

# Political will, regional cooperation a must to curb transnational crimes

## Security experts tell workshop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Security experts and analysts at a workshop yesterday stressed the need for political will, regional cooperation and greater cooperation between the intelligence agencies at home and neighbouring countries to curb transnational terrorism and crimes.

They also called for strengthening military and civil cooperation in combating terrorism in the country.

Bangladesh Heritage Foundation organised the daylong workshop on 'Transnational security challenges: Indo-Bangla border management and delimitation of maritime boundary' at Bilia auditorium in the city.

"Cooperation between the military and the civil administration alongside bilateral regional, zonal and international cooperation is a must to ensure transnational security," said Justice Mostafa Kamal who chaired the

first session of the workshop.

He also stressed the need to set up more security agencies in the country and raise awareness in order to combat transnational terrorism and crimes.

Dr Mizanur Rahman Shelley, chairman of Centre for Development Research, Bangladesh (CDRB), co-chaired the session.

Maj Gen Md Aminul Karim, military secretary to president, presented a keynote paper titled 'In a globalised world, how does transnational security challenges pose security threat to Bangladesh: Remedies thereof'.

Referring to a report, Maj Gen Karim said at least 128 syndicates in Bangladesh are engaged in crimes like gun running, human trafficking, extortion, prostitution, illegal occupation of land, especially for shrimp cultivation and real estate business, smuggling of contraband items, drug peddling and dealing, money laundering, election rigging and tender snatch-

ing.

Quoting a research report, he said at least four lakh illegal arms and 25,000 licensed arms are used across the country for criminal activities. Porous borders and international migration also play a role in facilitating modern terrorism, he added.

An anti-terrorism act is under active consideration of the government to tackle transnational terrorism and crimes, Maj Gen Karim said.

The military expert suggested several measures such as free, fair and frequent selection of national and local level leaders, popular participation in and acceptance of political process, capacity building for anti-corruption commission, greater cooperation between the military and law enforcement agencies and intelligence sharing with the foreign governments to ensure transnational security.

Taking part as a discussant on the keynote paper, Lt Gen ATM

Muhammed Zahirul Alam, commandant, National Defense College, observed that the government, media and civil society would have to play a vital role in creating mass awareness about transnational security.

Appropriate policies and strategies, modern equipment, intelligence agencies' cooperation at both national and international level, bilateral understanding with neighbouring India and Myanmar could help ensure transnational security, he said.

Brig Gen ATM Amin, director, counter intelligence, Director General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI), emphasised the need to strengthen the Saarc forum and people-to-people connectivity to ensure transnational security.

In his keynote paper, Ambassador Wali-ur-Rahman said India-Bangladesh relations are crucial to the security of both of the countries.

