

5 heads of govt meet Khaleda

QUEENSLAND, UNB

Heads of government from five Commonwealth countries yesterday met Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at her Hyatt Regency hotel and discussed bilateral issues.

The leaders from Canada, New Zealand, Australia, the UK and South Africa hold talks with her on the sidelines of the CHOGM conference.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, who is attending the four-day Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in this resort city, leaves here for Sydney today.

She is likely to address in Sydney Bangladeshi living in Australia.

Land broker gunned down in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unidentified armed gang gunned down a land broker in front of his residence at Baitul Aman Housing at North Ababor in the city's Mohammadpur area yesterday morning.

Abu Hasan Salauddin, 45, was shot in the head and chest as he was about to get in a taxi cab in front of his house at about 11:00am.

The gang of four came in a yellow cab and shot Hasan. Fatally injured Hasan was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital where the on-duty doctors declared him dead.

Police after primary investigations said Hasan might have been killed following a row over a building, 'Torongo Complex', at Mirpur in the city with his rival, Surj Miah.

Surj died three years ago and his sons filed a civil suit against Hasan over the property. Hasan was on his way to the court to attend the hearing of the case when the assailants killed him.

Hasan is survived by two sons and a daughter.



Dhaka re-elected C'wealth body member

BSS, Coolum

Bangladesh has been re-elected member of the re-constituted eight-member Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG).

Re-election of Bangladesh to the CMAG was made yesterday by the Commonwealth heads of governments along with Australia, Botswana and Nigeria. The new entrants into the group are India, Bahamas, Malta and Samoa.

Briefing newsmen, Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan said the re-election of Bangladesh to the body was a recognition of the country's contributions towards upholding the Harare principles including consolidation of the roots of democracy across the Commonwealth.

The term of the CMAG is two years.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia drew attention of the Commonwealth leaders with her effective deliberations and suggestions on terrorism, economy and politics, the foreign minister said. All the suggestions and points have been incorporated in the Coolum Communiqué 2002.

Khan said most of the leaders appreciated and supported the proposals and deliberations made by Khaleda.

In this respect, he said New Zealand quoted Khaleda's state

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia pets a koala at a barbecue dinner for the heads of delegations and their spouses hosted by Australian Prime Minister John Howard and his wife Janette at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Coolum, Australia yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Hartal, rallies, processions in Khulna Complainant of Harun murder case allegedly threatened

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A half-day hartal, rallies and processions in the city yesterday vented public anger and protests against the killing of journalist Harun-ar-Rashid while police allegedly resorted to a 'go slow' policy in probing the incident.

"There is no doubt that he was killed by outlaws", a high-ranking police official told this correspondent.

But the OC of Khalishpur thana who is the investigation officer (IO) of the case is going slow in detecting the killers who belong to the Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBPC), sources alleged. The IO could not make any breakthrough in the investigation till yesterday.

PBPC outlaw Aslam, arrested in connection with the case, was not taken on remand. The two others -- Humayun Kabir and Nuruzzaman Sohel -- were taken on three days' remand on Sunday. They are all residents of Pabla of Daulatpur.

The sources alleged that their arrest, made on Sunday, was an "eye wash" to "twist the truth and damage the merit of the case".

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

The complainant of the case is feeling insecure as he is reported to have received threats to withdraw the case. But when asked, the OC termed the allegation a "blatant lie".

Home Minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury is expected in Khulna today. He will visit the slain journalist's residence and meet his family, sources in the ruling party said.

Harun, crime reporter of the Daily Purbanchal, was gunned by unidentified assailants near Nasaria Madrasa at Mujgunni under Khalishpur thana Sunday evening. "We are investigating the case on the basis of three clues", the OC said not ruling out any conspiracy by vested quarters to keep the south-western zone in a state of lawlessness with help of outlaws.

"The second clue we are checking and re-checking is that Harun incurred displeasure of PBPC outlaws of his Darea and Pabla areas under Daulatpur thana by writing against their terrorist activities, extortion, rape and

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

murder. They are all residents of Pabla of Daulatpur.

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