METROPOLITAN/NEWS



Hasina's 59th birthday today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina's 59th

Hasina, the eldest daughter of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib, was born at Tungipara in Goplagonj on this day in 1947.

She was elected president of the party at an AL council session on February 1981 while she was in exile. She returned home on May

Hasina led the AL to power and became the prime minister of Bangladesh in June 1996, two decades after Bangabandhu was assassinated in August 1975.

In 1968. Hasina married eminent scientist M Wazed Miah. They have a son and a daughter.

Last year, she escaped an assassination attempt on August 21 when her rally came under grenade attacks in the capital.

In a statement yesterday, AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil urged all to pray for the AL president on the eve of her birthday. Different front organisations of

the AL will organise milad mahfil on the occasion wishing her long

Meanwhile, the opposition leader is leaving for New Delhi this afternoon on a five-day tour to visit Azmir Sharif.

During the visit, she is expected to meet top Indian leaders includ-

She is scheduled to return on

'Victims must get compensation as right'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar vesterday said the victims must get adequate monetary compensation as a right and this should not be a part of punishment to the offenders.

They said punishment like imprisonment or death penalty could give some sorts of mental satisfaction to the victims but they or their family members might be

in dire need of some financial help.
The seminar on 'Victims Compensation Rights' was organised by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB) at the National Press Club in the city.

Justice Mohammad Han Haque, director general of Judicial Administration Training Institute, presented a keynote paper at the

He suggested amendment to existing penal laws by adding necessary provision in the Code of Criminal Procedure regarding the compensation.

He also suggested establishment of a fund which can be substantiated with the money realised in fine or compensation from the

Advocate Mahbubey Alam, president of Supreme Court Bar Association, said justice in the country is passing through judicial silence over extra-judicial

Advocate Dr Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury of Bangladesh Supreme Court called for inclusion of all in the accusation list irrespective of their direct or indirect

involvement in the crime. Ex-chairman of Bangladesh Public Service Commission Dr M Mustafa Chowdhury said it will be hard to get compensation when the government is involved in

Syed Arif Niazi, chairman of the Board of Directors of HRPB, pre-

KILLING OF JOURNOS BFUJ convention in November

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFJU) will hold a national convention protesting the killing of journalists and torture on

them in the capital in November. It was decided at its executive committee meeting on September 25 in Cox's Bazar, BFUJ sources

The meeting also demanded of the government to announce dearness allowance for the journal-

ists and employees. The BFUJ also decided to hold its election on April 22 next and

national council on April 2. BFUJ President Iqbal Sobhan

Chowdhury presided. The meeting was told that threat and torture on journalists were increasing alarmingly but no killers

have so far been brought to book. Family members of slain journalists and victims will attend the

Counter propaganda against Islam, Muslims

PM tells 19th IUT convocation

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday said the misleading propa-ganda against Islam and Muslims in different quarters could be countered better through attaining supremacy in knowledge, science and technology and rapid economic progress.

"For this, perusing more knowledge and practice of modern science as well as mutual understanding, solidarity and unity are essential in Muslim countries," Khaleda told the 19th convocation of Islamic University of Technology (IUT) at its auditorium.

She said matters like setting up a powerful media network, forming a strong fund and setting up world class educational institutions and research centres should be considered with importance.

take effective initiatives in this regard, she said "We'll extend our all possible cooperation in this

'We'll have to come up to innovate and apply new sustainable technologies for achieving prosperity and overall development. Emphasis will have to be given especially on developing skilled human resources," Khaleda said.

She said the Muslim Ummah will have to take combined initiatives, which will not only change the fate of the people of Muslim countries, but will also create good opportunities to involve them in the main stream of world knowledge and science.

Referring to the revolutionary changes in various branches of technology, engineering and science in the new century, she said people of many countries have Urging the rich OIC countries to changed their fortunes through

advancements.

"We'll have to follow suit. We'll have to involve ourselves in the mainstream of world science and technology to hold our heads high, survive and move forward in this fast-changing and highly competitive world," she said.

Congratulating the fresh graduates and postgraduates, she hoped that they would contribute in their respective countries alongside playing a vital role in upholding the glory of Islamic Ummah and consolidating its solidarity.

She also formally declared the 31st meeting of the governing board of the IUT open.

A total of 173 students of 12 countries of 2004-2005 academic year were awarded graduate, diploma, master's and postgraduate degrees in Technical Education,

Computer Science and

proper utilisation of those Information Technology, Electrical and Electronic Engineering and Mechanical Engineering

khaleda distributed gold medals and certificates among Md Ruhul Amin (OIC Gold Medal 2005, obtaining GPA 5), Muniul Hasan Banna (IUT Gold Medal 2005, GPA 4.93), SM Faisal (IUT gold medal 2005, GPA 4.98) and Golam Sarwar (IUT gold medal 2005, GPA 4.95) for their academic feat. All the recipients are Bangladeshis.

