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## Minister should head Privatisation Board

## Legal framework for disinvestment proposed

After a dismal performance cess, reports UNB

The recommendations were put forward recently to the Cab inet Sub-committee on Finance and Economic Affairs after discussing the issues at a meeting of concerned secretaries, offi-

The Board suggested that all the legal basis of every privatisation process, including the privatisation policy, be mentioned in the proposed legal

Moreover, it said, the issue of providing necessary legal immunity to the Board, including its officials and personnel involved in the privatisation process and payment, could be considered in some cases.

Suggesting that a minister head the Board for making it an effective institution, it said adequate power and authority could be delegated to various tiers of decision-making process to accelerate the decisionmaking.

The Board noted that it should have full authority to identify enterprises with priority as selection of candidates is an important factor for privatisation and for speeding up the

It contended that attractive compensation package should be provided while retrenching the surplus workers and employees from the enterprises before the disinvestment

Before disinvestment, the enterprises should be made, as far as possible, free from all sorts of liabilities, including downsizing the manpower in a

the Privatisation Board said most buyers are not interested in purchasing assets with liabilities, rather they want to take over clean, liability free fixed assets.

foreigners and Bangladeshis living abroad, informed the Board that they were eager to purchase such industrial units which are totally free from liabilities.

Under the existing policy, a buyer has to reach an agreement with the ministry concerned to shoulder the longterm loan But realisation of such loan has become uncertain as no bank guarantee against the loan money is mandatory.

who took over the units under the Ministry of Textiles could peated reminders.

government shoulder all the

long-term loans against fixed assets like the short-term ones that would make the network of an enterprise positive and encourage the buyers to buy the industrial units

Under the present privatisa tion policy, excess land under the enterprises cannot be sold separately which increases the value of a unit, discouraging the prospective buyers.

The Board proposed that ef forts would be made to sell the industrial units along with land But, if necessary and in some cases, land/building could be sold separately.

Regarding payment of compensation, it suggested that the concerned corporation carry out the valuation process and pay the compensation to the retrenched workers and employees. The finance ministry will provide the fund

In view of the complex decision-making process in privatisation, the Board suggested that the present time limit of 60 days for taking decision and refunding the earnest money to the bidders be extended to 90

As regards quick refunding of the earnest money of unsuccessful bidders, it recommended that the earnest money, except that of the first, second and third bidders, be refunded immediately after opening the

#### Newly-wed girl burnt to death

SIRAJGANJ. Oct 16: A newly-married teenager of Ratankandi village in Shahjadpur thana of the district succumbed to her burn injuries at Pabna Sadar Hospital early today, reports UNB.

The victim, Farida Khatun, 19, sustained severe burn injuries on Monday night when she was allegedly set on fire by her husband, Farhad of Ratankandi. Police said Farhad, assisted

by his two brothers, set fire to the hapless young woman after they doused her with kerosene. Farida was rushed to Pabna

Sadar Hospital, where she breathed her last in the small hours of Wednesday.

Family sources said Farhad was angry with Farida who tried to leave him after she was tortured on several occasions. The two were married only four months ago.

A case was filed with Shahjadpur thana. Farhad and his brother were absconding.

## Clarification

From Page 1

Commenting on the Habiganj-2 by-polls. Chief Election Commissioner Mohammad Abu Hena told The Daily Star vesterday that the Election Commission had not received any reports of rigging violence or any other irregularity from its Electoral Committee or the observer assigned by it.

Earlier. The Daily Star quoted the CEC as saying 'There was no violence, rigging or any sort of irregularities in the byelection," in the seventh paragraph of the story on the byelection published yesterday. The inadvertent mistake is regretted.

#### Voters' ID cards From Page 1

conduct investigation at district levels as the DCs had been empowered to monitor distribution of ID cards and payments to the 64 local firms concerned. These firms had been awarded the work of printing, processing and delivering more than 5.6 crore voters' ID cards in the country.

The committee, formed on October 12, will submit an analytical report within 80 days, an EC source said.

The committee consists of the Secretary of Inspection. Monitoring and Evaluation Division as Convenor, a representative of the Prime Minister's Secretariat with the status of at least director general, a representative of the Planning Commission, at least of Joint Chief level, and a representative of the Finance Division of Joint Secretary level, as members and Joint Secretary (Admn), EC Secretariat, as Member-Secretary.

