



Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan speaks at a discussion meeting at the National Press Club in the city yesterday marking the first death anniversary of Barrister Ishtiaque Ahmed. Sitting from left are Muzahidul Islam Selim, Barrister Amir-ul Islam, Faruque Quazi, Dr Kamal Hossain, Barrister Moudud Ahmed, Foyez Ahmed, Rashed Khan Menon and Hasanul Haque Inu. The Law Reporters' Forum organised the meeting.

## Protect judiciary from politicisation

Speakers tell discussion on first death anniversary of Barrister Ishtiaque Ahmed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prominent lawyers, politicians, journalists and civil society members at a discussion yesterday called for protecting the judiciary from politicisation and all forms of interference and undue pressure.

The independence of the judiciary is at stake and it should be protected for the sake of the nation and democracy, they said and underscored the need for separation of the judiciary from the executive.

The Law Reporters' Forum organised the discussion in memory of prominent lawyer and former advisor of caretaker government Barrister Ishtiaque Ahmed on the occasion of his first death anniversary.

The speakers said Barrister Ishtiaque was a pioneer in upholding the independence of the judiciary and establishing the rule of law.

They urged the people to unite against the law breakers and help build a society based on the rule of law and justice.

The independence of the judiciary should be protected at any cost for the sake of democracy and the Constitution," said Dr Kamal Hossain, president of the Gono Forum.

He added that the judiciary should also be insulated from political interference and group interests.

Dr Kamal observed that the judiciary was being seriously affected by the interference of the government and the ruling party.

Recalling the memory of Ishtiaque Ahmed, he said Ishtiaque always took a very strong position on the protection of the judiciary and the Constitution.

He recalled that Ishtiaque Ahmed had resigned from the post of attorney general when he was asked to approve a proposal that tormented his conscience.

As an adviser of the caretaker government, Barrister Ishtiaque had

formulated all rules and regulations for the separation of judiciary, he said.

Barrister Amir-ul Islam said the country is now in danger as the government was making the judiciary ineffective.

He said the judiciary has no freedom. The country has been pushed towards grave crisis through rendering the judiciary powerless, he added.

Barrister Islam said the government has completed all processes to bring the lower court under its control. "Judges are being appointed from the party men," he added.

Law Minister Moudud Ahmed, however, said the judiciary has been enjoying full freedom and 100 to 150 writs are being issued against the government everyday.

The minister categorically denied the allegation of politicisation of the judiciary, saying that none of the judges has been appointed without consultations with the chief justice since the four-party alliance government assumed the office.

He said the image of the judiciary has been tarnished by unjustified statements.

The law minister regretted that the civil society has also been divided into many groups.

Paying tributes to Barrister Ishtiaque, he said Ishtiaque always fought for the causes of the nation, not of any particular group or political party.

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan said Barrister Ishtiaque dedicated his life to establishing the rule of law in the society.

Editor of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam called for a social movement to establish the rule of law.

Barrister Ishtiaque personified the rule of law, he said and urged all to fulfil his dream of establishing the rule of law.

Mahfuz Anam said the society

would not survive if the people do not abide by rules and laws. Laws are being violated by every quarter in every sector, he added.

Attorney General AF Hasan Ariff, Workers Party president Rashed Khan Menon, Muzahidul Islam Selim of the Communist Party of Bangladesh, Hasanul Haque Inu of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal and Barrister M Zahir also spoke.

Journalist Faruque Quazi presided over the discussion held at the National Press Club.

## Family members of Dr Shahidullah meet president

UNB, Dhaka

Family members of linguist Dr Muhammad Shahidullah yesterday met President Iajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban and requested for government steps to observe the birth and death anniversary of the language veteran at national level.

They also called for renaming Dhaka University Language Institute and the road in front of Bangla Academy after Dr Muhammad Shahidullah, introducing "Dr Shahidullah Medal" in Bangla Academy and setting up a Chair in the DU after his name.

President Iajuddin gave a patient hearing to the delegation members, led by Dr Shahidullah's granddaughter Farida Moni, and stressed the need for upholding the dignity of the country's knowledgeable men.

## INDIAN RIVER LINKING PROJECT

# Nat'l consensus a must to face challenge

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Though water withdrawal from the Ganges-Brahmaputra basin is a matter of regional and international concern, India is opposed to resolving the issue multilaterally, said the water experts at a workshop yesterday.

The national workshop on Indian River Linking Project was organised by Bangladesh People's Initiative against River Linking at the IDB Bhaban.

