

# Military role in aid of civil admin to continue

Advisory council okays extension of VIP status of former President, PM, Opposition Leader

UNB, Dhaka

A meeting of the advisory council of the caretaker government last night approved extension of the VIP status of President, Prime Minister and Chief Adviser to the caretaker government after the end of their respective tenures.

"The extension shall also apply to past Leader of the Opposition in Parliament from the day of takeover by the Chief Advisor of non-party caretaker government," as per decision of the council of advisers.

The meeting, presided over by Chief Adviser Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed at his office, took the decisions under provision of section 2(d) of the Special Security Force Ordinance 1986.

Besides, the meeting approved another proposal for continuation of the role of the armed forces in aid of the civil administration "to protect public life and property, keep up

economic activities vibrant and improve law-and-order situation" during the state of emergency.

Advisers of the caretaker government attended the meeting held at Chief Adviser's Office.

## 15 muggers of 'malam party' arrested in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) on Monday arrested 15 muggers who allegedly belong to what is popularly known as 'malam party' and used to snatch away valuables from people applying ointment on their eyes.

The arrested persons are Abdur Rahim, 30, Chan Mia, 30, Ripan, 28, Jashim, 26, Salim, 28, Siddique, 24, Jewel, 25, Shahidul, 25, Iqbal, 28, Churnu, 26, Shahadat, 26, Napoleon Shuman, 35, Monir, 34, Anwar, 32 and

Ismail, 32.

On information, Rab-3 prepared a list of muggers operating in different areas of the city and arrested them from Bishaw Road, Kakrail, Azimpur, Khilgaon and Motijheel areas.

The arrestees confessed that they in connivance with CNG or taxicab drivers used to snatch money and valuables from the commuters using some ointment on their eyes.

Rab officials said there might be a number of gangs operating in the city.

## Australia hails new CG, hopes for timely, fair election

UNB, Dhaka

The Australian government has welcomed the reconstituted caretaker government and hoped that the rescheduled elections in Bangladesh would be held timely in a free and fair manner.

Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer in a statement yesterday said they are pleased that the authorities in Bangladesh have chosen to postpone the national elections that were planned for January 22.

"To have held the elections in spite of a planned boycott by opposition parties would have meant such elections would have lacked credibility and been unacceptable to Australia and the international community," he said.

Downer welcomed the decision of President Iajuddin to appoint a new chief adviser of the caretaker government, and encourages the new chief adviser to ensure the rescheduled elections are free and fair, and be held in a timely and peaceful manner with the participation of all political parties.

"The situation in Bangladesh remains fragile and the Australian government urges all parties to work together to ensure the interests of all Bangladeshis are upheld," he said, adding, "We will continue to monitor developments."

## Murder case filed over mysterious death of nurse

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A murder case was lodged with Mohammadpur police station in the city yesterday in connection with the mysterious death of a nurse of a private hospital.

Reshma Akhter, 22, who worked at Lalmatia City Hospital, died at Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) on Monday night after an unknown person brought her there.

But the man left the hospital immediately after the doctors had declared her dead.

The Lalmatia City Hospital authorities initially denied that they do not know the victim, but later admitted that she worked for the hospital as a nurse, the investigation officer said.

The hospital authorities also told the police that Reshma went out of the hospital at 9:00am on the day but when she returned in the evening, she looked very sick.

Hafizur Rahman, brother of the victim, filed the murder case. He told The Daily Star that he suspects that Reshma might have been killed at her workplace. Their suspicions were aroused because the hospital authorities did not even inform her family of the incident, he added.

Police suspect that she might have committed suicide by taking poison.

Morgue sources said there were no marks of injuries in her body except a minor injury mark in her shoulder. The reason behind her death would be confirmed after the viscera test, they added.

## 4 SSC examinees fall sick after eating singara

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

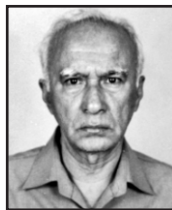
Four SSC examinees were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for falling sick after eating food from roadside vendors.

