

TRUCK BREAKS DOWN Traffic disrupted for five hours on Dhaka-Ctg highway

UNB, Comilla

Traffic movement on Dhaka-Chittagong Highway was disrupted for about four and a half hours as an overloaded truck collapsed on the highway in Burichang upazila of Comilla yesterday.

Police said the timbers the truck was carrying fell on the highway after the truck heading for Dhaka from Chittagong collapsed at Najira Bazar near Comilla Cantonment, creating roadblock around 3:30am.

Traffic movement on the highway was, however, restored around 8:00am as highway police removed the timbers.

HSBC-PROTHOM ALO LANGUAGE CONTEST 'Use Bangla in all spheres of life'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The national round of HSBC-Prothom Alo Bhasha Protijog was held in the capital yesterday with a call for using Bangla in all spheres of life.

Over 400 children from across the country took part in the competition held at Viqarunnisa Noon School and College in the capital. Around 52 people were declared victorious among the participants in four categories. They were awarded crest.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Abdullah Abu Sayeed of Bishwa Sahitya Kendra said, "Local dialects beautifully the mother tongue."

Poet Nirmalendu Gun said the

present generation must work as a guard to enrich their language.

"Language must be loved through its flawless use," said Prof. Anisuzzaman, president of Bhasha Protijog Parishad.

Prof. Zafar Iqbal said the present generation must uphold the language for the next.

"We love Bangla and so we want to take it ahead," said Prothom Alo Editor Matir Rahman.

"This type of programme will help student love their language," said Karabi Gupta, a guardian.

Prof. Syed Azil Haque, Vismadev Chowdhury, Sourav Shikder, Anisul Haque, Arun Basu and Zahid Reza Noor were present.

Taskforce formed to monitor KCC activities

UNB, Khulna

A taskforce has been formed to monitor the activities of Khulna City Corporation (KCC).

The Army-led taskforce would start its work soon, KCC sources said yesterday.

They said KCC would allocate five rooms for the taskforce.

25 shops gutted in Shariatpur

UNB, Shariatpur

Some 25 shops were gutted in a fire at Kazi Bazar port bazar under Jazira upazila in the district yesterday.

Local sources said the fire originated from a cotton shop at about 10:00am and soon engulfed other shops in the bazar.

On information, fire fighters from Sadar upazila rushed to the spot and doused the flame with the help of local people after two hours of hectic efforts.

The affected shop owners claimed that valuables worth Tk 50 lakh were damaged in the fire.

Criminal held in Madaripur

UNB, Madaripur

Rab members yesterday arrested a notorious criminal from Kalai Dardar village of Kalkini upazila.

Acting on a tip-off, Rab members raided the house of Kashem Talukder, 50, a top criminal of the area, early in the morning and arrested him.

Police said he had been accused in several cases on charges of murder, robbery, rape, and extortion.

British High Commission closed Apr 14

British High Commission in Dhaka and its office in Sylhet will remain closed to the public on April 14 on the occasion of Pahela Baishakh, the first day of Bengali New Year, says a press release.

BBC Bangladesh Sanglap today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 33rd edition of BBC Bangladesh Sanglap will be held at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the capital today.

Awami League presidium member and former agriculture Minister Motia Chowdhury, BNP Chairperson's adviser and former secretary and ambassador Mofazzal Karim, Chairman of the Regulatory Reform Commission Dr Akbar Ali Khan and Secretary General of the Consumers' Association of Bangladesh (CAB) Kazi Faruque will take part in the programme as panelists.

The programme will be aired on BBC Bangla Radio at 8:00pm tomorrow and on Channel i at 8:00pm on Monday.

One gets life for violating girl in Kishoreganj

UNB, Kishoreganj

A Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal on Thursday sentenced a man to life imprisonment for violating a minor girl.

Judge GMS Farid handed down the verdict to M Sazzad Ahmed of Chandpur Madhyapara village in Kotadi.

The convict was also fined Tk one lakh. If he fails to pay, he will have to serve five more years in jail.

According to the prosecution, Sazzad Ahmed violated the seven-year-old girl, a student of class three at Kotadi Primary School, on December 2, 2002.

