

## WFP delegation in city

A seven-member delegation of the Executive Board of the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) arrived in the city yesterday on a week-long visit to Bangladesh to see how the food assistance is helping the poor families build their skills and assets, reports BSS.

This is for the first time that a WFP Executive Board delegation is visiting Bangladesh, the largest recipient of WFP's development food assistance.

The food assistance is targeted to the ultra-poor who consume less than 1800 calories a day — 30 million people belong to this group. Food assistance enables the beneficiaries to receive a package of training and credit to be able to 'graduate' to other development programmes, on the path to self-reliance.

The delegation members includes representatives from the governments of Lesotho, Sudan, Haiti, Slovak Republic, Jordan, UK and Pakistan.

The Deputy Regional Director of WFP for Asia and the Pacific Region, Ms Angela Van Rynbach, is accompanying the delegation.

They will meet the Finance Minister, Agriculture Minister, and Women and Children's Affairs Minister as well as senior officials of the government, donors, NGOs and UN agencies.

They will also visit the WFP-assisted Vulnerable Groups Development (VGD) and Rural Development (RD) projects in the villages of Mymensingh and Tangail.

The visit of the Executive Board delegation has particular significance in the context of a strategic change in the orientation of WFP food assistance for the poor in Bangladesh. At the end of the visit, the delegation will address a press conference on May 29.

## Indian national dies in city hotel

By Staff Correspondent

An Indian citizen died in a residential hotel in the city's Shantinagar area yesterday.

The dead was identified as Nirmalendu Roy, 36, son of Satish Chandra Roy, of Bara Daha in Chabbi Pargona district.

Police and doctors suspected that he died of cardiac arrest.

Nirmalendu along with his wife, two sons and four other relatives came here on May 20 to visit Bangladeshi hospital sources said quoting Tapan Roy, a relative of the dead.

Nirmalendu complaint of feeling sick yesterday morning, Kamla Roy, wife of the deceased sought help of the hotel authorities when his condition deteriorated, police and hospital sources said.

Hotel authorities called a doctor who declared him dead at about 11:45 am. The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Ferdous Ara rendering Nazrul songs at a function at the Nazrul Institute auditorium at Dhanmondi in the city yesterday, marking the birth centenary of the rebel poet.

— Star photo

## Goods worth Tk 28 lakh looted in Feni, Ctg

Robbers looted goods and valuables worth Tk 28 lakh from different parts of Feni and Chittagong in separate incidents recently, reports UNB.

Armed robbers looted valuables worth about Tk 5 lakh from seven houses in Parshuram thana of the district simultaneously in small hours of Wednesday.

Police and witnesses said a gang of bandits numbering 20-25 came in a microbus and looted goods one after another from the houses of Nazimuddin, Abul Kalam Azad at Solia village.

The robbers also looted valuables from the houses of Zafar Alam, Helal Mia, Alam, Shahi, Majumder and Kabir Shah at nearby Satkhira village.

Earlier, another group of robbers looted valuables worth about Tk 3 lakh from four houses of Bank Manager Oliur

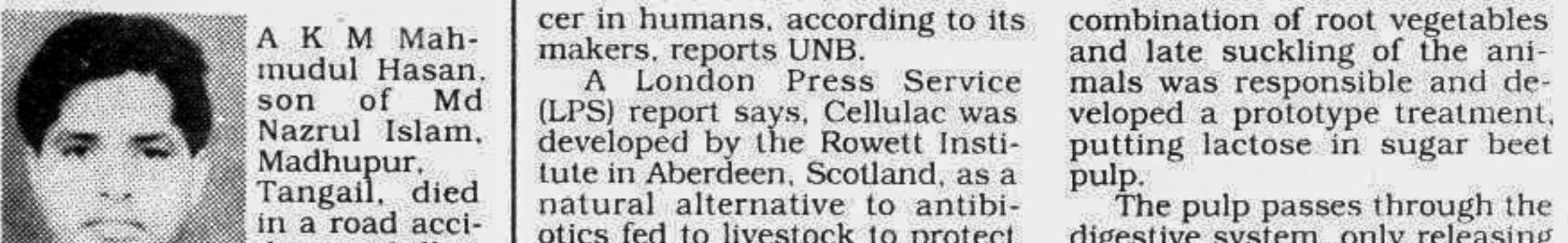
Hasan, 30, was working as the Medical Services Officer in Eskayef Bangladesh Limited.

