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## Bid to stay close to policymakers Most of Ctg businesses relocated in Dhaka

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, May 14: Most of the businesses in Chittagong, the country's commercial capital, have been relocated in Dhaka due to lack of pragmatic measures by successive governments for decentralisation of administrative, network, business sources said.

Head offices of business firms including shipping agencies were relocated in Dhaka in a bid to stay close to the policymakers as well as to attend international bidding and business deals, the sources said.

Business leaders say the absence of decision-making bodies and infrastructure facilities in Chittagong forced most of the businesses to pack up and go to Dhaka.

Some of the top businessmen of the port city who had their start here spend most of the time in Dhaka, the sources said.

Even some multinational companies based here are following the suit to help their of-

ficials avoid shuttling between Chittagong and Dhaka for attending different meetings. GlaxoWellcome Bangladesh Ltd. has already shifted its head office to Dhaka while Lever Brothers Bangladesh Ltd. plans to do the same soon, company sources said.

Only the factory and a liaison office of Lever will be here, the sources added.

Jafrul Islam Chowdhury MP, former president of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industries and a leader of Khatungonj business community said: "The non-fulfilment of commitments by all the governments to develop Chittagong as a commercial capital prompted most of the businesses to migrate to Dhaka since all big purchase orders and major government decisions take place there."

"The head office of BEPZA (Bangladesh Export Processing Zone Authority) has not yet

been shifted to Chittagong despite a government decision long before."

Chowdhury said although the head offices of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation and Bangladesh Tea Board were shifted to Chittagong, these hold very limited power.

He said Khatungonj, which once used to control lion's share of the country's import business, is now like a ghost place.

"Some tea stalls have replaced the trading firms at Khatungonj where several thousands brokers used to do business," said Chowdhury.

He also blamed deterioration of law and order in the port city also pushed the businesses to go to Dhaka.

A large number of warehouses at Majirghat, Strand Road, Korbanigonj and Chaktal are now being used for residential purpose, businessmen said.



Shammilita Nari Samaj brought out a procession in the city yesterday in protest of the killings at Savar EPZ.

—Star photo

## Bangabandhu Communications Satellite to be launched

SAVAR, May 14: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the government would soon launch a geo-stationary satellite to be used for communication link with the world, reports UNB.

"The room for setting satellite in the space is very limited. Already many countries have set up their own satellites along the equator. If we do not install our satellite immediately, we will lose the chance for ever," she said while laying the foundation of National Institute of Bio-technology at Ganakbari here in the morning.

The Prime Minister declared that the government has taken the epoch-making decision to install the "Bangabandhu

Communications Satellite-1" and the decision would be executed soon.

Hasina also announced the government plan to set up "Science City" near the Research Centre at Savar.

She called for extensive research and development of science and technology for improvement of national economy and socio-economic condition of the people.

"Our government has given priority to the science and technology sector and undertaken development plans to cope with the fast development of world science and technology," the Prime Minister said.

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## Liaison body discusses offer for dialogue

By Staff Correspondent

Chiefs of the four component parties of the BNP-led opposition alliance will take a decision on government's offer for talks at the level of second layer of leadership for appointment of a new Chief Election Commissioner.

The decision will be taken after BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia returns to the capital from a tour of northern districts, party Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan told newsmen after an

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## 3 killed as bus, tempo collide at Feni

From Our Correspondent

FENI, May 14: Three people were killed eight others injured when a tempo collided with a bus on Feni-Majdee Road near TB Hospital here this morning.

Of the dead, two were identified as Mohammad Chowdhury, 27, son of Abdul Matin of village Masampur and Mosharraf Hossain Howlader of Sonakhali, Bagerhat. The rest could not be identified immediately.

Of the injured, one identified as Mujibur Rahman, was admitted to Feni Sadar Hospital while others were undergoing treatment at private clinics.

Police seized both bus and tempo.

## Kader Siddique asked to submit list of his assets

TANGAIL, May 14: The district Anti-Corruption Office has issued a notice to Abdul Kader Siddique, president of the Krishak-Sramik Janata League, to submit a list of his moveable and immovable property, reports UNB.

Abu Mohammad Enayet Karim, vice-president of the party received the notice on behalf of Kader Siddique on Saturday.

Kader Siddique in his reaction told newsmen today that the government has the right to know about the assets of any citizen. But it is against the rule of law to issue such notice 'on a directive from the Prime Minister's Office'.

It is learnt that the Bureau of Anti-Corruption referred to a letter of the PM's office of December 30, 1999 that asked it to serve notice on Siddique to submit a list of his assets to the Bureau within 45 days. It was asked to take legal action in case of non-compliance.

But the district anti-corruption office did not send the notice to Kader Siddique during the last few months. Finally it was sent through the police.