Two garment workers raped in Savar

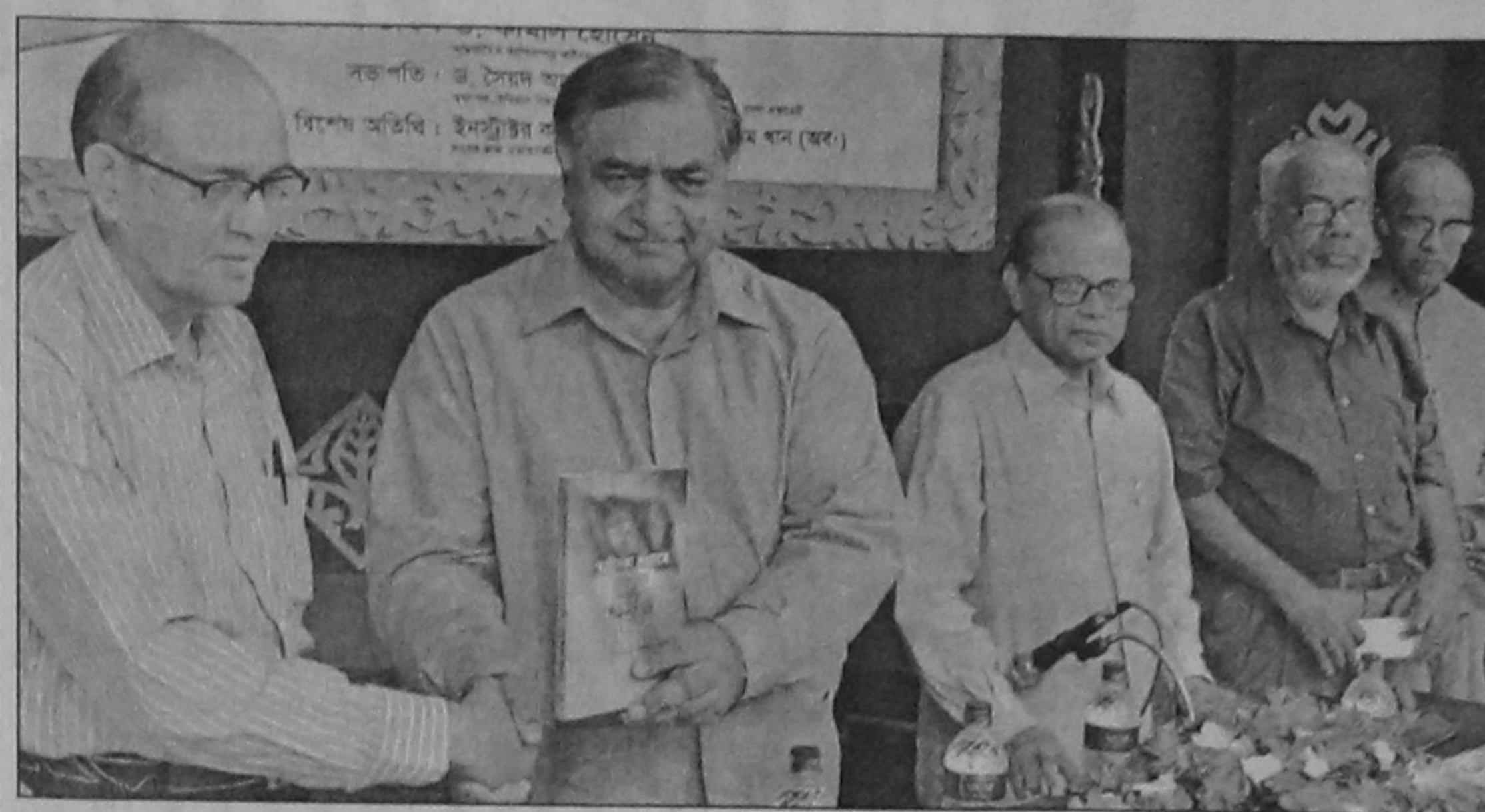
UNB, Savar

Two female garment workers were raped by criminals at Shreepur village in Ashulia early yesterday.

Police said Gaduraj alias Dudhraj, a listed criminal, along with accomplices took two garment workers, also his tenants, to the house of his neighbour, Shamsul Mia, at about 12:30am and raped them.

One of the victims was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital in a critical condition in the morning while another received treatment at a local clinic.

