# METROPOLÎTAN/NEWS

## **Create atmosphere** for credible polls

#### Hasina asks govt

Opposition Leader Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the BNP-Jamaat alliance government to create an atmosphere conducive to a free, fair and credible election by implementing the opposition's proposals

"Only a patriotic government, elected through a free and fair election, can solve the problems of the country," she said, adding that the alliance government has completely failed to run the country

"The longer this government remains in power, the worse people's miseries will be," Awami League president said in a state-

Rejecting the prime minister's remark that Monday's opposition grand rally in Dhaka was 'a flop show', she said: "The prime minister is resorting falsehood about the grand rally, as she got afraid by the uproar of people at the

Hasina urged the people not to be misled by the prime minister's "falsehood," saying that the prime minister was "talking gibberish as she is engaged in a conspiracy to return to power.

Criticising the government for price hike of essentials ahead of the holy Ramadan, she said the government is "taking away money rom the public by increasing the prices through syndication."

The AL chief greeted the people for observing the opposition's nationwide 'road-railwaterways blockade' yesterday ignoring "mass arrest and repression.

She demanded immediate release of the opposition leaders and activists who were arrested during the blockade programme

The opposition leader also urged the people to make today's countrywide dawn-to-dusk hartal



Participants at a roundtable on 'The role of freedom fighters in the current political and social crisis' organised by the Freedom Fighters People's Council at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. From right are Council Secretary General Sadek Ahmed Khan, Chairman Ishtiaq Aziz Ulfat, Maj. Gen. (Retd.) Syed Muhammad Ibrahim Bir Pratik language movement veteran Abdul Matin and Vice-chairman Shahid Bablu.

#### Verdict in Aug 17 bomb blast case against Sunny now on Sept 25

**COURT CORRESPONDENT** 

Judgement in the August 17 bomb blast case filed against Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) military commander Ataur Rahman Sunny and five others was not delivered yesterday, as the conducting judge was on leave.

Judge (In Charge) Monzurul Bachhid of the Fourth Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court fixed September 25 for delivery of the verdict.

The five others are Rezaul Haq alias Reza, 25, of Jamalpur, Musa alias Mustafizur Rahman, 22, of Naogaon, Habibur Rahman alias Habib, 23, Abdullah Al Shohail, 25, of Gazipur and Mohammad Sagir Hossain, 35, of Dhaka.

Of them, Musa, Habib and Sagir are on the run while the rest are in the custody.

Earlier, the prosecution and the defence completed their arguments and the court recorded statements of 47 prosecution witnesses.

Detective Branch (DB) of police on November 24 last year pressed charges against the four in connection with a blast near Zia Concourse Hall at around 11:25am on August 17 last year.

DB Inspector and investigation officer (IO) Mohammad Fazlul Haq submitted the charge sheet to the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka.

The IO dropped the names of former Islamic Foundation director Maulana Fariduddin Masud and Israq Ahmad Siraji, accounts officer (part-timer) of Masud's Islahul Muslimeen Parishad of Bangladesh, and Sayeed Nizami, co-ordinator of the Parishad.

The IO said he dropped their names as the charges brought against them were found to be false, baseless and concocted.

#### Women's team goes on Everest Base Camp expedition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A two-member women's team left Dhaka yesterday on a 25-day Everest Base Camp Expedition in the Himalayans. The members of the team are

Aupar Ahmed and Salma Khan.

Aupar, also a member of Bangladesh Women Cricket Team. has completed more than 20 trekking expeditions in Japan since 1993 while Salma has widespread experience of trekking in Nepal

Bangladesh Adventure Club has organised the expedition, said a press release.

## Rab accused of killing 14-year-old boy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Family members of a 14-year-old boy who died in a shootout with Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in the city on Tuesday have accused the elite anti-crime force of shooting him down deliberately after branding him as an extortionist.

Tofazzal Hussain, father of victim Ashigul Islam Raiu, told The Daily Star yesterday that he would lodge a case against the Rab

Although Rab claimed that Raju was a member of notorious Nasim gang of Khilgaon, the family denied the allegation, saying that Raju was totally innocent.

They said Raju, a student of class nine at Nayatola Kamil Madrasa, left home around 6:00pm for his teacher's house on the day of the incident.

