



Shaheed Matiur's anniversary of death today

Today is the 39th death anniversary of Shaheed Matiur Rahman, who sacrificed his life during the mass upsurge of 1969, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil and discussion will be held at his alma mater, Nabakumar Institution, in the city at 9:00am.

Principal Abdul Halim, Vice Principal Md Abul Kalam, governing body member Mahbubuzzaman and Matiur's father Azhar Ali Mallik will take part in the discussion.

Barrister Ahmed Ali Khan



Today is 48th death anniversary of Barrister Ahmed Ali Khan, a distinguished scholar, says a press release.

He was the eldest son of late Khan Bahadur Dr Asadur Ali Khan, a renowned physician of the then Bengal, Bihar, Orissa.

Relatives and admirers have been requested to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Saleha Huq



Today is the fifth death anniversary of Saleha Huq, wife of late Syed Nurul Huq, a retired director of Power Development Board, says a press release.

On the occasion, Quran khwan will be held at the residence of her son Engr Syed Ziaul Huque in Dhaka and at the residence of her another son Dr Syed Maksumul Huq in Barisal.

Her family members have requested their relatives and well-wishers to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Begum Rabia Khatoun



Today is the first death anniversary of Begum Rabia Khatoun, wife of late Alhaj SM Ilyas, says a press release.

On the occasion, qurankhwan and milad mahfil will be held after Maghrib prayers at Easton Tower, 20 Eskaton Road in the city.

Relatives and admirers have been requested to attend the programme and pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Dhaka should study WTO competition policy

Experts say

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh is to study and understand the competition policy of the WTO to reap the highest benefit from it.

"We have to study and understand the competition policy, enact our own law in this regard and take the opinion from the experts as soon as possible to get the highest benefit from this," said former ambassador of Bangladesh in Geneva Toufiq Ali at a seminar yesterday.

Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) organised the seminar titled 'Competition Policy and WTO: Bangladesh Perspective' in the city.

FBCCI Administrator Syed Manzur Elahi presided over the seminar, while director general of the WTO Cell of Commerce Ministry AKM Fazlur Rahman presented the keynote paper.

Toufiq Ali emphasised the product development and increase of manufacturing skills.

The former envoy stressed the need for product diversification to secure new markets across the world.

Syed Manzur Elahi said that competition policy is a less discussed matter but it is a vital issue as it aims to promote efficiency and protect the interest of the consumer.

"Competition policy of any individual economy should strike a delicate balance between the import volume of foreign products and the degree of protection of home industry and employment, centering round the core policy of consumer interest," he said.

Wholesale trade liberalisation not good for Bangladesh

Economists tell seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Economists have suggested that the government should not go for a wholesale trade liberalisation to remain competitive in global business.

Rather, a partial, rational and gradual trade liberalisation is better option for Bangladesh, they viewed this at a seminar in Dhaka yesterday.

The South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM) organised the seminar on trade liberalisation issues to mark its first founding anniversary and launching of two books at the city's BRAC Centre.

One book is 'Dynamics of Trade Liberalisation in Bangladesh: Analyses of Policies and Practices' written by Selim Raihan and the other book is 'Venturing into a Quota-Free World: The Ready Made Garment Industry of Bangladesh' edited by Abdur Razzaque and Selim Raihan. Pathak Shamabesh published the books.

Chairman of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) Professor Rehman Sobhan attended the

programme as chief guest where academics, scholars from home and abroad, businessmen and business leaders spoke among others.

Edwin Laurent, adviser and head of section, International Trade and Regional Co-operation Economic Affairs Division, was present as the guest of honour.

Commenting on the two books, Rehman Sobhan said it is not very good to be more liberalised in international trade. "A partial, rational and gradual trade liberalisation is good option for Bangladesh," he said, suggesting that policy makers should review such liberalisation issue very carefully.

In his book Selim Raihan, who teaches Economics at the University of Dhaka, divided the trade issues into three broad categories that include the regime of restricted trade from 1972 to 1980, the regime of moderate trade liberalisation from 1980 to 1991 and the regime of rapid trade liberalisation from 1991 to onwards.

