

Govt of nat'l consensus can be formed after polls

Says Badruddoza

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDB) President Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday said the 'government of national consensus' that he expounded a few days back, could be formed only after the election.

"We did not propose to form the government of national consensus before the election," he told the reporters at his KC Memorial Clinic at Baridhara in the capital.

On October 8, Prof Badruddoza called for forming the government of national consensus for next 10 years comprising all democratic

and patriotic political parties that believe in common development programmes. The BDB chief said he will hold talks with different political parties except the anti-liberation forces to work out details of his proposed government of national consensus.

He said all political parties will have to reach a consensus on the issue and then the national election would be held.

After the election, the prime minister would be selected from the majority party and he or she will form the cabinet comprising parliament members of all political parties, said Prof Badruddoza.

He added that the deputy leader would be selected from the second majority party in parliament.

He also claimed that there is no inconsistency in his proposal that needs amendment of the constitution.

The BDB chief said the government of national consensus would help eliminate corruption and bring peace and prosperity in the country.

"Both the ruling and opposition parties commit corruption," he said, adding that the government of national consensus will help stop this culture.



PHOTO: STAR

Adviser to the caretaker government Md Anwarul Iqbal lays the foundation stone of Gulshan Banani Link Road at Banani Road No 11 in the city yesterday.

Bangladeshi scientist
Hussam Time's environment hero

BSS, Dhaka

Abul Hussam, Bangladeshi expatriate scientist, is one of 'Global Heroes of the Environment 2007', chosen by the Time magazine, for his invention, Sonar filter, a low-cost technology to free water from arsenic.

The American news magazine recently chose him as one of the 'global heroes' in the category of scientists and innovators.

He will be given the award on October 25 in London, said a press release of the Human Development Research Centre, Dhaka.

After a decade of research, Hussam, Associate Professor of Chemistry at the George Mason University in Virginia, USA, and his younger brother Dr Abul Munir, jointly invented the simple but life-saving filter, capable of purifying poisoned water.

Their another brother Prof Abul Barakat of Dhaka University also contributed to the decade-long research to make its production less costly.

The filter could save countless lives among the estimated 137 million people around the world who have to depend on water, contaminated with high levels of the colourless, odourless and tasteless metals, which accumulates in the body to damage nerves, cause sores, cancer, and too often, death, a Time article says.

TRAIN DERAILMENT

Investigation begins

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Investigation into the derailment of Mohanagar Prabhati at Baro Takia Railway Station at Mirsarai on October 13 began yesterday.

Imdadul Huq, government inspector of Bangladesh Railway, took written statements from around 30 officials concerned and interrogated seven of them at the VIP guest room at Chittagong station, sources said.

When contacted, Imdadul told The Daily Star that he will continue the interrogation today if it was not completed by last night.

He also visited the Baro Takia station on Sunday and talked to different persons including several injured passengers who are undergoing treatment at the health complex.

Meanwhile the five-member probe body formed by the Bangladesh Railway to investigate the incident submitted its report yesterday to the Divisional Manager Ibrahim Karim who handed it over to the Chief Operation Superintendent of RAWAhan.

The derailment of five compartments of Mohanagar Prabhati train left three people killed and over thirty injured on the day before Eid-ul-Fitr on October 13.

PHOTO: STAR

Former BNP lawmaker Manjurul Ahsan Munshi being taken to a speedy trial tribunal in Chittagong yesterday.

