

## 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-liberalisation 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.

## 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 Khurshid 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 Mulpura 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 Mondabagh railway station under Kasba upazila of the district at 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 Mandabagh in last five days.

## EARLY FLOOD WARNING CEGIS, bangalink 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 bangalink SMS service.

The MOU was signed between bangalink and CEGIS at the head office of bangalink 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 bangalink 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.

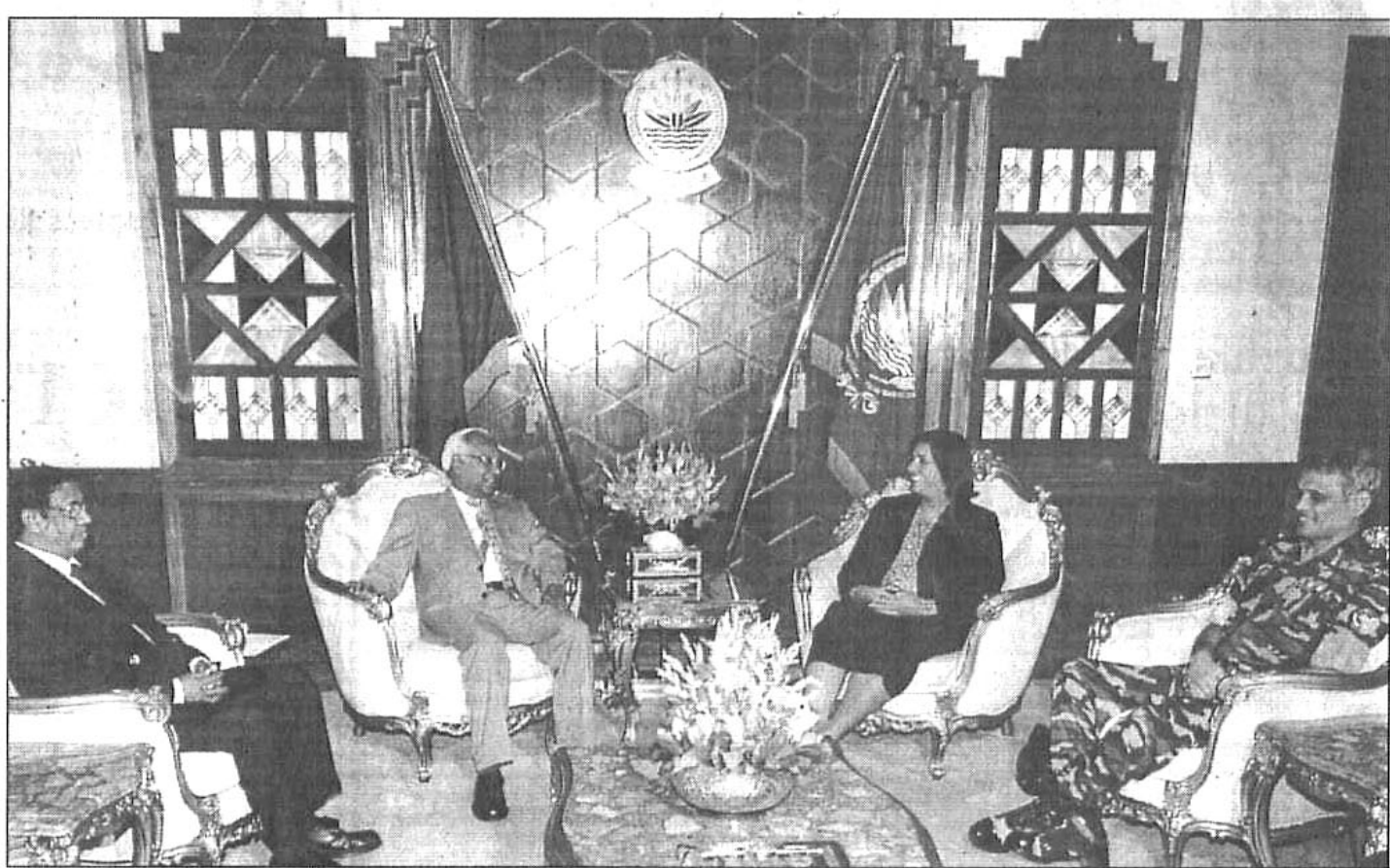
However, it had been a challenge for CEGIS to make sure that the disaster managers receive the early flood warning message in time.

Now with the help of bangalink, 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.

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

"Partnership with CEGIS is bangalink'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 bangalink and Executive Director Giasuddin Ahmed Chowdhury and Senior Water Resources Planner Ahmadul Hassan of the CEGIS.



US Charge d'Affaires in Bangladesh Geete Pasi calls on President Iajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: PD

## 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.

SHAHIDUL MASTER  
Abu Sar Rahman, a resident of Baghadanga village under Moheshpur upazila of Jhenidah 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, Shohab, Shahidul, Fazlu, Mahmudur Rahman, Abul Hossain, Abul Bashir, Bazlur Rahman, Siddique Rahman, Hafizur Rahman, Ariful, Ismail, Bablu, Fakir, dafader, Mujibor, Mohiuddin, Nazrul, Madan Halder, Kumar Halder, Rahim, Dabir and Motiar.

In the FIR (first information report), the complainant said the associates of the former lawmaker on his instructions picked up him while he was cultivating fish in a water body on November 4, 2005 and demanded Tk 60 lakh from him.

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 as the court, set up at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban, read out the charges against him.

The co-accused in the case, Kamal's wife Kashmuri 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 wealth worth 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.

## Five killed in road accidents

STAR REPORT

At least five people were killed and two others injured in separate road accidents in Khulna and Faridpur yesterday.

