

## Focus on admin instead of repression

Hasina urges govt

UNB, Dhaka

Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina yesterday advised the government to run the country properly ensuring peace and security of the people instead of continuing repression on opposition activists.

"It would be better for them to concentrate on administration rather than to remain busy suppressing Awami League," she said talking to newsmen after visiting just-released Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) president Liaquat Shikder and general secretary Nazrul Islam Babu at ZH Shikder Medical College Hospital at Rayer Bazar.

She alleged that the government had brutally tortured the BCL leaders on false allegations and continued its repressive action against innocent people and Awami League leaders and workers across the country.

The two were arrested on February 25 while coming out of Hasina's residence, Sudha Sadan, after exchanging Eid greetings with the party chief a day after Eid-ul-Azha.

Talking to the press, Hasina said the government was torturing the Awami League workers to eliminate the party. "But," she asserted, "it is not possible to annihilate Awami League as it is a party of the people and working for the people."

The Awami League president said "BNP-Jamaat-Shibir cadres" are unleashing terrorism across the country and the government is filing "false cases" against the Awami League workers. She said the government is torturing the political detainees unjustly, treating them as criminals, and called upon the government to stop "political persecution".

Replying to queries about the recent release of some Awami League leaders and workers in a row, she said the government was setting them free "due to pressure from the court and not out of a liberal outlook".

A large number of BCL leaders and workers gathered at the hospital to see their leaders after their tribulations.

Hasina welcomed them with bouquets and stayed beside them enquiring about their health. The BCL leaders narrated to Hasina the "torture" meted out to them during imprisonment.

Awami League leaders Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, former Mayor Mohammad Hanif, Dr Mostofa Jalal Mohiuddin and Saber Hossain Chowdhury were present.



Chairman of the TIB trustee board Prof. Khan Sarwar Murshid speaking at the National Integrity Workshop at the CIRDAP auditorium in the city yesterday. Former chief advisor of the caretaker government Justice Habibur Rahman is on his left and Prof Muzaffer Ahmad is on his right. (Story on page 1)

## Attack on police camp Cabinet body asks DB to arrest culprits

BSS, Dhaka

The government has directed the detective police to hunt down those who dared to attack the Radhumbhari Police Camp under Belkuchi Thana, killing four policemen and looting nine firearms on September 16.

The Cabinet Committee on Law and Order at its 28th meeting yesterday asked the police chief to engage plainclothes police to arrest the killers and put them on trial.

IGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan chaired the meeting, which was attended by Law Minister Moudud Ahmed, Health Minister Dr. Khodoker Mosharrar Hossain, Home Minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury, Education Minister Dr. Osman Faruk, Mayor of Dhaka and Fisheries Minister Sadek Hossain Khoka and Food Minister Abdullah Al Noman.

State Minister for Home Affairs Lutfozzaman Babar, Cabinet Secretary Dr. Saadat Hossain and other secretaries of different ministries concerned were also present at the meeting held at the secretariat yesterday afternoon.

The sources said the cabinet committee expressed reservation over the performance of the uniformed police personnel as they could not yet arrest the killers even after arresting a number of suspects from the area.

Police arrested a total of 169 people of the area after the incident and released all but 11, who are now under police remand for further interrogation.

"The firearms should be recovered at any cost, but at the same time police have been asked to avoid any harassment of innocents in Sirajganj and adjoining areas," Mannan Bhuiyan told journalists after the meeting. He also said the un-uniformed police personnel have been asked to look into the matter with due importance.

BSS Sirajganj correspondent said the authorities yesterday closed the officer-in-charge of Belkuchi Thana and suspended two other police officials for negligence of duty.

OC Abdul Razzaque, Radhumbhari Camp in-charge Subedar Abdul Hannan and Havildar Ataur Rahman were closed with Sirajganj Police Line yesterday.

Police arrested two people from the area suspecting them as members of the outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party known as the Sarbahara Party.

Janatar Mancha Case: PR Chanda placed on remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Former Additional DIG of Police Pratik Ranjan Chanda (PR Chanda), arrested in connection with the Janatar Mancha Case (sedition case), was placed on a two-day remand yesterday.

The Investigation Officer (IO) of the case produced the accused in the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM's) Court, Dhaka, with a prayer for a five-day remand.

The defence lawyers submitted a petition seeking bail and cancellation of the remand prayer.

They stated that their client's name was not mentioned in the FIR of the case. Moreover, seven other FIR named accused, including former state minister for planning Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, were earlier granted bail. So, the accused should be released on bail as a co-accused, they said.

The prosecution side opposed the bail petition.

After hearing both sides, Magistrate Maksudur Rahman Patwari rejected the bail petition.