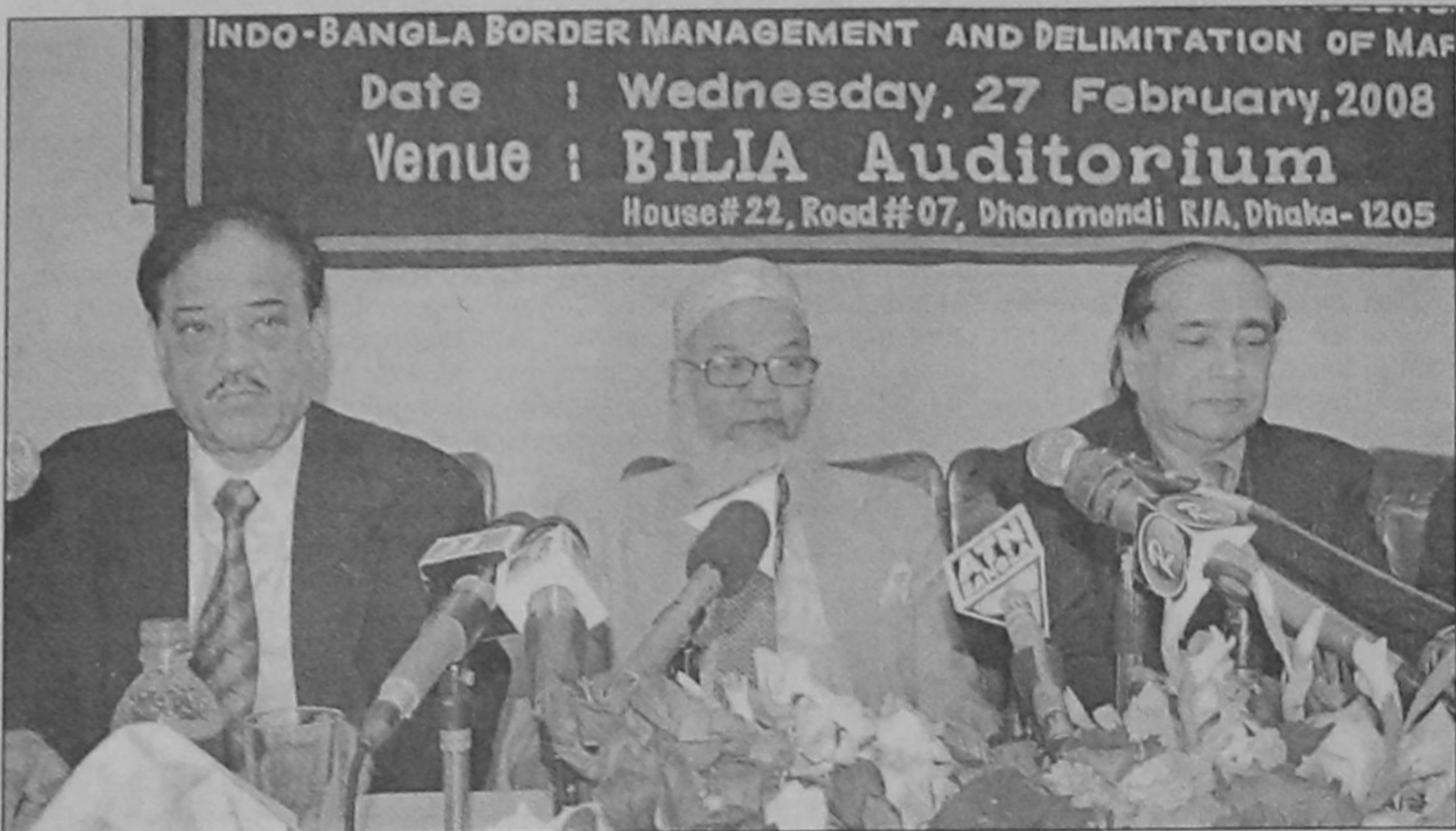
He observed that disputes with India are now being replaced by dialogues. "We will have to make the people understand that India is our friend, not enemy."

At the inaugural session, Ambassador Mufleh R Osmani, chairman of BISS, said political will is needed to tackle transnational terrorism.

Brig Gen (ret'd) Shahedul Anam Khan chaired the second session where Maj Gen Shakil Ahmed, director general of Bangladesh Rifles, presented a keynote paper on 'Transnational security challenges: Indo-Bangladesh Border Management'.

Maj Gen (ret'd) AMSA Amin presented a keynote paper at the third session chaired by Prof Muzaffer Ahmad.

Air Commodore Mahbub Hasan, World University Vice Chancellor Prof Abdul Mannan Chowdhury, Prof Ataur Rahman, Editor of the Bhorer Kagoj Shyamol Dutt, Adviser to AIN Bangla Saiful Bari, Prof Shahiduzzaman and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal leader Shirin Akhtar took part in the workshop.



Justice Mostafa Kamal speaks at a workshop on 'Transnational security challenges: Indo-Bangla border management and delimitation of maritime boundary' at Bilia auditorium in the city yesterday. On his right is Dr Mizanur Rahman Shelley and on his left is Ambassador Waliur Rahman.

## Six addl, joint secys transferred

UNB, Dhaka

Six additional and joint secretaries have been transferred in a latest reshuffle in the administration.

At the additional secretary-level reshuffle, AKM Abdul Awal Majumder of education ministry has been transferred to food and disaster management ministry while Rajshahi Divisional Commissioner Mohammad Shafiqul Alam to Bangladesh Forest Industry Development Corporation (BFIDC).

