

BFUTA demands act for varsity autonomy

By Staff Correspondent

The Federation of Bangladesh University Teachers Associations (BFUTA) Saturday demanded the immediate formulation of a university act providing full autonomy to the Agricultural, Engineering and the Islamic universities.

This was adopted in a resolution at an executive council meeting of the Federation held on Friday at the Dhaka University Club, according to a statement issued by the Federation.

Presided over by Professor S M A Fayez, President of the Federation, the meeting also expressed concern at the move to amend the University Ordinance of 1973.

"Amending or changing the University Ordinance of 1973, without any discussions with the respective university teachers association and the Federation, will not be acceptable, under any circumstances, to the university teachers," the resolution warned.

The meeting also called for the immediate implementation of the demands, regarding teachers' allowances and removal of wage-scale disparities of professors, already placed with the wage commission.

The meeting also noted that the teachers associations of the respective universities have already formulated draft ordinances.

The federation of the university teachers associations strongly demanded of the government the immediate formulation of a university act, in light of the present democratic system, incorporating full autonomy to the aforementioned universities," the resolution read.

The Federation also expressed concern at the move taken by the Education Ministry Parliamentary Committee to amend the University Ordinance of 1973.

"Amending or changing the University Ordinance of 1973, without any discussions with the respective university teachers association and the Federation, will not be acceptable, under any circumstances, to the university teachers," the resolution warned.

The meeting also called for the immediate implementation of the demands, regarding teachers' allowances and removal of wage-scale disparities of professors, already placed with the wage commission.

The meeting also noted that the teachers associations of the respective universities have already formulated draft ordinances.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing a public meeting at Eidgah Maidan in Jessore yesterday. — PID photo

PM: Terrorism

From Page 1 Col 4

places with equal importance.

Earlier, Tariqul Islam pleaded for upgradation of Jessore M M College, setting up of youth training centre, improvement of Jessore-Magura road, improvement of Jessore Sadar Hospital and finding solution to water-logging problem of Beel Dakatia.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of a reformatory school for juvenile delinquents on over five acres of land here today.

Hasina's demand

From Page 1 Col 5

and allegation.

She said, "I have earned with deep concern and dismay that the United Nations High Commissioner for refugees has issued a public statement making serious allegations about the handling of this issue by the government of Bangladesh."

Hasina said United Nations and Bangladesh have had excellent relations ever since the country achieved independence in 1971. The Office of UNHCR has been especially helpful to Bangladesh on many occasions.

But it is a matter of great regret that the present government has failed to maintain the traditional cordial relation with the humanitarian arm of the world body.

Quoting the statement of UNHCR chief Sadako Ogata, Hasina said Madame Ogata has expressed deep concern about the deterioration of security in the refugee camps. "She (Ogata) has gone so far as to say that the UNHCR will be forced to reassess the organization's role if the UN mandate cannot be carried out satisfactorily."

The opposition leader said the UNHCR's statement had brought out a serious situation in the refugee camps. After the signing of the agreement with Myanmar, less than one per cent of the refugees has been sent back to their homeland, she pointed out.

The Awami League president said BNP government had not only failed to send back the refugees to Myanmar but the government has also "exposed Bangladesh to serious criticism from the UN and the international community."

UNHCR, US charges

From Page 1 Col 4

we would ask whether you (the refugees) want to go or not."

Under the agreement, he said, two small batches — 63 people on October 12 and 104 people on October 31 — of refugees were sent back home. The crisis arose when the third batch was being sent on November 25.

Earlier, the repatriation began symbolically with 49 going home out of some 300 willing Rohingyas waiting in the transit camp, he said.

But, the Foreign Secretary wondered, after the third batch was repatriated with joint monitoring by both Bangladesh government and UNHCR officials, a UNHCR official charged that some of them had been sent forcibly.

Of the total 932 people sent in the batch on November 25, Rahman said, the UNHCR official claimed the next day that 42 families were repatriated against their will and insisted "we must interview them (the refugees) independently."

At a stage when a larger number of people expressed their willingness to go back, Gurge Chapunda, the number two man at UNHCR here, came with the suggestion, "We must renegotiate this understanding (October 8 accord) an annoyed Rahman said.