Khaleda also took part in an academic procession.

Assistant Secretary General of OIC Ambassador Ali Akbar Salehi read out the speech of OIC Secretary General and Chancellor of the IUT Prof Dr Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu at the function.

IUT Vice Chancellor Prof Dr M Fazli Ilahi also spoke.



The Acid Survivors' Foundation organises a photography exhibition at the International School Dhaka (ISD) at Basundhara in the city yesterday to raise funds for the acid survivors.

Strengthen EC for fair elections

Speakers tell roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday called for strengthening the Election Commission (EC) to hold free and fair elections in the country.

They said this can be done by establishing a truly independent secretariat free from the control of

The roundtable on 'Electoral process and national election observation' was organised jointly by the daily Sangbad and Bangladesh Human Rights Coordination Council (BHRCC) in the

The speakers said the EC plays the most vital role in holding elections while the caretaker govern-ment is only a supporting body in

the whole process. They observed that the EC has become a paralysed institution and failed to discharge its constitutional obligation properly because of the interference of successive govern-

Addressing the roundtable, Huda proposed for ward-based voter lists to be prepared by involv-ing union parishad members, but senior Awami League lawmaker

Suranjit Sengupta opposed the idea. "We shall have to establish such an electoral system where people's verdict will be reflected," Huda said, adding the voter ID cards should be introduced to check fake voting. He criticised the opposition

UNB, Dhaka

City/Town

Chittagong

Rajshahi

Khulna

Barisal

Sylhet

Cox's Bazar

Dhaka

ture over the country.

parties for waging agitation against the elected government demanding its resignation when people gave them mandate to run the country

Opposing the view, Suranjit said that does not mean that one will initiate misrules and continue it for the entire term."

"If people are unhappy with the activities of an elected government they have all rights to demand its ouster, he observed. Expressing concern over the fair holding of next election, the AL

leader said the alliance government nas taken all measures for vote He said the AL will participate in the election after forcing the gov-ernment to bring reforms in the

caretaker government and Election Mujahidul Islam Selim, general secretary of the Communist Party of Bangladesh, blasted the entire electoral system and said it's noth-

ing but a farce. The election is under the grip of black money holders and criminals," he said, adding his party will think twice before participating in

any such farcical poll in future. Senior journalist ABM Musa called for monitoring pre-election

Sharmeen Mursheed, chief executive of the Brotee, urged the EC to take reports of different poll observers seriously and take action

Twenty-eight activists of Sammilita Sangskritik Jote, who participated in a

long march, reach Dhaka yesterday from Khulna. The long march was organ-

Light to moderate rain likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by tempo-

rary gusty wind is likely at many places over Dhaka, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions till 6:00pm today.

period, Met Office said predicting nearly unchanged day tempera-

at Jessore and lowest 24.6 degree Celsius at Srimongal.

Max

33.6

33.8

34.2

33.8

32.5

34.8

major cities and towns yesterday were:

Moderately heavy falls are also expected at places during the

Highest temperature 35.4 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday

The sun sets in the capital at 5.49pm today and rises at 5:49am

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some

27.0

24.8

26.2

26.0

26.4

25.5

Temperature

in Celsius

Humidityin

percentage

Morning Evening

80

81

85

78

80

92

ised to protest all forms of injustices and communalism in the country.

on the basis of the reports. She said the EC is fully dependent on the government for logistic support and manpower.

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal leader ASM Rab, former advisors to care taker government M Hafizuddin Khan and ASM Shahjahan, country representative of Hunger Project Dr Badiul Alam Majumder, BHRCC founder Father R W Tim, Prof Dr Dalem Chandra Barman of Dhaka University and President of Fair Election Monitoring Alliance (FEMA) Monira Khan also addressed the programme moderated by Sangbad Executive Editor Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul.

Photojournalist injured in attack

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

per was injured in an attack by criminals near Shah Amanat Bridge in the portcity on Monday midnight.

The photojournalist, Sohel Rana of the daily Azadi, came under attack when he went there at around 2:45am after an unknown caller falsely informed him that there was a severe traffic jam on the bridge over river Karnaphuli and asked him to

"A gang of seven or eight beat me with hockey sticks and iron rods as soon as I went there on my motorcycle," said Rana, who is now undergoing treatment at the Chittagong

Medical College Hospital. His relatives alleged that Bakalia Police Station was dilly-dallying in receiving a case in this regard.

