

Defence witnesses tell court

Money in Senabhaban belongs to JP

Two MPs of Jatiya Party deposing as defence witnesses in the corruption case against former President Ershad Sunday told the court that about Taka 2 crore raised from party members was kept with the party chairman, reports UNB.

Ershad who heads Jatiya Party faces trial in a special divisional court for amassing wealth including a cash of Tk 1,90,81,565 beyond known sources of income.

"I believe that the money seized from former President's official residence Senabhaban (Tk 1,90,81,565) is our party money kept with him for defence party central office", defence witness Shah Mohammad Rafiqul Bari Chowdhury told the court.

Chowdhury said the party funds was raised by office secretary Tajul Islam in accordance with a decision of parliamentary party. Tajul used to deposit the funds collected to the party chairman from time to time.

Showing a defence document of November 4, 1990, the prosecution suggested it is forged as it could not be possible to deposit money on that day when Dhaka city was under curfew.

"I do not remember", the

defence witness said when the prosecution said curfew was imposed in Dhaka on that day and it (the document) is cooked up.

Rafiqul Bari refuted prosecution suggestion that he is giving false evidence to save Ershad.

Another defence witness Maksud Ibne Aziz Lama who returned to parliament from Balaganj-Biswanath constituency in Sylhet said he contributed Tk. 16,500 to the funds raised for buying the party central office. He produced in the court three receipts against payment of subscription of Tk 500 per month either to party office or the office secretary.

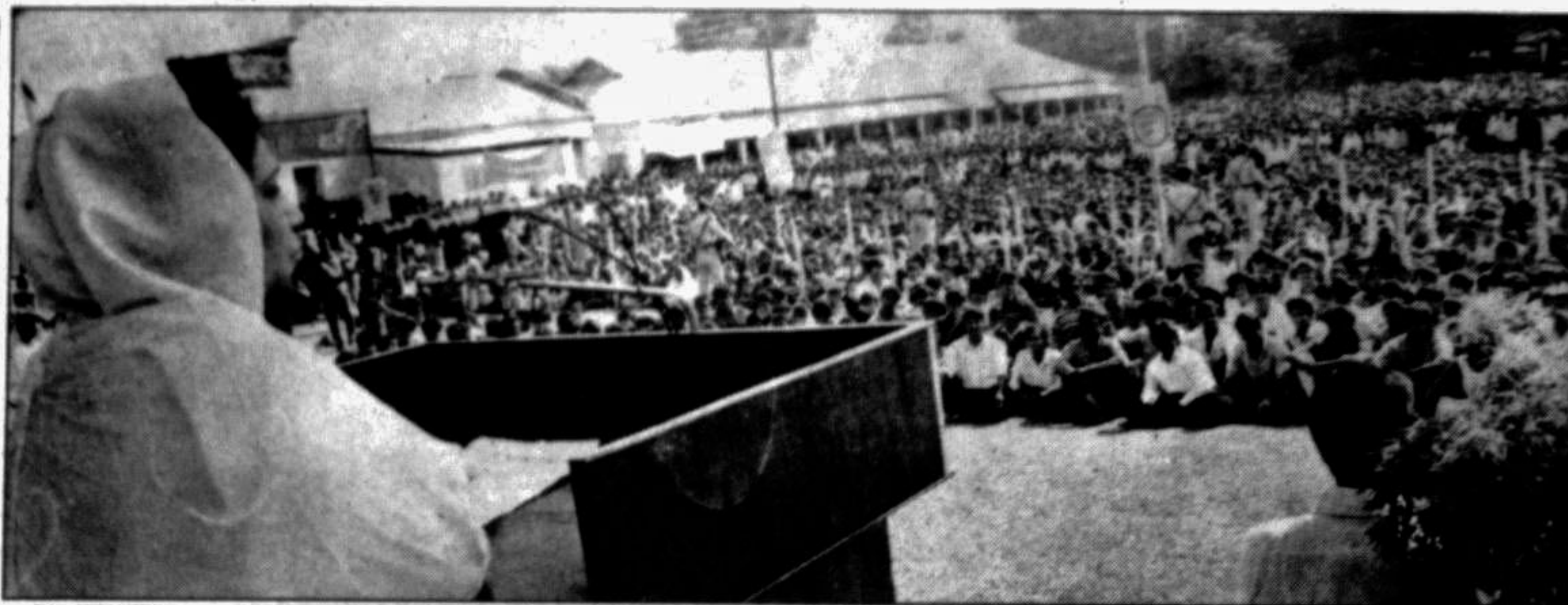
"We came to know the money was deposited with the party chief Ershad", Lama said.

