

## 2 ship-breaking workers fall into ballast water tank, die

CU CORRESPONDENT

Two workers of a ship-breaking yard died and another one was injured while breaking a ship at Sitakunda in Chittagong on Sunday.

The dead were identified as Majed, 25, son of Israt Ali Khan, and Abdul Razzak, 25, son of Abdul Kuddus of Noarpur upazila in Jamalpur district, while the injured was Afzal, 40, son of Sabih Uddin Mollah of Naogaon district.

Sources said the accident occurred at around 7:00pm when Majed, Razzak and Afzal fell into a tank of ballast water (a type of poisonous liquid mixed with used oil and water) while getting down through a staircase of the ship brought for scrapping at the ship-breaking yard of GS Traders at Shitalpur.

The poisonous water entered through their nose and mouth and they fell sick.

They were sent to Chittagong Medical College and Hospital at around 12:30am when on-duty doctors declared Majed and Razzak dead.

Afzal was undergoing treatment at the hospital, said the sources.

An Unnatural Death (UD) case was filed with Sitakunda Police Station in this connection.

### POLICE ORDINANCE

## 'Remove controversial provisions'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Speakers at a discussion yesterday criticised the proposed police ordinance-2007 saying many provisions of the ordinance are inhuman.

They urged the government to increase salary and other facilities of police.

The discussion was organised by Bogra unit of Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) at Bogra Circuit House auditorium.

The speakers said that the police ordinance would have to be approved during the present caretaker government. They also urged government to remove all controversial provisions from the ordinance.

They stressed the need for creating environment so that police can perform duties neutrally.

Mir Iqbal Hossain, former president of Bogra Bar Association, presided over the discussion which was addressed by Chief Judicial Magistrate Abu Hena Mostafa Kamal, Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate Saifuzzaman Hero, Additional District Magistrate Ayub Hossain, Additional Police Super Muin Uddin and Assistant Police Commissioner Bashir Uddin.

## Five killed in road accidents

### STAR REPORT

Five people were killed and 23 others injured in separate road accidents in Netrakona, Natore, Rajshahi, Brahmanbaria and Chandpur in the last two days.

Our Correspondent in Netrakona reports: A teenager was killed and 20 others injured in a road accident at Ishobpur under Purbadhala upazila on Netrakona-Mymensingh highway at 9:00am yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Saddam Hossain, 16, of Nagorpur village under Nagorpur upazila in Tangail. Saddam was coming to Netrakona from Tangail for working as a day labourer.

The accident occurred when a Mymensingh-bound truck and a Netrakona-bound passenger bus collided head-on.

The injured were admitted to Netrakona Sadar Hospital and Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH).

In another incident, one Peejush Sarker, 30, was killed on the spot on Sunday night when a Netrakona-bound passenger bus hit the motorbike he was riding on.

Our RU correspondent adds: A woman was killed and three others injured in separate road accidents in Natore and Rajshahi in the last two days.

A woman was killed yesterday when a jip hit a motorcycle in Dorappur Bazar area in Natore, leaving her dead on the spot.

She was identified as Taslima Banu, 22, daughter of Roich Uddin of Salampur village under Lalpur upazila in Natore.

Her fellow motorcycle rider Belal Hossain was seriously injured and was admitted to Natore General Hospital.

In another road accident, two persons including a schoolteacher were injured in a road accident at Roipara in Rajshahi on Durgapur-Shibpur highway when a goods-laden speeding truck hit the motorcycle they were riding on.

Locals rushed them to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital in a critical condition.

The injured were identified as Sajedur Rahman, 47, a teacher of Durgapur Nawpara High School and one Abdul Alim of village

## 2 beaten to death in Chittagong

CU CORRESPONDENT

A mob beat two people to death after they were caught breaking into a factory at Bara Awlia of Sitakunda in Chittagong yesterday.

The victims were identified as Mohammad Harun, 20, and Jahidul, 20.

Sources claimed Harun and Jahidul broke into under construction Equity Ready Max factory at Bara Awlia around 4:00am and the secu-

rity guards there caught them inside.

Later, locals gave them a good beating that left Harun dead on the spot.

