

'Bangla has the quality to become UN language'

UNB, Dhaka

President Shahabuddin Ahmed has underscored the need for creating public opinion across the world to establish Bangla as one of the official languages of the United Nations.

"In view of quality and standard, Bengali language carries capability of taking position alongside the current six official languages of the United Nations," he said.

The president said this when a five-member delegation of Biswa Bangla Bhasha Parishad led by its Convenor, language movement veteran Abdul Matin, called on him at Bangabhaban yesterday.

Abdul Matin apprised the president that some people, who were directly involved in the struggle for independence, democracy, education, culture and economic rights, have formed the Biswa Bangla Bhasha Parishad aiming at establishing Bengali language as one of the official languages of the United Nations.

Meanwhile, the council has sent a memorandum to the UN secretary general, the delegation told the

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Budget proposal for JS Sectt likely to be approved today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Sangsad Commission, the highest decision-making body of the Jatiya Sangsad, sits today to discuss issues related to the parliament secretariat.

The meeting, scheduled at 4 in the afternoon, is expected to approve next-year's budget proposal for the Jatiya Sangsad secretariat, parliament sources said.

This time, the parliament secretariat has prepared a draft proposal seeking nearly Tk 35 crore to meet the parliament's expenditure in the next year, which is six per cent less than the previous year's allocation.

In line with the Parliament Secretariat Law 1994, Speaker Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury will preside over the meeting.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Finance Minister S A M S Kibria, Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Abdul Matin Khasru are expected to attend the meeting, the sources said.

The Sangsad Commission meeting usually takes place once a year.

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New e-mail, fax(news)

The Daily Star requests its readers and contributors to note the changed e-mail addresses:

Editorial section-
dseditor@gononet.com

News section-
dsreport@gononet.com

New fax no (news)- 8126154.

| | |
|-----------|----------|
| Sun Rises | Sun Sets |
| May 21 | 6.37 pm |
| May 22 | 5-13 am |

Prayer Timings

May 21

| | | |
|---------|--------|------|
| Azan | Jamaat | |
| Fazr | 4-20 | 4-50 |
| Zohr | 12-45 | 1-15 |
| Asr | 4-45 | 5-00 |
| Maghrib | 6-40 | 6-45 |
| Esha | 8-00 | 8-30 |

Source: Islamic Foundation

Shamsur Rahman Murder Case

5 newsmen among 16 chargesheeted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Sixteen people, including five journalists have been chargesheeted in the sensational Shamsur Rahman Murder Case.

Dulaluddin Akand, ASP of CID, submitted the charge sheet to Jessor Sadar Court yesterday.

The chargesheeted journalists are Fakir Shawkat, Benzin Khan, Nova Khandaker, Mizanur Rahman Tota and Milon. Mizanur Rahman Tota is the Bureau Chief of Dainik Inquilab at Jessor.



Wife of slain DU student Zayed Akbar Chowdhury (inset) wailing. Zayed was gunned down by a gang of miscreants at his Shewrapara residence in the city yesterday.

DU student gunned down in front of his wife

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka University student was gunned down at his Shewrapara residence in the city yesterday by a gang of armed miscreants.

Mohammed Zayed Akbar Chowdhury, a sophomore of the Department Zoology, was shot point blank on the head, chest and throat in front of his wife, Nusrat Eva.

Quoting relatives of the victim, son of Shafiqul Akbar Chowdhury, police said that a gang led by one Masum went to Shewrapara in a yellow taxicab. They left the cab waiting on the main road and went up to the third floor of the five-storey building at Shewrapara, where Zayed and Eva lived, at around 11:00am.

Zayed, who used to do modeling, and Eva got married last July.

Before marriage, Eva, a student of Eden University College, used to stay at her maternal aunt's at Shahjahanpur.

Masum, who would regularly tease Eva, once held her hostage for several days and released her only after she had signed a paper.

After the incident, Eva went to Cox's Bazar and got married to

11:00am.

They pressed the calling bell and asked for Zayed, who was sleeping then. As Zayed woke up at the noise and came to the main door, Masum shot him. While Zayed lay in a pool of blood, the assailants fled the area after firing a few blanks.

