

Birth anniversary of Shaikat Osman today

DU CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 91st birth anniversary of Shaikat Osman.

Shaikat Osman, one of the eminent Bengali writers of the 20th century, was a vocal critic of communalism and fundamentalism. He also fought for the right of repressed people through his writings.

He was born on this day in 1917 at Sabalsinghpur village in Hughli district, West Bengal.

He earned many accolades and awards, including Bangla Academy Award, Ekushey Award and Independence Day Award, for his contribution to literature. His famous novel 'Janani' (Maa) has been translated into English.

He passed away at the Combined Military Hospital in Dhaka on May 14 in 1998.

To mark his 91st birth anniversary, Shaikat Osman Memorial Council has taken up various programmes.

Socio-cultural organisations will place wreaths at his grave at Mirpur Martyred Intellectuals' Graveyard at 10:00am.

A discussion will be held at the Liberation War Museum in the city at 4:00pm. Prof Kabir Chowdhury, journalist Abed Khan, artist Hashem Khan, artist Rafiqun Nabi, artist Modub Ali and Prof Syed Manzoorul Islam will take part in the discussion.

Prof Bulbon Osman will preside over the discussion.

80th birthday of Swadesh Bose today



Today is the 80th birthday of Swadesh Bose, an eminent economist, says a press release.

He was a member of the planning commission of Bangladesh during the liberation war and the first acting director general of FBIS.

Researcher Swadesh Bose has dedicated his life to establishing justice in society and made significant contribution to this field both nationally and internationally.

To celebrate his 80th birthday, his friends, well-wishers and admirers will hold a programme at Biam auditorium in the city at 4:30pm today. The programme includes a discussion and cultural function.

Payment of fees a must for showing films in exhibition Says Censor Board

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Film Censor Board in a clarification has said fees must be paid to the government for showing any film in any public exhibition as per the Bangladesh Censorship of Film Rules 1977.

According to a press release of the Press Information Department issued on Monday, confusion has been created following some media reports on fees for showing films at the 10th International Film Festival.

"As per the rules, securing a censor certificate and paying fees at fixed rates are a must for showing a film in any public exhibition, and this rule was also followed in the cases of previous film festivals," it added.

According to the Section 8 of The Censorship of Film Act 1963, exhibiting any film without censor certificate is a punishable offence, and according to section 45 of General Financial Rules there is no scope for waiving government tax or fees without the consent of the finance division.

Under Section 7 of the Film Clubs (registration and regulation) Act 1980, these films can be exhibited only on non-commercial basis.

"Despite issuing letters more than once to the organisers of the film festival, there has been no application, declaration, submission of films or paying fees to Bangladesh Film Censor Board," it said.

The Board expects that the organisers of the film festival will maintain a healthy environment by following all the rules and regulations for the interest of exhibiting standard films in the country.

DHAKA TODAY

Roundtable

UNDP organises a roundtable on 'Real trade and phantom aid-Bangladesh in global context'. Venue: Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 3:00pm.

Seminar

Institute of Microfinance and Pali Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) jointly organise a national seminar on micro-finance. Venue: PKSF auditorium. Time: 2:30pm.

MORALITY CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED

Moral degradation brews corruption

Says Prof Muzaffer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

World peace would be established if morality is reflected in social and political activities, said Chairman of the Transparency International Bangladesh Prof Muzaffer Ahmad at a meeting yesterday.

He said people's morality has declined alarmingly resulting corruption and many other vices in the society.

The meeting was organised by Ajachak Ashram Bangladesh at the National Press Club in the city.

The Ashram announced January 1 as Morality Campaign Day and to mark the occasion they launched a countrywide mass signature campaign.

Prof Muzaffer inaugurated the campaign saying, "We fought liberation war to establish a society free from discrimination, oppression and repression, but we could not establish it."

Mentioning the question paper leakage of political science department of Dhaka University (DU), he said, "It is beyond our thinking and it shows the decayed state of our morality."