He left behind his parents, wife, one son, one daughter and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

Her *namaj-e-janaza* was held at her residence, 80, Indira Road, on Sunday. She was buried at the Banani graveyard.

Her *qulkuwan* will be held at her Indira Road residence at 5 pm on May 25.

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A K M Mahmodul Hasan, son of Md Nazrul Islam, Madhupur, Tangail, died in a road accident in Sylhet on May 22, says a press release.

Hasan, 30, was working as the Medical Services Officer in Eskayef Bangladesh Limited.

He left behind his parents, wife, one son, one daughter and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

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Akhilakar Rahman, son of the late Khan Bahadur Bazlur Rahman, of Bagerhat and elder brother of former Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman, died of old age complications at his Dhanmondi residence on Saturday. He was 83, reports UNB.

His *qulkuwan* will be held on Tuesday after Asr prayers at his Dhanmondi residence, said a press release.

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SM Shah Alam, acting food inspector of Nayapara in Habiganj district, died of a heart attack yesterday, says a press release.

Alam, 49, was a freedom fighter. Bangladesh Mukti Joddha Sangsad has expressed profound shock at his untimely death.

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## Tofail seeks Indian investment in software sector

Commerce and Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed sought Indian investment in the Information Technology sector of Bangladesh hoping that the neighbour's expertise may play an important role in the sprouting industry, reports UNB.

He informed the Indian IT entrepreneurs that Bangladesh had announced software as a thrust sector and withdrawal of all duties and taxes on computers and accessories for its expansion.

The minister was exchanging views with IT experts and organisers while visiting Software Technology Park and software industries in India's most planned city Bangalore on Saturday, according to a message received in the city yesterday.

The Indian experts mentioned high prospects of Bangladesh in software industry.

try for its geographical position and showed keen interest in investing in this sector over here.

For its expansion, massive infrastructure development, including telecommunications and technical education, is an imperative, they said.

Referring to India's success in IT sector, the experts said only a few companies had ventured on the high-tech business in the 80s, and the number is now 1100 who are fetching a lot of export earnings.

Exports from this sector earned a paltry amount of 168 million US dollars in 1991 that shot up to 2,700 million in 1998.

They attributed the success to government's policy support, expansion of technical education, proficiency in spoken English, adaptability to new technologies, law protecting intellectual property and infrastructure development.

Tofail said the Bangladesh government had implemented almost all the 44-point recommendation submitted by the committee led by famous IT expert and former adviser of the caretaker government Dr Jamilur Reza Chowdhury.

He said the government had taken overall measures for the progress of computer education in the country. Besides, training is being provided by world famous companies like IBM, NIT and Aptech.

The government even is giving loans to the trained youths to help them be self-employed.

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For its expansion, massive



Sammilita Nari Samaj staged a protest march against police repression on women in the city yesterday.

— Star photo

## BNP programme on Zia's death anniversary

BNP has chalked out a 10-day programme to observe the 18th death anniversary of late President Ziaur Rahman, reports UNB.

A 201-member national committee has been formed for observing the death anniversary with BNP vice-president Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury as convener and city BNP convenor Sadek Hossain Khoka as member secretary, said a press release.

The programme will begin with a discussion at Engineers Institution at 4 pm on May 29. BNP Chief Begum Khaleida Zia will attend the programme.

On May 30, black flags will be hoisted at all party offices while party flag will fly at half-mast. The other programmes on the day are Quran Khwan after Fazr prayers, placing of wreaths, offering fete and milad mahfil at Zia's mazar at 9 am.

Begum Zia and other BNP leaders will distribute food among the destitute in the capital from 11 am.

A discussion meeting will be held at the National Press Club auditorium at 4 pm on the day under the auspices of Jatiyatabadi Mukti Joddha Dal.

On May 31, Jatiyatabadi Judo Dal will hold a discussion meeting at Engineers Institution.

Mahila Dal will arrange a discussion on June 1 while JCD on June 2, Zia Parishad on June 3, Samik Dal on June 4 and Shechhehabek Dal on June 5.

JS committee meets Body formed to probe SRTI irregularities

Parliamentary standing committee on the Ministry of Agriculture at a meeting yesterday reviewed the activities of the Sugarcane Research and Training Institute (SRTI) and laid emphasis on necessary training for the sugarcane growers as well as application of modern technology for increasing sugarcane production, reports BSS.

The meeting formed a three-member sub-committee headed by Whip Mohammad Mizanur Rahman Manu as its convenor to probe the alleged mismanagement in the SRTI. Two other members are Mohammad Imdadul Huq and Mohammad Abdul Wahab.