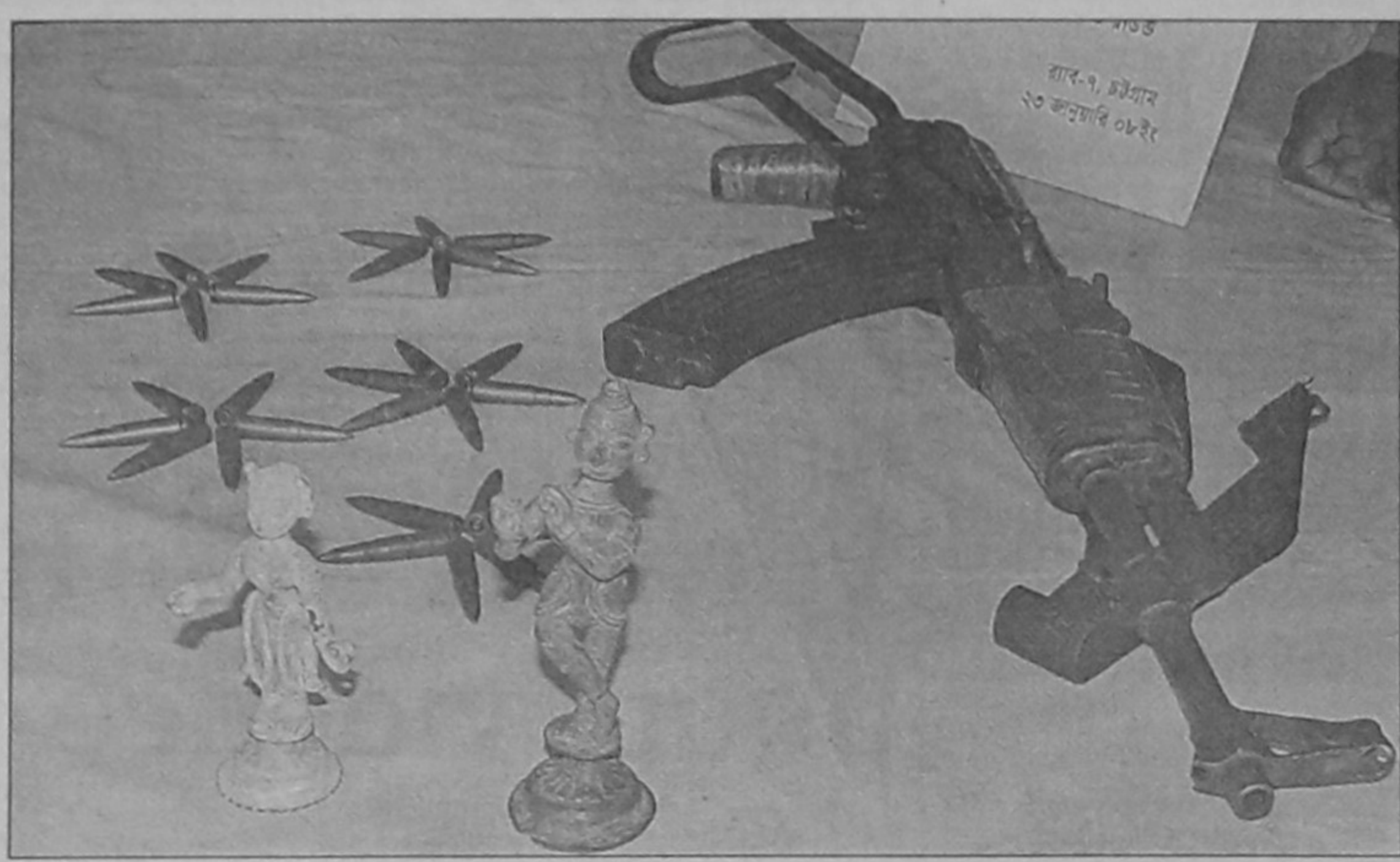
In the book 'Venturing into a Quota-Free World: The Ready Made Garment Industry of Bangladesh,'

both Abdur Razzaque and Selim Raihan said if the US agrees to allow the least developed countries (LDCs) a duty- and quota-free market access, the LDCs' total gains turn to be \$0.59 billion, of which about \$0.5 billion goes to Bangladesh.

In the open discussion session, former president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) Anisul Haq said the withdrawal of safeguard on export of Chinese apparel to EU and US markets is a major challenge for Bangladeshi RMG sector.

Huq said only 10 percent productivity has been raised in the sector over the last four years, whereas the sustainability rate is 20 percent.

World Bank Senior Economist Zaidi Sattar said the trade was really prohibited before 1990s and tariff was more than 100 percent. In the post-1990 period, tariff was reduced, he said, adding that rational trade liberalisation is doing better.



