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VOL. X NO. 121 REGD. NO. DA 781

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DHAKA SUNDAY MAY 21, 2000

3rd Millennium

JAISTHA 7, 1407 BS

SAFAR 16, 1421 HIJRI

16 PAGES PRICE : TAKA 6.00

## Mosharraf to be reappointed Petrobangla Chairman

By Staff Correspondent

In an unprecedented move, the government has decided to reappoint Mosharraf Hossain as Chairman of Petrobangla for the fourth time on contract basis, sources concerned said.

His contract service for the third time ended on April 13 this year. Since then Petrobangla is going without a chairman.

This time Mosharraf's contract service will be for one year and he is likely to take over as Petrobangla chairman shortly.

The sources said that reappointment of the former chairman would not remove the stalemate gripping Petrobangla. Besides, senior officials in the organisation aspiring for the post are feeling disappointed at this.

Following the expiry of Mosharraf's contract service in April, the Energy Ministry had proposed to appoint former Petrobangla director Sajedul Karim as Chairman. The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) rejected the proposal saying that the government preferred to appoint a senior engineer to the post.

The sources pointed out that this 'criterion' apparently suited only two persons — the former chairman and the Director.

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## President, PM hold closed-door talks

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina met President Shahabuddin Ahmed yesterday, generating a lot of speculations in political circles on the appointment of a new chief election commissioner.

The PM went to the Bangabhaban press release yesterday said. The President of some important issues of the state. It did not elaborate.

The meeting however generated various speculations in political quarters as the AL Presidium advised the PM and party chief on Friday to go ahead with the dictates of the Constitution as regards appointment of a new CEC. The

pal Secretary Dr S A Samad was present during the discussion, a source close to the PM said. Dr Samad was not available for comment.

Meanwhile, a Bangabhaban press release yesterday said. The Prime Minister apprised the President of some important issues of the state. It did not elaborate.

The meeting however generated various speculations in political quarters as the AL Presidium advised the PM and party chief on Friday to go ahead with the dictates of the Constitution as regards appointment of a new CEC. The

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Constitution permits the PM to unilaterally nominate a CEC for appointment by the President. The Presidium also authorised Hasina to nominate any one of her choice for the post of CEC, although some of its members suggested that the new CEC should be a retired bureaucrat.

"But the Prime Minister is not supposed to orally communicate to the President whom she wants to see as chief election commissioner," a ruling party leader said when asked about the purpose behind the PM's meeting with the Presidium.

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## Khaleda warns Anyone not acceptable should not become CEC

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia yesterday warned against anyone taking over the responsibility of Chief Election Commissioner who is not acceptable to all parties, reports UNB.

"The government is hatching another conspiracy over the appointment of CEC. Anyone who is not acceptable to all should refrain from taking over the responsibility," she said while addressing a gathering yesterday evening in front of her official residence.

Khaleda asked the conscious section of the people to remain alert so that anyone not acceptable to all is appointed as CEC.

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Arrested students and teacher (extreme right) of Matrichhaya. — Star photo

## More rains, flood forecast



Clouds overcast Dhaka sky for the last few days. — Star photo

By Special Correspondent

A moderate to severe flood is likely this year, meteorologists and experts said.

"There is a rising trend in the Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) in the Indian Ocean as in 1998 which may cause more rains than normal and flooding this monsoon", Space and Atmospheric Research Organisation (SPAARSO).

SOI indicator had been on the positive, rising since late 1999. When SOI stays high in the Indian Ocean, it means trouble for us as it happened in 1998", he noted.

There had been more than normal precipitation this year. It rained more than average

during the dry season of April and so far in May.

Choudhury said SOI indicates that the La Nina phenomenon is active in the Pacific and Indian Ocean which is an indication of flooding in the region.

La Nina is the reverse of El Nino which heralds drought. These two phenomenon are so called because they govern the world weather pattern from the 'melting pot of warm and cold ocean currents' in the Pacific off the coast of Peru.

Director of Meteorological Department Ershad Hossain agreed with Dr Choudhury. He said available data indicates that the La Nina effect is on. SOI is positive and the Indian ocean is becoming warm.

"The monsoon is likely to be active this year which means flooding, more than the normal average we have", Ershad Hossain said.

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## Hasina holds talks with Shantu Larma today

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will hold a meeting with Shantu Larma at Prime Minister's office in the city today to review the development activities in the three hill districts, reports UNB.

Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma alias Shantu Larma is the Chairman of CHT Regional Council.

Political leaders and senior officials who were involved in the peace process will also attend the meeting.