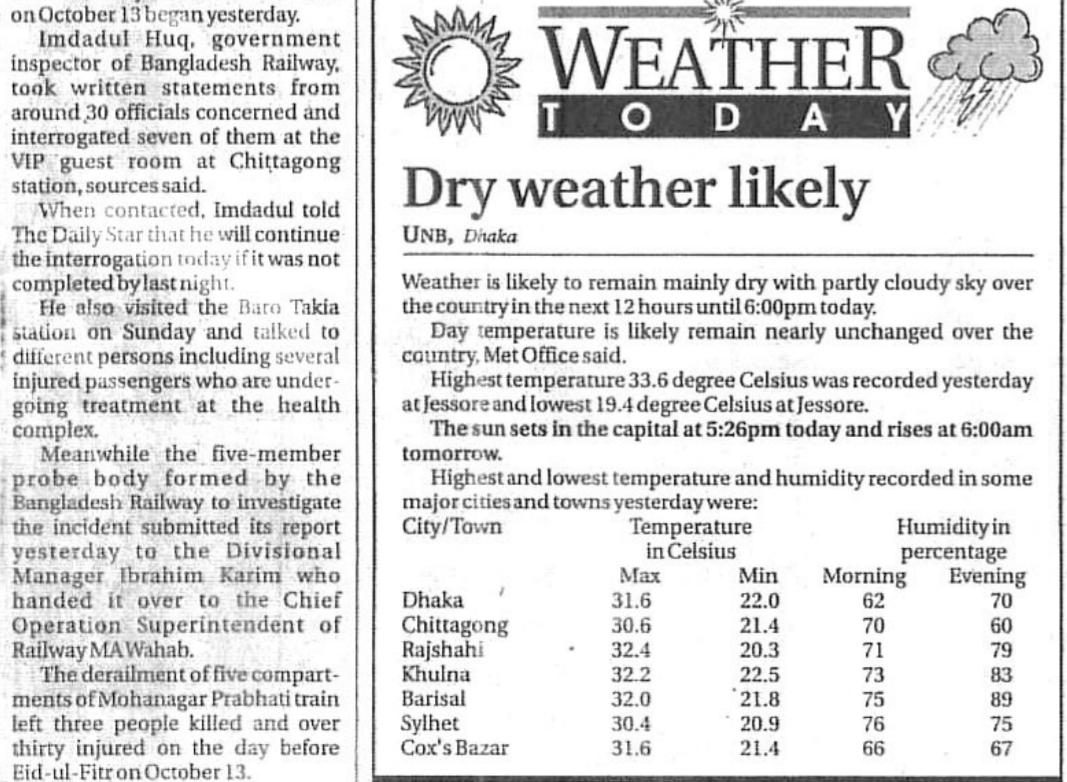


PHOTO: STAR

Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today. Day temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged over the country. Met Office said.

Highest temperature 33.6 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessor and lowest 19.4 degree Celsius at Jessor.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:26pm today and rises at 6:00am tomorrow.

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

City/Town Temperature in Celsius Humidity in percentage

Max Min Morning Evening

Dhaka 31.6 22.0 62 70

Chittagong 30.6 21.4 70 60

Rajshahi 32.4 20.3 71 79

Khulna 32.2 22.5 73 83

Barisal 32.0 21.8 75 89

Sylhet 30.4 20.9 76 75

Cox's Bazar 31.6 21.4 66 67

Four senior officials transferred

UNB, Dhaka

Joint secretary of the establishment ministry AKM Nesaruddin Bhuiyan was transferred as director of Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC) and Hari Manika Datta as director of Jute Directorate.

Mohammad Khurshed Alam, member of Handloom Board was transferred as member of Bangladesh Land Ports Authority and Sirajuddin Mia, joint secretary of Environment & Forest Ministry as director of Textile Directorate, said a handout.

Two crushed under wheels of trains

STAR REPORT

At least two people were crushed under the wheels of trains in separate accidents in Sirajganj and Chandpur yesterday.

Our correspondent from Sirajganj adds: An unidentified person aged about 35 was crushed under the wheels of a train on the Joydevpur-Chapainawabganj route in Chala Shahbazpur area in Kamarkhanda upazila of Sirajganj yesterday.

Railway police and witnesses said the accident occurred at around 3.30pm when a Chapainawabganj-bound train from Joydevpur crushed him while he was crossing the road. Police sent the body to Sadar hospital morgue for autopsy and filed a case with Railway police station in this connection.

Our correspondent from Chandpur adds: A young man was killed under the wheels of a running train near Chandpur Railway Court Station at dawn yesterday.

The victim was identified as Md Mainuddin, 27, of Mulpur village under Faridganj upazila of the district. The body of the youth was torn into pieces, said witnesses.

The Inter City Express Train was bound for Chittagong.

Our Brahmanbaria correspondent says: Train communications remained snapped for eight hours on three routes, Dhaka-Chittagong, Chittagong-Sylhet and Dhaka-Noakhali, as a goods train derailed at Mondabag railway station under Kasba upazila of the district on 10.30pm on Sunday.

According to railway sources, four wagons of the Chittagong-bound goods train from Dhaka derailed from the track when it was near the outer signal of the station.

As a result, Turna Nishita, Jalalabad Express, Noakhali Express and seven other mail trains were stuck up at different stations.

However, a relief train from Akhaura Railway Junction rushed to the spot and restored the train communications at 7:00am.

This was the second derailment of train at Mandabag in last five days.