Rapid Action Battalion members seized an AK-47 rifle, bullets and two brass statuettes during separate raids at Raozan and Boalkhali in Chittagong yesterday.

Ties with Pakistan to be strengthened further in future

President tells Pak naval chief

BSS, Dhaka

Visiting Pakistan Navy Chief Admiral M Afzal Tahir yesterday called on President Iajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban.

During the call on, the president thanked the government of Pakistan for providing quick assistance to the Sidr victims of Bangladesh.

Iajuddin expressed satisfaction at the current good ties between Bangladesh and Pakistan and hoped that the bilateral cooperation in different sectors including navy would be strengthened further in the days to come.

The president observed that frequent exchange of visit by the senior officials of both the countries and expansion of training would help strengthening further the existing bond of friendship.

Admiral Afzal expressed his satisfaction over the existing relation between the naval forces of the two countries. He apprised the president of different activities of

Pakistan Navy. The Pakistan Navy Chief also appreciated the role of present government in rehabilitating the cyclone-affected people.

Pakistan High Commissioner to Bangladesh Alamgir Babar was present during the meeting.

Military Secretary to the president Major General Mohd Aminul Karim, Secretary Md Sirajul Islam and Press Secretary Abdul Awal Howlader were also present.

BSS also adds: Admiral M Afzal Tahir paid a courtesy call on Defence Secretary Kamrul Hasan at Ministry of Defence, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the city.

An ISPR release said, Admiral Afzal Tahir remained with the defence secretary for some time and discussed matters of professional interest.

Joint Secretary (W&D), Ministry of Defence, Brigadier General Shah Md Sultan Uddin Iqbal, Bir Protik was present on the occasion.

Hasina's personal assistant Babul arrested again at jail gate

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lalbagh police again arrested Mahmud Hassan Babul, personal assistant to detained Awami League President Sheikh Hasina, from in front of the Dhaka Central Jail gate minutes after his release on bail yesterday.

Babul, who had been detained in connection with a case under the Emergency Power Rules (EPRs), came out of the jail at 12:30pm only to be arrested again.

Lalbagh police said Babul was held again under the EPRs and sent to jail on a court order an hour later. This is the third time that Babul was arrested under the EPRs, his family members said.

On January 16, the High Court granted bail for three months to Babul in the case and issued a suo moto rule asking the Deputy Commissioner of Dhaka, DMP Commissioner and officer-in-charge of Lalbagh Police Station to explain why Babul should not be cleared of the case.



BNP leader Khandakar Delwar Hossain speaks at a discussion marking the 72nd birth anniversary of late president Ziaur Rahman at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. Student leaders of the eighties organised the discussion.

Lift emergency to ensure democratic rights

Left party leaders urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Democratic Left Alliance yesterday called on the caretaker government to lift emergency immediately to ensure democratic rights with a view to making a success its initiative to hold dialogue with the political parties.

They also called for immediate release of detained university students and withdrawal of cases against them.

The leaders made the call at a meeting held at the Workers' Party office in the city, with Alliance coordinator and Workers' Party General Secretary Saiful Haque in the chair.

They also called on the government and the garment factory owners to pay salary arrears and overtime bills to the workers instead of trying to establish the issue of conspiracy as a reason for workers' agitation.

They urged the authorities concerned to withdraw cases filed against garment workers and their leaders.

The meeting also called for implementing the tripartite agreement and ensuring the workers' right to trade union.

Alliance leaders Khalequzzaman, Tipu Biswas, Khandakar Ali Abbas, Mostefa Mishu, Jonayed Saki and Abdus Salam spoke at the meeting.

Citizen's Charter launched

BSS, Dhaka

The Department of Mass Communication (DMC) has published a Citizen's Charter to provide information about its service.

Information Secretary Jamil Osman launched the charter at the DMC office yesterday, saying it will help ensure the department's service for the people, according to an official handout.

The charter includes history of DMC, its organogram, objectives and responsibility, mass awareness sectors, strategy for providing service, ways of getting the service, a list of service and the place for filing complaints.

There will be display boards on Citizen's Charter in front of all district information offices.

Additional Information Secretary Syed Hasinur Rahman and Director General of DMC Mohammad Abdul Mannan also spoke on the occasion.

'Wage movement to save jute sector'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday said that frail leadership, dishonest officials and corrupt labour leaders together pushed our jute industry on the verge of ruin.

