

The Khan Foundation organised a 'National Convention 2005 on Khan Foundation NGO Network' in the city on Thursday. From left are Executive Director of Aid Tariqul Islam Palash, Executive Director of Khan Foundation Rokhsana Khondker, Information Minister M Shamsul Islam, Science and ICT Minister Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan and Executive Director of GKS Khandaker Selim Jahangir.

'Accountability of govt, NGOs a must for good governance'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ensuring accountability of both the government and NGOs is a must to promote good governance, said Science and ICT Minister Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan on Thursday.

He also called on the donors to focus on small NGOs to ensure transparency and accountability.

The minister was speaking as chief guest at the concluding session of the 'National Convention 2005 on Khan Foundation NGO Network' in the city. More than 300 representatives of NGOs across the country took part in the convention.

Speaking as guest of honour,

economist Dr Wahiduddin Mahmud called on the NGOs to expand the range of their activities. They have to work to prevent child marriage, improve the quality of education and to ensure good governance, he said.

Information Minister M Shamsul Islam attended the opening ceremony as chief guest while Canadian High Commissioner David Sproule and cabinet secretary Dr Saadat Hussain were present as special guests.

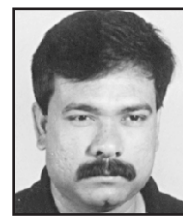
The information minister said the NGOs should help the government in its development efforts as it is not possible for the government alone

to carry out all activities.

The Canadian envoy said the NGOs are playing an important role in the development of the country. He also assured that Canada will provide continued assistance for the development of Bangladesh.

Advocate Rokhsana Khondker, executive director of Khan Foundation, presided over the daylong convention.

Congratulations



Harun-Ur-Rashid Askari, an associate professor and chairman of the department of English,

Islamic University, Kushtia has obtained Ph.D. degree in English from the University of Pune, India, says a press release.

The title of his thesis was "Nirad C. Chaudhuri and England: A Critical Study." Dr. Askari started his doctoral dissertation in July 2001 and obtained the degree in March this year.

Chehlum of Amina Serniabat held

UNB, Dhaka

Chehlum of Amina Serniabat, younger sister of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and wife of former minister late Abdur Rab Serniabat, was held here yesterday.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil and prayer seeking divine blessings for the departed soul was held at Bangabandhu Memorial Museum at Dhanmondi.

Amina died on March 24 at her Dhanmondi residence at the age of 81.

Dhaka-Dinajpur new train from tomorrow

UNB, Dinajpur

Bangladesh Railway will introduce a new inter-city train, 'Drutajan Express', on Dhaka-Dinajpur route in its western zone.

A railway official here said that the train would be inaugurated on May 1. He said the train will depart Dinajpur at 9.00am and reach the capital at 6.00pm crossing the Jamuna Bridge.

It will now have 11 bogies and the number of compartments will be raised in future, the official said.

Two other inter-city trains - Ekota Express and Tista Express - are now running between Dinajpur and Dhaka.

Day labourer killed in road accident

UNB, Dhaka

A day labourer was crushed under the wheels of a speedy bus in Keraniganj Upazila on Thursday night.

Police said Bablu, 28, was killed on the spot when run over by the bus on the southern side of 2nd Buriganaga Bridge.

Bablu, who hailed from Bakshiganj upazila in Gaibandha district, was returning from his workplace at Nayabazar in Dhaka to his residence in Keraniganj.

Jalil protests attack on Bajitpur leader

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil yesterday protested the attack on Rabilluah, Majichar union AL general secretary in Bajitpur upazilla of Kishoreganj district.

In a statement, Jalil said that "armed cadres of ruling BNP and son of a local MP" assaulted Rabilluah as he contested as a chairman candidate in the union parishad election.

He also criticised the role of police of Bajitpur thana.

The AL leader demanded immediate arrest of the attackers and urged the "BNP-Jamaat alliance government to refrain from such attacks."