In a statement yesterday, the Chittagong Photojournalists Association (CPJA) condemned the attack and demanded immediate arrest of the culprits.

SSKOP's 3-hour token strike October 3

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sangbadik Sramik Karmachari Oiky Parishad (SSKOP) will observe a three-hour token work stoppage at all newspapers and agencies from 11:00am to 2:00pm on October 3 demanding trial of the killers of Kamaluddin, a worker of

The Daily Ittefaq.
It was decided at a meeting of the SSKOP at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. The meeting also decided to hold a rally in front of the Ittefaq building on the day.

The meeting demanded immediate announcement of 60 percent dearness allowance for the newspapermen in today's meeting of the Sixth Wage Board.

'Rescue fishermen' STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Human Rights International, Bangladesh at a meeting yesterday expressed concern over the government's failure to rescue fishermen who have been missing following the recent powerful storm in the Bay of

At a meeting, the rights activists urged the government to be more active in rescue operation for the missing fishermen and provide financial assistance to the family members of the victims. Dr Mohammad Saleem, presid-

ium member of the organisation, presided over the meeting held at its head office in the city. The meeting condemned the incident of looting and destruction of property of Abdul Mannan Khan, an advocate of the Supreme Court,

WFP cancels contract with Globe Biscuit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The World Food Programme (WFP) Bangladesh has cancelled its contract with the Globe Biscuit Factory and dropped it from the suppliers list to ensure quality of biscuits for the school feeding programme. The WFP has taken this decision

after some schools in Kurigram reported cases of inferior quality "We detected the problem and have cancelled contract with the factory for supplying biscuits of

Country Director Edward Kallon at a press briefing yesterday. The company has also been blacklisted from any future engage-

ment with the WFP. The WFP has been distributing nutrient-fortified biscuits among the primary school children under its Nutrition for Education (School lakh children in the highly food insecure areas of Bangladesh.

The UN agency has suspended distribution of Globe biscuit and withdrawn samples from the schools following complaints of low quality biscuits with bitter taste and foreign particles. A quality control unit headed by a

food technologist and an independ-ent superintending agency has been entrusted to ensure quality of biscuits for the WFP, said the officials. WFP officials Edith Heines, Buhre

Gessesse and Md Abdul Quddus

Obituary Ali Waris Khan



(Jani), son of late Nawab Ali Sarwar Khan of Pritimpassa, Kulaura in Sylhet, passed away due to multipal organ failure yesterday at the Apollo

Hospital in Chennai in India at the age of 39, says a press release. He had been under treatment

for leukemia for the last six months in the hospital. His namaz-e-janaza will be held

Sanitation coverage increases to 59 pc

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The sanitation coverage in the country has increased to 59 percent in the last two years from 33 percent, speakers at a discussion said yester-

2003 to June 2005, 39 unions have been brought under 100 percent sanitation coverage with the support from local government and NGOs, said Md Khurshed Alam, chief engineer of DPHE. The NGO Forum for Drinking

ised the discussion on sustainability of the union-based 100 percent sanitation coverage at the auditorium of the Department of Public Health and Engineering (DPHE) in

tives ministry, called for raising awareness about the importance of basic personal hygiene. Arun Arya, senior adviser to the Unity for Policy Implementation,

said regular monitoring, supervision

and motivation are a must to sustain

the achievement of 100 percent

Chairman Rezaul Karim and Executive Director of NGO Forum SMARahsidalsospoke.

Moudud for press freedom with restraints

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed yesterday said the journalists should formulate their own code of ethics for reporting as any government initiative in this regard would be treated as curtailing of press

The media in Bangladesh has been enjoying full freedom, but this freedom should be enjoyed with restraints, he said, adding, There should not be absolute freedom.'

The government, however, has no intention to curtail the freedom of journalists or media, he categorically said. On the question of empowering the press council, the minister

misuse if it is given more power. Rather, the newspapers should become more careful about their responsibility, he added. Moudud was speaking as chief guest at a daylong seminar on 'Reporting human trafficking, ethical consideration' organised by

Bangladesh Journalists Forum

Against Human Trafficking

(BJFAHT) at the National Press

observed that there is a chance of

He said trafficking of women and children is a national problem which should be dealt with united In a keynote paper at the semi-nar Pof Asif Nazrul of Dhaka

University presented a number of suggestions for journalists to follow while covering trafficking These include not to mention the name of the victims, respect the individual rights and dignity, and

not to discriminate the victims in

terms of sex, race and religion. "Journalists as well as newspapers have some social responsibility to play," said Dr Golam Rahman, chairman of mass communication and journalism department. But there are some newspapers that cannot play proper role and often publish sensational news, he

Editor of the daily Shamokal Golam Sarwar said there should be a common policy guidelines for the journalists while covering trafficking issues. "If there is a common code of ethics for all, then the newspapers would not face any criticism," he added.