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Chittagong-7
Nurul Alam may get BNP ticket in place of SQ Chowdhury

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP has selected an alternative candidate to contest the upcoming polls in Chittagong-7 constituency in place of its axed leader Salauddin Qader Chowdhury.

Nurul Alam will replace SQ Chowdhury, who was elected from Chittagong-7 (Rangunia) on BNP ticket in 1996.

On May 10, SQ Chowdhury and Anwar Zahid were expelled from the party on charge of acting against its interest.

BNP sources said the party chairperson has asked Nurul Alam and other local leaders of Rangunia to meet her today at her Banani office to discuss the local situation and effect of SQ Chowdhury's expulsion.

They said the local BNP has welcomed the expulsion of SQ Chowdhury and expressed optimism about defeating the expelled leader in the polls.

The sources said Khaleda Zia may give Nurul Alam a go-ahead to represent BNP in the Chittagong-7 constituency.

BNP-FFs grand rally uncertain

UNB, Dhaka

A planned grand rally of the Freedom Fighters Coordination Council may not be held before the general election.

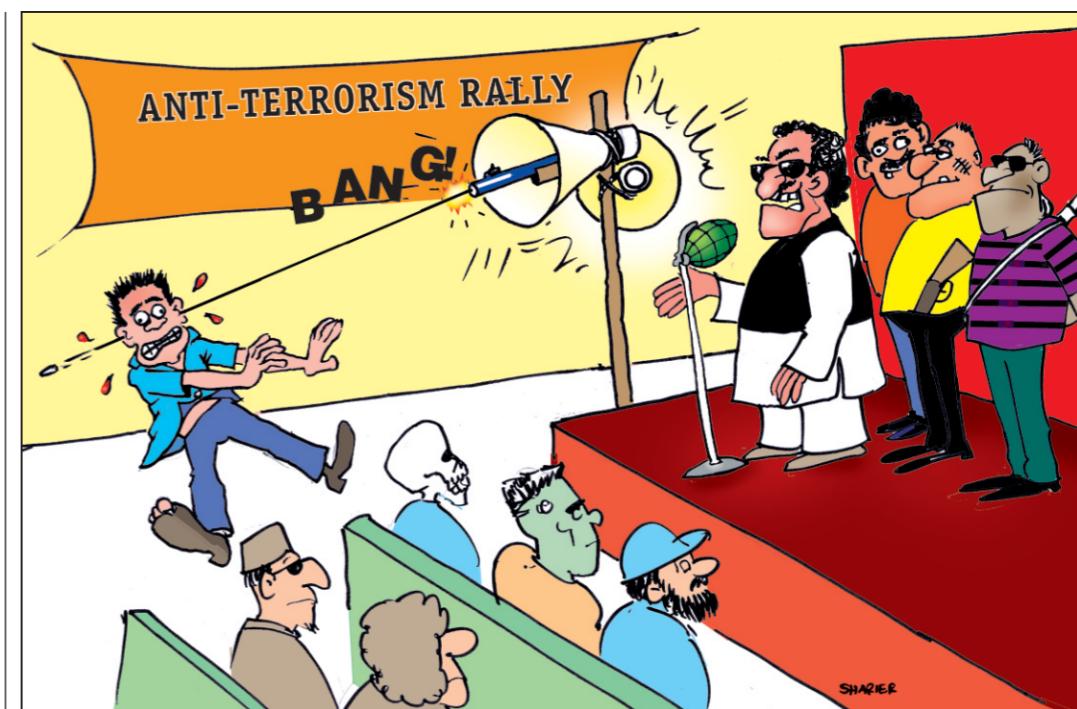
Sources close to the organisers said the wrangling within BNP forced party Chairperson Khaleda Zia to rethink about attending the rally at this stage of national politics.

BNP sources said Khaleda was "psychologically" ready to attend the grand rally, but Colonel (Retd) Oli Ahmed Bir Bikram vehemently opposed her decision to stand beside the freedom fighters who are reportedly not directly affiliated with any political party.

City BNP President Sadeq Hossain Khoka, one of the senior freedom fighters present in the meeting that decided Khaleda's support to the rally, said the rally had been put off due to political preoccupation of his party chief.