At the joint secretary-level change, additional Director General of food department Pius Costa has been made DG of the same department, said an official release yesterday.

Dr Khandaker Shawkat Hossain of the social welfare ministry has been transferred to the establishment ministry while establishment ministry joint secretary Sadaruddin Ahmed, now OSD, transferred to the youth and sports ministry and Begum Masuda Binte Quadir transferred to social welfare ministry.

## 5 get death for killing man

UNB, Gazipur

A Gazipur court yesterday sentenced five people to death in sensational Hanif Sarkar murder case.

The convicts are Nazma Begum, wife of Hanif Sarkar, Kamal Hossain, Rokeya Begum, a domestic help, and her husband Shahidul and brother-in-law Wahidul.

Of them, Nazma, Kamal and Rokeya were tried in absentia. According to the prosecution, Hanif Sarkar, an employee of Bata Shoe Factory, was killed at his own residence at Bara Dewra in Tongi on August 24, 2003.

After examining records and witnesses, Additional District and Sessions Judge SM Rezaul Karim pronounced the verdict.

## 100 godowns, shanties burn down

UNB, Gazipur

At least 100 godowns and shanties near Tongi EPZ burned down in a fire yesterday.

Five people also received burn injuries trying to put out the blaze. The fire started at a cotton godown at about 12:30pm and soon engulfed the adjacent godowns and shanties, sources said.

Fire fighters extinguished the blaze after two hours of frantic efforts.

## Five killed in road accidents

STAR REPORT

At least five people were killed and 10 others injured in separate road accidents in Rajshahi and Magura yesterday.

Our RU correspondent reports: At least three people were killed and eight others injured in separate road accidents in Rajshahi.

One man was killed and eight others were injured in a road accident when a passenger bus from Chapainawabganj rammed a 'Noshimon' on Godagari road at Choyghati area in Rajshahi yesterday.

The dead was identified as Allahma, 45, of Berpara village under Paba Upazila in Rajshahi and the injured were identified as Masud Rana, 19, Shafiqul Islam, 20, Tahsin, 40, Azim, 25, Anwarul, 30, Habib, 30, Mostofa, 28 and Rezaul, 35.

Rajpara police said a youth was killed in a road accident at the city bypass area on Tuesday.

The victim was identified as Bari, 20. His detail information could not be known immediately.

Tanor upazila police said a boy was killed in a road accident when a picnic bus knocked him on Tanor road at Geochanpur area on Tuesday evening.

The victim was identified as Sohan, 7, son of Belal Mia of Geochanpur village.

On information, police rushed to the spot and sent the dead body to the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

Our Magura correspondent

adds: At least two people were killed and two others injured in separate road accidents in Magura yesterday.

A rickshaw-van puller was killed and two others were injured when a speeding truck hit his rickshaw-van on Magura-Jessore road at Shatkhali at around 2:30pm.

The deceased was identified as Abdur Rahman of Harishpur village under Shalikhap Upazila.

In another road accident Abbas Ali Molla, 65, of Dhuljuri village under Mohammadpur Upazila was crushed under the wheels of a truck when he was crossing the road near Boro-Kachhundi area.

## Int'l zoological confce begins

RU CORRESPONDENT

The 16th Biennial International Zoological Conference began at Kazi Nazrul Islam auditorium of Rajshahi University (RU) yesterday.

The theme of the three-day conference is 'Natural resources conservation: Zoological perspective'.

Department of Zoology of Rajshahi University organised the conference.

Quazi Azhar Ali, vice-chancellor of Bangladesh University, attended the inaugural session as the chief guest.



## Temperature may fall

UNB, Dhaka

Weather may remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country 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, Met Office said, predicting slight fall in night temperature over the country.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 31.4 degree Celsius was recorded at Cox's Bazar and the lowest of 11.4 degrees at Ishwardi.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:00pm today and rises at 6:22am tomorrow.

