



Ahmed Kabir Choudhury passes away

Ahmed Kabir Choudhury of Sylhet, a language movement veteran, passed away on January 7 at the age of 77, says a press release.

He was the son of late Khan Bahadur Abdur Rahim Choudhury, public prosecutor, and Zobeda Rahim Choudhury, the first Muslim woman politician of Bangladesh.

Ahmed Kabir Choudhury obtained MA in economics from Dhaka University. He participated in the Language Movement of 1952 while a student in Dhaka. While leading student protests, he was injured during confrontations with the police.

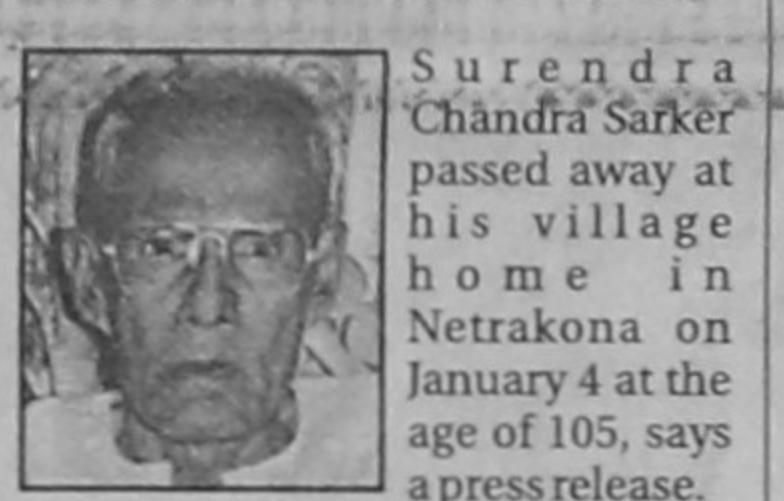
He married Tuli Kabir of Ahia Villa, Sylhet, in 1958. Tuli Kabir, niece of renowned writer Syed Mujtaba Ali, passed away in 1990.

Ahmed Kabir Choudhury was also a tea-planter, rubber-planter and arborist. His love of trees led him to plant many unusual and rare varieties of fruit and ornamental trees at his plantation near Srimongol over a 40-year span. Some trees he raised include Casuarina, Cinnamon, Buddha-Narikel, Avocado, Rambutan and numerous varieties of citrus.

Choudhury is survived by his children Ihtisham Kabir, Imtiaz Kabir and Durba Kabir, five grandchildren, three brothers, three sisters and a host of relatives, friends and well-wishers.

His qulkhani will be held on January 11 after Asr prayers at Road # 3, House # 22, Old DOHS. Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to attend the qul.

Surendra Chandra Sarker



Surendra Chandra Sarker passed away at his home in Netrakona on January 4 at the age of 105, says a press release.

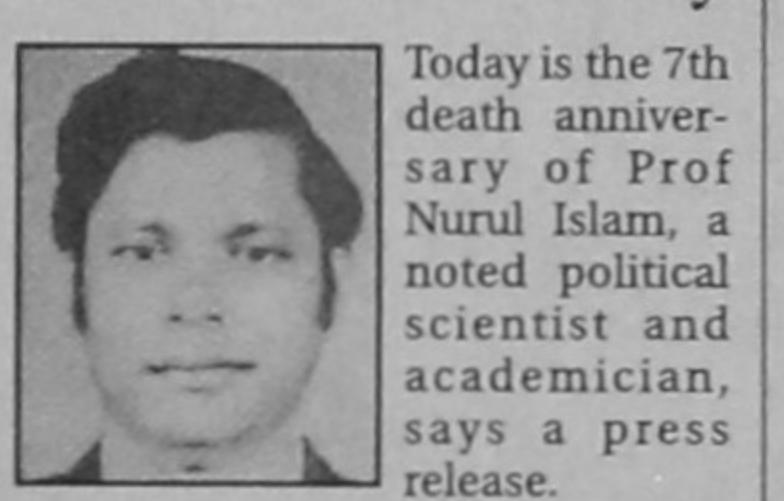
He left behind four sons, one daughter and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death.

He is the father of Dr M Sarker, managing director of Sajib Chemical Company Limited.

His Shradha will be held at his village home on January 16.

His relatives, admirers and employees of Sajib Chemical are requested to attend the Shradha.

Death anniversary



Today is the 7th death anniversary of Prof Nurul Islam, a noted political scientist and academician, says a press release.