With less than 200 people repatriated out of a quarter of a million of refugees, some UNHCR officials unnecessarily raised a hue and cry creating a stalemate."

"If we were to send them forcibly, we could have sent them in large numbers", Rahman argued.

The Foreign Secretary, however, replied in the negative to a question whether Bangladesh would lodge any formal protest against any of the statements saying "We go on the basis of dialogue... we will continue to talk."

"We have always pursued a constructive and moderate line in our foreign policy," Rahman added.

He said that he was "hopeful" about an early end to the stalemate caused by UNHCR's unilateral back-out from the October 8 agreement that stipulated joint interview of the refugees prior to their return.

Rahman also affirmed that the repatriation would continue "since it is purely on voluntary basis."

On Wednesday's UNHCR statement, the Foreign Secretary expressed surprise since he said only three days ago, on December 23, a UNHCR letter "appreciated" Bangladesh's efforts in the handling of the refugees, when Werner Blatter, the UN body's South Asia chief, left Dhaka.

Bangladesh is a democracy with a representative parliament and a free press and none has ever said that a single refugee has been pushed back forcibly, the Foreign Secretary asserted.

Giving a chronology of events since the influx began, Rahman listed Bangladesh's efforts to ensure the well-being of the refugees and said "every possible step has been made by the government of Bangladesh... We have raised every single point during our periodic meetings with Myanmar affairs... even whether the Rohingya Muslims would be allowed to call for prayers from mosques".

Drawing analogies from the refugee crises in different parts of the world, Rahman posed questions: "What is the degree of voluntariness? And who will decide the criteria? And what happens to us? How long are we going to keep them?"

Bangladesh, he said, had spent Tk 10 crore (2.5 million US dollars) on relief, lost 19.3

Armed forces

From Page 1 Col 5

a llypast by air force planes.

Ministers, MPs, diplomats, Air and Navy Chiefs and senior civil and military officials witnessed the colourful parade and flypast.

Flight Cadet Under Officer Mohammed Shariful Islam of the GD Pilot Course won the Sword of Honour as the best all-round cadet.

The Commander's Trophy for best in general service training of the GDP went to Flight Cadet Wing Under Officer Syed Masud Hassan while the Osmani Gold Medal for best performance in education was bagged by Flight Cadet Sergeant Mohammed Sharif Mostafa.

Sergeant Enamul Huq of the 29th Ground Course received the 'Best in Academy' award.

BSS Adds: Addressing the officials of Air Force separately, the Prime Minister said Tejgaon air field would be handed over to Bangladesh Air Force.

She said, Barisal, Cox's Bazar and Shamsheer Nagar air fields will be developed for the use of the air force.

Water level

From Page 1 Col 7

understanding) in May 1988 and unilateral withdrawal of water by India since then. Several Dhaka-Delhi water sharing talks have so far failed to reach a fresh agreement.

Officials said 10 to 11 feet water is needed for smooth ferry movement in the two rivers but the water level now fell to 6-7 feet. WDB sources said the Jamuna was flowing at 3.30 metre at Aricha point against 3.64 metre at this time of dry season last year.

The river is falling a 6 centimetre a day at Aricha, and navigation may have to be stopped before the peak of current dry season if the recession trend continues, officials feared.

Moreover, water conservation capacity of the rivers has reduced due to massive deforestation, increasing rate of landslide, lack of re-excavation of rivers and loss of natural water resistant belt in Nepal, resulting in massive siltation of the rivers.

Unplanned embankment construction for flood control and irrigation is also cited as another cause of loss of navigability of the rivers. Besides navigation, agriculture, pisciculture and environment are being alarmingly affected.

Menon returns home Jan 9

From Page 1 Col 7

omy to three hill districts, expulsion of Muslim settlers from the region and formation of independent police forces.

Earlier, Shantu Larma and his aides came to the Dudukchhari frontier village from where they were flown aboard a government helicopter to Khagrachhari Circuit House, the meeting venue.

The meeting started at around 10-30 am and continued until 4-15 pm with lunch and tea breaks, the official said.

The government-sponsored Committee includes MPs Kapanjan Chakma, Mustaq Ahmed Chowdhury, Abdul Matin Khusr, Shajahan Chowdhury, Syed Wahidul Alam, Barkatullah Bulu and Mohammad Shajahan. The other member of the Committee Rashed Khan Menon MP, now out of the country, was not present at the meeting.

