METROPOLITAN/NEWS

Nizami now demands deaths to Rahman. Bangla Bhai

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

ndustries minister Matiur Rahman Nizami, who earlier denied the existence of Bangla Bhai saying he was a creation of the media, now changed his tone and demanded capital punishment to Bangla Bhai, Abdur Rahman and other the militant king-

Nizami, also Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami, a partner of the alliance government. brushed aside any linkage of his party with the banned Jama'atul Mujaheedin Bangladesh (JMB).

He was replying to questions of a private television channel following a sector seminar at the National Press Club

auditorium in the city yesterday. Bangladesh Quran Shikkha Society organised the seminar on 'Jihad and Terrorism in the Eyes of Islam'

Addressing the seminar as chief quest. Nizami said there is no room for terrorism in Islam

"The militancy rose in a bid to obliterate Islam from the country and no Islamic think- tank has ever supported their activities." he said adding that the JMB had never played any role to spread Islamic ideology. ctuals

Criticising a section of intelle and journalists, Nizami said they are promoting 'information terrorism' and dictating people to take the country into a grave situation

"They are doing this to taint the image of the country," he said. Terrorism in the name of Islam is a conspiracy and intellectual efforts should have to be enhanced to resist the conspiracy, he added

Maulana Julfikar Ahmad Kismoti read out a keynote paper while President of the Society Abdus Shahid Nasim presided over the seminar.

The speakers said Islam has no link with terrorism, as it is a religion of peace. At the same time Jihad and war are quite different.

Jihad is a lawful struggle to establish Islamic country while war is a part of Jihad, which cannot be waged without the authorisation of the state they added

Allah has forbidden man to engage in terrorism and branding Muslim countries as terrorist countries is part of the evil designs of the west, they said.

Vice President of the Society Muhammad Nurul Islam, Dhaka City Jamaat-e-Islami Amir Rafiqul Islam Khan, Prof Dr Umar Ali, Barrister Abdur Razzak and former secretary Shah Abdul Hannan also spoke.

New Canadian visa application centre opens **UNB**, Dhaka

The Canadian High Commission opened a new Visa Application

Wrong decisions led to power crisis

also director of the Institute of

growth rate that was projected in the

last quarter of 90's was practically

much higher after 2000, which also

led to the increase in demand for

Mahmud said the government

cannot be a business body; rather

there should be a public-private

of Desco (Dhaka Electricity Supply

Company Bangladesh) in the capi-

"So, we are going to float shares

partnership in the power sector.

State Minister Iqbal Hasan

energy in 2005, he noted.

tal market soon," he said.

On the other hand, the GDP

Appropriate Technology of Buet.

Say energy experts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

power shortage during 2005-06 has Energy experts yesterday blamed resulted from wrong decisions." mismanagement of power sector, The demand for gas projected for the period of 2001 and 2005 by the

system loss, flawed tariff structure and inefficiency of gas supply sys-Gas System Development Plan in tem for the acute power shortage, 1996 and Petrobangla in 2001 did not match, leading to the gas shortwhich has caused immense suffering to people as well as the industry age at the end of 2005, he said.

Making wrong decisions or taking no concrete decision in time in the past has resulted in the current energy crisis, they said at a discussion on 'Energy: Sustainable access for all' organised by the Consumers' Association of Bangladesh (CAB) in the city.

Speaking as the chief guest State Minister for Power Igbal Hasan Mahumd admitted that the higher officials of the power sector were mainly responsible for the mismanagement of electricity

He also blamed the consumers for misusing electricity in their daily

Presenting a keynote paper, Prof M Nurul Islam of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) said, "If we analyse the power situation critically

and objectively, we shall see that the meters free of cost and encouraging the use of CLF bulbs to ensure the efficient use of electricity.

Urging the businessmen to use generators in the peak hours, the state minister said 1500 MW electricity is needed to meet only four or five hours' demand during a day. "This requires a huge investment, The infrastructure of gas system and the cost of electricity will be was built on the basis of the demand projection, but the practical use was much more for the extra 1500MW much more," said Prof Nurul Islam, electricity."

MA Momen, president of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry, called on the government to offer incentives to private entrepreneurs in the renewable energy sector in the next budget.

Syeda Rizwana Hassan, director of Bangladesh Environment Lawyers' Association (Bela), and Dewan Sultan Ahmed, vicepresident of Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry, also spoke

Company) and PGCB (Power Grid CAB General Secretary Kazi Faruk moderated the discussion chaired by its President Borhan He also said the government is thinking of supplying pre-paid Ahmed.

