

## Lawlessness engulfs entire country: Hasina

UNB, Dhaka

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina has said the BNP coalition government turned the country into a "Moger Mulluk" marked by chaos, lawlessness, terrorism, murder, rape, corruption and price hike of essentials.

"Chaos and lawlessness engulf the entire country under the rule of coalition government. Instead of peace, BNP-Jamaat regime hit bellow the belt of the poor by raising price of essentials. Rape and murder is an everyday affair," she said in a blistering attack on the 7-month old Khaleda Zia's government.

Hasina was speaking at the 9th annual conference of Lion District 315 B-2 at Hotel Sonargaon on Friday night.

Pointing to recent killings, Hasina said elected Ward Commissioners of the ruling party were murdered by their own cadres over dispute in collecting tolls or grabbing property.

Even monk, priest, teacher, en-

gineer, doctor and child have not been spared by terrorists. Ruling party cadres raped more than 1000 women and girls taking advantage of their helplessness, she added.

The former Prime Minister urged the Lions, especially Lionesses to stand beside the oppressed humanity, extend their service and "cooperation to the hapless people."

Chaired by outgoing governor Mohammad Enayetullah, the conference was also addressed by newly elected governor M Aminul Islam Mia, Vice-District governor Mohammad Abdul Hye and convention Chairman Khandaker Jahangir Kabir.

Referring to the recent City Corporation elections, the Awami League President said people were not allowed to cast vote freely for candidates of their choice. Supporters of opponent candidates were harassed and tortured.

She said the people in power have become mad to pile up quick fortunes by indulging in corruption and indiscipline.

Drawing a sharp contrast Ha-

sina said during her five-year rule socio-economic condition of the poor had improved. She was able to turn the "hands of beggars into a workforce." The country attained self-sufficiency in food and left a surplus of 25 lakh metric tons as against a deficit of 40 lakh when she took over power in 1996.

"But now food production is going down requiring import. The price of essentials and agriculture inputs has gone up. Commonman are passing through economic hardship," she told the audience.

The former Prime Minister said the crux of the problem lays in government suffering from indecision and its leaders' lust for illegal fortunes. They lacked integrity and competence to govern the country.

Praising the role of Lions in serving the distressed humanity through social works, including eye donation, blood donation and education programmes, Hasina assured her cooperation in advancing social awareness and social reform activities of the Lions.

## 1415 more held, 6 arms seized

BSS, Dhaka

Police recovered six firearms, 10 other type of arms and 18 bullets during the last 24-hours country-wide operation ending at 6 am yesterday.

Police arrested 1,415 people, including six identified criminals and two outlawed party members, from across the country.

The arrested 12 people in connection with the arms recovery and six cases were filed against them under Arms Act, a police headquarter press release said yesterday.

The two outlawed party members are: Lijakat Laskar of Purbia Banglar Communist Party of Khulna and Adu of Sramajibi Mukti Andolan of Khushia.

The identified arrested criminals are: Jewel alias Rafiqul Haidar of Feni district, Mohammad Nazibul alias Nazibul of Chittagong, Saiful Islam alias Pasha, Tipon, Mohammad Kaziuddin and Hanif of Dhaka city.

Police arrested 647 wanted accused and 748 people in connection with the different cases under investigation.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Reporters Sans Frontieres (RSF) has protested the jail terms and fines awarded to the chief editor and the publisher of the daily Manavzamin in a cassette scam case.

In a protest letter sent to the Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed, the RSF said sentencing a journalist to jail term on the outdated and repressive charge of

contempt sets a dangerous precedent for press freedom in Bangladesh.

Expressing disappointment over the verdict, RSF secretary General Robert Menard noted that the UN Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression has described sending someone to prison for expressing an opinion as being "out of proportion to the offences."

To avoid more sentences like this, the RSF also proposes to the government to amend necessary laws for the establishing of freedom of the press in the country.

"We urge that the offence should be abolished and the law amended to drop prison terms for media offences," said Robert Menard.

The High Court on Monday sentenced chief editor of the Manavzamin, Matjur Rahman Choudhury to a one-month jail term and fined him Tk 2,000. Mahbuba Choudhury, the publisher, was also fined Tk 2,000 on charge of contempt of court.

## 10 held for hill cutting

BSS, Chittagong

Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) yesterday arrested 10 people while they were illegally cutting hill at South Khutshi in the city yesterday afternoon, police said.