Lama who spoke in Sylheti accent said "we have raised the fund of Tk 2 crore with much difficulty".

Replying to the prosecution he said he did not personally pay money to the former President.

Lama refuted suggestions that he did not subscribe Tk 8,500 as claimed to the party fund.

Hearing will resume today (Monday).



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing a big public meeting at the Islamic University premises close to the mazar of Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani at Santosh, Tangail, Sunday. — PID photo

Khaleda's call to restore discipline in hospitals

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia on Sunday underlined the need for restoring discipline in the hospitals and medical institutions to make them efficient in serving the people with devotion and dedication, reports UNB.

Reiterating her government's firm pledge to ensure the people's basic needs, the Prime Minister said "we have to utilise our available resources and work for the country's progress in our individual capacities."

Begum Zia was speaking at the foundation-laying ceremony of a 100-bed Emergency Block of Pangu Hospital (Rehabilitation Institute for the Handicapped and Disabled) in Dhaka.

The extension project of the Pangu Hospital (R. I. H. D) is expected to be completed by 1994 at a cost of Taka 6.52 crore.

The government will expand and develop health and medicare facilities in remote areas of the country in phases, she said adding the government will soon make all orthopaedic units in the medical colleges self-sufficient.

Begum Zia said that a plan to appoint bone-specialists in all district hospitals for providing orthopaedic treatment under "Health for All by the Year 2000" programme is under active consideration of the

government.

The Prime Minister laid emphasis on safety measures in all sectors to avoid accidents which lead to physical disability. "Concerned authorities should take care against use of faulty vehicles on roads and machineries in other sectors," she said.

The Prime Minister recalled Shaheed Zia's contribution to the expansion of the Pangu Hospital. The non-governmental organisation established in 1972 for treatment of injured freedom fighters and war-affected people was undertaken by the Government in 1981 commemorating the United Nations' Year of the Disabled Persons.

The country's only orthopaedic hospital, it renders service to nearly 80,000 patients, performs operations on about 8,000 every year.

Health Minister Kamal Ibne Yusuf, speaking on the occasion, said the confidence of donors on the present democratic government led by Begum Zia resulted in increasing support to the all sectors including the health.

The World Bank will provide nearly Tk. 4,000 crore for the health and family planning sector in the Fourth Five-Year Plan period, the Minister said.

State Minister for Health and Family Planning Serajul Huq also addressed the function.

Solve problems

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occasion of observance of the 15th anniversary of death of Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani at Santosh University College premises this afternoon.

Begum Zia, explaining the ruling party's ideals, said her government is determined to assuage the hardship of the millions of farmers by implementing various development programmes to provide them with basic needs.

"We are a poor nation, we can't solve all problems in a day, but we have to strive for it," she said.

She called for all to work unitedly increasing food production by utilising uncultivated land and derelict water bodies.

Recalling the uncompromising struggle for realisation of people's democratic rights by the Maulana, a towering figure in the then politics, Begum Zia urged all to work unitedly for building a society dreamt of by the leader of the downtrodden.

"We want to be a self-reliant and progressive nation. We have to nurture the nascent democracy earned after nine years of hard struggle against autocracy."

On arrival at Santosh, the Prime Minister offered wreaths on her party's as well as on behalf of the mazar of the great leader and offered فاتحہ.

Maulana Bhasani suffered much even after independence as he had struggled whole life to uphold democratic values above all. "We have to strive all along to give democracy a permanent shape and uphold liberty."

Presided over by district BNP President Hamidul Haq Mohan, the meeting was also addressed by Communications Minister Col (Rtd) Oli Ahmed, Labour and Manpower Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, State Minister for Relief Lutfar Rahman Khan, Sangsad Whip Mahmudul Alam Tara and Begum Farida Hasan MP.

