

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA H 33.0 L 22.0	MYMENSINGH H 30.2 L 22.2	CHATTGRAM H 31.0 L 21.6	SYLHET H 30.6 L 20.3	RAJSHAHI H 33.0 L 20.3	RANGPUR H 30.2 L 20.8	KHULNA H 33.5 L 22.3	BARISHAL H 32.0 L 20.6	COX'S BAZAR H 31.5 L 21.5
--------------------------	---------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------	----------------------	------------------------	-----------------------	----------------------	------------------------	---------------------------

Weather may remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky till 6:00pm today, reports UNB quoting Met Office. Country's highest temperature 33.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Khulna and lowest 18.6 degree in Sreemangal. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:29pm and rises tomorrow at 5:58am.

93rd birth anniversary of Ila Mitra observed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, C'nawabganj

The 93rd birth anniversary of Ila Mitra, the legendary leader who led the peasant movement known as Tebhaga Andolon in Nachole, was observed in Chapainawabganj yesterday.

The district administration organised a procession that paraded different roads of Chapainawabganj town.

A discussion, presided over by Deputy Commissioner AZM Nurul Haque, was also held on the occasion at the district headquarters.

Speakers at the programme discussed Ila Mitra's contributions to peasants' rights movements in the region.

Monjurul Huda, deputy director of Department of Agricultural Extension; Dr Chitrolekha Naznin, deputy director of Local Government Division; Prof Sultana Razia, former principal of Nawabganj Government College; Bidhan Chandra Singh, president of Ila Mitra Smriti Sangsad; and Jotin Hemrom, indigenous community leader, spoke among others.

Ila Mitra, the front runner of communist movement in the sub-continent in undivided Bengal and a friend to the cause of Bangladesh's Liberation War in 1971, was born as Ila Sen in Kolkata on October 18, 1925.

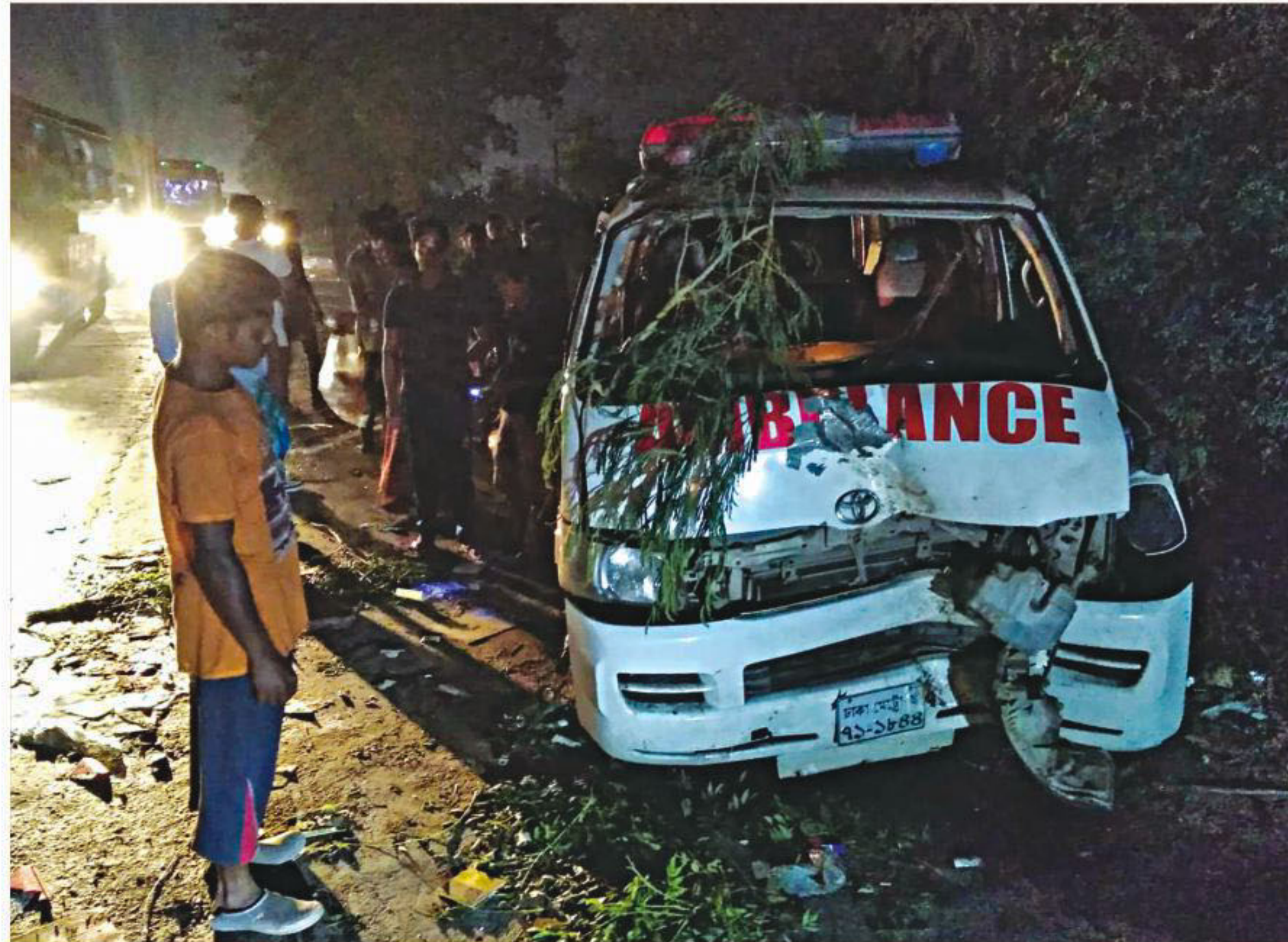
Her forefathers are from Bagutia in Jhenidah. She became active in communist movement in the early 1940s, when she was a student at Bethun College in Kolkata.

