

# Iajuddin back in office

**SHAKHAWAT LITON**

Ending all speculations about the state of the presidency and a change in it, President Iajuddin Ahmed resumed his responsibilities yesterday afternoon, and will attend office from Sunday.

A high-powered medical board headed by National Professor Brigadier (ret) MA Malik yesterday reviewed the health condition of the president and found him fit to work, said an official announcement.

He underwent a bypass surgery on May 26 in Singapore.

The president can resume light work immediately but visitors to him should now be limited, the board said.

"The medical board expresses satisfaction at the progress of rehabilitation programme. The president is quite stable to gradu-

ally resume routine activities. His cardiac status is satisfactory," a government handout yesterday said.

The board will again examine the president's health condition after about three weeks. It also suggested continuation of his present medication.

Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar, who acted as president since May 24, returned to his office yesterday.

The 75-year-old president was flown to Singapore on that day for treatment of cardiac complications.

Deputy Speaker Akhtar Hamid Siddiqui and Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed yesterday evening informed the Jatiya Sangsad about the president's resumption of duties as the state of the presidency was raised again in the House.

The Cabinet Division also



A street urchin cradling an infant in her arms begs on a busy street in the capital. Beggars often hire babies and use them to draw sympathy of people.

# Jubok asked to return money to depositors

**STAR REPORT**

The Bangladesh Bank (BB) yesterday asked Jubo Karmasangsthan Society (Jubok), a non-government organisation, to return all its savings, deposits and other credits to its members and depositors by December 31 this year.

The central bank in a letter also asked Jubok to immediately stop collecting deposits from people in any form for the sake of public interest.

The BB also sent letters to the Finance Division and the Joint Stock Companies and Firms asking them to take necessary actions against the NGO for violating the laws.

"The Bangladesh Bank was under tremendous pressure while dealing with this case," said a top private bank official, adding that almost all political parties came up with requests not to take any action against Jubok.

On May 24, the central bank served a notice on Jubok in accordance with sections 51 and 52 of the Banking Companies Act, 1991, asking it to explain within seven days why its activities such as collecting deposits and borrowing from common people on interests should not be declared illegal.

Yesterday's BB directive does not exercise the Banking Companies Act but was for the sake of public interest and financial discipline. Following the law, the BB was supposed to declare Jubok bankrupt and wrap up its all other business activities. The BB was also supposed to make a public announcement in the media about Jubok's illegal banking and ask

# Janata Tower now linchpin to tie in Ershad

**Ministry stops building work after his meet with PM**

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

The Ministry of Housing and Public Works has been asked to immediately stop its Tk13 crore project for renovation and further construction of the controversial Janata Tower building for which Rawshan Ershad, wife of deposed president HM Ershad, is fighting a court case.

The move to stop the project comes only days after Ershad and Rawshan met Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, fuelling speculations that the ruling BNP is trying to lure Ershad-led Jatiya Party into the alliance led by it to fight the next general election.

When contacted, Rawshan brushed aside such speculations. But housing ministry sources said

# Inept handling caused fire at Banglar Shourabh

**Probe body says**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, CTG**

Violation of international regulations and standard operational procedures coupled with equipment handling by unskilled operators were the causes of fire that killed three people aboard oil tanker The Banglar Shourabh, pointed out the three-member probe committee in its report submitted yesterday.

The Banglar Shourabh, procured by Bangladesh Shipping Corporation (BSC) about 25 years ago at a cost of Tk 50 crore, caught fire at Charley (C) point of the outer anchorage of Chittagong port on July 24.

The probe committee comprising members from Mercantile Marine Department and Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) suspect that sparks from 'electric blower' during cleaning of its tanks might have caused the fire and the explosions, as the vessel was not

# PMO rejects costly Navy boat purchase

**STAR REPORT**

The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) yesterday rejected Bangladesh Navy's bid to procure six high-speed patrol boats at a high cost and asked it to re-tender the procurement, sources said.

The Armed Forces Division earlier sought the prime minister's clearance to procure these boats at a cost of Tk 14.5 crore. It procured six similar boats in 2005 for only Tk 9 crore. There were allegations of bid manipulation in the current procurement process.

