

'Ijtema in two phases'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Minister Sahara Khatun yesterday said the upcoming six day long Biswa Ijtema will be held in two phases in a bid to ease suffering to pilgrims and maintain security strictly.

She told this to reporters following a meeting on Ijtema preparation and its security at her secretariat office.

Devotees from over 100 countries will participate in this year's Ijtema, she said adding that the first phase of Ijtema will begin on the bank of the Turag river at Tongi on January 13.

Another three-day Ijtema will begin at the same venue on January 20.

PADMA BRIDGE

Work to start within govt's tenure

Assures Quader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Communications Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday said reducing traffic congestion in the capital will be his ministry's topmost priority.

"Effective mechanism should be developed to reduce traffic jam by any means since it has reached an unendurable level," he said.

"I will sit with all stakeholders within a day or two to draw up a plan to reduce the gridlock," he added.

The minister was talking to reporters after a meeting with the officials of Dhaka Transport Coordination Board (DTCB) at its conference room at Nagar Bhaban in the capital.

Quader reiterated that he is pledge-bound to start the construction work of the Padma Bridge within this government's tenure.

If the government fails to fulfil its pledges, people's expectation will turn into disappointment, he observed.

"We have lot of work to complete. But our fund and time are limited. Despite our limitations, we will have to work hard to fulfil our target. Let us start the journey," the minister said.

The government is going to set up Dhaka Transport Coordination Authority (DTCA) and abolish the DTCB. A bill has already been placed in the parliament to this end, he said, adding that DTCA will be stronger than DTCB.

Yesterday's meeting also discussed introduction of different projects like Mass Rapid Transit (MRT), Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and ICT Fare System to improve Dhaka urban transport. The DTCB officials informed the minister that work is going on for rearrangement of the city's bus routes.

E-ticketing system is likely to be introduced in the government-run BRTC buses on a few routes from January, they said.

Obaidul Quader says reducing traffic congestion in the capital will be his ministry's topmost priority

63,000 Yaba tablets seized

CU CORRESPONDENT

Members of the Coast Guard seized 63,000 pieces of Yaba tablets in Teknaf upazila of Cox's Bazar early yesterday, said a press release.

The tablets were recovered on the

Naf River from a gang of smugglers who were bringing them from Myanmar.

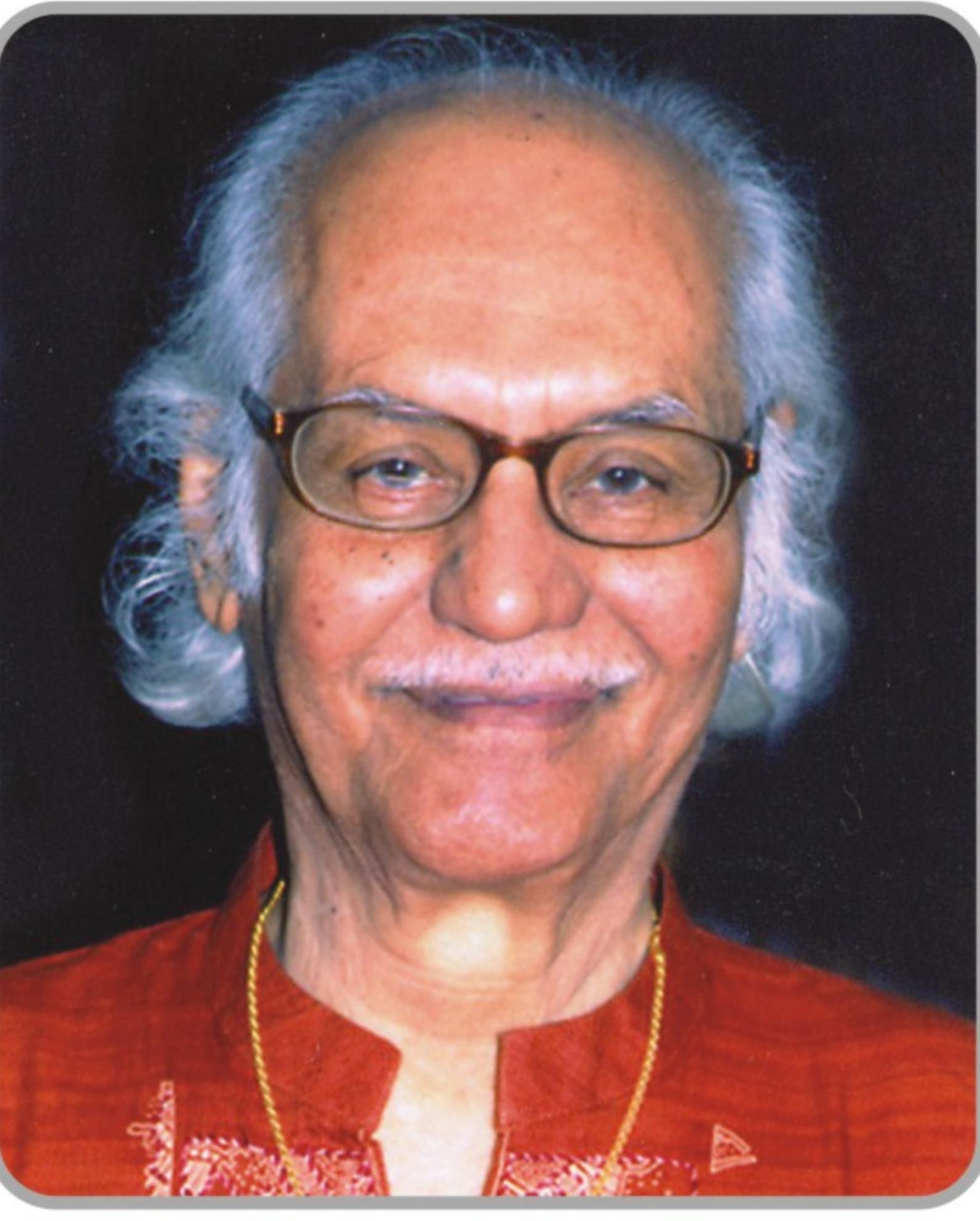
Acting on a tip-off, the Coast Guard men from Shah Parir Dwip outpost tried to intercept three engine boats in Nayapara area on the Naf around 5:00am.