The EC has officially notified all the secretaries concerned regarding the formation of the committee.

Under the EC bill passed in the Jatiya Sangsad in 1994, every eligible voter must be provided with an ID card before the holding of any general elec-tions, the EC had to seek promulgation of an Ordinance every time before general elections to enable it to conduct polls without ID cards.

Reports of irregularities in the allocation of work schedule by the project officials to pri-

## FBCCI election today

From Page 1

hopeful of winning the election "I believe voters will franchise their rights to uphold the leadership of the Chamber group and thus preserve their own interests.

He said, he had visited district level chambers and talked to the local leaders about the problems "I will try my best to solve their problems," he added

Yussuf Abdullah Harun said "I will strengthen the FBCCI to bring dynamism in the country's economy if I am elected.

When asked whether he was backed by Awami League as alleged, he said. 'I might have political affiliation personally but being a President candidate I only represent business com munity.

This year, the FBCCI president will be elected from the chamber group and the vicepresident from the associations group for a 2-year term.

According to FBCCI election rules, the President and 15 executive committee members will be elected by direct votes of 254 members of the 56 chamber bodies of the country The vice-president and an-

members will be elected by direct votes of 659 voters from the 135 associations. The candidates for the post of vice president are Kazi Shafiqul Islam of Bangladesh Leather Goods, and Manufac

turers Association. Amin

other 15 executive committee

Lashkar of Bangladesh Milk and Dairy Association and M A Kamal of Paint Manufacturers Association.

Twentynine candidates are

contesting for the 15 posts of executive committee members allotted for the chamber bodies. Fifty candidates will vie for the other 15 posts of EC members.

Meanwhile, a good number of chamber leaders coming from districts expressed the view that the apex trading body should be kept above political influences.

Talking to The Daily Star. they observed that the FBCCI should maintain its professionalism and serve the interests of the business community.

throughout the country "Country's district level chambers have been neglected for long," said a chamber leader from Kushtia. Requesting anonymity he said. We would prefer the presidential candidate who will address problems of district Chambers.

In the country there are 56 Chambers of which 15 are categorised as A having 6 votes each and 41 as 'B' having 4 votes

Talking to this correspondent a group of voters from districts said that their Chambers were suffering from acute financial crisis. They suggested that district chambers be given authority to issue trade licences. This will be a sources of income they said

Each trader and industrial ist at the district level should be given chamber membership This will be another way to raise money," said a business leader of Habigani

Traders of Noakhali, Lal monirhat and other districts also expressed the same opin-



Parents of Tareq addressing a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday. -Star photo

#### Transfer case to DB August 14 when Rocky, son of From Page 1

napped." alleged Mohammad Abul Kashem at a press conference at the Jativa Press Club. He also alleged that an influential quarter was trying to 'sabotage the case. "I am receiv-

ing annonymous phone calls threatening my life. "I feel insecure under such circumstances," he said, adding that he had requested all con-

cerned for help. "but nothing has come up so far. He also urged the authorities to bring Lubna back from Lon-

don for recording her statements in Dhaka. "She fled after the incident." he claimed Tarek, a student of North-South University (NSU) has

been missing since the night of

#### Housewife commits suicide in city By DMC Correspondent

A housewife reportedly committed suicide by hanging herself in their residence at South Razarbag in the city yes-

Momtaz Begum, 45, wife of one Monir Hossain, was found

hanging in the kitchen early in the morning, according to the FIR filed with Shabujbag thana The reason behind the al-

leged suicide could not be known immediately. Police took the body to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) for autopsy. An unnatural death case has been filed, police said. BSS adds: One unidentified

youth, aged about 22, committed suicide by hanging himself from a water tank at the Kamalapur Railway yard. The reason behind the al-

leged suicide was not known. The body has been taken to the hospital morgue for auFakrul Islam Munsi, a former state minister called him out of the house for a dinner at a Chinese restaurant. Kashem said.

Kashem, quoting Rockey claimed that Tarek and his friends had dinner at the Steamboat Restaurant in the city and went to the Zia International Airport at about 4 am and then to Meghna ferryghat. Lubna, a friend of Rockey accompanied them, he added.

Rockey, along with his parents went to his residence the next day at around 11:30 am to inform that Tarek had jumped into the river and drowned, said Kashem. "The trousers, shirt, shoes and wrist watch of my son was then returned," he told the press conference.

