

## Frequent power outages a nightmare for city dwellers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Residents of the city's Rampura and Badda areas, especially the elderly people and children, are becoming sick after passing successive nights due to frequent power outage, a situation they never experienced in the past.

City dwellers living in WAPDA Road, Banasri and Mohanagar projects are now in dire straits, as they feel the pinch of hot and humid weather in ever-deteriorating power crisis no matter at daytime or at night.

Over the last several days, they are facing frequent power disruptions at least three times between midnight and early morning -- the usual timings for sleeping. The dwellers said they are just passing sleepless nights.

"Night has become a nightmare for us," said Tamim Tania, a resident of WAPDA Road. She said load shedding has its domino effects as it disrupts supply of water, which is essential for cooking and bathing.

"I get up early in the morning, cook food and prepare my baby for school by 7:00am. This is simply not possible if you can't sleep at night," lamented the mother, who was forced to stop sending her kid to the school.

Dilara Akhter Poppy, another resident, told The Daily Star yesterday that her school-going child fell sick due to lack of sound sleep for nights. She said she somehow solves the problem using her hand fan at night.

"We can manage the matter if there is no electricity at daytime. What else can we do if supply is suspended for hours after midnight," said Dilara, adding that she is planning to buy an instant power supply (IPS) device.

For Suva, who works in a private farm and lives in Banasri area, thing is now different. He bought an IPS a few days ago.

"My father is ill. He and my baby boy need an uninterrupted power supply to remain well," he said, regretting that the power supply

has become so unusual that he cannot get his IPS battery fully charged.

The city dwellers who have the buying capacity of an IPS, they become desperate to buy it in order to rescue them from the nagging situation. For the impoverished, fixed income groups, thing will remain unchanged and they have to accept the inevitable.

Not only Rampura, most of the city areas are experiencing the same kind of adverse situation as the country's power situation is increasingly becoming bad to worse in every passing days.

The average load shedding increases every month because of the dip in power generation and surge in the demand for electricity in the sweltering summer heat.

According to the PDB's estimate, the average load shedding increased to 782 megawatt till June 19 from 765 MW in May, although the demand for electricity was less in June than May because of the monsoon.

## BDB to take part in local govt polls

Prof Chy tells party men  
RU CORRESPONDENT

Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDB) President Prof AQM Badruddozza Chowdhury yesterday said his party will participate in local government polls before the national election.

BDB will take part in the polls to help eliminate corruptions from the country and will nominate only honest and patriotic people, he added.

The BDB chief was speaking at a 'Mass Dialogue and Consultation Meeting' organised by Rajshahi city unit of the party at a local restaurant in the afternoon.

He urged party men to take preparations for both local and national elections.

Prof Chowdhury said his party is looking for honest, patriotic and qualified candidates for taking part in the local body elections.

He urged the party leaders, activists and supporters to boycott socially corrupt persons, criminals and musclemen and reject them in upcoming elections.

The BDB chief said poverty is the main problem of the country and as such poverty reduction has been given the top priority in his party manifesto.

If the income of general people is not increased, the country cannot be developed, he added.

Prof Chowdhury called for increasing food production to end food crisis, and urged the government to provide more subsidy and loan for the agricultural sector.

## Death of Manekshaw condoled

STAR REPORT

Various organisations and individuals yesterday expressed deep shock at the death of Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw, who was the chief of Indian army during the Liberation War of Bangladesh in 1971.

UNB adds: Foreign Adviser Dr Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury expressed condolence at the death of the war veteran.

In a message to Indian External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee, the foreign adviser said Field Marshal Manekshaw combined in him the rare qualities of a great soldier, military strategist and a leader of people he worked with.

"The people and the government of Bangladesh will always recall with warm gratitude his signal contribution to our War of Liberation and his association with a glorious epoch in the history of Bangladesh's evolution," he said.

Army Chief General Moeen U Ahmed has also conveyed his condolence to the bereaved family of Manekshaw and also to the Chief of Staff of the Indian Army.

In a condolence message, the Bangladesh Army said Manekshaw's successful leadership as the chief of the allied force in the Liberation War in 1971 had helped Bangladesh achieve a quick victory in the war, said an ISPR press release.

Bangladesh Army also recalled his contribution to the liberation war with gratitude and paid deep respect to his departed soul.

In a press release yesterday, the Sector Commanders' Forum said the role of Manekshaw in the liberation war is inseparable from the history of Bangladesh's independence.

Liberation War Museum has also expressed deep shock at the death of Manekshaw and opened a condolence book at the museum to facilitate the people to pay tribute to the war hero.