"That India does not entertain a third party's role is a serious problem in resolving the water dispute," said the Editor of the New Age Enayeturrahman Khan who presided over the inaugural session.

If coordinated efforts are not made both at government and non-government levels, Bangladesh will have to accept the same fate as it met in the case of Farakka barrage, he said.

As the project poses a serious threat to Bangladesh's existence, the government along with the civil society has to immediately raise the issue at international forum, said Dr Asif Nazrul of Dhaka University in his paper.

Diversion of the natural flow of Ganges and Brahmaputra water depriving Bangladesh of its share would mean violation of articles three and nine of the Ganges Water Treaty, he said.

Barrister Ziaur Rahman MP, who heads the parliamentary standing committee on foreign affairs, said, "It seems useless to argue with a vast country like India that usually takes decision disregarding its neighbour's woes."

Terming the project as a big

challenge to Bangladesh, Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdullah Al Noman said we need national consensus.

Dr Ainun Nishat, Bangladesh Representative of IUCN, said whatever share of the Ganges, Bangladesh gets at Hardinge Bridge point, is just the residual flow and once Brahmaputra water is diverted, country's agriculture, fisheries, ecology and livelihood will face devastation.

Sundari trees at Sundarbans, the world's largest mangrove forest, are dying out fast because of high salinity thanks to adverse impact of Farakka barrage, he said.

Once implemented, the river linking project will render 1.8 lakh people jobless forcing nine lakh people to hunger and destitution per year, said M Asaduzzaman of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies.

Besides, rice production will be reduced by at least one million metric ton annually as 75 percent of the country's total rice production depends on irrigation, he said.

In terms of money, the total loss involving all sectors will amount to Tk 30 billion per year, he added.

Water withdrawal from Brahmaputra will severely affect water supply in Dhaka city, said BUET Prof AKM Zahid Uddin Chowdhury.

"A trans-boundary river basin is a natural configuration which no single country can alter arbitrarily," said Geology Professor Naser Ezazul Huq of Jahangirnagar University. Bangladesh gets 80 percent of its water supply from the river Brahmaputra during the dry season, he added.

## Two shot, another stabbed in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three people were injured in three separate incidents in the capital yesterday.

Fish trader Shahiduzzaman, 25, was stabbed by unidentified criminals in front of his house at Sureswar in Shyampur at 4:15pm.

He was returning home from the market when the gang intercepted his rickshaw. They stabbed and snatched away Tk 80,000 from him before fleeing the scene," said his nephew Shahad.

He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) with critical wounds in his head, hands and legs.

Shyampur police could not say anything about the incident.

In the other incident, a gang of about 13 hoodlums led by Mozammel demanded toll from Hasanul Haque Hasnat, 30, a contractor at Sekandrabagh in East Badda, when he was working at his Badda site at around 10:00am.

As Hasnat refused, Mozammel opened fire at his leg and snatched away a cheque for Tk 75,000, cash worth Tk 5,000, one mobile set and a

gold chain from his possession. Locals rushed Hasnat to DMCH with three bullet-wounds at his left thigh.

Before leaving the spot by opening blank fire, the gang also looted three shops, said the eyewitnesses.

Badda police could not give further details.

In the last incident, a gang of five miscreants opened fired at a toll collector injuring him seriously at Ashulia in Uttara in the morning.

Masud Sarker, 30, was going to his workplace in a rickshaw when the gang shot at him and fled the spot.

Locals rushed him to DMCH from where he was shifted to Pangu hospital.

His relatives could not say the reason behind the attack.

## 1,222 more held

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested 1,222 people on various charges during their countrywide drive in last 24 hours till 6:00am yesterday.