Kashem had lodged a case with Gazaria thana under Munshigani district naming Rockey as the main accused. Rockey was arrested, taken on remand twice for interrogation and released on bail recently.

The case was taken up by the CID on August 21. Some of Rockey's friends were also interrogated in this connection.

#### Shoals in Jamuna

From Page 1

ferries, forcing them to ply more than an hour behind the schedule, transport owners and passengers said.

On the other hand, BIWTA sources said, the depth of water at Gonopdia in between Aricha and Nagarbari as well at Daulatdia in Aricha-Daulatdia route is 9 feet. They said movement of ferries would not be possible if the depth of water drops down to 8.5 feet

On Wednesday night, a ferry named "Keramat Ali" hit an emerging char near Nagarbari

## PM: Set 5-yr target

Talukdar, Lutfunnesa Haq Bakul, Dolly Cruiz and Sultana Kamal and swimmer Brozen

The prime minister mentioned the names of chess player Rani Hamid, swimmer Mosharraf Hossain, athlete late Shah Alam and shooter Atiqur Rahman, who earned fame for the nation through achieving success in their respective events.

Hasina stressed the need for finding out new sports talents in order to uphold the national flags at regional and international sports. For this purpose, she said,

necessary infrastructural facilities should be built and favourable atmosphere created. Hasina said the nation should be inspired with the

motto of "sports for better life and good health" to turn the sports activities into a move-She said sportsmen of all parts of the country, not only of

Dhaka, need patronisation. It is difficult for the government to do the whole task alone, so nongovernmental sponsors would have to come forward for the development of sports.

Sheikh Hasina said the present government has taken initiative to reestablish democracy in the sports arena. Transparency and accountability were essential for achieving success and perfection in this area, she said adding we will make arrangements for holding elections in the sports federations to bring out capable leadership.

The inaugural function was also addressed by State Minister for Youths and Sports Youth Obaidul Qader, Bangladesh Olympic Association President Lt Gen Mahabubur Rahman and Sports secretary ASM Shahja-

Earlier, the prime minister unveiled the plaque of the Sports Science Building of BKSP. She also went round the BKSP complex.



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KUALA LUMPUR. Oct 16: A

group of 75 Bangladeshi

Nepalese and Indian migrant

workers was arrested today try-

ing to sneak into Malavsia

aboard two boats from Thai-

As many as 1 million illegal

immigrants, mostly Indians

and Bangladeshis, work in

Malaysia, drawn by the high

wages of a booming economy

that is growing by 8 per cent a

The group arrested today was

landing at 4 am on a beach in

an uninhabited area of Kam-

pung Tepi Laut, along Malaysi-

a s Indian Ocean coast about 30

miles (50 kilometers) south of

the Thai border, the Bernama

said Deputy Superintendent of

Police Zakaria Embi. A group of

23 migrants from Nepal. India

and Bangladesh was arrested

Monday in the same area after

work legally in Malaysia

which has a work forced of 8.3

JP candidate

From Page 1

Addressing a press confer

ence at Habigani Press Club

tonight Khan said that he would

not participate in any other

election under the present gov-

ernment and added "I will con-

vince my party leadership to

take a stand that JP will no

more contest any election under

polls, "worse than those in

Magura and Laxmipur." He

would reconsider his political

position if he did not succeed in

convincing JP leadership about

boycotting elections under the

present 'vote docoit' govern-

the name of 'national consen-

sus the present government has

just 'dug the grave of consensus'

SM Ali

From Page 1

death anniversary, a milad

mahfil will be held at The

Daily Star office at 4:30 pm to-

5. 1928. Ali was one of the few

Asian journalists who distin-

guished themselves in regional

staff reporter of the newly-

launched then Pakistan Ob

server in 1949 while he was a

student of the Dhaka Univer-

In his long journalistic ca-

reer, he also served the

Bangladesh Ovserver as its Edi-

tor, served the News Chronicle

of London and the British

Broadcasting Corporation

(BBC), Karachi-based newspa-

per The Dawn, Lahore-based

Pakistan Times, Hong Kong-

based The Asia Magazine, The

Bangkok Post, Singapore's The

New Nation, a regional newspa-

Kong Standard.

