METROPOLITAN/NEWS

The Daily Star

Bangladesh National Awami Party

President Prof Muzaffar Ahmad

and General Secretary Enamul

Hag also sent their condolence

tions, including Dhaka University

Teachers' Association, DCC,

Bangladesh Shikkhak Karmachari

Oikya Parishad, Sammilita Nagorik

Andolan, Bangladesh Shikkhak

Samity, Sammilita Krira Paribar,

Masjid Council and Public

Relations Branch of Bangladesh

National Parliament Secretariat

expressed deep shock at Hanif's

AL and 14-party -- Bangladesh

Awami Jubo League, Bangladesh

Krishak League, Jatiya Sramik

League and Jatiya Bidyut Sramik

League, Bangladesh Jubo

Moitree, vouth Gonoforum and

many other organisations and

individuals expressed their condo-

authorities will send it to the president

and will wait till getting a response

If the president turns down the

mercy petitions, the jail authorities will

fix dates for executions in 21 to 28

days after getting the president's

In case the condemned militants

"But it is most likely that the jail

tions from the condemned till the day

before the dates of executions," said

Apart from the seven condemned

the investigators found proof of six

others' involvement in the conspiracy

to kill the two judges. They, however,

Different front organisations of

Different professional organisa-

messages

death.

lences

from him.

decision.

the IG of prisons.

3930 vie for 485 seats at Ruet

RU CORRESPONDENT

The first year admission test for the session 2006-07 of Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology (Ruet) was held yesterday.

A total of 3930 admission seekers appeared in the examination against 485 seats under six departments

Sources said five students would get admission in indigenous quota. Ruet Vice Chancellor Prof

Anwarul Hague and other senior teachers inspected admission test rooms

Ruet units of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and Jativatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) brought out separate processions welcoming the admission seekers on the campus.

Meanwhile. Ruet Islamic Chhatra Shibir (ICS) also took out a procession where Rajshahi University ICS unit President Mahbub Alam Salehi, one of the kev suspects of Prof Taher Ahmed killing case, led the procession.

Tension mounted high on the campus following the huge showdown of the ICS cadres. The results will be published on

December 10, a Ruet press release said

support to Palestine also expressed his satisfaction BSS, Dhaka that the Palestinian government President/Chief Adviser lajuddin was formed following the parlia-Ahmed reiterated full support of ment election in January 2006 the government and people of and called for an end of the Bangladesh for the people of hardship being faced by the Palestinian people as a result of

Palestinian authorities.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

declaration of polls schedule.

avoid any constitutional crisis

and fair election.

hailed

Polls schedule

Palestine and called upon the international community to do whatever is necessary to revive the Middle-East peace process without any delay. In a message on the eve of

the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people, the president said, 'The occupation of Palestine must come to an immediate end and persecution of the Palestinians and killing of innocent civilians must stop forthright. The observance of the day is a reiteration of the international community's resolve to work towards that

end. He said Bangladesh strongly believes that there is no alternative to a comprehensive, just and lasting peace settlement and the exercise by the Palestine people of their inalienable right to selfdetermination to achieve the independent and sovereign State of Palestine. The relevant UN resolutions, the Arab Peace Plan and the Middle East Roadmap are before us as guiding principles, he added.

First anniversary Bangladesh reaffirms of suicide bomb attack in Gazipur today

A CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Today is the first anniversary of gruesome suicide bomb attack by Islamist militants on Gazipur Bar Library auditorium that left the increasing financial and nine people, including four laweconomic restrictions and politiyers, dead and 30 others cal isolation imposed on the wounded.

> The victims are Advocate Amzad Hossain. Advocate Nurul Huda, lawyers Anwarul Azam and Bashiruddin and clients Abdur Rob, Bashiruddin, Shamsul Haque and Marzina Begum.

