

## President lauds Malaysia's stand on Muslim Ummah

UNB, Dhaka

Malaysia's new High Commissioner Ashaari Bin Sani presented his credentials to President A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury at Bangabhaban yesterday.

Welcoming the High Commissioner, President Chowdhury said Bangladesh and Malaysia share very intimate ties of friendship spreading over many years.

He said the rich historic and cultural traditions that bind the two countries are based on common aspiration of the two peoples to achieve social and economic emancipation in an environment of peace and stability in this region.

The President said Bangladesh admires Malaysia's stand on issues

## PDB disconnects 1692 lines in Khulna

UNB, Dhaka

Power Development Board (PDB) disconnected electric lines of 1,558 defaulters and 134 illegal ones in Khulna region in three weeks since January 12.

During the period PDB also filed cases against 119 defaulters.

PDB disconnected lines of some jute mills and also realised Tk 1.78 crore outstanding bills through sending notice.

In addition to that, Tk 28 lakh outstanding bills were realised by disconnecting lines of 694 default consumers, said a press release yesterday.

concerning the Muslim Ummah as well as her commendable role in all regional and global fora.

He hoped that the bilateral trade and commerce, cooperation in economic, cultural, technical and educational fields would be further enhanced in future.

Reciprocating similar sentiment, Malaysian envoy Ashaari Bin Sani said both the countries are bound by common social aspirations.

He stressed the importance of economic cooperation between the two countries and hoped that the existing friendly bilateral relations would be further developed and diversified.

Earlier, on his arrival at Bangabhaban, the High Commissioner was given a guard of honour by the President's Guard Regiment. He took salute and inspected the guard.

Foreign Secretary Shamsur Mobin Chowdhury, Secretary to the President M Abdul Huq and MSP Major General A M Mansur Ahmed were present on the occasion.

## NU exams rescheduled

UNB, Dhaka

All examinations of National University including degree pass, subsidiary, certificate course and journalism, to be held on Saturday, have been rescheduled.

The examinations will now be held at 2:00 pm instead of 10:00 am on the same day, says a press release.

## Parveen, Mukhles elected OCAB president, secy

UNB, Dhaka

Annual general meeting and election of the Overseas Correspondents Association Bangladesh (OCAB) was held yesterday at the National Press Club.

Parveen F Chowdhury and M Mukhlesur Rahman Chowdhury were elected president and general secretary respectively of the OCAB for the current year (2002).

Other office-bearers are: vice-president-Lutful Kabir Saadi, joint secretary-Sukumar Sarkar, and treasurer-Enamul Haque.

Rashed Chowdhury, Moslem Uddin Ahmed, Mostafa Kamal Majumdar, Bimol Kumar Dutt and Akshay Kumar Rout were elected members of the executive committee. Outgoing president S M Zahurul Alam is also ex-officio EC member.

## MSCS workshop held

The Marie Stopes Clinic Society (MSCS) organised a workshop on the importance of contribution of the MSCS doctors to the improvement of reproductive health on January 26 and 27, says a press release.

Mir Shahabuddin, DG, Family Planning, Health & Family Planning Ministry, was present at the closing session as chief guest.

Doctor Jahiruddin Ahmed, Technical advisor, Engender Health, Dr Momena Khatun, Programme Manager, Maternal Health, ESP, Prof Latifa Shamsuddin, Prof Dr Anowara Begum and Dr Ashrafunnesa attended the workshop held at the BRAC centre.



Hrishij Shilpi Goshthi brought out a colourful procession in the city yesterday as part of its silver jubilee celebrations.

## Build up social resistance to stop violence against women

Minister tells confce on dowry

BSS, Dhaka

State Minister for Cultural Affairs Begum Selima Rahman yesterday called for building up a social resistance against all forms of violence against women.

She urged all, including political leaders, lawyers, women rights activists and members of the civil society to put in their efforts to make this movement a success.

The minister was addressing the inaugural function of an 'International Conference on Dowry: Realities and Strategies for Intervention in South Asia', organised jointly by the Women for Women, a non-government organisation (NGO), and the British Council.

Termining violence against women a "problem of civilisation", Selima Rahman said: "Violence is stalking women everywhere in the

world and the problem could not be isolated from any country, any nation or any continent."

Turning to Bangladesh, she said the government led by Prime Minister Khaleda Zia was well aware of the problems facing the women.

"Measures have been taken to formulate a law to curb acid attacks on them," she said, adding that it was the BNP government that enacted a law in 1980 to contain crimes relating to dowry.

She, however, noted that only enactment of laws is not enough to combat crimes against women, whose economic helplessness caused the culture of dowry to take root in the country.

She said the tradition of dowry crept in with the evolution of feudalism that shut women's door to economic activities and confined

them to their houses, destroying their road to empowerment.

"It also opened the door for exploitation of women," she said.

Selima Rahman stressed the need for emancipation of women to bring an end to their helplessness and urged all to take a coordinated programme to this end.

Chaired by Salma Khan, former chairman of UN-CEDAW, the conference was also addressed by Motiur Rahman, Editor of the Prothom Alo.

Dr Werner Menski of the School of Oriental and African Studies of the University of London presented the keynote paper and K Reuter, director of the British Council, gave the address of welcome.

