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The Daily Star

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Former President Sayem passes away

By Staff Correspondent

Former President Abu Sadat Mohammad Sayem, passed away at his Dhanmondi residence in the city yesterday at the age of 81. He was suffering from old age complications.

The national flag flew at half-mast atop public buildings as a mark of respect to the late president.

The mortal remains of the former president were laid to rest at the Banani Cemetery after his name-e-janaza, held in the Supreme Court premises after Zohr prayers.

The cabinet in a meeting yesterday condoled the death of the country's first Chief Justice and former president ASM Sayem, an official press release said.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina chaired the meeting held at the cabinet room of the Jatiya Sangsad.

As soon as the news of his death came in the morning,

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IPSA renamed Bangabandhu University

The cabinet yesterday approved, in principle, conversion of the Institute of Postgraduate Studies in Agriculture (IPSA) into a university, reports UNB.

The institute will now be renamed Bangabandhu University of Postgraduate Education in Agriculture as per cabinet's approval of a unanimous recommendation made by the board of directors of the IPSA.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina presided over the meeting in the Jatiya Sangsad cabinet room.

The meeting adopted a resolution condoling the death of former President Justice ASM Sayem.

Members of the cabinet, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, secretaries and officials of Cabinet Division were present at the meeting.

Cabinet okays proposal to induct 2 more members in SEC

Star Report

The cabinet yesterday approved a proposal to incorporate two more members in the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) by amending the SEC Act, 1993.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina presided over the cabinet meeting held at the Jatiya Sangsad cabinet room.

The amendment will be placed before parliament for ratification, according to highly-placed sources.

The SEC already has two members and chairman.

But the SEC is limping with only 11 officials. The authorities are yet to strengthen its manpower on the basis of an organogram providing for 69 more people.

The Finance Ministry approved the organogram recently. But it is yet to be cleared by the Establishment Ministry.

Its chairman, Dr Harunur Rashid, tendered his resignation on June 29. But the Finance Ministry could not find out a suitable successor to Dr Harun.

A key official, an executive director of the SEC is also leaving the Commission in September.

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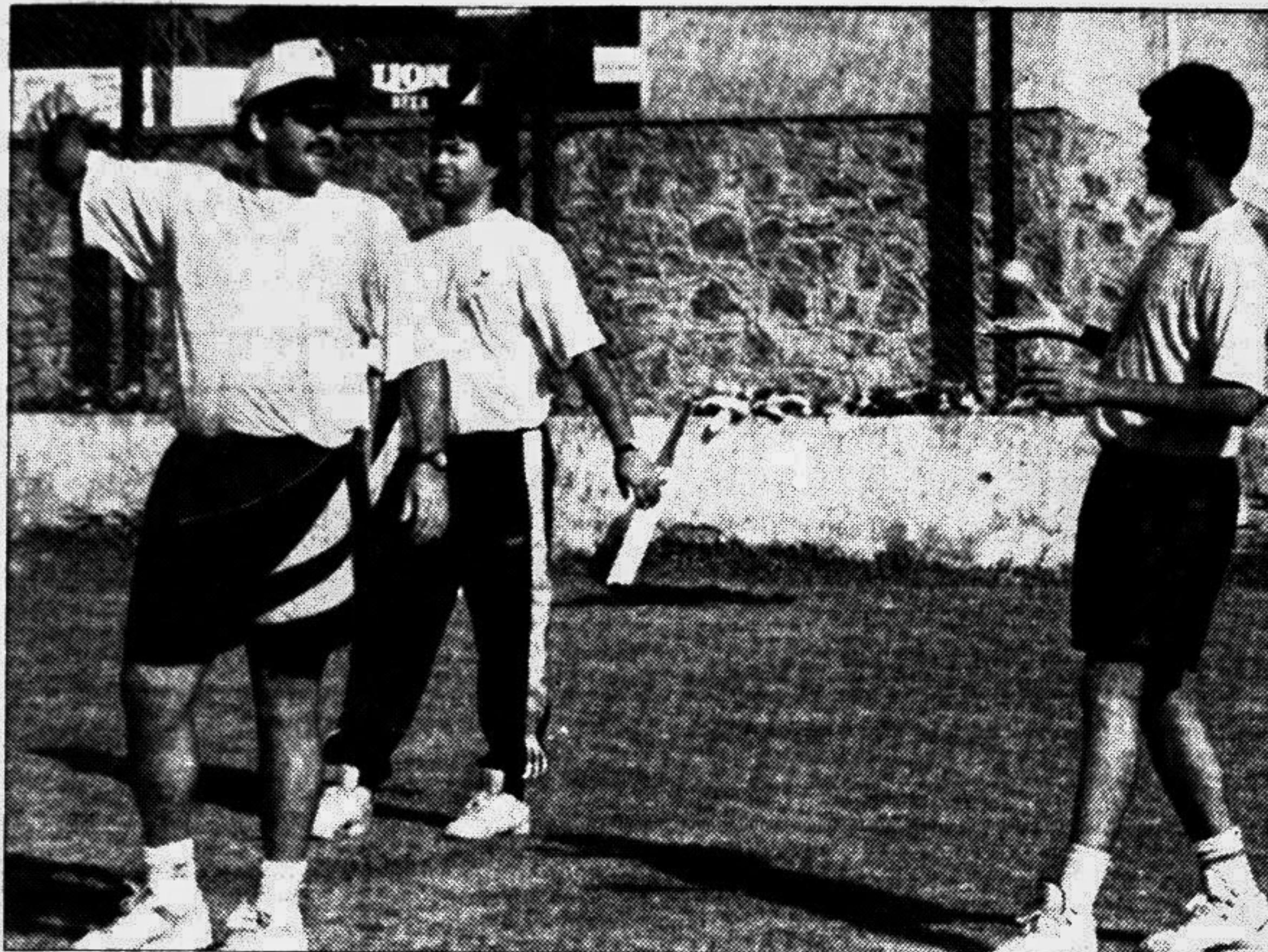
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Skipper Akram Khan (L) at the net practice session yesterday in Sri Lanka where the four-nation Asia Cup cricket tournament begins on July 14.

— AFP/UNB photo

'Nothing wrong in appointing competent relatives' Zia rewarded self-confessed killers thru' diplomatic postings: PM

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said yesterday that her government, soon after taking over, had directed Bangladesh missions abroad to make all-out efforts to draw foreign investment in the country as part of the government's 'economic diplomacy.'

The missions are sending regular reports in this regard and the envoys' performances are by and large satisfactory, she said while replying to questions in the Jatiya Sangsad during the Prime Minister's question-time yesterday.

Responding to a question by BN lawmaker Zafirul Islam Chowdhury, the Prime Minister said that there were ample

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answering to Awami League deputy Abul Kalam Azad, the Prime Minister said, steps will be taken soon against 'appointment of incompetent people as envoys by the previous government.'

She said that president Ziaur Rahman rewarded self-

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