



## Attorney general quits

Cites worsening health; sources see political pressure as reason

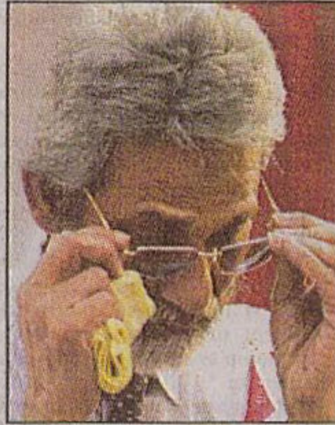
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Attorney General AF Hassan Ariff resigned from his office yesterday apparently over growing discord with the government on several issues, including cancellation of an additional High Court judge's Bar Council enrolment certificate and voting of the Supreme Court Bar Association.

Law Minister Moudud Ahmed said the government has accepted his resignation, which takes effect from April 30 afternoon. Additional Attorney General AJ Mohammad Ali is going to take over from Hassan Ariff on

May 2, sources at the law ministry said. "My health has deteriorated due to work pressure and I cannot continue anymore," Hassan Ariff told reporters at his chamber at Katabon in the capital yesterday afternoon. "I've expressed my intention to the prime minister to resign several times earlier, but she didn't agree. She at last granted me the permission when I met her yesterday (Wednesday)," he said. "I sent my resignation letter to the law ministry at around 12:30pm today only after the prime minister's consent."

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1



AF Hassan Ariff

## Tk 3.6cr foreign currency seized at Ctg airport

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Security forces seized a huge stash of foreign currency worth over Tk 3.6 crore aboard a Dhaka-Chittagong-Muscat Biman flight Wednesday midnight and arrested a Dubai-bound Bangladeshi passenger for his alleged role in the haul.

On arrival at the Shah Amanat International Airport from Dhaka at 10:00pm Wednesday, one of the domestic passengers on board flight BG-021 informed airport security officials of his suspicion that a bomb might have been planted beneath the seats of row D, police and airport sources said.

The passenger, however, did not

SEE PAGE 19 COL 6

## CARETAKER SYSTEM, EC

# Bhuiyan rules out talks with AL on reforms

Says no need to discuss appointment of new CEC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday ruled out the possibility of any dialogue with Awami League (AL) on reforms of caretaker government system and the appointment of chief election commissioner (CEC).

"Time has yet to come to sit with Awami League regarding reforms of the caretaker government," Bhuiyan, also secretary general of

the ruling BNP, said at a 'Meet the Reporters' programme of Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU).

About the opposition parties' demand for appointing a CEC in consultation with all parties, the minister referred to the constitution and said there is no need to consult the opposition parties for appointing a new CEC.

The tenure of incumbent CEC MA Syed will expire on May 22.

Replying to a question, the LGRD

minister said AL is seeking reforms of caretaker government system but did not specify what sort of reforms they [AL] want. He asked the AL to join parliament and place the demand for the reform.

Asked about the opposition parties' demand for appointing an acceptable person the head of the caretaker government, the BNP secretary general said it is not possible to find out a person who will be

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4



## Salehuddin picked as BB governor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday appointed Dr Salehuddin Ahmed, managing director of Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF), the

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

## Samad Azad laid to rest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Abdus Samad Azad, the country's first foreign minister and veteran politician, was laid to eternal rest at Banani graveyard in the capital yesterday with state honour as thousands of people paid last tributes to the late Awami League (AL) central leader and lawmaker.

The body of the leader was lowered into the grave at 6:50 pm. Mourners stood in silence beside his coffin covered with the national flag

and party flag in front of the graveyard earlier as bugles played the last post in tribute to him as a freedom fighter.

A police contingent presented a guard of honour in reverence to his contributions to the Liberation War.

Bereaved family members, party colleagues and hundreds of others attended his burial.

Earlier several namaj-e-janasas for him were held in Dhaka, Sylhet and Sunamganj. People from all walks of life bade him the last fare-

well in a melancholic atmosphere.

Samad Azad, also a close associate of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in the long struggle for the country's independence, died on Wednesday, aged 79, suffering from stomach cancer.

