

G-8 urged to reduce greenhouse gas emission

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Campaign for Sustainable Rural Livelihoods (CSRL), a network of 150 development organisations working at grassroots level, yesterday called on the G-8 countries and other developed countries to reduce greenhouse gas emission by 25-40 percent by 2020 for safeguarding the low-lying countries like Bangladesh.

The CSRL leaders claimed that around 2.5 crore people in

Bangladesh have already become refugees due to climate change whereas developed countries, including G-8 countries, are mostly responsible for climate change.

CSRL Member Secretary Ziaul Hoque Mukta said, "Developing countries, especially those at sea level, are victimised due to climate change. The situation is getting worse day by day due to huge amount greenhouse gas emission in the environment. Greenhouse gas is the main culprit for today's

climate change."

However, industry-based developed countries are mainly responsible for increasing greenhouse in the atmosphere, he said at a press conference at the Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium in the city.

Time has come to reduce the emission of greenhouse gas and for this reason, developed countries should come forward and take measures for reducing greenhouse gas emission by 25-40 percent by 2020, he added.

Ziaul Hoque Mukta also proposed that the G-8 and developed countries should prioritise the people who are victimised by climate change in their immigration process.

Khusi Kabir of Nijera Kori said developed countries should give compensation to those countries victimised by climate change.

CSRL members Dr Ahsan Uddin Ahmed and Sarder Shafiqul Alam also took part in the press conference.

BNP to overcome leadership crisis soon: Mahbubur

UNB, Dhaka

BNP standing committee member Lt Gen (ret'd) Mahbubur Rahman yesterday said the BNP would soon be able to overcome its leadership crisis, with new leadership emerging through historical process.

"As the nation has already overcome its food crisis, so we will be able to overcome our existing leadership crisis," he said while inaugurating a jute purchase centre of Pal and Co., on the bank of Shitalakhy river, in Narayanjan.

The reformist BNP leader said that as in the past, the new leadership would emerge through the historical process and lead the nation properly.

Mentioning the increasing demand for jute and jute products both at home and abroad, he said, "The golden days of the golden fiber are coming back... jute will again be the turning point in our national life."

Mahbub said the conflicts in BNP would be removed soon and in the process of unity the party members would move ahead being imbued with the ideology of late president Ziaur Rahman.

Fobana confce begins in New York

UNB, Dhaka

The 22nd conference of the Federation of Bangladesh Associations in North America (Fobana) was formally inaugurated at Hotel Hilton in New York on Thursday.

Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof SMA Faiz inaugurated the conference organised by America-Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industries (ABCCI).

The three-day conference features seminar, symposia, cultural programme, talent show, NRB conference and award giving function.

The opening ceremony was attended by Editor of the Naya Diganta Alamgir Mohiuddin, Editor of the Ittefaq Rahat Khan, Prof Ahmed Kamal and Editor of The New Age Nurul Kabir, according to a message received in Dhaka yesterday.

Inaugurating the conference, Prof Faiz expressed his satisfaction over the presence of Bangladeshis at the function and termed it a 'mini Bangladesh'.

He also said that the expatriate Bangladeshis are playing a vital role in helping the development process of the country by sending remittances.

The VC also expressed his hope that such conferences would help promote Bangladeshi culture, history and traditions abroad.



Participants at a memorial meeting observe one minute's silence to show respect to Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw, chief of Indian army during the Bangladesh's War of Liberation in 1971, at WVA auditorium in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 16)

Encourage honest candidates to take part in polls

Speakers tell Shujan meet

STAR REPORT

Speakers at a coordinating meeting yesterday stressed the need for electoral reforms to encourage honest and efficient candidates to come forward and take part in local and national elections.

Speaking as chief guest at the meeting at Zila Parishad auditorium in Comilla, Secretary of Shushashoner Janney Nagorik (Shujan) Dr Badiul Alam Majumdar said although different political