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal President Hasanul Haque Inu and General Secretary Syed Zafar Sazzad in a statement said Bangladeshis would always remember the contribution of Manekshaw to the Liberation War.

Jatiya Party Secretary General Sheikh Shahidul Islam in a statement said Bangladesh has lost one of its sincere friends at the death of Manekshaw.

Sammilita Sangskritik Jote and Muktiyoddha Sangram Parishad also condoled the death of the war veteran.

## MA Awal elected chairman of NSU Foundation



MA Awal, a founder life member of the North South University (NSU) Foundation, has been elected chairman of the foundation and the university for a two-year term (2008-09) at its 16th annual general meeting in the city on Thursday, says a press release.

NSU is the first and premier private university in the country that has been playing a pioneering role in providing quality higher education.



Commerce and Education Adviser Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman speaks at a view exchange meeting at Deputy Commissioner's conference room in Khagrachhari yesterday. On his right are Communications Adviser Maj Gen (ret'd) Ghulam Quader and Law Adviser AF Hasan Arif.

## Ensure uninterrupted power supply to RMG units

BGMEA leaders urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Business leaders at a press conference in Chittagong yesterday called for increasing gas supply to different garment units through new connections and addressing load shedding and power outage on an emergency basis.

Garment and other industrial units in the port city are facing these problems for long, they further said, adding that the industries may witness a halt to normal production that is sure to give rise to unemployment and labour unrest.

They feared that interrupted gas supply and frequent power outage may also affect the country's economy seriously.

Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) organised the press conference at a local hotel ahead of the regional conference to be held at Institute of Engineers

Bangladesh, Chittagong auditorium today.

Chief Adviser Fakhrudin Ahmed will be present at the conference.

The BGMEA leaders put forward an eight-point recommendation, including smooth gas supply to Chittagong through setting up new pipelines from Comilla or Bibiyana gas fields as assured by Special Assistant to the CAM Tamim.

The recommendations also included cancellation of licensing system under which an annual charge of Tk 1 lakh has to be paid for installation of a 1-MW generator, uninterrupted supply of power and water to garment and other industrial units.

The BGMEA leaders said acute crises of gas, power and water are not only causing a halt to huge production and financial losses to the industrial units, but also discouraging potential investors from investing in Chittagong.

They said new connections to garment and other industrial units in Chittagong have remained suspended since September 2007 while those having gas connections are also facing low pressure of gas.

The BGMEA leaders, however, recommended for a minimum supply of 500-MW power to Chittagong from the national grid and ensure uninterrupted power supply to the garment factories here.

BGMEA acting President MA Salam read out a written statement at the conference where former BGMEA first vice presidents Mahabub Ali, Khalilur Rahman, SM Abu Tayab and Ershad Ullah, BGMEA Standing Committee on Power Chairman Hasan Uz Zaman, CSE President Nasiruddin Ahmed Chowdhury, BGMEA directors Nasir Uddin Chowdhury, Abdul Mannan Rana and Mainuddin Mintu also took part in the conference.

## Drug addict beaten to death in Mymensingh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A drug addict was beaten to death in the name of treatment at a rehabilitation centre for the drug addicts at Digarkanda in the district town on Thursday night.

The victim was identified as Hossain Ali, 32, son of Akhtar Hossain of the same area.

Police arrested a person who was identified as Mahmudul Kabir, programme coordinator of Ashray, a rehabilitation centre for drug addicts. Other staff of the centre, however, fled the scene to avoid arrest, sources said.

Akhtar Hossain admitted his drug addict son Hossain Ali to the centre for treatment around 20 days ago.

On that night, Hossain Ali urinated in his sleep, which made the centre staff furious. They allegedly beat him seriously who succumbed to his injuries at 9:00pm, sources added.

Assistant Police Super of Kotwali Police Station Apel Mahmud said a number of rehabilitation centres in the town have been closed down recently for 'such inhuman treatment'.

## Indigenous youth shot dead in Bandarban

UNB, Bandarban

An indigenous youth was shot dead at Kanaiupara under Sadar upazila here on Thursday night.

The deceased was identified as Priya Tongchanga.

Local people said a gang of some 16/17 criminals, led by their kingpin Rajan Chakma, encircled the house of Tongchanga and shot him dead at around 12:30am while he was sleeping.

Previous enmity might be the reason behind the killing, they added.