## \$18m UNFPA aid for population programme

UNB, Dhaka

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) will provide 18 million US dollars to Bangladesh for its three-year population programme from 2003 to 2005.

This was disclosed at a high level inter-ministerial strategic planning meeting with UNFPA at the NEC Bhaban here yesterday.

Chaired by ERD Secretary Anisul Huq Chowdhury, the meeting was attended by UNFPA representative Suneta Mukherjee, Wasim Zaman, Director of Country Support Team (CST), office for South and West Asia and high officials from different ministries, divisions and development partners.

During the meeting, Suneta Mukherjee presented the UNFPA's programme outlines for its next cycle assistance. The first cycle, started in 1998, will end in December this year.

UNFPA assistance during 2003-2005 will focus on safe motherhood, issues related to decline in total fertility rate (TFR) and behavioural change communication, says a press release.

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Interested parties are requested to contact to the undersigned (s) immediately, expressing their intent of sale, with full description of the land not later than 10<sup>th</sup> Feb, 2002.

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## GRATITUDE

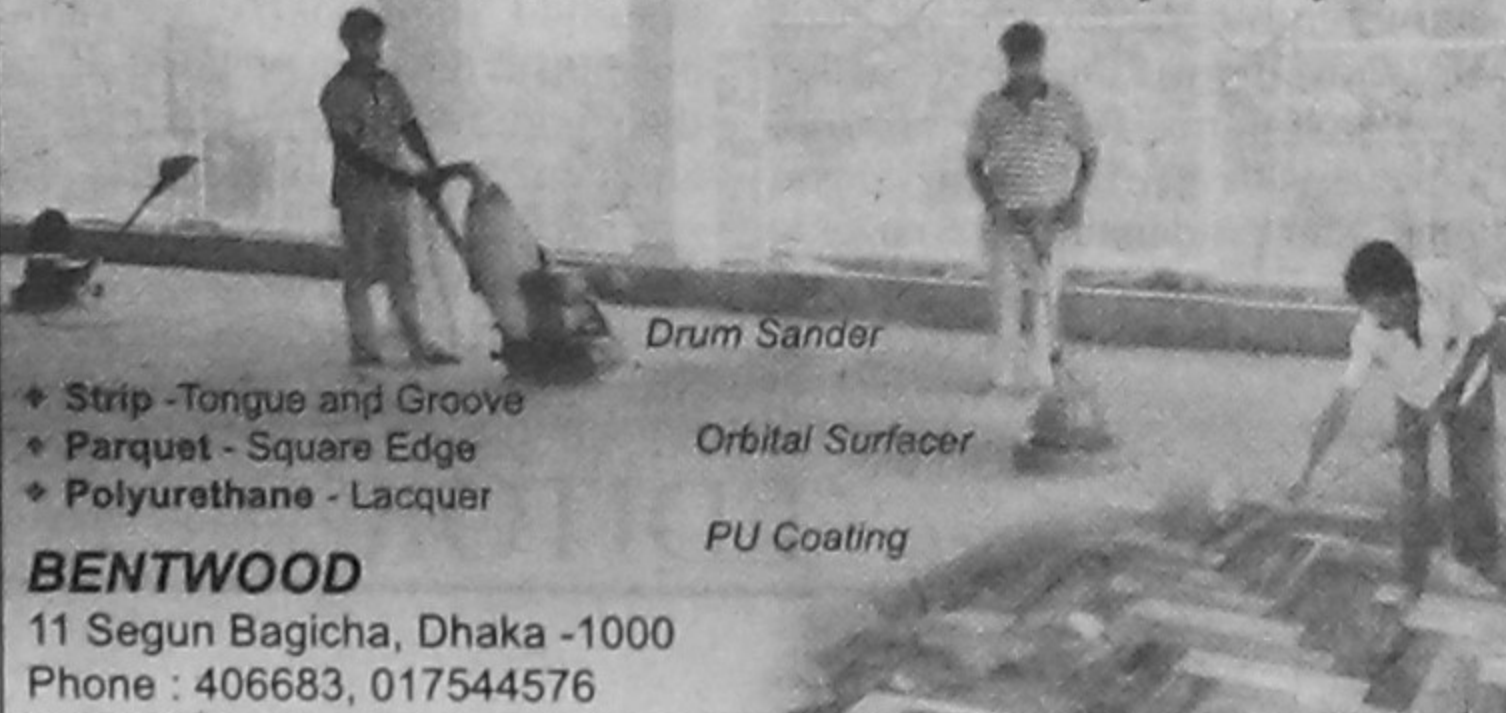


We have lost our only daughter Shakila Yasmin (Tumpa) and son-in-law Nurul Haque Mia in the most heinous terrorist attack on the World Trade Center in New York. They were at work there at the time of the barbarous attack. Till today we have not been able to know of their whereabouts. It is believed that they are no more. Many friends, relatives and well wishers from around the world have expressed their condolences through telephone and mail. We sincerely appreciate their kindness and concern. We humbly request you all to pray for their departed souls.

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## WE REMEMBER



On his 9th death anniversary today, we profoundly remember our Founder Managing Director & Chairman LATE ABDUL AZIZ H. A. SATTAR and request all relatives, friends, colleagues & admirers to pray for the salvation of his departed soul.

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