

## Pledge to vote for honest, qualified candidates

Dr Kamal urges people

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday said reforms of Election Commission (EC) is a must for the welfare of 14 crore people.

Speaking at a discussion, he said the countrymen have to take a pledge that they will cast vote only for honest and qualified candidates.

The discussion was organised by Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDB) at the National Press Club auditorium in the city as part of a daylong programme to launching a new wing of the party titled 'Bikalpa Unnayan Karmi Dhara.'

"If any voter casts a vote for a dishonest person, he will deceive his mother, mother land and the people of the country," said Dr

Kamal.

The country is being destroyed by some recognised evil forces, he said, adding that people have to be united to save the country.

Dr Kamal said mere change of the government is not the only solution to save the country, but a meaningful change in the government is a must.

BDB President Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury said his party is an alternative platform to unite the nation and ensure democracy in all spheres of life.

"We have come up with an alternative as corruption now prevails in an epidemic form where government decisions are taken for personal, family or party benefits," he said.

Prof Chowdhury said his party is committed to fighting terrorism,

corruption and poverty, the major problems facing the country, and the launching of the new wing is part of that commitment.

He urged the members of the new wing to fight for a country free from corruption and black money where mass people will live happily.

Bangladesh Economic Association President Dr Kazi Kholikuzzaman, BDB lawmaker Mahi B Chowdhury and Secretary General Major (Retd) Abdul Mannan, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal President Hasanul Haque Inu, Awami League leader Mahmudur Rahman Manna and Bangladesh Torikat Federation President Habibur Basar Maizvandari also spoke on the occasion.



Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh President Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury speaks at a discussion at the National Press Club auditorium in the city yesterday.

## AUG 17 BLASTS Charge sheet accepted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A Barisal court yesterday accepted the chargesheet and framed charges against nine people in a case lodged in connection with the 2005 August 17 bomb blasts in the city.

Sub-inspector Mashuri Rahman of Barisal Police Station is the complainant of the case and Sub-inspector Abdur Rob Khan, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, submitted the chargesheet for the blast at Natun Bazar area of the city that day.

The accused are Ziaur Rahman, Abu Yousuf, Golam Morshed Chowdhury Reza, Jalal Arefin, Hafiz Saiful Islam, Abu Solaiman Sujon, Jasimuddin, Maruf and Zahid Babu. Only Zahid Babu and Ziaur are absconding.

Judge AKM Nasiruddin Mahmud rejected the bail prayer of the six accused and sent them to jail. The judge also ordered the continuation of trial in absentia for Zahid Babu and fixed February 13 for the hearing.

## Fog disrupts ferry service

BDNEWS, Munshiganj

Poor visibility due to a sudden fog disrupted ferry movement from 6:00am to 10:00am at Maowa ferry ghat yesterday.

Sources said five ferries with over 2,000 passengers onboard remained stranded. The sufferings of those who came to participate in the opposition's long march from 23 districts and the police officials from southern region who came to the capital as part of the enhanced security arrangement were increased due to the fog.

The vehicles wait in a long queue stretching at least one and a half kilometer.

Some 150 naval crafts, including 18 launches and big ships, were found in a seemingly unending jam in a misty weather on the Dhaleswari, Meghna, Padma, sources added.

## Death anniversary

Today is the 41st death anniversary of eminent artist and litterateur Ruby Rahman, says a press release.

On the occasion, Qurankhwani and milad mahfil will be held at the High Court Mazar.

Ruby, an expert in classical Chinese paintings, was killed in a car accident at the border of Lebanon and Syria in 1965 while she was living with her diplomat husband M Rahman in Damascus.

Her books include 'Chinese Fairy Tales' and 'Bichitritra'.

## RIYADH ROAD ACCIDENT

Identities of 11 Bangladeshi victims confirmed

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Bangladesh Embassy in Saudi Arabia has confirmed identities of 11 Bangladeshi construction workers killed in a road accident in Riyadh on Thursday.

A total of 15 Bangladeshis died in the tragic incident, according to the Bangladesh Mission in Riyadh.

The embassy in a press release yesterday said it is trying to get the details of four others from Saudi police authority.

