

● What's on today.... ●

Annual general meeting: The annual general meeting of Mujibnagar Karmachari Kalyan Sangsad will be held. The election of its central executive committee will be held during the meeting. Venue: Hotel Razmoni Ishakha. Time: 10.00 am.

Founding anniversary: The fourth founding anniversary and first central conference of Garments Sramik Okya Forum will be held. Venue: Dhaka District Sports Association. Time: 10.30 am.

Rally: Gano Forum will hold a rally, which will be followed by a procession. Venue: Muktangan. Time: 3.00 pm.

Meeting: The general meeting of Bangladesh Anti Drug Federation will be held. Venue: Begum Sufia Kamal auditorium, National Museum. Time: 3.00 pm.

Inauguration: The inaugural ceremony of "Midas Mini Mart's" Bailey Road branch will be held. Chief guest: Tofail Ahmed, Minister for Commerce and Industries. Venue: House no 61, Shiddeswari. Time: 4.00 pm.

Meeting: The organising committee of the Society for Care and Welfare of Schizophrenic (SCWS) will hold a meeting. Venue: Flat no 601, Building no 3, Eastern Circuit, 30 Circuit House Road. Time: 5.00 pm.

Inauguration: The 3rd solo painting exhibition of Bipul Shah titled "Life, Nature, Reality" will be inaugurated. Venue: Zainul Gallery, Institute of Fine Arts, Dhaka University. Time: 5.00 pm.

The exhibition will remain open from 2.00 pm to 8.00 pm everyday till October 27.

Discussion meeting: Nirapad Sharak Chai will hold a discussion meeting to mark Safe Road Day '99. The day also marks the 6th death anniversary of Jahanara Kanchar, wife of film star Ilyas Kanchar. Venue: National Sports Complex auditorium. Time: 5.00 pm.

Sculpture exhibition: The first solo sculpture exhibition of Ivy Zaman will be inaugurated. Chief guest: Shah AMS Kibria, Minister for Finance. Venue: Gallery 21, 765, Satmasjid Road, Dhanmondi. Time: 5.00 pm.

Painting exhibition: The solo painting exhibition of Sarkar Nahid Nizam Mania Nipu titled "Wooden Box" will be inaugurated. Chief guest: Rafigun Nabi. Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka. Time: 5.30 pm.

The exhibition will remain open from 3.00 pm to 8.00 pm everyday till November 4.

Film show: Three French movies *My Mother's Courage*, *Au Revoir les Enfants* and *Le Plaisir* will be screened. Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka. Time: 11.00 am, 4.00pm and 6.00 pm.

Meeting: Srisri Raman Kali Mandir and Srima Anandamayi Asram Puja Uddipan Parishad will hold a general meeting. Venue: Srisri Dhakeswari Jatiya Mandir premises. Time: 6.00 pm.

Cultural evening: A solo performance by singer Shumon Chowdhury will be held. Venue: Indian High Commission Cultural Centre, 758 Satmasjid Road, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 6.30 pm.

Premiere: Bangladesh Short Film Forum will hold the premiere of *The Long Wait*, an independent documentary on pioneer sculptress Novera Ahmed by N Rashed Chowdhury. Venue: Goethe Institut, House no 10, Road no 9, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 7.00 pm.

..... and tomorrow

Seminar: Bangladesh Ain Samity will hold a seminar on "Independence of the Judiciary, and the Transparency and Accountability of Judges" will be held. Chief guest: Abdul Matin Khasru, Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs. Venue: British Council auditorium. Time: 10.00 am.

Launching ceremony: The launching ceremony of "Aid, Development and Diplomacy" by National Professor Muhammad Shamsul Huq and Prof Chowdhury Rafiqul Abbar will be held. Chief guest: Shah AMS Kibria. Venue: FREPD, Sonargaon Road, Palashi Crossing, DU campus. Time: 10.30 am.

Signing ceremony: The signing ceremony and press briefing on direct equity investment by Citicorp International in Ekushey Television Limited will be held. Venue: BRAC Inn, BRAC Centre, Mohakhali. Time: 10.30 am.

Seminar: Young Economists Forum (YEF) and Debating Club of North South University will hold a seminar on "Transhipment and its Impact on Bangladesh's Economy". Chief guest: Tofail Ahmed, Minister for Commerce and Industries. Venue: IDB Bhaban, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar. Time: 3.00 pm.

