We are responsible for present situation: Saifur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP acting chairman M Saifur Rahman yesterday said there would have been no need to impose a state of emergency if his party had handed over power to a caretaker government formed through proper process.

"We ourselves are responsible for the present situation," he said this while he was addressing the JCD leaders and workers at his residence in the city.

He hoped that the government will hold elections on priority basis to meet the expectation of the people.

Acting Secretary General Maj (Retd) Hafizuddin Ahmed, standing committee member Lt Gen (Retd) Mahbubur Rahman, advis-

card registration project, at Barguna yesterday.

Says BHRC survey report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

December 31.

dailies.

A total of 2553 people were killed in

last year showing a grave human

Bangladesh Human Rights

Commission (BHRC), some 2019

people were killed due to social

violence while the law enforcers

killed 148 from January 1 to

basis of information received from

district, upazila and municipality

level offices of the commission and

the stories published in national

According to the report, 111

Some 38 political activists were

Twenty-four patients died due

women were killed for dowry and

killed while 58 others were beaten

to negligence of doctors while in

border areas 79 Bangladeshis were

Some 125 rape cases were

A total of 11 domestic aids were

Three journalists were killed

Expressing grave concern over

killed while some 49 people died in

jail, 77 were trafficked and 68 were

and 63 others injured, the press

the human rights situation, the

commission urged the law enforce-

ment agencies to be more respon-

sible and establish rule of law in the

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad

release of the commission added.

recorded and four of them commit-

ted suicide after being raped.

the victims of acid violence.

62 killed after being raped.

to death by angry mobs.

killed by BSF.

The report was prepared on the

According to a survey report of

rights situation in the country.

violence last year

ers to the chairperson Maj Gen (Retd) Z A Khan and Mufazzal Karim and vice president Shah Mohammad Abul Hossain also spoke at the function.

Meanwhile, two factions of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) observed its 29th founding anniversary by placing wreaths and offering fateha at the grave of late president Ziaur Rahman yesterday.

BNP Joint Secretary General Nazrul Islam Khan, acting Office Secretary Rizvi Ahmed, former lawmaker Sohrab Uddin were present when the pro-Khaleda faction JCD leaders visited the grave of Zia.

BNP leaders urged the JCD leaders and workers to get ready for movement to free Khaleda Zia from the jail. The JCD leaders and work-

Chief of Naval Staff Vice Admiral Sarwar Jahan Nizam inaugurates 'Operation Nabojatra', a voter list and national ID

were repressed during the period.

were sold at brothel. Besides, 201

Dowry caused death to 176

women while 324 were repressed in

UNB adds: A total of 1768 workers

were killed while 1782 others

injured in different workplaces in

Safety, Health and Environment

1768 Killed In Workplaces

were abducted.

various ways.

the country in 2007.

A total of 255 women and chil-

dren were trafficked and of them 33 31.

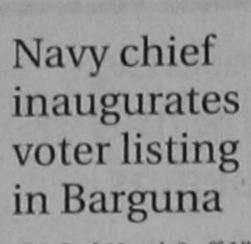
ers of the faction also went to the sub-jail premises to greet their detained leader Khaleda. Later the JCD faction led by its

General Secretary Shafiul Bari Babu met Khandaker Delwar Hossain at his Nam flat. BNP leaders Nazrul Islam Khan

and Ghoyeswer Chandra Roy were present on the occasion. Khandaker Delwar cut a cake

marking the day. The faction also organised a discussion at the photojournalists' association audito-

On the other hand, pro-Saifur faction JCD leaders and workers led by former JCD leader Monir Hossain visited Zia's grave. Later they met BNP acting chairman Saifur Rahman at his Gulshan residence.



Chief of Naval Staff Vice Admiral Sarwar Jahan Nizam inaugurated 'Operation Nabojatra', a voter list and national ID card registration project at Barguna yesterday, says an ISPR press release.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony, the navy chief urged all concerned to put their best efforts and dedication to make the programme successful one.

Later the navy chief visited cyclone-hit areas in Barguna and gave necessary directives to Navy Contingent deployed there for smooth running of ongoing rehabilitation works.

Assistant Chief of Naval Staff (Operations) Rear Admiral Mustafizur Rahman, Commodore Commanding Khulna, high civil and military officials and local elites were present on the occasion. The project has already been

started in Bhola and Mongla.

Death of Justice Sobhan condoled

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different socio-cultural and political organisations and individuals yesterday condoled the death of Justice KM Sobhan.

Justice Sobhan, president of Bangabandhu Parishad, died of cardiac arrest at Birdem Hospital in the capital on Monday at the age of 82.

Speaker Barrister Mohammad Jamiruddin Sircar and Deputy Speaker Akhtar Hamid Siddiqui condoled the death of Justice

In separate condolence messages, they said Justice Sobhan was a competent and fearless justice.