The 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	27.8	18.4	43	27
Chittagong	28.7	19.0	72	67
Rajshahi	28.0	12.2	57	41
Khulna	28.5	17.2	54	60
Barisal	29.0	17.0	62	57
Sylhet	29.2	17.4	76	37
Cox's Bazar	31.4	20.0	91	78

## Students withdraw strike in public universities

UNB, Dhaka

Students demanding abolition of quota system in the BCS examination withdrew their strike yesterday after the vice-chancellor of Dhaka University (DU) assured them of considering their demand.

DU students under the banner of General Students had called the strike in all public universities from Tuesday to press home their demand.

Vice Chancellor Prof SMA Faiz at a press conference said the government hinted positively at resolving the students' demand. The assurance came after his meeting with Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed.

"The government wants a logical solution of this issue and is advancing towards that," the VC told reporters.

He said a committee headed by PSC Chairman Dr Saadat Hossain has been formed to examine the students' demand and submit recommendations.

Under the quota system in BCS examinations, 30 percent of government posts are reserved for the children of freedom fighters, 10 percent for women, 10 percent for residents of certain districts and 5 percent for indigenous people.



## Dialogue

Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) organises a dialogue on 'Addressing regional inequality: Policy options and strategies'. Venue: Cirdap auditorium. Time: 3:00pm.

## Discussion

Bangladesh National Awami Party (NAP) will organise discussion on 'Language Movement: Maulana Bhasani'. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 3:30pm.

## Seminar

Tagore Society, Bangladesh organises a seminar on 'Rabindranath Tagore's play in the context of socio-political and rebellious aspects'. Venue: British Council. Time: 6:00pm.

## Discussion

The daily Amader Shomoy organises a discussion on proposed dialogue of the government. Venue: Amader Shomoy office. Time: 12:00 noon.

## Memorial meeting

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy will organise a memorial meeting on eminent artist Abinash Chandra Shil. Venue: Shilpakala Academy music hall. Time: 6:00pm.



Prof Atiur Rahman speaks at a roundtable on 'The role of women in national economy' at the National Press Club yesterday. Unnayan Shamannay and WBB Trust jointly organised the roundtable.

## 'Change mindset to ensure rights of MSM people in society'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a meeting yesterday underscored the need for changing the mindset towards MSM (male having sex with male) people to ensure their rights in the society.

They said although the constitution ensures basic human rights of all, this group is the most neglected and marginalised one in the society.

The speakers also called upon all stakeholders including different policy makers, NGOs and media workers to work together for mainstreaming them in the society.

The meeting titled 'Upholding human rights of MSM: Sharing experience and lesson learned for future direction' was organised by

Bandhu Social Welfare Society (BSWS) in collaboration with Manusher Jonno Foundation at Brac Centre Inn in the city.

Presenting a slideshow titled '377, MSM and Human Rights in Bangladesh', Barrister Sara Hossain said the law enforcement agencies generally prefer to avoid family feuds, but in the case of MSM people they interfere and harass them using the section 377 of the Penal Code.

She said the section has become an instrument of harassment for people, especially for the MSM people.

Dr Shariful Islam Khan Bobby of ICDDR,B said the MSM people suffer from psycho-sexual and psycho-biological problems including low self-esteem and identity crisis.

He said there are some obstacles to work with MSM people due to poor coordination among the policymakers, donors and NGOs.

"We have to sensitise media and build awareness among the law-

yers regarding the MSM issue," he said, adding that media can play an immense role in this regard.

Rina Roy, director (rights) of Manusher Jonno Foundation, said MSM is a marginalised group of people who are denied of their human rights.

"We want a society where all people can live with equal rights and opportunities, and we have to build up that society," she added.

Saleh Ahmed, executive director of BSWS, spoke about the projects that they are carrying out in Dhaka, Chittagong, Sylhet and Mymensingh for protecting the human rights of MSM people.

Dr Robert Kelly, country director of FHI, Anisul Islam Hero, chairperson of BSWS, and Tamanna Rahman, executive member of BSWS, also spoke on the occasion.



A group of students supporting strike chase others who are against the strike on the Dhaka University campus yesterday. Students demanding abolition of the quota system in the BCS examination called the strike but withdrew the strike later.

