Sector Commanders

Forum starts view

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

today

exchange meetings

Leaders of Sector Commanders

Forum will start view exchange

meetings at the divisional level today.

the capital on March 15 to press the

caretaker government to take steps to

In a statement yesterday, the

National Coordination Committee

of Muktijuddher Chetana

Bastabayan and Ekaturer Ghatak

Dalal Nirmul Committee asked all

its workers and leaders in union,

upazila, district and divisional

levels to cooperate with the forum

Sidr-hit families

In an effort to restore normal life in

Sidr-hit areas, CARE Bangladesh has

distributed non-food items to 17,918

families in badly affected Bagerhat

food items among 14,600 more

items worth Tk 3.30 crore, includ-

ing sarees, blanket, spade, water

jerry can, plastic glass, plastic bowl,

sanitary napkin, bed sheets, mos-

quito nets, children's clothes,

matches, ORS and soaps, were

One gets death

A tribunal yesterday sentenced a

down the verdict to Shahinur

Islam, 27, of Dakshin Joydevpur in

Shahinur strangled his wife Arifa

Begum, 18, at their house on

Masuma Aziz held

August 29 in 2003 over dowry.

Qulkhwani of

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

According to the prosecution,

Judge Badhsha Alamgir handed

man to death for killing his wife.

penalty for

killing wife

The process of distributing non-

In the first phase, non-food

and Barguna districts this week.

families is underway.

distributed.

UNB, Dinajpur

Nawabganj Upazila.

CARE aid for

in their activities.

UNB, Dhaka

bring the war criminals to justice.

The forum will hold a grand rally in

Production

resumes in

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

factories

workers and police.

hundred people.

clashes with the law enforcers.

the last couple of days. Police

named 14 garment workers and

outsiders as accused in the cases

two 'outsiders' from video footage

and on the basis of evidence they

have already gathered. They pro-

voked workers' unrest that led to fierce clashes with police on

Tuesday and Wednesday leaving

at the MBM Garments in Mirpur,

from where unrest began on

Tuesday evening and continued till

Wednesday afternoon. The factory

management announced an

unscheduled holiday yesterday.

The factory will open today.

exhibition

UNB, Dhaka

and oil pastel.

Solo painting

The fourth solo painting exhibition

by artist Afrozaa Jamil will be inau-

gurated at Nordic Club at Gulshan

The six-week exhibition titled

'Light and Shade of Bengal' will

display 20 pieces of artworks done

mostly in mixed media, acrylics

Another suspect

arrested in bank

The detective branch (DB) of police

arrested another suspect in the

heist at the Dhanmondi branch of

But the masterminds behind

The suspect Moshiur Rahman

"Raju was produced before the

the heist in the locker room are yet

alias Raju was arrested from

court with a prayer for a ten-day

remand. But the court sent him to

jail without granting his remand

because of his illness," said DB

Inspector AKM Nasirullah, the

and other valuables worth several

crores of taka breaking open 75

lockers after cutting through the

ceiling of hotel Nidmahal right

above the vault room. The robbery

was committed some time

renters remain worried about the

return of their ornaments and

valuables, which have been stolen.

bank authorities decided to justify

the claims with the help of the gov-

and other intelligence agencies.

ernment agencies, including ACC

Meanwhile, the affected locker

Their worries intensified as the

The robbers looted ornaments

investigation officer (IO).

between January 3 and 7.

lockers heist

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Brac Bank early yesterday.

to be arrested.

Keraniganj.

in the city at 6:30pm today.

There was no activity yesterday

around 150 people injured.

Police said they identified the

while the rest are unidentified.

Mirpur RMG

Govt fails to take preemptive measures against price hike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has failed to take preemptive measures to check price spirals of essential commodities although it did have necessary information on local production, demand and international market trends.

"The government can take more cautionary measures to keep the price situation under control if it has a forecast on local production, demand and international market trends," said renowned economist and former caretaker government adviser Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud vesterday.

When a government takes steps like import and distribution of commodities in bringing price situation under control and make those information public, it enhances the confidence of traders and consumers and ultimately

helps normalise the market situation, said Prof Wahiduddin after a meeting with Commerce Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman at the ministry

Bangladesh Bank Governor Saleh Uddin Ahmed, PKSF Managing Director Kazi Mezbah Uddin Ahmed, Brac Executive Director Mahbub Hossain, BIDS Director General Kazi Sahabuddin, Dhaka University Professor Md Ali Taslim and BIDS Senior Research Fellow Dr Sazzad Zahir were present at the meeting.

arranged the meeting to get suggestions from the economic experts to take steps for curbing skyrocketing prices of essential

Hossain Zillur said the government has planned to link the open market sale (OMS) operation with readymade garment workers so that they can buy essential commodities at lower rate.