Bangladesh Navy recently floated a tender seeking boats measuring between 10 to 12 metres, with air-conditioned cabins and light machine gun (LMG) posts, global positioning system, radar and other sophisticated equipment to help the Navy conduct anti-smuggling operations in the deep sea.

During the tender, the Navy picked up the bid of one Labanu that quoted higher price for the

# Rejoinder and our reply

Labanu International Limited in a rejoinder, against a report headlined 'Costly deal to buy navy patrol boats' published in The Daily Star on June 19, claimed that the allegations against the naval boat purchase are not based on facts.

It states that the naval boats purchased last year are different from the boats being procured now. "The boats purchased last year were 10 metres long with usage in river only," said the rejoinder sent by Barrister Khairul Alam Chowdhury on behalf of Labanu, "the boats of my client are 12 metres long, equipped to meet the navy's requirement of the year round, open sea, search and rescue with air conditioned cabins. This requires a stronger and more expensive material for construction of the

# VOTER LIST UPDATE EC may reconsider procedure

**SHAKHAWAT LITON**

The Election Commission (EC) may reconsider the procedure for updating the voter list next week in the wake of little response from the people and the newly appointed EC secretary's stance favouring door-to-door visit, said sources.

But in a last-ditch attempt to prove right its decision not to visit from door to door to revise the existing list, the EC and its Secretariat are now going all out to have more people listed as voters using the current method, an official of the Secretariat said.

Field level officials were directed yesterday to give their best

to improve the people's response that was anything but satisfactory in last six days. Even an election commissioner yesterday phoned several district election officers, asking them to step up their efforts, added the sources.

But many district officials expressed frustration over the progress in the updating job and support for the newly appointed secretary of the EC Secretariat favouring house-to-house visit.

"We have been trying our best for the last six days. But what can we do if people don't show up to pick up the forms required to be listed as voters," a district election

**Star Insight**

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The Daily Star launches **Star Insight** from July 8, 2006, a fortnightly publication which will come out every second Saturday along with our regular issue. It will feature articles, interviews, stories, etc written exclusively by our Readers' Club members from all over the country. This will be delivered along with our regular issue. Make sure your hawkers give it with the paper.

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# Israel reoccupies north Gaza

**11 Palestinians killed as deadly ME crisis soars**

**AFF, REUTERS, Gaza City**

Israeli tanks and troops ploughed deeper into Gaza yesterday, killing 11 Palestinians and occupying three former Jewish settlements in their biggest offensive since leaving the territory last year.

Helicopter gunships and artillery pounded the territory, as troops moved further into both the northern and southern Gaza Strip, coming under heavy fire after a ninth consecutive night of air strikes and artillery assault.

The push effectively created a buffer zone in the north of the Palestinian territory and followed a second rocket attack on the

# Zidane in line for Golden Ball

**REUTERS, Berlin**

France playmaker Zinedine Zidane, who will end his glorious career in the World Cup final against Italy on Sunday, has been short-listed for the prestigious FIFA Golden Ball award.

The winner of the prize, which is given to the most valuable player in the 32-team tournament, will be announced on Monday.

The nominations were dominated by Italy and France with hosts Germany earning two spots and Portugal one.

Four Italians were nominated by FIFA's Technical Study Group -- keeper Gianluigi Buffon, central defender Fabio Cannavaro, midfielder Andrea Pirlo and full-back Gianluca Zambrotta.

France, who face Italy at the Olympiastadion, had three players short-listed -- Zinedine Zidane.

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Saam Ruslan Anondo, the only son of Mr. Md. Fazle Selim, (Managing Director of Ranks-ITT Ltd.) Mrs. Rukhsana Selim (Swarna) and beloved brother of Shahneela Nawsheen & Rudmeela Nawsheen went into our memories following a tragic accident in Oregon USA in the morning of 7th July 2003 at the age of 15. He was a student of Grade IX of European Standard School, Dhanmondi, Dhaka.

Ruslan was a good singer and earned prominence at his young age participating in various functions. He left behind a lot of friends and admirers.

We are deeply saddened and shocked at such a grievous, untimely and unbearable loss. Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to pray for Anondo and attend the Milad Mahfil to be held, on 7th of July (Friday) at House-1/10 Block-D Lalmatia Dhaka, right after Maghrib prayer.

Bereaved Parents & Sisters of Saam Ruslan Anondo  
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