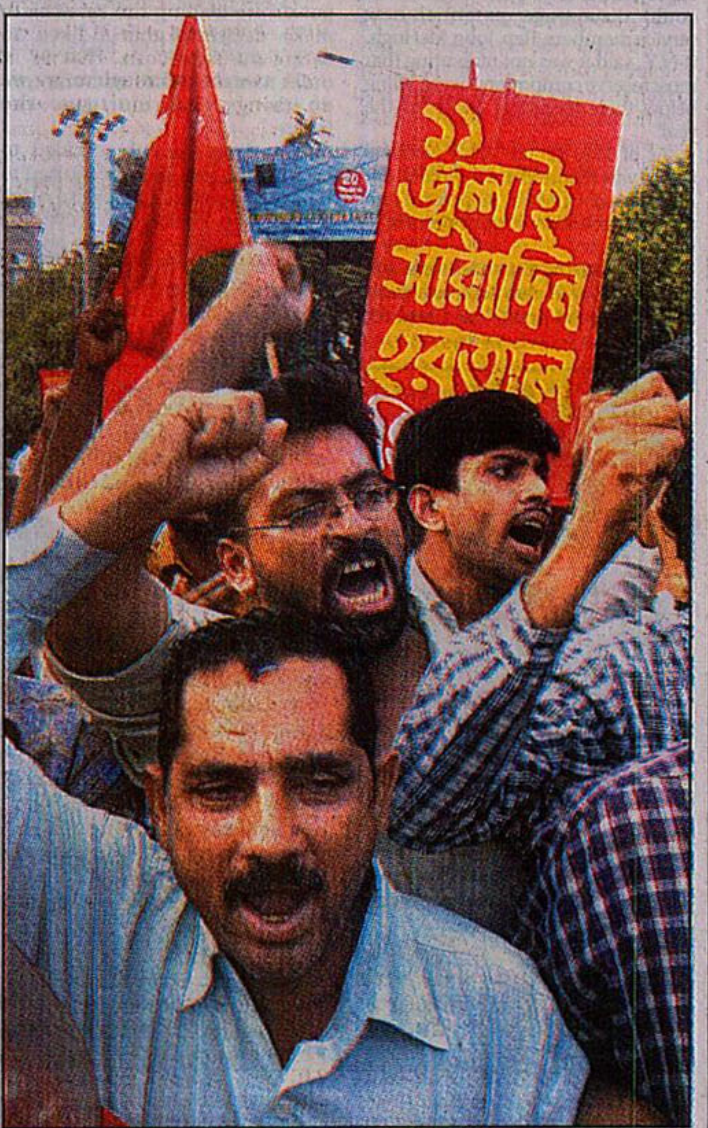


PHOTO: STAR

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) took out a procession at Muktangan in the city yesterday in support of July 11 countrywide hartal.



## Mahbub Anam's anniversary of death today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the third death anniversary of Mahbub Anam, former editor of The Bangladesh Times. He passed away on this day in 2001 after suffering from cancer of the pancreas.

Mahbub Anam served with distinction as the editor of The Bangladesh Times from 1991 to 1996. He was also a senior vice-president and executive committee member of Bangladesh Editor's Council and was actively involved with Bangladesh Sangbadpatri Parishad, Bangladesh Press Council and Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha Porichalona Board.

In a professional career spanning over 30 years, Mahbub Anam also served as a senior executive of the then Pakistan Observer, director of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation and general manager of the Jamuna Oil Company.

Mahbub Anam actively took part in the language movement in 1952. He was jailed for his role in the movement as general secretary of the Rashtrabhasa Sangram Parishad. He was also the publication secretary of the Jukta Front on behalf of the Awami League in 1954 and served as the general secretary of Salimullah Muslim Hall of Dhaka University in 1954-55.

Mahbub Anam authored several books, including 'Amra Bangladesh Amra Bangali' and 'Uthasher Shikriti Bonam Bikriti'.

A recipient of Swadhinata Padak and Sher-e-Bangla Gold Medal for his contribution to journalism, Mahbub Anam was also awarded the Bhasa Andolone Bir Shainik Padak by president Ziaur Rahman in recognition of his contribution to the language movement.

He was the second son of eminent litterateur, journalist, lawyer and politician late Abul Mansur Ahmad and elder brother of Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star and publisher of the Prothom Alo.

## Maj Shahjahan laid to rest

UNB, Dhaka

Major Mohammad Shahjahan, killed in a helicopter crash in Sierra Leone, was laid to rest with full military honour at his family graveyard at Kalemshir village in Chandina, Comilla yesterday.

Earlier, his first namaz-e-janaza was held at Chopper's Den in Dhaka Cantonment at 8:00am. President and Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces Iajuddin Ahmed, Chief of Army Staff Lt General Hasan Mashud Chowdhury, Chief of the Naval Staff Rear Admiral Shah Iqbal Mujtaba and Chief of the Air Staff Air Vice Marshal Fakhrul Alam attended the janaza.

Relatives of the deceased, senior army officials and a large number of military personnel also attended the janaza, says an ISPR release.

Later, President Iajuddin, military secretary to the prime minister Brigadier General Sharif Uddin on behalf of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and the Chief of Army Staff Lt General Hasan Mashud Chowdhury placed wreaths on the coffin of Shahjahan to pay their last respects.

