

**N'GANJ DOUBLE MURDER**  
Six pirates  
to die

BDNEWS, N'ganj

A court in Narayanganj yesterday sentenced six pirates to death in robbery with murder case and seven-year rigorous imprisonment (RI) to another with a fine of Tk 1 lakh.

District and Sessions Judge Abul Mansur gave the verdict in a jam-packed courtroom.

The convicts with death are Ayub Hossain Babul, Shamsul Islam Shamsu, Ripon, Shafiqul Islam, Sohel, and Shafiqul Bashar. The convict who received seven-year RI is Haji Mohsin.

The court acquitted Abdul Matin as the complaint brought against him was not proved.

According to the prosecution, a gang of pirates led by Ayub Hossain Babul robbed a sandal ship named Sufia-2 and threw its steering man Hossain Sheikh and another crew into the river tying their hands and legs at the Dapa Balughat.

After two days of the incident, their bodies were recovered from the river Buriganga. Police arrested Ripon, Sohel and several others in this connection.

## Give befitting reply to anti-country campaign

### PM urges expatriates

UNB, Abu Dhabi

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday urged the expatriate Bangladeshis to project the real picture of the country by giving befitting reply to anti-Bangladesh activities and false campaigns.

"We have received recognition as a liberal state for our unflinching commitment to democracy and democratic tolerance. But an interested quarter is engaged in a false and evil campaign at home and abroad to push Bangladesh and Bangladeshis into difficulty," she said.

Khaleda, now in United Arab Emirates (UAE) on a two-day state visit, said her government has arrested those who were engaged in terrorism in the name of Islam and they are being tried in accordance with the laws of the land.

She said Bangladesh is working unitedly with Muslim Ummah and all

countries in the East and the West in fighting the global war against terrorism.

"Bangladesh earned international praise for institutionalising our democracy, efforts for socio-economic development, our firm position against terrorism and our active role in maintaining regional peace and stability," she said.

Describing expatriate Bangladeshis as the country's "goodwill ambassadors", Khaleda said, "the prestige of the country depends on your activities abroad."

She said expatriate Bangladeshis are not only contributing to improve the condition of their families but also the socio-economic development of the country.

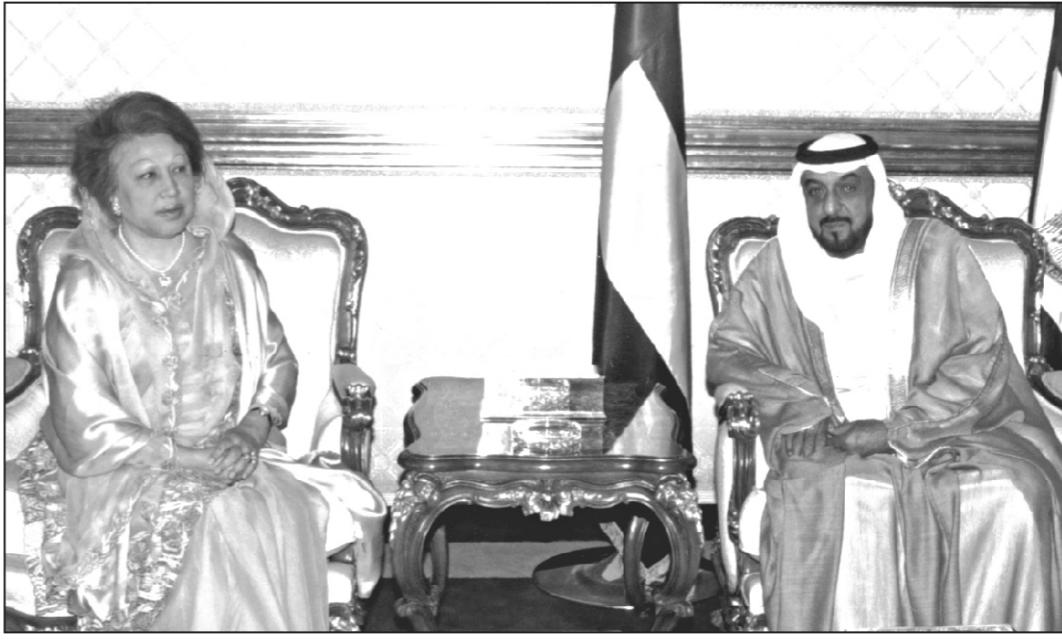
Khaleda said the government, when it assumed power this time, inherited a near-destroyed economy with almost an empty national exchequer and lowest-ever foreign

exchange reserve.

She added that foreign direct investment (FDI) also registered a record growth to 2.5 billion US dollar during the present government, which is three times more than the previous five years.

She said that companies from different countries including UAE, Egypt, India, Singapore, UK and USA have come up with investment proposals worth Tk 33,000 crore while approval or negotiation on investment proposals worth Tk 70,000 crore remained in the pipeline.

She said a foreign company alone came up with a proposal to invest Tk 21,000 crore. "Such huge investment proposals were made never before," said the Prime Minister, adding that local investment proposals of Tk 62,000 crore in 9,000 projects were registered during the period.



