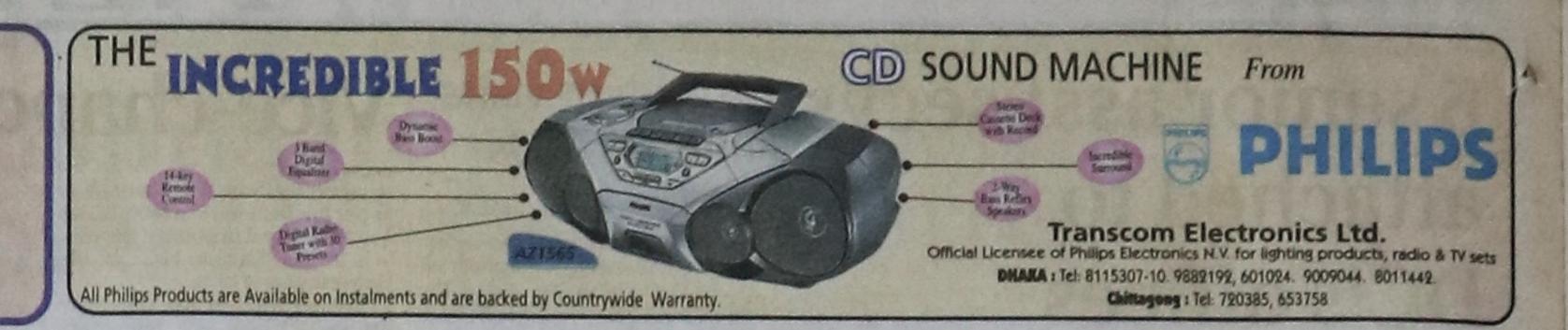


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## A modern hospital fails to take off just for lack of furniture!

STAR ROVING TEAM

Equipped with a range of top-ofthe-rank machinery worth crores of taka and doctors and other staff, a modern 20-bed hospital at South Charaicha under Char Fasson upazila in Bhola has remained completely inoperative for more than three and half years for what they said lack of furni-

The 25 hospital staff including four doctors, nurses and technicians have to remain idle although more than Tk one lakh per month is spent for them from the public coffer.

Head Clerk of the hospital Mohammad Jashimuddin said the hospital could not start functioning as the office of Director General of Health is yet to provide required furniture.

The modern hospital was completed under a Saudi grant of around Tk five crore in 1998 to

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1



PHOTO: STAR

The 20-bed hospital at South Charaicha under Char Fasson upazila in Bhola

## Herat falls, Northern Alliance prepares to attack Kunduz

AP, Kabul

Anti-Taliban fighters yesterday seized the most important city in western Afghanistan and were closing in on the last Taliban stronghold in the north, opposition spokesman said. Taliban fighters were fleeing positions along the front north of the capital.

In Kabul, residents could hear the steady roar of jets heading toward the front north of the capital yesterday afternoon. Ambulances could be seen racing from the centre of the city toward the front lines.

said anti-Taliban fighters entered the city to Herat yesterday morning. An Iranian radio correspondent, broadcasting from Herat, said Taliban troops were fleeing the city and others appeared to be surrendering.

An official in the Taliban's Information Ministry, speaking on condition of anonymity, said "possibly Herat has collapsed." Herat sits along the main road to Kandahar more than 500 kilometers to the southeast which is the birthplace of the Taliban and home of Taliban supreme leader Mullah Mohammed Omar and Osama bin Laden.

Abil also reported that alliance forces captured northern Baghlan province and were preparing to move against the last Taliban bastion in the north-Kunduz. Both areas are mostly ethnic Pashtuns the same ethnic group as the Taliban while the rest of the north is largely Tajik, Uzbek and Shiite Muslim.

On the Kabul front, Abil said the opposition captured Qarabagh district, 25 kilometers north of the capital. Opposition forces pushed the Taliban back 10 kilometers along the old road to Kabul.

Truckloads of opposition fighters shouting "God is great" could be seen heading down the road to shore up the newly won opposition positions against any counterattack. Asked where the trucks were going, one opposi-

Hasina invited

Chinese Ambassador Hu Qian Wen,

yesterday invited Leader of the

Opposition in parliament and

Awami League President Sheikh

Wen extended the invitation to

Hasina on behalf of the Communist

Party of China and his government

when he called on her at Sudha

invitation and recalled her visits to

China as opposition leader in 1993

and as Prime Minister in 1996. She

also recalled Bangabandhu's visit to

the opposition leader that China

would always remain beside

consolidated during the five-year

During talks the envoy assured

"The Sino-Bangla relations were

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

Sheikh Hasina accepted the

Bhaban in the city yesterday.

to visit China

UNB, Dhaka

China in 1953.