## Temperature may fall today

By Staff Correspondent

Day temperature in the capital fell yesterday slightly and it is likely to fall further today, weather experts said yesterday.

Life had become quite unbearable in the city due to the heat wave during last few days, true to the earlier prediction by the meteorological office, that the intolerable heat would continue. It had caused anxiety among the city dwellers.

A slightly cool wind started blowing at around 1 pm in the city yesterday and illusive clouds appeared in the sky. But there was only a few drops of rain in some parts of the capital which not only disappointed the city people, but also increased the humidity.

The highest temperature in Dhaka yesterday was recorded 34.5 degree Celsius, about two degrees less than that of the day before. Meteorological office sources said last night that there was possibility of rain in the capital within next 24 hours (by this evening).

There was rain in Sylhet, Mymensingh, Comilla and some districts of Rajshahi division yesterday. The highest temperature in the country yesterday was 36.5 degree Celsius which was recorded at Khulna and Khepupara sources added.

## Bangabhaban enquires about Humayun's condition

Bangabhaban yesterday enquired about the condition of writer Humayun Ahmed who is now recovering at National Institute for Cardiovascular Diseases and Hospital, reports UNB.

Sources at the hospital said the Presidential House rang up the section concerned at about 7:30 pm asking about the writer's health condition and his current treatment.

Doctors said Humayun Ahmed is improving. He will have to remain under intensive observation at the cabin for another two or three days," said a physician.

Humayun Ahmed was admitted to the hospital after he suffered an unstable angina, a pre-stage of heart attack early Friday morning.

## Fatik Murder Case Shikdar, Jamai Faruque, Liaquat to die

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, May 14: Notorious criminal Ershad Shikdar, Jamai Faruque and Liaquat Lashkar have again been sentenced to death in Advocate Jahangir Kabir Fatik Murder Case.

The judgement in the case was delivered today by Additional District and Sessions Judge Hasan Imam in the special court.

The court also sentenced Abdus Sabur to transportation for life with a fine of Tk 5000. Two others — Idris Ali Talukdar and Ayub Ali Khan — were sentenced to seven years' RI and fined Tk 3000 each, in default to suffer RI for one year.

Noor-e-Alam and Shikdar's first wife Khodeja Begum were acquitted. Ayub Ali Khan, Khodeja Begum and six other accused are absconding since the murder case was recorded with Daulatpur thana.

Advocate Fatik was killed for having alleged illicit relations with Shikdar's wife. Shikdar called Fatik to his residence "Swarnakomol" on April 7, 1998 and tortured him. Liaquat Lashkar and Jamai Faruque joined Shikdar in the torture while Khodeja was an onlooker.

After sunset, Fatik was taken to Skid Ghat with his mouth, hands and legs tied up with ropes. At about 10 pm, Noor-e-Alam, Sabur, Ayub Ali Khan and Idris Talukdar again tortured him. At one stage, Ershad and Jamai Faruque strangled Fatik in presence of Khodeja. She was brought there from Swarnakomol.

The body was dumped in river Bhairab at about 11-30 pm.

Confirmation of the brutal murder was obtained by police only after Shikdar's bodyguard

## Prof Ferdous released on Bail

By DU Correspondent

Mohammad Ferdous Hossain, an Assistant Professor of Political Science Department of Dhaka University, was released on bail yesterday.

He was released after 108 days confinement in the Dhaka Central Jail.

Ferdous Hossain, who is also the General Secretary of the Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA), was arrested on January 27 on charges of torturing his wife Ayesha Siddika Shely for dowry on the basis of a case filed by her brother Khalid Mahmud.

The High Court granted bail on May 8 till the disposal of the case against him for repression on his wife.

Prof SMA Fayed, Prof. Aminur Rahman Majumder, father of Ferdous M Farhar Hossain, lawyer Humayun Kabir Bulbul, Prof. Syed Abdul Kalam Azad and Prof. AKM Shahidul Islam received Ferdous at the jail gate.

When contacted last night, Ferdous Hossain denied the charges brought against him. He termed the allegation "false".

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## Myanmar PM due May 29

The Chairman of State Peace and Development Council and Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General U Than Shwe, will arrive in Dhaka on May 29 on a state visit, it was officially announced here yesterday, reports BSS.

The three-day visit of General U Than Shwe will take place at the invitation of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

## Obuchi passes away

TOKYO, May 14: Former Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi, an unassuming ruling party stalwart who defied early predictions of failure as premier, died of complications from a stroke today. He was 62, reports AP.

Obuchi died at 4:07 pm in Tokyo's Juntendo Hospital, where he had been hospitalised in a coma since last month, said Michiko Shimizu, an official in Obuchi's administrative office.

News reports earlier in the day said that Obuchi's blood pressure had dropped to a life-threatening level as he became increasingly unresponsive to treatment.

Obuchi became Japan's prime minister in July 1998 amid widespread expectations that his humble manner meant he lacked the nerve to handle the country's deepening economic problems.