The speakers also said that agriculture and economy of a country cannot be self-dependent if she follows the policy of the World Bank, adding that the country must come out of such policy to revitalise the industry.

The speakers also urged the labourers, farmers, businessmen, economist and civil society to wage a movement to save the sector.

Nagarik Sanghati in association with Action Aid organised the discussion at National Press Club in the city, says a press release.

The speakers at the discussion also proposed a 21-point proposal to save the jute sector and called for a continuous movement.

They also said that the heritage of the country is being destroyed in the name of open market economy.

Jute is not only an agricultural product in our heritage but production of jute is increasing across the world, as it is environment-

friendly, they added.

Noted columnist Sayed Abul Maksud presided over the meeting while journalist Golam Mortuza, former lawmaker GM Quader, former jute secretary Salahuddin and leaders from different jute associations also spoke at the meeting.

One killed in wall collapse

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

A day labourer was killed and two others were injured when a dilapidated wall collapsed on them at Pagla under Fatullah Police Station yesterday.

The dead was identified as Habib Mollah, 45, son of late Qader Mollah of Dakkhin Takta Balia village under Amtali upazila in Barguna. One of the injured was identified as Jahangir Alam, 30.

Police said the accident occurred when a group of workers were working to dismantle a 10-foot high and 60-foot wide wall of a business firm. All of a sudden the wall collapsed on the workers.

Production at Zia fertiliser factory suspended

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

Production at Zia Fertiliser Company at Ashuganj has remained suspended since Tuesday night after the compressor vessel of its ammonia plant exploded and caught fire.

The authorities formed a five-member committee headed by Engineer Md Ruhul Amin, general manager (commercial) of the company, yesterday to identify the reasons for the explosion and to assess the damage.

According to factory sources, the compressor vessel overheated and exploded at about 6:30 pm on Tuesday, creating a panic among staffs and officers.

The fire fighting team of the company managed to extinguish the fire half an hour later.

When contacted, Managing Director Md Osman Gani said repair on the compressor vessel was going on and that the production might resume by January 26.

NDC team visits defence ministry

BSS, Dhaka

A National Defence College (NDC) delegation led by NDC Commandant Lt General Abu Tayed Muhammad Zahirul Alam visited Ministry of Defence yesterday as part of training curriculum.

An ISPR press release said Defence Secretary Kamrul Hasan welcomed the delegation. There was a powerpoint presentation on organogram, role and functions and ongoing projects of the ministry by Deputy Secretary Tahmina Begum. The presentation was followed by a question and answer session.

Joint Secretary (W&D) of Ministry of Defence Brigadier General Shah Md Sultan Uddin Iqbal, Bir Protik and other senior officials were present.



An eye specialist examines a patient at a free eye camp at Jadunath Pilot High School in Nagarpur, Tangail, while Adv KMS Hasan, extreme right, founder chairman of Helal Memorial Foundation, looks on. The Foundation organised the camp recently, sponsored by Lion Dr KF Huda, CEO of Visa World Wide Admission.

Biswa Ijtema

FROM PAGE 16

Meanwhile, the organisers have divided the Ijtema ground into 31 khittas this time for the convenience of devotees. Last year, there were 26 khittas. Several thousand volunteers were engaged in preparatory work at the venue for about three months.

Prograti Sarani-Ashulia-Baipail Road will remain off-limits to all kinds of private vehicles for 24 hours from tomorrow evening. The BRTC will provide shuttle bus service for commuters on the road during this time.

Traffic restriction: Police said the authorities have imposed restrictions on vehicular movement on several roads in and around the city for 24 hours from 6:00pm Saturday for safe movement of devotees.

These roads include that from Pragati Sarani Crossing to Tongi-

Gazipur crossing, Abdullahpur-Ashulia-Baipail crossing road, Mirpur road to Beribadh road and Mirpur Zoo-Beribadh and Pallabi Eastern Housing-Beribadh roads.

Ghorashal-Markul road via Kaliganj-Pubail will remain open to traffic during the period.

Drivers of Dhaka-bound vehicles from Ghorashal on Dhaka-Sylhet highway have been asked to use Kanchpur-Jatrabari road, instead of that route.

All vehicles excepting fire-brigade vans, ambulances and those carrying residents of Uttara, air-passengers and crew have been asked to take Mirpur-Savar road as alternative to New Airport road.

Devotees who will go to the Ijtema venue on foot will have to use Airport Golchattar-Azampur-Abdullahpur road and seven bailey bridges set up on the Turag or Kamranga bridge, avoiding Tongi bridge.

