

Death anniversary of Tawfiq Aziz Khan today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the seventh death anniversary of Tawfiq Aziz Khan, former executive editor of The Daily Star, sports writer and commentator.

One of the leading journalists of the country, Tawfiq joined the then Pakistan Observer as a staff reporter in 1958 while he was a student of Dhaka University.

He worked as public relations officer at the erstwhile EPIDC (East Pakistan Industries Development Corporation) and Titas Gas Corporation from 1968 to 1975, before joining the Dainik Bangla and the Bichitra as general manager.

He joined The Daily Star in 1990 as its founder managing editor. He became executive editor in 1997 and worked in that capacity till his death.

The first English sports commentator of the country, Tawfiq Aziz worked in radio, and later in television, since 1958. He was also the resident editor of Cricketer Asia of Hong Kong and Sports Times of Lahore.

Tawfiq Aziz was the founder editor of the fortnightly Sports World (Kira Jagat). He was also involved with the weekly Holiday at the initial stage of its publication.

A permanent member of Jatiya Press Club, he was elected president of Bangladesh Sports Writers' Association for six terms.

He was also a national committee member of Fema (Fair Election Monitoring Alliance).

He was a founder member and president of the country's first group theatre 'Drama Circle' and served the Rotary Club of Dhaka North-West as its president for two consecutive years from 1999.

He died of lung cancer at the age of 64 on February 11, 2001.

Hasibuddin Ahmad

Today is the 5th death anniversary of Khandokar Hasibuddin Ahmad, former Dhaka district and sessions judge, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at his village home at Daukandi in Comilla.

Relatives and admirers have been requested to attend the programme.

Salma Begum

Today is the 6th death anniversary of Salma Begum, wife of former deputy general manager of Agrani Bank Md Shah Jahan and mother of Dr Md Selim Reza, technical coordinator of Care Bangladesh, says a press release.

On the occasion, recitation from the holy Quran and offering fatha to her grave will be held.

A milad mahfil will also be held after Maghrib prayers at her Mirpur residence in the city today.

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

Death threat to Prof Barakat condemned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different socio-political and student organisations yesterday condemned the death threat to Prof Abul Barakat.

In separate statements they urged the government to find out the criminals and bring them to book.

Prof Abul Barakat of economics department of Dhaka University received a death threat on February 6 from 'Socheton Somaj'.

Bangladesh Economic Association (BEA), Workers Party of Bangladesh, Ekattorer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee (Forum for Secular Bangladesh), Bangladesh Chhatra Union in separate statements condemn the death threat to Prof Barakat.

They also demanded of the caretaker government to find out those who threatened Prof Barakat and to bring them under justice.

WATERLOGGED SOUTHWESTERN REGION Pay special attention to marooned children

Speakers urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a workshop yesterday laid emphasis on providing special attention to children and adolescents living in southwestern region where people are marooned over the years due to waterlogging.

They said these children are traumatised and their mental and physical growth including education are being hampered owing to unusual situation prevailing there.

The workshop was organised jointly by Action Aid Bangladesh, Save the Children UK and Uttaran at a city hotel.

Dr Anun Nishat, country director of IUCN, was present as chief guest while Farah Kabir, country director of Action Aid, presided over the workshop.

Prof Mesbah Kamal of Dhaka University and Sharmind Nilormi of Jahangirnagar University also spoke on the occasion.

Abdul Matin, country director of International Volunteer Service (IVS), presented the keynote paper based on a study carried out in the waterlogged area.

He said most of the children and adolescents are suffering from scabies and other diseases due to long-term exposure to stagnant polluted water.

Besides, the children are being engaged in hazardous work to support their livelihood, he added.

Incidents of child trafficking and sexual harassment of girls are also increasing, Matin said, adding that many children are denied access to education and family resources due to food insecurity.