The victims are Salma Akhtar, Annie Hawladar, Nazmun Nahar and Sabrina Shaheen Tamanna. Four SSC examinees of Salauddin Ahmed Adarsho High School at Momenbagh in Jatrabari area of the city.

The school authority said the four girls went to the roadside vendors outside the school during tiffin period to buy singara and fell seriously ill after half an hour.

The teachers of the school then rushed the victims to DMCH.

## Shraddha



Shradha of Ramananda Mallik, former director general of Bangladesh Technical Education Board, will be held at his village home at Keraniganj today, says a press release.

Mallik, who was also a director of Technical Division, Ahsanullah University of Science & Technology, passed away on January 7 at the age of 76.

He is survived by his wife, four sons and one daughter.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Indian High Commissioner Pinak Ranjan Chakravarty calls on BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia at her Hawa Bhaban office in the city yesterday.

## INDIAN ENVOY MEETS KHALEDA

# India to invest Tk 800cr for development of land ports

UNB, Dhaka

New High Commissioner of India Pinak Ranjan Chakravarty met BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia at her Hawa Bhaban office in the city yesterday evening.

They discussed bilateral issues, including business and economy.

Briefing newsmen after an hour-long meeting, BNP chairperson's adviser Reaz Rahman said it was a courtesy call. Both of them stressed the need to strengthen trade and economic relationship between two countries.

"There is no other way but to strengthen the trade and economic relationship," the High Commissioner was quoted as saying.

In response, the BNP chairper-

son agreed with the view expressed by the envoy.

Chakravarty said India would invest Tk 800 crore for developing infrastructure of the land ports on the Indian side of the frontier.

They also discussed various other issues, like sharing electricity. Both sides agreed that the thinking should be in a new direction.

"The bottom line is," Reaz said, "both the countries want good relations between them."

In reply to a query, he said there was no discussion about the political situation and the proclamation

of emergency.

"They (the Indian government) will deal with whatever government comes in power," Reaz said.

Both sides agreed to work together to "fight terrorism".

The High Commissioner conveyed warm greetings of Indian Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh to the BNP leader and former prime minister.

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and BNP chairperson's adviser M Morshed Khan were present at the meeting.

## THEFT CASE

# Shamim, Nasim Osman asked to appear in court in 10 days

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Narayanganj district magistrate published an advertisement in a local daily yesterday asking former Awami League lawmaker Shamim Osman, his brother Jatiya Party leader Nasim Osman and three others to appear before the court within next 10 days in connection with a theft case filed in 2001.

It has been mentioned in the advertisement that there are arrest warrants against the five accused who went into hiding to avoid trial. If they do not appear within 10 days, they would be tried in absentia.

The other accused are Nasim Osman's wife Parveen Osman and son Ajmeri Osman and Rezaul Karim Reza, a close associate of Nasim.

Ismat Hashem, brother of district BNP leader Shawkat Hashem, filed the case on December 22 in 2001.

Nasim's lawyer Advocate Anisur Rahman Dipu said a High Court division bench gave an order on January 14 asking Nasim and his wife Parveen to appear before Dhaka District Sessions Judge's Court within four weeks.

At the same time, the HC also directed the administration not to arrest or harass them during the

period, he added.

So, it does not make sense why the advertisement was published, Advocate Dipu said.

## 4 injured in Kushtia blasts

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Two women and two children were critically injured when two bombs blasted at Abdalpur village under Sadar upazila in the district yesterday.

According to police Bablu, 7, and his cousin Arzina, 11, found a packet by the side of a road near their house at about 12:00 noon.

They took the packet to their house and found two small containers there.

As they tried to open, the containers loaded with explosive, blasted.

Bablu and Arzina sustained serious injuries by the splinters, while Bablu's mother Aleya, 35, and a neighbour Ratna, 22, were also hit by the splinters.