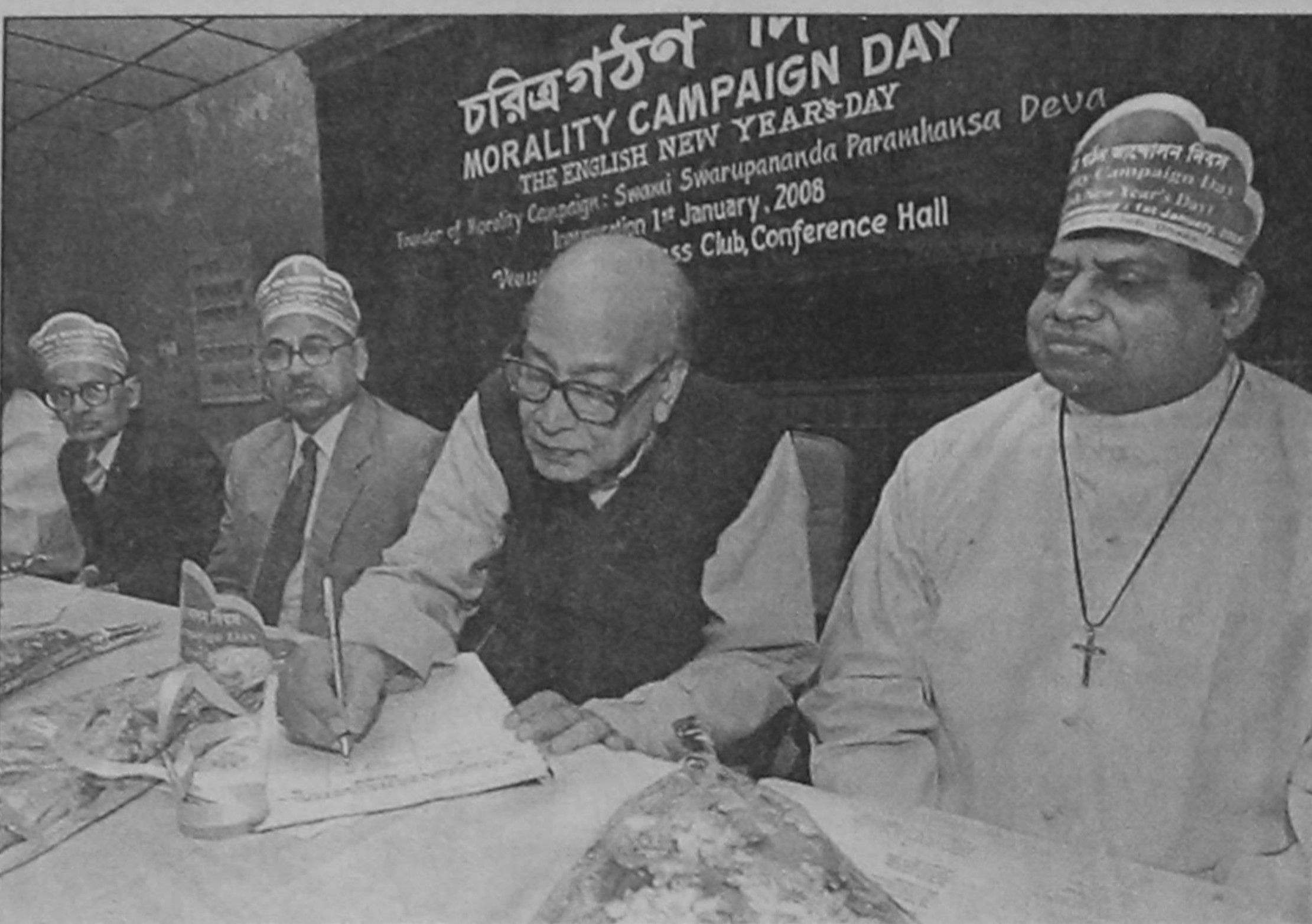
The TIB chief said it is necessary to start the lesson of morality from family and school for a non-communal and prosperous country.

"We have to carry out the morality campaign for the welfare of the country and for world peace," he added.