Briton, US captive to be freed soon in Lebanon

TEHRAN, Nov 17: Church of England envoy Terry Waite, the last British hostage held in Lebanon, and an American captive are likely to be freed soon, the Tehran Times reported today, says Reuter.

The newspaper, which accurately predicted previous releases, said pro-Iranian kidnappers "would probably give priority to a British hostage."

It did not identify either captive, saying only that a Briton and an American would be released.

Waite, 52-year-old envoy of the archbishop of Canterbury, was kidnapped in Beirut on January 20, 1987, while on a mission to free other western hostages. Four Americans are still held in Lebanon.

In London, the British Foreign Office said it was aware of the report.

Strict Islamic dress code ordered in Sudan

KHARTOUM, Nov 17: Sudan military leader has ordered all government offices and schools to turn away women not wearing strict Islamic dress, and has urged parents to impose on their daughters the costume which leaves only the face and hands uncovered, reports AP.

Lt Gen Omar Hassan el-Bashir appears to be further directing impoverished Sudan toward the road to Islamic fundamentalism, something he has been working on since he came to power in a military coup June 30, 1989.

He is also repeating steps by former military dictator President Jaafar Nimeiri, who in 1983 imposed Islamic laws and banned on all Western-style activities such as dancing. Nimeiri was overthrown two years back.

Britons' visit to Sylhet

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Pollard, who arrived in Bangladesh Nov 8 as a delegate of the St Albans-Sylhet Friendship Association also confirmed that Shaw had suggested during the eviction controversy that all homeless Bengali families should be put on boats and floated on the Thames.

Pollard told The Daily Star that Jeremy Shaw is a prospective LDP candidate for the next general elections in Britain, and that was the main reason why he had come to Bangladesh.

"A large number of voters in East London, where Shaw would be contesting, are Sylhetis by origin, and that is why Shaw is here, to regain his credibility with the Bangladeshi community and present himself as a friend of the Bangladeshi people", Pollard said.

Pollard also said that a number of Sylheti businessmen

5 shot dead in Bogota

BOGOTA, Nov 17: Hooded gunmen shot dead five people in Colombia's northwestern city of Medellin early on Saturday in what was thought to be a vigilante attack on small-time drug dealers, police sources said, reports Reuter.

Speaker, ex-VCs

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root out terrorism from the campuses.

An ex-Justice Abdur Rahman Choudhury chaired the function organised by Ganatantrik Forum at the auditorium of the National Museum at Shahbag.

All the six former VCs urged the political parties both in power and in the Opposition to resolve the crisis through coordinated and sincere efforts to save the country's education system from ruination.

The ex-VCs were Prof M Shams-ul-Haq and Prof Fazlul Halim Chowdhury of the Dhaka University, Prof M Innas Ali and Prof Mohammad Ali of the Chittagong University, Prof Shams-ul-Haq of the Rajshahi University and Prof A K M Aminul Haq of the Bangladesh Agriculture University.

Ganatantrik Forum president Mostaqur Rahman Moyn and convener of the function Rafiqul Islam Jaglu also spoke on the occasion.

Addressing as the chief guest Sheikh Razzak Ali said that it would be impossible for

Eight killed in Srinagar

SRINAGAR, Nov 17: Eight persons, seven of them militants, were killed and two others sustained injuries while army and paramilitary forces continued search operations to flush out militants from various parts of Kashmir valley since last evening, reports PTI.

An official spokesman today denied reports that government had agreed to release another militant in exchange of the freedom of Dr S. L. Khosa, branch manager of New India Assurance Company, Srinagar.

Describing the report as "without any basis" the spokesman said only one militant was released in exchange of Dr Khosa on Friday.

The spokesman said seven militants who were trying to cross over to Indian side in the curfewbound five-km border belt were shot dead by the alert security forces in Kupwara district today.

Violence

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classes and examinations for 11 days on October 27 when the JCD and the BCL fought a fierce gunbattle on campus, killing four people and injuring about 20 others. Of those killed, Mirza Galbur Rahman and Zafarullah Lton belonged to the JCD, Mizanur Rahman, of the BCL and the other a street urchin.