per The Asian and The Hong

alytical write-ups were also

published in leading regional

journals including the Far

Eastern Economic Review, the

Asian Wall Street Journal, the

Manila-based Press Founda-

tion of Asia as its Executive Di-

rector and started the well-

known development feature

service Depthnews, and served

the UNESCO as its Regional

Communications Advisor for

He authored two books -

'After the Dark Night' and

JS Task Force

From Page 1

ments to the Committee on JS

the operational side. Sen said:

"The JS needed to have an insti-

tute of its own, with a modern

legislative information centre,

so that the legislators can study

different aspects of law. They

should also be provided with

adequate staff support equipped

with modern technology so that

the MPs can discharge their re-

sponsibilities in an ideal man-

meeting, decided some "imme-

diate tasks" that include chalk-

ing out plans for setting up Par-

liament Institute, analysing the

project proposal and working

out plans to ensure proper secu-

rity at the JS Secretariat,

making arrangements for

training of the members of par-

liaments and officers and em-

ployees of the JS Secretariat

and modernising the JS medi-

cal centre for treatment of the

"dignitaries, MPs and officers

and employees of the Secre-

international agencies have al-

ready made commitments to

the JS authorities that they

would financially help imple-

ment the programmes. The

UNDP will coordinate the

donor agencies, sources con-

Some donor countries and

tariat."

cerned said.

The task force, in a recent

Explaining the reforms in

Asia and the Pacific.

Rainbow over Padma.

rules of Procedure.'

S M Ali also worked for the

Orientations and the Insight.

Besides, his articles and an-

In observance of his third

Born in Sylhet on December

He started his career as a

by acting against his party.

The JP leader said that in

He termed yesterday's by-

About 750,000 foreigners

arriving aboard a Thai boat.

Two other boats escaped.

news agency reported

ganj-2 (JS-239) seat

this government.

ment, he added

journalism.

million

land, police said, reports AP.

Let's make things better

**PHILIPS** 

Sector by Comments

#### Kins of Khaled Mosharraf urge people Bid to sneak into Malaysia: 75 Evaluate Nov 3, 7 incidents including in correct perspective Bangladeshis held

The close kins of late Major General Khaled Mosharraf urged people of Bangladesh to evaluate the incidents of November 3 and November 7. 1975 in their correct perspective so as to set right certain inaccuracies in our national history, reports UNB.

Making a pointed reference to the incidents of early November, 1975 Begum Salma Mosharraf, widow of General Mosharraf, said, "My husband did not stage coup on November 3 to capture power. It was not an army coup.

It was intended to restore chain of command in the armed forces she said

Addressing a press conference yesterday evening, she said was a first notable protest against the assassination of Bangabandhu to topple illegal regime of Khandaker Mush-

The press conference was also addressed by younger brother of Khaled Mosharraf and State Minister for Land Haji Rashed Mosharraf, and leaders of Khaled Mosharraf Smriti Parishad Captain (retd)

Humayun Kabir, Matiur Rahman and Mobarak Hossain. Salma Khaled noted with deep anguish, her husband was not only done to death but also defamed for alleged involve-

#### ment in anti-state activities Vehicles damaged

From Page 1

went on rampage on Mirpur Road in front of Dhaka College at about 12 noon to protest the arrest of its college unit leader HM Javed. Meanwhile, the JCD in a

press conference at the Jatiya Press Club in the afternoon alleged that the trouble began as the BCL activists attacked the JCD sponsored freshers' reception programme in the auditorium of the college No casualty was reported in

the violence till last night. Witnesses said that some youths who were slightly injured during the chase and counter-chase were taken to local clinics. The activities in the markets

close to the college almost came to a halt while the traffic movement on the busy Mirpur Road was suspended for about an hour, witnesses said.

Besides, the scheduled freshers' reception programme of the JCD was also disrupted due to the violence, students said.

Regarding the arrest of the JCD leader Javed, Dhanmondi police said that they arrested him from Kataban area as he was wanted in connection with three cases, earlier filed with the Dhanmondi thana. Javed was involved in extortion and terrorism in the area, police

Police said that they received eight complaints in connection with the damage of vehicles on the Mirpur Road in front of the Dhaka College during the violence. Extra police forces were deployed to avert further violence, police added.