The detail identities of eleven deceased are given below:

Nur Uddin, son of Lalu Miah of Dolargaon village in Sylhet, Ahmed, son of Salauddin of Bawsia village in Munshiganj, Manzurul Huq, son of Mozammel Huq of Uttam Hazirhat in Rangpur, Habibur Rahman, son of Kamiz Uddin Howlader of Doaser village in Madaripur and Moznu Mollah, son of Chanda Mollah of Gendu Mollarhat village in Faridpur, Jamal Ahmed, son of Rafiqul Huq of Boro Kafon village in Sylhet, Tawhidul Islam, son of Abdur Rahman Mandal of Mirza Nagar village in Kushtia, Abdur Rob, son of Sheikh Ali Matbar of Bhangidangi village in Faridpur, Shelon Biswas, son of late Fafor Biswas of Shaheb Nagar village in Faridpur, Zamir Uddin, son of Rezwan Karim of Umirgaon in Sylhet and Sheikh Uddin, son of Adar Ali of Dolargaon village in Sylhet.

The tragic accident left 15 Bangladeshis killed and 14 others injured near Riyadh in Saudi Arabia. Of the injured 11 people were admitted to Al Iman Hospital in Riyadh while three were released from the hospital after first aid.

They were travelling by a bus in the morning to join their work.

The driver was also a Bangladeshi.

## BEATING ROOMMATE JU JCD female activist ordered to leave dorm

JU CORRESPONDENT

The authorities of Jahangirnagar University (JU) ordered a female activist of Jatiyatobadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and resident of Nawab Fazilatunnesa (NF) hall to immediately leave the dormitory for beating her roommate.

The order was issued on Shamsun Nahar (Rekha), a student of the Department of History and general secretary of JCD NF hall unit, on Sunday after the probe body recommended for her punishment as the body found the allegations against her true.

Rekha beat up his roommate Gouri Basak, a student of the Department of Pharmacy, in presence of her (Gouri) mother about a week ago and threatened to oust her from the campus.

The authorities also find her Tk 50 for the incident as per the code of student discipline conduct.

## Sunnydale School donates Tk 1 lakh to Cancer Hospital

The students and teachers of Sunnydale School donated Tk 1 lakh to the Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital (AMCH) yesterday, says a press release.

The 500-bed AMCH is now under construction at Uttara in the city. A total of Tk 200 crore is needed for the completion of the work and over Tk 24 crore has so far been received as donation.

A student of Sunnydale, a leading English medium school of the city, handed over the cheque for the amount to Kazi Rafiqul Alam, president and chief executive of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM), at its Head Office at Dhanmondi in the city.

About 30 students and five teachers as well as members of board of directors came to the DAM office to give away the money for fighting the killer cancer.

Students shared the contribution by saving from their tiffin and gift money. Teacher-in-charge of the School Yasmin Habib, teachers Jasmine Kabir, Rifat Farzana, Zebun Nesa Ahmed and Jasmine Khaled Khan, among others, were present on the occasion.

Yasmin said students and teachers of the school donated the money to AMCH as part of their duty towards the society.

Rafiqul Alam said adequate facilities for cancer treatment are yet to be available in the country and the poor people are deprived of proper treatment.

He expressed his gratitude to the students and teachers of Sunnydale School for their donation. This will inspire other schools to help establish a full-fledged cancer hospital in the country by 2008, he added.



Participants at a discussion on 'Amended National Women Development Policy' held at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. Karmojibi Nari in collaboration with the Royal Norwegian Embassy organised the event.

## NATIONAL WOMEN DEVELOPMENT POLICY Call for cancellation of amended version

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Women's rights activists yesterday reiterated their demand for cancellation of the amended version of the National Women Development Policy, saying that it would wipe out the achievements of women's movement during the last three decades.

They also demanded restoration of the original policy formulated in 1997 in the light of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination (CEDAW) and Beijing Platform of Action.

The Karmojibi Nari organised the discussion at the Jatiya Press Club to protest the changes brought to the policy. It said the government has violated women's rights by dropping the provisions of equal rights to economic policy and inheritance and equal participation in employment.

Karmojibi Nari President Shirin Akhter said the government has brought the changes only to serve the interest of a vested quarter.

This amended policy will set back women's advancement, she added.

The rights organisations have been protesting the changes since last year, but the government remains indifferent, Shirin Akhter

said.

She called for integrating the demands of the women into the mainstream movement.

Ayesha Khanam, general secretary of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BMP), said the policy has been amended to curb women's participation in economic, political and administrative activities.

Tasmima Hossain, editor of the Anannya, said women's rights are human rights.

She called on both men and women to come forward to protect the women's rights.

She also called on the women's rights organisations to set up a resource centre for women.

Prof Latifa Akhand, Meher Afroz Chumki, Convenor of Jatiya Nari Jote Afroza Haque Rina, Hazera Sultana of Sammilita Nari Samaj, Selina Khaleque of Bangladesh Mahila Samity, Sayda Rizwana Hasan of Bangladesh Paribesh Ainjibi Samity, Kohinur Mahmud of Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies also spoke.