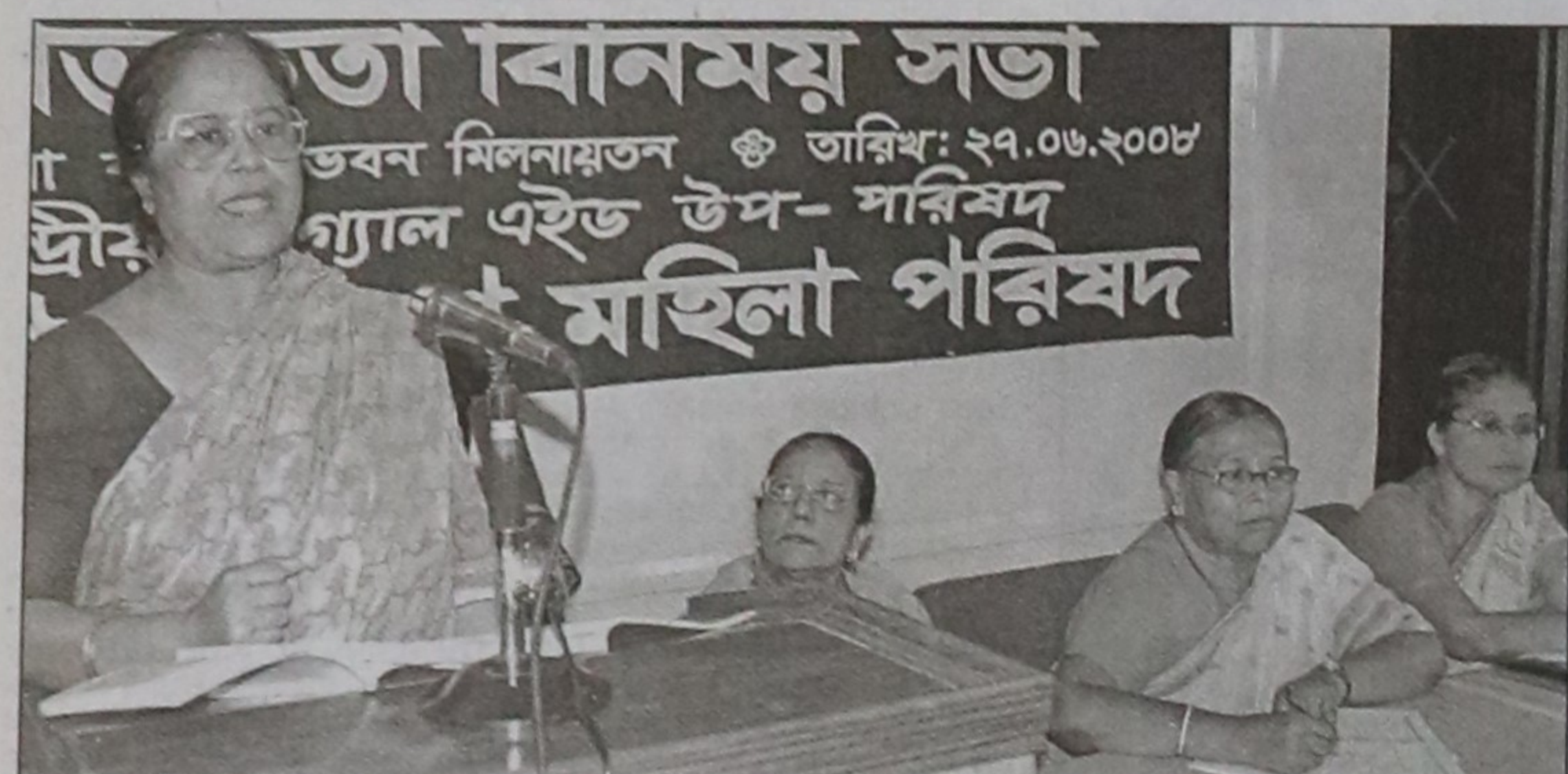
Another source said Tongchanga used to inform law enforcers about the criminal activities of the miscreants in the area and that might be the reason behind the murder.

## Scouts national council meet

The 37th national council meeting of Bangladesh Scouts opens today at Mouchak in Gazipur, says a press release.

The special meeting will begin at 11:00am at Mouchak National Training Centre, Gazipur.

Bangladesh Scouts President Dr Shah Mohammad Farid will inaugurate the meeting.



Bangladesh Mahila Parishad President Ayesha Khanam speaks at an experience sharing meeting with the district level activists of the organisation at its office in the city yesterday.