Ask your conscience if a frontranking freedom fighter like Khaled Mosharraf can go

against the country's interest." A former Chhatra League leader Khaled Mosharraf, who was a young major in 1971. led the Liberation War as the Commander of "K" Force and Sector 2. He was decorated with honorific title of "Bir Uttam" for his outstanding contribu-

tion to the Liberation War. Khaled Mosharraf hated the Pakistani rulers. During the Liberation War he also forewarned his comrades in arms of the possibility of taking up arms against our friends (India) Such a patriot can by no means sell out country's inter-

est. Salma Khaled said. She called upon all concerned to bring to light the true history of November 3 and November 7, 1975 incidents for not misleading the younger

Replying to a query regarding the observance of Revolution and Solidarity Day on November 7, Rashed Mosharraf said they had no demand to press for in this regard.

#### Intending hajis asked to deposit house rent by Oct 31

Intending hajj pilgrims have been advised to deposit their advance-house-rent to the scheduled banks within the October 31 deadline, reports UNB.

The time limit will not be extended further, said a PID handout yesterday. The intending hajis have

been asked to deposit the advance house-rent of Tk 16,000 to the banks concerned - Sonali Bank, Agrani Bank, Janata Bank, Rupali Bank, Bangladesh Krishi Bank, Pubali Bank and Islami Bank.

The government will take all responsibilities including making passport, visa, immigration formalities and endorsement of foreign currencies.

#### President From Page 1

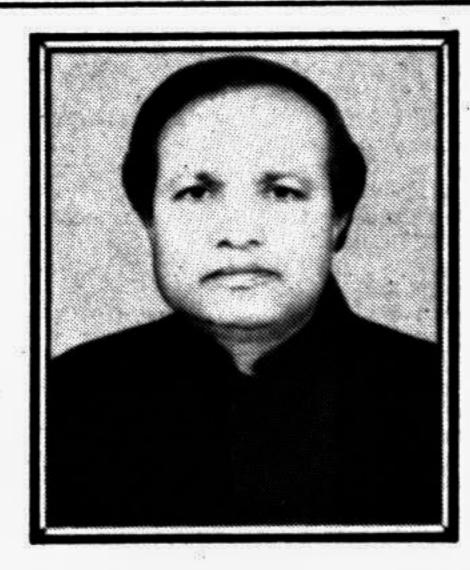
Mayor in various cities of the world, the President said the Mayor might have any political ideology or be member of a political party, but his main function is to ensure ease and comfort of the city dwellers.

Mayor Mohammad Hanif informed the President that coordinated efforts are being made to face acute problems of water logging and traffic jam.

He pointed out that the increasing population along with the increased three and four wheel vehicles have made the life of the city dwellers unbear-

They Mayor agreed that a consensus on the traffic jam issue is urgently needed and he will take positive steps in that direction.

## FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF LATE AL-HAJ JAHURUL ISLAM



ON THE OCCASION OF FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF LATE AL-HAJ JAHURUL ISLAM, CHAIRMAN, ISLAM GROUP, A MILAD MAHFIL WILL BE HELD AT HIS RESIDENCE HOUSE NO. 8, ROAD NO. 72, GULSHAN-2, DHAKA ON FRIDAY 18TH OCTOBER, 1996 AT 4 P. M.

ALL RELATIVES, FRIENDS AND WELL-WISHERS ARE REQUESTED TO ATTEND AND PRAY TO THE ALMIGHTY ALLAH FOR THE SALVATION AND ETERNAL PEACE OF THE DEPARTED SOUL.

MRS. JAHURUL ISLAM & FAMILY.

#### **Editor**: Mahfuz Anam

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# The World on Time

the Privatisation Board has proposed that a legal framework be made for disinvest ment and the Board be headed by a minister to step up the pro-

cial sources said.

framework

entire process.

From Page 1 undertaking our water management planning. he said. The minister put forward four reasons for reaching a permanent solution on the water-sharing problem. Enumerating he said, it was immediately necessary to plan the country's needs for drinking

water. "As the level of ground

water is going down we need to prevent it from sinking fur-"Secondly, we need to look into our irrigation requirements", he said. The third reason is that salinity was increasing gradually and intruding into the southern region and "this needs to be stopped", he

added. He said the fourth reason for reacting a permanent solution was that the Sunderbans region which had the largest mangrove forest in the world was gradually facing extinction due to intrusion of salinity and this had

to be prevented. "Without delaying further. what we need now is a solution an immediate and a perma nent solution," the Water Resources Minister reiterated.