Police arrested Shamsul Mia after a case was filed against them.



Eminent jurist Dr Kamal Hossain launches a book titled 'Rangunia in Liberation War (1711-1717): Memories of '71' by Md Saleh Uddin, extreme left, at the Liberation War Museum in the city yesterday. On his left is Dr Syed Anwar Hossain. Ankur Prakashani published the book.

SAVE BURIGANGA

Call for quick implementation of taskforce's recommendations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Demanding immediate implementation of the recommendations of the taskforce regarding Buriganga, the lifeline of Dhaka, the speakers at a discussion yesterday said there is no time for sitting without doing anything.

It is already late and it is the last time if the government wants to save the river, they added.

The discussion titled 'Why the taskforce report on Buriganga is in the cold storage?' was organised by Bangladesh Parishad Andolon (Bapa) at the National Press Club in the city.

The speakers said Buriganga has already become a dumping ground for all toxic wastes without having any aquatic lives.

The percentage of soluble oxygen in the pitch black water of the Buriganga has come down to a nil at certain places, they added.

Presiding over the discussion, Bapa President Prof Muzaffer Ahmad said the movement to save the Buriganga has taken a new turn as city ward commissioners have

taken interest in it.

He said the government takes many good decisions but pace of its implementation is very slow.

So people will have to come forward to force the government to implement its decision regarding the Buriganga and other rivers, he added.

Hydrology expert Prof Firoz Ahmed, Prof Qazi Madina, and Commissioners Shahida Morshed of ward 63, Humayun Kabir of ward 59 and Anwar Parvez Badal of ward 64 also spoke at the discussion.

sion.

They said people from the old part of the city should be engaged in the movement to save the Buriganga as their lifestyle is closely interlinked with it.

Demanding the widening of the river as per catastrophe survey (CS), Mihir Biswas, secretary general of Buriganga Bachao Andolon (Save Buriganga Movement), said if the government would have implemented the taskforce decisions, the condition of the river could not be so miserable.



Foreign Secretary Tuhid Hossain, middle, and Ambassador Wali-Ur-Rahman, right, launch a book titled 'National Security and Development Council' at Billa auditorium in the city yesterday. Former ambassador Harun-Ur-Rashid is also seen in the picture.

DHAKA T O D A Y

Workshop

Population Council organises a workshop on 'Strengthening health and family planning services in low-performing and hard-to-reach areas in Bangladesh'. Venue: Lake Shore Hotel, Gulshan-2. Time: 10:00am.

Saarc seminar

Saarc Agriculture Centre organises a seminar on 'Climate change and its impact on agricultural production system in Saarc region'. Venue: BARC, Farmgate. Time: 10:00am.

Job fair

Splash Group organises a two-day national job fair 2008. Venue: Bashundhara Expo Centre. Time: 10:00am to 8:00pm.

Seminar

Bangladesh Association for the Advancement of Science organises a seminar on 'Nuclear power: an inevitable option for alternative source of energy in Bangladesh'. Venue: Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission auditorium, Agargaon. Time: 9:00am.

Photo exhibition

The inaugural ceremony of the photograph exhibition styled 'Nodi o Jibon: Life in Island chars' will be held. Venue: Bengal Gallery. Time: 6:00pm. The exhibition will remain open till April 21 from 12:00pm to 8:00pm everyday.

Seminar

Save the Children UK Bangladesh Programme organises a national seminar on 'Child protection: Compliance of the Children Act 1974'. Venue: Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre. Time: 9:00am.

Rotary seminar

Rotary Club of Barishala organises a seminar on 'Growth and urban development of Dhaka city in the 19th century'. Venue: Ahsan Manzil. Time: 4:00pm.

Dialogue

The daily Karatao organises a dialogue on 'Energy sector in Bangladesh and development of the northern region'. Venue: PIB auditorium. Time: 10:00am.

Seminar

Assistance for Slum Dwellers organises a seminar on 'Fundamental rights of the street children'. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:00am.

BILS seminar

Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies (BILS) organises a two-day seminar on 'Impact of globalisation and economic reforms in industry and labour markets of Bangladesh: Stance and role of trade union'. Venue: Biam auditorium. Time: 10:00am.

Rotary Dhaka Central

The regular meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka Central will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 1:30pm.