BB can take action against militant-linked Islamic banks CSBIBB official tells newsmen STAFF CORRESPONDENT

If any Islamic bank is found to have links to the militants. Bangladesh Bank (BB) can take legal action against that bank, said Mukhlesur Rahman, secretary general of Central Shariah Board for Islamic banks of Bangladesh (CSBIBB), While exchanging views with

iournalists at an informal meeting at a city hotel, Rahman said the BB has asked explanation from the Islami Bank and it is yet to be proved if the bank is guilty or not.

"If the allegation is proved, we will also condemn it," he added.

Rahman praised BB initiative of scripting a guideline for the Islamic banks, but refrained from making any comment since it has not been made public. He said different Islamic banks have Shariah Board and the

CSBIBB is comprised of members of those boards. The CSBIBB is not a regulatory body and it does not interfere in the

bank's day-to-day business, he explained.

Sikder Hospital doctors perform major combined surgery

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

For the first time in medical history of Bangladesh, doctors at ZH Sikder Women's Medical College and Hospital has performed a successful combined heart, brain and leg revascularisation surgery. The combined cerebral, myocar

dial and lower limb revascularisation procedure was done at Z H Sikde Cardiac Care and Research Centre at Dhanmondi in Dhaka on March 12.

this at a press conference yesterday. The surgery was performed on Habibullah, a 54-year-old banker, who is a diabetic patient and had been

hospital authorities said.

Apurba Kumar Sharma, chief cardiad surgeon of the hospital, conducted the surgery and it took 11 hours to com plete the procedure.

depend on external sources for techninow providing expertise to foreign hospitals to perform open heart surgeries, said the hospital authorities.

Dr Sarma said the hospital has recently sent a team of doctors, nurses, technicians and bio-medical engineers to Guwahati Medical College in Assam at the invitation of the government of Assam. The team



Bangladesh Mahila Parishad stages a demonstration in front of the Eden Women's University College in the city yesterday protesting repression on general students by the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) cadres.

South Asian Law of SOAS in the

chair. Shahzad Rokon Firoz, president of the Bangladesh Society, was

In his hour-long speech, Dr Kamal

said it is important for the political

parties to nominate a neutral person

as head of the caretaker government

agree about electing a neutral person

as the chief of the caretaker govern-

ment, a constitutional vacuum is

Dr Kamal said Bangladesh has a

About 100 Bangladeshi students

very bright future in the days to come

as its young generation is energetic

"If all the political parties do not

to make parliament effective.

Present electoral system corrupt

Dr Kamal tells seminar in London

present

BDNEWS, London

Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain has said that present electoral system in the country is corrupt and a member of parliament (MP), elected through the system, can't reflect people's aspiration.

"Unless and until an MP is elected through a true independent system, Bangladesh parliament can't be the true house of representatives of the people," he said.

likely to be created in the country," he Dr Kamal was speaking as a guest speaker at a seminar titled said "Bangladesh: The constitution, rule of law and development" jointly organised by the Bangladesh Society and and consciou Department of Law at School of Oriental African Studies (SOAS) at of SOAS participated in the seminar. University of London on Tuesday.

Nadia Bari, general secretary of Bangladesh Society, moderated the seminar with Prof Werner Menski of

Speakers at a roundtable vesterday

urged the government to enact law

allowing the broadcasting of commu-

They said the proposed law

nity radio (CR) in the country.

COMMUNITY RADIO Govt urged to enact law for broadcast

policy barrier against it. Now only a law is needed to issue licence for CR, he said.

Kamrul Hasan Monju, chairperson of the Steering Committee of National Consultation on CR and Executive Director of Mass-line Media Centre, said CR can play its role as promoter of participatory, accountable and transparent government system in the country.

The speakers said through CR, the community people can exercise

প্রকাশনা উৎসব মুজিযুদ্ধ জাদুঘর অডিটোরিয়াম, ১৫-৩-০৬ ইং, বিকেল ৪·০০ টা স্থান র্হমান এমপি, সভাগতি মন্তলীর সদ্স্য, বাংলাদে রধান অতিথি : ৬ কে এম সোবহান বাংন 410 এ, ঢাকা-

The publication ceremony of a book titled 'Ekushey August: Grenade Biddha Bangladesh' was held on the Liberation War Museum premises in the city yesterday.