Prof Islam was the vice president of Asian Cultural Centre in Japan. He was awarded gold medals abroad for his research works.

**EWG completes voter awareness campaign in 1000 unions**

To assist the Bangladesh Election Commission in preparing voter rolls, Election Working Group (EWG) launched voters' awareness campaign in 1000 unions across the country in last six months, says a press release.

The campaign is going on in 921 unions and will be in 1018 more unions this month.

This was disclosed at a workshop for district coordinators and the focal points of member organisations of EWG held at WVA auditorium in the city yesterday.

Rallies, miking, special meetings with hard to reach communities, display of banners, distribution of leaflets and folk cultural programmes were arranged to motivate voters to register in the voter roll during this time, the release added.

Dr Zahurul Alam, director of EWG, said in the workshop that their campaign has motivated the voters and speeded up the registration process. Army officials, civil administration officials, local government representatives and the media helped them much in their campaign, he added.

## CA seeks cops' help in facing challenges

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed yesterday sought all-out cooperation of the police with the government in facing reform, electoral and economic challenges.

The challenges will have to be tackled successfully investing all strength in the interest of country's welfare and bringing about fair democratic dispensation, he said addressing police officials ranking SP and above on the occasion of the Police Week 2008 at the International Conference Centre (ICC) in the capital.

He also urged the police force to take all-out initiative to establish a knowledge-based, honest, efficient and enlightened police service to build up a peaceful democratic society and establish justice and good governance in the country.

Reminding that peace, discipline and stability are the main preconditions of economic development and social progress, Fakhruddin said it is the responsibility of the police to perform their assigned responsibilities properly for ensuring people's rights and maintaining law and order, he told the function.

The police will have to earn people's confidence by utilising the opportunity and the sense of relief that made a comeback in public mind following steps taken against terrorism, extortionists and the

public life and property.

In this regard, he said police members in all levels will have to remain aware and alert and all will have to be groomed with a mindset for socio-economic development.

The CA hoped that the police will play the expected role in smooth transportation of goods and creating trade and investment-friendly environment free of fear and intimidation.

Fakhruddin specially urged the police officials to take necessary steps to make secure the present huge investment in the readymade garment sector.

He asked them to take initiative to set up a 'Specialised Industrial-region Security System' suitable to Bangladesh, reviewing the models and strategies on ensuring security in industrial areas in different countries.

Communications Adviser Maj Gen (Retd) MA Matin, Home Secretary Md Abdul Karim, Inspector General of Police Noor Mohammad, Additional IGP Nabo Kishore Tripura and Special Super of Special Branch Golam Rasul also spoke at the function.

Communications Adviser Matin said those who were in power in the past "used police illogically and unjustly for their vested interest".

As a result, police could not perform their assigned responsibilities properly for ensuring people's rights and maintaining law and order, he told the function.

IGP Noor stressed the urgency of approval of the draft of the Bangladesh Police Ordinance 2007 for modernising the police force.



Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed addresses the police officials at his office in the city yesterday on the occasion of Police Week-2008.

## SAUDI AIRLINES OFFICE Passengers protest mismanagement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Several hundred air passengers, mostly migrant workers, staged a demonstration outside the office of the Saudi Arabian Airlines at Karwan Bazar in the city yesterday to protest the mismanagement by the office authorities.

The hour-long protest on the road beside Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel, housing the airlines office, led to a massive traffic congestion at noon, causing untold suffering to commuters.

Doulat Akbar, officer-in-charge of Ramna police station, said the passengers protested the mismanagement by the airlines office.

As the airlines office do not have any seating arrangement for the passengers, they have to wait on the roadside, he added.

## DU Gha unit admission test deferred

DU CORRESPONDENT

Admission test of Gha unit for the sessions 2007-2008 at Dhaka University will be held at 10:00am on February 8 instead of January 18.

A press release said the examination has been deferred due to unavailable circumstances.

Admission test for Kha unit will be held on February 1.

## WEATHER TODAY No change in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 28.4 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sitakundu and lowest 10.5 degrees Celsius at Rajshahi and Chittagong.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:29pm today and rises at 6:43am tomorrow.

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

City/Town	Temperature in celsius	Humidity in percentage	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	26.9	14.4	64	52
Chittagong	25.5	15.0	83	92
Rajshahi	26.3	10.5	89	68
Khulna	26.5	13.4	88	68
Barisal	27.6	15.0	89	75
Sylhet	26.9	14.8	70	72
Cox's Bazar	28.0	6.4	74	63

## Launch movement against communal, imperialist forces

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday called on the government to ban religion-based politics and take steps without delay to bring the war criminals to book.