The BNP leader would not explain why Khaleda backed out from the rally planned for May 24 at

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AL fronts at the forefront

ZAYADUL AHSEN

The party, which has been most vocal against terrorism and has introduced the Public Safety Act (PSA) to uproot it, ironically provides protection for criminals in Chittagong. According to police, underworld leaders and local people, terrorists of the Bangladesh Chhatra League and the Jubo League, student and youth organisations respectively of the ruling Awami League, have unleashed a reign of terror in the port city. They operate from different colleges and educational institutions and possess a huge bulk of illegal arms.

However, conflict of interest has led to splits and there are now four groups dominating the port city and adjoining areas. Except for one, each group is loyal to one ruling party leader or the other.

Ward Commissioner Mamanur Rashid, who has recently surrendered to after having barged into the office of a news daily with his men and beating up two of its staff, leads one of these groups. The group is said to be loyal to ALM Mohiuddin Chowdhury, an allegation the Chittagong Mayor vehemently opposes.

"I have never ever protected or patronised any terrorist," he told The Daily Star. "It is true that some political leaders do nurture terrorists in their parties. I am not one of them."

The mayor himself took the initiative to have Mamun surrender to police in the face of strong protest



CHITTAGONG THE ARMS PORT-2

from the journalists' community.

Industrialist Akharruzzaman Chowdhury Babu is learnt to have the allegiance of a terrorist group, and so is AJM Nasir. The fourth group of BCL-Jubo League terrorists is not loyal to anyone in particular.

Mamun's group, which operates from the city's Omar Gani MES College area, now marshalled by Sunil Dey, Mahim and some other notorious criminals in the Jubo League leader's absence. With Mamun detained, conflict within the group is feared on the issue of

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From criminal to kingmaker

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Infamous terrorist, Jubo League leader and Ward Commissioner of Chittagong City Corporation Mamun Rashid Mamun, who surrendered recently, became a millionaire by extorting money, according to his former associates.

His crime exploits earned him the label of a 'political leader' and he has always basked in the blessing of ministers of the ruling party and an influential quarter.

Mamun settled long ago in Chittagong along with his father Abdul Mannan and other members of the family from Senbagh area of Noakhali district. Mannan used to earn a living by selling milk or pushing carts,

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Tk 19000cr ADP outlay

41 pc for poverty alleviation

UNB, Dhaka

A Tk 19,000 crore development outlay has been set for the next fiscal year with a higher component of 50 percent domestic finance.

National Economic Council, the highest decision-making body on the country's economic affairs, at a meeting yesterday approved the Annual Development Programme (ADP) budget for 2001-2002 fiscal year.

The meeting, chaired by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, also endorsed the revised ADP budget for the current fiscal year amounting to Tk 18,200 crore, up from the original

allocation of Tk 17,500 crore.

About 60 per cent of the original ADP allocation has been spent in 10 months of the current fiscal year, the NEC meeting, which also reviewed the progress of the current ADP, was told.

Poverty alleviation and related programmes share 41 percent of the development budget of the next fiscal year, the highest in last few years.

Besides, the new ADP attaches special focus on social sectors, including education and human resource development.

Special attention has also been

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25pc rice procurement quota for food minister

REAZ AHMAD and NAZRUL ISLAM

Food Minister Amir Hossain Arnu has been given 25 per cent quota as a special allocation for rice procurement in the current Boro season.

The decision was taken at a meeting at the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Food at the Sangsad Bhavan yesterday amidst strong opposition from its ruling party members, meeting sources told The Daily Star.

The decision will permit the Food Minister to give special allocation from his quota in consultation with members of the Standing Committee.

There is no precedence of such special quota for a minister for food procurement, which is usually done by the Directorate of Food through thana level purchasing centres.

Deputy Minister for Food Dhirendra Debnath Shambhu told The Daily Star, "I strongly opposed the idea of such a special quota. However, the meeting decided that the Minister would allocation from the special quota in consultation with other Committee members." He declined to elaborate.

Another ruling party lawmaker, preferring not to be named, also acknowledged the decision regarding the special quota. The rest 75 per cent would be procured through the Directorate of Food, he said.

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