ISLAMIC FOUNDATION VIOLATION OF ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING ACT Islami Bank defends against BB accusation

COURT CORRESPONDENT customer" guideline, Raquib said

The hospital authorities disclosed suffering from reduced blood flow to

brain, heart muscles and both of his legs. He is now doing very well, the An 11-member team led by Dr

STAFF CORRESPONDENT Usually, Bangladeshi hospitals

cal expertise, but Sikder Hospital is

should be enacted on the basis of the existing draft. The roundtable on 'Community Radio' was organised jointly by Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio

JCD's Grassroots Representative Meets begin on March 21

DU CORRESPONDENT

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), student wing of the ruling BNP, is going to hold its Grassroots Representative Meetings 2006 at six divisions across the country from March 21

The Daily Star

The meetings aim at enhancing interpersonal relations among the leaders at grassroots level and creating creative leadership among them, sources said.

A total of 26,500 representatives are likely to take part in the meetings.

Of them, the highest number of 7986 representatives would take part at Dhaka divisional meeting, while 5313 representatives at Chittagong division, 6104 representatives at Rajshahi division, 3261 representatives at Khulna division, 1761 representatives at Sylhet division and 2075 representatives will take part at Barisal divisional meeting

The programme was announced by JCD General Secretary Shafiul Bari Babu at a press conference at Dhaka University yesterday.

BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Tarique Rahman will inaugurate all the meetings while BNP Secretary General and Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Abdul Mannan Bhuivan will be present at the Dhaka meeting as chief guest.

Dhaka divisional meeting will be held at Keraniganj Chunkutia Girls High School ground on March 21, Khulna divisional meeting at Bagerhat Khan Jahan Ali College ground on March 23, Rajshahi divisional meeting at Bogra Sultangan



BDNEWS, Dhaka

Ex-director gets bail in money laundering case

ated by VFS (Bangladesh) Pvt Ltd.

Applications for all temporary resident, student permit, work permit and permanent resident determination that were previously made at the High Commission should be lodged at the new Canadian Visa Application Centre from today 16. says a Canadian press release

The office is housed at "Taj Casalina"-Apt 3C (2nd floor), House SW (1), 25 Gulshan Avenue, Gulshan-1. Telephone no: (8802) 883 6055; Email: info@vfscanada.com.bd and Web: www.vfscanada.com.bd

The new centre will operate from 9:00am to 1:00pm and 2:00pm-5:00pm on Sunday-Thursday.

The one stop application centre will provide improved client services with the following: fast track submission of completed application forms. pick up of passport after assessment by the Canadian High Commission, on site purchase facilities of bank draft for processing fee and on site client service to assist in reviewing application documents.

The applications will then be forwarded by VFS daily to the High Commission for assessment. An interview, if required, will be scheduled by VFS to be held at the High Commission. A nominal fee of Tk 550 per passport/application will be charged by VFS as processing charges.

Chehlum



Relatives and friends have been requested to attend milad mahfil and doa after Juma prayers.

Afsaruddin, a freedom fighter, died on February 5.

He left behind his wife, two sons and host of relatives and friends to mourn his death.

He was the brother of National Press Club President and News Today Editor Reazuddin Ahmed and Stamford University Adviser Lt Col (retd) Zainol Abedin

Islami Bank Bangladesh Ltd. (IBBL) yesterday defended itself against central bank accusation of violating Anti-Money Laundering Act, saying nobody knows who is militant and who is not. But the bank suspended four

officials of its branches in Sylhet, Savar and Gazipur and charged 12 others with negligence to duties.

"Nobody knows who is militant and who is not. The word 'militant' is not inscribed on anyone's body." Abdur Raquib, executive president of IBBL, told the news agency a day after the Bangladesh Bank (BB) issued a showcause notice on the bank for maintaining accounts of some Islamist militants and suspicious transactions in some of its

branches. He said they could not suspect any of the accounts until police seized the Islami bank cheque book from the Sylhet hideout of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) kingpin Shaekh Abdur Rahman. BB sources said a person, identifying himself as Javed Khan, sent eight telephonic transfers (TTs) worth Tk 4.15 lakh from two branches of the Islami Bank in Gazipur and Savar to an account held by Saidur Rahman at Sylhet Laldigirpar branch.

"We conducted an internal investigation as soon as we came to know about this. We have already suspended four officials and charged 12 officials with negligence to duties." Raquib said, refusing to disclose their names. He said there is no mechanism of

identifying militants. The present Chehlum o Anti-Money Laundering Act also Afsaruddin does not provide any mechanism to Ahmed will be identify suspicious transactions, he held at his added. village home at

On Tuesday, the BB asked the Narandi in bank to explain in 10 days as to why Narsinadi the bank officials did not verify the tomorrow, savs account holder's signature against a press release. the signature of a person who transferred money through drafts to

another account. "We don't think it is a showcause. The BB as per its regular monitoring sought an explanation," Raquib said.