They also said the nation has lost an eminent intellectual with the death of Justice Sobhan. They prayed for salvation of the

departed soul and conveyed their deep sympathy to the bereaved

Law Adviser Barrister Mainul 2019 were killed in social Hosein expressed profound shock

In a message, he said Justice Sobhan was an imitable personality and he played strong role in establishing democracy and rule of law. He prayed for salvation of the

departed soul and conveyed his deep sympathy to the bereaved family members. Acting BNP Chairperson M

Saifur Rahman and Acting Secretary General Hafizuddin Ahmed expressed profound shock at the death of Justice Sobhan. In a condolence message, they

prayed for salvation of the departed soul and also conveyed their deep sympathy to the bereaved family. Condoling the death, leaders of Bangabandhu Parishad said they

have lost a guardian and the country has lost a man belonging to proliberation forces. Bangladesh Muktijodhha Sangsad expressed deep shock at

the death of Justice Sobhan. In a message, Sangsad Chairman

Principal Ahad Chowdhury said the nation has incurred irreparable loss with his death. The Sangsad also conveyed deep

sympathy to the bereaved family. Expressing deep shock at his death, Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDB) President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury and Secretary General Maj (retd) Abdul Mannan said the nation would remember the relentless effort of Sobhan in establishing a secular and democratic country.

In a condolence message, they prayed for salvation of the departed soul and conveyed their deep sympathy to the bereaved family mem-

Sammilito Samajik Andolan President Ajoy Roy and General Secretary Advocate Tobarak Hossain said the role of Justice Sobhan in establishing a noncommunal and democratic country is imitable.

They also said the death of Justice Sobhan is an irreparable vacuum in the democratic move-

Bangladesh Muktijodhha Parishad, Amra Muktijodhhar Santan, Bangladesh Supreme Court Bar Association, Ain o Salish Kendra, Transparency International Bangladesh, Bangladesh National Woman Lawyers Association, Democratic Lawyers Association of Bangladesh, Communist Party of Bangladesh, Bangladesh National Awami Party, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, Bangali Sangiskrity Mancha and Jatir Janak Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Memorial Trust also condoled the death of Justice Sobhan.

Road crashes kill 3 STAR REPORT

At least three people were killed and 17 others injured in separate road accidents in Sirajganj and Chapainawabganj yesterday.

Our Correspondent from Sirajganj reports: Two unidentified people were killed and 17 others injured in a road accident on the

Dhaka-Bonpara highway at Konabari in Sirajganj yesterday. The injured were rushed to Sirajganj Sadar Hospital and local

clinics in the town. Identities of the dead could not be known immediately. Police and witnesses said the accident took place at around 4:10pm when a Netrakona-bound bus from Khulna collided head-on

opposite direction, killing the helper of the pickup van, aged about 25 and another unidentified bus passenger aged about 32 on the spot and injuring 17 others.

Police sent the bodies to Sadar hospital morgue for autopsy.

bridge western police station in this connection.

A correspondent from Chapainawabganj adds: A minor girl was killed in a road accident at Kharibona under Nachole upazila

The victim was identified as Sikha, 5, daughter of Ashraful Islam of Munshefpur village under Sadar

She was killed on the spot when



Independent human rights commission, mass awareness and integrated efforts by all professional organisations can help prevent torture in the country, said

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

torture in society'

ment of human rights-based strategy to prevent torture' was organised by the Centre for Rehabilitation of Torture Survivors (CRTS) in the city. Speaking as chief guest Sultana

the speakers at a workshop Sunday.

The workshop titled 'Develop-

Kamal, former adviser to a caretaker government, said, "We have to look into the level of tolerance before setting up strategy to prevent torture." In his keynote paper, Dr Kamrul

Hasan Khan, general secretary of CRTS, said repression on women, children, workers, prisoners and political activists is increasing alarmingly across the country.

Collaborators Act in December 31, CRTS President Prof Dr Abdus Sobhan presided over the workshop The complainant said as the while Justice Quazi Ebadul Haque, subsequent governments ran their Mok Chiu Yu Augustine, chief execregimes with the assistance of alutive of Centre for Community Badr, al-Shams and Razakar, the Cultural Development, and Shahfamilies did not get justice from Alamgir, head of news of Ekushey

Killing at Keraniganj in 1971

He mentioned that the accused

FROM PAGE 1

December 17 last year, stating that the Jamaat men killed his nephew Osman Gani and fellow freedom fighter Golam Mostafa alias Tukub Ali on November 25 in 1971.

After recording Mozaffar's statement, Judicial Magistrate Ashigul Khabir directed officer-incharge at Keraniganj Police Station to register the double murder as a first information report.

The court also asked the OC to take action against the accused after investigation into the matter.