Our staff correspondent from Khulna reports: Three people were killed and two others injured in a road accident yesterday on the Khanjahan Ali Bridge (Rupsha Bridge) under Rupsha upazila in Khulna.

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 yesterday in Bhanga upazila there.

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 his passenger Khaleque 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.

When asked why he did not demand such an agency for the commission he was heading, he said, "I can not demand something that is out of the provisions of law." However, "in the report, I will recommend attaching an independent investigation agencies with such commissions in the future."

About other limitations the commission came across, Justice Habib said although a large number of students took part in the August incidents, only a few of them came forward and gave their accounts to the commission.

As of yesterday, among the total 103 individuals who gave their accounts of the incidents to the commission, only about a dozen were students, said sources at the commission.

The chief of Counter Terrorism Bureau of Directorate General of Forces Intelligence yesterday came to the commission to exchange views. Justice Habib added saying that the commission has plans to get the account of the driver of the army car that caught fire during agitation near Shahbagh in the city.

Thanking all quarters for their cooperation, Justice Habib said, "Given the limitations, the commission will submit its report."

Following the commission's appeal to the government, the deadline for submitting its report has been extended again, for the third time, to November 5.

## VP Helal gets life in arms case

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

A court in Narayanganj yesterday sentenced Helal Uddin Chowdhury alias VP Helal, a notorious criminal of Savar, to life imprisonment in an arms case.

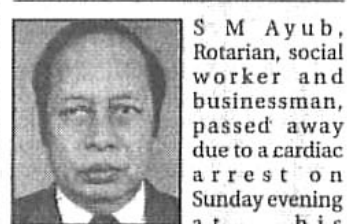
The court also sentenced his two associates Ashraf Hossain and Sumon Chandra Sheel to 17 years in jail in the same case.

Judge Sheikh Golam Mahub of the fourth special court handed down the verdict.

Helal and his accomplices along with three rounds of bullet and a foreign pistol were arrested by Rab members at Sanpar in Siddirganj when they were returning from Chittagong in February last. Rab also seized their car.

## Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



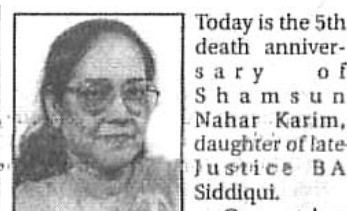
S M Ayub, Rotarian, social worker and businessman, passed away due to a cardiac arrest on Sunday evening at his Dhanmondi residence in the city, says a press release.

He will be buried at Azimpur graveyard after namaz-e-janaza after Asr prayers today.

His quikhwani will be held at his residence at 58/A North Road, Bhuter Goli, Dhanmondi in the city on October 26.

## Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 5th death anniversary of Shamsun Nahar Karim, daughter of late Justice BA Siddiqui.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held after Magrib prayers at her daughter's residence at Barnali-1, Eskatan Garden in the city today.

Shamsun Nahar was wife of MA Karim, chief engineer of Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE).

## Qulkhwani



Qulkhwani of Mosamma Momena Khatun, mother of Abul Hasnat, editor of the magazine 'Kali O Kalam', will be held at her son's residence at Park Panorama, Apartment A/5, House No 41 at Dhanmondi in the city after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

Relatives and admirers are requested to attend the milad.

Momena passed away due to a massive cardiac arrest on Saturday night at the age of 83.

She was buried at Azimpur graveyard after namaz-e-janaza at the mosque at Road No 7 at Dhanmondi in the city on Sunday morning.

She left behind her four sons, three daughters and grand children to mourn her death.

## Bangladeshi scientist Hussam Time's environment hero

BSS, Dhaka

Abul Hussam, Bangladeshi expatriate scientist, is one of the 'Global Heroes of the Environment 2007', chosen by the Time magazine, for his invention, Sono 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 investigation 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 Railway MA Wahab.

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.

## Woman along with her granddaughter murdered in Savar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An old woman and her minor granddaughter were chopped to death by unknown criminals at Savar on Sunday night.

The dead were identified as Alefa Khatun, 60, and nine-year-old Farzana Akhter, daughter of one Nabi Hossain and a class two student of a local government primary school.

The criminals did not take anything from the house, said the relatives of the dead.

Alefa's son-in-law Abdul Barek told The Daily Star at the morgue that the house where Alefa, Farzana and Nabi used to live is situated in a lonely area.

On Sunday evening, Nabi went to visit a pujamandap at a nearby

village leaving his mother and daughter at home, Barek said, adding that on return Nabi found their bodies lying in a pool of blood inside the room.

Relatives of the dead suspected that a criminal named Selim of the same village might have killed Alefa and Farzana.

About six months ago, Nabi's nephew Kamal had a quarrel with Selim over a cellular phone set, they said, adding that Selim had been threatening to kill Nabi following the clash.

Savar police said they recovered the bodies of Alefa and Farzana from their Kolatiapara village and sent them to Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsy yesterday morning.



PHOTO: STAR

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

## WEATHER TODAY

### 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 remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

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

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



The Centre for Environmental and Geographic Information Services signs a memorandum of understanding with bangalink at the head office of the latter in the city recently.

## DHAKA TODAY

### Convocation

The first convocation of University of Development Alternative (UODA) will be held. Venue: Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre. Time: 10:30am.

### Seminar

Coalition for Good Governance organises a seminar on decentralisation of local government and concept of district government. Venue: Cirdap auditorium. Time: 10:00am.

### Debate

Phulkuri Asar organises an inter-school debate on the occasion of its 33rd founding anniversary. Venue: BCSIR. Time: 3:00pm.

### Rotary Dhaka

The regular weekly meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka will be held. Venue: Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 5:00pm.

### Reunion

A reunion of Sector Commanders' Forum of Liberation War will be held. Venue: Hotel Sweet Dream, Barani. Time: 7:30pm.