The government also plans to extend the tenure and coverage of the vulnerable group-feeding scheme (VGF) to Sidr-affected areas, he added.

The adviser said information available with different agencies like National Board of Revenue, Policy Monitoring Unit of Finance Ministry, Bangladesh Bank, Agriculture Extension Department and Trading Corporation of The commerce adviser Bangladesh were not used in a coordinated manner and were not available for all in managing the market efficiently.

He said the ministry will also coordinate all government information agencies to disseminate relevant information to public for efficient management of the market.



Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed receives donations from different organisations and individuals for Sidr victims at his office in the city yesterday.

Rehabilitation of Sidr victims to continue: CA

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed yesterday said the memories of cyclone Sidr might fade gradually, but the rehabilitation of the affected people will continue.

The money received for the Chief Adviser's Relief and Welfare Fund are now being utilised to buy winter clothes for the cycloneaffected people in the coastal belt,

fund will be spent on winter clothes for the poor suffering in cold in the country's northern region, he

The chief adviser made the remarks while receiving donations at his office for the CA's Relief and Welfare Fund from a number of individuals, institutions and organisations. Dr Fakhruddin thanked the

donors for extending their hand of cooperation in aid of the people affected by two successive floods and the cyclone Sidr in the same



Qulkhwani of Masuma Aziz, mother of Shawkat Mahmud, president of National Press Club, was held at the press club auditorium yesterday.

Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka, Editor of The Independent Mahbubul Alam, Press Secretary to chief adviser Syed Fahim Munaim, former information minister M Shamsul Islam, JSD President Hasanul Haque Inu, Jatiya Party Acting Chairman Anisul Islam Mahmud and Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed attended

the gulkhwani. Advisory Editor of the daily Amar Desh Ataus Samad, Editor of the daily Jugantor Golam Sarwar, former presidents of the National Press Club Gias Kamal Chowdhury, Reazuddin Ahmed and Khondokar Monirul Alam, BSS Chief Editor Jaglul Ahmed Chowdhury, journalists ABM Musa and Hasanuzzaman Khan and leaders of BFUJ and DUJ

DHAKA

ODAY Conference

were also present.

The two-day 11th national conference of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad will begin. Venue: Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre. Time:

Seminar

International Studies Association of Bangladesh organises a seminar on 'Militancy in Pakistan: Implications on South Asia'. Venue: RC Majumder

auditorium, DU. Time: 10:00am.

Consultation Access to Information Programme, Chief Adviser's Office organises a vision consultation on e-Krishi. Venue:

Bangladesh Agricultural Research

Council. Time: 9:00am. Seminar

Disaster Forum orgnises a seminar on 'Housing options of the affected community and livelihood opportunities of the fishing community in cyclone affected areas'. Venue: Cirdap Auditorium. Time: 9:00am.

Book launching Asiatic Society of Bangladesh will

organise a publication ceremony of the book 'Traditional Medicine in Bangladesh: Issues and Challenger by Dr Md Jahangir Alam. Venue: Society's auditorium. Time: 3:30pm.

Seminar

Graphic Machinary & Equipment Ltd organises a seminar on 'A new revolution in interventional procedure, prevention, detection and treatment'. Venue: Dhaka Sheraton Hotel. Time: 10:30am.

Teachers, students, nurses and other staffs of Bangladesh Medical College and Hospital (BMCH) form a human chain at Dhanmondi in the city yesterday demanding steps to rescue missing BMCH Registrar Dr Mofakkharul Ahmed.

Free, fair elections will be held this year

Hopes British envoy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Terming 2008 a defining year for Bangladesh, the British High Commissioner (HC) in Dhaka yesterday said he is hopeful that a free and fair election will be held this year as the government is preparing a good voter list along with political reforms.

"The year 2008 is a defining year for Bangladesh as the country is heading towards holding a free and fair election. The people will remember the year for holding a muscle power- and money-free election," he said.

But when asked about the lifting of the emergency, he did not answer the question of the journal-

speaking at the inauguration of a seminar titled 'The Business Case for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in Bangladesh," organised by Reed Consulting (BD) Ltd at Brac Centre in the city.

The seminar was organised to mark the launching of the project 'Corporate Social Responsibility- A Guide for Companies Operating in Bangladesh and the CSR Fact Sheets' by the British High Commission and the UK Trade & Investment to promote CSR practice in Bangladeshi business houses.