Other accused are two assistant secretary generals of the Jamaat --Abdul Quader Molla and Muhammad Kamaruzzaman --Keraniganj upazila unit Amir Haji Nazim Uddin, Islami Chhatra Sangha leader KG Karim Babla, and Abul Kashem, Foyzur Rahman Foyaz and Yasin. The last three were al-Badr, Razakar and al-Shams activists during the war.

Complainant Mozaffar said 60 to 70 other unknown activists of the three militias took part in killing, torching and looting valuables in Keraniganj on the day.

formed collaborating forces like Razakar, al-Badr and al-Shams during the liberation war with a view to exterminating the Bangali nation. Nizami was made al-Badr com-

mander of Pakistan while Mojahid acted as commander of its East Pakistan wing, said the complainant adding that Quader and Kamaruzzaman and their other accomplices also formed the higher rung of al-Badr.

The three militias took to indiscriminate killing of freedom fighters and intellectuals on orders of Nizami, Mojahid, Quader and Kamaruzzaman, he said. The other accused killed count-

less people in Keraniganj and torched their houses. They also raped women in the area. The plaintiff said on November

24 in 1971, when the nation was on the threshold of victory, his nephew Osman Gani and Golam Mostafa went to their houses to meet their parents and relatives.

The next day al-Shams and al-Badr militias, dressed in grey,

Television (ETV), also spoke. Jalil shown held in wealth hiding case

FROM PAGE 16 On December 18, the ACC filed the case with Ramna Police Station against Jalil for concealing Tk 65,29,229 in his asset statement that he had submitted to the commission and for acquiring properties worth Tk 63,82,805 through

unknown sources of income. Joint forces detained Jalil on May 28 last year and took him on remand.

On June 4 he was admitted to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University as he fell ill and was later shifted to Labaid Cardiac Hospital as his condition deterio-

TARIQUE CASE

The same court ordered to send Tarique back into jail custody after the ACC produced him before the court in a bulletproof vest upon completion of his one-day remand in the graft case.

Though the order of his remand was issued on December 6, he was taken on remand on Monday.

The other two accused in this case are Tarique's wife Zubaida Rahman and his mother-in-law Iqbalmand Banu.

Zahirul Huda, deputy director of ACC, filed the case with Kafrul Police Station on September 26 for concealing information of assets worth over Tk 4.23 crore in his June 10 asset statement submitted to the corruption watchdog and illegally amassing an estimated Tk 4.82 crore worth of wealth.

In his assets statement that he turned in through the jail authorities, Tarique declared that his wife, daughter and he altogether owned assets worth Tk 1.37 crore.

Tarique was earlier remanded

for 10 days in four extortion cases. about the extorted money can be He is accused in seven such cases gathered from him. filed with Shahbagh, Gulshan and

Kafrul police stations. The joint forces arrested him on March 7 from his mother's canton-

mentresidence. CASEAGAINSTALAMGIR

Another court of an additional chief metropolitan magistrate placed Alamgir on a one-day remand after Gulshan Police produced him before the court with a three-day remand prayer for interrogation.

In the forwarding report, Sub-Inspector Shahid Ullah, the IO of the case, mentioned that Alamgir had extorted Tk 1 crore from owner of a construction firm on different dates in 2001. As such, he needs to be remanded so that vital clues

Mannan takes

over as BIWTA

Abdul Mannan Hawladar has taken

the charge of chairman of

Bangladesh Inland Water

Transport Authority (BIWTA) on

He replaces Sunil Kanti Bose.

Earlier he serves as the director

general of Compulsory Primary

Education Implementation and

and masters degree in Economics

at Dhaka University. He joined in

administration cadre of

Bangladesh Civil Service in 1981.

He received honours gradation

Sunday, says a press release.

Monitoring Unit.

chairman

In the meantime, defence lawyers submitted a bail petition along with a plea to cancel the remand

surrounded their houses and

hacked them to death with sharp

weapons at about 8:30am,

Mozaffar said adding that he went

to the spot with his force on infor-

mation only to find that the four

Jamaat leaders had sent in

Pakistani force there who, along

with their local collaborators,

torched hundreds of houses and

killed countless people in the area.

acknowledged freedom fighters for

which their families now get gov-

justice even though they went door

to door for justice, he said adding

that the accused were behind bars

till 1975 but walked out of prison

after the annulment of

ernment allowances.

The two victims are state-

The victims' families never got

implicated in the case as part of a conspiracy to harass him. The joint forces arrested Alamgir on February 4 last year. Abdul Monem, managing director of Abdul Monem Ltd, filed the

case against Alamgir with Gulshan Police Station on October 10 last

In the case statement, Monem alleged that after he was awarded a

work order for the reconstruction

portion of Dhaka-Chittagong highway in 2001, Alamgir, the then state minister for planning, abused his power and demanded Tk 2 crore prayer saying that their client was The then state minister threatened to have the work order

work of Kanchpur to Daudkandi

cancelled if Monem failed to comply. Finding no other alternative, on April 16, 2001, Monem gave Alamgir a cheque of Tk 50 lakh and on June 23 the same year, he gave Alamgir Tk 50 lakh in cash. Earlier on July 26 last year,

Alamgir was handed down 13 years' imprisonment in connection with a graft case.



