"You have retired from government jobs, but not from your social obligations," she told a delegation

A five-member delegation of the association paid a courtesy call on Khaleda Zia at the Prime Minister's Office yesterday afternoon.

Various activities of the Association and government programmes for retired officers and employees were discussed during

The retired officers lauded the government for a new pay scale and inclusion of retired officers and employees for enjoying

ment assistance in the move.

Government programmes for welfare of the senior citizens also came up for discussion in the meeting. A programme for providing special discount to senior citizens in passenger train services is under consideration of the government, the meeting was

The BNP government has simplified the process of availing pension by a retired public servant and introduced family pension for the spouse after death of a pension

The delegation of employees welfare association comprised former Finance Secretary Kafil Uddin Mahmud, former Cabinet Secretary M Mahbu-uz-Zaman, former Chief Conservator of Forest Abdul Malik Chowdhury, former Public Service Commission (PSC) Member AM Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and former Additional Secretary MAbdul Quiyum Thakur.

EXTRA-JUDICIAL KILLINGS

Govt using Rab to cling to power

METROPOLÎTAN/NEWS

Hasina tells grassroots leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina yesterday alleged that the BNP-Jamaat-led alliance government has been using members of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) to kill people extraiudicially to cling to power.

"The government has destroyed the image of the Rab battalion," Hasina said, adding that though Rab is called an elite force, its members are now involved in snatching and robbery.

Rab has created a record in extra-judicial killing under the directives of the government, the AL chief said, adding this massacre must be stopped right now. Hasina was speaking at a

ng with the grassroots leaders of Nilphamari and Kurigram districts at party's Dhanmondi office in the city. She told the grassroots leaders

closed-door view exchange meet-

might use huge money they looted illegally from the people to create dispute inside the party ahead of the upcoming election.

that the BNP-Jamaat government

The AL president directed the party leaders to resist those who would try to create dispute inside the party

She also urged them to make a list of those ruling partymen who looted and resorted to criminal activities in their localities. The former prime minister said

Khaleda, her ministers and MPs have stolen public money which encouraged the government officials to become corrupt. Protesting remarks of Khaleda who accused the Al chief of doing

politics of arson and hartal, Hasina asked what the PM would tell now when her partymen had called hartal protesting the killing of a JCD leader in an intra-party conflict at Golapganj in Sylhet.

The AL chief apprehended that

her party leaders and activists might be implicated in false cases in JCD leader killing as BNP had done

Hasina said they have given reform proposals as they want to establish people's rights to voting. Hasina gave advice to grass-

roots leaders to take necessary preparation for the upcoming election alongside the ongoing move-

Sounding a note of warning to them, she said everyone must maintain the party decision and discipline.

Hasina also suggested local leaders to resist the rebel leaders of the party who would contest the election in defiance of the party In response, the grassroots

leaders urged Hasina to declare names of the candidates much earlier of the next election to take necessary preparation for the poll.

They also informed the party

chief that the condition of Jatiya Party ((JP-Ershad) is not good in the northern part of the country and for this the grassroots leaders of the JP want alliance with the AL.

"The root-level leaders of the Jatiya Party (JP-Ershad) wants an electoral alliance with the Awami League to defeat the ruling BNP-Jamaat coalition in the next election," Nurunnabi Chowdhury, general secretary of Bhurangamari upazila unit of AL in Kurigram district told The Daily Star after the

They also urged Hasina to nominate her son Sajib Wajed Joy from any constituency of the northern districts

AL leaders Syeda Zohora Tajuddin, Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, Motia Chowdhury, Kazi Zafarullah, Obaidul Quader, Mahmudur Rahman Manna, Abdur Rahman, Asaduzzaman Noor, Abdul Mannan Khan, were present at the meeting

Meet with non-govt teachers in 4 days

Says education minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Teachers and employees of nongovernment high schools, colleges and madrasas who are observing indefinite strike, yesterday agreed to sit for a dialogue with the education minister.

However, they vowed that they would not withdraw their strike until their principal demand of cent per cent basic salary from the government exchequer is met.

Education Minister Osman Farruk told the reporters that he might hold a discussion with the agitating teachers within three or four days. However, community primary teachers yesterday announced that they will go for an indefinite strike from August 1 and observe fast-unto-death at the Central Shaheed Minar from August 6.

"It is necessary to sit with the teachers to solve the problem and invitation letters have already been sent. It is difficult to fix a date immediately due to my illness but I will try

to hold a meeting on Thursday," the minister said while talking to the reporters at his residence yesterday evening.

Meanwhile, Prof Mazharul Hannan of Shikkhak Karmachari Oikya Jote said that they had agreed to sit for a dialogue with the education minister but discussion is not essential to meet their

Jote led by Prof Shariful Islam also formed a human chain at Muktangan in the city yesterday while another faction of the Jote led by Selim Bhuiyan held Khulna divisional rally at Jessore Eidgah where teachers vowed to continue their strike unti

Besides, National Front of Teachers and Employees (NFTE) yesterday tried to besiege the Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) offices across the country.