He was shot dad by Rab members on his way back home at Banasree in Rampura, his father "My son cannot be an extortion-

ist who I believe was wrongfully killed by Rab members," he claimed If Raju were really guilty, Rab

members could have handed him over to police instead of shooting him at point-blank range, said Raju's sister.

Rab officials, however, reiterated their earlier claim that they

Raju was killed in a "crossfire" between a gang of extortionists and the law enforcers while Rab members tried to resist the criminals from forcibly collecting money from the owner of an under-construction building at West Rampura on Tuesday night, sources said.

opened fire on Raju after he had

A murder case was filed with Khilgaon Police Station in this connection.

#### Rail workers to enforce strike October 11

Bangladesh Railway Sramik Karmachari Parishad will enforce a twelve-hour strike on October 11 protesting government's move to convert Railway department into a corporate entity, says a press

The declaration came at a convention of the parishad that was held at Kamalapur Railway Station in the city yesterday.

They also demanded for formation of a separate ministry for railway, settlement of unjust audit objection and implementation of the agreement between the Parishad and the government.



#### Thundershowers likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at most places over the country in the next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy to heavy falls is also likely at places during the period. Met Office said.

Day temperature may fall by 1-2 degree Celsius over the country. it

Yesterday's highest temperature of 32 degree Celsius was recorded at Dinajpur and the lowest of 23.6 degrees at Sandwip.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:56pm today and rises at 5:47am tomorrow.

The highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in

some major cities			re:		
City/Town	Temperature In Celsius		Humio	Humidity in percentage	
			percer		
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening	
Dhaka	26.4	25.2	88	95	
Chittagong	25.5	24.2	96	95	
Rajshahi	28.5	26.3	82	96	
Khulna	27.0	25.2	94	100	
Barisal	25.8	25.0	97	98	
Sylhet	29.6	26.5	73	93	
Cox's Bazar	26.0	24.0	93	100	
**		,			

#### ICT Bill 2006 passed in JS

UNB, Dhaka

The Jatiya Sangsad passed the 'Information and Communication Technology Bill, 2006' last night.

The bill provides for legitimacy and security as well as the power to formulate rules about relevant issues of information and communication technology.
Science and ICT Minister Dr

Abdul Moyeen Khan piloted the bill, which was passed through voice

Taking part in the discussion, Awami League members Shahjahan Khan, KM Jahangir, Shamsur Rahman Sharif and Mahbubur Rahman had proposed eliciting public opinion on the bill, but their motions were rejected through

#### One arrested over Duja blast

A youth was arrested from the Dhaka University (DU) campus yesterday in connection with Tuesday's cracker blast in front of the Dhaka University Journalists' Association (Duja) office.

Campus sources said some BCL activists caught Akhter Hossain, 19, in front of the Arts Faculty Building at about 8:00am and handed him over to police after a good beating.

BCL leaders claimed that Akhtar Hossain confessed to them that he set off the cracker on Tuesday being directed by Islami Chhatra Shibir in exchange of Tk 5,000.

Akhtar also confessed to the police that he was involved in the

Meanwhile, Duja in a press statement alleged that the arrest of Akhtar is part of a drama to divert the

Duja and BCL have been at loggerheads following an attack on the university correspondents on Saturday at Modhur Canteen by BCL activists.

#### 375 digital telephone exchanges set up in 5 yrs

Post and Telecommunications Minister Aminul Haque yesterday said the government has set up 375 digital telephone exchanges in different upazila across the country.

Replying to a question from Jamaat-e-Islami lawmaker Abu Sayeed Mohammad Sahadat Hossain in the Jatiya Sangsad, he, however, said process is going on to set up digital exchanges in rest of the upazila soon.

Responding to a supplementary from treasury bench member Shahiduzzaman, the minister informed the House that the country has 3.50 lakh digital telephone connection at present, which would be doubled within this year.

Replying to another question from BNP lawmaker SA Sultan, he informed the House that the T and T Board had fixed a target to earn about Tk 1903 crore in revenue in the current financial year.