He said the IBBL officials remain busy providing services to its 2.7 million clients from 169 branches. "It is tough to monitor each and every account," he said. Asked about the BB's 'know your

it's a lapse of the branch manager concerned. But it is not unusual. It could happen if one has to maintain a large number of accounts, he said. He said the bank sends monthly

statements to the BB including the one relating to suspicious transactions. But he refused to disclose how many reports relating to suspicious transactions were submitted by IBBL to the BB.

Asked about the relation of the bank with Mir Kashem Ali, one of the founders of Rabitat Al-Alam Al-Islami, Bangladesh, which is suspected for militant financing, he said: "He was once a director of the bank, but now he has no relation with IBBL.'

He also said: "The media has targeted us.'

Raquib also said the bank has no relation with the Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh.

Programmes to observe birth anniversary of Bangabandhu **UNB**, Dhaka

Awami League has chalked out elaborate programmes to observe the National Children's Day marking the 87th birth anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman tomorrow.

The programmes included hoisting of national and party flags at party offices across the country, placing wreath at the portrait of Bangabandhu and milad mahfil, discussion and cultural programme in front of Bangabandhu Memorial Museum.

In Tungipara, Awami League activists will offer 'ziarat' at the mazar of Bangabandhu and hold doa and milad mahfil.

AL leaders Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim MP, Mukul Bosh, Alhaj Sheikh M Abdullah, Col (retd) Faruq Khan MP and Habibur Rahman will go to Tungipara today to attend the programmes. Presidium member A Abdur Razzak MP will lead the team

AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil, in a statement, called upon all, irrespective of party affiliation, to observe the day in a befitting manner.

Foundation Moulana Fariduddin Masud yesterday obtained bail in one of the three cases filed against

him with different police stations in the city. Judge Mohammad Momin Ullah of the Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate's Court yesterday granted him bail in a money laundering case following a criminal appeal against the rejection order of the lower court on January 16.

He was granted bail earlier in two other cases filed under the Explosive Substances Act in connection with August 17 countrywide blasts last year.

Since he got bails in all three cases, there is no obstacle now for his release from the jail.

Moulana Masud was arrested at Zia International Airport on August 22 for suspected links to the August 17 serial blasts. He was shown arrested in two bomb blast cases filed with Gulshan and Airport police stations and placed on remand on several occasions.

The money laundering case was filed against him with Khilgaon Police Station on October 23 last year.

On November 24 last year, the Detective Branch (DB) of police dropped his name from the charge sheet as his involvement with the JMB (Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh) was not proved.

Outlaws kill **BNP** leader, old man

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Outlawed Janajuddha cadres shot dead a BNP leader in Meherpur and hacked to death an old man in Chuadanga district last night.

The outlaws gunned down Nuru Mian, organising secretary of local BNP union unit, in Moheshkahli village of Gangni upazila in Meherpur at around 8:00pm.

They also blasted four bombs at the house of local UP Chairman Asaduzzaman Bablu half an hour later. Rapid Action Battalion and police rushed to the spot but failed to nab the criminals.

Janajuddha men chopped up Abdul Majid Khan, 70, at C&B Para in Chuadanga town at 8:30pm, police said.



Parveen Haque Sikder, vicechairman of ZH Sikder Women's Medical College and Hospital, speaks at a press conference in the city vesterday.

surgery in Assam.

George E Gleason, chief executive officer, said that Bangladeshi people need not go abroad for health check-up or special health check-up as this hospital has been providing quality health care.

Parveen Haque Sikder, vicechairman of the hospital, said the hospital is also committed to providing health care for the poor people at a lower rate.

Managing Director Monowara Sikder, Principal Prof Dr MA Sakur, Chief Cardiologist Dr Shams Munwar and Senior Consultant Cardiologist Dr Kaisar Nasrullah Khan were also present at the press

Later, Dr Sarma explained the details of the surgery with a video presentation.

Schoolboy killed in Ctg road accident BDNEWS, Chittagong

> One schoolboy was killed when a speeding truck knocked him down at Chandanaish upazila yesterday. The dead was identified as Tarik

Bin Kamal. 7. a class one student of BGC Trust run Maulana Ismail Sishu Niketon

The truck hit Tarik when he was waiting alongside the road. Tarik met the tragic end of his life on his

way home from school at 1:00pm.

and Communications (BCNNRC), Voices for Interactive Choice and Empowerment (Voice), Mass-Line Media Centre (MMC), Focus and Young Power in Social Action (YPSA) in association with UNESCO, UNDP and UNICEF at LGED conference room at

Agargaon in the city. Ahmed Swapan Mahmud, executive director of the Voice, presented a keynote paper titled 'The Role of Community Radio is the Central to Development' at the roundtable.