Noted columnist Syed Abul Maksud said once this subcontinent had reputation across the globe for its moral values.

But it is unfortunate that a country of this subcontinent became champion in corruption.

Presided over by Dr Kazi Nurul Islam, chairman of the Department of World Religions at DU, the meeting was also addressed by Justice Quazi Ebadul Haque, Chairman of the Ashram Kabiraj Sukhranjan Brahmachari, Principal of the Ashram Dr Jugul Brahmachari and Dr Pares Chandra Mandal, professor of Sanskrit and Pali department.



Prof Muzaffer Ahmad inaugurates a signature campaign at a meeting marking the Morality Campaign Day at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. On his left is Father Tapan D Rozario and on his right are Dr Kazi Nurul Islam and Justice Quazi Ebadul Haque.

Start process of trial of war criminals

Demand JP leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party (Ershad) leaders yesterday called on the government to start the process of trial of war criminals and anti-liberation elements immediately.

It is unfortunate that the war criminals were not tried in the last 36 years, they said at a meeting marking the 22nd founding anniversary of the party at the Diploma Engineers' Institute auditorium in the city.

Presided over by party's Acting Chairman Anisul Islam Mahmud, the meeting was attended by GM Kader, Nasim Osman, Syed Abu Hossain Babla, Ghulam Habib, Brig Gen (ret'd) Kazi Mahmud Hassan, Mostafa Jamal Haider and Ziauddin Ahmed.

Chaos broke out at the meeting suddenly when two president members of the party protested against allowing one of their colleagues who is junior to them to speak before them.

Ghulam Habib and Brig Gen (ret'd) Kazi Mahmud Hassan registered their protest when the

moderator of the meeting announced the name of president member Ziauddin Ahmed as the next speaker after Syed Abu Hossain Babla delivered his speech.

Habib and Kazi Mahmud claimed that they are senior to Ziauddin.

The chaos, however, subsided after Acting Chairman Anisul Islam intervened and started delivering his speech.

Anisul Islam said the caretaker government has no coordination in its activities.

He also warned that the people would lose faith and trust in the caretaker government, if it makes any mistake.

The JP acting chairman also criticised the government for its failure to control the price hike.

He called on the government to form an effective security council to protect national sovereignty.

He also hoped that the Jatiya Party would regain power in the next election.

JOURNO DIPANKAR KILLING Reinvestigation demanded

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) have demanded reinvestigation into journalist Dipankar Chakraborty killing case.

In a statement yesterday, BFUJ President Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul and Secretary General Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan alleged that a quarter is trying to suppress the murder case.

They demanded exemplary punishment to the killers of Dipankar, former vice president of BFUJ.



Appeal for help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Parents of Syed Bin Shahadat, a seven-year-old boy who has been suffering from a genetic disease that progressively destroys the brain, have sought financial assistance for the treatment of their son.

Shahadat, son of Syed Sabbir, a resident of 10/15 Iqbal Road, Mohammadpur, started to show symptoms of the disease during the month of Ramadan. He has been losing his memory and physical strength fast since then.

The boy was diagnosed with adrenoleukodystrophy (ALD) after he was taken to Apollo Hospitals.

Doctors said Shahadat must undergo advanced treatment in Singapore immediately. Otherwise, he might not survive, they added.

The treatment involves a huge amount of money and it is impossible for his father, who is a school teacher, to afford such an expensive treatment.

He has appealed to generous people and organisations to extend a helping hand to save the life of his son.

Contributions can be sent to Ahmed Ilyas, Savings Account No-7648, Rupali Bank Ltd, Mohammadpur Branch, Dhaka.

Interested persons can also call at 01720027178, 01921098158 and 01552359498 to contact the boy's family.

HIGH COURT JUDGES SC Bar leaders oppose BJSA demand

UNB, Dhaka

Incumbent and former leaders of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) yesterday strongly protested the demand for 50 per cent appointments of High Court judges from among the members of Bangladesh Judicial Service Association (BJSA).

On Saturday, the BJSA put forward the demand before the chief justice at its 57th annual conference held at Osmani Memorial Hall in the capital.