Teachers of the University started boycotting duties indefinitely from November 2 demanding specific action by the government against the terrorists to free the DU campus from violence.

They exempted examinations from their programme on November 5 following a decision of the DU Teachers' Association.

The DU teachers started conducting examinations amid tight security November 12. However, they continued abstention from duties till Saturday (November 16).

During the autocratic regime of the deposed President Ershad terrorism found its way to the DU campus also.

Opposition political parties (including the present ruling party the BNP) had at that time held the autocrats responsible for the repeated terrorism leading to unscheduled closure of the DU and other educational institutions in the country.

Maulana Bhasani a source of inspiration

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the frustration which gripped the nation during nine years of autocratic rule had not yet been dispelled from the minds of the people.

He assured that if the opposition parties behaved democratically the present government would be able to solve many of the major problems accumulated over the past nine years.

"Constructive criticism, a part of parliamentary democracy, is always welcome by the present government," he said adding that unfortunately our opposition criticises baselessly.

Presided over by former Chief Justice Kamaluddin Hossain, Poet Abdul Khaleq read out the key-note paper on Maulana Bhasani at the seminar, also addressed by former Public Service Commission Chairman Dr. A Q M B Karim as special guest, Bhasani Jatiya Smriti Parishad President Advocate Mujibur Rahman, NAP Chairman Noor

Mohammad Kazi, and Nurul Huq Majumder.

Bangladesh Jana Parishad organised a discussion meeting at its Shidheswari office Sunday in observance of the 15th death anniversary of Maulana Bhasani.

Presided over by Parishad President Muhammad Moyeenul Islam, the meeting was addressed by Principal Muhammad Alamgir, Minhazul Islam, Dr. Abdul Majid and others.

The meeting offered فاتحہ for the departed soul.

Janadal organised a discussion meeting and milad mahfil at its central office at Dhanmondi to observe the death anniversary of Maulana Bhasani. Janadal chairman Khandakar Mahtabuddin presided.

The meeting was also addressed by Secretary General Md. Shamsad, Maj (rtd) Abul Hasan, Barrister Abdur Rab, M A Haq and Maj(rtd) Afsaruddin.

The speakers at the meet-

Armed youths

From Page 1 Col. 6

ing an estimated Taka 10 lakh in merchandise, the shopowners said.

The gang then ransacked and damaged about eight shops in the centre and while leaving fired several gunshots and exploded a number of crackers.

The youths also damaged several cars, parked outside the shopping centre, witnesses said.

A case was registered with the Dhanmondi thana by the Secretary General of the Alpina Plaza Shopping Centre Shopowners Association in this connection. However, no arrests were made.

The shopowners later held a protest rally in front of the National Press Club.

Polytechnic

From Page 1 Col. 8

the government's indifference to their demands.

The rally was presided over by President of Dhaka Polytechnic Institute unit of BPSS Abdul Rauf. It was addressed by BPSS President Khondakar Shahabuddin Mahmud, General Secretary Md. Shamsur Rahman, Joint Secretary Mohammad Ali Siddiqui and Office Secretary Hasan Imam Khan.

The Midnight File

Pak-US talks on arms of mass destruction

ISLAMABAD, Nov 17: The proliferation of nuclear weapons on the subcontinent will dominate talks next week between Pakistan and senior US officials, a Western diplomat said Sunday. Reginald Bartholomew, the US Undersecretary of state for international security, is scheduled to arrive Monday for two days of talks. He then goes on to New Delhi for talks with Indian officials, reports AP.

Hafez Assad re-elected

DAMASCUS, Nov 17: Parliament voted unanimously Sunday for a fourth seven-year term for President Hafez Assad. The voting by the 250-member Parliament came in response to a resume the ruling Baath Party leadership, reports AP.

Rabita to raise repatriation fund

MAKKAH, Nov 17: The Muslim World League (Rabita Al Alam Al Islami) said Sunday it will launch a campaign to collect \$300 million to repatriate to Pakistan 250,000 Biharis stuck in Bangladesh. Muslim World League Secretary-General Abdullah Omar Naseef said special missions will soon tour Muslim countries to raise funds for the project from governments and individuals, reports AP.