## 'One-stop crisis centres should be designed as legal aid providers'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad at a discussion yesterday said the One-Stop Crisis Centres for the victims of violence against women should be designed as legal aid providers and people-friendly organisations to prevent repression of women.

At an experience-sharing meeting with the district level activists, the leaders also said most victims fail to receive justice due to inadequate support from these centres.

Parishad representatives from 37 districts attended the meeting at its office in the city.

They said that as the Parishad activities are not incorporated into the multi-sectoral programme of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs to resist violence against women and children, the authorities express their inability to cooperate with them.

Mahila Parishad President Ayesha Khanam said the centres have been established to support the victims of repression in the wake of repeated calls for such centres by the Mahila Parishad. Currently six divisional medical college hospitals have such centres.

The participants also discussed the ways to face the challenges of the 21st century in combating violence against women.

Advocate Masuda Rehana Begum read out the keynote paper. General Secretary of the Parishad Maleka Banu, Shahana Kabir, Edlin Malakar, Rakhi Das, Rekha Chowdhury and Kazi Sofia Akhter were also present.

## Birth anniversary of Principal Abul Kashem today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



On the occasion, Bhasha Andolon Museum will organise a discussion at its office at 4:00pm today.

Principal Kashem formed Tomoddun Majlis on September 1, 1947 and started the Language Movement.

He was awarded the Independence Day Award in 1993, Ekushey Padak in 1987, Bangla Academy Award in 1982 and Islamic Foundation Award in 1988.

## 6 killed in road crashes

STAR REPORT

At least six people were killed and 11 others injured in separate road accidents in Dhaka, Sirajganj, Jhenidah and Mymensingh yesterday.

Our staff correspondent adds: Two motorcyclists were killed in an accident at Kakrail in the city early yesterday.

They were identified as Anwar Hossain Kalu, 35, garment wastage trader, and his friend Abdul Malek alias Malu, 33, of Basabo under Sabujbagh Police Station.

Police said the accident occurred when a goods-laden truck hit their motorbike at Kakrail crossing while they were returning home after visiting Kalu's ailing wife Tania Begum at Dhanmendi Central Hospital.

They were rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where the doctors declared them dead.

Our Jhenidah correspondent reports: Two people were killed and one was injured in a road accident at Mobarak Ganj rail crossing under Kaliganj upazila.

The victims were identified as Fulser Ali, 45, and Jahurul Islam, 25.

Police and locals said the accident occurred when a Kotchandpur-bound bus hit a Nasimon (human hauler) from behind, leaving them injured. They succumbed to injuries on the way to hospital.

Our Mymensingh correspondent adds: An old woman was killed in a road accident at Digarkanda area on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway.

The victim was identified as

Maleka Khatun, 80, wife of late Abdul Jalil of Baira Sabagia area of the upazila.

Police and locals said the accident occurred when a Dhaka-bound passenger bus crushed Maleka under its wheels while she was crossing the road.

Our Sirajganj correspondent adds: A bicycle rider was killed in a road accident.

The dead was identified as Saddam Hossain, 18, son of Abdul Aziz of Bhargram village.

Police and witnesses said that the accident occurred at around 9:30am when a Rajshahi-bound passenger bus hit his bicycle on Dhaka-Bonpara highway at Mohislu area in Tarash upazila.

## Obituary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Syeda Chaman Ara, mother of Zobeir Hossain Sikder, staff photographer of The Daily Star at Chittagong bureau office, passed away at her residence at Dampara in the early hours of yesterday at the age of 55.

She had been suffering from liver cirrhosis due to hepatitis C infection for the last few months.

She left behind her husband Jamal Ahmed Sikder, secretary of the Gaouchia Hoque Manjil (Majibbhandari Sharif) central committee, three sons, one daughter and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn her death.

She was buried at their family graveyard at Sundarpur in Fatikchhari upazila.



## Moderate rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty/squally wind is likely at many places over all the six divisions in the next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may fall slightly over the country during the period, Met Office said.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 34.2 degree Celsius was recorded at Jessore and the lowest of 24.8 degrees at Teknaf and Sandwip.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:50pm today and rises at 5:14am 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	32.0	27.3	86	77
Chittagong	31.3	25.5	81	73
Rajshahi	34.2	7.2	83	92
Khulna	33.0	27.5	78	77
Barisal	31.8	27.2	86	80
Sylhet	31.9	25.5	85	67
Cox's Bazar	32.0	25.0	96	80



Astha Network brings out a procession marking the 153rd anniversary of Santal revolution in Rajshahi yesterday.