Presided over by committee chairman Dr T I M Fazle Rabbi, the meeting expressed its satisfaction over the bumper production of paddy this year.

The activities of different development projects under the ministry of agriculture were also discussed at the meeting.

The matter relating to provide subsidy in order to increase production of paddy and formulating a policy to end keeping consistency with the recommendations of the WTO and the World Bank also came up for discussion.

Committee members Food and Agriculture Minister Begum Matia Chowdhury, Whip Mizanur Rahman Manu, Dewan Farid Gazi, Mohammad Anisul Huq Chowdhury, Mohammad Imdadul Huq, Abul Kalam Azad Siddiqui, Mohammad Majibar Rahman Sarwar and Mohammad Abdul Wahab attended the meeting.

Agriculture Secretary Dr A M Shawkat Ali and other senior concerned officials were present.

**Tangail AL unit unveils Kader Siddiqi's 'property'**

By Staff Correspondent

A day after ruling party lawmaker Kader Siddiqi cast a challenge to party chief Sheikh Hasina of taking account of his assets, the Tangail district unit of Awami League is prompt enough to come up with a list of properties that Siddiqi has accumulated.

Addressing a freedom fighters' rally in the city on Saturday, Siddiqi had asked the prime minister to take account of his properties within one month, otherwise, he warned of taking account of assets owned by Sheikh Hasina, her kith and her colleagues in the cabinet.

Issuing a joint statement yesterday, the Tangail district unit president and general secretary of Awami League raised question about properties owned by Siddiqi and demanded a probe into his assets.

In their statement, Mirza Tofazzal Hossain, the president, and Fazlur Rahman Faruq, the general secretary, provided a long list of assets, which they said, had been accumulated by Kader Siddiqi. These properties include, one house in city's Mohammadpur area, a piece of land in Mirpur, two houses in Tangail, and a piece of land near Kumudini College in Tangail. Besides, they also charged him of grabbing huge property of one Hindu businessman in his constituency.

They also demanded an investigation to ascertain that how much money the two younger brothers of Kader Siddiqi had accumulated by the means of terrorism.

Siddiqi, who hails from Tangail having a special clout in Awami-politics for his role during the War of Liberation, is now surfaced on centre of a fresh fuss since after his meeting with the opposition supremo Begum Khaleida Zia. He was vehemently criticized by some party colleagues for visiting the BNP chief on last Eid.

## Nasim urges opposition to take part in upazila polls

### Meherpur-1 AL MP takes oath

Prof Abdul Mannan, declared elected MP in parliamentary by-election to Meherpur-1 seat on Awami League ticket, took oath yesterday, reports UNB.

Speaker Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury administered the oath at a simple ceremony at Sangsab Bhaban.

Present among others were State Minister for Textiles A K M Hossain, Whips Mizanur Rahman Manu and Prof Khaleda Khanam, Sultan Mohammad Monsur Ahmed MP and leaders of Meherpur Awami League.

The seat fell vacant at the death of opposition BNP member Ahmad Ali and the by-election took place on May 4.

All major opposition parties, including BNP, had stayed off the bypolls to press their demands for replacement of the Chief Election Commissioner.

**Rural electrification programme in Chaudanga**

## Police fail to check violence

### 1 more killed in 2nd day of clashes in Magura

From Our Correspondent

MAGURA, May 23: One more was killed and six others critically injured following a series of violent clashes between two groups of villagers in the early hours today.

The victim was identified as Zabedha Khatun, 80, of Chandpur village who was killed on the spot when miscreants attacked her with sharp weapons at about 1 am today. Another youth, Rakib of the same village was killed on Friday.

Police and local sources said supporters of UP members Khaleque and Awal locked into clashes over establishing supremacy in the villages of Dhalhara and Chandpur under Sadar thana on Friday.

On the first day of the violent clash, some 10 people were injured while Rakib succumbed to his injuries on way to Dhaka. Others were admitted to different hospitals.

Police arrested Sirajul, son of Nirmal Biswas from a house at Magura Natunbaraz on Friday to avert further clashes. But police failed to check today's murder and looting of

local sources said most of the male in the village have already left their homes fearing further attacks and to escape police arrest.

Meanwhile, police in a special drive during the last two days arrested a total of 61 people and recovered an India-made revolver. Most of the arrested are already accused in different cases while some 11 are allegedly real criminals.

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