Gazipur District Lawyers' Jativatabadi Ainiibi Forum (JAF) in a Association has taken up differstatement yesterday hailed the ent programmes to commemo-Election Commission (EC) for rate those killed in the bomb attack by Jama'atul Mujahideen JAF Convener Advocate Bangladesh (JMB). Khondkar Mahbub Uddin Ahmed

As part of the programmes, and Member Secretary Advocate the lawyers will wear black Shah Khasruzzaman in a joint badges and take out a mourning procession in Gazipur town. statement said the EC declared Memorial meeting and milad polls schedule in a right time to mahfil will also be held and fateha will be offered at the They also said the lawyers graveyards of the victims. Foods spirited with nationalist ideology are will be distributed among the ready to extend their helping hand to destitute. the EC so that it can arrange a free

Family members and relatives of the victims have expressed strong resentment as the killers are yet to be brought to book although one year has elapsed after the gruesome attack.

Shariat Ullah alias Asadul Islam alias Shakil was the suicide bomber.

Firearm owners asked to renew licences

BSS, Dhaka

Authorities have asked the firearms owners in the capital and Dhaka district to renew their licences for the year 2007 between December 3 and 31

The owners will have to apply for the renewal of their licences to the district magistrate office at the old city with payment of due fees, said an official handout vesterday.

Licence renewal fee for rifle, pistol and revolver is Tk 2.000, for single or double barrel gun is Tk 800 and for other kind of arms is Tk 400. Besides, the licence renewal fee for dealing and repair of firearms is Tk 2000 and repair licence fee is Tk 1000

2 electrocuted

Hanif laid to rest

FROM PAGE 16 The last namaz-e-janaza was held at the Baitul Mukarram National Mosque after Asr prayers and he was taken to Azimpur graveyard for burial

deep shock at the death of Hanif died in the early hours Mohammad Hanif yesterday at the city's Apollo Hospital after a prolonged illness. have lost a real leader, a leading

He had been suffering from multiple organ failures and other related complications of diabetes hypertension and obstructive lung disease Hanif, who served as the DCC

mayor from March 12, 1994 to April 2002, was taken to Bumrungrad Hospital in Bangkok on February 10. He returned on August 25 after a six-month treatment there. President and Chief Adviser to

the Caretaker Government Prof lajuddin Ahmed expressed deep shock at the death of the former mavor. BSS said. In a message of condolence,

referring to the illustrious life of will be remembered by the nation Mohammad Hanif the president forever." Hasina said. said his contribution in the field of politics and social service would be the departed soul and conveyed always remembered by the people sympathy for the bereaved family with due respect.

The DCC had a holiday yestermembers

Only presidential mercy now can save JMB leaders

FROM PAGE 1

brother of convicted top Islamist militant kingpin Bangla Bhai, told The Daily Star vesterday that their father will submit a petition to the president seeking mercy on behalf of Bangla Bhai.

Senior assistant judges. Jagannath Pandey and Sohel Ahmed, were killed in a suicide bomb attack at Purba Chadkati in Jhalakathi town on November 14 last year in the wake of a series of bombings by the militants across the country.

Additional District and Sessions Judge of Jhalakathi Reza Tarik Ahmed sentenced JMB chief Abdur Rahman, Siddigul Islam alias Bangla Bhai, Mailish-e-Shura members Ataur Rahman Sunny, Abdul Awal, and Khaled Saifullah, suicide bomber Iftekhar al Mamun, and absconding Asadul Islam alias Arif to death by hanging, and acquitted another one

on May 29. Although the convicts repeatedly said after the trial court verdict that they do not accept any verdict by any worldly court and would not appeal against the verdict, they eventually

made a U-turn after the HC verdict had upheld the death sentences. After the August 31 HC judgement. Abdur Rahman and Bangla

Bhai sent letters to the SC registrar

once again, trying to justify killing of people for establishing Islamic rule including the killing of the two judges. All judges, who hold trials under Taguti (non-Islamic) laws neglecting Shariah, deserve death, the letters said

day for all officers and employees of

its head office to mourn the death of

professional bodies expressed

organiser of the Liberation War, and

their first elected mayor -- with the

death of Mohammad Hanif: and

personally I've lost one of my best

well-wishers and a long-time com-

Sheikh Muiibur Rahman, Hanif had

always been by the side of people in

his illustrious political career. He

contributed to every just movement

for the people, the AL president said.

movement against Pakistani mili-

tary junta of Ayub Khan, six-point

movement, mass insurrection in

1969 and the Liberation War in 1971

She prayed for the salvation of

"Hanif's contribution to the mass

A close aide to Bangabandhu

panion of the Bangabandhu family.