Before falling ill in April, Obuchi had established a solid record as premier. He put Japan on a massive public spending plan to pull it out of recession and pushed controversial legislation through Parliament.

Obuchi suffered a stroke and was hospitalised on April 2. He later lapsed into a coma and was put on artificial respiration. Days later, Parliament elected Yoshiro Mori as his successor.

On Sunday, Mori praised the achievements of his predecessor and close friend.

## 12 to die in multiple murder case in Chandpur

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, May 14: Twelve persons have been sentenced to death and another four to life imprisonment in the sensational Jour Khali multiple murder case.

District and Sessions Judge Anwarul Huq delivered the judgement today.

Those sentenced to death under Sect 302/34 BPC are Safiqul Islam Minto, Mozammel Huq, Salamat Pradhania, Adam Ali, Manik, Son of Nuru Zamader, Manik, Son of Late Safiullah Member, Shah Jangmal, Shahjahan, Zahangir,

Ansar Revolt

case: All 54

acquitted of

charges

By Court Correspondent

The Fourth Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka yesterday acquitted all the 54 accused of charges of Ansar Revolt in 1994.

Judge, Syed Aminul Islam acquitted all the accused Ansars as the charges brought against them have not been proved.

Thousands of Ansars, an auxiliary force, staged violent demonstration at Shafipur Ansar Academy and Khilgaon Ansar Head quarters on December 1, 1994 demanding pay hike and regularisation of their service.

Soon after the revolt, Army along with Airforce, BDR and police conducted a joint operation and brought down the revolt. Two Ansars were killed in the operation.

Ansar authorities filed a case with Sabujbagh thana accusing 65 Ansars, including general secretary of the BCS Ansar Association and Prokrihi BCS Leader AKM Khademul Islam, who was then posted in Meherpur.

Criminal Investigation Department (CID) submitted a chargesheet against 54 of them after a seven-month inquiry.

The proceedings of the case continued for more than five years and completed on May 3.

After examining 23 prosecution witnesses, the judge gave the verdict.

Public prosecutor Kamrul Islam appeared for the State while M A Sattar for the accused.

Among the accused, 27 were present in the court. The rest 27 have been absconding since the incident.

## Asma dies

By Staff Correspondent

Nineteen-year-old Asma who had a kidney transplantation about 16 months back died at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital last night.

She was admitted to the hospital on April 9 with various complications. She was also suffering from tuberculosis and jaundice.

On August 11, 1998, Asma underwent an operation at Dhaka Medical College Hospital for removal of her ovarian tumour.

But doctors 'mistakenly' removed her only functioning kidney, endangering her life.

See page 11 col 5

## Triple murder: Arrested four sent to jail

By Staff Correspondent

Four people arrested in connection with the Triple Murder Case in the city's Rasulbagh area on April 5 were sent to Dhaka Central Jail yesterday.

The arrested are Abul Hossain Alam, Shahi Akram, Gollam Mohammed Rafiqul Islam and AKM Khairul Alam Nantu.

They were produced in the CMM's Court yesterday after eight days police remand in three phases.

Three young men — Babar, Selim and Russel — were shot dead at Rasulbagh in Gulshan thana.

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জাতীয় কবি কাজী নজরুল ইসলামের  
জন্মবার্ষিকী উপলক্ষে  
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নজরুল বিষয়ক সকল প্রকাশনা ও নজরুল রচনাবলী

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কমিশনে বিক্রি হবে

কপি সংগ্রহ করুন।



বাংলা একাডেমী  
জাতির মননের প্রতীক

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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আপনার ঠিকানা গড়ার  
সোনালি সেই সুযোগ, আরেকবার

১৪মে থেকে ২৭জুন ২০০০ পর্যন্ত  
মাত্র ৪৫ দিনের জন্য  
বিশেষ ছাড়

মহানগর ঢাকার কাছেই  
ছত্র নিল এক নতুন উপশহর।  
ইস্টার্ন হাউজিং লিমিটেড-এর বৃহত্তম প্রকল্প

উপশহর  
বাংলাকানন

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আপনার ঠিকানা গড়ে দেয়

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মায়াকাননে জমি বিক্রি শুরু হয়েছে।  
জমির দাম সবারই আয়ের নাগালের মধ্যে। একবারে  
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এর পর থেকে জমি বিক্রি হবে নিয়মিত  
বা চলতি দামে।

এছাড়াও  
১৪মে থেকে ২৭জুন ২০০০ তারিখের মধ্যে অন্য যে  
সব প্রকল্পে নগদ মূল্যে বিশেষ ছাড়ে  
পুট বিক্রি হচ্ছে, সেগুলো হলো  
● আফতাব নগর ● দল্লবী ২য় পর্ব  
● সাভার

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শুধু শুক্রবার  
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