Bangladesh.

Hasina to visit China.

tion soldier Commander Adel shouted "to Kabul, to Kabul."

Kabul, said Taliban soldiers in several key strongholds on the western side of the contested Shomali plain were surrendering. Opposition soldiers in rear echelon posts north of Kabul, listening to radio communications among their colleagues farther forward, could hear them shouting "shoot them, shoot them" and issuing orders to capture four

Jubilant opposition fighters near Jabal Saraj, about 50 kilometers north of

Taliban tanks. Abil said opposition forces at some points along the Kabul front advanced Opposition spokesman Mohammed Abil, speaking by satellite telephone, 15 kilometers in less than an hour, stopping only after meeting heavy Taliban

> Within three days, the opposition has expanded its control from about 10 per cent of the country to nearly half. It remained unclear whether the opposition could maintain that momentum as they approach Taliban strongholds in the southern Pashtun heartland.

In Islamabad, the Taliban's ambassador in Pakistan, Abdul Salam Zaeef, acknowledged that the Islamic militia had withdrawn from seven northern provinces.

"The Islamic army of the Taliban withdrew from these provinces in an organized way to avoid civilian casualties," he said in Pakistan's capital Islamabad.

On the Kabul front, US aircraft, including B-52 bombers, bombed Taliban positions yesterday, drawing only sporadic anti-aircraft fire. Taliban and opposition fighters traded artillery and mortar fire that appeared heavier than in previous days.

Reuters adds: Several vehicles of Taliban fighters packed with their belongings were seen leaving Kabul late yesterday and at government ministries across the city the number of Taliban guards had decreased sharply.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

PHOTO: AL

#### Saifur's son elected from Moulvibazar-3

UNB, Moulvibazar

M Naser Rahman of BNP-led 4-party alliance was unofficially elected in the by-election in Moulvibazar-3 constituency yesterday, said an Election Commission release.

Naser, son of Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman, polled 102,987 votes while the other candidate, Syed Shahabuddin Ahmed of Islami Jatiya Oikya Front got 6,201 votes.

A total of 109,750 voters, out of 277,624, cast their votes of which 109,188 were found valid. The JS seat was vacated by Saifur,

who was elected from two constituencies and his son was nominated by BNP.

### 231 attached to Establishment Ministryas OSD, JS told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 231 government officials of different ranks are now attached to the Ministry of Establishment as OSD (Officer on Special Duty), the Jatiya Sangsad was told yesterday.

Of them, 49 were made OSD during the tenure of the immediatepast caretaker government.

The officials are four secretaries, 15 joint secretaries, 59 deputy secretaries, 76 senior assistant secretaries and 77 assistant secretaries, Barrister Aminul Islam, minister in charge of establishment ministry in parliament said replying to a query from Mawlana Delwar Hossain Sayeedi of Jamaat-e-Islami.

The four secretaries were made OSD after the BNP-led coalition government assumed in power on October 10. They are Anil Chandra Singh, Mohammad Rasidul Alam, Mofazzel Hossain and Khanada Mohon Das.

> UNB adds: To another question SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

## JS tidbits

NAZMUL ASHRAF

In a breakaway of tradition, Treasury Bench Whip Moshiur Rahman yesterday accused Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar of curbing his privilege as a member of parlia-

ment. "I submitted a notice seeking general discussion in the House on the allegations made by Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina about the October 1 general election. But, you have curbed my privilege by not accepting my notice," an angry Rahman said, rising on a point of order in the Jatiya Sangsad.

An apparently puzzled Speaker said the notice was under examination and that he would do the need-

Jatiya Party lawmaker Motiur Rahman accused outgoing President Shahabuddin Ahmad of embarrassing the people by his latest address to the House. "The president delivered contradictory addresses during two regimes. The speech he gave in the present parliament is opposite to the one he had

While maintenance work of one of the utility service providers on a busy road at Malibagh in the city goes on at a snail's pace, it is hours of traffic jam for commuters every day.

## Khaleda assigns ministers with task of dev work in their constituencies

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has entrusted 64 ministers, chief whip, state ministers, whips and deputy ministers with the tasks of overall development in their respective districts.

