8 am and 8:45 am. The last two Eid congregations in the city were held at Azimpur Dacra Sharif mosque at 10 am and Chhoto Dacra Sharif Daemia Shahi mosque at 11 am.

Besides, thousands of Eid congregations were also held at different Eidgahs, mosques and open places throughout the country.

President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed and Begum Shahabuddin Ahmed hosted a reception at Bangabhaban on the morning of Eid and exchanged Eid greetings with the guests. They also hosted a reception for diplomats and elite separately at Bangabhaban.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina exchanged Eid greetings with diplomats and a cross section of people at her Gonobhaban official residence on Eid Day.

She exchanged pleasantries with the members of the diplomatic corps from 10:15 am to 11 am. Earlier from 9 am to 10 am and 11 am to 12 noon, she exchanged Eid greetings with people from all walks of life.

BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia hosted an Eid reception at her 29 Minto Road official residence in the morning. Diplomats, politicians, elite and a cross section of people exchanged greetings with her. The opposition leader along with her two sons and party central leaders visited the mazar of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman and offered *fateha* on Eid day.

Both Sheikh Hasina and Begum Zia separately exchanged Eid greetings with President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed on Monday evening.

People throughout the country attired in their best, embraced each other and exchanged Eid greetings saying "Eid Mubarak".

Friends and relatives visited houses of each other and distributed meats. Poor people were seen busy collecting meats of sacrificial animals. Many people slaughtered their sacrificial animals on Tuesday, the second day of Eid.

The national flag was hoisted atop all public and private buildings throughout the country on Eid Day while the main streets and islands from the airport to Bangabhaban and other important avenues were adorned with national flags and bunting inscribed with Eid-Mubarak both in Bangla and Arabic.

Bangladesh Television and Betar broadcast special programmes while newspapers brought out special supplements highlighting the significance of the day.

Improved diet was served to patients in different hospitals, jail inmates, children's centres, baby homes, vagrant and destitute welfare centres. After Eid prayer, the Ministry of Information arranged film shows and organised cultural functions, keeping conformity with national principles, in city parks and other areas. Islamic Foundation, Islamic Cultural Centre in different districts and the Cultural Affairs Ministry arranged seminars and discussion meetings on the significance of Eid-ul-Azha.

Children's re-union and charity football matches and other games were also arranged on the occasion.

Divisional Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, Thana Nirbahi Officers also chalked out programmes in line with national programmes. Bangladesh missions abroad also arranged programmes on the occasion.



## Poetess Hosne Ara dead

By Staff Correspondent

Noted child and juvenile litterateur and poetess Hosne Ara died of old age ailments at her Mohamadpur residence in the city early hour yesterday. She was 83.

Hosne Ara left behind four sons, one daughter, eleven grand children and a host of relatives and admirers.

Born in 1916 at village Peara in 24-Pargana, West Bengal, her father Mohammad Ebadullah was a noted litterateur. She was niece of Dr Muhammad Shahidullah and wife of eminent journalist, litterateur and children organiser late Mohammad Modabber.

Poet Hosne Ara started writing of rhyme regularly since 1940 and her first rhyme book 'Fuljhury' was published from Calcutta. One of her popular rhymes is 'Safar Daktar Matha Bhara Taak Tar'.

Her other rhyme books: 'Hulla, Kheyal Khushi, Tung Tung etc.' Another rhyme book 'Hattagol' was published from Bangla Academy in 1980.

Poet Hosne Ara was awarded Bangla Academy Award in 1961 for children's literature and Bangladesh Shishu Academy Award in 1992.

She first joined in the anti-British movement under the leadership of Netaji Subhas Bose and later under Mahatma Gandhi's non-cooperation movement.

Hosne Ara was the first Muslim woman to hoist the Congress Flag violating section 144 and was arrested near Howlived Monument in Calcutta and kept in Alipur, Berhampore and Midnapore jails.

The *namaz-e-janaza* of Hosne Ara was held at Mohamadpur Mosque yesterday at the graveyard adjacent to the mosque.

The quikhwani of the poetess will be held on Friday after the Asr prayers at her 5/3 Gazanvi Road, Mohamadpur resident in the city.



