

Death anniversary
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

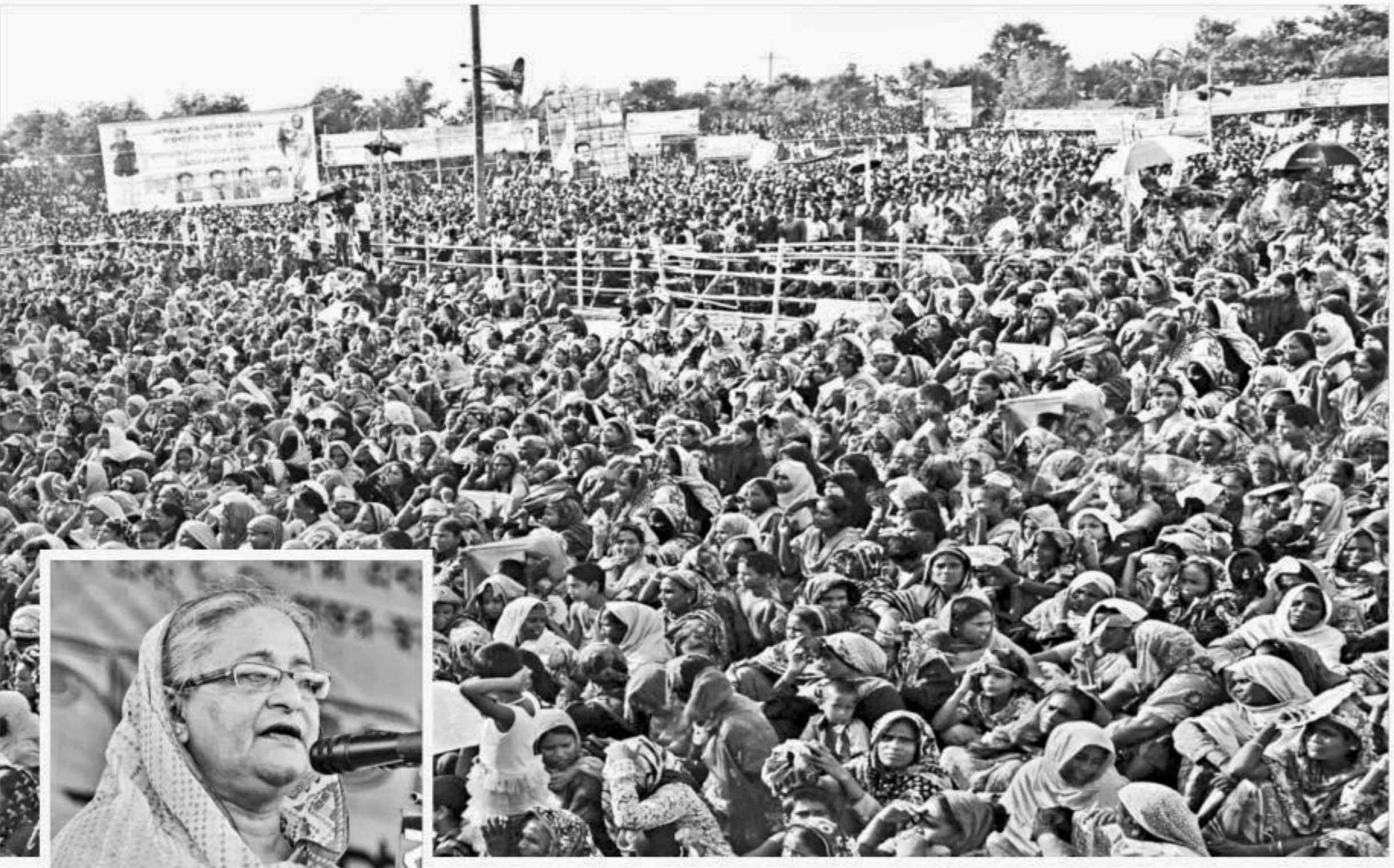
Today is the second death anniversary of Sayam ur Rahman, son of State Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Jahangir Kabir Nanak. On the occasion, Qurankhwani and a doa mahfil will be held at the media centre of Jatiya Sangsad after Asr prayers today, says a press release. Sayam died in a road crash on Chittagong-Cox's Bazar highway at Bendi Bazar of Chakoria in Cox's Bazar on September 6, 2011.

Doa mahfil
CITY DESK

A doa mahfil for Sobera Ahmed Rizvi, who passed away in New York on August 3, will be held at Gulshan Azad mosque in the capital after Asr prayers on Saturday. There will be a separate arrangement for ladies to join the programme at the mosque, says a press release.

Qulkhwani
CITY DESK

Qulkhwani of Prof Abdul Matin will be held at his Mohakhali DOHS residence after Asr prayers today. Abdul Matin, retired professor of Botani department at Dhaka University, died of cancer Tuesday. He was 72, says a press release. His family members have requested his relatives, friends and well-wishers to attend the Qulkhwani and pray for the salvation of the departed soul.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addresses a crowd at the Ena Park Mela ground in Bagmara upazila of Rajshahi yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