The first namaj-e-janaza was held at the capital's Paltan Maidan, where the veteran politician made so many speeches at public meetings during his long chequered political career. His body was flown

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1



Coffin of Abdus Samad Azad draped in the national flag lies in state at Banani graveyard as policemen play the last post to honour the veteran politician yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

## Premier Bank MD Mazid removed

BB probe finds his link to fake bank account opening

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Bank (BB) yesterday removed Premier Bank Managing Director (MD) Kazi Abdul Mazid as its probe into the private bank's IPO (initial public offering) scam detected his involvement with opening of fake bank accounts.

Mazid can appeal to the BB board against the removal order.

"I have been meted out injustice. The central bank order allows me to lodge an appeal and I will appeal to the BB board against the order," he told The Daily Star.

BB sources said Mazid was removed for one year in accordance with Clause 46 of the Bank Companies Act 1991. The clause empowers the central bank to

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

## Liaquat Ali new envoy to India

UNB, Dhaka

The government has appointed Liaquat Ali Choudhury, currently Bangladesh ambassador to the Netherlands, as the Bangladesh high commissioner to India.

A career diplomat of the 1979 batch of BCS (foreign affairs) cadre, Liaquat Ali Choudhury did his Master's in economics from Dhaka University.

He also studied international law and international relations in Paris.

Choudhury served in the Bangladesh Permanent Missions in

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

## Dhaka, Delhi stick to stances on fencing

Yet stress need for talks to defuse border tension

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka and New Delhi have stressed the need for dialogue to defuse the simmering border tension and strengthen bilateral relations, but both sides have stuck to their stance on the issue of barbed-wire fencing on the frontier.

India is determined to put barbed-wire fencing on the border while Bangladesh said it would not

allow the fencing 150 yards inside the border and termed the move a violation of the border guideline of 1975.

"We will go ahead with our fencing of the international border," Indian High Commissioner Vena Sikri told journalists Wednesday night in Shillong, capital of the northeastern Indian state of Meghalaya.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

## Fakhruddin stands by interest rate hike

STAR REPORT

As a debate rages over shifting towards a higher interest rate regime, outgoing Bangladesh Bank (BB) Governor Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed yesterday defended his move by saying his signals to the banks were for selective rate hikes, not across-the-board.

The governor whose tenure expires tomorrow also said it is time to contract the economy a bit, to cool it down, to check overheating.

"In the first eight months of this fiscal year, private sector credit grew

SEE PAGE 19 COL 6

## 2 'criminals' killed in 'crossfire'

STAR REPORT

Two criminals were killed in 'crossfire' between their accomplices and police and the Rab in separate incidents in the capital and Jessore yesterday.

Delwar Hossain alias Delu, 38, accused of 24 criminal offences including murders, died in Tejgaon in the city. Royal, 25, was killed in crossfire between his cohorts and the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in Sharsha upazila in Jessore.

Police arrested Delwar, an absconding convict, from Old Dhaka on Wednesday. They took

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

## CCC Polls Mir Nasir skips meeting with other mayoral candidates

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Returning Officer (RO) of Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) election yesterday at a meeting with the mayoral candidates asked the candidates to follow electoral rules and code of conduct for the sake of a fair and peaceful election.

Ten mayoral candidates including ABM Mohiuddin Choudhury of Awami League-backed Nagarik Committee exchanged views with the EC officials at the meeting

SEE PAGE 19 COL 7

IN THE NAME OF ALLAH MOST BENEFICENT AND MOST MERCIFUL

## CHELUM



### Mosammet Amina Serniabat

Younger sister of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, paternal aunt of ex-Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina, wife of ex-Minister-in-charge of Power, Irrigation, Flood Control and Water Resources Abdur Rob Serniabat and our respected mother expired on Thursday March 24, 2005.