Bangladesh Photographic Association President Akkas Mahmud hands over a cheque for Tk 83,500 to Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed at his office recently for the cyclone-affected people.



Chevron Bangladesh President Steve Wilson hands over a cheque for Tk 26,39,839 to Brac Disaster Management Cell Programme Coordinator Fazlul Hoque for Sidr victims at Chevron office at Gulshan in the city recently.

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FROM PAGE 16

At a press briefing at his Gulshan residence in the capital, the acting AL chief observed that day. since there is no ban on the political parties, the government could sit with them to discuss how to control the spiralling prices of essentials and to advance the country's economy as well.

Sheikh Hasina on health grounds.

Hasina should be sent abroad for better treatment, Zillur said adding that until then, she should be provided medical care through a board of specialists. "She [Hasina] told me that she is

ground floor and no one is allowed to go to the first floor even after her serious illness," Zillur said. Greeting the people of the country on New Year, Zillur urged all to

not allowed to step down to the

herrelease in 2008.

discuss among other issues Hasina's health condition, dialogue with the government and observing of Hasina' homecoming

Referring to government's claim that the country is moving forward and there are no problems, Zillur urged them to lift the state of emergency as early as possible for hold-

ing a free and fair poll. The AL acting president was positive that the AL would be voted to power if a fair election is held and the people could cast their votes

Zillur also demanded immediate release of the detained Dhaka University teachers and students. "We hope that the teachers will be released with honour, the time is not over," the AL leader said.

The AL acting chief came down pray for Hasina's good health and hard on the government for the AL presidium sits tomorrow to everyday essentials, especially rice.

He apprehended that the people would die due to lack of food if the current trend of price spiral continues and urged the government to bring down the prices to ease people's sufferings.

rights were snatched through proclaiming state of emergency in the country," he said. AL leaders Abdur Razzak, Tofail

Among the total victims, 262 workers were female. A press release of the foundation

on Monday after monitoring 11

newspapers from January 1 to Dec

said the occupational death and injury figures were the highest in garment sector followed by trans port and construction sectors. Unwillingness of employers to

follow the laws and rules, hazardous and aged-old installations, ineffec-Bangladesh Occupational tive machinery and inadequate safety tools at workplaces were the major causes of accidents, it added.

Foundation revealed the statistics 9 fake marriage media members arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT The Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested nine members of a fake marriage media centre at Dhanmondi in the city yesterday for their alleged involvement in

fraudulent act. Major Md Saiful Islam Chowdhury of Rab-1 said they arrested Desh Bangla Marriage Media Managing Director Shaila Huq alias Monalisa alias Brishti, 30, and its eight employees from a Chinese restaurant at Dhanmondi at around 3:30pm on charges of

cheating people in the name of matchmaking. Major Saiful said the agency used to take Tk 4,000 from each client after introducing Monalisa as a Canadian citizen and prospecreported that a total of 4355 women tive bride.

Acting on a tip-off, plain clothed Rab arrested the nine at Yummy Yummy restaurant where a deal

was under way, he said. The elite force took Monalisa and her accomplices to custody for interrogation when they could not show any legal docu-

Monalisa said they take Tk 500 for application form, Tk 3, 500 for meeting between the bride and groom, Tk 50,000 for cabin nama and Tk 20,000 for engagement

purposes. Sources said the name of the marriage media has been changed as National Communication and Welfare Society. Its present office is at Lalmatia under Mohammadpur police station and they often shift their office as part of their cheating

AL renews call for dialogue

Zillur termed the year 2007 a very frustrating and sad year, as their party president, general secretary and a number of senior leaders have been arrested "without any charges." "Our freedom of speech and other fundamental

Ahmed, Syed Ashraful Islam, Abdul Mannan, Mahmudur Rahman Manna, Akhtaruzzaman, Dr Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin, Dr Dipu Moni, Dr Hasan Mahmud, Nazma continuous spiral of the prices of Rahman, among others were present at the briefing.

NU masters

exams 2005

begin Feb 10 Masters Final Examinations-2005 under National University (NU) will commence on February 10, 2008. Notice containing information on filling form, statement form and fees submission form have already been sent to colleges.

Detail information will be available at university website: www.nu.edu.bd says a press release.

A case was filed with Jamuna

in Chapai Nawabgonj yesterday.

upazila. a speeding Bhutbhuti ran over her, with a pick-up van coming from police said.