Replying to another question from Awami League lawmaker Faruque Khan, the minister said the government has a plan to reduce call charges of Teletalk mobile

#### 2 injured in truck-train collision

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur** 

Two people were injured when a train collided with a truck near Dhirasram Railway Station at Bishwa Road bypass in the district

The injured are Shabuddin, 40, the truck driver and his helper Rubel, 25.

Sources said a sand-laden truck coming from Kaligonj at Gazipur collided with a train from Kamalapur as soon as the truck got on the level crossing early in the morning.

Villagers of Dhirasram rushed to the spot hearing the bang and recovered the injured. Shabuddin was rushed to

Joydevpur Square Sheba Clinic while Rubel was admitted to a local clinic, as his injury was not severe. The accident took place due to

Chittagong bypass from Naojore, Gazipur to Vulta, Narayangani, The bypass was not inaugurated formally although the construction work has been completed. However, innumerable vehicles ply

on the route regularly. The accident took place 660 vards south to the station, said Karim, stationmaster of Dhirasram A hydraulic train from Dhaka

8:30am and removed the crushed parts of the truck from the rail line. The rail communication at Kamalapur-Bahadurabad Ghat rail line resumed again at 10:30am.

arrived on the spot at around



Seba and Green Voice form a human chain at Panthapath in the city yesterday demanding cancellation of India's river link project.

### SOUTH ASIAN SANITATION CONFCE BEGINS

## Call for new vision of regional cooperation

**ABDUL JALIL BHUYIAN from** 

Pakistan Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz has called on the South Asian countries to forge a new vision of cooperation for social and economic development of the region.

"By pooling our energies and talents, we can lift our people out of poverty, embark them on the path of social progress and provide them with a better life," he said. Shaukat was inaugurating the

Second South Asian Conference

on Sanitation (SACOSAN-2) at

Marriot Hotel in Islamabad yesterday.
"The holding of this conference demonstrates our commitment to find ways and means of improving sanitation facilities in our region, where about one billion people live

without adequate access to such

'Govt move to

hastily a trick'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

sources of arms and funds.

execute militants

Forum for Secular Bangladesh in a

ment initiative to execute the death

sentence verdict of the militants

before disclosing their patrons,

that the government wants to keep

the citizens in the dark about the

patrons and it is a trick to save their

skins," said a press release of the

The Forum leaders also

demanded steps to let the militant

chief Abdur Rahman speak before

the court, which he asked for before

his capture, and bring out the names

More than 100 militant groups

President of the Forum's

Advisory Committee Prof Kabir

Chowdhury, journalist and acting

President of Central Executive

Committee Shahriar Kabir and

General Secretary Kazi Mukul

"We do not think the solution to

The Forum leaders also

militancy problem is to hang the seven

militants in a rush move before finding

demanded steps to make the infor-

mation retrieved by the intelligence

and its continuous expansion of

activities have become a threat to

behind the militancy.

the nation, said the release

signed in the statement.

out their patrons," it said

"The hasty initiative indicates

basic facilities," he added. Shaukat said about 600 children die every day from diarrhoea world-

wide due to inadequate hygiene and sanitation and about one million people, mostly children, suffer from intestinal diseases and nutritional deficiencies He said experience shows that

sanitation needs of the people cannot be met through government intervention alone "In order to improve sanitation, we need to promote greater under-

standing among countries, policymakers, services providers and communities. It is extremely important to generate public awareness of sanitation issues," he added.

**Handicrafts** exhibition

Russian Compatriots' Association of

Bangladesh organises Russian

Handicrafts Exhibition to mark the 35th

anniversary of Russian-Bangladesh

diplomatic relations. Venue: Russian

The inaugural ceremony of Bangladesh

Apparel and Textile Exposition

(BATEXPO-2006), organised by

Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers

and Exporters' Association (BGMEA)

will be held. Venue: Dhaka Sheraton

A discussion titled 'Peace and justice'

will be held to mark the World Peace

Day. Venue: Liberation War Museum.

Bangladesh Entomological Society

organises a seminar titled 'Progress

and prospect of IPM on rice, vegetables,

fruits and sugarcane'. Venue:

Bangladesh Agriculture Research

The inaugural ceremony of Handloom

fabrics fair-2006, organised by National

Association of Small and Cottage

Council auditorium. Time: 9:30am.

Cultural Centre, Time: 5:30pm.