The PCJSS team included Rupaiyan Dewan, Goutam Chakma, Raktaulpari Tripurii and Sudhasindhu Khisha.

They were flown back to Dudukchhari after the meeting.

BSS adds: Col (Retd) OI Ahmed told journalists at Khagrachhari after the talks that the government would not hesitate to accept the reasonable and logical demands of the tribals and that a cordial approach was needed to solve the long-drawn problems.

He said when the tribal refugees, now in Indian camps, return to Bangladesh, they would get back their lands.

He also said the government would agree to postpone elections to local government parishes for one year on the request of the PCJSS leaders.

AL leader Habib dead

From Page 1 Col 3

City Awami League leader and freedom fighter Khan-daker Habibur Rahman died of prolonged illness yesterday. He was 55, reports BSS.

He was suffering from cancer and jaundice for a long time.

Rahman left behind his wife, two sons two daughters and a host of relations and friends to mourn his death.

Awami League president and leader of the opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad Sheikh Hasina visited the residence of Rahman to pay her last respect to the departed soul.

Five injured in Globe Factory fire in Tongi

From Our Correspondent

GAZIPUR, Dec 26: Five persons were injured in a fire at the Globe Insecticide Factory here late Friday night.

According to the Fire Service, fire started at the factory located at Board Bazar under Sadar Thana at around 9:30 pm. Fire Service personnel reached the spot within ten minutes and by 1:30 am brought the fire under control.

The fire is suspected to have originated from a gas line leakage and the damage has been estimated at around Taka 10 lakh.

Hotel workers attack Daily Azadi office

CHITTAGONG, Dec 26: A group of hotel workers allegedly attacked Dainik Azadi office with bombs at Momin Road here this afternoon and threatened the working journalists of the paper with dire consequences, reports BSS.

According to the management of the Daily, a group of hotel workers attacked the Azadi office and set fire on some copies of the daily. The members of the hotel workers union, white passing by the newspaper office in a procession, also threatened the working journalists on duty.

Press Note

From Page 1 Col 7

Additional Superintendent of Police of Dhaka district were injured when the crowd attacked them with cocktails and deadly weapons.

According to the Press Note, the Imam of Chankutia Bara Masjid along with some other people were injured Friday in a confrontation with the followers of Sadruddin, a said Peer of the locality, following previous rivalry.

Police arrested four persons in connection with Friday's incidence and a case was filed with Keraniganj thana in this regard. Apprehending further confrontation, a platoon of police force under a Magistrate was deployed there.

