



Florists busy making wreaths as hundreds of orders were placed ahead of Victory Day. While many are ready for delivery, others are on the way to buyers' places. Traders said 10 flower shops in Sylhet city have received more than 2,000 orders. Each wreath is sold for Tk 500-2,000 based on quality and size. The photos were taken at Chowhatta Point yesterday.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Ex-major Mohiuddin remembered in Ctg

BSS, Ctg

The first death anniversary of former three times mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury was observed in Chattogram city yesterday.

Mohiuddin, also president of Chattogram Awami League, died at the age of 74 on December 15 last year.

His death anniversary was observed through a daylong programme which began with placing of wreaths at his grave by AL.

Party leaders and activists, including city unit acting president Mahtab Uddin Chowdhury; General Secretary and city Mayor AJM Nasir Uddin; lawmaker of Chattogram-11 constituency MA Latif; Chattogram Development Authority Chairman Abdus Salam; Chattogram Zila Parishad Administrator MA Salam and late Mohiuddin's eldest son and AL Organising Secretary Barrister Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury Nowfale were present there.

A qurankhwanai and milad mahfil were also held on the occasion.

Later, a memorial meeting was held at GEC convention centre where Mayor Nasir Uddin was present as chief guest.

He said Mohiuddin's politics was for the welfare of the masses. "There are many things to learn from his life and works," Nasir added.

Mahtab Uddin Chowdhury said Mohiuddin raised his voice after assassination of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his family members in 1975.

Earlier, Chattogram Press Club published a memoir titled "Journalist Friendly ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury" on December 6, marking his first death anniversary.

Untold tales of unsung heroes

Indigenous freedom fighters still await recognition

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

Uttam Kumar Sarder was a tenth-grader when he picked up a weapon to fight for the country's freedom from the Pakistani army in 1971.

But his contributions to the war remain unrecognised as he is a member of Rajshahi's Adivasi Orao community at Abolokpur village, some 15 kilometres away from the city, indigenous leaders say.

"Utter neglect towards the tribal people is a reason for not recognising them as freedom fighters," said Rabindranath Soren, president of Jatiya Adivasi Parishad (JAP).

He said no survey was conducted, but he knows at least 50 indigenous people from Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions who are still awaiting recognition even after applying for it in the last 10 years.

At his home in Rajshahi's Paba upazila, Uttam has been rearing some cattle and farming on one bigha of ancestral land. His wife Alon Bakla, also a member of the Orao community, contributes to the family by working as a day labourer on the fields, he told The Daily Star.

Among his three children, his only son goes to Rajshahi University; one of his daughters is married while another is a sixth-grader.

"My participation in the war was selfless. I was motivated by freedom. And I never felt the necessity of getting a certificate."

But now, his son would be greatly benefitted by the recognition in finding a job. "Not for me, I need the recognition to help my children survive."

With the Indian gazette, where he is listed as a freedom fighter, Uttam applied for the certificate three times already. "I don't know what happens to my applications, or where it goes," said a bewildered Uttam.

One Orao freedom fighter from his village migrated to India in the 80s, while another Santal of a neighbouring village died a few years ago before he could get the recognition.

Abdul Momin, a group commander during the war, said Uttam was the youngest in his group of nine freedom fighters. "He was our inspiration during those times."

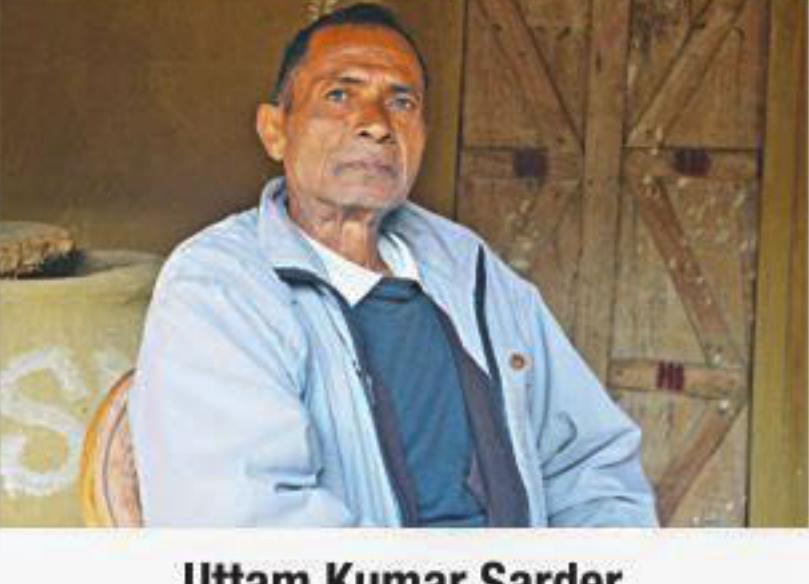
Uttam took training at Panighata Higher Training Camp in Siliguri of Indian. He fought several battles under sub-sector 4 of sector

7 during the war.