In 1945, after marrying Ramendra Mitra, Ila came to her husband's village home in Krishnagobindapur of Chapainawabganj and took a teaching job at a girls' school.

Her husband was from a zamindar family of Chapainawabganj and an active member of Communist Party of India.

Ila later undertook the leadership of Tebhaga movement and played a key role in the Santal rebellion as well as the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8



The mangled front of an ambulance after a fatal accident on Dhaka-Aricha highway in Boliarpur area of Savar last night. The ambulance driver, Mizanur Rahman, 30, of Rangpur lost control over the wheel and hit a tree after running over a pile of garbage on the road. He was killed on the spot. Police said the waste fell off a garbage truck of the Dhaka city corporation. Locals said that before this fatal crash around 7:45pm, at least five motorcyclists were injured in minor accidents at the same spot.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

NEWS IN brief

Three addl IGP's transferred

UNB, Dhaka

Three additional inspectors general of police have been transferred and given new postings.

According to a home ministry notification issued yesterday, Additional IGP Mohammad Abul Quasem of Railway Police has been transferred to Anti-Terrorism Unit while Additional IGP of Police Headquarters Md Mohsin Hossain replaced Quasem.

Additional IGP of the Anti-Terrorism Unit Md Shafiqul Islam has been transferred to the Police Headquarters.

Siblings held with 7,500 yaba pills

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) arrested a youth and his step-brother with 7,500 yaba pills in Chattogram city's Bakalia area yesterday.

The arrestees are Jasim Uddin, 21, and Kafiluddin, 18, said DNC Deputy Director Shamim Ahmed in Chattogram.

They were handed over to Bakalia Police Station. A case was filed against them, said the DD.

JUST admission test application deadline extended

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The deadline for submitting application for the first year honours admission tests of Jashore University of Science and Technology (JUST) has been extended to October 28 from October 19.

Admission seekers have to submit their applications on <http://just.bigsoft.com> within 11:59am of the last date, said a press release.

However, the admission tests will be held on the prescheduled dates -- November 22 and 23.

Details about the tests are available on www.just.edu.bd or any one can call 01709818155 and 01709818157.

Jahurul Islam's death anniversary

CITY DESK

Today is the 23rd death anniversary of Alhaj Jahurul Islam, founder of Islam Group.

On this day in 1995, he died at the age of 67, says a press release.

A milad and doa mahfil will be held at his Bhagalpur village residence in Kishoreganj.

His family requested all of his relatives and well-wishers to attend the programmes.

A prominent businessman, entrepreneur and social activist, Jahurul was born in the village of Bajitpur upazila on August 1, 1928.