Leaders of the NFTÉ said that they will organise a press conference today where they will announce fresh agitation programmes.

PM lauded for introducing free edn for girls

UNB, Dhaka

UN Under Secretary General Thoraya Ahmed Obaid said that free education and stipend for girls up to 12th class, introduced under the leadership of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, will improve socioeconomic status of women in the country and accelerate economic development

It will also contribute towards redefining the gender relationship in society, observed Thoraya Obaid, also the Executive Director of UNFPA. She recently visited

She made the comments in a letter to the PM, saying Bangladesh, despite its many challenges, has recorded enormous success in the field of gender equality and fertility decline.

"Excellency, your presence at the mam Conference reflects your firm commitment to address national issues in a culturally sensitive manner. We deeply appreciate the finalisation of the country's Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) last year, which shows the firm commitment of your government towards the attainment of the ICPD agenda and realisation of the Millennium Development Goals," Mrs Thoraya observed in her letter to the PM.

She said the successful implementation of the PRS will certainly help Bangladesh in improving the quality of life of its people. The UN Under Secretary

General also thanked the Prime Minister for giving her time during her visit in Bangladesh last May.

Asian University students continue agitation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The students of Asian University at Uttara in the city have been demonstrating for three consecutive days boycotting classes to press their 24point demands.

The demands include appointment of a permanent vicechancellor and withdrawal of a notice that asked them to pay next semester's fees in advance, said the students.

The agitators said they began their movement to meet the demands three days ago after the authorities had issued the notice.

The vice-chancellor, however, did not give any heed even after the students started boycotting the classes, they alleged.

Hundreds of agitating students set fire on a tire and blocked the road in front of the university premise at sector-7 for whole day to press

their demands. The students also demanded to cut off several 'illogical' and 'excessive' fees like semester 'late fees' and 'retake' fees.

They also urged to provide qualified teachers and extend the library and computer laboratory

The students also demanded to decrease courses related to Islam in their semesters, which they alleged the authorities impose on

them, and to increase their majorrelated courses The authorities, however, denied

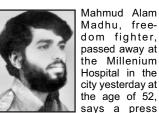
all the allegations.

Habibur Rahman, the deputy registrar, said "Some of the students did not or could not pay some of their due fees, and that's why we issued the notice.'

"They made up those points to make an issue to avoid paying the dues," he told The Daily Staryesterday. Asked what the steps the authori-

ties took to end the strike, he said the authorities are supposed to sit with the students' representatives yester-

Obituary



release. Madhu was the first trainer of Roumari Camp under Sector-11 during the War of Liberation. He left behind his mother, two

daughters and a host of relatives to

He will be buried with state honour at the Rahmatganj graveyard in Sirajganj after namaz-ejanaza at Shirajganj Khan Shaheb

Fahmida Tarek (Rimi)



July 16 at the age of 35, says a press She left behind her parents, one

brother and husband to mourn her

Her qulkhwani will be held at her father's residence at Shewrapara in the city after Asr prayers on July 21.

Alhaj Yakub Ali Faruk



passed away at Apollo Hospitals in the city on age of 75, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, two sons three daughters and a host of relatives to mourn his death

His qulkhwani will be held at his residence at 17/1, Shiddheshwari Road in the city after Asr prayers on

Zahirul Alam Chowdhury

Bss, Dhaka

Zahirul Alam Chowdhury, a retired government officer, died at the Holy Family Red Crescent Hospital here in the early hours of yesterday at the age of 68.

Zahirul Alam, father of Chowdhury Mohammad Ali Kajawl, a sports reporter of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS), was admitted to the hospital on July 14 following a brain hemorrhage.

Death anniversary Today is the



Krishi Bank, says a press On the occasion, a doa mahfil will

been requested to pray for salvation

be held at his Gulshan residence after Asr prayers on Friday. Relatives and admirers have

of the departed soul.

Fazlul Karim



Today is the 12th death anniversary of Fazlul Karim

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to pray salvation of the departed soul

Contribute to nat'l dev efforts

PM urges retired officers, employees

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday called upon the retired officers and employees to contribute to the national development efforts from their respective positions.

of Bangladesh Retired Officers and Employees Welfare Association.