BPJA exhibition: Bangladesh Photo Journalists' Association (BPJA) will hold the inauguration of a 3-day long photo exhibition on the recently concluded 8th SAF games. Chief guest: Obaidul Quader, Minister for Youth, Sports and Culture. Venue: BPJA auditorium. Time: 4.00 pm.

Publication ceremony: The publication ceremony of two books edited by Md Rafiqul Islam Khandakar will be held. Venue: Jatiya Press Club. Time: 4.00 pm.

NICVD symposium: National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD) will hold a symposium on "Treatment of Acute Coronary Syndrome: At the turn of the Millennium". Venue: Dhaka Sheraton Hotel. Time: 7.45 pm.

Weather

Light rain likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershower is likely at a few places over Khulna, Barisal, Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Rajshahi divisions till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Moderately heavy falls is also expected at places over Khulna, Dhaka, Barisal and Sylhet divisions, according to Met Office.

It forecast that day temperature may rise 1-2 degree Celsius over the country and rainfall activities may decrease during the period.

The country's highest temperature yesterday 33.7 degree Celsius was recorded at Sitakunda and the lowest 22.6 degree Celsius at Sathkhira.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5.27 pm and rises tomorrow at 5.59 am.

Maximum and minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius	Humidity in percentage
Dhaka	30.5	24.1
Chittagong	33.0	24.5
Rajshahi	30.7	24.5
Khulna	31.5	23.5
Barisal	31.8	24.0
Sylhet	27.5	22.8
Cox's Bazar	33.0	24.0

HERE and THERE

MMC

A 12-day long issue based follow-up workshop organised by Mass-line Media Centre (MCC) Noakhali, concluded yesterday at MMC office, says a press release.

Editors and news editors of local newspaper, reporters, local correspondents of national and local newspapers participated in three separate four-day long workshop.

The last workshop was held from October 18-21. 20 news-men from Noakhali, Feni and Laxmipur participated.

MCC trainer Mir Masrur Zaman, Media Centre Chief Mobarak Hossain, Asst Media Centre Chief RM Aurangajeb, Circulation Manager Imran Ali Khan conducted the workshop.

The first issue based follow-up workshop of editors was held during October 10-13. Ten editors of local newspapers from Noakhali, Laxmipur & Feni

PM attaches great importance to foster friendly ties with Australia

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has expressed her firm conviction that peace and stability are indispensable for sustainable development of the region and said if congenial atmosphere prevails, the poor can change their fate through partnership, reports BSS from Canberra.

"It is my firm conviction that peace and stability at home and in the region are indispensable for the sustainable development," she said while speaking a dinner hosted in her honour by the Australian National University on Wednesday night.

Sheikh Hasina, who is now on a five-day official visit to Australia, said Bangladesh, through its prudent policies and programmes, has attached great importance to her relationship with Australia and other friendly countries.

The prime minister said Bangladesh considers Australia an old trusted friend as it had

not confined itself to providing support only in the struggle for independence in 1971 but also was the first western country to recognise Bangladesh's independence.

She observed that relationship over the years has gained in depth and dimension and today it has been further strengthened by the presence of thousands of Bangladeshi people in Australia.

Referring to her government's initiative to resolve internal and bilateral issues Sheikh Hasina said, "my government amicably resolved the old issue of sharing of the Ganges river water with India. This decision reflects our sincere desire to create an environment in South Asia, which would inspire other nations to resolve their bilateral issues in an amicable manner."