Seriously injured Jahidul succumbed to his injuries after he was rushed to Sitakunda Health Complex, sources said.

Sub-inspector Alamgir of Sitakunda Police Station said they recovered the bodies and would investigate the matter before filing any case.

### CONSTRUCTION OF CITY ROAD

## Over 400 Bihari families rehabilitated

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 412 non-Bangalee (Bihari) families were rehabilitated at Pallabi in the city yesterday as they lost their dwellings due to the construction works of Zia Colony-Mirpur Road.

The 6.3-kilometre long and 60-foot wide road is being constructed under the Special Work Project of Army Engineering Core at a cost of Tk 69.85 crore. The road, named after Shaheed Bir Uttam Havildar Shah Alam, will connect Mirpur Cantonment with Airport Road through Zia Colony in Dhaka Cantonment.

LGRD and Cooperatives Adviser Anwarul Iqbal handed over the keys of the rooms to the affected families at a simple ceremony at Kalapani in Pallabi yesterday.

The rooms were housed in several tin-shed structures with sufficient toilets and water facilities. A mosque has also been built for the residents.

Addressing the function, Iqbal said this government had decided to construct the road from its own fund considering its importance. He thanked the army personnel for progress made in construction of the road in such a short period of time.

Lt Col Abu Sayeed Md Masud, commanding officer of 16 Engineering Construction Battalion, which is implementing the project, said this is the first time non-Bangalees residing on the government land has been rehabilitated.

He said they have constructed the houses after five months of relentless efforts.

He also said that earth filling on the road has been completed and now laying of bricks on the road is undergoing. He hoped that the work would totally be completed by next year.

A number of families, however, said the spaces in the rooms are insufficient compared to the number of their family members.



FBCCI President Annisul Haq speaks at a roundtable on power crisis at National Press Club in the city yesterday. On his left are Amanullah Kabir, Sadek Khan and Prof Anwarul Azim. Media Foundation for Trade and Development organised the roundtable.

### ASSAULT OF BRITISH NATIONAL AT ZIA

## HC wants swift, stern action

UNB, Dhaka

The British High Commission in Dhaka expects a swift and stern action over the recent alleged assault of a British national by security personnel at Zia International Airport.

A spokesman for the British High Commission yesterday said, "We're fully aware of, and engaged on, this incident. The UK takes any allegation of abuse very seriously. We've consistently urged Bangladesh's government, military and law enforcement agencies to act proportionately, with respect for human rights and the rule of law."

"The British High Commission has taken up the matter at the most senior levels of the Bangladeshi government and military, and has been assured that swift and stern action will be taken. We continue to provide full consular assistance," the spokesman said.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Air Force has formed a three-member high-level probe body, headed by a group captain of the Air Force, to investigate the incident.

An ISPR release yesterday said the Air Force has already taken steps for taking punitive actions against those involved in the incident after proper investigation into it.

The Bangladeshi-born British citizen, Barrister Rezwan Hossain, an adviser to charity department of London-based TV Channel S, at a press conference in London on April 17 alleged that he was tortured by a group of security personnel at the Bangladesh international airport.

Barrister Rezwan told journalists that he felt victim to torture on April 14, when he went to the airport (ZIA) to see his younger sister off as she was going back to London.

He said some security officials tortured him when he refused to sign a paper where it was written that he entered the airport illegally to help people who want to pass the airport illegally.

The ISPR release said the on-duty security official handed over Barrister Rezwan to the joint forces who later interrogated him.

"It was found true that Barrister Rezwan was assaulted by the joint forces," the release added.

It said, "As part of the punitive actions, the Air Force authorities instantly took the task force members into custody under Military Law."

### ANANYA RESIDENTIAL AREA 1521 get CDA plots

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) yesterday announced the name of allottees of plots in Ananya Residential Area, the largest housing projects it developed so far.

The authority allotted a total of 1521 plots in the housing project through an open lottery held at CDA hall room in presence of the applicants and other concerned.

A total of 5521 applications were submitted for plots developed on 174 acres of land beside the under-construction Oxygen-Quaish Road.