Political parties and different

Hasina said, "People of Dhaka

its former mayor.

Although the two top condemned militants, in their letters, did not seek to appeal against the death penalty the SC registrar ordered a stay of their executions considering their letters as prayers for appeal

The four other convicts also submitted petitions, seeking leave to appeal against the HC verdict through the jail authorities. Hearing of the petitions began at

the Appellate Division of Supreme Court on November 18 and the SC decision came yesterday after a three-day full hearing.

Experts said the convicts will not have any opportunity to file any petition to review yesterday's order since the SC did not grant the earlier petition

Mohammad Salahuddin, Khalilur Rahman Bhuiyan and Shamsul Haq moved for the convicts as defence lawyers, while Additional Attorney General Abdur Rezzak Khan assisted by Deputy Attorney General Helaluddin Khan Molla, represented the state.

The additional attorney general said the court patiently heard all the points the militants had to make although they are not ready to accept

the existing judicial system. "It may take at best two months to implement the death sentences after completion of all procedures," he

do not file any mercy petition, the jail Criminal law expert Advocate authorities will fix dates for their Anisul Hag said, "The militants' letters executions in 21 to 28 days from ritten on white sheets were not at all getting the copy of the SC order. appeal petitions. So, there is no scope for reviewing the Supreme Court authorities will entertain mercy peti-

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia

She prayed for the eternal peace

The incumbent Dhaka City

of the departed soul and expressed

sympathy to his bereaved family

Mayor and Dhaka City BNP

President Sadeque Hossain

Khoka, BNP Secretary General

Abdul Mannan Bhuivan and BNP

leader Mosaddeg Ali also

expressed their condolences in

President Prof AQM Badruddoza

Chowdhury, Gonoforum President

Dr Kamal Hossain and LDP leader

Abul Kashem, Jatiya Party (Manju)

Chairman Anwar Hossain Maniu

and Secretary General Sheikh

Shahidul Islam, Bangladesh

Khan Menon and General

Secretary Bimal Biswas, Jatiya

Samajtantrik Dal President

Hasanul Haq Inu and General

Secretary Syed Zafar Sazzad,

Workers' Party President Rashed

Liberal Democratic Party (LDP)

separate messages.

grieved over the death of Mayor

Hanif. In a condolence message

the former prime minister said a

veteran politician Hanif was well

known to all strata of society.

embers

WHAT NEXT

The seven condemned prisoners must individually file mercy petitions, if they wish, to the president, said Inspector General (Prisons) Brig Gen Zakir Hasan

"After we get the copy of today's order, authorities of the prisons where the convicts are kept will formally convey to them the Supreme Court's rejection of their petitions." Zakir told The Daily Star

The jail authorities will also ask the condemned men to inform the jail authorities in seven days whether they want to submit any mercy petition to the president.

with any mercy petition, the jail

Omar as he had died by then in a Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) action. Although the charges had been primarily proved against Mehedi, Moaz, Talha and Mahmud, they were charge sheet later if they could collect

If they furnish the jail authorities SO.

did not press charges against Molla not accused in the charge sheet as their full addresses could not be found. The investigators said they would submit a supplementary

the addresses, but they have vet to do

কমরেড মোহামদ তোয়াহার ১৯০ম মৃত্যু বাৰ্ষিণী উপলক্ষে **স্দারণ সভা** জাতীয় প্রেসঙ্গান ড্রি আই পি লাউঞ্জ জাতীয় প্রেসঙ্গান ড্রি আই পি লাউঞ্জ বাংলাদেল্পের সাম্যবাদী

The president/chief adviser

Gonotontri Party President Comrade Nurul Islam speaks at a memorial meeting organised by Bangladesh Samyabadi Dal at the National Press Club in the city yesterday to mark the 19th death anniversary of Comrade Mohammad Toaha