In one battle at Horma village in Chapainawabganj Sadar, he survived a shower of bomb shells near his bunker.

He survived another attack the night before Eid-ul-Azha during the war at the village. He was with 300 other freedom fighters; they were assigned to drive the Pakistani forces out of the local union office, where they had set up a camp.

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Uttam Kumar Sarder

Bimal Roy Chowdhury passes away

STAR REPORT

Bimal Roy Chowdhury, a 1952 Language Movement hero and organiser of the Liberation War passed away yesterday at Jashore General Hospital. He was 94.

He left behind three daughters and a son to mourn his death.

Bimal Roy was born on February 25, 1925, to Surendranath Roy Chowdhury and Anila Roy Chowdhury, in Noapara village in Jashore sadar upazila, reports UNB.

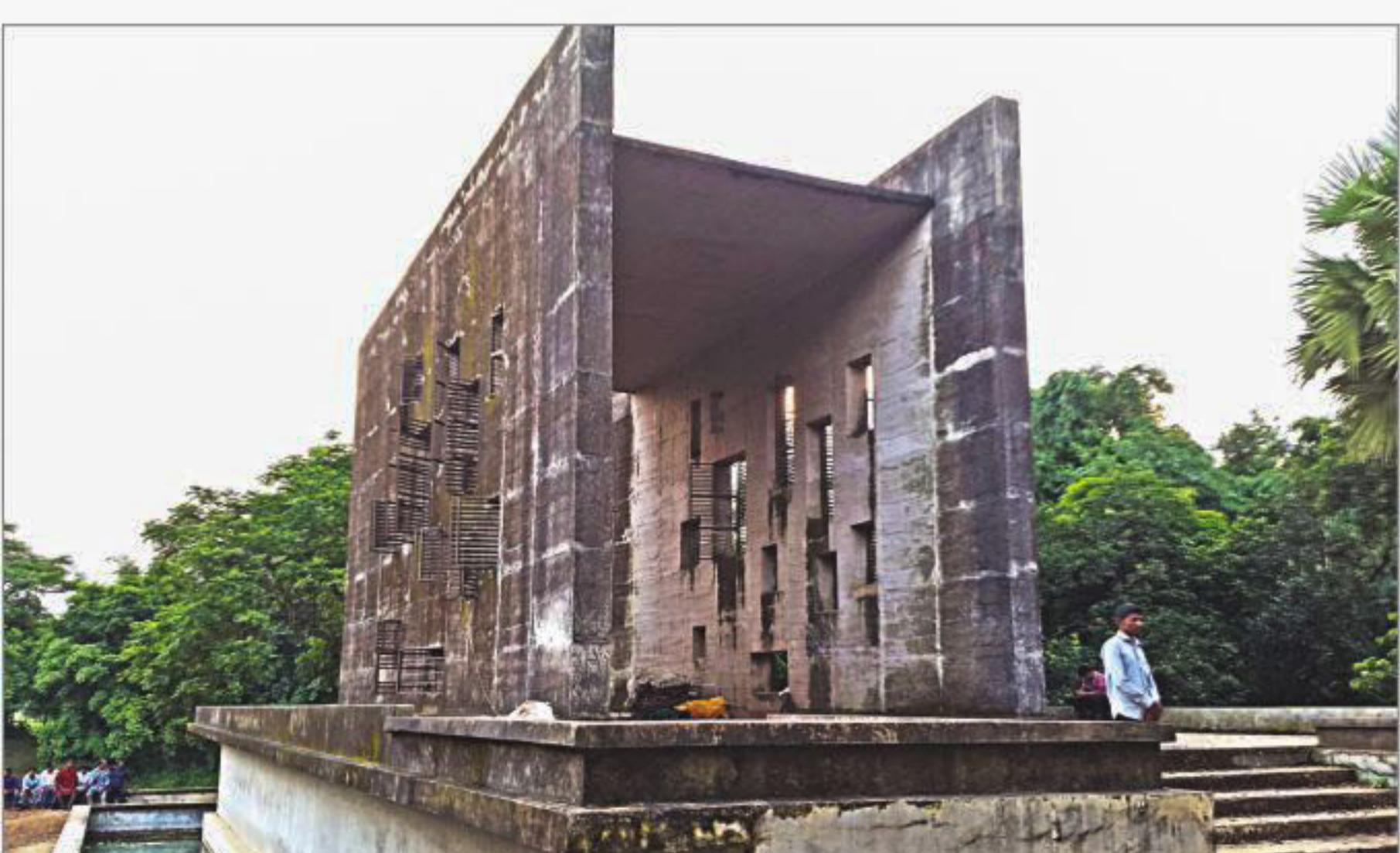
He completed his BA (Pass) course from Jashore MM Government College in 1948.