The project is being implemented by Reed Consulting BD

Owners of businesses, executives from different local and multinational business firms, foreign buyers and their representatives, leaders of BGMEA, BKMEA and representatives from development partner organisations took part in HC Anwar Choudhury was the daylong programme to share their CSR experience.

Choudhury said holding a free and fair election will also help enhance the image of the country, which will be helpful for attracting

environment," he added. Urging the bureaucrats to be more active for creating a congenial business atmosphere, the HC also advocated for reducing poverty through expanding trade and

On CSR he said, "CSR is not only morally the right thing to do, it is

Choudhury said local garment factories should not have faced such frequent labour unrest if there had been a good practice of CSR in those production units.

He said many companies in Bangladesh have been practicing the CSR very carefully, but those are

He called for resolving the labour unrest in the garment sector through negotiation between owners and workers.

Humidity in

more foreign and local investment. "We will appeal to the govern ment to remove all possible blockades for a congenial business

investment in the country.

also the smart thing to do."

not coming to the focus of people.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet



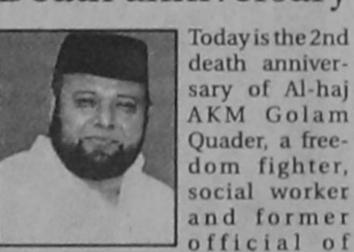
Maulana Abdul Latif Chowdhury (Fultoli Pir), an Islamic scholar of greater Sylhet region, passed away due to old

age complications at his residence in Sylhet city in the early hours of yesterday at the age of 93.

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

He was buried at his family graveyard at village Ratanganj at Zakiganj in the district yesterday afternoon.

Death anniversary



social worker and former official of Bangladesh Biman, says a press

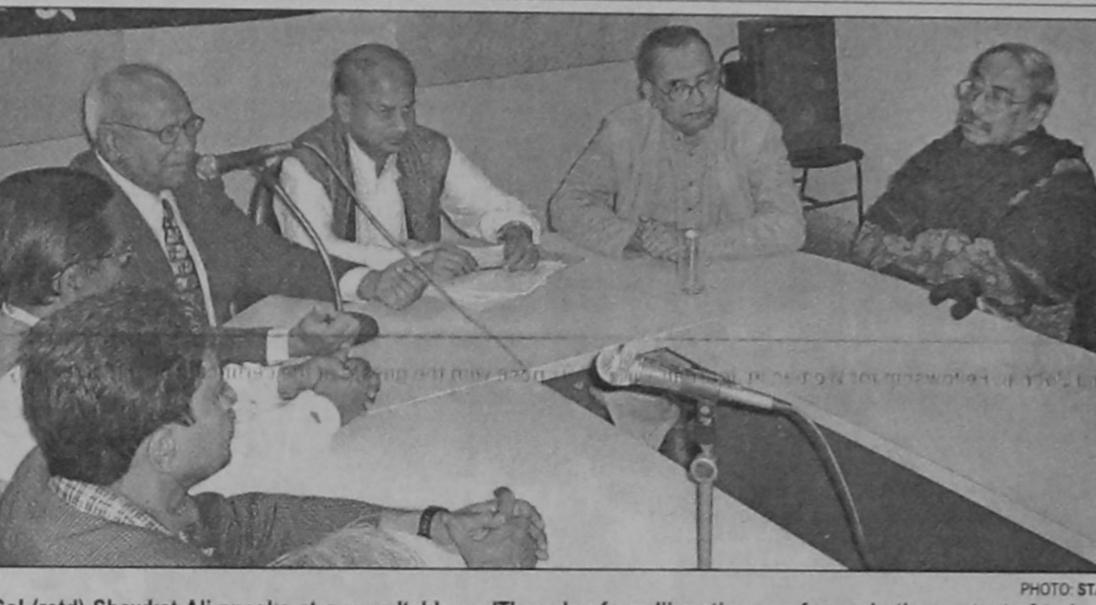
On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held tomorrow at his village home in Feni.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the milad mahfil and pray for salvation of the departed soul.

year. Their contributions and activities have encouraged and A part of the money from the helped in advancing the government's activities, he said. The chief adviser said the necessity of relief has not ended, as many people in the cyclone-hit region are

Those who handed over cheques to the chief adviser yesterday include cultural affairs ministry, Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Bangladesh, ex-DIG of Police M Afzal Hossain, Japan-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Bangladesh Association of Central Ohio, Lutfunnessa Khanam of Shahjahanpur, Dhaka, American Life Insurance Company, Islampur Cloth Traders Association, teachers and students

suffering for lack of warm clothes.



