

Shahadat Chy laid to rest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent journalist and freedom fighter Shahadat Chowdhury was buried with state honour at Mirpur Freedom Fighters Graveyard yesterday.

Hundreds of people from all walks of life and different political, social and cultural organisations paid their last tribute to late Shahadat at the Central Shaheed Minar and Jatiya Press Club before he was taken for burial.

On the Jatiya Press Club premises, a guard of honour was given to the deceased's coffin that was draped with national flag.

Shahadat Chowdhury, also editor of the weekly magazine

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Deal on trans-Asian railway finalised

Bangladesh to be part of it

ANN

Countries in the Asia-Pacific region have finalised a draft intergovernmental agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network (TAR) Nov 30, which is expected to play an important role in the construction and upgrading of railway lines in Asia.

The agreement, which is a major steps towards an integrated, inter-

national and intermodal network in the region, is the outcome of a three-day meeting among transport officials.

A similar agreement for the Asian Highway Network came into force in July 2005.

"Through the two agreements, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) wants to provide a solid basis for a regional approach to

transport development, ushering in a new era of cooperation and creating a partnership for regional integration," said.

UNESCAP Executive Secretary Kim Hak-Su in a press release.

The agreement will be presented to the 62nd session of the UNESCAP Commission for adoption in April 2006. A signing ceremony will be held at the Ministerial

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More JMB threats

STAR REPORT

The militants of the banned Islamist outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) yesterday threatened to blow up an NGO in Madaripur and kill a journalist in Netrakona, and deputy commissioner (DC) and superintendent of police (SP) in Comilla.

ABogra court, meanwhile, asked the authorities concerned to produce JMB chief Shaikh Abdur Rahman and his Operations Commander Siddiqui Islam alias Bangla Bhai by December 9.

In the development of crack down on the militants since Tuesday night, the police netted 19 more JMB cadres across the country.

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PHOTO: STAR

Policemen intercept a procession of the 14-party opposition combine marching towards the DC office in Old Dhaka yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR

Mourners pay their last tributes to freedom fighter and eminent journalist Shahadat Chowdhury at the Central Shaheed Minar in the capital yesterday.

PRICE SPIRAL, RATION FOR POOR 14-party lays siege to DC offices

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Awami League (AL)-led 14-party opposition alliance laid siege to deputy commissioners' (DC) offices across the country yesterday, demanding a reduction of prices of essentials and the introduction of rationing for the poor.

In Dhaka, opposition leaders and workers held the demonstration in front of the DC's office at Old Dhaka, braving a barbed wire barricade put by police.

Hundreds of demonstrators chanted anti-government slogans during the two-hour demonstration

yesterday morning, demanding the immediate resignation of the Khaleda Zia administration. Many of the demonstrators brandished placards inscribed with anti-government slogans.

Prior to the siege programme, the opposition coalition held a brief rally at Bahadur Shah Park.

Addressing the rally, 14-party leaders urged people to wage an all-out movement against the BNP-Jamaat alliance government and to install a secular democratic government after implementing the opposition's 23-point minimum

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FENI GAS Niko to go to int'l court over price

UNB, Dhaka

Niko, the Canadian operator of Feni and Tengratila gas fields, has decided to go to International Arbitration Court for settling the gas

price issue with the government.

The Canadian company conveyed the decision to the government immediately after it received

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Oust MPs with 'militant links'

B Chy, Kamal ask govt, propose nat'l dialogue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDB) and Jatiya Oikya Mancha yesterday demanded the ouster of the ministers and lawmakers with alleged militant links, and the arrest of the killers involved in suicide bomb attacks within 24 hours.

Expressing grave concern over Tuesday's bomb blasts in Chittagong and Gazipur, which killed nine and wounded 78, they demanded a national dialogue to take up a united national action plan to protect and uphold constitutional rule in the country and to ensure national security.

Oikya Manch's President Dr Kamal Hossain and BDB President

AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury made the demands in a joint statement at a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club.

Holding the next general elections and the exercise of democratic rights will be difficult if the people are to remain in a state of insecurity due to bomb attacks and threats, they said.

Dr Kamal blamed the government for its 'negligence and failure' to ensure the security of the people.

"Inaction of the government and lack of political will to bring the culprits to book have encouraged the militants to attempt to destroy the judiciary, parliament, constitution and national security," he said

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Bomb explodes behind Khulna BNP office

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A powerful bomb went off at 8:15am yesterday in the backyard of Khulna BNP office on KD Ghose Road, a few yards off Khulna Police Station (PS), but there was no casualty.

The police and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) rushed to the spot, cordoned off and searched the area for about half an hour. They recovered some scattered splinters from the ground.

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Prayer Timing		
December 1		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fair	5-15	5-50
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrib	5-19	5-22
Esha	7-00	7-30
Source: Islamic Foundation		