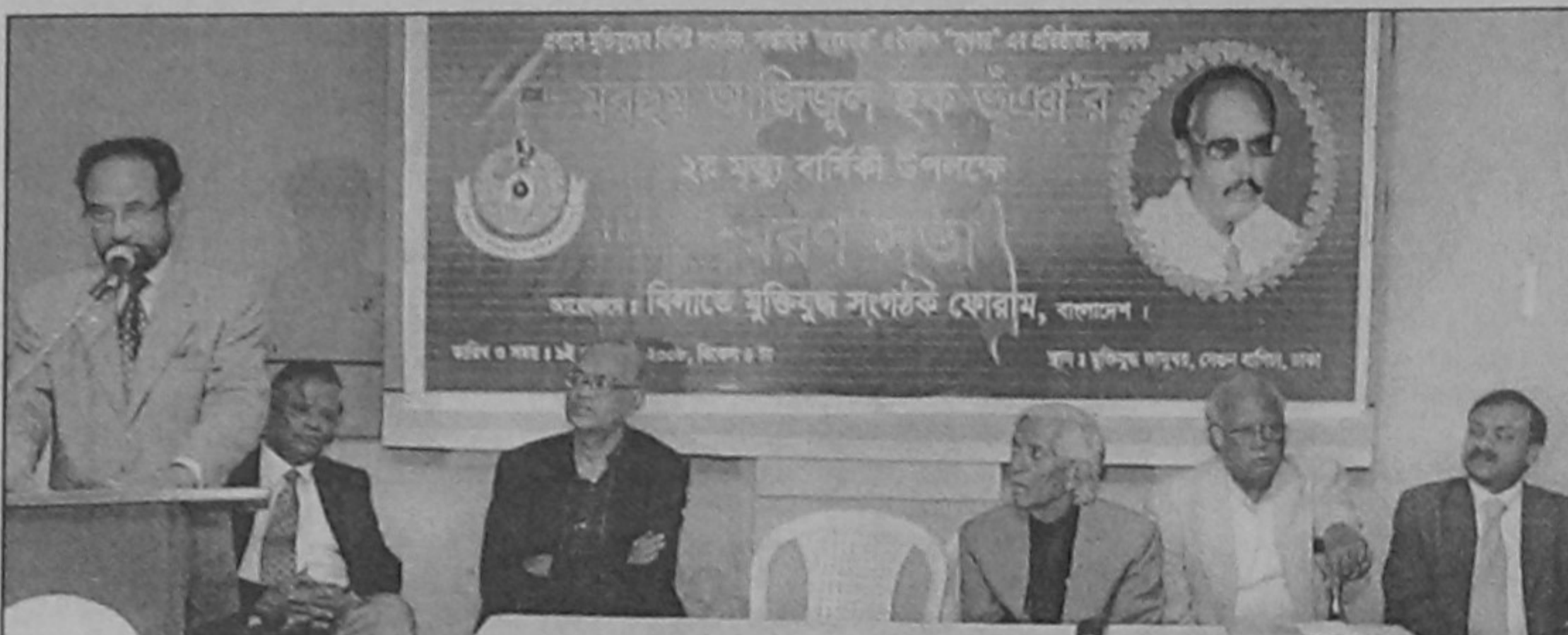
He said all inhabitants including the children are also facing crisis of safe drinking water and sanitation facilities.

Dr Nishat said the situation in the waterlogged area will turn into worst within a few years if the government and non-government organisations do not work vigorously to resolve the problem.

"We have enough consultations about the problem. Now we need to mobilise the local people and take certain steps to improve the situation in the waterlogged area," he added.

The speakers said concrete steps must be taken to solve the waterlogging problem and regenerate economic activities of people immediately.

It is only then the rights of the children will be protected by ensuring their health, nutrition and educational facilities, they added.



Supreme Court Bar Association President Barrister M Amir-Ul Islam speaks at a discussion at the auditorium of Liberation War Museum on Saturday to commemorate the memory of Azizul Hoque Bhuia, editor of the weekly 'Charampatra' and convener of the Steering Committee of the Action Committees for the Liberation of the People's Republic of Bangladesh in UK.