Political Secretary to the Prime Minister Haris Chowdhury told newsmen yesterday that designated ministers, chief whip, state ministers, whips and deputy ministers will work to ensure development and monitor law and order in different districts as well as take initiatives to improve the law and order situa-

The ministers given charges for different districts are: Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman for Sylhet and Moulvibazar, LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan for Narsingdi, Textiles Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury for Narayanganj, Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Khandaker Musharraf Hossain for Comilla, Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Barrister Moudud Ahmed for Noakhali, Shipping Minister Akbar Hossain for Chandpur, Food Minister Tariqul Islam for Jessore, Communications Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda for Dhaka, Industries Minister M K Anwar for Gazipur,

Disaster Management and Relief Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf for Faridpur, Minister for Labour and Employment Abdullah Al Noman for Shariatpur, Housing and Public Works Minister Mirza Abbas for Kishoreganj, Commerce Minister Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury for Chittagong, Women and Children Affairs Minister Khurshid Jahan Huq for Dinajpur, Information Minister Dr A Moyeen Khan for Kurigram, Water Resources Minister L K Siddiqui for Noagaon, Post and Telecommunications Minister Barrister Aminul Hug for Rajshahi, Home Minister Altaf Hossain Choudhury for Patuakhali, Agriculture Minister Matiur Rahman Nizami for Pabna, Minister for Forest and Environment Shahjahan Siraj for Kushita, Minister for Fisheries and Livestock Sadek Hossain Khoka for Jhenaidah, Land Minister M Shamsul Islam for Munshiganj, Jute Minister Hafizuddin Ahmed Bir Bikram for Barguna, Minister Harunur Rashid Khan Monno for Rajbari and Social Welfare Minister Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahid for Madaripur. The Chief Whip Khandoker Delwar Hossain was given charges for Manikganj.

The state minister who were given charges for different districts SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

## IPRC decree at Islamic University!

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of students under the banner of Islami Paribesh Rakkha Committee (IPRC) on Sunday banned free movement of male and female students together on the Islamic University campus in Kushtia.

According to Islamic University sources, the IPRC activists made the announcement through loudspeakers on the campus. It said male and female students will no more be allowed to hang around together on the campus area.

The committee is patronised by some Islamist teachers of the university and the Jamaat-e-Islami-backed student wing, Islamic Chhatra Shibir (ICS), the campus sources said.

The IPRC activists declared that they would take photographs of the couples having a date in the area adjacent to the university central mosque and under the trees. They also threatened to send the photographs to the guardians of the students in question.

Besides, the female students have been asked to wear dresses that conform to Islamic dress codes; otherwise tar would be poured on them as a punitive

Jubo Dal leader handed over to police

Attack on AL men in Bagerhat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Bagerhat district Jubo Dal leader Mahbubur Rahman Tutul was handed over to Sadar thana police yesterday for his alleged involvement in an armed attack on some AL leaders and Journalists on Sunday. He was handed over to police at

the instruction of MAH Selim MP, President of Bagerhat district unit of BNP, said a party press release. But till the filing of this report,

neither the injured journalists nor AL leaders filed any case in this connection.

Journalists in Bagerhat will bring out a silent procession today and submit a memorandum to the DC and the SP, demanding impartial

inquiry into the incident and punishment of those involved.

Fifteen 15 persons including seven journalists and former state district AL.

The OC of Sadar thana said the attack was made when a meeting of party leaders, and not a press conference, was being held. The meeting was called to chalk out programmes for movement against terrorism,

The SP said legal action would be taken against those found involved in attacking a closed-door meeting SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

## 'Promote, protect human rights in South Asia'

BSS, New Delhi

share a light moment during a courtesy meeting at her Dhanmondi residence yesterday.

Human rights activists on the second day of the founding congress of South Asian Human Rights (SAHR) here yesterday called for all-out efforts to promote and protect human rights in the region cutting across all forms of discrimination.

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina and newly appointed Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Hu Qian Wen

The two-day conference which began on Sunday is being attended by former Indian Prime Minister I K Gujral, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Mary Robinson, a 50member delegation from Bangladesh, a more than 100 member-delegation from Pakistan besides host India.

The Bangladesh delegation include Appellate Division Judge of the Supreme Court, Justice Fazlul Karim, Law Commission Chairman, Justice Nayeemuddin Ahmed, lawyers Dr Kamal Hossain, Aminul Islam, Sigma Huda, economist Prof Rehman Sobhan, senior journalists, Editor of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam, Zaglul Ahmed Chowdhury

and Abdul Qayyum Mukul, civil society leaders Dr Hameeda Hossain, Taleya Rehman and Sultana Kamal, cultural activists Sara Zaker and Shomi Kaiser and Law Commission Secretary Iktedar Ahmed.

Earlier, while inaugurating the conference Mary Robinson cautioned against the violation of human rights in the global "fixation" with the war against terrorism.

"What must never be forgotten is that human rights are no hindrance to the promotion of peace and security. Rather they are an essential element in any strategy to defeat terrorism," she said.