## Bazlur Rahman's death condoled

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Socio-cultural and political organisations, professional bodies and individuals yesterday condoled the death of Bazlur Rahman, editor of the daily Sangbad and a valiant freedom fighter.

Recalling unflinching devotion of Bazlur Rahman in the field of journalism, they said he would be long remembered for his invaluable contribution as an honest journalist and for building a progressive, democratic and secular country.

His death created a vacuum in the profession of journalism, they added.

They prayed for peace and salvation of the departed soul and conveyed deep sympathy to the bereaved family members.

Bazlur Rahman died of a cardiac arrest at Ibrahim Memorial Hospital and Cardiac Research Institute on Tuesday night at the age of 67.

President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday expressed his profound shock at the death of Bazlur Rahman.

In a condolence message recalling his chequered career, the president said, "The people of this community would remember with gratitude his contribution to journalism, social services and progressive politics."

He prayed for peace and salvation of the departed soul and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family members.

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed also condoled the death of Bazlur Rahman.

In a condolence message, he said Bazlur Rahman was one of the pioneers in the field of journalism of the country and was also a role model in journalism profession.

Recalling his outstanding contribution to the country's war of independence, the chief adviser also said Bazlur Rahman believed in progressive and non-communal ideology and his demise is not only an irreparable loss to the newspaper industry, but also to the country.

He prayed for peace and salvation of the departed soul and con-

veyed his deep sympathy to members of the bereaved family.

Speaker Barrister Mohammad Jamiruddin Sircar and Deputy Speaker Akhtar Hamid Siddiqui also condoled the death of Bazlur Rahman.

In a message, they said Bazlur was a courageous and honest journalist and a valiant freedom fighter as well and the nation would remember him for his contribution in the Language Movement and war of independence.

In a joint statement, Bangladesh Awami League Acting President Zillur Rahman and Acting General Secretary Syed Ashrafur Islam said Bazlur Rahman made significant contribution to the promotion of secular democracy.

The fearless news and views propagated by the deceased had inspired people in various critical junctures of the national history, they added.

Expressing deep shock, BNP chairperson-appointed Secretary General Khandakar Delwar Hossain recalled Bazlur Rahman's contribution by saying he helped expand journalism profession in the country.

Meanwhile, Bangladeshi journalists, litterateurs and cultural activists working in New York, USA, also expressed deep shock at the death of Bazlur Rahman.

Our Chittagong correspondent reports: a condolence book was opened at the bureau office of the daily Sangbad yesterday. Leaders and representatives from different journalist bodies, socio-political and cultural organisations visited the bureau office to express their condolence.

Foreign Adviser Itekar Ahmed Chowdhury, Cultural Affairs Adviser Rasheda K Chowdhury, former law adviser Barrister Mainul Hossain, BNP's Standing Committee nominated Acting Chairman M Saifur Rahman, Acting General Secretary Maj (ret'd) Hafizuddin Ahmed, former BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, DCC Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka, former adviser CM

Shafi Sami, Jatiya Press Club President Shawkat Mahmud and General Secretary Kamaluddin Shauj, ASM Abdul Rab, Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS), Chittagong Press Club (CPC), Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ), Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ), Chittagong Union of Journalists (CUJ), Bangladesh Economic Association, Bangladesh Nari Sangbadik Kendra, Progressive Journalist Forum, Court Reporters Association, Bangladesh Council of Editors, Feni Press Club, Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad, Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh, Workers Party of Bangladesh, Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD), Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal (BSD), Bangladesh National Awami Party, Gonotantrik Bam Morcha, Bangladesh Sammyabadi Dal, Moni Singh-Farhad Smriti Trust, Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote, Biplobi Oikya Jote, Jatiya Gonotantrik League, Bangladesh Nari Mukti Andolan, Rural Journalist Association (RIA), Bangladesh Chhatra League, Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, Bangladesh Chhatra Union, Bangladesh Jubo Union, Transparency International Bangladesh, Proshika, Karmajibi Nari, Sammilito Ainjibi Sammanay Parishad, Bangladesh Manabadhikar Bastabayan Sangstha, Bangladesh Islami Oikya Jote, Jatiya Samik Jote-Bangladesh, Bangladesh Peace Council, Institute of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh, Bangladesh University, Bangladesh Polytechnic Teachers' Association (BPTA), Kendro Khelaghar Asar, Garments Samik Kendra, Shikha Andolan Mancha, Shadinota Chikishhak Parishad, Society for International Development, Haji Agencies Association of Bangladesh, Image a New South Asia (INSA), Nakla Foundation, Pratiba Sangskritik Sangsad, Networks Forum and Guardian Forum also condoled the death of Bazlur Rahman.