## Indigenous people demand constitutional recognition

RU CORRESPONDENT

Indigenous leaders at a discussion yesterday demanded their constitutional recognition and ensuring their rights to their mother tongue, culture and land.

The indigenous leaders also demanded formation of a separate land commission for them and introduction of primary education in their mother tongue.

Their lands are being grabbed and they are being deprived of their rights to their mother tongue and culture, but no governments took any steps for their sustainable development, the indigenous

leaders added.

Astha Network, a NGO working for indigenous people, organised the discussion at Padma Manch to observe the 153rd anniversary of Santal HUL (revolution).

Eminent litterateur Prof Hassan Azizul Haque inaugurated the daylong programme while Proshanto Saha presented the inaugural speech on the occasion.

Language Movement veteran Advocate Golam Arif Tipu was present as the chief guest while Astha President Ganesh Majhi presided over the programme.

Jatiya Adivasi Parishad President Anil Marandi, language

movement veteran Abul Hossain, Adivasi Sanskritik Unnayan Sangstha (ASUS) Executive Director Rajkumar Shaw, Advocate Michael Saran, journalist Mustafizur Rahman Khan, indigenous leader Amin Kuzur, Sabin Munda, Basanti Murmu, Andrash Biswas, Ramanath Mathato, Dipongkor Lakra and Jumu Biswas also addressed the discussion.

Debashish Pramanik of Astha conducted the discussion.

The speakers also urged the government to observe the day at national level and to ensure the rights of indigenous people to their land and language.

## Top outlaws Akash, Tikka killed

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motorcycle, 2768 books and 500 leaflets of Janajuddho.

Tikka, who was a leader of outlawed Gono Mukti Foj (GMF), joined PBCP (Janajuddho) three months ago as its regional leader.

Rab sources said they took Akash to Dhaka for interrogation after the judicial magistrate's court, Kushtia, placed him on eight days' remand on June 24.

During interrogation at Task Force Intelligence (TFI) cell in Dhaka, Rab extracted information from Akash about hidden firearms of the outlawed outfit and its cadres scattered in the southern and northern regions, sources said.

He also disclosed that the operatives of the Janajuddho faction were scheduled to sit in a meeting at Ganeshpur on Thursday night.

On Akash's statement, Rab-12 personnel left Dhaka for Kushtia on Thursday night taking Akash with them.

When they reached Ganeshpur Eidgah at around 3:30am, the Janajuddho operatives led by regional leader Tikka opened fire on the Rab men, prompting them to retaliate.

According to the Rab press release, handcuffed Akash tried to jump out of Rab microbus during the "shootout" and received bullets. He died on the spot while other operatives managed to flee.

Rab later found the bullet-hit body of Tikka on the spot and recovered one AK-47 rifle, two rifles, two revolvers and 22 bullets from there, the release added.

This is another big blow to Janajuddho, one of the factions of PBCP-ML, after the death of its founder Dada Tapan. He was leading the faction since its establishment in 2003.

RISE OF AKASH  
Akash was the youngest among four sons of poor farmer Ebadat Malitha at Bishaykhali in Jhenidah district. He had studied up to class eight at a school in Jhenidah.

Akash joined the PBCP on instruction of his brother Dada Tapan in 2001 when Dada was in jail. Sources said Dada asked Akash to form a group within the party with his loyalists. Akash formed a group that snatched Dada from police on Khulna judge's court premises on January 26, 2002. Eventually, Akash was made

second-in-command of Janajuddho faction.

According to law enforcement agencies, illegal money earned through extortion, and arms and ammunition of the banned outfit were under the control of Akash. He was also assigned to supervise the cadres' activities and make operation plans.

Tikka  
Son of late Habibur Rahman of Ganeshpur village, Tikka had his graduation from Khoksa College in 1996.

Police of different police stations in Kushtia, Rajbari and Jhenidah said Tikka was wanted in at least 28 cases including three for murder, 15 for extortion and 10 for abduction.

He kidnapped Osmanpur union BNP president Abu Ahmed Arabi and college teacher Mausud Ahmed on April 17, 2006 and killed them.

Tikka became a outlawed party boss after the death of NBCP chief Akdil Hossain on February 1 this year. Akdil was killed in "crossfire" with police. He was also sentenced to life term imprisonment in an arms case.

The inaugural ceremony of an art exhibition will be held. Venue: Shipangan Gallery. Time: 5:00pm. The exhibition will remain open till July 5 from 10:00 am to 1:00pm and 5:00pm to 8:00pm everyday.

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