



Visiting President of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Tadao Chino and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia are at a meeting at the Prime Minister's Office yesterday.

## Saber yet to get division in jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Saber Hossain Chowdhury, political secretary to Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina, was not given division until yesterday, the third day of his detention in jail. AL sources have said Saber is staying with ordinary inmates and could not sign the vokalatnama due to non-cooperation of the jail authorities.

Without his signature on the vokalatnama, Saber's counsels cannot move a writ against the detention order in the High Court.

Saber was sent to the Dhaka Central Jail Monday on a one-month detention and shifted to the Gazipur Jail, the next day.

Earlier, Saber, a former deputy minister, was produced before a first class magistrate's court upon expiry of a five-day remand on Monday.

On October 22, the Additional District Magistrate's Court, Dhaka sentenced him to jail. On October 29, Saber received bails in two cases against him.

Now, a writ against the detention and verdict in his favour can release him from jail.

## Rape case Accused gets life term in absentia

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The lone absconding accused in the Jahanara rape case was yesterday sentenced to life in prison for raping housewife Jahanara Begum, 26.

Judge Abu Hanif of the special court for prevention of repression on women and children found Anwar Hossain of Gangpara of Paba Thana in Rajshahi guilty of rape under section (6) of the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act of 2002.

The judgement will be executed as soon as the convict is caught or surrenders.

The prosecution case in brief is that Anwar, along with six of his accomplices, raped Jahanara by turn at gunpoint in front of her parents after forcibly entering their house in the city's Chhoto Bonogram area on the night of Eid-ul-Azha on March 29, 1999.

Jahanara, who was staying at her father's house after being divorced from her husband, could not identify the six accomplices of Anwar and neither could the investigating authorities.

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## Greenhouse gas emission cut Vajpayee against tagging rich nations with poor

ABDUL JALIL BHUIYAN, New Delhi

Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee yesterday said poor countries battling to feed their starving population should not be set the same targets as rich nations for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Opening the ministerial section of a high-powered United Nations meeting on climate change in the Indian capital, Vajpayee urged developed countries to aid poorer nations in their efforts to reduce emissions of gases contributing to global warming.

Also, he said, there is a need to pay attention to the concerns of the developing countries about vulnerability and adaptation issues in the convention process.

"There have been suggestions recently that a process

should commence to enhance commitments of developing countries on mitigating climate change beyond that included in the (UN) convention. This suggestion is misplaced for several reasons," Vajpayee said.

"First, our per capita greenhouse gas emissions are only a fraction of the world average, and an order of magnitude below that of many developed countries. This situation will not change for several decades to come," he added.

"Developing countries do not have adequate resources to meet their basic human needs. Climate change mitigation will bring additional strain to the already fragile economies of the developing countries and will affect our efforts to achieve higher GDP growth

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## Women figure low in full-time journalism

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Only four per cent of the 2,500 full-time journalists in different dailies and news agencies in the country are women, Masuma Khanam of the daily Sangbad told a seminar in the city yesterday.

She was presenting the keynote at 'Women in Journalism: In context of Bangladesh', a seminar organised by the Centre for Women Journalists, Bangladesh.

The speakers in the seminar lauded the pioneering role in journalism played by Begum Sufia Kamal and Nurjahan Begum, editors of the weekly 'Begum', and reporters Laila Samad, Hasina Ashraf, Nasimun Nahar Nini and others.

They regretted the fact that the number of women journalists is still low and also the lack of participation of women in policymaking.

Women journalists confront different obstacles at their workplace that discourage them to pursue a

career in journalism, the speakers said.

Their male counterparts dominate and have a negative attitude towards them, they added.

"Their contributions remain unappreciated most of the time," said Masuma Khanam.

Women journalists are being confined to sedentary jobs or are asked to cover social issues concerning women and children only, the speakers said.

"We hardly ever see a woman covering political, diplomatic or economic issues," noted Dr Mahmuda Islam, director of the Policy Leadership and Advocacy for Gender Equality (PLAGE) project of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs.

There are other factors that prevent the women from remaining in the profession, the speakers said.

"The remuneration package is not as attractive as in other profes

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## Housewife slaughtered in Rajshahi

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A housewife was slaughtered by unidentified assailants at Bijoynagar village under Godagari upazila yesterday morning.

Mina, 34, came under attack at her house at about 9 am.