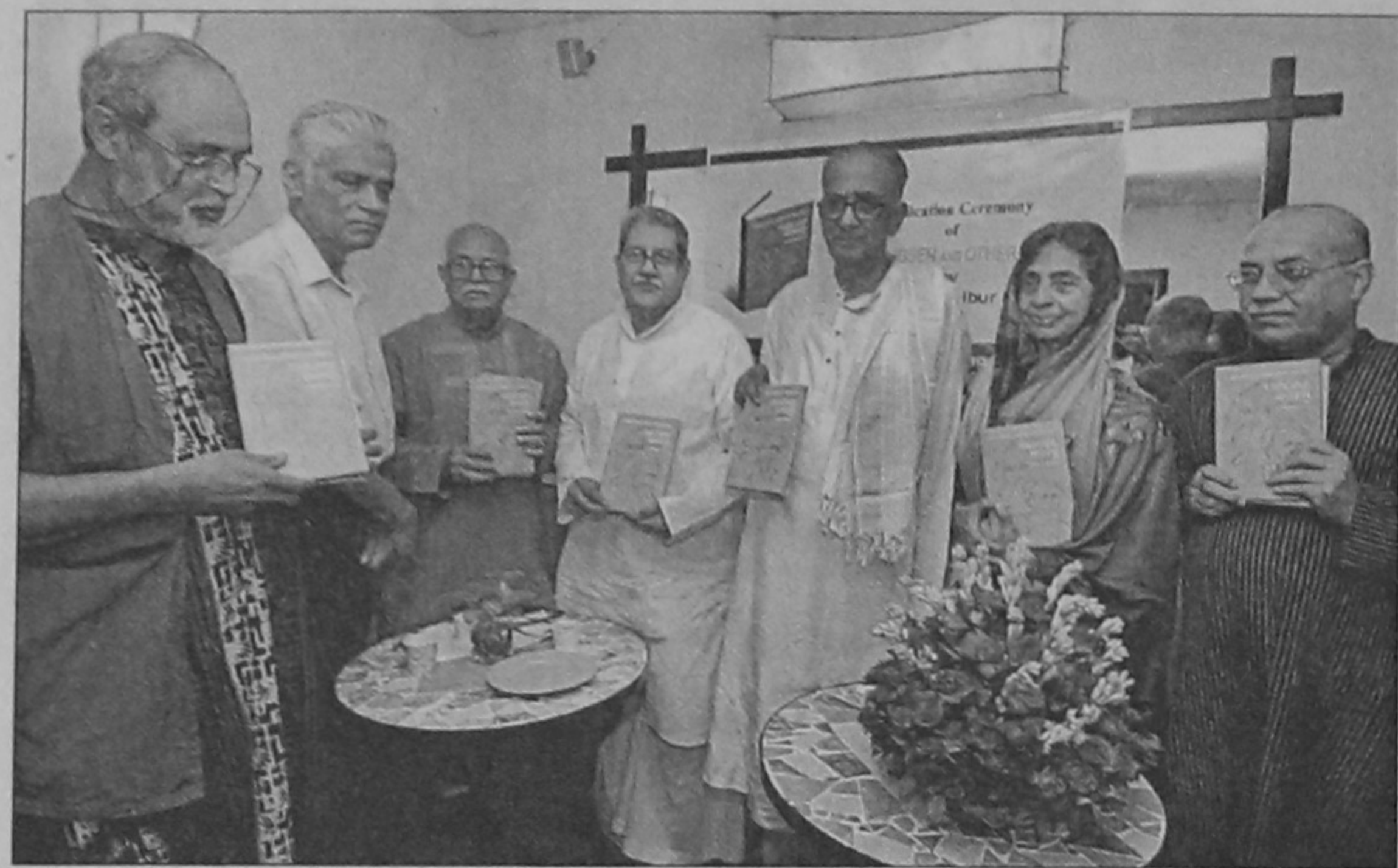
parties have their own constitutions but they do not follow them.

Shujan will have to take the initiative to inspire the political leaders to follow their own constitutions, and for this workshop, human chain and dialogue will have to be organised at union level three times a year, said Badiul.

Although election monitoring is important but different organisations are doing business in the name of election monitoring, he said, adding, Shujan would not do it.

If local government polls are not held now, political government after assuming power may snatch the result of the election, which will pave the way for dishonest persons and criminals to come to power again, he said.

President of Shujan Comilla district Mominul Haque Chowdhury, Vice-presidents Zahidul Haque Chowdhury, Prof Johra Anis and Shafiqur Rahman also addressed the meeting organised by Shujan.



The publication ceremony of a book titled 'Tagore, Ibsen and other Essays' by Justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman was held at Words n' Pages in the city yesterday. From left are Nurul Huda, Jamil Chowdhury, Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui, Prof Anisuzzaman and Justice Habibur Rahman and his wife Islama Rahman.

Fare hiked twice in 3 months

NUR UDDIN ALAMGIR, Ctg

Without addressing the manifold anomalies that the commuters in the port city have been suffering since long, the bus owners are going to charge the new fare fixed by the government from today.

Passengers alleged they are already paying additional fares, which the owners increased in the name of counter-based services in April this year.