NIKO GRAFT CASE ACC to quiz Mamun soon

UNB, Dhaka

The Anti-Corruption Commission will interrogate detained businessman Giasuddin Al Mamun soon in connection with Niko graft case filed against detained former prime minister Khaleda Zia and four others.

"Following the application from investigating officer, ACC Assistant Director Shahidur Rahman, the court granted permission to interrogate Mamun in connection with the case," a competent source said.

A decision would be made after a day or two about the timing of questioning Mamun, who is now in Narayanganj jail, said the source.

"Most probably, he will be interrogated at the Narayanganj jail gate," Mamun, a close business associate of Khaleda's elder son Tarique Rahman, has already been shown arrested in this case.

The anti-graft watchdog filed the case with Tejgaon police station on December 9 against Khaleda, detained former law minister Barrister Maudud Ahmed, detained former state minister for energy AKM Mosharraf Hossain, former acting energy secretary Khandaker Shahidul Islam, and vice-president (South Asia) of Niko Research Bangladesh Ltd Kashem Sharif.

They were accused of signing the illegal deal with Niko through corruption that inflicted a loss of Tk 10,000 crore to the state.

The Commission has already interrogated Maudud and Mosharraf in this regard. On February 3, four bureaucrats from different ministries were questioned in connection with the high-profile case.

Prime accused Khaleda is likely to be interrogated at the makeshift jail in early March.

Govt to hold election by end of 2008

Hopes Pak envoy

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

The Pakistani High Commissioner in Bangladesh Alamgir Babar yesterday said the present caretaker government is pledge-bound to hold the national election by the end of 2008 in accordance with the roadmap of the election commission (EC).

The government should create a suitable environment for a fair election, learning from the present unstable political situation in Pakistan, he said.

He told these while talking to newsmen at the prize distribution ceremony of the annual sports of Abeda Khanom Girls' High School at Karatia in Tangail.

Babar said there are many similarities between the rural educational institutions in Bangladesh and those in Pakistan. "The place, facilities, and environment of the educational institutions of both the countries are almost the same," he said.

The Pakistan has taken special programmes to provide modern education facilities to Bangladesh, he added.

"We have already set up 12 computer centres in different educational institutions in Bangladesh," he added.

Later, Babar donated 10 computers to the school.

2 killed, 60 hurt in Netrakona clashes

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

Two persons were killed and 60 others injured in separate villagers' clashes in Purbadhala and Khalajuri upazilas, police said.

In one incident, one person was killed and 45 others injured in a clash over land dispute at Daxminpara village under Purbadhala upazila at about 10 am.

The dead is Abdul Matin Khan, 40, of village Barha Daxminpara under Purbadhala upazila.

Police said there had been a dispute between the groups of Abdul Matin and Abdul Salam over a disputed land at Barha Daxminpara village for the last few days.

Following altercation, several hundred people of both the groups attacked each others with sharp and lethal weapons in the morning resulting in spot death of Abdul Matin and injuring 45 others.

Seriously injured Abdus Salam, Humayan Kabir, Salim Mia, Habibur Rahaman, Nasiruddin Ramzan Ali, Nadar Ali, Hasibur rahaman, Sadad Uddin and Ansar Ali were shifted to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital in a critical condition. Other injured were admitted in to Purbadhala Upazila Health Complex.

Two separate cases were filed with Purbadhala Police Station in this connection. Police arrested four persons for their involvement in the clash.

Another person was killed and 15 others injured in another clash at Barantar village under Khalajuri upazila at about 12 noon over a disputed land, police said. The dead is Aharuddin, 35, of village

Jagannathpur under Khalajuri upazila.

Police said there had been a conflict at Barantar village between Aharuddin group and Abul Kalam group for a long time over a disputed land. Aharuddin and Abul Kalam had a quarrel in the morning. On information, both the men of Aharuddin and Abul Kalam attacked each others with sharp weapons. Aharuddin was killed on the spot and 15 others injured.

Seriously injured Taramia, Islamuddin and Chand Mia were sent to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital in a critical condition. Other injured were admitted to Khalajuri Upazila Health Complex.