The body was later taken to Comilla Cantonment by a military helicopter where his second janaza was held. Then it was taken to Paoue Primary School maidan in Chandina in a ceremonial funeral procession. His third and last janaza was held there.

Some 24 peacekeepers of different countries, including Major Shahjahan, died in the helicopter crash on its way to the eastern town of Kallahun from the Sierra Leone capital of Freetown on June 29.

## Qulkhwani

Qulkhwani of Md Shaheed Mazhar Chowdhury Nipu, a businessman, will be held at his residence at Dhanmondi, House No-47, Road No-5 in the city after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

He died of cardiac arrest on July 4.

## Md Fazlur Rahman

Qulkhwani of Md Fazlur Rahman, president of the Bangladesh Primary School Teachers Association, will be held at his village home at Thekera under Monohardi upazila after Juma prayers today, says a press release.

He died on Sunday at his village home.

## New rules for visa applicants to Canada

UNB, Dhaka

The Canadian High Commission here has announced new rules for visa applicants to Canada.

Individuals who apply for visas to Canada must follow new rules if they pay a representative to act on their behalf.

A paid representative is anyone who charges a fee to represent, advise or consult in immigration matters, said a Canadian High Commission media release yesterday.

The new regulations state that a paid representative must be authorised. The authorised, paid representatives may only be:

\* Immigration consultants who are members in good standing of the Canadian Society of Immigration Consultants; or

\* Lawyers who are members in good standing in Canadian law society and students-at-law under their supervision; or

\* Notaries who are members in good standing of the Chambre des notaires du Quebec and students-at-law under their supervision.

Applicants will be required to disclose the name and membership information of their representative when they apply.

If you have an application or proceeding already under way as

of April 13, 2004, you may continue to use the services of your paid representative until April 13, 2008.

After April 13, 2008, if your paid representative is not a member of one of the organisations listed above, you may choose to continue unrepresented or hire an authorised representative.

Applicants may also be represented by family members, friends and members of non-governmental or religious organisations as long as no fees are charged for their services.

The government of Canada can share information about an applicant with a non-charging representative so long as the representative has been authorised by the applicant and is a Canadian citizen, or a permanent resident of Canada.

No one is obliged to hire a representative for immigration and refugee matters. The Government of Canada treats everyone equally, whether they use the services of a representative or not, said the media release.

More information can be had from Visa/Immigration Office of Canadian High Commission, House No. 16/A, Road 48, Gulshan 2, Dhaka-1212. (Tel: 9887091-97. Web: www.bangladesh.gc.ca)



President Iajuddin Ahmed pays last respect to Major Md Shahjahan after placing a wreath on his coffin yesterday.

## English medium schools do not follow rules

Speakers tell roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday urged the government to frame laws to bring English medium schools under a regulation.

They alleged English medium schools do not follow any regulations and charge exorbitant fees without providing necessary facilities including playground to the students.

The speakers were participating in a roundtable titled "Physical and environmental requirements of quality education" organised by Dhanmondi Parishad Unnayan Jote at BETS Centre in the city.

Cross section of people including teachers, guardians, students, architect, lawyers, NGO activists and inhabitants of Dhanmondi participated in the roundtable.

Speakers touched on various problems facing the education, particularly the private education sector.

They said commercialisation of education had shown reckless disregard for architectural standard of educational institutions.

This had extremely negative consequences for physical safety, emotional health and mental development of children, they added.

Architect Mubashwar Hussain of the Institute of Architects Bangladesh (IAB), Dr Md Masum of Jahangirnagar University, Dr Manzur Ahmed of BRAC University, Sultana Alam of DPUJ and Mustafizur Rahman of Lalmita Cooperative Housing Society took part in the discussion moderated by noted educationist Prof Muzaffar Ahmed.

Sultana Alam said entrepreneurs are setting up schools and universities at private houses and even at apartments instead of investing on land for open and bigger campuses.

As a result, children are forced to spend a large part of their working hours in cramped classrooms causing noise and air pollution, she

added. Sultana said 148 homes are being used as campus in Dhanmondi where a large number of clinics and shops have also been established.

Prof Muzaffar Ahmed said none of the private English medium schools at Dhanmondi qualifies to be a "school" as per its definition.

He alleged that the government has failed to bring English medium schools under any regulation which is crucial for quality education.

Mubashwar Hussain said the government has prepared a master plan but we do not see its implementation.

He underscored the need for implementation of zonal plan.

Mustafizur Rahman called upon all to follow the examples set by Lalmita Cooperative Housing Society through community participation to improve law and order.