Col (retd) Shawkat Ali speaks at a roundtable on 'The role of pro-liberation war forces in the context of today's Bangladesh' at Shaheed Tajul Islam auditorium in the city yesterday. On his left are Dr M Selim, Mujahidul Islam Selim and Shahriar Kabir.

PROPOSED TALKS WITH POLITICAL PARTIES

Govt urged not to invite Jamaat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday urged the government not to invite Jamaat-e-Islami to the proposed talks between the government and the political parties.

They also demanded a ban on the politics of Jamaat and formulation of new laws so that war criminals cannot contest the general election.

Muktijoddha O Gonomukti Andolon organised the roundtable on 'The role of pro-liberation war forces in the context of today's Bangladesh' at Shaheed Tajul Islam

auditorium in the city. Awami League (AL) Presidium Member Abdur Razzak said no dialogue could be held in presence of the war criminals who neither believe the liberation war nor in the sovereignty of the country.

"We appreciate the government decision to invite us for the talks. Jamaat as a political party of war criminals should not be invited by the government. We don't want to see war criminals like Jamaat leaders in the dialogue with the government," he said while addressing theroundtable

Another AL Presidium Member Suranjit Sengupta said war criminals that termed the liberation war as a civil war should not be allowed to contest in the next general elec-

"True democracy will not be established if the activities of the militants and war criminals are not stopped," he said. He also proposed to form a

commission for identifying the war criminals and collecting documents against them. Acting president of Ghatak Dalal

Nirmul Committee writer Shahriar Kabir said the government is conducting an anti-corruption drive against top brass of Awami League and BNP but most of the corrupt Jamaat leaders are still at large. Communist Party Bangladesh

General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim, Workers' Party President Rashed Khan Menon Colonel (retd) Shawkat Ali, Gono Mukti President M Selim and General Secretary Chowdhury Wakar Khalid also spoke.

CG approaching goals step by step Says foreign adviser

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury yesterday said the caretaker government is approaching its predetermined goals in a step-by-step fashion.

This process has elicited support form the international community, he said during a meeting with Ukrainian Ambassador Igor Polikha based in New Delhi. The adviser expressed the hope

that Bangladesh and Ukraine would explore all possibilities to expand bilateral cooperation. The two countries signed an Agreement on Trade and

2007, he said, adding that as a result, the two-way trade is expected to grow. It is up to the businessmen in both countries to take advantage of

Cooperation with Ukraine in July

this agreed framework, he said. The Ukrainian ambassador praised the activities of the caretaker government in restoring calm and in ensuring the implementation of the roadmap leading to elections.

णन्यानकरात्र्यको उपरापन उपल्ख आब्ताच्या अज সানুবারী বুধবার বিকাল ৬টা আঠার সেকার বিজন বিকাশক বাংলাদেশের সাম্যবাদীদল (এম,এর)

PHOTO: STAR

Pankaj Bhattacharya speaks at a discussion at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. Bangladesher Sammyabadi Dal (ML) organised the discussion to mark the birth centenary of Comrade Sudhangshu Bimal Dutt.

Sylhet district Bar assoc election today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet At last, the election of the office

bearers of Sylhet district Bar association will be held today. The district administration, which on Tuesday asked the Bar

not to hold the election, bowed to

the pressure from the agitating

lawyers yesterday. A meeting of the lawyers was held at the Bar library hall yesterday that was addressed by Fokhor Uddin Ahmed, Golam Rabbani

Chowdhury and others. Following the meeting, the senior lawyers and election commission members met Deputy Commissioner Harun-Or-Rashid, who on discussion allowed running the election today.

Meanwhile, one vice president and 11 members of the executive committee had already been declared elected unopposed.

Now, 21 are on the run for the remaining nine positions. Voting will take place from 10:00am to 4:00pm.

Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town

try in the next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today. Light to moderate fog may occur over the river basins of the country during early morning.

Weather is likely to remain dry with partly cloudy sky over the coun-

Mild cold wave is sweeping over the regions of Rajshahi, Ishwardi, Jessore, Chudanga and Srimongal during the period, Met Office said. No appreciable change in night temperature is expected over the

Yesterday's highest temperature of 27.2 degree Celsius was recorded at Cox's Bazar and the lowest of 8.3 degrees at Rajshahi. The sun sets in the capital at 5:34pm today and rises at 6:43am tomorrow.

Temperature

The highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in

incelsius percentage Morning Evening Max Min 24.7 12.1 Dhaka Chittagong 24.0 14.0 85 Rajshahi 24.8 08.3 58 Khulna 12.0 26.0 11.0 Barisal 13.2 Sylhet 25.0 Cox's Bazar 27.2 14.0 60