Acting on a secret information, police rushed to the spot and caught red-handed the 10 with two soil-loaded trucks.



Girls performing a dance number at a function marking the 103rd birth anniversary of poet Kazi Nazrul Islam at the Shishu Academy auditorium in the city yesterday.

PHOTO STAR

## Morshed meets Senator McCain

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan yesterday met US Senator John McCain in Washington and discussed matters relating to bilateral interests.

At the meeting, Morshed Khan highlighted Bangladesh's role in the US peacekeeping operations in various troubled spots of the world and its support in defending democracy and free society across the world.

Senator McCain expressed satisfaction over the existing ties between the USA and Bangladesh and hoped that it would strengthen further in the years to come, according to a message received in the city.

He appreciated Bangladesh's peacekeeping role and various

## Mostafiz, Saiful Feni Samity president, secy

UNB, Dhaka

Industrialist Mostafizur Rahman and former bureaucrat Saiful Alam have been elected president and general secretary respectively of Feni samity, an association of Dhaka-based people from Feni district.

Mostafizur Rahman, owner of Crown Group of Companies, bagged 2,869 votes while his opponent Akram Hossain got 1,782 votes in the election to the 55-member committee held in the city on Friday.

Saiful Alam, a former deputy secretary of the government, secured 2,842 votes against 1,744 polled by his rival Badrul Chowdhury.

Some 5,200 out of about 8,500 members of the association cast their votes. The results were declared yesterday.

"We'll try to make the samity a homely meeting place for Feni people in Dhaka. We'll rebuild its image and make it capable of representing Feni in Dhaka and abroad," Mostafizur Rahman told UNB over telephone.

## One killed in road accident in Khulna

BSS, Khulna

One Abdur Rob Akon, 55, was killed in a road accident at Jora Gate under Sonadanga thana in the city yesterday.

Police said the accident occurred while a truck hit the auto-rickshaw from behind at Jora Gate area. As a result Akon fell down from the auto-rickshaw and was seriously injured. He was rushed to Khulna Medical College Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.

The victim was going to Daulatpur.

The driver with the truck managed to escape.

A case registered with Sonadanga thana in this connection.

## Academic life of 7 JU students uncertain

JU CORRESPONDENT

As the authorities have denied to extend any kind of assistance to seven innocent students of Jahangirnagar University who have been charged under Public Safety Act, uncertainty now looms large over their academic life.

Police arrested them from JU Dairy Farm gate on February 1 while the students were protesting the death of a teacher in road accident and filed a case against 300 students under Public Safety Act (PSA) on the following day.

Later, the seven students - Bishwajit, Rakib, Faruk, Fazul, Ashraf, Murad and Palash were released on bail on February 16.

The university authorities earlier assured that they would extend all possible assistance to free them but they are now declining to do so.

Addressing a press conference at JU Journalists' Association Office yesterday, the seven students said Vice Chancellor Prof Jasim Uddin Ahmad has brushed off the possibility of any assistance when they met him Thursday.

"It is not an incident of the campus. Police arrested them from outside the campus", the vice-chancellor told them.

The students are now seeking

help of the campus insiders.

Police submitted chargesheet against them on April 21 saying that they would submit another chargesheet against the rest of 300 students after collecting information about them.

Bangladesh Manabdhikar Sangbadik Forum (BMSF) and Bangladesh Rehabilitation Centre for Trauma Victims (BRCT) jointly conducted an investigation into the incident and submitted report to the home ministry, Savar thana and JU authorities asking them to withdraw all charges against the students.

When contacted yesterday, the vice-chancellor was not available to comment on the matter.

Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof M Imamuddin said "As I don't know all the developments in this connection, I cannot make any comment at this moment".

Meanwhile, JU Press Club and BMSF, JU unit will jointly bring out a procession on May 27 protesting the authorities' indifference to get the release of innocent students including Moyezuddin Palash, staff reporter of Rupali Desh.

Some other organisations are also expected to announce agitation programme soon to press the authorities for their release.

## AL protests arrests in N'ganj

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League general secretary Zillur Rahman condemned the arrest of innocent people by BDR troops from different parts of Narayanganj Friday night.

In a statement yesterday, the AL leader said the BDR men raided Sadar, Patulla and Siddhirganj upazilas and arrested 15 party leaders and workers keeping local administration and police in the dark.

He demanded unconditional and immediate release of the arrested party leaders and workers.