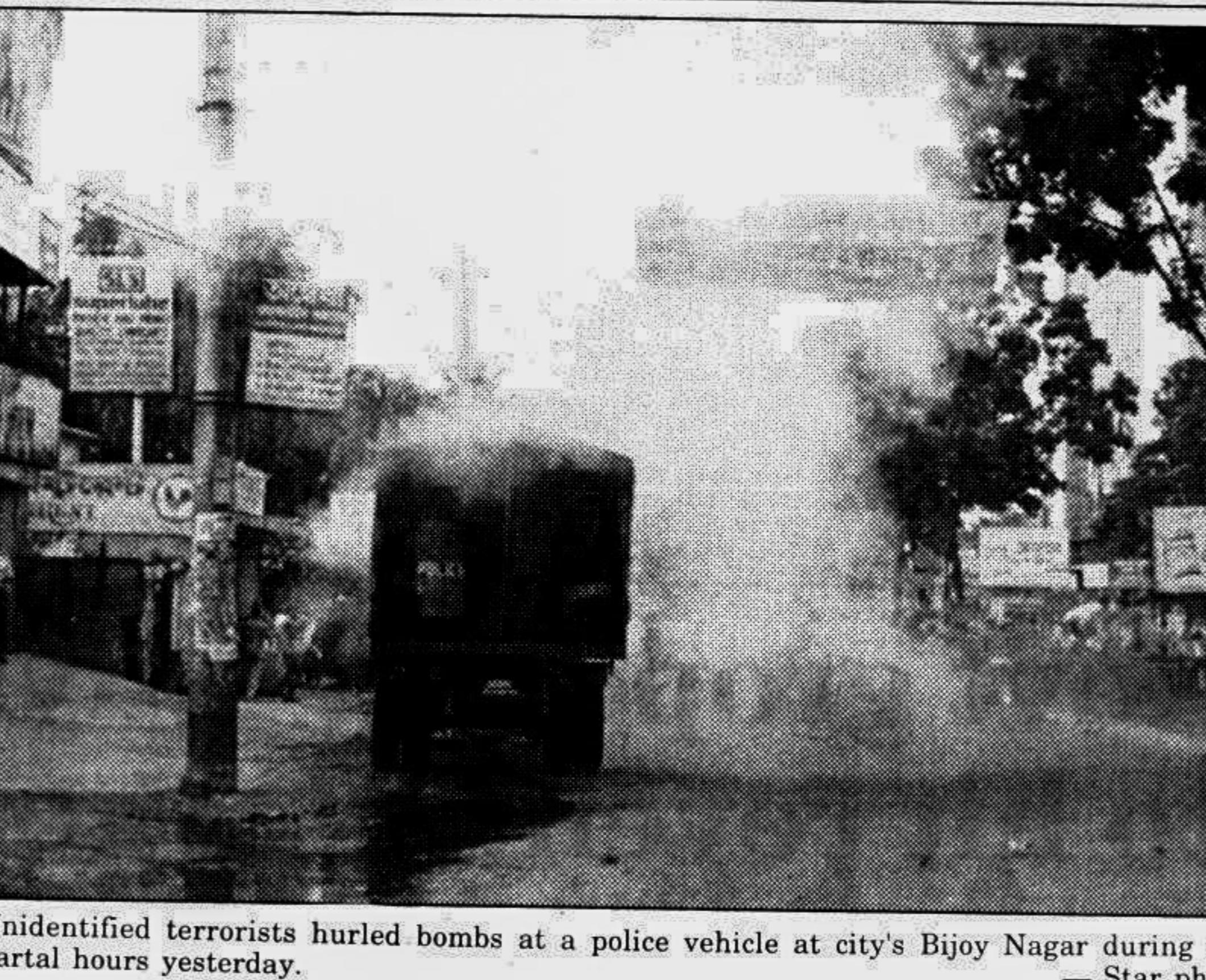
The government, reached an agreement with the tribal people in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) which brought to an end a

long period of hostility in the region. This initiative was widely acclaimed, she said.

The prime minister said good governance and transparency is another priority of her administration. "I consider the promotion of the welfare and the well-being of the people through good governance as my government's mandate," she added.

The prime minister laid emphasis on micro-credit programmes and support systems for the betterment of the poor. "I believe, human beings, however poor, do have the innate capacity to change their fate for the better through empowerment and partnership."

She also mentioned about the "Asrayan" project. The project, designed by the prime minister herself, is a comprehensive scheme for human settlement and sustainable livelihood. It will provide settlement and means of livelihood to 50,000 families.



Unidentified terrorists hurled bombs at a police vehicle at city's Bijoy Nagar during the hartal hours yesterday.

— Star photo

Khaleda to address rally at Jamalpur tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia will address a public meeting at Dewanganj high school playground in Jamalpur district on Saturday afternoon.

The meeting has been organised by Dewanganj thana BNP to protest the killing of its president Advocate Abdur Razzaq.

The BNP leader was chopped to death allegedly in an attack by Awami League terrorists during the observance of nationwide Anti-aggression Day on October 11.

Local BNP leader M Rashiduzzaman Millat will preside over the meeting while party's central and local leaders will address it, said a press release.

Niju's death condoled

State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader today expressed deep shock at the death of promising Rabindra Sangeet artiste Aminur Rahman Niju in a road accident on Wednesday.