Chittagong City Corporation Acting Mayor M Manjur Alam launched the lottery at a function where Chittagong Metropolitan Police Commissioner M Akber Ali, Chittagong Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CWCCI) President Monowara Hakim Ali, also Member of the Board of Trustee of Asian University for Women and CDA Chairman Shah Muhammad Akhter Uddin were present.

The applicants submitted applications under 15 categories and sub-categories in October last year.

Of the applicants freedom fighters and the family members of martyred freedom fighters were allotted plots with top priority.

The authority allotted a plot to Birshreshtha Ruhul Amin's daughter Fatema Begum, also a teacher of Cantonment Public School, as a token of honour to the martyred freedom fighters.

The names of the winners were displayed through projector and announced through loud speakers during the lottery.

CDA authorities also informed during the lottery that it has taken initiative to develop another project of 30 acres of land under Kalpaloke III phase.

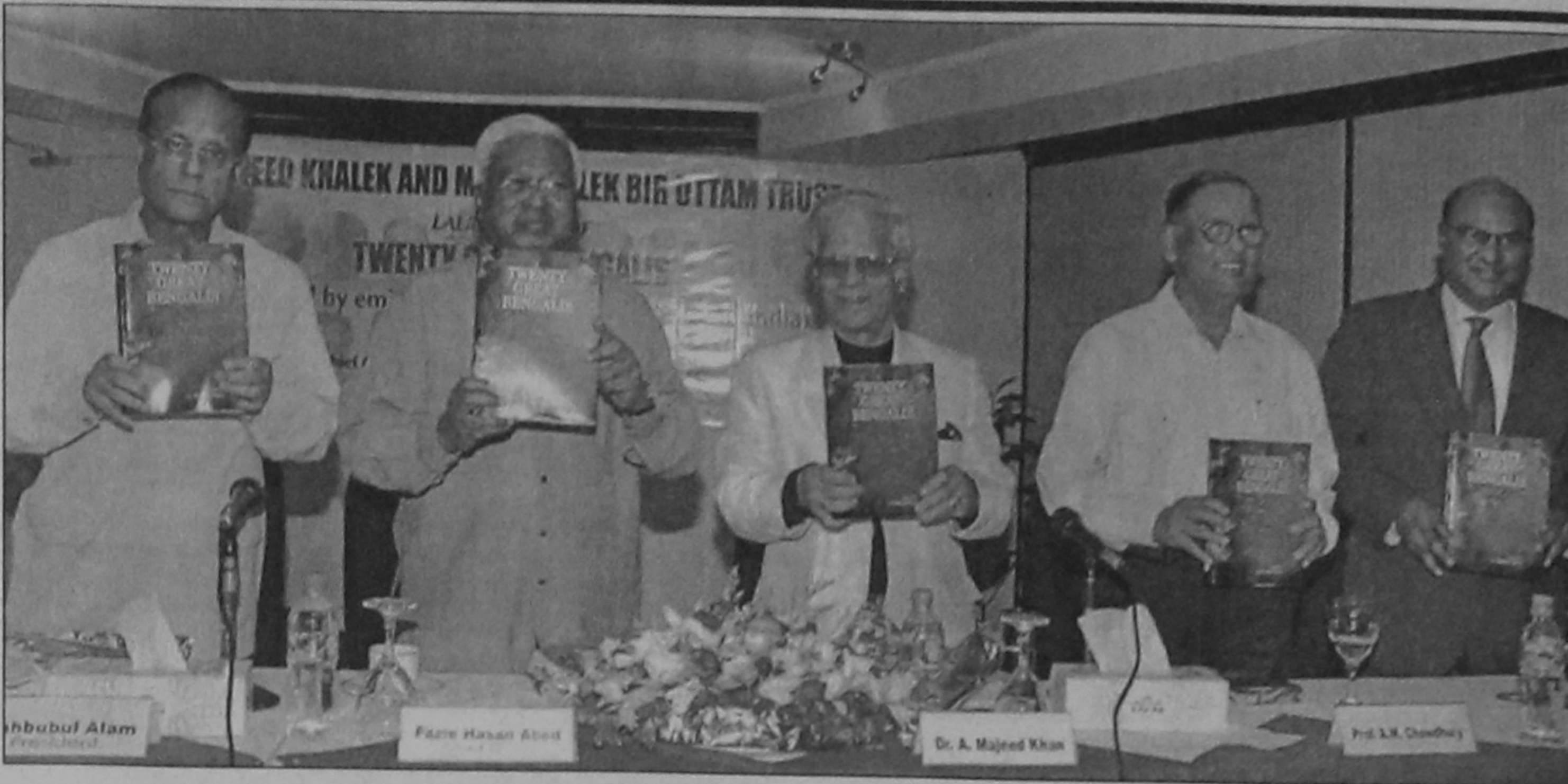
### Obituary



Faruk Aziz Khan, a businessman and social worker, passed away due to heart failure yesterday at the age of 57, says a press release.

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

His gulkhwani will be held at his residence (House-63, Road-9/A, Dhanmondi) in the city on Friday.



Guests hold copies of a book titled 'Twenty Great Bengalis' at its publication ceremony at Brac Centre in the city yesterday. From left are former adviser Mahbubul Alam, Brac Chairman Fazle Hasan Abed, Dr A Majed Khan, Prof AM Chowdhury and A Matin Chowdhury.

## 'Biographies of great Bangalees to strengthen cultural ties'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a book-launching ceremony yesterday said biographies of great people of Bengal can inspire young generations at home and abroad to strengthen their cultural bondage.

They, however, stressed that the biographies should be written on the basis of objective researches and critical analysis saying that many biographies and history books written in the past were biased.

The observations came at the launch of the book titled 'Twenty Great Bengalis' edited by Dr A Majed Khan, vice-chancellor of the University of Information Technology and Science.

The great people whose biographies were included in the book are Dipankar Srijana Atish, Raja Rammohun Roy, Lalan Shah, Titumir, Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar, Jagdish Chandra Bose, Rabindranath Tagore, Swami Vivekananda, Abul Kashem Fazlul Huq, Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain,



