

Administration to go wired

MUSTAK HOSSAIN

The government has initiated a programme that will bring some fundamental changes to the administrative system including e-policing and connecting the Prime Minister's Office with key ministries, divisional commissioners and police administration, sources said.

It will also prepare guidelines and implements for online payment of income tax and utility bills, registration of land, ownership change, birth, death, marriage, vehicles, insurance, driving licence and posting of agriculture and commodity pricing information and international standard training.

The government will spend Tk 183.17 crore for the 'Support to ICT

Taskforce Programme' aimed at improving the efficiency, transparency and accountability of the government using the information communication technology (ICT), sources said.

The government has already allocated Tk 1.3 crore in the revised annual development budget for fiscal 2002-03 and Tk 25 crore in the ADP for fiscal 2003-04.

The project also aims at creating a congenial supportive atmosphere for the overall development of the ICT sector. The project will extend cooperation for expansion and development of the sector.

The secretariat for the project will be at the Planning Commission. "Renovation and development work for the secretariat is at the final stage and is

expected to be complete by next month," a source said.

As part of strengthening e-governance, a fibre optical local area network (LAN) will be set up at the Planning Commission connecting 472 locations including the Planning Division, Planning Commission, Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation Division and Economic Relations Division.

There are 120 computers online in the network and 20 more will be added to the network to be run by a high-powered server.

A domain has already been opened for electronic administration. It is now providing Internet facility, file sharing, file transferring, multimedia communication, notice

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Australia will consider taking skilled manpower from Bangladesh

UNB, Dhaka

Australia will consider hiring skilled manpower from Bangladesh, an Australian government delegation told a meeting at the Home Ministry yesterday.

Immigration, Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs Minister Philip Ruddock led the Australian delegation at the meeting while Home Minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury led the Bangladesh side.

The Bangladesh delegation included State Minister for Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Muhammad Quamrul Islam, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Reaz Rahman, State Minister for Home Affairs Lutfozzaman Babor, Home Secretary Muhammad Omar Faruk and Expatriates' Welfare Secretary Dalil Uddin Mondal.

The Australian delegation informed the meeting that Australia needed trained manpower, particularly skilled workers in

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Anwar murder: 2 picked up for interrogation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police picked up two people including a woman for interrogation in connection with the murder of BNP leader and an alleged criminal Anwarul Haque Anu.

A team of Kotwali police raided Gandaria area yesterday and hauled up Delwar Hossain and Farida Begum suspecting their involvement in the killing.

Anwarul's brother Milon filed a case with Kotwali Police Station on Thursday night without naming anybody.

Unidentified assailants shot dead Anwarul and injured two people including the victim's brother Manjurul Haque Milon at bustling Johnson Road at midday Thursday.

Babystolen from DMCH rescued

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A three-month-old baby, stolen from Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) Monday, was rescued from Pallabi yesterday.

The baby, Hridoy, was returned yesterday to its mother Rahima, assistant of a DMCH aya.

Laiju, owner of a tea-stall at the DMCH, stole the baby at 3:00pm Monday.

On information, the mother and relatives caught Laiju from the Central Shaheed Minar area on Thursday at 6:00am and handed her over to police at the DMCH.

Laiju confessed to Ramna police that she gave Rhidoy to Jasim Uddin, a shop owner at Purabi Super Market in Pallabi. The baby was found at Pallabi from Jasim's brother-in-law Monjur Morshed's residence.

A case was filed under Women and Children Repression Prevention Act with Ramna Police Station.

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PHOTO: STEPHEN CHERRY

Bangladesh's top scorer Mohammad Ashraful cuts on Day One of the first Test against Australia at the Marrara Oval in Darwin yesterday.

End poverty, injustice to root out terrorism

Hasina tells roundtable in Rome

UNB, Dhaka

Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina yesterday called for an end to poverty and injustice that provide for a fertile breeding ground for terrorism and fanaticism.

"Terrorism and violation of human rights can have no place in our society," she told an international roundtable on "The Promotion of Democracy and the Rule of Law" in Rome, the capital of Italy.

Marcello Pera, President of the Italian Senate, Sheikh El Mehbi, former Prime Minister of Sudan, and Emma Bonino, MP and former European Commissioner, were the other dignitaries who spoke at the roundtable jointly organised by the Italian Foreign Ministry and "No

Peace Without Justice" with patronisation of Italian Senate.

Hasina who was a keynote speaker at the roundtable said the present world faces the twin challenges of fighting terrorism and making the world a better place for all its citizens.

Speaking about the responsibility of the developed world in its fight against terrorism, she said, "In the global village of today, terror can be exported all too easily and hence the developed world can hardly afford to look away from the reality that haunts the other half."

Hasina said, "If the benefits of democracy do not reach people, it can lead to disillusionment and loss of hope. If hope dies, there is nothing left as it is indeed the last to

die."

The former prime minister called for halting the widening gap of wealth and resources between the two halves and for ensuring human development in the developing world through appropriate transfer of resources from the developed world.

Referring to denial of democracy and violation of human rights in different countries, Hasina endorsed the idea of an effective and global organisation that will not only set benchmarks and norms for democracy and rule of law but also have a "compliance mechanism."

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PHOTO: STAR

Commerce Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury, front left, inaugurates the first showroom of Executive Motors Limited for BMW cars in Dhaka, while models, far right, look on yesterday.

Land broker gunned down

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unidentified gunmen shot dead a land broker in front of his residence at Kalyanpur in the city yesterday evening.

Sources said Taib Uddin, 45, was talking with two friends at about 7:30pm when two gunmen approached and shot him six times before leaving the spot.

Taib was rushed to Suhrawardy Hospital where doctors declared him dead.

The victim is the son of Tajuddin Ahmed, a retired assistant police superintendent.

Police suspect business rivalry to be the reason behind the murder.

No case was filed with Mirpur Police Station till filing of this report at 10:00pm last night.

Grenades hit US military vehicles

Thousands protest in Baghdad

AFP, Fallujah

Rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs) hit three US military vehicles in farmland on the edge of the flashpoint town of Fallujah, west of Baghdad, yesterday, witnesses said.

There were at least three casualties in the roadside ambush that occurred at 3:15 pm local time in an uninhabited area, thick with palm trees, where the attacker could easily hide, they said.

Two medical helicopters took the casualties from the site where two of

the vehicles were engulfed in flames.

Attacks occur almost daily on US forces around this town, where ousted ruler Saddam Hussein counts many supporters among the Sunni Muslim community.

A US military spokesman was not immediately available for comment.

Meanwhile, thousands of Sunni Muslims protested in Baghdad yesterday against Iraq's new US-sponsored Governing Council as mosque imams used their weekly sermons to accuse the Shiites

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Tigers skittled out for 97

AFP, Darwin

Australia bundled Bangladesh out for 97 but unexpectedly met resistance in attempting to ram home the advantage on the opening day of the first-ever Test between the two disparate cricket powers here on Friday.

Cricket's leading team dismissed the Test minnows in 42.2 overs in just under three hours and by the close were 24 runs in front at 121 for two.

The Australians lost the wickets of opener Matthew Hayden (11) and vice-captain Ricky Ponting (10) along the way, but Justin Langer (40) and Darren Lehmann (51) batted the home team into the lead in a match which is not expected to last anywhere near the full five days.

The signs looked ominous for Bangladesh, who have not won any of their 19 matches since debuting

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Hectic lobby on for job of establishment secretary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The secretaries of the government are lobbying intensely for the post of establishment secretary as the incumbent is going on a diplomatic assignment abroad.

Establishment Secretary Anwarul Bar Chowdhury has been appointed Bangladesh Ambassador to Italy and he is likely to join the new diplomatic assignment next month.

Chowdhury, now on contractual appointment, has been made ambassador on a fresh contract, official sources said. The summary of his appointment as ambassador has already been approved by the prime minister and sent to the government of Italy for clearance.

Highly placed sources said Shafiqul Islam, secretary of the civil aviation and tourism ministry, and A M Jabbar, secretary of the social welfare ministry, are two candidates being considered by the government for appointment to this important position.

They said the majority of civil servants want Shafiqul Islam to take over as the next establishment secretary because he previously served in the ministry as a joint secretary and an additional secretary.

But a section of officials both at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and the secretariat are lobbying the government policymakers to

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Youth's body recovered from pond

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Decomposed body of an unidentified youth was recovered from the pond of Fazul Haq Hall of Dhaka University yesterday.

Students of the hall found the body floating in the pond and informed police.

Ramna police recovered the body in navy blue trousers and a grey T-shirt and sent it to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) for autopsy.

Police suspect the youth, aged about 27 years, was killed and dumped in the pond two days back.

"The body was so badly mutilated that no mark of injury could be identified immediately," duty officer of Ramna Police Station said.

No case was filed till filing of this report at 8:00pm last night.

	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
July 19		6-48 pm
July 20	5-22 am	
Prayer Timings		
July 19		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-15	4-50
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-55	7-00
Esha	8-15	8-45
Source: Islamic Foundation		



PHOTO: STAR

A black flag flies in Old Dhaka yesterday, as supporters mourn Anwarul Haque Anu, a ruling BNP leader, who was shot dead Thursday on Johnson Road.

'Attack' on Tofail AL will stage countrywide demonstration tomorrow

UNB, Dhaka

Opposition Awami League will stage demonstration across the country tomorrow protesting the 'attack' on party presidium member Tofail Ahmed in Bhola.

The decision was taken at an emergency meeting of the Awami League Central Working Committee (ALCWC) held at the party's Dhanmondi office yesterday with acting AL President Abdus Samad Azad in the chair.

The meeting urged the AL district and thana units to hold rallies and bring out processions.

The ALCWC meeting also discussed the present socio-economic condition as well as political and flood situation of the country, said a press release.

Mandatory tax return Repeal order, Bar Council demands

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Bar Council (BBC) will observe a 'Demand Day' on August 6 to press home its six-point demand including withdrawal of a government order making it mandatory for lawyers to file income tax return.

BBC will organise countrywide rallies on the day to present the rationality of its demands that also include separation of judiciary from executive, following chief justice's recommendations in filling vacant posts of judges and repeal of black laws including

Special Powers Act and Speedy Trial Act.

BBC Vice-chairman Barrister Amirul Islam presented the demands at a press conference at the BBC auditorium in Dhaka yesterday. Lawyers from across the country including Israfil Hossain, President, Dhaka Bar Association, Abdul Baset Majumder, President, Supreme Court Bar Association, Sudangshu Shekhor Halder and district bar leaders attended the conference.

Amirul-ul Islam said young lawyers with moderate income

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DOWN TO EARTH

Social impacts of TV commercials

and large, these commercials serve both public and financial interests of the TV channels and are therefore indispensable as far as running a successful media business is concerned.

Television advertisers will pay immense sums of money to ensure a captive audience. A 30-second spot during a showdown

between the cricket teams of India and Pakistan, for example, can cost upward of Tk 30,000 but it may be viewed by millions of potential buyers. However, commercial interests aside, the social cost entailed by many of these advertisements is increasingly becoming a matter of serious concern.

As days go by, we find that more and more of these commercials, which are aired during popular programs like football or cricket games, sitcoms or news bulletins, contain sexually explicit or violent scenes. Such sexually suggestive or violent materials are bound to have a negative social impact on view

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