In a message of condolence, he said the contribution made by this talented artiste to the country's art and culture would be gratefully remembered in the days to come. "His death is an irreparable loss in the field of art and culture in Bangladesh," he added.

Obaidul Quader prayed for the peace of the departed soul and conveyed his heart-felt sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

The Director General of Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy Azad Rahman and other staff members also condoled the sad demise of their beloved colleague Aminur Rahman Niju, a lecturer of the training department of the academy, and conveyed sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

If any one found guilty for violating the official ban, legal actions would be taken against him or her.

The ban will not be effective for members of the law enforcement agencies engaged in electoral process," the handout added.

Another report says: A general holiday has been announced in Faridpur-4 Jatiya Sangsads from midnight of October 28 for by-election in the constituency, scheduled to be held on October 27, reports BSS.

The ban has been imposed under the sub-section 1 of Section 17A of the Arms Act 1878 to maintain law and order in the by-election, an official handout said.

If any one found guilty for violating the official ban, legal actions would be taken against him or her.

The ban will not be effective for members of the law enforcement agencies engaged in electoral process," the handout added.

Government, semi-government and other institutions will remain closed to facilitate the people to exercise their franchise in the by-election, an official handout said.

Bangladesh Rabindra Sangstha in a statement yesterday condoled the death of artiste Aminur Rahman Niju and expressed sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

The Sangstha in an extra ordinary general meeting tomorrow will pay tributes to the noted artist at Kakoli High School in the city.

UPDF rally in Khagrachhari today

By Staff Correspondent

United Peoples' Democratic Front (UPDF), a political party based in Chittagong Hill Tracts, yesterday said that a vested quarter was trying to foil the UPDF's demonstration to be staged today in Khagrachhari.

In a press release UPDF expressed its concern saying that a vested quarter backed by JSS had brought out a procession demanding cancellation of the UPDF programme. UPDF further said that the quarter was planning to make violent attacks on the people today.

Convenor of UPDF Prashit B Khisha in a press statement urged the people to participate in the demonstration ignoring all resistance and said that if any untoward incident took place at the demonstration, the government and JSS would be held responsible.

Besides, the people have also expressed their no-confidence on the government. The people have also strongly protested government's failure, incompetence, corruption, nepotism, misrule, anti-people activities and Indian aggression in borders, she said.

In a statement yesterday, she said the countrymen have once again expressed their full support for opposition's one-point demand for resignation of the government and national election through observation of the hartal.

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Arms ban on Faridpur-4 constituency

By Staff Correspondent

KAUHAKH (Pirojpur), Oct 21: Communications Minister Anwar Hossain has congratulated the people against the adverse effects of hartals and said such destructive programme can bring no good for the people, reports BSS.

Addressing a public meeting at the Dasherkathi Government Ground here yesterday, he said the provision for free and fair elections under a non-partisan interim government has been incorporated in the constitution but some political parties seem to be seeking to impose their own plans.

The minister said polls will be held under the interim government when they are due but these parties are trying to subvert the normal procedure by calling frequent hartals and other programmes.

The communications minister said that those who plundered the wealth of the state must be brought to book and no amount of assurances to take them to task is any longer enough.

Another report says: A general holiday has been announced in Faridpur-4 Jatiya Sangsads from midnight of October 27 on account of the by-election, an official handout said.

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Bangladesh Rabindra Sangstha in a statement yesterday condoled the death of artiste Aminur Rahman Niju and expressed sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

The Sangstha in an extra ordinary general meeting tomorrow will pay tributes to the noted artist at Kakoli High School in the city.

Earlier, his *namaz-e-janaza* was held at Tiptop mosque after Zohr prayers.

Hud, 76, died at the metropolitan hospital here last night. He was a former ward commissioner of Dhaka, was suffering from diabetic problems for a long period. He left behind his wife, three sons, three daughters, relatives and a host of admirers to mourn the death.

Gulkhwan of the deceased will be held at his 67. Siddheswari residence after Asr prayers today.

It is expected that the deadlock would be resolved within a couple of weeks.

On the occasion, a *milad mahfil* will be held at his residence at House no. 40, Road No. 8, Sector no. 3, Uttara Model Town, after Asr prayers.

All his relatives, friends, well-wishers and colleagues have been requested to attend the *milad* and pray for the departed soul.

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