They were admitted to Kushtia General Hospital.

Police rushed to the spot and recovered the splinters.

## Obituary



Anindya Majumder (Bappu), director of New Generation Construction Co. Ltd., passed away due to cancer

on Monday night in Mount Elizabeth Hospital in Singapore at the age of 31, says a press release.

Anindya, also director of Jamuna Bank Ltd, was the eldest son of Kanutos Majumder and Dr Pratima Paul Majumder.

His body will be kept at his residence at House No. 10, Road No. 96, Gulshan-2 in the city until 10:00am today to enable friends and admirers to pay their last respect.

The cremation of the dead will take place today during noon at Baradashwari Kalibari Mahashashan at Sabujbag in the city.

Former Adviser ASM Shahjahan, Awami League Presidium Member Suranjit Sengupta, chairman of Hindu Buddha Christian Oikya Parishad Maj General (Retd) CR Datta, BU leaders of Bangladesh Puja Uddipan Parishad, Mohanagar Puja Committee, employees and officers of New Generation Construction Co. Ltd. condoled the death and prayed for departed soul.

## Akbar Shah Qureshi Kenu

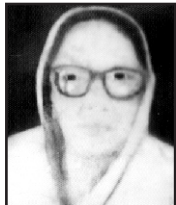
Akbar Shah Qureshi Kenu, a valiant freedom fighter and former DUSCU leader, passed away on January 11 due to a massive cardiac arrest in Chittagong at the age of 62, says a press release.

He left behind his wife and one son to mourn his death.

He was buried at Shah Garibullah Mazar graveyard.

Relatives, friends and admirers are requested to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

## Nilima Ganguli



Nilima Ganguli, a teacher and mother of Awami Shilpi Gosthi Vice President Bachchu Ganguli, passed away

due to old age complications, a press release said.

Awami Shilpi Gosthi President Salauddin Badal and General Secretary Shibu Roy expressed deep shock at her death.

## Amol Sen's death anniversary today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the fourth death anniversary of Amol Sen, former president of Workers Party and one of the veterans of Te-vanga Andolan (Movement to provide two-third shares of crops to the farmers), says a press release.

On this day in 2003, he died at a community hospital in the city.

On the occasion, Workers Party organised a discussion at its central office in the city yesterday.

Speakers said Amol Sen would be remembered for his revolutionary activities.

Presided over by Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon, the discussion was also addressed by columnist Foyez Ahmed, General Secretary of Communist Party of Bangladesh Muzahidul Islam Selim, Executive President of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal Moineddin Khan Badal, Gonotontroty Party President Nurul Islam, Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal Convener Khalequzzaman and General Secretary of Sammyabadi Dal Dilip Barua.

Workers Party, 11-party, Left Democratic Front, Communist Party of Bangladesh, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, Gonotontroty Party, Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal, Sammyabadi Dal, Dhaka University, Samajtantrik Chhatra Front, Bangladesh Chhatra Union, Narimukti Sangsad, Jatiya Chhatra Oikya and Bangladesh Garments

Sramik Karmachari Federation yesterday placed wreaths at the portrait of Amol Sen to pay respect to the veteran communist leader.

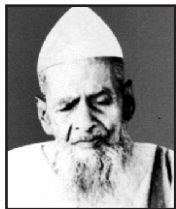
## Alhaj AKM Golam Quader



Today is the first death anniversary of Alhaj AKM Golam Quader, a businessman and a freedom fighter, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad and doa mahfil will be held on Friday at 11:00am at his village home at GM Hat at Fullgazi in Feni.

## Maulana Abdur Rahim



Today is the 29th death anniversary of eminent Islamic thinker and educationist Maulana Abdur Rahim (Bara Huzur), says a

press release.

To mark the day, Hazipur Foundation will organise a discussion and a doa mahfil in the evening at Hazipur Fazil Madrasa at Daulatkhan in Bhola.