Highlighting some of their plans for expanding welfare activities, the association leader sought govern-

PADMA BRIDGE PROJECT

Participation of private sector stressed

Speakers at a workshop yesterday stressed the need for private sector participation for preparing the Padma Multipurpose Bridge Project (PMBP), construction of which is expected to begin in 2009 at an estimated cost of 1.4 billion US

The private sector participation in the operation and maintenance of the bridge could provide an effective support to the government and donor agencies, they said. The Padma Bridge will be the largest bridge of the country with a

total length of 5.58 km followed by the 4.8 km long Jamuna Bridge. The four lanes bridge will connect Mawa on the east bank with Zajira on the west bank of the river. The workshop titled 'The PMBP under Public Private Partnership

Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge Authority (JMBA) at the Sheraton hotel in the city. Communications Secretary Shafigul Islam inaugurated the workshop as the chief quest while country director of Asian

Participation' was organised by the

Development Bank (ADB) Hua Du spoke as special quest Describing various impacts of the bridge, including country's socioeconomic development and reduce vulnerability of the isolated population living in the southwest regions, Shafiqul said that the government could bear 20 to 25 percent of the total cost of the bridge and ADB, WB

and JIBC have shown their interest to provide support. Hua Du said that the ADB may provide nearly 300 million US dollar for the project and it could provide 25 million US dollar within this year as a technical loan for drafting the design

of the bridge by 2008. Presently, the ADB is reviewing the environment and financial feasibility study, which was conducted by the Japan International

Cooperation Agency (JICA) earlier. The feasibility study estimated that the cost will be nearly 1.2 billion US dollar but presently ADB said that it may reach up to 1.4 billion US dollar, communication ministry

sources said. Presided over by the Executive Director of JMBA Khan M Ibrahim Hossain, the inaugural function was also addressed by Acting Country Director of the World Bank Mohammad Al Housseuni Toure and Representative of Japan Bank

for International Cooperation (JIBC)

Three keynote papers on different aspects of private public partnership in the PMBP were pre-

sented at the daylong workshop A keynote paper said that the PMBP could provide better inland transport system, link in the Trans-Asian Highway System, additional rail link for more efficiency and fective support service in case of

CONTROVERSIAL APPOINTMENTS Resignation of RU VC demanded

RU CORRESPONDENT Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and Progotishil Chhatra Jote (PCJ) of Rajshahi University staged a demonstration on the campus yesterday demanding resignation of the vice-chancellor

for appointing "controversial" persons as teachers. Leaders of the two organisations at a rally in front of central library also protested selection of a 'controversia , person' as a teacher in marketing department, who was allegedly dismissed from a university earlier for

his alleged immoral activities. They blamed the authorit 'illegal' appointment of additional teachers against vacant posts in

different departments. They demanded removal of the VC for allowing Shibir leader Salehi to appear at masters examination. Mahbub Alam Salehi, president of RU Islamic Chhatra Shibir (ISC) unit is a key suspect in Prof S Taher

They also demanded arrest and punishment to the killers of Prof The leaders expressed concern over the selection for appointment of eight teachers against two vacant

Ahmed murder case

said the 'controversial appointments' will tarnish image of the university in the country and abroad. They threatened to launch a tougher agitation if the authorities

posts in marketing department. They

do not stop such "illegal" appointments and allow Salehi to appear

Flood Forecasting. BCL RU unit President Ibrahim Hossain Moon, General Secretary Ayen Uddin, leaders Zahid Al, Rashidul Islam, Reaiul, Prince and

Warning Centre website updated Masud spoke at the rally. STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC) has recently updated its website, which will disseminate flood-forecasting informations and alert the countrymen three days ahead of flood.

of State visits

Bss, Dhaka

Grameen Bank

Andrew Mitchell, the United

Kingdom's Shadow Secretary of

State for International Development

and Lord Ashcroft, KCMG, paid a

two-day visit to Bangladesh on July

17-18 to observe and discuss

development issues, particularly

micro-finance, water and sanitation.

to Grameen Bank and Wateraid

projects in Dhaka and elsewhere in

Bangladesh and a discussion with

Brac and other members of the

Bangladesh development community,

a British High Commission press

They also called on Foreign

elease said vesterday

Minister M Morshed Khan.

Their programmes included visits

"Now we can disseminate the latest information on monsoon to the countrymen three days ahead through District Disaster Management Committee (DDMC), Upazila Disaster Management Committee (UpDMC) and Union Disaster Management Committee (UDMC), who will get the necessary informations from our updated website." said Sharif Rafigul Islam, director general of Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) while addressing a workshop yester-

BWDB and Bangladesh Disaster Preparedness Centre (BDPC) jointly organised the workshop on 'Review and formulation of recommendations for up gradation of FFWC's website' at the BWDB conference room. "People can easily visit the website

www.ffwc.gov.bd and easily find river level forecasts for 24, 48 and 72 hours, current warning messages, special flood situation report, thana inundation status maps, flood forecast maps. monthly flood report, dry season bulletin (weekly) and annual flood report," said Selim Bhuiyan, executive engineer of FFWC, while presenting the keynote paper.