The traffic department of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) imposed a rule on the city service buses to ply through counter-based service since April 14 in a bid to ease the passengers' everyday hassles and streamline the commuter service in the port city.

But the passengers have to wait for long at different makeshift

ticket counters even after purchasing tickets everyday while carrying passengers standing inside and dropping or taking passengers from different unscheduled stoppages violating the new instruction are common phenomena in the port city.

Mohammad Jahangir, an official of a real estate firm, said that the passengers are the losers every time and remain hostage to the owners and drivers.

Mohammad Mushfiqur Rahman, a teacher of Chittagong Residential School and College, said the fare was Tk 3 from his Naya Bazar Residence to Agrabad area before the introduction of this counter-based service.

After counter-based service was introduced, the fare stood at Tk 5 for around three kilometres, he

said, adding that it would not have mattered had they enjoyed a hassle-free journey.

When contacted, Transport Owners' Forum President Lokman Hakim Mohammad Ibrahim admitted the anomalies in the counter-based services and blamed it on the drivers, helpers and counter-men for increasing the fare and the anomalies.

In this regard, Assistant Commissioner (AC) of CMP Traffic Department Mohammad Mizanur Rahman said they are carrying out drives against the offenders.

Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) is the authority to check the increased fare, he added.

However, despite repeated attempts BRTA Assistant Director Sheikh Ataulah Chowdhury could not be contacted over phone.

Akhteruzzaman injured in road accident

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League leader Akhteruzzaman was injured when his Jeep turned over in the city's Nikunja area yesterday morning.

He is now undergoing treatment at Shikder Medical College Hospital.

The AL leader was going to Naogaon, but the Jeep turned over while giving side to another vehicle on the Airport Road, sources said.

Hospital sources said he was out of danger.

Acting AL President Zillur Rahman, Acting General Secretary Syed Ashrafur Islam, presidium members Abdur Razzak and Tofail Ahmed visited the injured leader at the hospital.

IUBAT signs deal with University of Victoria

International University of Business Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT) recently signed an agreement with University of Victoria, Canada under which practicum training would be provided to the students pursuing studies in Bachelor of Science course in the College of Nursing in IUBAT, says a press release.

Prof M Alimullah Miyan, vice chancellor and founder of IUBAT, and Dr Mary Ellen Purkis, dean of Faculty of Human and Social Development of Victoria University, signed the agreement on behalf of the two universities.

Dr Karen Lund, chair, College of Nursing (CN), and other faculty members were also present. The agreement contains a comprehensive package of facilities for admission and training within an established curriculum for professional development of students in nursing programme.

IT education stressed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar on Thursday said students should pay more attention to information technology (IT) education so that they can develop themselves as efficient individuals for taking the challenges of the fast-changing world.

They also underscored the need for allocating more funds to IT sector.

Brac University organised the seminar on 'Enhancing IT skills with Cisco curricula in Bangladesh' at LGED auditorium at Agargaon in the city.

Inaugurating the seminar, Prof Jamilur Reza Choudhury said students should adopt new technology for enhancing their capacity.

"It is obvious that the policymakers, institutions and the

academia of the country need to gear themselves up to deal with the challenges posed by the new situation. It is time for all of those, who are associated with planning and implementation of educational programmes, to revitalise their thinking and focus on the subject (IT)," he said.

He also said that present caretaker government has recently formed a committee to update the draft on national policy of IT.

Lokesh Mehra, regional manager of Corporate Responsibility for Cisco System, the worldwide leader of networking for the internet, said IT knowledge has become a must for everyone's survival.

Jagan Jothivel, academy manager of India and Saarc regional for the Cisco Networking Academy, also spoke.



Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at most places over Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and at many places over Rajshahi division in the next 24 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. Met Office said in a forecast.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 34 degree Celsius was recorded at Sayedpur and the lowest of 23 degrees at Sandwip. The sun sets in the capital at 6:50pm today and rises at 5:16am 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	32.1	24.6	92	93
Chittagong	29.4	24.6	93	88
Rajshahi	31.8	25.6	86	77
Khulna	32.4	26.9	83	94
Barisal	31.2	25.0	87	93
Sylhet	31.3	24.7	91	97
Cox's Bazar	28.2	25.0	94	97

DHAKA TODAY

DCCI seminar

Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) in cooperation with Bangladesh Economic Association and Oxfam International will organise a seminar on 'Price hike and poverty alleviation budget 2008-09'. Venue: DCCI auditorium. Time: 10:30am.