## BIDS research director honoured

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which was jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007, has formally acknowledged the contribution of Dr M Asaduzzaman, research director of BIDS, says a press release.

Dr Asaduzzaman was a lead author of the chapter on Response Strategies for the Second Assessment Report of the IPCC and a reviewer of several subsequent IPCC reports.

His contribution has been acknowledged formally by the IPCC as substantial to IPCC being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize of 2007.

The 2007 Nobel Peace Prize was jointly awarded to IPCC and Al Gore, former US vice-president.

## US envoy says task to be very difficult

### FROM PAGE 1

Earlier, the President's Guard Regiment had given Moriarty a guard of honor before he submitted his credentials to the president. They discussed bilateral relations, when the president told Moriarty about government plans to hold the stalled ninth parliamentary election by the year end.

At the news briefing, Moriarty said his objective is to see elections occur at the end of this year, adding, "My hope is that those elections will result in a more stable and deeply rooted democracy."

"This is a critical time for Bangladesh, a country in transition in a region of the world vital to US interests," he said.

He quoted US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice as saying, "We look to increased partnership as Bangladesh takes its rightful place as a country that can help to bring stability and strength to South Asia."

The new envoy said, "Promoting democracy, ensuring development, and denying space to terrorism are the key challenges Bangladesh faces, and are vital to the future of the relationship between our countries."

He however hoped that due process will be followed and fair,

Dr Muhammad Shahidullah, Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani, Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy, Subhas Chandra Bose, Kazi Nazrul Islam, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Satyajit Ray, Amartya Sen, Ziaur Rahman and Dr Muhammad Yunus.

"I hope the young generation will be inspired by reading the book," said Brac Chairman Fazle Hasan Abed while speaking as chief guest.

"We usually give recognition to people after their death. But I think we should also recognise great people when they are alive," he said with special reference to the biographies of Dr Muhammad Yunus

and Amartya Sen who are now alive.

Speaking as discussant on the book, Prof Syed Manzoorul Islam of Dhaka University said this book will inspire young people of Bengali diaspora communities who grow without any role model.

He however said a biography should cover both bright and dark side of a man.

