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Moudud faces colleague wall in HR body creation

Delay in commission deeply disappoints donor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Differences of opinion among ministers are blocking the efforts to establish a national human rights commission, Law Minister Moudud Ahmed said yesterday, as a donor agency representative expressed dissatisfaction at the government's failure to form it.

"I had a great difficulty convincing my cabinet colleagues about the commission which is now under consideration of the cabinet," Moudud told an international conference co-organised by the law

justice and parliamentary affairs ministry, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Australian High Commission, Dhaka.

The law minister's statement came when Jorgen Lissner, United Nations resident coordinator to Bangladesh, expressed dismay over the delay in establishing the commission.

"I am deeply disappointed that a national human rights commission is yet to be established although four years back former law minister (Abdul Matin Khasru) told me that

he wanted to see a commission before their tenure was over," Lissner told the International Conference on Institutional Protection of Human Rights: Role of National Human Rights Institutions.

"I am deeply disappointed not for myself but for the people of Bangladesh where a large section of people are denied of human rights," Lissner said, adding national human rights commissions were found effective in most countries to protect people's rights.

Moudud hoped his government would establish the commission as

early as possible and added: "We are committed to setting up the commission. I hope I will be able to convince my cabinet colleagues about its necessity."

He also said the government is changing laws to ensure people's access to justice fundamental to human rights.

To ensure human rights, Bangladesh has all preconditions such as independent judiciary, free media, effective parliament and acceptable election process, Moudud said.

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A crowd watches the passengers pull an autorickshaw back to its wheels yesterday after it fell sideways into a ditch on the potholed, submerged road linking Gulshan 1 to Badda.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

HC orders govt to produce Partha in court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A High Court Division bench yesterday asked the government to produce Shaibal Saha Partha, arrested and being held by police on charge of emailing a death threat to Opposition Leader Sheikh Hasina, before the court at 11:00am today.

The bench comprising Justice Nazrul Islam Chowdhury and Justice Mir Hasmat Ali issued the writ on a petition jointly filed by Partha's father, Ain-O-Salish Kendra (Ask) and Legal Aid and Services Trust (Blast).

Copies of the writ were sent to the home secretary, inspector general (prison), inspector general of police (IGP), additional IGP, district magistrate of Dhaka, chief metropolitan magistrate and senior officials of the Central Jail including its superintendent, jailer and medical officer.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

Riyadh seeks more doctors, nurses

Saudi team due shortly to assess prospect of medicine import

AGENCIES, Dhaka

Saudi Arabia is keen to take in more doctors and nurses from Bangladesh, which fears a shortfall of jobs at home after a major drive to train health experts.

"Bangladeshi doctors and nurses in Saudi Arabia have shown great expertise and we need more of them

as we have established new hospitals there," Saudi Health Minister Hamad bin Abdullah al-Manea said during official talks with his counterpart Dr Khandakar Mosharrar Hossain at the Secretariat yesterday.

He said Saudi Arabia would send another team to Bangladesh to look into importing medicine.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 8

Verdict on jail killing case tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court is set to pronounce its verdict on the historic jail killing case amid tight security tomorrow, 29 years after the assassination of four national leaders who gave political leadership to Bangladesh's birth.

The judgement, scheduled for September 7, was put off as Judge of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court Mohammad Motiur Rahman could not turn up in court because of sickness.

Syed Nazrul Islam, acting presi-

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Low standards can't match high Saudi doc demand

RAFIQ HASAN

Only 650 Bangladeshi doctors fetched employment in Saudi Arabia against a demand of over 4,000 physicians around two years back, according to officials at the Ministry of Expatriates Welfare and Overseas Employment.

Another group of 350 doctors, however, has been selected and is in

the process to leave for the kingdom, the officials said.

The Saudi government had placed a demand for over 4,000 doctors and paramedics in 2002 for the Saudi state hospitals and health complexes. But Bangladesh could not fulfil the demand as many doctors failed to qualify in line with the requirements set by the Saudi authorities.

Many doctors however declined to go to the kingdom despite being

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

Sircar accused of letting BNP diatribes against AL

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Awami League (AL) yesterday accused Speaker Jamir Uddin Sircar of purposely allowing the treasury bench to spit venom against the main opposition during a general discussion in parliament on the August 21 grenade attacks.

"He has no guts and he acts at the directives of the leader of the House," AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil alleged while addressing a press conference at the party's Dhanmondi office.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

Million children to face severe malnutrition

Unicef, WFP appeal for post-flood rehabilitation to avoid situation

UNB, Dhaka

Over a million Bangladeshi children will face acute malnutrition if immediate actions are not taken during post-flood rehabilitation efforts, two UN agencies warned yesterday.

The United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) and the UN World Food Programme (WFP) in a joint

press release raised the alarm about what may follow the devastating floods.

Floods have already made children vulnerable to various diseases including diarrhoea. This is a very critical time for over half a million pregnant women and breast-feeding mothers, who face the risk of

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

Pak pacers contain India

REUTERS, Birmingham

Pakistan's seamers produced a top class display of pace bowling to dismiss India for just 200 in the ICC Champions Trophy Pool C decider at Edgbaston on Sunday.

Shoaib Akhtar took four for 36

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

AHSANULLAH MURDER Case shifted to speedy trial tribunal

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday transferred the Ahsanullah Master, MP murder case to the Speedy Trial Tribunal-1, Dhaka for its quick disposal.

The home ministry yesterday in a gazette notification said the case has been transferred to the tribunal from a magistrate's court in Gazipur for public interest.

Up to 20 gunmen opened fire on Ahsanullah at a rally of Awami Shechchhasebak League, the volunteer front of Awami League, in Noagaon near the legislator's house

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

Blow up tomb of Bangabandhu

Letter of Mufti Hannan found with instruction to madrasa teacher

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Mufti Abdul Hannan, prime accused in the sensational Kotlipara bomb plot, in a letter reportedly from Afghanistan has instructed a local madrasa teacher to blow up the tomb of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Tungipara of Gopalganj district.

Tungipara police recovered the letter on September 18 from Mufti Masudur Rahman's room in Gaohardanga Madrasa hostel. Mufti Masud, the recipient of the letter, is known to be a follower of Mufti Abdul Hannan. He teaches at the Madrasa.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

JCD expels central office bearer

Suspends another

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), the students' wing of ruling BNP, yesterday expelled its International Affairs Secretary Syeed Iqbal Mahmud Tito and suspended the membership of Library Secretary Asaduzzaman Palash for their "involvement in anti-organisational activities".

JCD President Sahabuddin Laltu and General Secretary Azizul Bari Helal endorsed the decision, said a press release signed by JCD Office Secretary Omar Faruque Safin.

The decision follows a demand

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