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**CONDOLENCE MESSAGE**

Al-Haj A. M. M. Khan (Abul Mozaffar Md. Khan), retired WMC Bangladesh Railway, breathed his last at 2:45 PM Saturday 21st September at Bangladesh Medical College (BMC), Dhaka. Innaillahi wa ilaihi Raziun... He was 84 years old. His Namaz-e-Janaza will be held on 23rd September, after Asr prayers at Baitul Mukarram Mosque. Special prayers (Qul) will be offered for the departed soul tomorrow the 24th of September after Magreb prayers at 26 East Tejuri Bazar, Tejgoan, Dhaka-1215. All relatives, family and associates are cordially invited to participate in the prayer for the departed soul.

Sons & Daughters  
K. A. Jahangir Khan  
Rita Malik  
Shahin Iqbal Khan  
Naïma Rahman. C-2111

## Jessore blast Hasan Imam protests govt move

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Syed Hasan Imam, president of Udichi Shilpi Gosthi, yesterday strongly protested what he said the government's conspiracy to victimise him by mentioning his name as one of the masterminds of Jessore Bomb Blast in an investigation report.

In a written statement, Syed Hasan Imam said the inquiry commission, constituted by the present government for the investigation of the case, in its report has mentioned his name as one of the masterminds of Jessore bomb blast along with former prime minister Sheikh Hasina and former home minister Mohammad Nasim.

"This is a heinous conspiracy of the present government to victimise me and save the real culprits," he said adding that the government has suspended the previous cases related to the bomb blast and released the accused on bail.

Syed Hasan Imam rejected the "politically motivated" report of the inquiry commission and appealed to the people to protest the conspiracy of the government to victimise the opposition personalities.

Leaders of the District Bar Association had drawn the attention of Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed to the matter during his recent visit here.

Special Public Prosecutor of the court Advocate Mofizul Hoq

Listed criminal 'Disco' Sattar held in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Listed criminal 'Disco' Sattar, 32, was arrested by Khulna thana police from Skid ghat yesterday.

Sattar and his accomplices attacked river police outpost on August 7 to snatch a criminal named Momin Sarder, 40, from custody. But they had to retreat in the face of strong resistance by police.

An accomplice of condemned prisoner Ershad Shikdar, Sattar was wanted in several criminal cases, police said.

## Mockbul, 12 others asked to appear in court Nov 23

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The First Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka, yesterday directed former Awami League lawmaker Alhaj Mockbul Hossain and 12 others accused in the Sajal Chowdhury Murder Case to appear before the court on November 23.

Judge Mohammad Sirajul Islam passed the order after the case was placed before him.

Twelve other accused are Abul Hossain, Nurul Islam alias Ratan, Mohammad Habibur Rahman, Mohammad Sadeq Khan, Mohammad Mahabbat Ali, Mohammad Shahin, Nazmul Karim alias Tinku, Harun, Mahtab Uddin Nannu, Hossain Haider, Rabiul alias Rabiul Kasai and Shamim. Of the accused Mockbul Hossain and Abul Hossain are now on bail, while the rest have been absconding since the incident.

The investigation officer (IO) of the case submitted a charge sheet to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM's) Court, Dhaka, against Mockbul Hossain and 12 others on May 2, this year. Later, the CMM's Court, on July 15 transferred it to the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka, for trial.

Sajal Chowdhury, a BNP activist, was gunned down near the Science Laboratory in the city by armed men from a convoy allegedly led by former AL lawmaker Mockbul Hossain during an opposition called hartal on February 9, 1999.

Dhanmondi police recorded a murder case in this connection.

In the FIR it was stated that Sajal was shot dead during a clash involving activists of BNP, Jamaat-e-Islami and the then ruling Awami League.

Later, victim's father filed a general diary (GD) alleging that a gang of gunmen led by Mockbul Hossain killed his son.

The then IO of the case submitted "final report" on December 25, 1999 as there was no witness in the case.

The case was revived on November 27 last year.

## No judge in Ctg spl court for 3 months

BSS, Ctg

Many cases remain pending in the Special Court for Prevention of Women and Children Repression as there is no judge in this court for last three months.

Court sources said the absence of the judge in this court caused suffering to the justice seekers as no other court in the district except that of the District and Sessions Judge's Court had the status to deal with such cases.

The District and Sessions Judge's Court sometimes look into the cases of the special court in addition to its own cases. But District and Sessions Judge Ali Ashraf Khan Lodi stopped hearing cases after receiving a transfer order.

Nearly 1,500 cases, of which more than 600 are criminal miscellaneous cases, were lying pending in this court for long enhancing woes of those who have strong ground to get bail, the sources said.

Leaders of the District Bar Association had drawn the attention of Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed to the matter during his recent visit here.

Special Public Prosecutor of the court Advocate Mofizul Hoq

Bhuiyan said the authorities concerned had already been informed of this in writing. He hoped that the government would soon appoint a judge.

Meanwhile, district unit of Bangladesh Society for the Enforcement of Human Rights (BSEHR) in a statement demanded immediate appointment of a judge in the special court.

IT seminar at CU tomorrow

CU CORRESPONDENT

A seminar on 'Prospect of Medical Transcription in Bangladesh' will be held at the Commerce Faculty auditorium of Chittagong University (CU) tomorrow.