Winners of HSBC-Prothom Alo Language Competition pose for photo at the prize giving ceremony at Viqarunnisa Noon School and College yesterday.

Two killed in road crashes

STAR REPORT

At least two people were killed and six others injured in separate road accidents in Rajshahi and Chittagong yesterday.

Our RU correspondent reports: A minor girl was killed and at least three people were injured in separate road accidents in Rajshahi yesterday.

The victim was identified as Monika, 7, daughter of Abdul Mannan, of Kuriapara village.

Sources said the accident occurred when a Rajshahi-bound speeding passenger bus knocked Monika on Puba-Mohanpur highway at Kharial crossing leaving her dead on the spot.

She was a student of class two at Kuriapara Primary School.

Meanwhile, at least three people, including a journalist, were injured in another road accident at Sajir Bottola crossing under Bhaga upazila of Rajshahi yesterday when a locally made passenger vehicle 'Bhutbuti' lost its control and fell into the roadside ditch.

The injured were identified as Masud Mia, Bhaga correspondent of a local daily 'Sunshine', Sajedul Haque, a collage teacher of Bhaga, and Robi.

Our Chittagong correspondent adds: One person was killed and three others were injured in a road accident on Chittagong-Cox's Bazar highway at Chandanaish upazila in Chittagong yesterday.

The dead was identified as Nazimuddin, 34, and the injured bicycle passengers were identified as two brothers - Anwar Hossain, 25, and Abul Hossain, 20, - and a rickshaw passenger Abdur Razzak.

Sources said the accident occurred when a Chittagong-bound goods-laden truck knocked a rickshaw and a bicycle from behind in front of Dohazari Hospital under Chandanaish upazila leaving four persons injured.

They were rushed to the Chittagong Medical College Hospital where the on-duty doctors declared Nazimuddin dead.

Van-puller stabbed to death in Khulna

UNB, Khulna

A van-puller was stabbed to death allegedly by one of his fellowmen at Godaipur village under Paikachha upazila in the district yesterday.

Police said Akram Ali, 55, died instantly when Habibur Rahman, another van-puller, struck him in his head with a stick at one stage of their altercation at about 6:15pm.

Habib went into hiding after the incident.

Police recovered the body and sent it to Khulna Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

A case was filed in this connection.

'Arrest religious bigots'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Women leaders and civil society members yesterday called on the caretaker government to arrest religious bigots who have been agitating and clashing with police in front of Baitul Mukarram National Mosque for last two days in violation of the state of emergency.

Taking part in a discussion, they said a section of Islamic activists under different banners are staging demonstrations and clashing with police for diverting the demand for trial of war criminals.

The discussion titled 'Equal rights of women and men in properties which is main condition for establishing democracy: National Women Development Policy 2008' was organised by Samajtantrik Mahila Forum at the National Press

Club in the capital. Artist Mamunur Rashid said equal rights of women and men in properties are not clearly mentioned in the National Women Development Policy.

"There was no need to form review committee comprising people who belong to Jamaat-e-Islami," he added.

Writer Selina Hossain demanded arrest of religious fundamentalists who use Islam for their political interest.

She stressed the need for mass awareness programme so that the religious bigots cannot misguide the countrymen.

Former lawmaker Sagufa Yeasmin, women leaders Serin Banu Mitil and Tahera Begum Jali, Prof Ajoy Roy, journalist Shaheen Reza Nur and advocate Nizamul Haq Nasim also spoke.



Gulshan Club has started selling rice at a subsidised price to low-income people. Club President Faizul Islam Selim inaugurated the programme on the club premises in the city on April 8. Packets of 4 kg of rice will be sold to each person at the rate of Tk 25 per kg daily. The programme will continue for three months with donations from club members.



Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is also likely at one or two places over the regions of Rangpur, Dinajpur, Mymensingh and Sylhet during the period, Met Office said.

Mild to moderate heat wave that is sweeping over Khulna division and the regions of Rajshahi, Ishurdi, Bogra and Dhaka may spread over the regions of Faridpur, Madaripur and Tangail, it added.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 39.4 degree Celsius was recorded at Rajshahi and the lowest of 19.2 degrees at Srirangal.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:19pm today and rises at 5:39am tomorrow.

