

## Hasina shown arrested

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said the IOs of both the cases filed in this connection against the two detained former premiers - Hasina and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia - are also seeking arrest warrant against 10 others accused in the cases. Investigation into those is going on.

Mentioning that Hasina is now in jail in connection with a Tk 3 crore extortion case filed by businessman Azam J Chowdhury, the IO of the Niko case against Hasina, who also filed it on December 9, said in his petition it is necessary to show her arrested also in this case.

Co-accused with Hasina in this case are detained former state minister for energy Rafiqul Islam, former principal secretary to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) Dr SA Samad, former energy secretary Dr Towfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury and M Akmal Hossain, former Petrobranga chairman Mosharrif Hossain, and Vice-president (South Asia) of Niko Research Bangladesh Ltd Kashem Sharif.

The joint forces arrested the AL chief from her Dhanmondi residence in the capital on July 16. And hearing on charge framing against her and two other accused in the extortion case is now being held.

Earlier on Monday, Khaleda, former law minister Moudud Ahmed and former energy minister AKM Mosharrif Hossain - all detained - were also shown arrested in the Niko graft case.

ACC Assistant Director Mahbul Alam filed the case

against Khaleda and four others on December 9 saying that although she was custodian of the country's resources as prime minister, she awarded Niko an opportunity to extract gas worth Tk10,000 crore, criminally violating her oath, using her power unlawfully, and through corruption.

The BNP chief was detained on September 3 in the first graft case filed by the ACC against her and her younger son Arafat Rahman Koko, on charges of violation of tender conditions in appointing Gatco, an indenting house, for container handling at Dhaka inland container depot and at Chittagong port yard.

Yesterday, the ACC also filed a case against Nur-E-Alam Chowdhury Lion of the AL, and his

wife Zinat Parvin Chowdhury Iva for amassing wealth worth Tk65,83,363 which is beyond their known sources of income.

Briefing the press yesterday, ACC Director General (administration) Col Hanif Iqbal said that to lessen people's sufferings, the commission will now investigate corruption still going on.

The ACC will focus on investigations against corrupt businessmen and bureaucrats to make the administration corruption-free.

"Investigation is going on against almost everyone of those accused to have involved corruption. And action will be taken against them once evidence is found," he said.



PHOTO: PID  
Comptroller and Auditor General Asif Ali submits the annual audit reports 2005-06 to President Iajuddin Ahmed at Banghaban yesterday.



## Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Light to moderate fog may occur over the river basins and moderate to thick fog may occur over northern part of the country during late night until morning, a Met Office release said.

Mild cold wave is sweeping over the regions of Rajshahi, Ishwardi, Jessore and Chuadanda and it may continue, it said, adding that night temperature may fall slightly over Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Jessore, Kushtia, Tangail and Mymensingh. Night temperature remains nearly unchanged elsewhere over the country.

Highest temperature 28.4 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 09.0 degrees Celsius at Ishwardi.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:23pm today and rises at 6:42am tomorrow.

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

City/Town	Temperature in celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	25.0	15.5	71	61
Chittagong	25.0	15.4	89	74
Rajshahi	24.4	09.2	93	73
Khulna	24.7	12.2	78	82
Barisal	25.4	12.5	85	79
Sylhet	27.0	15.4	88	74
Cox's Bazar	28.4	16.5	77	62

## 17th century

**FROM PAGE 16**

erosion of the ornamental plaques and the walls of the ancient Nayabad Mosque, one of important archaeological sites in the country.

Built in the early 17th century, the mosque lost much of its charm and the beauty of the terracotta. Locals and thieves took away many of the bricks and plaques from the walls of the mosque.

The terracotta plaques bear images of religious events but the walls, pillars and rooms are almost in ruins. A few locals built houses and cultivated crops on the land adjacent to the mosque without any resistance from the authorities concerned.

According to a local historian, King Prannath built the mosque in 1685AD for the Muslims of his state. It is he who built the renowned Kantanagar Temple in Dinajpur, another important archaeological site of the country.

High salinity coupled with lack of maintenance have already eroded a large number of the terracotta plaques, said Mozbar Rahman, the Imam of the mosque.

The Department of Archaeology only recently set up a notice board that says it is a government property and legal actions would be taken if anybody harmed the mosque. However, no initiatives were ever taken to restore the mosque or to protect the structure, locals said.

Local historian of Dinajpur Md Mehrab Ali said the mosque has one of the most beautiful and extraordinary terracotta plaques in Bangladesh but now many of them have been stolen.

During a visit to the site, The Daily Star correspondent found that most of the terracotta plaques have eroded or have been stolen and the rest are in dilapidated condition.

The mosque remains rarely visited as the road communication to the site is poor. The mosque is only three kilometres away from Kantanagar temple but has no tarmac road leading up to it, discouraging visitors to go there. The grave of Kalu Miah, head architect of the Nayabad Mosque, is beside the mosque.

Officials at the Department of Archaeology said there was a proposal made long ago to renovate the mosque but there has been no initiatives due to lack of funds. Sources say it is possible to check the erosion and restore to some extent the glory of the mosque if funds are made available.