The miscreants entered the house and slaughtered Mina with the boti she was cutting vegetables with. Mina was alone home.

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## Malnutrition kills 3m kids a year: WHO

### Nearly 170m underweight children in developing countries

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nearly 170 million children in the Third World countries are underweight and over three million of them die each year, according to the World Health Report 2002, which was released yesterday.

The report said underweight remains a massive and pervasive problem in developing countries where poverty is a strong underlying determinant. Twenty-seven per cent children under five years of age are underweight.

The report released by the World Health Organisation (WHO) also identifies that a relatively small number of risks result in many premature deaths and form a large share of the global burden of dis-

eases. The risk factors include among others underweight, unsafe sex, high blood pressure, tobacco and alcohol consumption, unsafe water, hygiene and several others.

It said the world's leading cause of death is cardiovascular diseases and more than three-quarters of these result from tobacco consumption, high blood pressure, cholesterol or a combination of these. "Cholesterol causes more than four million premature deaths a year, tobacco causes about 5 million and blood pressure causes around seven million," it said.

Alcohol brings about 1.8 million deaths and its consumption has steadily been increasing in developing countries, the report informed.

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## Graft case Hearing on charge framing against Hasina, 3 others on Nov 30

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court Dhaka, yesterday fixed November 30 for hearing on charge-framing against former prime minister Sheikh Hasina and three others, accused in a graft case.

Judge Ahmed Jamil Mostafa passed the order after the case was placed before him.

On Monday, the court took the charge sheet of the case into cognizance for trial.

The three other accused are former state minister for power Prof Rafiqul Islam, former state minister for LGRD Ministry Syed Abul Hossain and KMN Islam, manager of SHACO International Ltd, owned by Hossain.

The Bureau of Anti-corruption (BAC) submitted the charge sheet

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## Garbage piles left to rot DCC waste disposal hamstrung by truck dearth



A boy collects rags and leftovers from the piled-up garbage at the Karwan Bazaar kitchen market in the city yesterday. Wholesalers heap vegetable remains in the open, leaving the area in a stinking mess.

JULHAS RIPON

Over sixty per cent of solid wastes generated in the city remain uncollected as 110 of 242 collection trucks of the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) are out of order now.

The inoperative trucks cannot be repaired due to acute fund crisis, sources in DCC's Mechanical Engineering Division said.

Some of these trucks idled at DCC's workshop for long have become damaged permanently, and if repair work is not undertaken immediately, more will join the fleet, the sources said.

About 5,000 tons of solid wastes are generated everyday in the city and the uncollected heaps of garbage are left on surface drains, streets, parks, lakes and other open spaces, polluting the environment and creating health hazards.

City dwellers, especially the children, are facing health hazards due to the toxicity and germs spread from the wastes.

A clean Dhaka city was an election pledge of Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka.

Contacted yesterday, DCC's Chief Conservancy Officer Dewan Shah Alam said his department is

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## Road accidents kill 5 in Sylhet, Sirajganj

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least five people were killed and 32 others injured in separate road accidents in Sylhet and Sirajganj districts yesterday.

Of them, three were killed in Sylhet while the rest in Sirajganj.

Our Staff Correspondent from Sylhet reports: Three people were killed and 30 others injured when a Sylhet bound microbus fell into a ditch at Balaura in Sadar upazila yesterday morning.

Police and local people said the accident occurred at about 11 am when the microbus was trying to overtake another passenger bus on Sylhet-Sunamganj road.

The dead were identified as microbus driver Katu Mia, 30, helper Maina Mia alias Layek, 25, and conductor Shomai Mia 22. They died on

the spot.

Local people rescued the injured and sent them to Sylhet MAG Osmany Medical College Hospital.

The bodies were handed over to their relatives after autopsy.

In Sirajganj, two persons were killed and two others injured in a road accident at Maddha Badhra Ghat on Dhaka-Bogra highway yesterday morning.

The dead were identified as Abu Sayed Talukdar, 45, and Amzad Hossain, 35, of Maddha Badhra Ghat.

Police quoted eyewitnesses as saying the accident occurred when a Dhaka bound bus hit a rickshaw van, leaving two people killed on the spot and injuring two others.

The injured were admitted to Sirajganj Hospital. A case was filed with Jamuna Sethu (west) police station in this connection.