A total of 35 women's rights organisations under the banner of Samajik Protirodh Andolon (social resistance movement) have been protesting the amendment to the national policy since 2005.

## KILLING OF JUDGES

## Charge framing date deferred for 7th time

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

The date for framing charges against eight charge-sheeted accused in connection with the killings of two judges in Jhalakathi on November 14, 2005 was postponed until tomorrow making it the seventh postponement of the hearing.

Judge MA Matin of the Barisal divisional speedy trial tribunal rescheduled the hearing yesterday which was its sixth scheduled date.

The court also sent a letter to Dhaka Central Jail authorities requesting them to make arrangements for producing before the court tomorrow, Awal and Sunny, two of the accused in the case, who are already in police custody.

Mamun and Sultan, two more accused who are in Barisal Central Jail were produced before the court at 10:00am yesterday, but were returned back within minutes after registering their presence in absence of the tribunal judge and the lawyers of both the sides.

Mizanur Rahman, court officer of the tribunal, said the judge ordered to send back Mamun and Sultan to jail over phone.

The tribunal judge after appearing in the court at 11:25am issued his written orders from his chamber and left the court at about 1:00pm.

Three other cases under trial in the court were also not heard by the judge and were postponed until tomorrow.

Advocate Majibur Rahman Nantu, public prosecutor of the tribunal said the trial of this case must be completed within 135 days and already 24 days have been passed without any progress in framing of charges.

Out of the accused eight in the

case under the Explosives Act in connection with the killings, the principal accused also a JMB suicide squad member Ifikhar Hasan Al Mamun alias Mamun Ali alias Shihab, Sultan, Awal and Sunny are in police custody while Shaekh Abdur Rahman, Siddikur Rahman alias Bangla Bhai, Molla Omar and Amzad are in hiding.

A separate murder case filed in connection with the killings is still under investigation by Munshi Atikur Rahman, inspector of the criminal investigation branch.

## BSF kills 1

UNB, C'nawabganj

A Bangladeshi youth was gunned down by Indian Border Security Force (BSF) on Telkupi border in Shibganj upazila of the district yesterday.

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) sources said the BSF personnel fired on Masud, son of Mohammad Islam, when he went near border pillar no 180 for irrigating his cropland in the morning. Masud died on the spot.

The Indian border guards also took away Masud's body.

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) strongly protested the killing and asked its Indian counterpart to return the body. "The BSF assured of returning the body," said a BDR official.

Another Bangladeshi youth was shot dead by the BSF on Chakpara border in the same upazila on Wednesday.

## INDIRA-MUJIB ACCORD Media reports misleading, says Indian HC

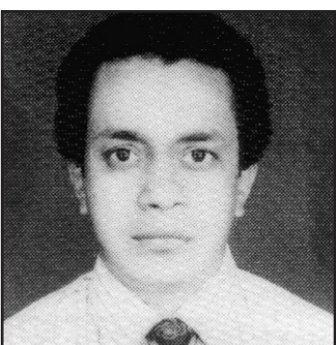
The High Commission of India in Dhaka yesterday termed the recent news reports on the Indira-Mujib Accord inaccurate and misleading, says a press release.

In a statement, the High Commission said an impression is being created in Bangladesh that India's non-ratification of the Indira-Mujib accord is holding back its implementation. But the fact is that legislative requirements in India necessitate that the process of boundary demarcation be completed before ratification by the Indian Parliament, it added.

India's ratification of the Accord has so far not taken place because the process of boundary demarcation remains incomplete due to non-agreement on 6.5kms of boundary, it said. In the case of Bangladesh, while it is a fact that the LBA was ratified soon after signature in 1974, it is pertinent to note that this ratification can come into effect only after demarcation of boundary has been actually completed. Therefore, de facto, India and Bangladesh are in the same position, it added.

India's consistent position has been to resolve at the earliest the outstanding elements in the Indira-Mujib accord pertaining to boundary demarcation, exchange of enclaves and adverse possessions, the statement said. It is with this objective that government of India has conveyed to the government of Bangladesh a "composite package proposal" on these issues during the last meeting of the Joint Boundary Working Group (JBWG) in March, 2002. Even after a passage of four years, we are still awaiting a response from Bangladesh to these proposals, it added.

