

Hasina to attend CJA confce closing ceremony as chief guest

UNB, Dhaka

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League president Sheikh Hasina will attend the closing ceremony of the conference of Commonwealth Journalists Association (CJA) next year as the chief guest.

Pieter Wessels, CJA's Australia Chapter president now in Dhaka on a three-week visit, formally handed her the invitation letter of the CJA president Murray Brunt and Leader of the Opposition leader cordially accepted it.

The six-day conference will be held from February 17-22 next year at Sonargaon Hotel in the capital. About 50 journalists from different Commonwealth countries will attend the conference.

Officials of CJA Bangladesh chapter accompanied Pieter Wessels during the meeting with Sheikh Hasina.



President of the Australia Chapter of the Commonwealth Journalists Association hands over letter of invitation to Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina at her Sudha Sadan residence in the city yesterday.

President hosts Iftar for MPs, political leaders

BSS, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed hosted an Iftar in honour of the ministers, parliament members and leaders of different political parties at Bangabhaban yesterday evening.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia also attended the Iftar. Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar, ministers, chief whip, deputy speaker, advisers to the Prime Minister, state ministers, political secretaries to the Prime Minister, deputy ministers, whips and members of parliament attended the Iftar along with the leaders of different political parties.

President Iajuddin and Mrs Iajuddin welcomed the guests, enquired about their welfare and exchanged pleasantries with them.

On the eve of the Iftar, a special munaajat was offered seeking divine blessings for the welfare of the people and continued peace and progress of the country.

Graft case against Prof Sayeed Hearing adjourned till Nov 28

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Special Court for Dhaka Division, yesterday adjourned the hearing on charge-framing against former state minister for information Prof Abu Sayeed and a chairman of an advertisement company in connection with a graft case.

Judge Mohammad Azizul Haq adjourned the hearing till November 28 following a time petition by the defence lawyers.

In the case filed with Ramna thana, it has been alleged that Prof Sayeed, while in office, in connivance with Mahbub Ahsan Khan, chairman of Ampire Advertisement Company, misappropriated Tk 46,88,282 in the name of decoration and advertisement cost for the inaugural ceremony of Bangladesh Jamuna Bridge.

The Bureau of Anti-Corruption (BAC) filed the case against Prof

Abu Sayeed and Mahbub Ahsan Khan on March 13.

BAC Inspector Mohammad Jahangir Alam, who is also investigation officer of the case, submitted a charge sheet against them on September 9.

Later, the case was transferred to the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka, for trial. The Sessions Court then took the charge sheet of the case into cognizance for trial and transferred it to the Special Court for disposal.

Prof Sayeed and Mahbub are now on bail.

Hepatitis-B vaccination to be given to every child

UNB, Dhaka

Hepatitis-B vaccination will be given to every child under an immunisation programme to be launched shortly across the country.

Health Minister Khandaker Mosharrar Hossain told an official meeting yesterday that such programme on experimental basis was carried out in six districts to check the dangerous disease.

On recommendation of WHO, all the children under the age of one year would be brought under the immunisation programme. For this a national committee has been formed to supervise implementation of the programme, he added.

Six districts covered by the pilot project are Feni, Maulvi-bazar, Joypurhat, Pirojpur, Jessore and Fardpur.

State minister Amanullah Aman and parliament members Mohammad Ali, Mahbubul Haq Rubel, Harun-or-Rashid, Mojibur Rahman Sarwar, MM Shaheen and Health Secretary Fazlur Rahman were also present in the meeting.

Vehicles asked to avoid roads inside cantt on Nov 21

A number of functions will be held at the Dhaka Cantonment on November 21 to observe the Armed Forces Day, says a press release.

President and Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces Iajuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia will attend these ceremonies.

With a view to keeping the roads inside the Dhaka Cantonment free of traffic jam, all vehicles except those carrying cantonment residents and the invited guests have been requested to avoid the roads inside the cantonment area from 7-00 am to 9-30 am and 3-00 pm to 7-30 pm on the day.