AUG 17 BOMB ATTACKS Show cause on four IOs for dillydallying in



BDR, BSF trade fire on Thakurgaon border FROM PAGE 1

Naogaon district yesterday morning. The dead was identified as Mohiful Islam, 40, of Nitpur village. Around 400 people of Shahanabad and adjacent villages

skirmishes, but the BDR denied it. left their homes following the hours-

the BDR fired only 20.

the BSF fired at least 100 shots while SATKHIRA

Locals also claimed that two farmers were injured during the across the borders of Sadar and Kalaroa upazilas until early yester-

Villagers and BDR men recovered day morning. BDR sources said BSF troops of the body of Ershad around 2:30pm

exchange of fire that continued until The border quards of the two neigh-5:18am, but the skirmishes panicked bouring countries traded gunshots

the locals Tension has been prevailing in the border areas due to frequent

exchange of fire between the border

submitting charge sheets STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The District Sessions Judge here vesterday showcaused four investigation officers (IO) of five cases in connection with countrywide series of bomb attacks on August 17 last year for dillydallying and taking excessive time in submitting the charge sheets

The IOs are Himangshu Kumar Dipak Chandra Majumder Mohammad Abdur Rahim and Ratan Kumar Nath

Judge AKM Anwar Hossain asked the four IOs to appear in person before the court on December 8 to respond why legal actions would not be taken against them for dillydallying and killing time in completing the investigations of the cases and submitting the charge sheets.

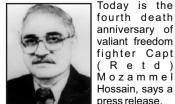
He also ordered the four cops for submitting the charge sheets within one month

Court sources said the four IOs took time for eight times in a year to finish the investigations. On October 27 this year, they took another one-month time from the court to submit the charge sheets.

The four cops again prayed for time yesterday on the plea that 'further investigations are needed before submitting the charge sheets.

Following this, the court reprimanded them and issued showcause.

Death anniversary



On the occasion. Qurankhwani and milad mahfil will be held after Asr pravers at Hossain Nagar Baitus Mozammel Jame-Moshiid on Savar EPZ Link Road, Foods will also be distributed among the destitute

Four brothers and one brotherin-law of Captain Mozammel sacrificed their lives during the War of Liberation.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the programme

Dry weather likely

UNB. Dhaka

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

Night temperature may fall slightly over the country, Met Office said. Highest temperature 29.8 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chittagong and lowest 10.0 degree Celsius at Ishwardi.

The sun sets in the capital at 5.10pm today and rises at 6:24am tomorrow.

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

City/Town	Temperature		Humidity in	
			in celsius	
percentage				
	Max	Min	Morning Evening	
Dhaka	26.3	14.8	37 57	
Chittagong	29.8	18.5	71 59	
Rajshahi	25.4	10.4	68 64	
Khulna	27.4	16.4	51 58	
Barisal	27.8	15.5	69 90	
Sylhet	27.5	15.2	69 59	
Cox's Bazar	29.6	18.0	64 64	



Centre, Time: 3.00pm and 5:00pm

HIV/AIDS and STD Alliance

Bangladesh (HASAB) will hold a

discussion on issue of HIV vulnerable

people in Bangladesh. Venue: HASAB

United Nations Association of

Bangladesh (UNAB) organises a

symposium to mark the International

Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian

People. Venue: National Scout Bhaban.

Transparency International Bangladesh

will hold a debate competition with the

Debate competition

conference room. Time: 11:00am

Discussion

Symposium

Time: 4:00pm

Memorial meeting

Shaptahik 2000 will hold a memorial meeting to mark the first death anniversary of noted editor Shahadat Chowdhury. Venue: Liberation War Museum, Time: 3:30pm.

Free blood test International AIDS Foundation

organises a free blood test to mark the International AIDS Day. Venue: BRTA premises. Time: 11:00am

Roundtable

Prothom Alo organises a roundtable on 'One must know what is AIDS in order to protect him/herself' to mark the International AIDS Day. Venue: Sheraton Hotel, Time: 10:00am

Discussion

students of colleges and universities. The Science World, a science Venue: East West University. Time: magazine, will hold a discussion to mark 9:20am the birth anniversary of scientist Meeting Jagadish Chandra Basu. Venue: Biswa

Sahitya Kendra. Time: 5:00pm. A meeting of the central executive committee of Bangladesh Civil Service

Film show

Samonnov Committee will be held. Dhaka University Film Society will Venue: Conference room of Roads & screen two Russian films titled 'Escape' Highways Department. Time: 5:00nm

in Kurigram border. Witnesses said a few farmers **UNB.** Kuriaram

Two people were electrocuted and another suffered serious wounds while allegedly trying to steal electric wire of Palli Bidyut Samity at Kamar Hailya village in Sadar upazila Monday night.