## Musharraf for stronger trade ties with Dhaka

UNB, Dhaka

Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf has underscored the need for deepening economic and trade relations to match the excellent relations existing between Bangladesh and Pakistan.

The president laid emphasis on it when Bangladesh High Commissioner to Pakistan Yasmeen Murshed presented her credentials to him at Aiwan-e-Sadr on Tuesday.

The high commissioner also conveyed greetings of the president and the chief adviser to him.

President Musharraf assured the high commissioner of all support and cooperation during discharge of her responsibility as the Bangladesh envoy and hoped that the relations between the two countries would grow from strength to strength in the coming days.

## Jalil's health

FROM PAGE 1

on charge of violating emergency power rules. A few days later, in June, he was admitted to the hospital with various complications including heart disease, high blood pressure, diabetes, kidney, neurological and eye ailments.

Dr Matiuir, Jalil's physician for the last two years, also said that as Jalil's condition deteriorated recently, they changed his medication. Jalil will be under close observation till Sunday when a board of doctors are scheduled to examine him, added the doctor.

"The board of doctors on Sunday will decide whether Jalil will need dialysis or transplant," Dr Matiuir said.

However, Jalil is reluctant to undergo any dialysis, Dr Matiuir told The Daily Star.

"At his present health condition, it would be risky for Jalil to undergo kidney transplant surgery in Bangladesh. It would be better if Jalil was treated in Singapore where he regularly goes for treatment," he added.

Maj Samsul Haider Siddique, deputy inspector general (DIG-prisons), said, "Doctors have said that his health condition is deteriorating."

Asked if Jalil would be allowed to go to Singapore for treatment, the DIG said, "It isn't possible according to the jail code. However, they (doctors at Labaid) are trying to ensure the best treatment for ailing Jalil."

About seven months into his arrest, a case was filed against Jalil on December 18. The case, however, failed to make any mentionable progress till the date.

## Oct 29 BNP meet

FROM PAGE 1

BNP constitution only the chairperson is eligible to convene a meeting of the standing committee.

But that was not the case when the BNP standing committee declared M Saifur Rahman and Maj (ret'd) Hafiz as acting chairperson and acting secretary general of the party on October 29.

"That meeting was not legal," said TH Khan. The standing committee needs a quorum of eight members to meet, whereas only six members attended the October 29 meeting held at Saifur's residence, he added.

On former secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan's attending the meeting, he said Mannan was not a standing committee member as Khaleda had expelled him earlier.

The counsel further said Saifur invited some people for 'tea' on October 29 where some BNP standing committee members along with two outsiders were present.

He went on to say that resolution of the meeting was prepared beforehand and attending members were forced to sign on it.

Khan said EC invited Hafiz for a dialogue terming it "doctrine of necessity". But that theory can be applied if the country plunges into an emergency crisis.

Meanwhile, Dr Kamal Hossain, counsel for the commission said EC doesn't intervene in the internal matters of a political party.

He said EC cancelled the meeting scheduled to be held with Hafiz on November 22. "There are now two ways to solve the issue; one is BNP leaders may solve their problems themselves and inform EC. And the other is the court can decide about the matter," he added.

The court adjourned the hearing until 2:00pm on Monday.

## Death anniversary



Today is the first death anniversary of MA Hakim, a former joint secretary and social worker, says a press release.

On the occasion, milad mahfil and Quankhwani will be held.

In his professional life, MA Hakim was also a first secretary at Bangladesh High Commission in Kolkata and a director of Tariff Commission.