Dismissing the demand as "unrealistic, unlawful and outcome of trade-union mindset", the SCBA leaders said such demand raised by the association is a "neo evil effort" to weaken the judiciary at the highest level.

This is "unfortunate and disappointing" after the separation of the judiciary from the executive control.

In a joint statement, they also urged the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs to take appropriate step to restrain the judges of the subordinate courts from conducting such "trade union-like activities in the name of association".

The signatories to the statement are SCBA Secretary AM Amin Uddin and ex-secretaries M Shahidul Karim Siddique, M Montaz Uddin Fakir, M Mahbub Ali, Bashir Ahmed and M Enayetur Rahim.

Boat procession to raise awareness about river pollution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Save the Environment Movement yesterday held a cultural function and took out a boat procession in the Buriganga with a view to raising awareness about river pollution.

A total of 26 boats displaying banners joined the procession that started from near the 2nd Buriganga Bridge adjacent to Mitford Hospital in the afternoon.

The cultural function was held at the pontoon of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) near Swarighat in the morning.

After the boat procession, environmentalists gathered at the BIWTA pontoon and demanded several steps to protect the river from pollution.

The demands include demolition of illegal structures on the river bank, dredging of the river and an end to dumping of solid waste and garbage.

They also urged the caretaker government to take stern action against those who did not set up treatment plants in their industries.

Save the Environment Movement Chairman Abu Naser Khan, Sheikh Mohammad Shahidullah and Rayhan Khalid were present.

Fair polls not possible with present bureaucrats Says Quarishi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Convener of Progressive Democratic Party (PDP) Ferdous Ahmad Quarishi on Monday said it is not possible to hold a free, fair and credible election as many of the bureaucrats are politically biased towards the two major political parties.

He vowed to contest in all 300 constituencies and hoped to win the majority of them and therefore form the government.

The PDP chief was addressing a discussion organised by PDP to mark the Victory Day at the National Press Club in the city.

Presided by Maj Gen (ret'd) NA Rafiqul Hossain, the meeting was also addressed by PDP leader Abul Hasan Chowdhury and Tajul Islam Chowdhury.

'115 were killed in crossfire last yr'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 2,30,074 people were arrested, 115 killed in crossfire, 296 women became victim of dowry in 2007, an Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) report said on Monday.

The report, prepared on the basis of newspaper reports, said 115 people were killed by crossfire or encounter by Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and police while 12 killed in the custody of the joint forces.

According to the report 97 journalists were tortured, harassed or given threat by the law enforcers last year. It said 63 journalists also faced cases for publishing their reports during the time.

The ASK report further said 565 women were raped last year. Of them, 90 were killed after rape while 8 committed suicide after being raped.

Moreover, 296 women fell victim to dowry and 187 were killed centring dowry.

The report also said 126 patients died due to negligence of doctors.



Chittagong City Corporation Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury was produced before a Chittagong court yesterday.

Row over release of detained teachers, students Duta faces new crisis

DU CORRESPONDENT

Pro-BNP-Jamaat teachers belonging to White Panel of Dhaka University Teachers' Association (Duta) yesterday termed false the statement made by some teachers of pro-Awami League Blue Panel on Monday.

In their statement, the White Panel teachers said what the Blue Panel teachers in a press briefing on Monday told about the decisions of Sunday's general meeting was not true.

They also alleged that the Blue Panel teachers dishonoured the acting president Prof Tazmeri SA Islam, acting general secretary Dr Mamun Ahmed and Vice-Chancellor Prof SMA Faiz in the meeting which was called to discuss Duta executive committee elections 2008 and release of the detainees.

The Blue Panel teachers also created pressure for pursuing various programmes like admission test abstention, resignation of acting deans, sit-in programme,

wearing black-badges and self-imprisonment to free the detainees," said the statement.

"So for the sake of congenial academic atmosphere and considering the future of students, the acting president did not give her consent to those proposals," it added.

They also termed the Blue Panel teachers' attitudes "ill-motivated." Sources said the Duta is now facing a new crisis within itself over the release of detained teachers and students.