He said CR can help build up participatory practice in the society eading to people's governance.

It can also facilitate people's access and promote their participation in local level decision makingprocess which ultimately results for participatory governance in the society, he added.

Former chairman of Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) Syed Margub Morshed said frequency has been allocated for CR and there is no

and participate in the development process The roundtable was informed that

a high-level advocacy group would be formed soon to influence the government in favour of the communitv radio.

Columnist Muhammad Jahangir, Executive Director of Democracy Watch Teleya Rehman, President of the Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists Gias Kamal Chowdhury, Columnist Sadek Khan and representative of different NGOs and UN organisations also took part in the discussion.

Dr Mizanur Rahman Shelly, president of Bangladesh Centre of Development Research (BCDR) was the chief gust at the roundtable moderated and chaired by Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman, executive chairman, of the Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC)

High School on April 1, Chittagong divisional meeting at Cox's Bazar Stadium on April 4, and Barisal divisional meeting at Syed Hatem Ali College ground on April 9. The venue for Svlhet divisional meeting on March 28 is yet to be

fixed. Deputy Minister for Land Ruhul Kuddus Talukdar Dulu, BNP Student Affairs Adviser Fazlul Haque Milon, BNP Legislator Nasir Uddin Ahmed Pintu, former vicepresident of Dhaka University Central Students' Union (Ducsu) Amanullah Aman, former Ducsu assistant general secretary

Nazimuddin Ahmed, JCD President

Azizul Bari Helal and Senior Vice-

president Sultan Salauddin Tuku

were present at the press confer-

He also said that the site for

water pump has been changed. The

pump will now be installed at lane

No. 3 of Block A and Wasa officials

have already visited that site, he

completed in the next one month.

He hoped that the work will be

When contacted, an official of

added

Water crisis hits Mirpur sec-10 Residents smell a rat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

About 40,000 residents at Mirpur section-10 in the capital have been facing acute water crisis for the last two months.

They alleged that a vested quarter has created the crisis deliberately with a view to occupying a land of Bihari camp in the name of setting up a water pump

The quarter under the banner of House Owners' Welfare Association is also collecting toll from the house owners in the area in the name of raising funds for the installation of water pump, they said, adding that about Tk 3.5 lakh has been collected so far.

"There is only one water tap in our camp for about 8,000 people. But the tap runs dry throughout the day. After midnight at about 1:00am, when water starts running from the tap, people in long queue also start scrambling for water. But many have to return without water as the supply lasts for only 15 or 20 minutes," said Md Momin, a resident of Muslim camp at Block-A, Mirpur sec-10.

Many residents like Abdus Shakur do not get enough water even for cooking. Rahman, a resident of Shaheed

Commissioner Imam said there is water crisis in Block A, but he is trying to solve the problem as early as possible. There is a water pump in Block-

The water crisis has become him to send some of his family other parts of the city, he added.

Bangladeshi Bihari Rehabilitation Assembly (BBRA) President Kawser Pervez has filed a general diary with Pallabi Police Station on February 2 saying that a tension is prevailing among the inhabitants of Muslim camp, Madrasha camp and Shahid Millat camp as a vested quarter is trying to occupy a land of the Bihari

pump involved in the bid to evict the Biharis through installing a pump at

Shahid Millat camp. But the commissioner dismissed the allegations as false and baseless.

He also denied that his men are involved in toll collection. The house owners sometimes collect toll for welfare activities in their area, he added

Millat camp at Block-B, said his family has been collecting water from nearby restaurants, houses and an abandoned well in Muslim camp.

B, which is very old and the Wasa acute in the last two months, forcing has already repaired it. he said adding that a new water pump has members to relatives' houses in been allocated for Block A.

Dhaka Water and Sewerage camp in the name of setting up a water Authority (Wasa) Zone-4 said there is production problem at the water The residents alleged that local pump at Block-B as the water level Ward Commissioner Kazi Ali Imam has been going down day by day. Asad and his associates are A new water pump would be set

up at Block A soon after the DCC allocates the land, he added. To mitigate the suffering of the

residents, Wasa has now been providing three tanks of water daily, he said. Local people said if the water

pump is set up in the middle of lane No. 5 and 6, all the residents of Block-A and B would get sufficient water

conference.