## Obituary

Khurshid Jahan Israil (Yakuti), the only daughter of the Late M Khudadad Khan of Khan Shiontola, Ullapara, Sirajganj died last Sunday (March 28) of cardiac arrest at the Combined Military Hospital (CMH). She was sixty-nine.

She is survived by her husband Dr M Israil Khan, ex-Director of AHR Institute, Comilla, daughters Ifat Israil Imam, Rifat Israil, Israt Imam and Nusrat Taj and sons Irfan Israil and Iqbal Israil.

Besides her distressed husband, daughters and sons, the late Khurshid Jahan has left behind her grieving sons-in-law Rafi Imam, Principal, Adamjee Cantonment College, Tatyab Ahmad Khan, Managing Director, Diganta Prokashali Ltd, Major General Inamuzzaman BB, Principal Staff Officer & Col (Ret) Tajul Islam Ganj Consultant, ICD-DRB and many relatives and admirers.

An active member of the then extant Comilla branch of All Pakistan Women's Association (APWA) in the sixties, she had earned a good reputation in different social circles of Comilla and did participate in an international conference in Karachi as a delegate from this region.

She was a niece to the late actor Fateh Lohani, TV personality Faze Lohani and a sister-in-law to the national poet Begum Sufia Kamal.

Her quikhwani will be at her residence at Hou. 4, Road-9, Section-6, Mirpur, Dhaka after Asr prayers tomorrow (Friday, April 2).

## Eviction of Bashudev Bonik N'ganj police yet to nab anyone

By Staff Correspondent

Narayanganj police are yet to arrest anyone in connection with 'looting or illegal' eviction of Bashudev Bonik from his 130-year-old business at Kalibazar area of the town.

In a case filed with the thana last Sunday Bashudev Bonik accused nine persons of looting his shop, godown and then evicting him from his ancestral business.

Narayanganj thana Officer-in-Charge, Ashrafur Rahman said that his office had filed the case Sub Inspector Akhtaruzaman was the investigating officer. He said that the complaints had sent someone to file the case. We immediately need to talk to the complainant in person," said the OIC last night.

Bashudev and his family are now in hiding following the incident. They fear reprisal from some of the most notorious terrorists of Narayanganj.

Bashudev had been running Ramdhun Oushadhalaya, a well known business house of Narayanganj, at rented premises which belonged to the Kal temple. The caretaker of the temple wanted Bashudev to move out while Bashudev insisted that the premises belonged to the temple — not to the caretaker. Bashudev paid up his monthly rent to the local rent control office.

The caretaker, Pronob Chakraborty then went to seek help from local musclemen who allegedly unleashed a reign of terror on Bashudev, extorting money, looting his shop and godown, finally demolishing the shop on March 16.

## Memorial meet held in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Mar 31: Speakers at a memorial meeting at the Daily Naya Bangla office yesterday recalled with gratitude the contributions of Abdullah Al-Sagir in the field of journalism in Chittagong, reports BSS.

## Qulkhwani

Qulkhwani of Abida Khatun, former Headmistress of Shibulaya Govt Girls' High School and wife of Alhajj Gollam Kibria, former Airport Manager ZIA, will be held after Asr prayers tomorrow (Friday) at 135 Elephant Road (near Compath), says a press release.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers have been requested to attend and pray for the eternal peace of the departed soul.

Late Abida Khatun was laid to rest at Banani graveyard after Asr prayers on Tuesday.



About one hundred and fifty thatched houses were gutted in fire at Kamalapur slum on Tuesday last. — Star photo

## BSF shoots one dead in Netrakona

NETRAKONA, Mar 31: A tribal youth was shot dead, allegedly by Indian border guards, in Kalmakanda on Friday, reports APB.

BDR sources said that Lipson Azim, 17, of village Rongchhari, died on the spot when Indian Border Security Force (BSF) fired at the victim and his father.

Azim and his father, Cornes Marak, had gone to a forest near the border camp of Mahadeo to cut wood.

BSF men took away the body of the victim and detained his father and later returned both following a flag meeting with BDR the next day.