Rebels kill five in Mozambique

MAPUTO, Nov 17: Rebels of the Mozambique National Resistance (RENAMO) have killed five people in an attack against the popular beach resort of Tofo in the southern province of Inhambane, radio Mozambique reported today. The attack Friday night was the second against Tofo within a month. The previous one, on August 16, left 14 people dead, reports AFP.

AL council session

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secretary would be created. The general secretaries would have equal status but different responsibilities.

The incumbent General Secretary Begum Sajeda Chowdhury, who is discharging this responsibility for eight years, is most likely to be inducted into the party presidency, the highest decision making body. This will naturally necessitate the election of a new General Secretary.

For this vital post of General Secretary, four possible choices are now in speculation. They are: Abdur Razzak, Amir

Hussain Amu, Tofael Ahmed, Abdul Jalil and Mohammed Nasim. Amir Hussain Amu and Tofael Ahmed were aspirants to the post during the last council session held in 1987 and both were backed by strong lobbies in the party. However, Sajeda Chowdhury was finally chosen for the post to avoid conflict inside the party over the issue. Sajeda Chowdhury was acting general secretary from 1983 to 1987. Abdur Razzak, the then general secretary of AL left the party to float Bksal in 1983. Razzak and others came back merging Bksal with Awami League in August this year.

Now, a sizeable section of AL, including those who were with erstwhile Bksal, want to see Razzak as General Secretary again. But reservations are also there about electing Razzak since he was away from the AL for eight years. Abdul Jalil and Mohammed Nasim have also strong lobbies.

Party insiders apprehend that the next council session may again face the same problem like that of 1987. General Secretary aspirants Tofael Ahmed and Amir Amu both have strong lobbies behind them. So, finding a candidate of common choice would be a major concern, which forced the party leaders to think amendment to the constitution.

According to the insiders, some changes in the structure of the central working committee has become essential since the party has expanded and the organisation is much bigger than before. "Some changes in the leadership structure, will ultimately make the party more dynamic," they said.

Hasina

From Page 1 Col. 5

the autocratic rulers have tried vainly to tamper with the bond of brotherhood for the last 15 years.

Presided over by president of Raghunathpur unit of the Awami League Bhagaban Chandra Biswas, the rally was also addressed by Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim MP, district AL President Mohammad Ali Khan, and local leaders of the party Bijooy Krishna Biswas and Girish Chandra Biswas.

Hasina said during the movement the three alliances had promised to scrap the vested property act. Awami League raised the issue in the parliament but the ruling party shrugged off the proposal, Hasina said adding that AL never wants eviction of the minority community from the country.

Regarding the recent rise of violence and deterioration of law and order, she said AL had proposed to repeal the indemnity Ordinance to end the politics of intrigue and killing once for all.

"Rule of law cannot be established without the trial of the killers of Bangabandhu", she said.

The AL President said her party was determined to give democracy a firm footing by ensuring people's fundamental rights.

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**QULKHANI**

THE QULKHANI OF DR. M. KASEM ALI WILL BE HELD TODAY, MONDAY, THE 18TH NOVEMBER AFTER ASR PRAYERS (AT 4.15 PM) AT HIS UTTARA MODEL TOWN RESIDENCE "THE JUTE", SECTOR NO-3, ROAD NO-8, HOUSE NO-7). WE EXPRESS OUR SINCERE APPRECIATION FOR THE SYMPATHY AND CONDOLENCES OFFERED BY ALL RELATIVES, FRIENDS, COLLEAGUES AND WELLWISHERS AND REQUEST THEM TO KINDLY ATTEND THE QULKHANI.

MRS. M. KASEM ALI & FAMILY  
TEL: 892151

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Published by the Editor on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000 and printed by him at Offset Printing Dialogue Publications Ltd., 19 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215. Editorial, News & Commercial offices: 28/1, Toynebc Circular Road, Dhaka-1000. Tel: Editorial & News: 863036. Commercial: 863035. PABX-246023-4. Fax No. 88-02-863035. GPO Box No. 3257 GRAM: DAILY STAR, DHAKA.