In another statement, Zillur deplored the arrest of party leader and vice-president of Bangladesh Medical Association Dr Badiuzzaman Dablu without any warrant.

## Dr Enamul Huq JICA Alumni Assoc president

BSS, Dhaka

Dr Enamul Huq, a former inspector general of police (IGP), was elected president of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Alumni Association in its elections held on Friday.

Former deputy director general of the BTV Khaleda Fahmi and vice-chancellor of the Patuakhali Science and Technological University Dr Abdul Hannan Bhuiyan were elected vice presidents, according to a press release.

Former chairman of the BRTC Ajmal Chowdhury and Khandker Shawkat Hussain were elected secretary general and joint secretary general respectively.

Dr Enamul Huq was elected by a wide margin against Prof Dr Matjur Rahman.

## Young-Dedicated Mariner Passes Away



Tarek Mahmood Moin (27), the young dedicated marine officer from Bangladesh Marine Academy 29th Batch, youngest son of Late Md Kazim Uddin passed away on Wednesday at 8.05 PM (Inna..... Rajeyun) at Dhaka. He was buried at his family graveyard at Kishoregonj.

On February 1993 he joined at Marine Academy, Chittagong as a Cadet. He completed his academy training successfully on 1995 and in the same year he joined in sea vessels as officer. During his professional carrier he served different home and foreign vessels with dedication and efficiency. He also took different training in home and abroad. On 1999 he got Certificate of Competency from

MPA, Singapore. On January 2001 he fell sick on board. Immediately he was taken to Madras, India and there he was undergone a successful Kidney Transplantation. After transplant last one year he passed very smoothly but at the end of April 2002 he fell sick again. And later he was taken to Madras and Singapore for better treatment. After coming back to the country he was hospitalised at Monowara Hospital and till death he was there.

His Kulhwani will be held on Sunday 26 May 2002 after Asar prayers at his residence 10/C, Mirbagh (Nayatola), Dhaka-1217. All relatives, friends, Mariners and well-wishers are requested to join to the Milad and pray for the departed soul as he can be rest in peace in Jannatul Ferdous.

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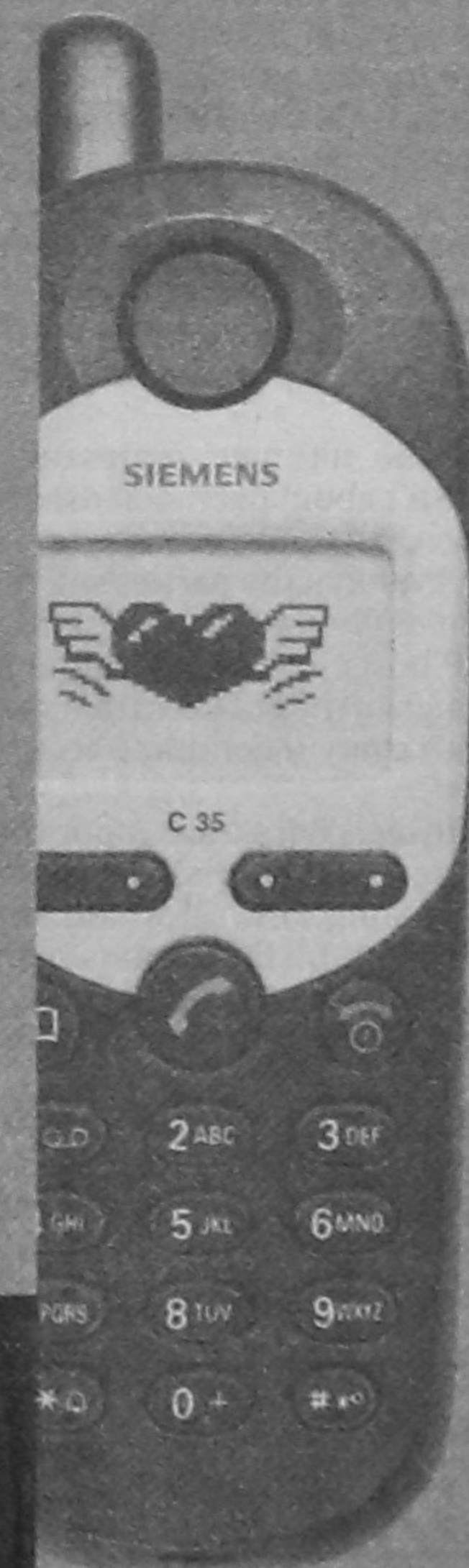
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