UK Shadow Secy RMG unit closed after labour unrest

Sarkari Unnayan Prakalpa Karmakarta Karmachari Kalyan Parishad begins a fast-unto-death at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday to press their

five-point demand, including enactment of a law to transfer their jobs to revenue sector.

A CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur Several hundred readymade garment workers went on a rampage at Waqfi Knit Fabrics (Pvt) Ltd at Konabari inside the BSCIC Industrial Area as they did not receive their pay hike and overtime

that the authorities had promised The factory was shut down following the workers' unrest,

sources said. The factory authorities announced in the wake of worker unrest on June 17 that the worker salaries would be raised soon, claimed some agitated workers.

The workers yesterday gathered to collect their payments and were shocked to find out that their last month's salaries were even less than that of the previous months. Their total take-home salary has decreased even though the salary has been increased by five percent as the authorities have cut their overtime bills to 60 percent from earlier 75 percent, some workers

complained. Infuriated at this situation, the workers refrained from work while some went berserk and vandalised some factory machinery and the administration offices.

Witnesses said the outburst and

ransacking went on for a couple of

hours which damaged ten comput-

A female staff member of Rajshahi Medical College and Hospital (RMCH) was held at a ward with huge bandage, syringe and medicare materials of the hospital

tor and several phone sets. Some of

the workers sustained injuries

total damages in this incident would

Battalion and the Armed Police were

deployed in the industrial area

The authorities claimed that the

Members of BDR, Rapid Action

during this event as well.

sum up to Tk 70 lakh.

following the incident

staff held

RU CORRESPONDENT

RMCH female

on Monday night. She was a class IV employee of Sources said 118 syringes, several bundle gauges, Finail,

Herpic and huge bandage was found from her possession. Police said she was leaving the hospital compound with some

Police challenged her on suspicion and found the hospital properties in her baggage, sources said.

DHÂKA

Seminar Centre for Advanced Research in Social Sciences of Dhaka University (DU) will organise a seminar. Venue: 401, Lecture Theatre, Time: 11:00am.

Nagorik Sanghati will hold a sit in programme demanding security of Ahmadiyahs. Venue: In front of National Museum. Time: 4:00pm.

View exchange

Sit in programme

Book launch

meeting

Bangladesh' published by University Press Limited will be unveiled. Venue RDEC Building conference room, LGED

ceremony

view exchange meeting with judges, lawyers and civil society members on the draft bill of Citizenship Act. Venue: Cirdap auditorium. Time: 4:00pm

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad will hold a

A book titled 'Who gets what: A gender analysis of public expenditure in Handing over

The handing over ceremony of Arts and Crafts from Switzerland will be held. Venue: National

Property worth Tk 25 lakh gutted at Hotel Rajmoni

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Valuables worth Tk 25 lakh were gutted in a fire at Hotel Rajmoni Isha Khan in the city

yesterday morning. The fire originated from room no. 812 at the 7th floor of the hotel at about 10:00am but the reason could not be known

immediately. However, fire fighters doused the flames within half

Fire Service and Civil

Defence officials said the fire

gutted two air conditioning

machines, a sofa set, a fridge, a television set, carpet and bed of the guest room that worth about Tk 25 lakh. Security beefed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

up in Khulna City from noon yesterday following information that Khulna Citizens' Forum (KCF) will lay a siege to Khulna Power Station at Khalishpur to prevent state minister for Power Major General (Retd) Anowarul Kabir Talukder from entering

have been deployed there apprehending subversive activities. KCF will also be prevented

from showing black flags to the state minister when he will go to office of West Zone Power Distribution Company Limited (WZPDCL) at 12:00 noon today to discuss matters relating to power crisis in the south-western The state minister will visit

today.

NGOs and opposition parties, urged the people to stop payment

up in Khulna Security measures were beefed

Additional security forces

Khulna Power Station at 9:30am KCF, that is backed by all

there during his seven-hour official tour in Khulna today.

of electricity bills from next month if power crisis is not resolved by

The students, however, refused to sit with them alleging they harass the students, who sit with them.

Chittagong 31.5 Weekly meeting Rajshahi 34.7 32.5 Weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Barisal 30.6 27.5 Dhaka will be held. Venue: Hotel Sarina.

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind are likely at many places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Sylhet, Chittagong, Barisal and Khulna divisions in the next 12 hours until Moderately heavy falls are also likely at places, Met Office in a

The sun sets in the capital at 6:48pm today and rises at 5:22am tomorrow. Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some

WEATHER TO DAY

Moderately heavy falls likely

Dhaka 32.7 27.0 Cox's Bazar

forecast. It said that day temperature may remain nearly unchanged

major cities and towns yesterday were: Humidity in Morning Evening

Highest temperature 35.4 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sayedpur and lowest 24.9 degree Celsius at Sandwip.

City/Town

former chief arboriculturist of the Roads and Highways Department,