Razzak said any delay in

the country which is already in the grip of desertification, facing environmental changes and people in the area are facing economic hardship. Abdur Razzak observed that

he was optimistic about a solu-

reaching a water accord would

seriously affect large parts of

#### tion to the problem of water sharing between the two coun-Gold smuggling

From Page 1 Commissioner of Chittagong Custom House Abul Kasem. talking to The Daily Star, said that the process had been initiated to issue 'show-cause' notice

to the company owning the

He said that the ship had been detained and another thorough search was made into 'every nook and corner' of the ship last night by a team of 25 Customs officials led by an additional commissioner of Cus-

The 160 containers of cargo

gapore, were unloaded today and delivery of the goods would be made after proper checking. the commissioner informed. QC Containers Ltd introduced early this year two private container ships - QC Teal

brought by the ship from Sin-

and QC Pintail - in the feeder service between Chittagong and Singapore. These two ships are owned by BNP MP Salauddin Quader Chowdhury and businessman

Salman F Rahman of Beximco

#### **HSC** results From Page 1

Results of the colleges inside Dhaka metropolitan city may be collected from Dhaka Deputy Commissioner by the respective principals or their representatives today at 2 pm. In case of any problem in procuring results, principals have been requested to immediately contact the deputy commissioners or controllers of examinations of the boards concerned.

sheets won't be hanged on the board this year. The daily newspapers Bangladesh Television and Betar would only circulate the merit lists. The authorities have requested all concerned not to open the result sheets before 4

pm today.

The handout said the result

logical stage, it said Citing its past experience.

not repay the installments of their long-term loan despite re-

Permanent water accord tries as there was "tremendous

> tentious issue which had been put in the cold storage during the past several years. visit to New Delhi. Razzak replied. "I look forward with great hope. I am optimistic that

> groundwork for a permanent water sharing treaty wth In-BUET teachers

By Staff Correspondent demanding removal of the

(BUETTA) held vesterday with its President, Dr Md Abdur Razzak Akhand, in the chair go for an indefinite strike from October 28 if the VC does not resign or is not removed by October 27 and they will assemble at the VC's office on November 3 to

manhole in city

A fire service rescue team recovered the body, reportedly of a sweeper, at around 10:30 am. fire service sources said.

diately. to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) for autopsy. been filed with Tejgaon thana.

#### gating the incident.

Bangladesh among most of the the Gulf War in 1990, they said, the message added.

power and a large number of Bangladeshis had already been deported from many a Mideastern countries as a consequence. according to the message. Terming Saudi Arabia the centre of Islam Begum Zia said:

of the abode of Islam. Tuesday's issue published a half-page interview of the Bangladesh leader. She was scheduled to visit

the Mazar-e-Sharif of Prophet

Hazrat Mohammad (SM) at

Madina yesterday.

Many buyers, especially the

It was learnt that the buyers

The Board proposed that the

## goodwill and sincerity on the part of the new government of

we shall be able to prepare the

to boycott VC The teachers of the Bangladesh University of Engineering

Md Shahjahan, have decided not to cooperate with him and his administration. The decision was taken unanimously at a meeting of the BUET Teachers' Association

## "The BUETTA members will

Body found inside By Staff Correspondent

WASA building at Kawran Bazar in the city yesterday.

Tejgaon police sent the body An unnatural death case has Police said they were investi-

From Page 1 mentioned that the wrong policies of the post-liberation Awami League regime had created 'an unwanted image' of Saudi people. The Saudis were once again confused with AL's opposing role against sending troops to Saudi Arabia during

mentioned that this image was hampering Bangladesh's prospect of exporting man-

The Saudi Gazette in its

India as well as Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to reach a permanent accord on the con-Asked about the possible outcome of his forthcoming

and Technology (BUET), now present Vice-Chancellor, Prof

#### press his resignation," said a resolution adopted at the meet-

The body of an unidentified man, aged about 35, was found inside a manhole near the

The details about the incident could not be known imme-

Khaleda

The Bangladesh expatriates

"We are proud as Muslims of taking part in the reconstruction and development process

> vate firms, default by the firms and negligence to duty appeared in the press over the last one year.