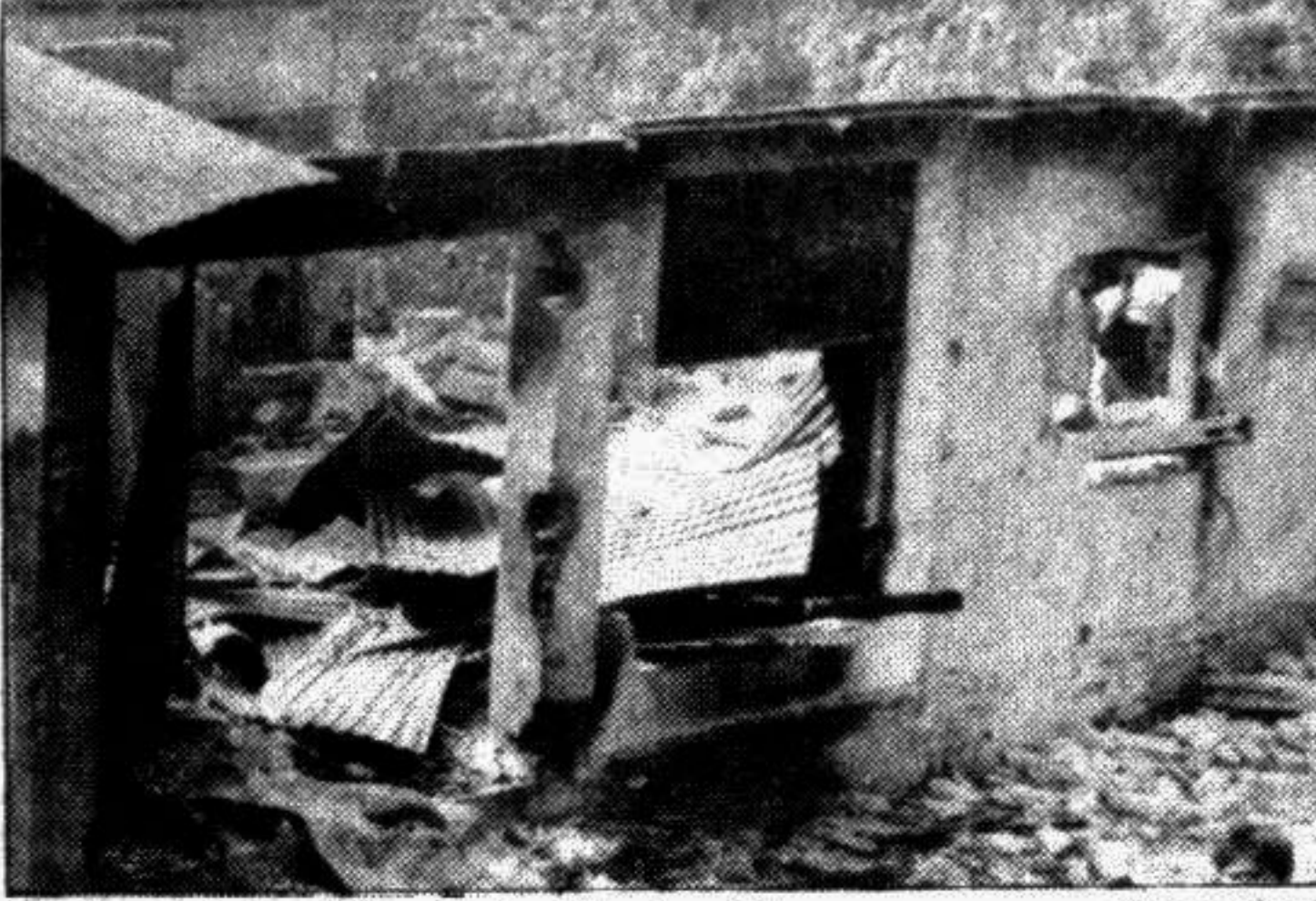
In protest against the attack on the Imam a crowd of about 5000 people attacked yesterday morning the residence of the Peer and other adjoining houses armed with sticks, cocktails and other deadly weapons and set the houses on fire. They also looted the houses. Police tried to disperse the crowd by making lathi charge and using tear gas shells. But the crowd became more violent and attacked the police with brick bats and hand bombs. They put on fire two motorbikes and other articles of police, snatched away a wireless set, and tried to snatch way arms. At this time fire was also shot at police, the Press Note said.

Finding no other alternative to bring the situation under control and in self-defence police at the order of a Magistrate on duty opened several rounds of shots. As a result Badsha (13) and Belayet Hossain (28) were killed.

Local MP, Deputy Commissioner of Dhaka district and Additional Deputy Inspector General of Police visited the area and the situation is now under control.

The government has formed a one-member enquiry committee consisting of Additional Divisional Commissioner of Dhaka to investigate the incident and lawful actions would be taken against the persons responsible for this. It sought cooperation of all quarters with the law enforcing agency in maintaining law and order in the area, the Press Note said.

On Friday hundreds of people held a rally at the Eidgah field at Jinnira addressed by Maulana Abu Jafar Kasemi who denounced the activities of Sadruddin Ahmed Chisty and called upon people to evict the



Burned down 'Khanka' of Sadruddin — Star photo

Keraniganj: 2 killed

From Page 1 Col 7

(SSMCH), Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), Suhrawardy Hospital and other private medical centres while the injured policemen were taken to the Rajarbagh Police Hospital.

In protest against the police attack, a dawn-to-dusk hartal has been called at Keraniganj today (Sunday).

Breaking the police cordon, agitated people set fire to the 'khanka' and several houses of the followers of 'peer' Sadruddin Ahmed Chisty at around noon, witnesses said.