LITERACY RATE
Estimates of minister, BBS contradict

Primary and Mass Education Minister Afsarul Ameen yesterday said though the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) stated that the country's literacy rate at present is 59.8 percent, as per the ministry's estimation, it is 71 percent. However, he could not explain how the ministry came up with the estimation. Confusion arose over the literacy rate in 2011 when the minister, the former secretary to the ministry and the former Bureau of Non-Formal Education (BNFE) chief claimed that the percentage was 58, 54 and 53 respectively. "The rate has increased due to several government initiatives," he told a press conference the ministry organised at its premises in the capital marking International Literacy Day 2013, to be observed on Sunday. The day's theme this year is "We will become literate and efficient: This is our aim in the 21st century". The government hopes to nearly fulfil its electoral pledge of eradicating illiteracy by 2014, provided the ministry gets approval of the projects taken in this regard, he said. He said the literacy rate would have increased further if the BNP-led four-party alliance had not closed the BNFE for five years since 2001. "The literacy rate went up to 62 percent during the previous Awami League tenure from 1996 to 2001 but it came down to 52 percent during the BNP government tenure when the bureau was shut," he said. Afsarul said a "Basic Literacy Project (64 districts)", through which the BNFE would make 45 lakh people, aged between 11 and 45, literate, was awaiting approval. The primary level dropout rate has come down to 29 percent, he added.

Defence asks irrelevant

FROM PAGE 3
by the army. "It is not relevant. I am not bound to answer this kind of question," replied the IO. Tarafder, on the supplementary charge sheet placed by the IO, asked the names and number of witnesses, the time of cross-examination of the first witness and the time taken to file the investigation report. The IO said he first exam-

Oishee appeals

FROM PAGE 3
through her lawyer to the court, she claimed to have no involvement in the killing and did not accuse anyone in this regard. Oishee claimed to have been coerced into giving the statement due to physical and mental torture by the

case's investigation officer, who, she alleged, had threatened to kill her by poisoning her food and in "crossfire". Metropolitan Magistrate Md Erfan Ullah kept the petition in the case file without passing any order as there was no provision for retraction confessional statements. The court rejected Oishee's bail petition stating that the investigation was at a primary stage and that she had confessed to the crime. Oishee and Sumi, both produced before the courts yesterday, went sent to Dhaka Central Jail and Tongi's

National Juvenile Development Centre respectively. Oishee surrendered at Paltan Police Station on August 16, 22 hours after her parents' decomposed bodies were recovered from their Chamelibagh residence in the capital.

Two arrested

FROM PAGE 3
Sylhet Jewellers' Samity on Wednesday night called a daylong strike to protest the incident. All 50 shops, including 12 jewellery shops, of the market were kept shut yesterday. SM Rokon Uddin, additional commissioner of SMP, told The Daily Star that some

groups had a longstanding rivalry with the owner of Al-Baraka Jewellers, one of the shops looted. Contacted, the owner's younger brother, Sheikh Md Zuber, denied any sort of rivalry. On Wednesday night, robbers exploded crude bombs and looted jewellery shops in Nehar Market.

DNCC to ask Buet to solve

FROM PAGE 3
Visiting the intersection on Wednesday, Communications Minister Obaidul Quader asked the DNCC to hold the tripartite meeting for a solution and defusing people's fear over the aggressive stand the two business groups have taken centring traffic management at that point. The authorities of Jamuna

Future Park, adjoining Bashundhara residential area, demand closure of the road divider opening at the intersection, which causes traffic jam in front of Jamuna Future Park when vehicles from Progoti Sarani turn right into the residential zone. Bashundhara Group opposes the idea as its closure will require vehicles heading for Bashundhara to

take a U-turn under Kuril Flyover with a three-kilometre detour. BM Enamul Haque, chief executive officer of the DNCC, who chaired the meeting, said they would request Buet to conduct a traffic survey within a week and come up with a way out. DNCC chief engineer Brig Gen Abul Khair said the opening in the road divider could be shut down on a trial basis because such a sudden action would cause public wrath. The traffic scenario in the area would be horrible once Bashundhara residential area is fully developed and Jamuna Future Park becomes fully operational, said Ruhul Amin, deputy commissioner of the traffic police.

DHAKA TODAY

Human chain
Ethnic Council, and Coalition of Local NGOs, Bangladesh will form a human chain marking International Literacy Day; Venue: In front of Jatiya Press Club; Time: 11:00am.

Meeting
Bangabandhu Academy will organise a meeting on the upcoming election; Venue: Institute of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh; Time: 10:00am.

Seminar
Dhaka School of Economics will arrange a seminar on "Dynamics of Rural Food Insecurity in Bangladesh"; Venue: Bangladesh Authority Samity Auditorium, Eskaton Garden Road; Time: 3:30pm.

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DEATH OF A PIONEER

Gp Capt A.T.M.A. Quddus (Retd)

It is with deep grief and sorrows we announce the death of Gp Capt A.T.M.A. Quddus (Retd). After suffering from a stroke he breathed his last on 4th September 2013 at 6 O'clock in the morning at Appolo Hospital, Dhaka. He was 77. Born in 1936, he joined Pakistan Air Force in 1958. After the independence of Bangladesh he joined Bangladesh Air Force and made great contributions in shaping the newly established Air Force of Bangladesh. He retired in 1977. After retirement Gp Capt A.T.M.A. Quddus (Retd) embarked upon creating a new & unique business in Bangladesh by the name "Private Security Services" and raised the first ever Private Security Company by the name Secures (Pvt) Ltd. He was thus the father or the pioneer in creating a business, which today have flourished in every nook and corner of Bangladesh. Gp Capt A.T.M.A. Quddus (Retd) was the President of Bangladesh Professional Security Services Providers Association (BPSSPA). He was a scholarly person, regularly contributing in major dailies & weeklies. His demise will be considered as a great loss to the industry. He left behind his wife, two sons and lot of well-wishers to mourn his death. Bangladesh Professional Security Services Providers Association (BPSSPA) C-991

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