BNCU invites application for fellowships

BSS, Dhaka

The Bangladesh National Commission for Unesco (BNCU) invites applications for Unesco Vocations Patrimoine Cosponsored Fellowships for World Heritage Site Managers 2008.

Candidates must have BA or BSc degree related to the management, conservation and development of world heritage properties.

The application form and application guide may be obtained from BNCU and filled in forms should reach the office of Bangladesh National Commission for Unesco (BNCU), BANBEIS Bhaban (3rd floor), 1 Asian Highway, Palassy-Nilkhat, Dhaka-1205 before March 10.



Fall in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light rain or drizzle is likely at one or two places over Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere 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, night temperature may fall by 2-4 degree Celsius over the country.

Highest temperature 26.3 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and lowest 12.3 degrees Celsius at Rajshahi.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:51pm today and rises at 6:34am tomorrow.

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

Table with 3 columns: City/Town, Temperature in celsius (Max, Min), Humidity in percentage (Morning, Evening). Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar.

Saraswati Puja today

BSS, Dhaka

Members of the Hindu community will celebrate today one of their religious festival 'Saraswati Puja' with much fanfare and festivity seeking blessings of the Goddess of knowledge, wisdom, music and art.

The Hindu devotees particularly the students celebrate the Saraswati Puja also known as 'Bani Archana' in different educational institutions and in their home-yards.

President Iajuddin Ahmed and Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed in separate messages greeted the members of the Hindu community marking the Saraswati Puja.

The president in a message expressed hope that the members of the Hindu community in their works and thoughts would reflect the ideals and spirit with which they adore the Goddess of knowledge and wisdom.

He wished every success of the Saraswati Puja.

In his message Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed said Saraswati is the Goddess of learning, wisdom and music to the members of the Hindu community as well as the source of the inspiration of all fair and beautiful work.

He hoped that members of the community would continue their efforts in nation building activities and all citizens of the country would remain vigil to uphold the traditional communal harmony and fraternity in the society.

Educational institutions in the city and in several parts of the country will be colourfully decorated while all Puja mandaps will be tastefully illuminated to mark this highly auspicious occasion of the Hindu community.

Like previous years, Jagannath Hall of Dhaka University is likely to be the main attraction for the Puja. Puja Ujjapan Committee officials said this year over 40 puja mandaps will be erected in the capital.

Saraswati Puja will be arranged in different residential halls of the Dhaka University, Dhaka College, Eden Girls College, Buet, Dhakeswari Mandir, Siddheswari Temple, Ramkrishna Mission and in the temples at Tantibazar, Shankharibazar, Banglabazar, Mohakhali and Farmgate areas in the city.

At least 30 people were injured yesterday as four compartments of a passenger train derailed near Lalmonirhat railway station.

The injured were admitted to the Lalmonirhat Sadar Hospital and other clinics, police said.

Sources said four compartments of the passenger train coming from Burmari railway station derailed about 700 metres off Lalmonirhat railway station in the morning injuring about 30 people.

Rail communication between Lalmonirhat and Burmari remained snapped since then.

The rescue workers had been working to restore rail communication after salvaging the compartments.

Lalmonirhat Divisional Railway Manager Kazi Rafiqul Islam said, they are trying to restore rail communication as soon as possible.

The accident might have occurred due to faults in railroad tracks, sources added.

One held in Ctg for submitting forged documents to draw Tk 1 cr

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A man was held in the port city yesterday while trying to draw acquisition money of over Tk 1 crore by submitting forged documents.

The arrestee was identified as Nazimuddin, son of late Taffazal Ahmed of Panchlaish area.

Sources said Nazim submitted a fake 'Power of Attorney' at the District Land Acquisition (LA) Office at Sholohahar in a bid to draw over Tk 1 crore against 35 Gandas of acquired land.

The land belonging to the successors of late Bazal Ahmad Sawdagar was acquired for developing a housing project Ananya, by Chittagong Development Authority.

Nazim submitted the 'Power of Attorney' carrying the forged signatures of Mohin Uddin and Sarwar Uddin, two of the successors of the acquired land, some seven days back.