Prime Minister Khaleda Zia talks with UAE President Shaikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan during a meeting at Al Batin Palace in Abu Dhabi yesterday.

'Citizens should carry out some duties of state'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

The citizens should carry out some of the duties and responsibilities of the state, rather than leaving all the responsibilities with the government, said The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam on Monday.

The state cannot be made accountable if its citizens are not organised, he said at a view exchange meeting organised by The Daily Star Readers' Club, Dinajpur unit, at Dinajpur Zila School auditorium.

Mahfuz Anam also said every citizen has the right to question the accountability of state activities.

Director of Community Development Association Shah-e-Mobin Jinnah, cultural personality Mirza Anwarul Islam Tanu, Editor of the daily Tista Mizanur Rahman and lecturer of Dinajpur Government College Abdul Jalil also spoke.

Dinajpur correspondent of The Daily Star Kongon Karmaker and chief coordinator of the Readers' Club Rafi Hossain gave opening speeches while the club convenor AKM Ziaul Haque moderated the meeting.

The Daily Star editor also answered questions from the students of different schools and colleges and professionals at the meeting.

Later, a cultural programme was also held.

**DEMRA KILLINGS**  
**Punishment to culprits demanded**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

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citing examples of development made during AL government in various sectors, he said leaders of BNP-Jamaat-led government have only built up their own fortunes by plundering public money.

Tofail said the CEC has no right to stay in his chair anymore as the Supreme Court in its verdict declared the new voter list fake.

He said street agitation would continue in order to ensure a free and fair election to establish people's rights.

Another AL presidium member Motia Chowdhury said the transfer of state minister for power is not enough, the prime minister should also resign as she is the chief of the power ministry.

She said whenever the BNP government comes to power, it only increases the people's sufferings by hiking the prices of essentials.

AL city unit General Secretary Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya said there is no alternative to reforms of the caretaker government system and the Election Commission for holding a free and fair election.

"Today is a day of happiness as the hopes and aspirations of the whole nation have been fulfilled after the Supreme Court had declared the voter list fake," he said.

He urged party leaders and activists to join the protest rally to be held at Muktangan tomorrow to get rid of the misrule of the government.

Presided over by AL Tejgaon thana unit President Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, the meeting was also addressed by 14-party leaders including AL Joint General Secretary Obaidul Quader and former lawmakers Dr BLM Iqbal and Haji Selim.

Later, a procession was brought out.

**Over Tk 2.11 cr received for cancer hospital in April**

Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital (AMCH) received Tk 2 crore 11 lakh and 80 thousand in cash donations in the last month while there were commitments for another Tk 2 crore and 15 lakh from two donors, says a press release.

Construction of the hospital is progressing fast as per plan at Uttara in the city.

In the meantime all works for basement-2 were completed and the works for basement-1 are now going on.

The donors for the month are Pubali Bank Ltd, Tk 2 crore (half of the amount committed for a floor); Awlad Hossain Choudhury, Tk 1 lakh; Hena Ahmed, Tk 5 lakh (partial payment of Tk 20 lakh for a 5-bed ward); Dr MA Hakim, Tk 5 lakh (for a bed to be dedicated for poor patients); Afifa Khan, Tk 5 thousand; Jahangir Alam, Tk 2 thousand; in the name of late Dr Md Mozammel Huq, Tk 5 thousand; Aminul Islam & others, Tk 3 thousand; Ehteshamul Huq, Tk 10 thousand; Rita Hui, Tk 20 thousand; Dr Engr Fazul Karim, Tk 35 thousand and Syed Abu Bin Khurshed, Tk 50 thousand.

**DHAKA TODAY**  
**Presentation on Islam**

British Council and British High Commission organise a 'Presentation session on Islam-Perspective from the UK'. Venue: Brac Centre Inn, Mohakhali. Time: 3:00pm.

**Talk on disaster responses**

South Asian Disaster Management Centre (SDMC) of UBAT organises a talk on 'From Kanthi to Kashmir-Many faces of disaster responses'. Venue: UBAT campus, Uttara. Time: 4:00pm.

**Roundtable on coal policy**

Bangladesh Paribesh Andolok will hold a roundtable discussion on 'Draft Coal Policy: An Open Discussion'. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:00am.

**Discussion**

Workers' Party of Bangladesh will hold a discussion to mark the 10th death anniversary of Comrade Nazrul Islam. Venue: Shaheed Asad auditorium. Time: 4:30pm.

## Govt pushes country to the brink of ruin

### 14-party leaders tell rally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Awami League-led 14-party opposition combine yesterday said the four-party alliance government has pushed the country to the brink of ruin through widespread corruption, politicisation, religious militancy and terrorism during its four and a half years' rule.

Addressing a public meeting in the city they demanded resignation of the government as it has failed to fulfil people's demand in every sector.

The meeting was organised jointly by Tejgaon and Ramna thana units of Awami League (AL) at Karwan Bazaar.

Reiterating their stance on the reforms of the Election Commission (EC) and caretaker government system, the 14-party leaders said they would not allow any election in the country unless the reforms are brought.

They also demanded cancellation of the new voter list, removal of the chief election commissioner (CEC) and protesting price hike of essentials.