Issues likely to be discussed included implementation of the CHT peace accord, law and order situation, land problem and land commission, rehabilitation of refugees and facilities for the former Shantibahini members.

The peace accord was signed on December 2, 1997, ending the decades old tribal insurgency in the region.

Elections to the hill district councils, formation of an advisory body for CHT Affairs Min-

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## Schoolboy beaten to death 7 students arrested, teacher held for false statement

By Staff Correspondent

Seven students and a teacher of Matrichhaya Pre-cadet High School at Modhubagh in the city were arrested yesterday in connection with the killing of a student of the school Wednesday night.

The arrested students are Raju Ahmed Nayan, Rubel alias Rupok, Sharif, Sumon Sara, Mizanur Rahman, Azim Khan and Rafiqul Islam. Vice-principal of the school, Jainal Abedin, was arrested for giving false statement and filing a false case with police.

They will be taken on remand today, Ramna police said.

Abu Bayazid Mohammad Munit, 12, a residential student of class six of the school was called out of his room and beaten to death allegedly by Nayan and some other students of class ten on the plea that he had taken away some mangoes from their dormitory room.

Abu Zafar Mohammad

Editorial on page 4

Saleh, Father of Bayazid, yesterday filed a murder case against eight students for killing his son. All the FIR listed accused except one — Imran — were arrested.

In the FIR filed with Ramna thana, the victim's father stated that the school authorities informed him over telephone that his son died on the school

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## 'Five Star' group leader Raja held

By Staff Correspondent

The Detective Branch of police yesterday arrested Mosharraf Hossain Raja, 35, the leader of 'Five Star' group, from his Lake Circus residence.

Raja was arrested on charge of preventing contractors from bidding tenders of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) at Nagar Bhaban.

Mayor Mohammad Hanif, blacklisted Raja's group in Nagar Bhaban on Thursday. But police could not arrest Agha Shamim, who is also involved in similar activities like that of Raja, a former BCL leader of Zahurul Huq Hall.

Raja was produced before the CMM's court yesterday and the court placed him under one month's detention.

Five Star Group which enjoys blessings of political high-ups occupied the office of DCC Executive Engineer at Nagar Bhaban on Tuesday, allegedly

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May	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
21		6-37 pm
22	5-13 am	

**Prayer Timings**

May 21

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-15	4-45
Zohr	1-00	1-30
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-38	6-40
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation



Slain police sgt Ahad's wife and child at a press conference yesterday. They don't know what future awaits them. — Star photo

## Ahad murder Wife demands probe, arrest of culprits

By Staff Correspondent

Rokeya Prachi, wife of slain traffic sergeant Abdul Ahad, demanded thorough investigation into the murder of her husband and arrest of the culprits involved in the killing.

She urged the high officials to investigate the murder of her husband and asked why the case is now in 'cold storage'. She also wanted to know why she was not allowed to file a case and instead a faulty FIR was lodged.

The widow made the appeal at a press conference held at the conference room of the Dhaka Reporters Unity yesterday evening.

"For unknown reason, investigation of the murder case is not progressing", she noted.

Police officer, in-charge of the temporary police check post

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## Fresh movement if accord not implemented: Larma

By Staff Correspondent

Parbattya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) chairman Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma alias Shantu Larma has threatened to go for fresh movement if the CHT Peace Accord is not implemented.

Larma was speaking at the inaugural session of 11th founding anniversary and ninth central council of Pahari Chhatra Parishad (PCP) on the Dhaka University campus yesterday. This was his first public address in Dhaka since the signing of CHT Peace Accord in 1997.

Presided over by PCP president Polash Khisha, the function was also attended by Saktipada Tripura, Sanjeeb Drang, Dr Proghanendu Bikash Chakma, Wang Ching Prue and advocate Shaktiman Chakma.

Parbattya Bangalee Chhatra Parishad escorted by police brought out a procession soon after Larma started delivering his speech. They chanted slogans terming Larma as 'killer of 30 thousand Bangladeshis'.

A certain part of the government is conspiring to foil the peace accord, Larma said, adding CHT problems will not be solved unless the accord is implemented. The peace accord which was achieved at the cost of blood will not go in vain, he said.

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## Armed attack on Bangabandhu's house in '89: 2 arrested

By Staff Correspondent

The Detective Branch of police yesterday arrested two absconding accused in the case of an armed attack on the residence of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Road No 32 of Dhanmandi Residential Area on August 11, 1989.

Imam Hossain Imon and Asaduzzaman Topon were charged in the case, police said.

The two were arrested from Motijheel yesterday, police said without giving further details.

The CID investigated the case and submitted the charge sheet, police said.

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