**BATEXPO-2006** 

Hotel, Time: 12:30pm

Discussion

Time: 5:00pm

Seminar

Handloom

fabrics fair

Shaukat said the Dhaka Declaration of 2003 on Sanitation in South Asia adopted at SACOSAN-1 provided a strategic, forward-looking and pragmatic

Bangladesh delegation chief SM Jahrul Islam, also secretary to Local Government Division, highlighted the achievements of the

framework for dealing with sanita-

tion issues in developing countries

Addressing the plenary session,

raised from 33 percent in 2003 to 78 percent in 2006 Representatives from Bangladesh, Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, The Maldives, Cambodia, Bhutan, Indonesia and Afghanistan are attending the

country since SACOSAN-1 and

said sanitation coverage was

Besides, around 400 delegates from NGOs and business organisations of different countries are taking part in it.

Industries of Bangladesh (NASCIB), will

be held. Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala

A three-day sharee and kamiz exhibition

titled 'Royar Eid Sangraha' will begin.

Venue: Gallery Chitrak. Time: 10:30am

The annual general meeting of Sonar

Bangla Insurance Limited will be held.

Venue: Institution of Diploma Engineers

Institute of Hazrat Mohammad (SAW)

will hold a conference titled 'All religion

conference for global peace'. Venue:

Bangladesh Council of Scientific and

Industrial Research (BCSIR) will give

away Dr Kudrat E Khuda Award. Venue:

Bangladesh Itihas Parishad organise

Abu Mohamed Hobibullah Memorial

Lecture. Venue: RC Majumdar Arts

auditorium, Dhaka University. Time:

BCSIR auditorium. Time: 11:00am.

**Memorial lecture** 

Academy, Time: 4:30pm.

Exhibition

to 8:30pm everyday.

meeting

**Annual general** 

auditorium. Time: 7:00pm.

Gulshan Club. Time: 7:00pm.

**Award giving** 

ceremony

Conference

#### Acquisition and Tenancy (Amendment) Bill 2006' and 'The Bangladesh Shipping Cooperation (Amendment) Bill 2006, said an

to two bills

Obituary

official release

Shahana Rahman Kumkum, daughter of late journalist Nasir Uddin, died of a massive cardiac arrest at her Gulshan residence on September

President assents

President lajuddin Ahmed vesterday

assented to two bills passed in the ongoing 23rd session of parliament.

The bills are 'The State

18 at the age of 34. She is survived by her husband

and three daughters. She was buried at Banani gravevard after Zohr prayers on Tuesday.

Her gulkhwani will be held after Asr prayers tomorrow at her residence (House-48, Road-41,

#### Death anniversary



sary of noted dance artiste

Today is the 26th

death anniver-

ninth death

anniversary of

MS Hag, former

Bangladesh Rail

Sramik Union

Founder the Jago Art Centre, he was awarded Ekushev

Padak posthumously. A daylong Qurahkhwani will be held at the Jago Art Centre on the

#### MS Haq

**CU CORRESPONDENT** 



and one of the founders of Bangladesh Trade Union Centre He passed away in 1997 at the

age of 78 Haq was also the vice-president

of Chittagong district Unit of the Communist Party of Bangladesh, said a press release In observance of the day, a

held at his residence after Asr prayers. Alhaj Hafizuddin Master

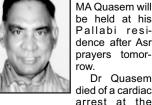
Qurankhwani and doa mahfil will be



The fifth death anniversary of Alhaj Hafizuddin Master. father of Advocate Mizanur Rahman, will be observed today, says a press release.

On the occasion, Qurankhwani and a milad mahfil will be held at his residence at 256 Chalabond. Dhakin Khan in Dhaka.

#### Qulkhwani



MA Quasem will be held at his Pallabi residence after Asr prayers tomor-Dr Quasem died of a cardiac

Qulkhwani of Dr

National Heart Foundation Hospital at Mirpur in the city on September 17 at the age of 67

He is survived by his wife, only son and two daughters. All relatives, friends and admir-

ers of the deceased are requested to attend the Qulkhwani to pray for salvation of the departed soul.



Wreckage of a truck lies beside a rail track at Dhirasram in Gazipur after a speeding train rammed it at a level crossing nearby yesterday.