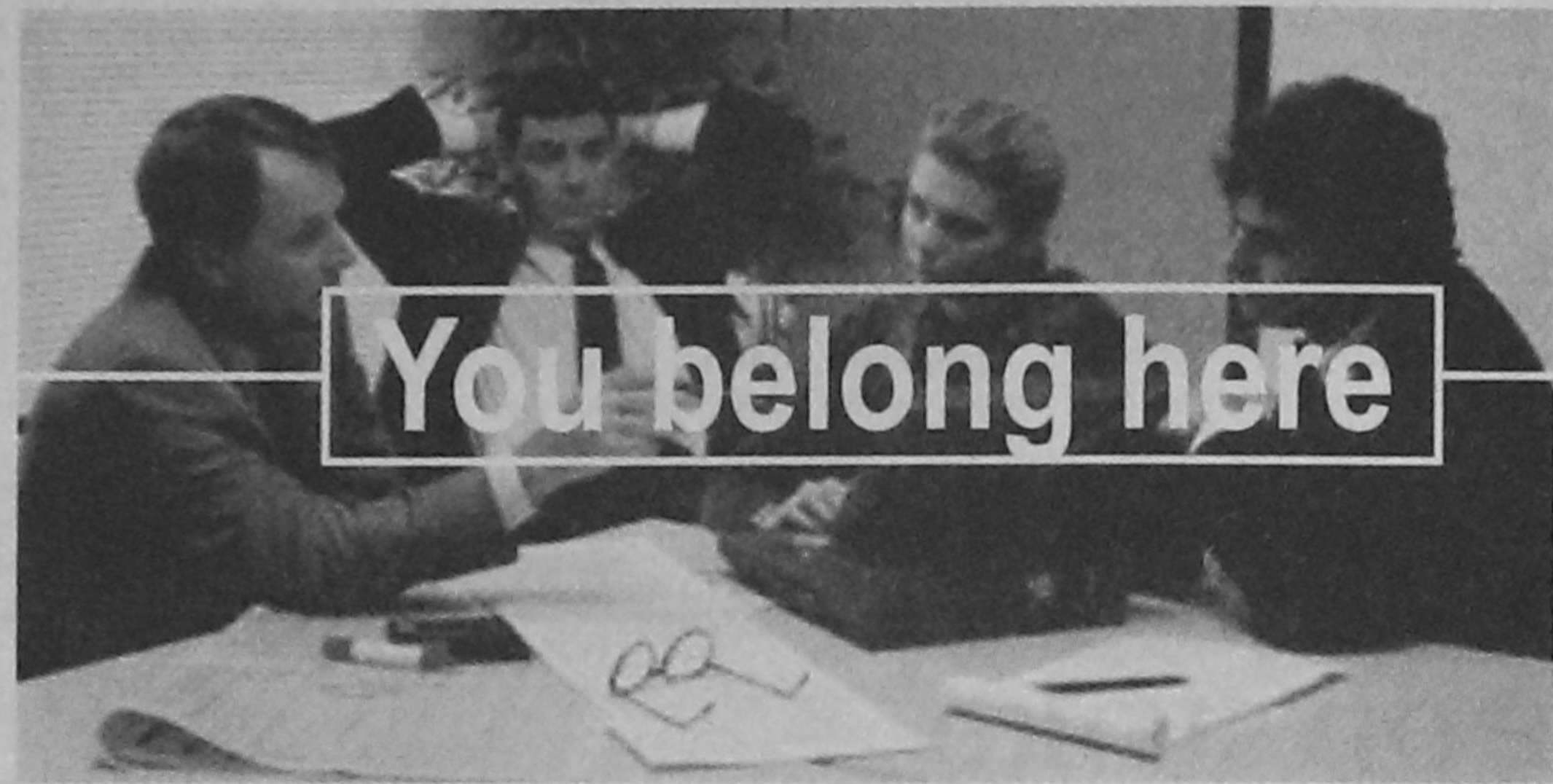
The Armed Forces Division regrets the inconvenience caused due to the above restriction in vehicular movement through the Cantonment area.

CLARIFICATION REGARDING THE NEWS PUBLISHED ON 30TH OCTOBER UNDER CAPTION "PILFERAGE, CORRUPTION PLAGUE ENERGY SECTOR"

A news item published in The Daily Star on October 30, 2002 under above caption commented "Narrating his own experience, Youth Group Chairman Abul Quasem Haider said he had to pay a bribe of Tk.1.25 crore to get gas connection for his spinning mill in Tangail". I did not specifically mention any amount of bribe. It is a national issue and discussion was made by the participants regarding the problems in the energy sectors and suggestions were made to overcome the problems as are being faced by the industrial and business sectors of the country. In course of discussion, corruption and unfair means adopted by some persons came up which was considered as a national problem and remedies were suggested to eradicate those problems from the energy sectors to facilitate rapid industrial growth of the country. The participants of the discussion table had no intention to hurt or defame any person or department or office rather, suggestions were made to make the energy sector corruption free and easy to get service by all.

Abul Quasem Haider Chairman, Youth Group

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Advertisement for Saudi Arabian Airlines featuring Hajj, Umrah, and Ziyarah services. Includes a large image of a mosque and text describing the journey to the land of the two Holy Mosques. Contact information for Saudi Arabian Airlines is provided.

Large advertisement for GrameenPhone featuring 'Eid festival' and 'Eid gift for your dear ones'. It lists various mobile phone models like Alcatel 311, Motorola T100, and Nokia 3310 with their prices. Includes a 'Call 1515 For Sehri & Iftar' promotion and a 'Stock Limited. Deal only with GrameenPhone authorized outlets to avoid hassle' warning.