Sarwar said there is a tendency in the government to avoid the not good for the people. He stressed the need for

empowering press council for

refraining journalists from fabri-During open discussion, the participants observed that the newspapers should follow their own code of ethics while reporting

> child trafficking. They said many women and children became doubly victim-

on sensitive issues like women and

ised after misleading reporting. The journalists should be careful while publishing the details about the victims of trafficking, they opined.

Chaired by BJFAHT President Farida Yasmin, the discussion was participated by Masud Hasan siddiqui of International Labour Organisation (ILO) Mizanur Rahman of International Organisations for Migrants (IOM), Farid Hossain of AP, Rizwanul Alam of Unicef. Advocate Kohinoor Begum of Bangladesh Women Lawyers Association (BNWLA), Kazi Ali Reza of United Nations Information Centre (UNIC), Uttam Kumar Das of UNHCR, and Afroza Parvin of Nari Unayan Shakti.

Pakistan keen to boost 2-way trade

Islamabad will give attention to boosting the two-way trade between Bangladesh and Pakistan. the newly appointed Pakistan High Commissioner to Bangladesh. Alamgir Babar told Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday.

Babar said they have already identified products that can be imported from Bangladesh.

He apprised Khaleda that Prime linister Shawkat Aziz is looking forward to attending the 13th Saarc Summit in November in Dhaka. Babar expressed the views

during his first formal call on Prime Minister at her office. "There are a lot of opportunities to do many things, particularly enhancing trade, through utilising

the existing excellent relations between Bangladesh and

ments and medicines, from Bangladesh. Direct shipping between the two countries, exchange of visits of cultural delegations under the cultural agreement and visit of a

> neurs to Bangladesh next month were also discussed in the meeting. The high commissioner renewed invitation to Khaleda to

Pakistan," the envoy said.

She accepted the invitation. The date will be fixed up through diplomatic channel.

team of Pakistan women entrepre-



Discussion

Prize giving ceremony

The prize giving ceremony of four-daylong national art and handicrafts exhibition, organised jointly by National Forum of Organisations working with the Disabled and Handicap International, will be held. Venue: Russian Cultural Centre, House-510, Road-7, Dhanmondi.

Parishad discussion

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad will hold a discussion in observance of International Girl Child Day on September 30. Venue: Sufia Kamal Bhaban, 10/B/1 Segun Bagicha. Time:

organises a roundtable titled 'The

blueprint for making Bangladesh a fundamentalist and failed state: State

security is at stake' with Law Minister

Moudud Ahmed as chief guest.

Venue: National Press Club. Time:

Roundtable

Jatiyatabadi Peshajibi Parishad Triennial council

Human chain

Segun Bagicha, Time: 5.00pm.

NAP Bhashani will form a human chain demanding of the government to keep the prices of essentials within the reach of the common people during the holy month of Ramadan. Venue: Muktangon, Ramna. Time: 4.30pm.

Liberation War Museum organises a

discussion titled 'Bangladesh Air Force

in Liberation War with Air-Vice Marshal

(Retd) A K Khandaker as keynote

speaker. Venue: Museum premises, 5

Drama

Zionkathi, a theatre group, will stage a Tagore's drama titled 'Streer Patra' to be acted by Ferdousi Abedin Lina. Venue: Natmondol of Dhaka University. Time:

The triennial council of Zila, Upazila Postmaster HSG/LSG Association will be held. Venue: Dak Bhaban Auditorium, Time: 10.30am.



BOOK ON KIBRIA Publication ceremony Sept 30

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The publication ceremony of a book titled 'Shah AMS Kibria - A Legend' will be held at the Liberation War Museum in the city at 3:30pm on September 30.

The Bangla Prakashani has published the book edited by Mohammad Shahjahan.

Historian Prof Salahuddin Ahmed will preside over the ceremony while Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil will be present as the chief guest.

Dr Quazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmed, president of Bangladesh Economic Association, Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, editor of The Bangladesh Observer, and artist Asma Kibria will address the ceremony as special guests, says a press

President assents to Jagannath University Bill

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday assented to the Jagannath University Bill 2005, passed at the 18th session of the 8th Parliament, said an official handout.

During the period from October

Water Supply and Sanitation organ-

Md Mokhlesr Rahman, joint Secretary of the LGRD and coopera-

sanitation coverage. Keshabpur Union Parishad

views of the newspapers which is