They also called on all to launch a mass movement against the communal and imperialist forces.

Left Democratic Front (LDF) organised the roundtable at Mukti Bhavan at Purana Paltan in the city.

Udichi President Jatin Sarkar, columnist Syed Abul Maksud, Coordinator of Sector Commanders Forum Lt Gen (retd) Harun-ur-Rashid, writer and journalist Shahriar Kabir, Prof Anu Muhammad, Prof MM Akash and President of Workers Party Rashed Khan Menon took part in the discussion.

The speakers vowed to eliminate war criminals from the country through legal process.

They also urged all political parties to sever relationship with Jamaat and all other anti-liberation forces.

Jatin Sarkar said, "We will have to assess ourselves. Imperialist and communal forces got the opportunities to dominate us because we failed to act properly."

Former Jamaat leaders self-proclaimed war criminals, Shahriar Kabir said the Jamaat-e-Islami has no right to do politics in the country, as the constitution does not allow religion-based politics.

It will depend on how much pressure we put on it," Irene Khan told a roundtable titled 'Freedom of Expression in Bangladesh' at Drik Gallery.

The discussion was jointly organised by Drik News and Amnesty International, Shahidul Alam of Drik Gallery in the chair.

The AI chief said it must be clear whether the government has formed the Human Rights Commission after discussing with the civil society members and others concerned or with a motive to keep it just within its ministry.

The said appointments of the commission members must be done

Other accused are Mufti Taiyab, Maulana Hedayatullah, Mufti Abul Kair, Mohammad Ali Hossain, Khaled Mosharraf, Shafiqur Rahman, Mizanur Rahman and Saiful Islam.

The two-day conference intended to share experience and ideas of NGOs, and to involve government and civil society in the movement.

Representatives from Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Maldives and Bangladesh are participating in the consultation meeting.

Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM), Alcohol and Drug Information Centre (ADC), Sri Lanka, Shelter Don Bosco-India and Vienna NGO Committee on Narcotics Drugs jointly organise the conference.

President Kazir Rafiqul Alam presided over the inaugural ceremony and DG of Narcotic Control Directorate Md Humayun Kabir was present as the chief guest.

A gang of extortionists stabbed a transport businessman at Shyampur in the capital yesterday as he refused to pay Tk 3 lakh in toll. The victim, Harun-ur-Rashid, with stab injuries in his head and back was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital in a critical condition.

The gang of four local hoodlums attacked Rashid when he was returning home in the area from Boudi Bazar in Shyampur at around 5:00pm.

Family sources said the gang demanded Tk 3 lakh from him about two months ago.



President Iajuddin Ahmed administers the oath to five newly appointed advisers to the caretaker government at Bangabhaban in the city yesterday. From left are Hossain Zillur Rahman, Rasheda K Choudhury, Maj Gen (Retd) Ghulam Quader, AF Hassan Arif and AMM Shawkat Ali. (Story on Page 1)

PHOTO: PID

UNB, Dhaka

Arms Case

## Trial deferred as KCC mayor falls ill

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The Special Tribunal (fourth court of Khulna yesterday deferred the trial of detained Khulna City Corporation (KCC) Mayor Sheikh Tayebur Rahman in an arms case as he could not appear at the tribunal because of his illness.

The trial will begin on January 16 if the condition of the mayor improves, according to a source at the special tribunal.

The tribunal was scheduled to record the deposition of prosecution witnesses yesterday.

Tayebur Rahman was admitted to Khulna Medical College Hospital (KMCH) from Khulna District Jail at 3:00pm on Tuesday. He was taken to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital (BSMMU) by an ambulance at 8:00pm on the same day as his condition deteriorated.

The Superintendent of Khulna District Jail Salaiman Ali said the mayor has been suffering from diabetes, arthritis, hypertension and cardiovascular pain.

Mayor Tayebur Rahman was arrested on the night of November 2 last year from his residence in Birkat and brought to Khulna the next day.

He was granted bail by a Dhaka court in a land grabbing and intimidation case yesterday.

Former BNP MP Mosaddek Ali Falu was granted bail by a Dhaka court in a land grabbing and intimidation case yesterday.

He will be succeeded by Dr Sheik Kant Sharma, also the Indian permanent representative to International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Vienna.

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