Speaking at the meeting as chief guest AL presidium member Tofail Ahmed said the nation is now in a deep crisis as the government has failed to keep the prices of essentials under control, ensure security of people and curb corruption in all sectors.

Citing examples of development made during AL government in various sectors, he said leaders of BNP-Jamaat-led government have only built up their own fortunes by plundering public money.

Tofail said the CEC has no right to stay in his chair anymore as the Supreme Court in its verdict declared the new voter list fake.

He said street agitation would continue in order to ensure a free and fair election to establish people's rights.

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## Tk 60 crore goes down the drain

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The ongoing process of preparing voter list has been stopped after rejection of the EC's appeal.

Replying to questions from reporters, Justice Mahfuz said, "I don't yet know the judgement exactly. I heard different versions of it."

Zakaria said, "We are waiting for copy of the judgement to know the details."

CEC Justice MA Aziz declined to talk to the media.

He had earlier questioned the jurisdiction of the HC to issue such directives to the EC regarding voter list.

Officials at the EC Secretariat and field level also appeared confused yesterday as the EC was yet to give them any directives in the changed context. But field level work on resolving disputes concerning the draft voter list almost came to a halt.

"We are waiting for further directives about the next course of action," said a senior official involved in the process.

Mahfuz and Zakaria said they will decide the next step after receiving certified copy of the verdict. Both said their lawyer did not inform them about it.

The CEC however held a meeting with them at his office.

The EC Secretariat in August last sent a budget of Tk 146 crore to the government and started the process of making a voter list after getting Tk 60 crore in the first instalment.

The secretariat spent most of the money for printing a large number of manuals, voter registration forms and training programmes for manpower recruited for the task.

It already allocated Tk 27 crore for remuneration of the manpower and will need another Tk 27 crore if it is to pay them in full, officials said.

A total of 2,16,722 enumerators and 55,684 supervisors, who started work on the fresh voter list on January 1, will have to be paid for their four months' work.

In 2000, the EC Secretariat spent over Tk 56 crore in remuneration of enumerators and supervisors.

**EC MOVED AGAINST THE COURT**

The HC had asked the EC to revise the existing voter list but the CEC continued the process of preparing the fresh voter list, ignoring the views of the two then election commissioners-- M Munsef Ali and AK Mohammad Ali-- who wanted implementation of the court directives.

Munsef and Mohammad opposed it. The EC then filed the appeal.

On the HC directives, Aziz, a sitting judge of the SC, told reporters on January 31, "Observations cannot be made without issuing any rule... I have never witnessed any such observations neither in my 24-year career as a practising lawyer nor in the 10 years as a judge of the Supreme Court."

## BD Foods chairman on fresh remand

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passed the order against the prayer of an eight-day remand when the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of police produced him before the court on completion of his seven-day remand.

Badrudoza was arrested on May 14 after Nazmul Haider Bulbul, a former BD Foods official, and his cohort Mokhslesur Rahman Nayan, a cargo handler, confessed to a magistrate that they smuggled 22.5kg heroin to the UK at Badrudoza's directive.

Official sources said, many departments voluntarily decided to take classes and examinations during the vacation.

Classes and other regular academic activities will resume on July 1.

mate exported goods. He also admitted that his former official Nazmul Haider Bulbul's confession statement is true.

The IO mentioned that Badrudoza started his export-oriented business with Tk 20,000 to 40,000 in 1985, but managed to earn crores of taka within a short time. Moreover, Abul Kalam, a UK citizen or Bangladeshi origin as well as a buyer of BD Foods, owes Tk 2 crore to Badrudoza.

So, Badrudoza needs to be quizzed further to find out the source of his large amount of money, whereabouts of his business partners, other spots of collecting heroin and names of his foreign buyers, the IO added.

The defence lawyers submitted a petition for cancellation of the remand prayer.

Remand of Mainuddin BD Foods Limited manager Mohammad Mainuddin, arrested on charge of smuggling 54 kg heroin, was placed on a five-day remand to find out more information about smuggling drugs to the UK.

The IO CID Inspector Abdur Razzak produced Mainuddin before another court on completion of his three-day remand and sought for a fresh 10-day remand.

Kazi Zafar Reza, proprietor of Rainbow Enterprise, and Abul Bashar, owner of Green Haven Enterprise had earlier given confessional statements about drug smuggling to a magistrate on different dates.

## NON-GOVT TEACHERS JS body for 100pc salary hike by June

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Parliamentary Committee on Government Assurances yesterday asked the government to increase the salary of the non-government teachers from present 90 per cent to 100 per cent within next month.

The committee also recommended that the education ministry register the educational institutions in Monthly Pay Order (MPO) that has remained suspended after 2004.

The parliamentary body in a meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban recommended increase of the allowance of Ebtedaye madrasa teachers, which is now Tk 500 only and also discussed the progress in implementing the promises made by the government at different times during its tenure.

"We recommended additional allocation in the next budget to upgrade the standard of Fazil and Kamil education, ensuring same facilities for Ebtedaye madrasa and primary schools and revising the salary structure of the teachers," committee Chairman Abdus Sobhan told the reporters.