EARLY FLOOD WARNING CEGIS, bangalalink sign MoU

Under a memorandum of understanding (MOU), the Centre for Environmental and Geographic Information Services (CEGIS) will disseminate early flood warning to disaster managers of flood-prone areas using bangalalink SMS service.

The MOU was signed between bangalalink and CEGIS at the head office of bangalalink in the city recently, says a press release.

The CEGIS is implementing a pilot project of early flood warning dissemination to 650 disaster managers at present.

It has a plan to expand the activities in future across the country where bangalalink will be the exclusive partner to support the initiative.

Flood being a regular natural calamity, it is extremely important for the people of Bangladesh to get prepared for it.

CEGIS project titled 'Community-based Flood Information System (CFIS)' has developed a model to calculate flood water level one to two days in advance.

However, it had been a challenge for CEGIS to make sure that the disaster managers receive the early flood warning message in time.

Now with the help of bangalalink, it has become possible for CEGIS to send the early flood warning messages to respective DMs in time that may save lives and assets from possible flooding.

bangalalink has always supported the activities at the community level that may change the lives of the common people.

"Partnership with CEGIS is bangalalink's one of the corporate social responsibility initiatives, and we believe that this will have significant impact in common people's lives of Bangladesh," the press release added.

The signing ceremony was attended by Director (Marketing) Omer Rashid, Shihab Ahmed, Mohammad Shafiqul Islam and Prabir Dey of bangalalink and Executive Director Giasuddin Ahmed Chowdhury and Senior Water Resources Planner Ahmadul Hassan of the CEGIS.