On the issue of exchange of enclaves and adverse possessions, India has pointed out that a joint survey needs to be carried out, the statement said. The government of India has written to the Bangladesh Foreign Ministry in June 2005, conveying details of the logistics required to complete such a joint survey. Once again, there has been no response from the government of Bangladesh till date, it added.



## Obituary

Afsaruddin Ahmed, a freedom fighter, businessman and social worker, passed away at Shikder Medical College Hospital on Sunday at the age of 57, says a press release.

He was the brother of Reazuddin Ahmed, editor of The News Today and president of the National Press Club.

His kulkhwani and a doa mahfil will be held at his residence (House # 23, Road # 10, Block # E, Banani) after Asr prayers today.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers have been requested to attend the kulkhwani.

## Abdul Wahed

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Abdul Wahed alias Kanu Mia, brother-in-law of Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina, passed away early Monday at Rangpur Medical College and Hospital at the age of 68.

Former President of Pirganj upazila AL, Kanu Mia, was the brother of nuclear scientist Dr M A Wajed Mia.

Kanu Mia left behind his wife, two sons, two daughters, two brothers, a sister, a host of relatives, colleagues and friends to mourn his death.

In separate message, AL President Sheikh Hasina and General Secretary Abdul Jaill expressed their deep condolence at the death of Kanu Mia.

They prayed for salvation of the departed soul.

## Qulkhwani

Qulkhwani of Belayett Karim Chowdhury of Dasha in a Talukdarbari, a renowned soil scientist, will be held at his residence at House # 7, Road # 20, Sector # 7, Uttara Model Town after Maghrib prayers today, says a press release.

He passed away in Dhaka on Saturday at the age of 65.

Family members have requested all friends, relatives and well-wishers to attend the kulkhwani and pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

# WEATHER TODAY

## Light to moderate fog likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry over the country in the next 12 hours till 6:00pm today.

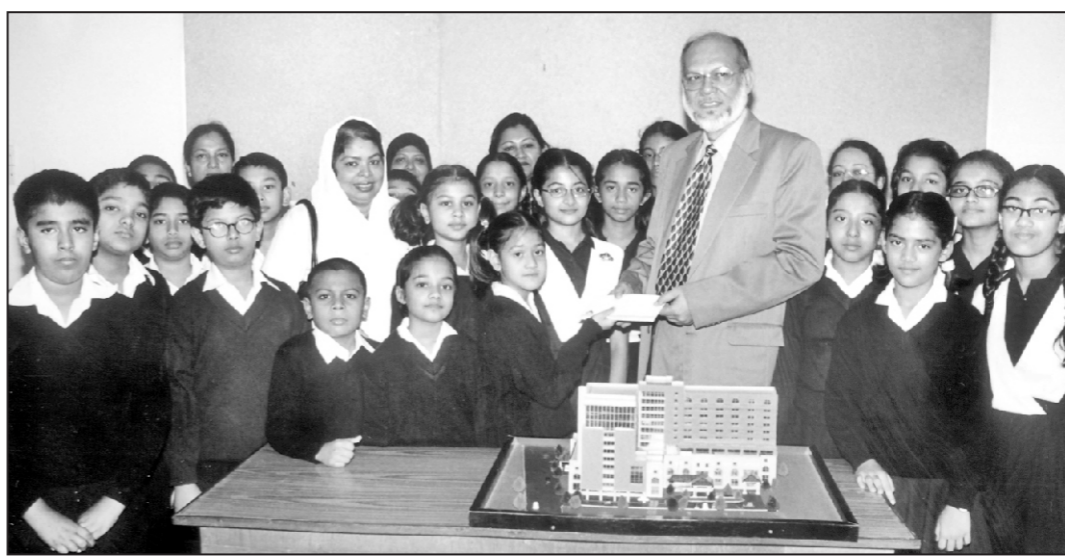
Light to moderate fog may also occur over the river basins of the country during the early morning, Met Office said, predicting nearly unchanged night temperature.

Highest temperature 31.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and Sitakundu and lowest 11.8 degree Celsius at Dinajpur.

**The sun sets in the capital at 5:49pm today and rises at 6:36am tomorrow.**

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	29.5	15.7	92	58
Chittagong	30.5	16.4	63	58
Rajshahi	28.2	13.5	90	64
Khulna	29.4	15.2	93	69
Barisal	29.2	13.3	94	77
Sylhet	31.0	16.5	69	55
Cox's Bazar	29.8	16.8	66	--



A student of Sunnydale School hands over a cheque for Tk 1 lakh to Kazi Rafiqul Alam, president and chief executive of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM), at its head office at Dhanmondi in the city yesterday.