However, sensing danger the smug-

glers sped up their boats and as a ploy threw a packet containing the Yaba tablets in the river. They managed to escape the Coast Guard personnel and fled back towards the Myanmar border.

The price of the tablets is estimated to be Tk 3.15 crore.

We Mourn



As he embarks on the eternal voyage, his spirit lives on among us.

"Like a swift-fleeting meteor, a fast-flying cloud,
A flash of the lightning, a break of the wave,
Man passeth from life to his rest."

We, the Directors, Shareholders, Management and Employees of National Finance Ltd are deeply saddened by the passing of our founder Chairman, National Professor Kabir Chowdhury. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family. May his eternal soul rest in peace.

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National Finance Ltd

গভীর শ্রদ্ধায় স্মরণ করি



আজ ১৫ ডিসেম্বর ২০১১ রোজ বৃহস্পতিবার বাংলাদেশ ইউনিভার্সিটির প্রতিষ্ঠাতা ও ভাইস-চ্যাপেলের এবং মোহাম্মদপুর প্রিপারেটরি উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক বিদ্যালয়ের প্রতিষ্ঠাতা চেয়ারম্যান মরহুম জনাব কাজী আজহার আলীর দ্বিতীয় মৃত্যুবার্ষিকী। ২০০৯ সালে এই দিনে তিনি বাংলাদেশ মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতালে ইন্তেকাল করেন। তাঁর মৃত্যুবার্ষিকী উপলক্ষে

আজ বেলা ২.০০ ঘটকায় ওয়ালিউর রহমান গাজী মিলনায়তনে (১৫/১ ইকবাল রোড, মোহাম্মদপুর, ঢাকা) মরহুমের কর্মময় জীবনের উপর আলোচনা ও দোয়া মাহফিলের আয়োজন করা হয়েছে। উক্ত দোয়া মাহফিলে মরহুমের বন্ধু-বন্ধন, আতীয়-স্বজন ও শুভাকঙ্কনের উপস্থিত থাকার জন্য বিনোদনে অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

বাংলাদেশ ইউনিভার্সিটি-পরিবারবর্গ।

Kabir Chy's death condoled

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different political, social, and cultural organisations expressed condolences yesterday at the death of eminent writer and national professor Kabir Chowdhury.

Manush, Bangabandhu Lalitkala Academy, Sonar Bangla Jubo Parisahd, Jatiya Giti Kabi Parisahd, Proshika, Patuakhali Science and Technology University vice-chancellor, Bangabandhu Gabeshona Parisahd, and Bangladesh Human Rights Commission expressed condolences.

Prof Kabir Chowdhury died of cardiac arrest in the capital early Tuesday at the age of 89.

Frontline