Prof AM Chowdhury also spoke at the book launch presided over by Mahbubul Alam, editor of The Independent.

The event was organised by Shaheed Khalek and Major Salek Chowdhury Bir Uttam Trust.

## Labour Ordn 2008 blacker one

### Speakers tell roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday said the Labour Ordinance 2008 has cut down all democratic rights of labourers that were given by the country's Constitution and the ILO Convention.

They termed the Labour Act 2006 a black law and Labour Ordinance 2008 even a blacker one.

The roundtable titled 'Amendment of Labour Act 2006 and Cancellation of Labour Ordinance 2008' was organised by the National Committee to Propose Correction of Labour Act 2006 and Cancellation of Labour Ordinance 2008 at the National Press Club in the capital.

Leaders of different labour organisations and educationists

took part in the roundtable.

Prof Anu Muhammad of Jahangirnagar University said labour organisations should be united to realise their demands.

The main purpose of the Labour Ordinance 2008 is to snatch the rights of trade union and protect the interest of the owners.

Prof Anu accused the IMF and the WB for continued repression on labourers across the world.

Labour leader Shahidullah Chowdhury said if the workers are not allowed to practise trade union they would not get any shed for them and they would not be able to struggle for their rights in future.

He urged the government to let them practise indoor trade union activities immediately.



Prof Anu Muhammad speaks at a roundtable titled 'Amendment of Labour Act 2006 and Cancellation of Labour Ordinance 2008' at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. National Committee to Propose Correction of Labour Act 2006 and Cancellation of Labour Ordinance 2008 organised the roundtable.

## Hearing of Ctg arms case deferred

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A court in the port city yesterday deferred the hearing of sensational Chittagong Arms Haul Case to April 28 following submission of a petition by the defence lawyer opposing a remand appeal of the investigation officer.

Sources said investigation officer Mohammad Ismail Hossain, a special super of Criminal Investigation Department (CID), yesterday sought a 10-day remand from the court of Metropolitan Magistrate Abu Syed Mohammad Hamid to interrogate two prime accused of the case Hafizur Rahman and Deen Mohammad.

But advocate Rana Das Gupta, lawyer of accused Hafizur, opposed the remand appeal saying the appeal bore no legality. "As the accused (Hafiz) had surrendered before the high court and is now facing legal battle, there is no scope to place an accused who is in legal proceedings into remand. The accused however can be quizzed in presence of his lawyers at the jail gate with order from the court," Rana said.

Following this, the Judge asked Court Sub Inspector (CSI) whether he had any documents of the case. As he replied in negative, the judge deferred the next hearing to April 28 and ordered the IO of the case to appear before him on the day with necessary documents.

Police on April 1, 2004 hauled ten truckloads of smuggled arms and ammunition from the jetty of Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Limited (CUFL) on the southern bank of Karnaphuli.

The investigation of the case had recently started afresh following a court order and Mohammad Ismail has been appointed as the IO of the case.

### Death anniversary



Today is the 37th death anniversary of martyred poet Mahatab Uddin Ahmed, says a press release.

He was killed by the Pakistani occupation forces on this day in 1971 at Baniya Para in Joypurhat.

He played a vital role in anti-British movement in 1937. He wrote two books titled "Sonar Hutt" and 'Alo'.

On the occasion, a special prayer will be offered at Dhaka Railway Central Mosque at Kamalapur in the city after Asr prayers today for salvation of the departed soul.

### Syed Salehuddin Mahmood



Information Department (PID), says a press release.

On the occasion, a doa mahfil will be held today after Asr prayers at Mirpur Shaheed Intellectual Graveyard.

Relatives and admirers are requested to attend the doa mahfil and pray for salvation of the departed soul.

### Hachen Uddin Fakir



Tomorrow is the 19th death anniversary of Hachen Uddin Fakir, a social worker and father of noted singer Fakir Alamgir, says a press release.

On the occasion, a discussion, Qurankhwani and milad mahfil will be held at village Kalamridha organised by Hachen Uddin Fakir Smriti Committee while a special prayers will be offered at Khilgao Mati Masjid in the city.

Relatives and admirers are requested to attend the programmes and pray for salvation of the departed soul.