Lecture

Prof Nooruddin Ahmed will deliver Dr Rashid Memorial Lecture on 'Education scenario Bangladesh'. Venue: Buet Council Bhaban. Time: 10:30am.

Roundtable

Development Strategy Forum organises a seminar on 'Corporate social responsibility and Bangladesh'. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:00am.

Cisco competition

American International University (AIU) organises the 'First National Cisco Skill Competition 2008'. Venue: AIU auditorium. Time: 9:00am.

Discussion

Sammilito Samajik Andolon organises a discussion on general election and responsibility of the civil society. Venue: Liberation War Museum. Time: 4:00pm.



Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof SMA Faiz inaugurates the Fobana conference at Hotel Hilton in New York on Thursday.

ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES BEING HAMPERED

Appointment of full-fledged RU VC demanded

RU CORRESPONDENT

The teachers, students and officials of Rajshahi University (RU) have sought the intervention of the president, also the chancellor of the university, to get a full-fledged vice-chancellor, registrar, deans and syndicate members for running the university smoothly.

They said the academic activities of many departments of the university are being hampered due to absence of a full-fledged vice-chancellor and other key officials.

Besides, appointments were made to these important posts under political consideration during the rule of BNP-led four-party alliance government, they alleged.

The duties of sixteen vital posts including that of the vice-chancellor are now being performed by persons appointed on an ad hoc basis, they said.

The university teachers said the

acting RU Vice-chancellor (VC) Prof Mamnunul Keramat holds three other key posts in addition to the office of vice-chancellor. The acting VC has to look after the offices of pro-VC, treasurer and dean of the agriculture faculty.

Sources said RU acting registrar Prof Mohammad Shafi has to perform the duties of three offices including that of the dean of arts faculty.

The education ministry on May 16 removed Prof Altaf Hossain from the post of vice-chancellor following allegations that he had been appointed to the post under political consideration during the rule of BNP-led coalition government.

The terms of the deans of faculties of arts, law, science and social science expired in March last year. But it could not be possible to hold elections to fill up the posts due to imposition of the state of emergency, sources said.

Most of the departments and

faculties failed to make vital decisions for student welfare due to absence of faculty deans and syndicate members.

Mahbub Zamil, a teacher of the social science faculty, said new rules and regulations for the faculty could not be implemented due to absence of faculty dean.

"We are now waiting for a new dean to take office," he added.

The tenure of RU Teachers' Association (RUTA) also expired last year. But RUTA election could not be held as the emergency remains in force.

Many teachers of the university called upon the chancellor to give them permission to hold the RUTA election soon.

Acting VC Prof Mamnunul Keramat said the university authorities could not take important decisions due to lack of a full-fledged vice-chancellor and other key officials including registrar and deans.

Bangladesh trade fair in Malaysia

BSS, Dhaka

A four-day first ever Bangladesh single country trade fair began yesterday at the Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC) in the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur amidst enthusiasm and festivity.

Dhaka International Exhibition Company (DIEC) organised the fair in collaboration with the National Bank, according to a message received here said.

Bangladesh High Commissioner to Malaysia M Khairuzzaman and Malaysian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Dato' Abdul Malek Bin Abdul Aziz jointly inaugurated the fair. Senior officials and business-

men of the both countries were present.

A total of 22 Bangladeshi manufacturing and service companies including four banks, three life insurance companies, there readymade garments and four housing companies are taking part in the fair.

The participating banks are National Bank, Pubali Bank, NCC Bank and AB Bank and the life insurance companies are Meghna Life Insurance Company, Prime Islamic Life Insurance Limited and Golden Life Insurance Limited.

Speaking on the occasion, Malaysian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Dato' Abdul Malek said Kuala Lumpur would provide

support to Bangladesh to export their products easily.

He said this type of exhibition could boost exports and import and build image of both Bangladesh and Malaysia. He urged the Bangladeshi businessmen to invest in unexplored but potential sectors of Malaysia.

Khairuzzaman said Malaysia is one of the potential product as well as labour market of Bangladesh, where trade is in favour of Malaysia.

He invited the Bangladeshi businessmen to come forward with their products and services in Malaysian market.

Security guard killed in PGCB office

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A security guard was found slaughtered at the office of the Power Grid Company of Bangladesh (PGCB) at Gulshan in the city yesterday afternoon.

The police recovered the body Nazmul Hasan, 22, from the cable room in the basement of the office building.

They said Nazmul had been on duty since 6:00am yesterday and he might have been killed after 12:00 noon.