Differences between the two factions became wider following the general meeting which ended abruptly without any decision about the actions that could be taken to free the detainees.

In the general meeting, the teachers were virtually divided into two groups just before it was coming to an end as the acting president and the acting general secretary, both belonging to White Panel, left the meeting amid protest from the teachers.

Before leaving the meeting Prof

Tazmeri said the existing executive committee would not take any decision regarding the release of the detainees.

Decisions in this regard would be taken by the next executive committee to be elected on January 15, she added.

After their departure, the Blue Panel teachers accused the acting president of violating the spirit of democracy by imposing her decision on others.

They also decided to take some programmes to free the detained teachers and students after the university's academic activities resume on January 8.

Army official meets DUVC DU VC Prof SMA Faiz held a meeting with an army official at his office yesterday afternoon.

Prof Tazmeri and Dr Mamun were present at the meeting.

Later, the VC said they discussed the issue of detained teachers and students.

He said the discussion was held in a congenial atmosphere and it was positive and fruitful.



Chittagong metropolitan police seize many CNG-run autorickshaws without meter in the port city yesterday.

Crackdown on autorickshaws without meters

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Traffic department of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) yesterday launched a crackdown on CNG-run autorickshaws having no meters.

The law-enforcement agency seized around 500 autorickshaws during raids on eleven points in the city, sources said.

A number of teams conducted the raids on 10 intersections, including Karnaphuli Bridge New Market, Bahaddershah, GEC, Muradpur, Salgola, Cement Crossing, Barapal, Olankar, Oxygen.

Assistant Commissioner (AC) Khondaker Rezaul Karim of CMP traffic department said they also filed cases against the autorickshaws on charges of not installing meters, not repairing the damaged ones and not using the meters.

A few teams with members in plain clothes would also start conducting drives in the evening, he said.

At a meeting on November 28, Mainur Rahman Chowdhury, then CMP Commissioner, warned that stern action would be taken against drivers and owners of CNG-run autorickshaws who would not use meters.

Later, the traffic department in a meeting with drivers, owners, commuters, journalists and Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) on December 5 gave a ten-day ultimatum for installation and repair of meters.

Obituary

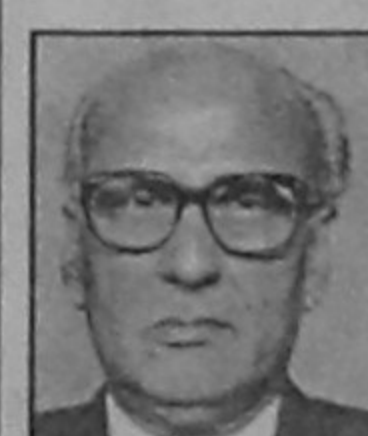
A CORRESPONDENT, C'naubaganj

Ahmed Ali Tufan, a freedom fighter, passed away due to a cardiac arrest at his Babupara residence in Chapai Nawabganj municipality area yesterday at the age of 57.

He has left behind his wife, five sons, five daughters and a host of admirers to mourn his death.

Freedom fighters in Chapai Nawabganj expressed deep shock at his death and conveyed sympathy to members of the bereaved family.

Death anniversary



Today is the 9th death anniversary of Foyez Ahmad Chowdhury, a senior lawyer of High Court, says press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held after Maghrib prayers at his second son's residence at Tollabag in the city.

Relatives, admirers and his colleagues have been requested to attend the milad mahfil.



Fall in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Light to moderate fog may occur over the river basins of the country during early morning, Met Office said, adding that night temperature may fall slightly over the country.

Highest temperature 29.0 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sitakunda and lowest 08.5 degrees Celsius at Rajshahi.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:23pm today and rises at 6:42am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	25.6	15.2	68	62
Chittagong	24.8	15.6	76	70
Rajshahi	24.4	08.5	75	78
Khulna	24.2	12.0	74	74
Barisal	25.2	12.0	85	82
Sylhet	26.7	15.3	79	67
Cox's Bazar	28.3	16.0	68	73