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights described as a remarkable development the emergence of a body like SAHR in the

Pakistan's human right activist Asma Jahangir said excessive use of force was not the answer to terror-

# 2 killed, 35 hurt

Bhola flooded UNB, Bhola

gusty or squally winds.

Low-lying char areas of Bhola district have been flooded with the abnorma rise of tide water as an effect of depression.

Abnormal rise of tidal water

Low-lying areas of

The flooded areas include Char Nizam, Dhal Char, Kukri Mukri and Char Patila.

Besides, strong wind and unusual tide water caused excessive damage

to standing Aman crops and drizzle hampered normal public life. Meanwhile, the depression over northwest Bay and adjoining area was likely to move further in a northeasterly direction and cross Bangladesh

and West Bengal coast last night grazing Orissa coast. It centred at about 660 kms west-southwest of Chittagong port, 645 kms west-southwest of Cox's Bazar port and 450 kms southwest of Monglar

port at 12 noon yesterday. Maximum sustain wind within 44 kms of the depression centre is about 40 kph rising up to 50 kph in gust or squalls. Sea will remain moderate. Maritime ports of Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and Mongla have been

advised to keep hoisted local cautionary signal No three. Under the influence of the depression, the coastal districts of Satkhira, Khulna, Barguna, Bagerhat, Jhalakati, Pirojpur, Patuakhali, Barisal, Bhola, Noakhali, Feni, Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and their offshore islands and

chars are likely to experience moderately heavy to heavy rainfalls with

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

#### as roof collapses in Gazipur UNB, Gazipur

At least two construction workers were killed and 35 injured when roof of an under-construction commercial building collapsed at Kashimpur Central Jail Road in Konabari area on Sunday night.

The dead were identified as Buddo Sheikh, 22, of Gozaria village in Sirajganj and Rafiq, 22, of Noyapara village of Tangail district.

Police apprehended that more bodies may be trapped under the debris of the building of Mutual Products company. Two of the injured were admitted

to Sadar Hospital Police said that a fault in plan on low-quality work might be cause

behind the collapse. Relatives of the construction labourers working in Konabari area thronged the spot yesterday search-

ing for new of their relatives. Authorities of the construction firm or Mutual Products were not

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4 SEE PAGE 11 COL 5 | OSD in the same ministry. available for comment. EDITOR: MAHFUZ ANAM-Published by the Editor from Transcraft Ltd., 229 Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd. 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1209, 8124944,



PHOTO: STAR

## SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

Digging of busy roads in

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With some of the city thoroughfares in poor condition for long, digging of some busy roads by utility service providers is causing immense sufferings to the city dwellers as it aggravates the menacing traffic jam.

The roads from Mowchak crossing to Mogbazar, Jaikali Mandir Road, Nawabpur Road, Green Road, Panthapath, Tongi Diversion Road have been in a poor condition due to lack of repair for over two years,

Road digging continues almost throughout the year. Pipeline laying work of Dhaka WASA is going on at Panthapath now. Earth filling has been done in a portion of the dug up road but it is yet to be carpeted.

Digging at Green Road started a few days back for laying WASA pipe-BTTB dug a road connecting

to repair it. When asked, an official of DCC's engineering department said its zonal office is supposed to look after the road. On repair of Panthapath, the

DCC official said, " Dhaka WASA is yet to hand over the road to us. Even to us, we have to wait for few weeks so that the earth does not cave in after repair."

the Fourth Dhaka Water Supply

Project. The company has so far laid

Mirpur Road and Green Road through Kazipara more than one year back. But the authorities are yet

appointment, on contract, will be Economic Relations Division. In other changes Afzal Hossain

after a damaged road is handed over A Chinese company is laying 39 km pipeline for Dhaka WASA under

### Falu Political Secy-2 to PM SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

yesterday appointed Political Secretary-2 to Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, an official announcement said.

Falu was private secretary-2 to

Khaleda Zia during her earlier ten-

Mohammad Mosaddeq Ali Falu was

ure as prime minister from 1991 to Lt Commander (Rtd) Saiful Islam was appointed Private Secretary-2 to Prime Minister Khaleda Zia. His

effective from the day of his joining. Ayub Qadri, agriculture secretary was appointed the Secretary,

Ahmed, secretary-in-charge of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Ministry, was promoted to the post of Secretary in the same ministry. Mesbahuddin Ahmed was appointed Secretary, Power Division while Sabihuddin Ahmed, OSD at the Establishment Ministry was appointed additional secretary as an

#### minister Dr Mozammel Hossain were injured in the attack at Amlapara residence of Fakir Mohammad Mansur, secretary of