Hearing the news of attempted forgery, Mohin Uddin, who has been an expatriate in Saudi Arabia for the last nine years, made a prayer to the District LA office for holding up the payments of the acquisition money.

In the meantime Sarwar Uddin also in a letter disowned the 'Power of Attorney' Nazim claimed.

The officials of District LA Office held Nazimuddin and handed him over to Panchlaish Police Station after Mohin Uddin flew in to Chittagong and confirmed that the signature Nazim submitted was fake.

In this regard District LAO Md Motaher Hossain said Mohin Uddin and Sarwar Uddin alleged that their signatures had been forged.

The Power of Attorney made in the name of an expatriate requires to be verified by the concerned embassy. But, the 'Power of Attorney' submitted by Nazim did not bear such verifications (seals and signatures from Bangladesh embassy in Saudi Arabia).

Meanwhile, Mohin Uddin further alleged that Nazim also made an agreement to sell off around 92 Gandas of their land last year using fake 'Power of Attorney', which they revealed recently.

While talking to this correspondent at the district LA office yesterday, Nazim said that he got the 'Power of Attorney' from six out of the seventeen successors to the huge property of late Bazal Sawdagar.

He claimed that he got the 'Power of Attorney' as the six successors took money from him on different occasions. But, he failed to show any such documents or papers in this connection.



Lt General John F Goodman, Commander, US Marine Corps Forces Pacific, pays a courtesy call on Chief of Army Staff General Moeen U Ahmed at Army Headquarters in the city yesterday.

DU students clash with hawkers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some students of Dhaka University (DU) blockaded the Mirpur Road near New Market for an hour yesterday after hawkers beat up a student.

Witnesses said around 60 students took to the street at around 4:30pm, but

left the road at around 5:30pm after police picked up three hawkers.

During the blockade vehicular traffic on the busy road came to halt causing severe traffic congestion in the area.

Sources said a student named

Bijon Saha first slapped a young hawker following an altercation over the price of a pair of sandals in front of Gauchhia Market.

Enraged by the matter, several nearby hawkers assaulted Bijon.

Being informed, some students from the DU went to the spot, ransacked several shops on the footpath and beat up hawkers.

They also blockaded the road demanding arrest of those hawkers who beat Bijon.

Officer-in-Charge of Newmarket Police Station Anisur Rahman said they have detained three hawkers in this connection.

3,000 fowls culled in Tangail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A total of 3,000 fowls and 1,700 eggs infected by bird flu were culled and destroyed at a poultry farm at Madhupur upazila in Tangail district early yesterday morning.

In addition, officials of the Livestock Department have also culled poultry including chicken, ducks and quails from different households within a kilometre radius of the infected farm.

The presence of bird flu infection was first suspected after poultry started dying at the farm of Mohammad Jahangir Alam of Malauri village in Madhupur Municipal area.

The dead chickens were sent to the Animal Resource Research Institute, which confirmed the presence of the virus.

The District Livestock Department and Madhupur Upazila administration then arranged the culling.

The poultry farm owner said he has incurred losses of about Tk 30 lakh.

Obituary

Md Sadman Sakib, son of Dr Rukhsana Parveen Khan and Dr Khaleda Mobin (consultant cardiologist of the Square Hospital), passed away on February 8 at the age of 12, says a press release.

Sakib was a student of class 6 at the Oxford International School, Dhaka.

Hossain Jamal Lucky

Hossain Jamal Lucky, former controller and chief designer of Bangladesh Television and eldest son of journalist and litterateur late

Md Modabber and poet Hosne Ara, passed away due to a brain stroke at Bangladesh Medical College Hospital in the city on Friday at the age of 75, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, two sons, grand children and a host of admirers to mourn his death.

He was buried at Eid Gah Jame masque graveyard after namaz-e-janaza at College Gate Jame masque at Mohammadpur in the city on Saturday.

His qulkhani will be held today after Maghrib prayers at his Aurongjeb Road residence in the city.

Relatives and admirers have been requested to attend the programme.