The violence erupted when several thousand furious people assembled at Chankutia following a previous call by Maulana Abu Jafar Kasemi, local people said.

The mob attacked police and the 'khanka' with country-made weapons and blasted hundreds of crackers during the hours-long clash.

Local people alleged that Sadruddin Ahmed Chisty had been living in the area since independence in 1971. He claimed himself a 'son of god' and wrote a number of books that contradicted the Muslim faith, they added.

Local people earlier demanded eviction and punishment of the 'fake peer' several times but the authorities concerned did not pay heed, they alleged.

On Friday hundreds of people held a rally at the Eidgah field at Jinnira addressed by Maulana Abu Jafar Kasemi who denounced the activities of Sadruddin Ahmed Chisty and called upon people to evict the

Attack on hawkers' office: Three on police remand

By Staff Correspondent

Three people arrested in connection with the attack on the head office of Multipurpose Cooperative Association of Dhaka Newspaper Hawkers at RAJUK Avenue Friday were remanded in the Motijheel Police Station for a day Saturday.

The arrested persons Faruq Hossain, Mohammad Mannan and Mohammad Yunus Mia were produced before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court yesterday and the magistrate granted one-day police remand for each, said police.

A gang of armed men allegedly led by the members of the Newspaper Hawkers Welfare and Multipurpose Cooperative Association Limited attacked the RAJUK Avenue office of Multipurpose Cooperative Association of Dhaka Newspaper Hawkers Friday afternoon, ransacked the office, beat the office-bearers and damaged old newspapers worth about Taka 2,500.

Leaders of the Dhaka Newspaper Hawkers Association lodged a case with Motijheel police in connection with the incident.

Meanwhile in another statement Newspaper Hawkers Welfare Multipurpose Cooperative Association Limited denied the charges and claimed that the case lodged involving their members was motivated and fabricated.

The Midnight File

British army officer hurt in mortar attack in Bosnia

VITEZ (Bosnia-Herzegovina), Dec 26: A British army officer serving with UN forces in Bosnia was wounded today when his armoured convoy came under surprise attack from Serb mortar positions, army officials said. They said Lieutenant Justin Freeland, 25, of the 9/12 Lancers, was hit when three 80 mm mortar bombs landed close to his Scimitar armoured reconnaissance vehicle near the Serb front line outside the Northern Bosnian town of Tuzla, reports Reuters.

Bush to release secret notes on Iran-Contra affair

WASHINGTON, Dec 26: The White House said today that President George Bush would release previously secret notes on the Iran-Contra affair in response to charges he was involved in a cover-up of the arms-for-hostages deal. White House spokesman Sean Walsh said the notes would be made public, along with Bush's 1988 testimony to the Iran-Contra special prosecutor, as soon as a transcript of the statement was returned to him by the prosecutor, reports Reuters.

Diana leaves brother's home

LONDON, Dec 26: Princess Diana reportedly left her brother's home Saturday but it was unclear whether she was headed for a reunion with her two sons who spent Christmas with their father, Prince Charles. British media reported that the 31-year-old Princess, who separated from Charles earlier this month, declined an invitation from Queen Elizabeth II to spend Christmas at Sandringham, her Norfolk estate, 95 miles (150 kms) north of London, reports AP.

Menon returns home Jan 9

By Staff Correspondent

Five-Party leader and Workers Party General Secretary Rashed Khan Menon will return home from Bangkok on January 9, says a Workers Party press release Saturday.

Menon was shot by some unidentified miscreants on August 17 in front of his office in Purana Paltan. He was treated at the Combined Military Hospital (CMH), Dhaka then shifted to Kings College Hospital in London in a critical condition. He was later taken to Bangkok for further treatment.

Menon underwent two major operations. Bullets pierced his liver causing various complications.

The party press release said that Menon had recovered completely but his physician asked him to take rest for few more days.

Meanwhile, a workers meeting of the party was held yesterday to chalk out public reception programmes for Menon's homecoming.

The meeting presided over by its President Amal Sen was addressed by Haidar Akbar Khan Rano, Tipu Biswas, Fazle Hossain Badsha, Nurul Hasan and Kamrul Ahsan.