NBR may start door-to-door zonal survey next month

UNB, Dhaka

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) is likely to start a door-to-door zonal survey from next month to increase the number of tax payers with the aim to collect more revenue without increasing tax rate.

Each zonal offices of the NBR would conduct the survey in their respective areas and send the findings to the board. The last such zonal survey was held in 2003.

The NBR already held a meeting in this connection and conveyed the message to all its zonal offices.

Recently, NBR chairman Muhammad Abdul Mazid told reporters that NBR has been working to expand the tax net, instead of a tax rate increase to raise its revenue collection.

ACC files case against Sherpur Poura Chairman Jane Alam, his wife

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday filed a case against Sherpur Poursava Chairman Jane Alam Khoka and his wife Sabina Yasmin on charges of amassing huge wealth through illegal means.

ACC Assistant Director at Bogra office Ashish Kumar Kundu filed the case with Sherpur Police Station.

According to ACC sources, Jane Alam Khoka, who was expelled as president of Sherpur Upazila BNP and is now detained in jail, mentioned in the wealth statement submitted to the ACC that his wealth totals Tk 42,55,134, while his wife's wealth totals Tk 35,77,900.

But the ACC during the investigation found out that the couple had amassed wealth worth about Tk 35 lakh through illegal means, they added.

Obituary

Nurul Haq, one of the organisers of the Liberation War, founder president of Bangladesh Sramik League and former member of the parliament, passed away yesterday at the age of 82, says a press release.

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

Zillur Rahman, acting president and Syed Ashrafur Islam, acting general secretary of Bangladesh Awami League expressed deep shock at his death and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family members.

Advocate Md Abdur Razzak

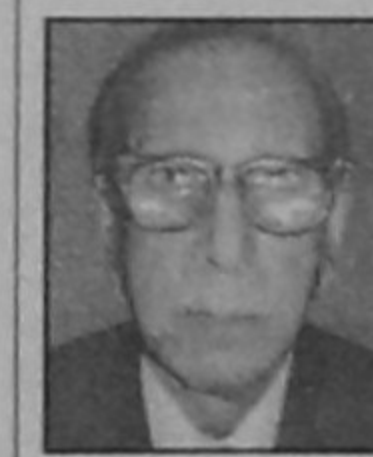
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Advocate Md Abdur Razzak, former president of Pabna District Bar Association, passed away due to a cardiac arrest on Tuesday at the age of 70, says a press release.

He left behind four sons, a daughter and a host of relatives and well-wishers to mourn his death.

President of Pabna Bar Association Abdul Matin Miah, Secretary Sajahan Mandal, President of Pabna Press Club Rumi Khandakar and Secretary Utpal Mirza expressed condolence at the death of Adv Abdur Razzak.

Syed Manzur Husain

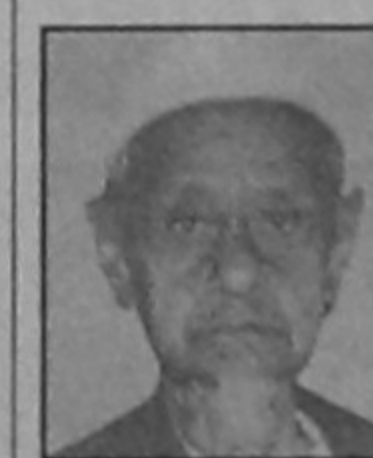


Syed Manzur Husain, former general manager & chief of personnel of Bangladesh Sugar & Food Industries Corporation, passed away due to a massive cardiac arrest at his residence in the city on January 15 at the age of 78, says a press release.

Husain, the youngest son of late Syed AF Sharufuddin alias Suba Mia, a renowned poet and magistrate, was also the president of Lions Club of Dhaka North during 1978-79.

He is survived by three sons and six grandchildren and host of relatives.

Md Badrul Hossain Mian



Md Badrul Hossain Mian, a social worker and retired agricultural officer, passed away at his Basudevpur residence in Godagari, Rajshahi, on January 6 at the age of 94, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, two sons, three daughters and a host of relatives, colleagues, admirers and friends to mourn his death.

Born in Basudevpur in 1914, Badrul was associated with various social, educational, cultural and religious institutions.

Weather Today section with a sun icon and a table of weather forecasts for various cities in Bangladesh.

Dhaka Today section containing news items: Seminar, Review meeting, Discussion, and Seminar.