## Non-govt pry teachers threaten strike from tomorrow

UNB, Dhaka

Non-government primary school teachers yesterday concluded their six-day work abstention programme.

But threatened to enforce a nonstop shutdown programme from Saturday.

Bangladesh Non-government Primary Teachers' Association (BNPTA) enforced the six-day class boycott on July 3 demanding nationalisation of their jobs.

The association leaders will announce next course of action at a grand rally at Central Shaheed Minar in the city on July 24.

## A tribute to Prof Kamaluddin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Professor Kamaluddin Ahmad, the pioneer of the study of biochemistry and nutrition in Bangladesh and an internationally renowned scientist, passed away following a cardiac arrest on July 4 in Manila, Philippines.

A brilliant scientist and scholar of indomitable energy and wide interests, Professor Ahmad combined an uncanny knack in scientific research with building institutions of scientific learning in the country.

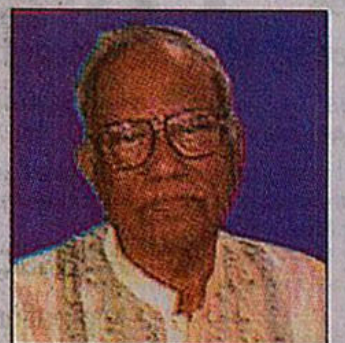
He is best known for having founded and developing the departments of biochemistry and pharmacy and the Institute of Nutrition and Food Science at the University of Dhaka.

He was a leader of the scientific community at large, having served, among others, as the first president of the Bangladesh Association for Advancement of Science as well as president of the Bangladesh Academy of Sciences. For years, he led the Bangladesh Biochemical Society as well as the Nutrition Society. He was elected a Fellow of the Third World Academy of Sciences in Trieste, Italy.

Professor Ahmad was deeply moved when he witnessed on a visit to the northern districts of Bangladesh the scourge of the crippling disease of lathyrism. Research on lathyrism was restrained by scientists' inability to produce the disease in experimental animals. Professor Ahmad soon produced the first experimental case of lathyrism in animals and demonstrated that vitamin C supplementation could prevent the dreaded disease. When the University of Wisconsin in Madison, Wisconsin, USA, convened a special symposium to

celebrate its 100 founding anniversary, it invited some of its most illustrious alumni, including several Nobel Prize winners. Professor Ahmad was invited to discuss his groundbreaking work on vitamin C and lathyrism at this gathering.

When arsenic contamination engulfed Bangladesh, Dr Ahmad, long retired from the University of Dhaka, returned to his laboratories. He noted that, in human body, arsenic first accumulates in hair and fingers and toenails, and began to develop a promising therapy for



Professor Kamaluddin Ahmad

chronic arsenic poisoning -- a work that sadly remains unfinished.

He was the discoverer of Ramnacin, named after the old Ramna ground around which he spent almost all of his professional life, the first crystalline antibiotic from the Indian sub-continent, and of numerous other drugs derived from plant products for cure of diseases such as shigellosis -- a particularly virulent form of diarrhoea.

After he retired from the University of Dhaka, he founded and served as research director of the Bangladesh Institute of Herbal Medicine. He argued that scientific

cally developed natural drugs could be hugely effective in the treatment of illnesses at a price the poor could afford.

He received many accolades throughout his life. In 1960 at a fairly young age, he was feted as the "Best University Professor" in a Pride of Performance Award from the then president of Pakistan. In 1970, he was given the honour of Sitihara Khidmat by the then president of Pakistan.

Professor Ahmad was born in Gohira, Chittagong on September 1, 1923 to a humble family. His father died when Kamaluddin Ahmad was only 16, leaving no obvious guardian or much by way of property or money. It is through sheer brilliance, hard work and a lot of merit scholarships that he pursued his education, often sending some small savings from his scholarship money to his family still in the village. He graduated with a first class first in chemistry from the University of Dhaka and then earned a Master's in chemistry, again with a first class first and a gold medal for extraordinary scores.

As the Second World War was drawing to a close, he sailed on a war ship then converted to civilian use from Bombay to San Francisco en route to Madison, Wisconsin. There he easily earned a Ph.D. in biochemistry at the University of Wisconsin in less than three years, having discovered and published a new and highly elegant election transport method for Antimycin-A in the American Journal of Chemistry.

The remarkable life of Professor Kamaluddin Ahmad is a testament to the boundless possibilities of talent, however deprived its condition of origin may be.