## Qulkhwani

UNB, Dhaka

Qulkhwani of former Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) president Ozair Farooq will be held at his Kalabagan residence in the city on Thursday.

He was buried at his ancestral village at Chatkhil in Noakhali yesterday.

Ozair Farooq passed away due to a cardiac arrest Sunday.



PHOTO: STAR  
Participants at the Caregivers Conference of Persons with Intellectual and Multiple Disabilities hold a candle light vigil at Biam auditorium in the city yesterday with a vow to establish the rights of the children with disability.

## Formulate policy to ensure rights of children with disability

### Speakers urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jaheda Khatun, aged around 40 years, has become tired with her four sons as all of them are physically and mentally challenged and the society did not extend any support to the poor woman to rear her children.

"My sons could not be admitted to any government primary school although I managed to get them admitted to a private school. But they were ousted after three months saying that other students would be spoiled if they continue to study there," said Jaheda at the Caregivers Conference of Persons with Intellectual and Multiple Disabilities in the city yesterday.

The conference was organised by SEID Trust in association with Actionaid and Steps Towards Development at Biam auditorium.

Jaheda said she is living at the Geneva Camp as nobody is willing to rent house to her because of her children with disability.

"My relatives also used to scold me saying that my children are the results of my sin," continued Jaheda in an emotion-choked voice, adding that only the Seid Trust has come forward to provide education to her children recently.

Like Jaheda, there are many women who have to suffer repression from the husband's family only for giving birth to physically or mentally challenged children.

"It is time to change the attitude of the society towards the people with disability. At the same time, the government should formulate

policy to establish the rights of children with disability and quota system in every school for them," said Taleya Rehman, executive director of Democracy Watch.

"If we want to bring the children with disabilities into mainstream, we will have to incorporate them in mainstream education," said Ranjan Karmakar of Steps Towards Development.

Speaking as chief guest Secretary to social welfare ministry MA Hai Hawladar said the government is working with non-government organisations for the development

of people with disabilities.

"The government allocated Tk 100 crore for these people in the current fiscal year," he said, stressing the need to update the Disability Welfare Act 2001 so that the people with disability can be benefited.

Mahbub Kabir of Actionaid, Khondoker Zahurul Alam of Jatiya Protibondhi Forum, Journalist Mahfuj Ullah, Dr Mohammad Shahnewaj of Grameenphone and Monsur Ahmed Chowdhury of Impact Foundation also spoke.

## STREET CHILDREN

### 'Night shelters to reduce sexual abuse by 80pc'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sexual abuse and violence against street children would be reduced by almost eighty percent if night shelter centres can be set up, speakers at a press conference said yesterday.

The press conference organised by INCIDIN Bangladesh was held at Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium in the city.

Speaking at the programme, Executive Director of INCIDIN Bangladesh Ratan Sarkar urged the government to allow the unused government structures to be used as night shelters for the street children.

Advocacy Chief of INCIDIN Bangladesh Nasimul Ahisa, Rakibul Hasan, Mushfiqur Rahman, Aminul Islam and Ritu Das were also present at the press conference.

## Death anniversary

Today is the 20th death anniversary of Advocate MA Majid, a philanthropist, educationist and noted politician of greater Dhaka district in the sixties, says a press release.

He was one of the founders of Monohardi Degree College and founder of Sukur Mahmud High School in Monohardi, Narsingdi.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held in his village home.

## DHAKA TODAY

### Discussion

Jatiya Party (Ershad) organises a discussion to mark its 22nd founding anniversary. Venue: Diploma Engineers' auditorium. Time: 3:00pm.

### RDC programme

The inaugural ceremony of three-day founding anniversary programmes of Research and Development Collective (RDC) will be held. Venue: WVA auditorium. Time: 4:00pm.

### Rotary Dhaka

The regular weekly meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka will be held. Venue: Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 5:30pm.

## Obituary



Eminent dermatologist Prof Dr Shamsul Azam passed away due to old age complications at Apollo Hospitals in the city yesterday at the age of 86, says a press release.

His first namaz-e-janaza will be held after Zohr prayers at Aminbag Masjid at Shantinagar in the city.

He will be buried at Banani Armed Forces graveyard after the second janaza at Navy Mosque after Asr prayers.

He left behind his three sons and two daughters.

### Mohammad Mohiuddin



Mohammad Mohiuddin, former assistant commissioner of customs, passed away due to a cardiac arrest on the way to hospital in the early hours of yesterday in the city at the age of 61, says a press release.

Mohiuddin left behind his wife, two sons and a daughter to mourn his death.

He was laid to rest yesterday at his family graveyard at Gouripur in Mymensingh after the second namaz-e-janaza. His first janaza was held at Uttara Sector-4 Jame Mosque in the city at 10:00am.

### Fakhrul Islam Bhuiyan



Fakhrul Islam Bhuiyan, a social worker of Narayanganj, passed away yesterday due to old age complications at the age of 104, says a press release.

He left behind two sons, seven daughters, admirers and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

Chairman of Bangladesh Human Rights Commission AKM Sadek has condoled the death.

Looking forward, together...

As we embrace the breaking dawn of the New Year, hopes are reassured with new promises. Let's join hand in hand, picture the brighter side of our future. Happy New Year to you all.