The 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	36.7	25.0	54	38
Chittagong	32.0	23.0	65	71
Rajshahi	39.4	22.2	53	26
Khulna	36.2	24.0	92	42
Barisal	34.3	24.0	81	48
Sylhet	33.4	22.0	70	58
Cox's Bazar	33.0	23.6	69	76

BENAPOLE CUSTOMS Foundation stone laid for int'l check post

A CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Realising the importance of the Benapole land port among other land ports in the country, the government itself has taken the responsibilities of its supervision, said National Revenue Board Chairman Muhammad Abdul Mazid.

He was speaking as the chief guest at the foundation stone laying ceremony of a two-storied building for Benapole International Customs Check post.

Many development activities are on for modernising the land port and other adjacent ports, he said.

He said the international check post building has been constructing to help increase the standard of services and to facilitate the export and import.

With the help of Asian Development Bank (ADB) development works of Jessore-Benapole highway and other link roads to the port is undergoing, he added.

He also said the importance of Benapole port is high under the Safta agreement.

Abdul Kafi, customs commissioner, presided over the programme while Abul Hossain, deputy commissioner (DC) of Jessore, Shawkat Hossain, customs joint commissioner and Nishit Chandra Pal, chief engineer of Public Works department spoke among others on the occasion.



Journalist Abdul Matin passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Muhammad Abdul Matin, a veteran journalist and columnist, passed away at his home at Sherpur in Bogra yesterday at the age of 85.

He had been suffering from bone cancer.

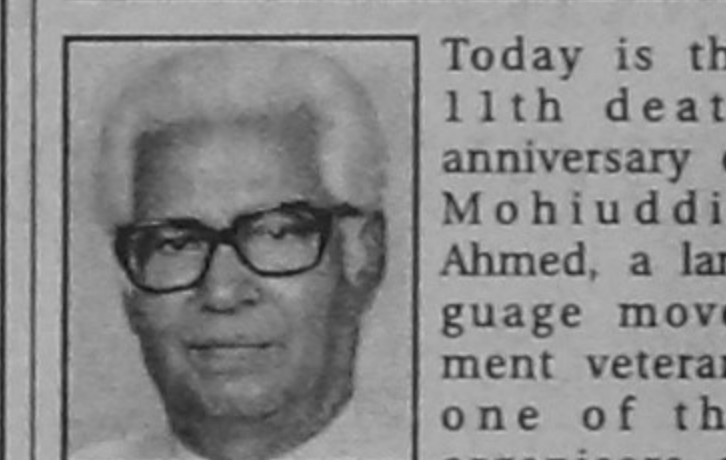
Abdul Matin was the acting editor of the daily Uttarbarta, founding secretary of Sherpur Press Club and former president of Bogra Union of Journalists. He was also the founding editor of the daily Karatao.

Abdul Matin received a number of awards for his contribution to journalism and literature.

He left behind his wife, a son, two daughters and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death. Ashish-Ur-Rahman, a senior reporter of the daily Janakantha, is his son.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 11th death anniversary of Mohiuddin Ahmed, a language movement veteran, one of the organisers of the

the Liberation War and former lawmaker, says a press release.

On the occasion, political and social organisations and Mohiuddin Ahmed Smriti Sangsad will place wreaths at his grave at the Martyred Intellectuals' Graveyard at Mirpur at 9:00am.

A milad mahfil will be held at his residence at Dhamdissi after Asr prayers. Besides, discussions and milad mahfil will be held at different unions of Mathbaria upazila today and tomorrow.

Syeda Shamsunnahar



Today is the 7th death anniversary of Syeda Shamsunnahar, wife of late Advocate Syed Mohammad Hashim, says a press release.

On the occasion, a doa mahfil will be held and food will be distributed among the orphans at an orphanage.

Family members of Syeda Shamsunnahar requested all to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Nure Hafsa Munia

Today is the third death anniversary of Nure Hafsa Munia, daughter of Md Hasanur Rashid Bhuiyan, says a press release.

A Quarnkhani will be held in the morning and a milad mahfil and doa after Maghrib prayers at her residence at 60 West Raza Bazar.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers have been requested to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.



Chief of Naval Staff Vice Admiral Sarwar Jahan Nizam hands over a certificate to a participant of the Command Post Exercise of Exercise Shanti Doot-2 at Hotel Radisson in the city yesterday.