In the black night of August 15, 1975, she lost her dearest brother Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, sister-in-law Fazilatunnessa Mujib, their sons Sheikh Kamal, Sheikh Jamal, Sheikh Russel, newly married daughters-in-law Sultana Kamal and Rosy Jamal, younger brother Sheikh Abu Naser, husband Abdur Rob Serniabat, pregnant eldest daughter Arzoo Moni, eldest son-in-law Sheikh Fezul Huq Moni, daughter Baby Serniabat, youngest son Arif Serniabat, four year old beloved grandson Sukanta Serniabat, nephew Shaeed Serniabat and 17 other close relatives including Abu Naem Reintu to the brute bullets of the assassins. In that night she herself was seriously wounded along with family members Shahanaara Abdullah, Hamida Serniabat, Abul Khair Abdullah and Hena Serniabat. Thereafter as a crippled person she struggled for her life for long 29 years till her death on March 24, 2005. To the extent we could bear the grief and pain of losing our dear ones when we found her surviving by our side. With the passing of our respected mother we lost one great passion of strength to overcome the pain and odds that befall on us since then. We pray to Almighty Allah for her eternal peace in the heaven.

An assemblage for prayer and milad has been arranged on Friday, April 29, 2005, after Juma prayers at premises of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Museum, road no. 32 DRA, for the salvation of her eternal soul. On behalf of her family we are inviting all our relatives, friends and well-wishers to this assemblage and to participate in prayer and milad.

On Behalf of the family-----

Abul Hasnat Abdullah, former Chief Whip, Bangladesh Parliament, Abul Khair Abdullah, Manju Serniabat, Shewly Serniabat, Hamida Serniabat & Hena Serniabat.

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### ENTRY FORM

Attach to this form, photocopies of any one of the following documents as proof of age:  Passport  Birth Certificate  SSC Certificate  Driving License

Name: ..... Father's name: .....

Sex: ..... Age: ..... Height (Feet): ..... (Inches): ..... Weight (in Kgs): ..... Phone: .....

Education: ..... Hobbies: ..... E-mail: .....

Address: .....

Complete this sentence in not more than 15 words: I have got the look because: .....

Eligibility Criteria: Male - Height: 5'5", Age: 18-25, Qualification: HSC/A-Level or above Female - Height: 5'1", Age: 18-24, Qualification: HSC/A-Level or above All supporting documents of the same, 3 photographs: 1 profile, 2 full-length; Detailed resume

1. The applicant must be a Bangladeshi citizen. 2. The applicant must agree to abide by all rules and contracts laid down changed from time to time by the Organizers. 3. The applicant must be 18 years of age and below 25 years of age as of May 31, 2005. The applicant is required to produce an age proof certificate confirming the same. 4. The applicant or the applicant's immediate family cannot be related to any person employed in Grey Advertising Bangladesh Limited and/or Procter & Gamble Bangladesh (P&G) Ltd., contest sponsors, their sub-contractors or any of the judges in any way whatsoever. In case of such a relationship, the applicant has to disclose the same to the Organizers immediately. 5. In event of the applicant winning the title, he/she cannot participate in any other pageants within the time that the title is held, unless authorized in writing by the Organizers. 6. Applications for the PANTENE YGTL 2005 pageant will be accepted till the 5th of May, 2005 at the address mentioned in the application form. No applications will be considered if received after this date under any circumstances. 7. The Organizers are not responsible for any delays or non-receipt of applications on any account and for any reason whatsoever. 8. Previous PANTENE YGTL Pageant winners are not eligible to apply. 9. Based on the information that the applicant has sent to us, the panel of judges will shortlist the applicant for the preliminary selection, which will be held in Dhaka. 10. If the applicant is short listed, he/she will have to go through a grooming program for a period of one month. The applicant will have to bear all personal expenses during the training period. 11. The applicant will have to participate in a disciplined and diligent manner throughout the grooming as per the schedule given for the preliminary selection. 12. The Organizers are not responsible for any loss of material or physical injury that occurs to the applicant on account of his/her participation in the pageant. The applicant will participate at his/her own risk and will have no claim against the Organizers in any way whatsoever. 13. Incorrect information will result in disqualification, whether discovered prior to, during or after the final. Judges decision is final and binding in all cases. 14. Only the applicant will be allowed inside the designated venue for the preliminary selection. 15. Schedule of events and qualification rounds are subject to change at the discretion of the Organizers. 16. The Organizers are not responsible for non-attendance of the show / non-completion / non-occurrence of the event. 17. In the event of any dispute, the Organizers decision is final and binding on the applicant.