Five injured in Globe Factory fire in Tongi

From Our Correspondent

GAZIPUR, Dec 26: Five persons were injured in a fire at the Globe Insecticide Factory here late Friday night.

According to the Fire Service, fire started at the factory located at Board Bazar under Sadar Thana at around 9:30 pm. Fire Service personnel reached the spot within ten minutes and by 1:30 am brought the fire under control.

The fire is suspected to have originated from a gas line leakage and the damage has been estimated at around Taka 10 lakh.

AL leader Habib dead

From Page 1 Col 3

City Awami League leader and freedom fighter Khan-daker Habibur Rahman died of prolonged illness yesterday. He was 55, reports BSS.

He was suffering from cancer and jaundice for a long time.

Rahman left behind his wife, two sons two daughters and a host of relations and friends to mourn his death.

Awami League president and leader of the opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad Sheikh Hasina visited the residence of Rahman to pay her last respect to the departed soul.

Meat sales

From Page 1 Col 3

sufficient to meet the total demand of some eight million residents of the capital, a DCC source admitted.

The Corporation has employed more than 100 people including veterinary surgeons to supervise the slaughter houses, the DCC source said adding that five of the 10 city corporation zones have no such houses.

The source said that a proposal to construct a slaughter house in Khilgaon area had been approved recently but it was yet to be implemented because of fund shortage.

More than 2,75,000 animals were slaughtered during the last fiscal mostly in five slaughter houses around the capital, according to the DCC statistics. The Corporation has, however, no data of unauthorised sellers.

The DCC sometimes launches drives against the illegal meat sellers and during the year 1991-92 the Corporation realised fines of about Tk 1,70,000.

During the period DCC served 1,148 notices on the unauthorised sellers and filed 837 cases.

But the punitive measures have failed to control illegal sale of substandard meat, the DCC source said on condition of anonymity.

ঢাকা ওয়াসা জরুরী বিজ্ঞপ্তি

আপনি জানেন কি সম্প্রতি খেলাপি গ্রাহকদের পানি সংযোগ বিচ্ছিন্ন করার কাজ জোরদার করা হয়েছে।

ইতিমধ্যেই সম্মানিত গ্রাহকদের নভেম্বর-ডিসেম্বর '৯২ সময়ের বিল জারী করা হয়েছে। এখনো যারা হালনাগাদ বিল পাননি সংশ্লিষ্ট রাজস্ব আঞ্চলিক অফিসের সাথে যোগাযোগ করে তাঁদের বিল সংগ্রহ করে অবিলম্বে পরিশোধ করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হচ্ছে। কোন অভিযোগ থাকলে সরাসরি ঢাকা ওয়াসা ভবনে সংস্থার সদস্য (অর্থ) অথবা বাণিজ্যিক ব্যবস্থাপকের সঙ্গে ৩২৫১৮১-৫ নং টেলিফোনে যোগাযোগ করুন।

বারবার তাগিদ দেয়া সত্ত্বেও এবং যথারীতি নোটিশ প্রাপ্তির পরও যারা সময়মত বিল পরিশোধ করেননি সংযোগ বিচ্ছিন্নি ছাড়াও তাঁদের বিরুদ্ধে পিডিআর এ্যাক্টের অধীনে ওয়াসার ম্যাজিস্ট্রেট আদালতে সার্টিফিকেট মামলা রুজু করে মালামাল ফ্রোকের ন্যায় কঠোর আইনানুগ ব্যবস্থা নেয়া হচ্ছে।

সংযোগ বিচ্ছিন্নি ও মালামাল ফ্রোকের ন্যায় অপ্রীতিকর ঘটনা এড়াবার জন্য আজই হালনাগাদ আপনার পানি ও পয়ঃবিল পরিশোধ করুন।

আপনাদের সেবায় নিয়োজিত
ঢাকা ওয়াসা

ওয়াসা-জঃঃঃ ৪০৮/৯২
ডি-৭১৪

Editor : S. M. Ali
Executive Editor : Mahfuz Anam

Published by the Editor on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000 and printed by him at The Sangbad Ltd., 36, Purana Paltan, Dhaka. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No 11; Road No 3; Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 500091-4. Advertisement: 500091. Fax No 92-02-563055. GPO Box No 3257. GRAM: DAILY STAR DHAKA.