The seminar will be organised by E-Venture Limited, a computer centre.

Prof A J M Nuruddin Chowdhury, Vice-Chancellor of CU will attend the seminar as chief guest while Prof Mohammad Shamsuddin, pro-vice-chancellor and Prof Nurul Mostafa, dean of Science Faculty as special guests.

## Govt contemplating to withdraw reservations to CEDAW

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is contemplating to withdraw its reservations to article 2 and article 16 of Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

This was disclosed at a workshop in the city yesterday. The draft of the fifth periodic report on CEDAW which covers the period from 1997 to 2001 was disseminated at the workshop organised by the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs. It will be submitted to CEDAW Committee of the United Nations after finalisation.

The government earlier had its reservations to article 2 and 16 of the convention since it felt these are inconsistent with the Sharia Law.

"Bangladesh should not have reservations to those two articles since they are the heart of the convention," said Mahfuzul Islam, Secretary, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs.

Salma Khan, former Chair of CEDAW, noted that withdrawal of the reservations to the articles will ensure the country's commitment to CEDAW. "Earlier, the reservations caused the CEDAW committee to ask whether Bangladesh is governed by Sharia Law," she mentioned.

Minister for Women and Children Affairs Khurshid Jahan Huq stressed the need for scrapping the discriminatory provisions of the laws to ensure the involvement of women in the mainstream society.

Addressing as chief guest, she said the country could not achieve the desired development, if gender discrimination prevails in the society.

The draft of the report consisting three main parts focuses on different issues related to CEDAW. It provides information on current socio-economic status of women in the country as well as the measures taken by the government to implement the Beijing Platform for Actions in the Critical Areas of Concern.

It showed that the labour force participation rate of females has increased from 15.8 million to 23.9 million since 1995.

It also discussed the legal framework for protection of legal rights of women, including formulation and amendment to some laws such as Acid Crime Prevention Act 2002, Prevention of Women and Child Repression Act 2000, and Child Marriage restraint Act of 1929.

Dr. Khodoker Mosharrar Hossain, State Minister for Women and Children Affairs, and Ferdous Ara Begum, joint secretary of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, also spoke on the occasion.

## Girl killed in city road accident

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A girl student of class five was crushed and two others were injured when a speeding minibus hit them in front of Baitul Tower in the city's Badda area yesterday.

The victim was identified as Nazma Akhter, 10, a student of Alatusna School.

Nazma died on the spot as the minibus crushed her under its wheels. The accident occurred when she was crossing the road at around 12.30 pm.

Two others, injured in the accident, could not be identified immediately.

The death of the girl sparked tense among other students and the local people. They put up barricade on the Progoti Saroni and damaged several vehicles.

Unconfirmed sources said the agitating people also set fire on three vehicles.

Police rushed to the spot to bring the situation under control. They had to fire teargas shells to disperse the mob.

An unnatural death case was filed in this regard.

## Acid attack on jewellery shop employee in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An employee of a jewellery shop suffered acid burn injury when a young man threw acid on him following an altercation in front of the shop at Lalmatia in the city's Mohammadpur area yesterday.

Mohammad Alim, 16 was locked in an altercation with Bakkar in front of the shop at about 11.30 am.

At one stage Bakkar brought acid from inside the shop and threw it on Alim.

## Tax holiday for CNG industry

UNB, Dhaka

The government has announced tax holiday for CNG terminal, transmission line and CNG-conversion centre to help growth of the emerging industry based on the country's newfound wealth in natural gas.

However, official sources said, CNG filling stations will not come under the income-tax waiver.

The National Board of Revenue made the announcement following a letter from the Energy and Mineral Resources Division.

Since it is considered a thrust sector in the draft industrial policy, industry people said the CNG filling station would also come under the tax holiday.

### SITUATION VACANT

#### SENIOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM MANAGER

The Australian High Commission is soliciting applications for its Development Section from Bangladeshi nationals for the following positions: Senior Program Officer and Senior Development Manager. The incumbent will be required to:

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Training and experience in the Education and Agriculture/Food sectors, and experience working with an NGO are highly desirable.

Appropriately qualified applicants should provide a photo and curriculum vitae and well as a covering letter stating the reason for applying for the position.

Only the short listed candidates will be notified of the results. Any representation made on behalf of the candidates may cause the candidates to be disqualified from consideration for these positions.

Closing date for the application is October 10, 2002. Please send your application to AusAID Section, Australian High Commission, 184 Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka 1212 and clearly mark the envelope "Development Position".

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### Dividend Warrants

This is for general information of the respected Shareholders that those who have not as yet collected their Dividend Warrants covering Cash Dividend @30% declared in the 7th Annual General Meeting held on 5th August, 2002 may collect the same during office hours from the Head Office of the Bank upto 30th September, 2002.

Those Dividend Warrants which will not be collected within the aforesaid date will be sent by Courier/Registered post in the recorded address of the respective Shareholders at their risk and responsibilities.

A. K. QURESHI  
Company Secretary