Moinuddin Ahmed passes away

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Advocate Moinuddin Ahmed Jalal passed away at a hospital in India yesterday. He was 56.

He left behind his wife Prof Nazia Chowdhury of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (Sust).

Former vice president of Bangladesh Jubo Union, Moinuddin suffered from heart diseases, Advocate Samar Bijoy Shee Shekhar of Sylhet District Bar Association quoted his family as saying.

Moinuddin was also an organiser of Gonojagaran Mancha in Sylhet.

Shafiuddin's death anniversary

CITY DESK

Today is the sixth death anniversary of Alhaj Shafiuddin Ahmed, an organiser of Liberation War, a politician and social worker, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at his village Khaishakhali in Shibpur upazila of Narsingdi.

His relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.



Boy killed in Dhaka road accident

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An eleven-year-old boy was killed after being hit by an unknown vehicle while he was crossing a road in Bhatara area of Dhaka yesterday.

Atik, a student of a local madrasa, was rushed to Kurmitola General Hospital where doctors declared him dead, said Sub-Inspector Bilkis Aktar of Bhatara Police Station.

Police could not seize the vehicle as its driver sped up, she said.

Six cops sued over corruption

'False case' filed after police failed to extort money, claims family

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Six police personnel, including the officer-in-charge (OC) of Akbar Shah Police Station, were sued by a woman under Corruption Prevention Act-1947 on charge of implicating her husband in a "false" arms case after failing to acquire "extortion money".

Rubi Begum, 41, wife of Abul Kashem alias Alamgir -- residents of Firojshah Colony in the port city -- filed the case accusing the six police personnel with the court of Metropolitan Sessions Judge Akbar Ali Mrithda, said plaintiff's lawyer Fazlul Karim Bhuiyan.

"The case of the complainant will be heard by October 24," said the lawyer.

The six accused are: Akbar Shah Police Station's OC Jasim Uddin, Sub-inspector (SI) Md Alaiddin, SI Ashadul Islam, ASI Saiful Alam, ASI Abu Bakar Siddique, and Constable Nurul Alam.

According to the case statement, plaintiff's husband Abul Kashem is a poultry seller in Masjid Ghona area. His brother-in-law also lives in the area and runs a cattle farm in Pahartali. On September 26, one Ibrahim of the area died from electrocution. Kashem and his brother-in-law rushed him to Chattogram Medical College Hospital (CMCH) as neighbours. On that day, Kashem was arrested and was later taken to Pahartali Police Station. A murder case was lodged against him in connection with the death of Ibrahim.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Railway's Pahartali workshop plagued by manpower crisis

AMIR HASAN SHAHRIAR, Chattogram

Despite infrastructure improvements in the last two years, the Carriage and Wagon Workshop of Bangladesh Railway's East Zone has been tottering with less than half of its required manpower for more than a decade now, putting its workers health and safety at risk.

With more and more skilled labourers retiring, both officials and workers of the country's most vital rail zone -- covering Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions -- are worried about its operations.

The workshop was established on 35 acres of land in Pahartali of Chattogram in 1947. At present, the workshop has 871 workers but it requires 1,776 workers to carry out routine maintenance of some 4,000 freight train wagons and 935 coaches, according to sources.

The workshop, also known as Pahartali Workshop, has only 30 officials against 71 posts.

Engineer Saiful Islam, works manager of the workshop, said, "I joined

the workshop in September 2017 and since then the highest attendance recorded in a day is 680."

The manpower shortage was created when some 10,000 railway employees, including 600 from the Pahartali Workshop, went on retirement under voluntary retirement schemes -- or golden handshake -- in 1993, informed Hazrat Ali, assistant administrative officer of the workshop.

After a long period, 110 workers were recruited in 2005 and 200 Khalasis (helpers) were recruited in 2015, he added.

"When skilled labourers retire, their places are not being filled. It takes a worker at least four years to be competent. On the other hand, the workers often prefer early retirement, within some 10 to 15 years of their service, as the work stress exhausts them badly," he added.

As many as 140 workers are set to retire this year while more carriages and bogies will be added in the upcoming fiscal year.

So, if recruitment is not started very soon, the crisis of skilled workers

would take a serious turn and badly affect the workshop's productivity, Ali added.