The dead were identified as Muzaffar Hossain, 35, and Shahidul Islam, 30, while the injured as Amjad Hossain, 32.

Police said Muzaffar and Shahidul died on the spot as they along with Amiad cut the wire from electric poles at the village at the dead of night.

The bodies were sent to hospital morgue for autopsy.

Obituary

BSS, Dhaka

Habibur Rahman Habib, valiant freedom fighter and treasurer of Sirajganj district unit of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD), died of cardiac arrest at his Shialkol village residence in Sirajganj at the age of 57 vesterday morning

He left behind his wife, a son and a daughter to mourn his death.

Habibur Rahman was buried at Shilonda graveyard with state honour following a namaz-e-janaza at Shialkol High School ground after Asr prayers.

JSD President Hasanul Hague Inu and General Secretary Sved Jafar Saiiad condoled the death of Habibur Rahman Habib.

They prayed for salvation of the departed soul and conveyed sympathy to the members of the bereaved family

Nazrul Islam Bhuiyan



city on Sunday, says a press release

He left behind his wife. 3 sons and 4 daughters to mourn his death. He was buried at Beraid Gravevard after namaz-e-ianaza at Bhuivan Para Jamev Masiid

long skirmish along the Dharmagarh

were mowing their fields in the border area around 8:00am when BSF troops of 47 battalion under Sreepur camp suddenly started firing towards the Bangladeshi territory.

According to witnesses and other sources, Ershad Ali died on the spot and his body had been lying in between pillars 373 and 374 until 2:00pm.

The exchange of gunshots ensued as BDR troops of 20 battalion of Thakurgaon soon rushed to the spot and took position. BDR and witnesses claimed that

and sent it to Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

When contacted, BDR officials said they proposed a flag meeting to their Indian counterpart but India was vet to respond as of filing of this report at 7:00pm.

Colonel Gulzar Uddin Ahmed of 15 Rifles Battalion of Dinajpur rushed to Thakurgaon and visited the area. He expressed his deep concern over the incident.

Meanwhile, the BSF stepped up security on its territory along three northern districts--Dinajpur, Thakurgaon and Panchagarh, BDR said

Tarali camp in Swarupnagar Police Station under North 24 Parganas district of India fired towards the BDR men in Kakdanga frontier of Kalaroa

at about 9:45pm "without any provocation" The BSF also fired towards Toluigachha borders in Sadar upazila

at the same time In reply, the BDR personnel in both areas fired 51 rounds of bullet. Both the sides traded some 248

rounds of bullet, a BDR source said. adding that the BDR troops have been put on high alert as the BSF took positions with heavy arms.

None was injured during the respond as of 6:00pm yesterday.

President's action adds fuel to the fire

FROM PAGE 1

new election commissioners have disturbed us fundamentally. It boggles our mind as to how a responsible man could have acted so very irresponsibly. Just when with Aziz's departure from the scene, all thought that some sort of a solution could be hoped for, Prof. lajuddin literally poured water on it and has pushed the country towards a severe political conflict. Suddenly, he has transformed himself from a problem solver to a problem creator. When the members of his advisory

council suggested that they discuss the possible names for the two new EC members, the President reportedly replied: "Trust me. I will propose such names that both parties will happily accept them. I will definitely propose names that are unquestionably acceptable to both sides and to all of you"