Bimal was involved with the Language Movement in 1948 and was later jailed for his active participation.

He was elected Chairman of Noapara Union Parishad in 1964, and participated in the Liberation War in 1971.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has expressed deep shock and sorrow at the

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The Liberation War monument in a remote village of Sunamganj left in a dire situation due to a lack of maintenance and care.

PHOTO: DWOHA CHOWDHURY

An uncared for monument of the Liberation War

DWOHA CHOWDHURY, back from Sunamganj

In a remote village called Moheskola under Dharmapasha upazila in Sunamganj, a monument was built in 2013 to commemorate the Liberation War and freedom fighters of the first sub-sector under Sector-5.

The monument is situated next to a small river, also called Moheskola, where freedom fighters confronted Pakistani Army during the war and many lives were lost.

Inspired by the patriotic song "Shob Kota Janali Khule Dao Ma", architect Rajon Das designed the monument, 27 feet in height, where windows are the highlight. The monument was built by the Zila Parishad of Sunamganj at a cost of Tk 1.21 crore.

Unfortunately, within five years of its opening, the structure is in dire need of maintenance.

During a recent visit to the monument, this correspondent found that the monument premises are being used to keep construction materials for a nearby site, and mold is growing on the walls, darkening the structure. People were also seen loitering about.

Kamal Hossain faces

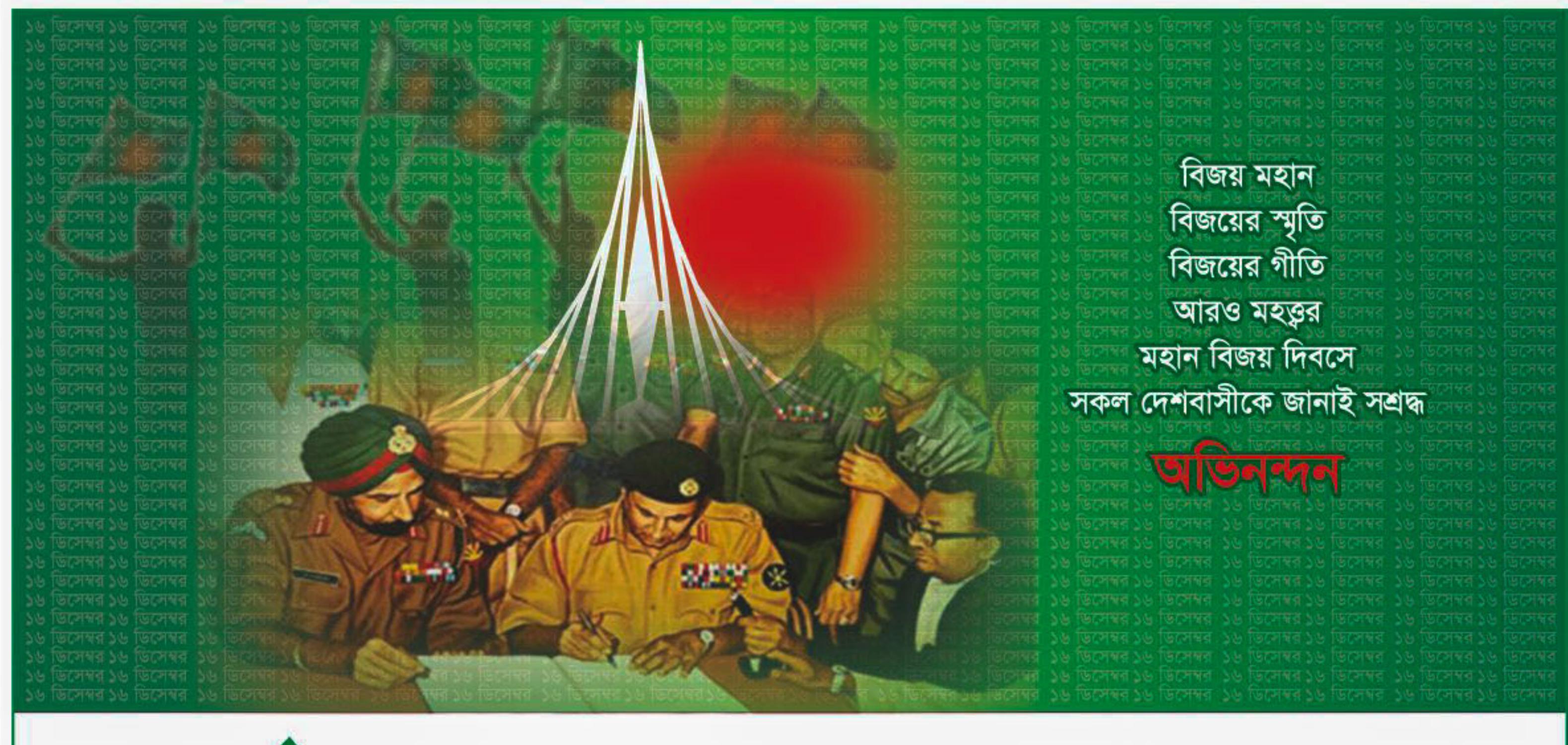
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colours by forming an alliance with BNP and Jamaat, who were involved in the "politics of killing".

