

### Death anniversary



The 12th death anniversary of Shahidur Rahman, a short story writer and poet, will be observed today, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil followed by a discussion on the life and works of story writer Shahidur Rahman will be held at his Tikatuli residence after Maghrib prayers today.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the milad and discussion.

### Mohiuddin Ahmed



The fourth death anniversary of Mohiuddin Ahmed, former president of Chhatra Union and advisor to the now defunct Bengali daily The Dainik Desh, will be observed today, says a press release.

Mohiuddin worked at the Bangladesh Mission in Kolkata during the War of Liberation. He died at the National Cardiovascular Institute on this day in 2000 at the age of 62.

### Sanjid Ahmed Sipu



The third death anniversary of photojournalist Sanjid Ahmed Sipu of the Bengali daily Ajker Kagaj will be observed today, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at his father's residence at 1/F/5 Mirbagh after Asr prayers today.

### Nurjahan Begum Tuku

Today is the sixth death anniversary of Nurjahan Begum Tuku, wife of poet and architect Rabiul Husain, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at the Dormitory Mainul Quran Hafizia Kaumia Madrassah and Orphanage at Green Road after Asr prayers today.

## 'Adopt Saarc convention to protect human rights'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leading South Asian human rights (HR) activists have called for adopting a Saarc convention to protect human rights by putting an end to the culture of impunity.

In a letter to Saarc leaders yesterday, they also called for enacting national legislation by member countries providing punishment to violators of human rights and ensuring effective justice to the victims.

The HR activists also urged the Saarc leaders to ratify the Statute of International Criminal Court by all member states and draft a South Asian Charter on human rights.

Meeting in Dhaka on December 19 and 20, the HR leaders from India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and the host Bangladesh made a five-point recommendations for protection of human rights.

They pointed out that torture committed by various state and non-state actors and the impunity enjoyed by them due to various legal loopholes as well as apathy from relevant institutions to take remedial actions is a matter of serious concern.

They observed that there is hardly any respect for the rule of law as most violators of human rights are immune to their crimes and no justice has been made to the victims who are generally poor.

The HR leaders also pointed out that the main reasons behind such widespread practice of impunity is the desire of remaining in power by all means including the abuse of law enforcement officials and agencies.

They said the Saarc countries are signatories to many international

HR treaties but despite that the problems of torture and impunity are rampant in the countries of the region.

To materialise their demands, the HR leaders formed a South Asian Network Against Torture and Impunity (SANTI) with Odhikar of

Bangladesh acting as the secretariat of this new regional network.

SAHRDC and CARID of India, CHRHL of Nepal, LHRLA of Pakistan, AHRC of Sri Lanka and Odhikar of Bangladesh are the members of the new organisations.

### Obituary



Haji Rahatan Nesa, mother of Sheikh Mosharrif Hossain, photojournalist, died of old age complications at Tongi yesterday at the age of 95, says a press

release. She left behind four sons, four daughters and a host of relatives to mourn her death.

She was laid to rest at her family graveyard at Saataish Gram in Tongi.

Her qulhwani will be held at her village home after Zohr prayers on January 7.

Relatives and admirers have been requested to attend the qulhwani and pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

### Qulhwani

Qulhwani of Group Captain (Retd) Mushir-ul-Mulk will be held at his residence at Baridhara DOHS after Asr prayers today.

Relatives and admirers have been requested to attend the qulhwani and pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Mushir-ul-Mulk died of cardiac arrest at the Combined Military Hospital in Dhaka on Friday at the age of 56.