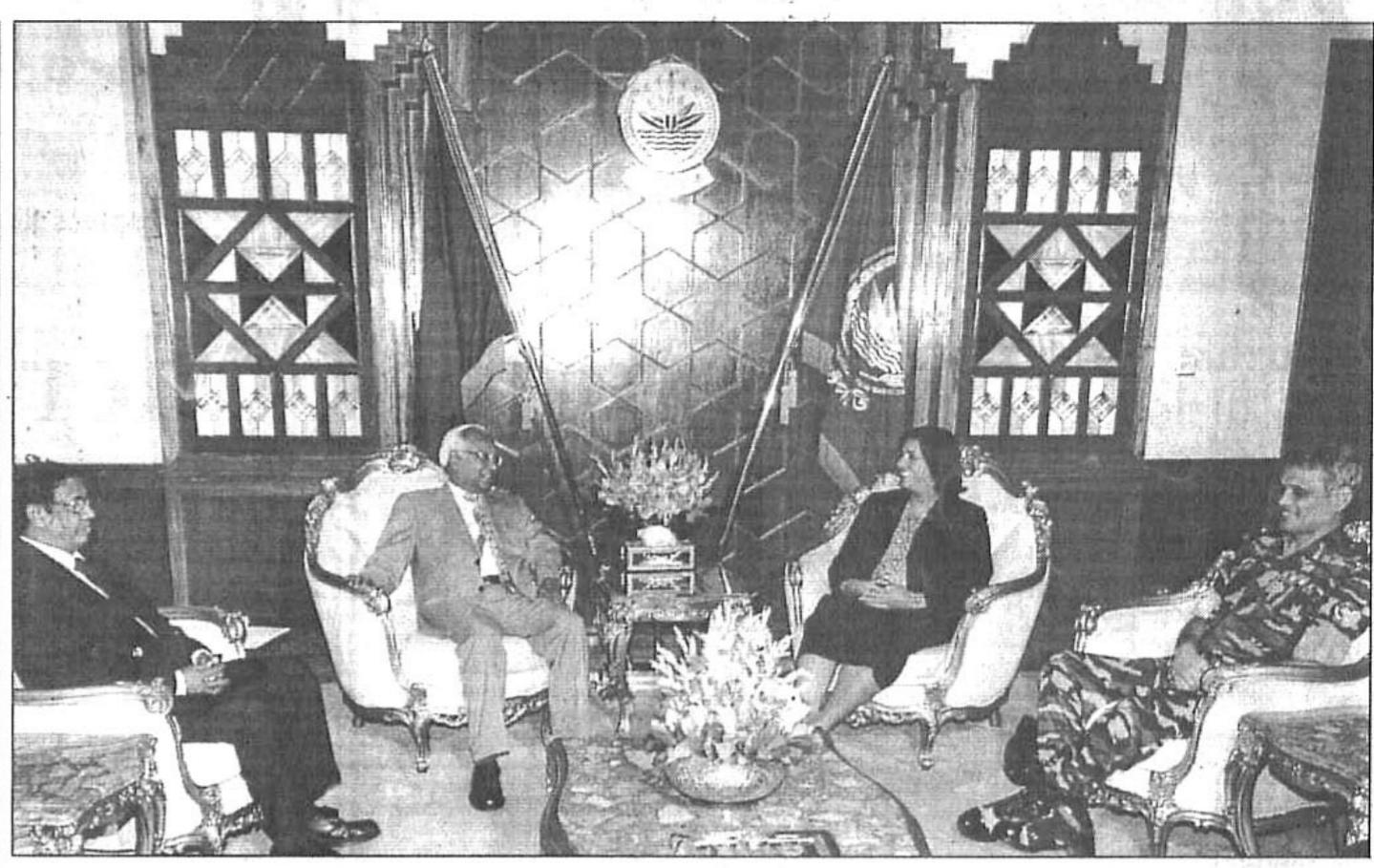


PHOTO: PID

Dulu sued again

FROM PAGE 16

Haridakhali Mosque in Naldanga upazila, filed the case with the cognisance court no 1, according to UNB.

In the case, the complainant stated that Dulu and his associates picked him up and demanded Tk 1 lakh from him on March 19, 2004.

He further alleged that the accused also beat up him, snatched Tk 9,000 from his possession and then gave the money to the police.

The court asked the officer-in-charge (OC) of Naldanga Police Station to investigate the case.

SHAHDULMASTER

Abu Sar Rahman, a resident of Baghanda village under Moheshpur upazila of Jhenaidh district, filed an extortion case with the District Magistrate's Court against Shahidul Islam Master and 22 others yesterday.

The other accused are Abdul Aziz, Shobek, Shahidul, Fazlu, Md Mainuddin, 27, of Mulpur village under Faridganj upazila of the district.

The dead were identified as vegetable vendors Lavlu, 30, Golam Molla, 32, and Parash, 20.

The injured admitted to Khulna Medical College Hospital (KMCH) are Ali Asgar, 31, and Masud Molla, 30.

The accident occurred when a pickup van laden with vegetables

bound for Madaripur from Khulna kitchen market hit an electricity light post.

Police said the accident took place after the van driver lost his control over the steering as he was dozing while driving.

Police seized the pickup van but the driver managed to escape.

UNB from Faridpur adds: Two people were killed in a road accident in Shuadi area in Bhanga upazila early yesterday.

Police quoting local people said the accident occurred at dead of night when a Gopalganj-bound microbus hit a rickshaw van from behind, killing van driver Saber Matabbur, 50, and its passenger Khalique Nazir, 52, on the spot.

They were going to Bhanga from Nagarkanda by the van.

DU VIOLENCE

Commission needs help in investigation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Any judicial probe commission should have an independent investigation agency of its own to be able to prepare a comprehensive report, said head of the one-member judicial probe commission formed to investigate the August violence on the campus of Dhaka University.

"I feel quite helpless without an independent investigation agency attached to the commission," said Justice Habibur Rahman Khan, head of the commission, while talking to journalists yesterday at his Circuit House office.

Without having such investigation agency, the commission has to depend on other sources for information and the accounts of people given before it, added Justice Habib.

He alleged that the accused also threatened to kill him if he failed to comply with the demand.

Abu Sar further alleged that he later gave Tk 30 lakh to the former lawmaker.

LOTUS KAMAL

A special court in Dhaka yesterday indicted detained former Awami League lawmaker AHM Mustafa Kamal alias Lotus Kamal, his wife and two daughters for corruption and set October 28 to start trial with deposition by prosecution witnesses.

Kamal, standing in the dock, pleaded not guilty at the court, set up at the Jatiya Sangsads Bhaban, read out the charges against him.

The co-accused in the case, Kamal's wife Kashmira Kamal, their daughters Kashfi Kamal and Nafisa Kamal, will be tried in absentia as they are absconding.

On March 22, Deputy Director of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Shirin Parveen filed the case against them with Gulshan Police Station on charges of amassing flood wealth over Tk 36 crore illegally.

The ACC also alleged that Lotus Kamal concealed information about his wealth worth Tk 2.93 crore in his statement submitted to the ACC.

His wife and two daughters have been accused of aiding and abetting him in protecting the "illegal" wealth.

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