Also speaking there, Justice Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik said: "The mask of Dr Kamal [Hossain] has been opened. He is really a pro-Pakistani man. Now people have a question to him how many crores of dollars he has taken to bring the Jamaat and other war criminals into the election field."

Bangladesh Online Activist Forum organised the programme at the Jatiya Press Club, in presence of victims bearing injuries of the petrol bomb attacks during political violence in 2014 and 2015.

In another programme in the city, Golam Rahman said, "Dr Kamal couldn't tolerate the question. As a politician, he could have maintained silence; but can't slam the journalists."

Air Cdre (Retd) Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury commented that Dr Kamal will be "thrown out as garbage" after the election.



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NEWS IN brief

Worker's body found in brick kiln

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police yesterday recovered the body of a worker from a brick kiln in Hathazari upazila of Chattogram.

The deceased -- Md Murad, 20 -- was a worker at Chishtia Auto Bricks in the upazila, said Sub-inspector Asaduzzaman of Hathazari Police Station.

Around 9:00am, Murad got stuck in the roller of a machine, said the SI quoting witnesses.

"The upper portion of his body was stuck to the roller while the bottom hanging from the machine," the SI added.

Primary investigation suggested that it was an accident, the policeman also said.

The body was sent to Chattogram Medical College

3-day victory fair begins at JU

JU CORRESPONDENT

A three-day victory fair began on the Jahangirnagar University (JU) campus yesterday.

The fair, organised by Teachers Students Centre (TSC), was inaugurated by JU Vice Chancellor Prof Farzana Islam.

On the occasion, a photo exhibition on Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was inaugurated in the JU cafeteria.

Treasurer Prof Sheikh Md Mozurul Huq spoke as special guest. Director of JU-TSC Prof Bashir Ahmed also addressed on the occasion.

52 gold bars seized at Sylhet airport

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Customs officials yesterday seized 52 gold bars worth Tk 2.70 crore at Osmani International Airport in Sylhet.

The gold bars, weighing around 6kg, were found in a bag lying under a seat of a Biman Bangladesh flight, which arrived from Dubai in the morning, said Ahmed Reza Chowdhury, assistant commissioner of customs.

On information, a team of customs officials searched the aircraft and found the gold, he added.

Meanwhile, customs detained three passengers in this connection, but let them go after interrogation.

MP's brother-in-law found dead

UNB, Ctg

A brother-in-law of Awami League lawmaker MA Latif was found dead in his residence at Barik Meah High School intersection in Fakirhat area of the port city on Friday night.

The deceased was identified as Tofael Ahmed Rafiq, 57.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (Port) of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) Arefin Jewel said Rafiq's sons spotted the bloodstained body in his room in the evening and rushed him to nearby Mother and Child Care Hospital, where doctors declared him dead.

Rafiq's body bore injury marks in his head, added Arefin.

Kamran Ahmed passes away

CITY DESK

Kamran Ahmed, a retired air force officer of GD pilot batch, passed away in Dhaka yesterday, said a press release. He was 67.



He left behind his wife, a son and a daughter. He will be buried at the air force graveyard in Tejgaon following a namaz-e-janaza today after Asr prayers at BAF Shaheen Mosque in Dhaka.

Ahmed suffered a cardiac arrest on Friday and was taken to CSCR Hospital in the port city.

Yesterday, he was rushed to Apollo Hospitals Dhaka after his condition deteriorated.

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