Other security guards found him dead at 2:00pm when they came to work in the second shift.

2 sacked cops caught while snatching mobile sets

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two policemen who were sacked recently were caught red-handed while snatching mobile phone sets and money from a pedestrian near the High Court area in the city on Thursday night.

The Shahbagh police produced the two -- constables Rezaul Sharif and Shafiqul Islam -- before the court, which sent them to jail yesterday.

Rezaul was a constable of Khulna Metropolitan Police and Sharif was a constable of Dhaka Metropolitan Police. They were sacked from the police department recently for their illegal activities, the police said.

The two tried to snatch two mobile phone sets and money from pedestrian Nishikanto Das at about 9:00pm, they said.

When Nishikanto cried out for help, the locals caught and handed them over to Shahbagh police.

Obituary

DU CORRESPONDENT

Hirmoy Pandey, former vice-president of Jagannath Hall unit of Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU) passed away due to a cardiac arrest at a city hospital yesterday.

BCU President Khan Asaduzzaman Masum and General Secretary Manabendra Dev, DU unit President Golam Kibria Shaheen, General Secretary Mehedi Banu Mita, in separate condolence messages expressed their profound shock at his death and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family members.

In a separate message, Bangladesh Jubo Union President Kafi Ratan and General Secretary Hasan Hafizur Rahman Sohail also condoled at his death.

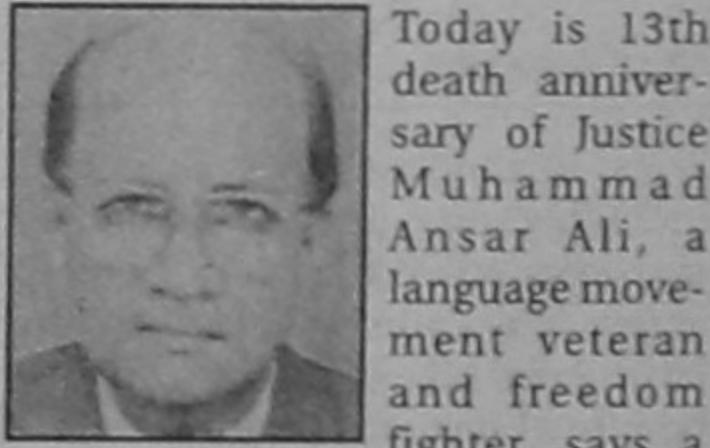
Saleha Enayet



She left behind her two daughters, one son, son-in-laws, daughter-in-law, grandsons, granddaughters and a host of relatives to mourn her death.

She will be buried tomorrow at her family graveyard in Pirojpur.

Death anniversary

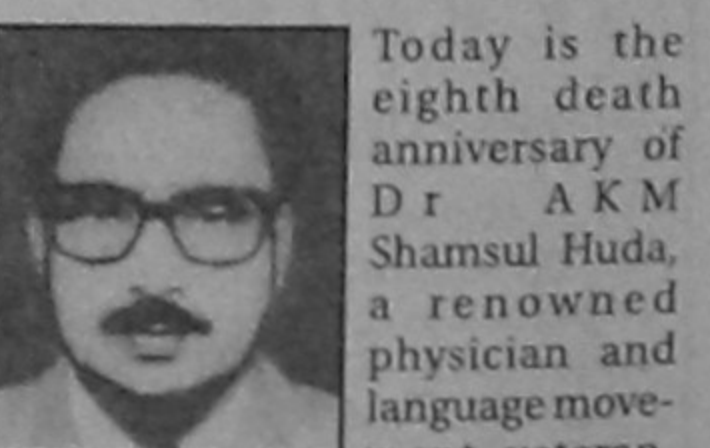


Today is 13th death anniversary of Justice Muhammad Ansar Ali, a language movement veteran and freedom fighter, says a press release.

He was the senior vice-president of Bangladesh Supreme Court Bar Association and was also elected twice the president of Rangpur District Bar Association. He was imprisoned in 1952 for his participation in the language movement. He was a recipient of Matribhasha Padak 2001.

On the occasion of his death anniversary, Quarkhawni and milad mahfil will be held at his village home in Naogaon and also at Banani graveyard in the capital.

Dr AKM Shamsul Huda



Today is the eighth death anniversary of Dr AKM Shamsul Huda, a renowned physician and language movement veteran.

He was a former VP of Sir Salimullah Memorial College Student Union.

A milad mahfil will be held at the mosque at Mirpur Intellectuals' Graveyard. Food will also be distributed among orphans.