Khaleda Akhtar Banu

Khaleda Akhtar Banu, chairperson of Bangla Department of Abu Zar Gifari University College and wife of Prof Abdul Mannan, former member of parliament and Awami League leader, passed away due to prolonged illness yesterday at the age of 60, says a press release.

She left behind her husband, one son, one daughter and a host of relatives to mourn her death.

Zillur Rahman, acting president and Syed Ashraful Islam, acting general secretary of Bangladesh Awami League expressed deep shock at her death.

Mustafa Jamal Uddin

Mustafa Jamal Uddin, an official under Ministry of Defence, passed away due to a cardiac arrest at Combined

Military Hospital (CMH) at Dhaka Cantonment on February 6 at the age of 52, says a press release.

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

His namaz-e-janaza was held at the Naval Headquarters complex in the city on February 8.

Chief of Naval Staff Vice Admiral Sarwar Jahan Nizam, principal staff officers of the naval headquarters, senior civil and naval officers attended the namaz-e-janaza.

Later, he was buried at the military graveyard at Banani in the city.

30 hurt as train derailed in Lalmonirhat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

At least 30 people were injured yesterday as four compartments of a passenger train derailed near Lalmonirhat railway station.

The injured were admitted to the Lalmonirhat Sadar Hospital and other clinics, police said.

Sources said four compartments of the passenger train coming from Burmari railway station derailed about 700 metres off Lalmonirhat railway station in the morning injuring about 30 people.

Rail communication between Lalmonirhat and Burimari remained snapped since then.

The rescue workers had been working to restore rail communication after salvaging the compartments.

Lalmonirhat Divisional Railway Manager Kazi Rafiqul Islam said, they are trying to restore rail communication as soon as possible.

The accident might have occurred due to faults in railroad tracks, sources added.

Withdrawal of emergency demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Left Democratic Alliance yesterday demanded of the caretaker government to withdraw state of emergency and return the democratic rights of people immediately, says a press release.

It also condemned police attack on the workers of FS Garments at Sripur and urged the factory owner to pay their due salaries.

Reviewing the latest political situation of the country, the left alliance at its committee meeting at Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal office in the city said the labourers are the most affected due to emergency.

Central leaders Tipu Biswas, Bazul Rashid Firoz, Moshrefa Mishu, advocate Abdus Salam, Hamidul Haque, Zonaid Saki, Babul Biswas, Nazrul Islam, Kamrul Alam Sabuj, Dr Shamsul Alam and Shahidul Islam Sabuj were present at the meeting. Morcha central coordinator Saiful Haque presided over the meeting.

"Though the government and the employers continued repression on the workers, the labourers cannot even demand their means of living due to the state of emergency," the press release said.

The alliance called upon the government to allow trade union activities. It also demanded withdrawal of ban on political activities immediately.

Japanese Ambassador in Dhaka Masayuki Inoue and Executive Director of PAPRI Abu Based shake hands after signing a grant contract worth Tk 62 lakh under the 'Empowerment of the poor in Narsingdi through micro-credit support' project in the city yesterday.

Workshop

North South University (NSU) organises a workshop on curriculum development of masters programme in resources and environment management. Venue: NSU campus. Time: 9:30am.

Roundtable

Bangladesh Garments Workers Trade Union Centre organises a roundtable on current situation in the garments sector and ways of its solution. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:00am.

View exchange

National Committee on Oil-gas Mineral Resources and Power-port Protection organises a view exchange meeting on maritime boundary of Bangladesh and oil-gas contracts. Venue: Pragati conference room, 2/1/ Comrade Moni Singh Road. Time: 3:00pm.

CPD dialogue

Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) organises a dialogue on new market access initiative of US Congress, and concern and interests of Bangladesh. Venue: Cirdap Auditorium. Time: 10:00am.

Roundtable

A roundtable will be held on rational of 55 percent quota in Bangladesh Civil Service. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 3:00pm.

Conference

Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) jointly organise the 2nd Bangladesh solid waste management conference. Venue: Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 9:00am.