With this insufficient manpower, the workshop is taking care of three units (each unit comprising two carriages) per day, whereas it is able to repair only 2.4 units on an average daily. Besides maintenance, the workshop makes over a thousand small parts of railway coaches and freight train wagons.

"Despite being short-staffed, we are meeting targets on time. That has been possible only because our staff works overtime on a regular basis to get the job done," said FM Mohiuddin, divisional superintendent of the workshop.

As a result, the workers are overworked, stressed and exhausted. High levels of stress have made them susceptible to injuries and workplace accidents, he added.

During the two Eid seasons, the workload increases terribly and the staff have to work 11 to 12 hours a day.

The workshop had to repair 123

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Trucker's helper who became a millionaire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Monwar Hossain Russel started working as a helper of a truck driver back in 2003.

Hailing from Rajshahi's Godagari upazila, the 25-year-old had to work hard to support his family. He even drove a microbus for a private company after getting married in 2006.

Within 12 years, he became a millionaire.

He now owns at least seven trucks, a car and properties in his home town, Rajshahi city, and the capital.

His is not a story of changing one's fortune through dedication and hard work, but rather resorting to drug peddling to make a quick buck.

And the law eventually caught up with him.

Yesterday afternoon, a team of detectives of Rajshahi Metropolitan Police (RMP) raided his house in Uposhahor area, a posh neighbourhood, and arrested Monwar and his wife, Morium Khatun, 26.

The team also seized 935 yaba pills -- 880 from inside a flower vase and 55 from his car, said Fazlul Karim, assistant commissioner of the RMP Detective Branch.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2



Monwar Hossain and his wife Morium Khatun at the office of Detective Branch in Rajshahi city yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

GRAFT CASE Ex-UNO gets 8 years in jail

UNB, Dhaka

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced former Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) of Panchhari upazila in Khagrachhari to eight years' imprisonment in a case filed for amassing wealth illegally.

Dhaka divisional special judge Mizanur Rahman Khan delivered the verdict, and ordered authorities to confiscate convict Mamunur Rashid's wealth worth Tk 3,86,848. The court also issued an arrest warrant as the convict did not appear before it.

ACC public prosecutor Mir Ahmmad Ali said Rashid submitted his wealth statement to ACC, declaring wealth worth Tk 41,57,613. Investigation found that he had amassed wealth worth Tk 11,03,90,575. A case was later filed with Ramna Police Station in this regard.

RIGHT TO FOOD Policy implementation not possible without law in place: Speakers

UNB, Dhaka

Speakers at a seminar in the capital yesterday stressed the need for enacting a law to implement the existing policy on food.

"Despite having a policy on right to food, it is impossible to implement that policy without a law in place," said eminent economist Dr Quazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmed while presiding over the seminar.

Right to Food Bangladesh, a social organisation, arranged the seminar titled "Development Goals of Bangladesh and the Relevance of the Law for Food Right" in association with some

other NGOs at Cirdap auditorium in the city.

Speaking at the programme, Food Minister Qamrul Islam said the government is trying to create awareness to ensure safe food for people, after achieving self-sufficiency in food production.

The seminar was also addressed, among others, by Director General of Department of Women Affairs Kazi Rowshon Aktar, Senior Research Fellow of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) Dr Naznin Ahmed, and Head of Programme of Echo Cogenation of Bangladesh Abul Kalam Azad.

General Secretary of Right to Food Bangladesh Mohsin Ali conducted the seminar.

Kholiquzzaman, also chairman Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation and Right to Food Bangladesh, observed that poverty has increased to a substantial level across the country despite rise in GDP growth, and the gap between rich and poor has also been widened.

"If we want sustainable development, it has to be human development-centric," he added.

Kazi Rowshon Aktar said development goals will not be achieved unless food security is

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8

Tribute paid to Sheikh Russel

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former and current students and teachers of University Laboratory School and College paid tribute to Sheikh Russel yesterday, marking his birth anniversary.

University Laboratory Ex-Students' Association placed wreaths at the Banani grave of the youngest son of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and a student of the school.

Russel, also the youngest brother of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, was born on this day in 1964 at the historic Bangabandhu Bhaban in the capital's Dhanmondi.

Russel was a fourth-grader when he along with most of the family members of Bangabandhu was brutally killed on August 15, 1975.



A wreath being placed at Sheikh Russel's grave yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED