



PHOTO: PID  
Bangladesh Jatiya Party Chairman Nazir Rahman Manjur and Secretary General Kazi Firoz Rashid exchanged Eid greetings with Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at her office yesterday.

## Rakshit killing case stayed for 4 months

UNB, Chittagong

Proceedings on the sensational Srikanta Rakshit killing case have been stayed for four months.

The Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal, which was scheduled to frame charge in the case yesterday, put off the proceedings by order of the High Court.

## Chehlum of Duree Samad held

BSS, Dhaka

Chehlum of Duree Samad Rahman, wife of Finance and Planning Minister Saifur Rahman, was held at her residence at Baharmardan in Moulvibazar yesterday.

Duree Rahman died at her Dhaka residence at the age of 61 on October 20.

Finance and Planning Minister Saifur Rahman, Land Minister M Shamsul Haq, Disaster Management and Relief Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf, Post and Telecommunications Minister M Aminul Huq, Education Minister Dr M Osman Farruk, Housing and Works Minister Mirza Abbas, Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan, State Minister for Jute Lutfur Rahman Khan Azad, Mayor of Sylhet

Badar Uddin Kamran, Mayor of Barisal Advocate Mujibur Rahman Sarwar, parliament members, political leaders, secretaries, elite, relatives and admirers attended the chehlum. They prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul.

They also offered fateha at the grave of Duree Samad, an official handout said.

## HC asks govt not to harass 4 DU teachers

UNB, Dhaka

The High Court yesterday asked the government not to harass the four teachers of Dhaka University who were implicated in a criminal case.

The verbal order came upon a petition filed by Prof Sultana Shafi, Prof Durgadas Bhattachariya, Prof Khondker Bazlul Huq and Prof Mohammad Samad seeking anticipatory bail.

They moved to the High Court following a confessional statement made by Shafiqur Rahman, another teacher of the Dhaka University, implicating them in the criminal case.

The vacation bench comprising Justice Syed Mohammad Dastgir Hossain fixed today for hearing of the petition.

## World AIDS Day tomorrow

UNB, Dhaka

The World AIDS Day will be observed throughout the globe including Bangladesh tomorrow.

In this connection, LIFE (an NGO working in the field of health, drug and HIV/AIDS), The United Nation Information Centre (UNIC) in Dhaka and The Children Voice (an NGO) jointly plan to observe the day through a month long signature campaign programme on AIDS awareness.

The signature campaign will kick off with Khandaker Mosharrar Hossain, Minister for Health and Family Welfare, putting in his signature at a simple ceremony to be held in his office at 11am today.

Amanullah Khan, Adviser, LIFE, Prof Selim Shakoor, Chairperson, The Children Voice, Kazi Ali Reza, Officer-in-Charge, UNIC and Kamrul Islam Sony, Chairman, LIFE will be present on the occasion.

## Adv Nurul Islam killing case

# Verdict on Dec 8

UNB, Chittagong

The verdict in the sensational Adv Nurul Islam killing case of Laxmipur will be delivered on December 8.

Judge of the Divisional Speedy Tribunal M Hasan Imam fixed the date of judgement on completion of hearing on the case amidst tight security yesterday.

Former PP of Laxmipur, Adv Nurul Islam, also the general secretary of that district BNP, was kidnapped on his way home from his chamber in the town on September 18, 2000.

His body, cut into several pieces and packed in a sack, was recovered from the river Meghna seven days after (September 25) his abduction.

An abduction case was filed with Laxmipur thana in this connection, which automatically turned into a murder case after the recovery of Islam's

body.

Police filed charge sheet against 31 people, including district Awami League General Secretary and Laxmipur pourasava Chairman Abu Taher, his wife and two sons, in September 2001.

The case was transferred to the Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal from the District and Sessions Judge's Court on September 11 this year, and the tribunal started the proceedings on September 15.

It decided to give verdict after taking depositions by 63 witnesses, including the then DC and the SP of Laxmipur, completing the hearings in 14 working days.

Sixteen of the accused, including principal accused Taher, his wife and two sons, who are in jail, were produced in the court during yesterday's hearing.

## Shishu Hospital lottery tickets from tomorrow

BSS, Dhaka

Dhaka Shishu Hospital, the lone specialised children's hospital in the country, will start selling lottery tickets from tomorrow for raising funds to expand its treatment facilities.

The sale of the targeted 70 lakh lottery tickets, Tk 10 each, will continue from December 1 to February 23 of next year with a target to raise Tk 7 crore, hospital sources said yesterday.

Initially the fund is aimed at raising the number of hospital beds to 500 from existing 345 beds, which is inadequate compared to the increased demands.

At present around 600 to 650 children having health complexities visit the hospital daily, but only one

out of three infants get opportunities to be admitted there, the sources said.

The Shishu Hospital has started its journey from a tent at Kalabagan in the city in 1972 and got the full-fledged hospital status in 1977 with its permanent location at Sher-e-Banglanagar.

The hospital is an autonomous body. It is being run by the grants from the government, the donors and from its own fund.

The sale of the lottery tickets will be kicked off at a function at the National Press Club on Monday.

State Minister for Finance and Planning Shah Mohammad Abul Hossain will open the sale on the day. Chairman of the Board of Directors of the hospital Dewan Mohammad Salahuddin, MP, will preside.

## Youth bodies get Tk 48 lakh

BSS, Dhaka

The government has disbursed Tk 48 lakh among 458 voluntary youth organisations during the fiscal 2002-2003 aimed at involving them with rural development activities.

In addition, Tk 8.97 lakh was also allotted from various development funds among 71 youth organisations during the period, Youth and Sports Ministry sources said yesterday.

In the 2001-2002 fiscal, the Youth Development Directorate imparted training to around 34,965 youths (male and female) while 16,292 youths were given training during the fiscal 2002-2003 on reproductive health, gender and other issues.

The trained youths are playing a very positive role in health care system, birth control, sanitation programme, cleans-

ing drive, development of environment and creating awareness among rural people on various social issues.

The Youth Development Directorate has leased out 1,928 water bodies in 2001-2002 fiscal and 2,434 water bodies in 2002-2003 to different youth organisations and earned around Tk 2.34 crore in 2001-2002 and 3.98 crore in 2002-2003 fiscal.

The directorate has provided training to as many as 2,30,972 youths during 2001-2002 fiscal and 2,19,153 youths in 2002-2003 on garments, knitting, block and batik printing, pisciculture and stenography.

## Injured youth dies at DMCH

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A youth allegedly beaten by the local shopkeepers at Shyampur died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) on Friday.

Mohammad Faruk, 25, was beaten by the local shopkeepers at Shyampur on Friday night when he tried to snatch cigarettes from a shop at Baubazar, victim's aunt Nur Banu said.

He was shifted from his house to the DMCH on November 28 as his condition deteriorated.

His relatives, however, said Faruk was an addict. Police said he died as he took excessive seductive tablets.

An unnatural death case was filed with Shyampur police.



PHOTO: STAR  
The recently built road divider in front of Fulbaria Railway Station is already falling apart from poor-quality construction.

# Palestine state a reality

## Ambassador Shahta Zarab tells UNAB discussion

BSS, Dhaka

Ambassador of the State of Palestine to Bangladesh Mohammad Shahta Zarab yesterday said an independent, sovereign, democratic and multi-cultural Palestine State is a reality.

Describing Palestine as a land for the people of all religions, he said, "We have shed huge blood on our soil during a long struggle for independence and now the time is coming up to regain our past glory and restore full legitimate rights in near future."

He was addressing a discussion organised by United Nations Association of Bangladesh (UNAB) at the National Scout Bhaban here in observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.

The ambassador thanked Bangladesh's people, parties and the government for their continuous supports to Palestinian people and their struggle.

With UNAB vice-president and eminent educationist Professor

Muzaffar Ahmed in the chair, secretary general Syed Mohammad Shahed and Mohammad Salek also took part in the discussion.

Shahta Zarab gave a brief description about the historic background of Palestine and its struggle and said the situation in his country was still tense and highly volatile.

"Aside from continuing to expand its settlement, Israel began to construct a separation wall with the large parts of it cutting deep into the Palestinian territory," he said. The construction of this wall has a serious economic consequence for over 200,000 Palestinians, he added.

He said the United Nations played the key-role in the overall efforts to achieve a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement in the Middle East.

"The UN should continue to exercise its permanent responsibility

towards all the aspects of the question of Palestine until the inalienable rights of the Palestinians are fully realised," he said.

Prof Muzaffar said the world's supreme power, the United States of America (USA), created the terrorist state of Israel to protect one single community -- the Jews. The Palestine people become rebellious as they had been deprived of their basic rights, he said.

He said, Israel is the only country of the world, where people of all community, except Jews, are being deprived of their rights to security, employment, education, foods, democracy and freedom of speech.

"The USA, who claims to be the champion of democracy and human rights, is not only silent about Israel but also extending all out cooperation to this country," he said.

## Judgement in Sabina murder case today

BSS, Dhaka

The Seventh Additional Sessions Judge's Court of Dhaka will pronounce judgement on the sensational murder case of housewife Sabina Akhtar today.

Sabina was allegedly strangled by her husband Salimullah alias Jewel on April 21 of 2001 at their Aga Sadek Road residence in old part of Dhaka.

Jewel is now in jail to face the trial in person.

## PM shocked at deaths in Congo

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday expressed profound shock at the loss of many valuable lives in the tragic boat capsizing in Maindombé Lake in Congo.

Khaleda Zia, in a message to President Major General Joseph Kabila, conveyed deep sympathy to the members of the families of the victims.

She prayed for eternal peace of the departed souls and hoped that the bereaved families would be able to withstand the loss with courage and fortitude.