On the occasion, Foundation will distribute blankets and winter clothes among the people at Daulatkhan.



PHOTO: MOAZZEM HOSSAIN SHAKIL

A seedbed in Cox's Bazar becomes parched due to lack of irrigation water. The picture was taken from a village in Sadar upazila yesterday.

## 'Utilise nuclear resource to meet growing demand of power'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday underscored the need for implementing nuclear energy projects to meet the increasing demand of electricity in the country.

Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission organised a three-day seminar titled "The role of nuclear scientists in the socio-economic sector in producing nuclear energy" in its central office auditorium at Argagaon in the city.

Citing the elaborate initiatives taken by India and Pakistan in nuclear sectors, the speakers stressed the need for proper production and development of energy sector in Bangladesh by 2030.

They felt an urgent need to include a minimum of 600-megawatt of nuclear energy in the national grid by 2015.

Presided by the director of International Relations of Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission Dr Fariduddin Ahmed, the seminar was also addressed by Dr Abdus Sattar Mollah, Dr Abdul Malek, Dr Lutfunnesa and Mohammad Mozammel Haq.

The keynote paper was presented by head of Nuclear Power Division Dr Shawqat Akbar.

## Injured worker dies in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A factory worker, who was critically injured on Monday's boiler blast at Shyampur in the city, died yesterday.

Farooq Hussain, 35, died at Dhaka Medical College and Hospital at 6:00am.

Farooq along with four other workers of Salam Steel Mills was severely injured when the boiler of the factory exploded with a huge bang while melting irons.

# Three killed in road crashes

STAR REPORT

At least three people were killed in separate road accidents in Comilla and Sirajganj yesterday.

A Correspondent from Comilla adds: One person was crushed under the wheels of a bus at Bagorib stand area on Dhaka-Chittagong highway under Chandina upazila yesterday.

The dead was identified as Jube Unnayan Officer MA Momin, 42, of Forhadabad village in Banchharampur upazila in Brahmanbaria district.

Police and eyewitnesses said the accident occurred at about 1:30am when an unidentified passenger bus from Dhaka hit Momin when he was waiting at a bus stand.

After the accident, agitated people put barricade on the road for half an hour.

Police and Chandina upazila Chairman rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

A case was filed in this regard. UNB from Sirajganj reports: Two people were crushed under the wheels of trucks in separate road accidents in the district yesterday.

Police said Mujibur Rahman, 45, was killed at Majihail on Sirajganj-Belkuchi road at about 5:30am while Marzina, 55, at Elonda on Bogra-Nagarbari highway at about 8:00am.

On information, police recovered the bodies and sent those to the Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.



## No change in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Dry weather will prevail over the country in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Light to moderate fog may also occur over the river basins of the country during late night until morning, said Met Office.

Moderate to severe cold wave sweeping over the region of Srimgongal and mild to moderate cold wave sweeping over Rajshahi and Dhaka divisions and the regions of Comilla, Feni, Jessore, Sylhet and Barisal may continue during next 1-2 days.

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

Highest temperature 27.8 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chittagong and lowest 04.4 degree Celsius at Srimgongal.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:34pm and rises at 6:43am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

| City/Town   | Temperature |      | Humidity in percentage |         |
|-------------|-------------|------|------------------------|---------|
|             | Max         | Min  | Morning                | Evening |
| Dhaka       | 25.0        | 09.6 | 46                     | 41      |
| Chittagong  | 27.8        | 12.8 | 69                     | 51      |
| Rajshahi    | 23.4        | 07.0 | 82                     | 63      |
| Khulna      | 23.7        | 11.1 | 57                     | 58      |
| Barisal     | 24.0        | 09.5 | 83                     | 67      |
| Sylhet      | 23.7        | 09.2 | 59                     | —       |
| Cox's Bazar | 27.0        | 14.5 | 77                     | 62      |