After a week of his address to the nation, when he first revealed his intention to appoint two new EC members, he gave oath of office last Sunday to Mr. Modabbir Hossain Chowdhury, a former IGP, and Saiful Alam, a former judge of our lower judiciary and former director general of the now defunct Anti-corruption Bureau. Unfortunately, both these appointments have greatly disappointed the nation, not only because far more competent and acceptable (to both sides) people were available but also because they are both embroiled in controversies of very serious nature. It is shocking and shameful that the President/CA should pick a person who for the last one year has been working in his constituency for BNP nomination. He made numerous statements to the press (see our vesterday's story) in which he said on record to have been

working to get BNP nomination for the

serious allegations of collaboration against him during our Liberation War. The political link of the other appointee, Saiful Islam, is allegedly with Jamaat. More to the point, his reputation as the DG of the Anticorruption Bureau is neither immaculate nor above question. A simple investigation by any of the intelligence agencies will bring out the true picture. Neither of these appointments has added to the image of the EC as a body that the public can put their complete trust on to conduct a free and fair election

So why did the President go for such appointments when we are already mired in suspicion, conflict and uncertainty? Are they the best examples that the President could find of people who would be "happily accepted" by both sides. The President had asked his council of advisors to have trust in him, but he has not been lived up to it by any stretch of imagination.

While the gazette notification of the two appointments was already out in the morning, he still refused to share with his cabinet colleagues the news of the decision that he took the night before. This caused the spokesman for the council of advisers, Mahbubul Alam, to tell the media in the afternoon following the meeting that he or other advisers knew nothing about the appointments.

It is one thing to keep the advisers out of the decision making process, but it is quite another to deny them the courtesy of informing them when so many officials already knew it. What does it say about the prestige of the advisers, the level of confidence between the chief adviser and other advisers, and finally about the working method of the chief adviser? Well, his working method can at best be described as opaque and at worst as

We have never understood his attitude towards his advisers. From the very inception of this caretaker government the chief adviser has been far from forthcoming with the group that he himself invited to become his advisers. It can be said without fear of exaggeration that in no important election related decision were the cabinet colleagues taken into confidence. None of the transfers that took place were their work. Contrarily, the transfers that the advisers did suggest have not been

His last address to the nation, which was recorded and delivered again without informing the advisers. resulted in five of them suddenly falling "sick" and two others attending office only for a while. The President/CA is reported to have said "sorry" thrice to the advisers' group and then repeated the same to them individually. That was a good gesture and the advisers were right to put everything behind them. But with the declaration of the election schedule and the two appointments to the EC, both without informing the advisers, we are forced to conclude that the "sorry" really meant 'I will continue

doing things as I please' As far as our information goes, election. The intelligence community guards of the two counties

NAOGAON

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) sources said the BSF men of Kedaripara camp opened fire on Mohiful when he was guarding paddy on his land at about 5:00am, killing him on the spot. Witnesses said the BSF men also entered Bangladesh territory and took away the body to their camp.

BDR sent a latter to its Indian counterpart demanding immediate return of the body. The BSF did not

forthcoming election. There are also must have informed him of this devel-

being guided by hidden hands. acted upon.

with the absence of MA Aziz as the CEC and with the prospect of two genuinely neutral persons joining the EC, a real possibility arose of moving towards a free and fair election participated by all. Though the 14 party alliance was still making noises about commissioner Zakaria and the voter list, the inside information was that they were very close to going all out for

opment o the 14-party. The President/CA can be 'credited' with having completely destroyed this prospect, at least for the moment. In its place we now have a near complete uncertainty with politics becoming more and more confrontational and the people less secure of their immediate future. The damage to the economy, which we have highlighted several

times before, is about to intensify with the threat of renewed blockade. This 'cost to the economy' the country cannot bear much more of. Some solution will have to be found. As we mentioned above, one was probably at hand but the President blew it. But whv?

We are near the point when we will have to directly and unequivocally put the blames for the latest political crisis on the President's doorstep. We will have to then conclude that he will not provide us the solution that we need and deserve, that instead of being the problem solver he has become the problem creator. That will be a most tragic conclusion, as Prof. lajuddin remains the last symbol of our troubled democracy. But if he himself is on a self destructive course to destrov that symbol then what can we, the ordinary people or the media, do except to hope that he would wake up

to the consequences of his action. We had earlier asked the question: whether he will Serve the nation or his Benefactors?" It appears he is bent on the latter even if it destroys the former. How sad!

