# METROPOLITAN/NEWS

BRITISH MINISTER MEETS FOREIGN ADVISER

# 'People-to-people contact can help improve ties'

BSS, Dhaka

The visiting UK home minister Jacqui Smith made a courtesy call on Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury at the state guesthouse Padma vesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed issues of bilateral relations and co-operation in various fields, including curbing terrorism.

"The relationship between Bangladesh and the United Kingdom are rooted in history, and those shared values have been

Secretariat

employees

salary hike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

made their lives miserable.

Third and fourth class employees

of the secretariat yesterday placed

a six-point demand, including a 50

percent increase in salary, as the

spiralling prices of essentials has

Sachibalaya Karmachari Sanjukta

Parishad placed the demands to

the chief adviser during a meeting

with the establishment secretary

de ands to the finance

duction of rationing system for

ecretariat officials and employees

like the system for the members of

rmed forces, BDR and police, and

in increase in pension and gratuity.

A CORRESPONDENT, Madaripur

Tuesday, was laid to rest at the fam-

ily graveyard in Madaripur yester-

year-old daughter, parents and a

host of relatives and admirers to

Morshed's body was sent to

on Kalkini Syed Abul Hossain

University College playground at

Koyaria Eid Gah where a namaz-e-

Commander Muyeed, Upazila

Nirbahi Officer of Kalkini

Mezbahuddin Ahemd, Major

Anwar-us-Sadat, commanding

officer of Rab-8, Second Lieutenant

Salauddin and nine BAF personnel

Morshed's body reached the village

mother Monwara Begum fainted

Septuagenarian

for the last 15 days, says a press

He went out of his home but did

Anyone knowing his where-

abouts has been requested to

contact Islamia Cloth Store at

Subidakhali Bazar in Mirzaganj or 163/3 Crescent Road, Dhanmondi,

Dhaka, or call at 01711155950 or

AIUB Debate

Week begins

Moslem Ali

Howlader, a 70-

year-old resi-

Pashchim

Subidkhali in

Mirzaganj,

Patuakhali, has

been missing

dent

Az pall of gloom descended as

His father Mokhles Jamadar and

janaza was held after Johr prayers.

From there his body was taken to

Apart from 10000 people, Wing

He left behind his wife, a two-

laid to rest

mourn his death.

around 12:10pm.

attended the janaza.

several times.

missing

not return.

01711642073.

Other demands include intro-

'hey also submitted the list of

yesterday, says a press release.

Leaders of the Bangladesh

demand

translated into an active 'strategic partnership' in contemporary times," the foreign adviser told newsmen after the meeting.

"We also discussed key current issues including climate change and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, two areas in which our two countries are working closely together,"

The adviser also appreciated British support to education and post-Sidr rehabilitation. "The recent talks between the Bangladesh.

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed and British Prime Minister Gordon Brown at No. 10 Downing Street took our relations to new heights," Iftekhar added.

Smith said people-to-people contact is necessary to improve the

existing bilateral relations. She said they also discussed issues of counter-terrorism and

how it could be addressed. She was happy to note that elections would take place in

# 30 die in jail in last 3 months: ASK report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 30 people died in jail custody in the last three months, of which 21 were arrestees and nine convicts, according to a report of Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK).

It also said at least 24 people were killed by law enforcement agencies and 9509 people arrested during the period.

According to ASK report based on news published in daily newspapers, 121 women were raped of

whom 23 were killed and two committed suicide.

Besides, 74 women were repressed and 54 others killed for dowry in last three months.

A total of 25 women were the victims of acid violence and 70 domestic violence. Of them, 59 were killed.

The report also said 18 journalists were repressed while 22 Bangladeshis killed by Indian Border Security Force during this

#### APPOINTMENT OF VCS

## Search committee reconstituted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sqn Ldr Morshed The education ministry yesterday reconstituted the search committee formed to help ensure greater transparency in the appointment of vice chancellor, pro-vice chancellor and treasurer of public uni-Squadron Leader Morshed Hasan, who died in a plane crash on versities.

Education Secretary will act as the chairman of the reconstituted committee while Prof Dr Wahid Uddin Mahmud of Dhaka University as the co-chairman and the joint secretary (University) of the education ministry as its member secretary, said an official hand-Madaripur in a Bangladesh Air Force (BAF) helicopter that landed

Other members of the committee are Founder Vice Chancellor of East West University Dr University Grants Commission versities. (UGC) member Dr Ehsanul Haque,

University of Engineering and Technology Dr Nuruddin Ahmed, former VC of Jahangirnagar University Dr Kazi Saleh Ahmed, VC of North South University Dr Hafiz GA Siddiqi and former dean at Bangladesh Agricultural University Prof SM Bulbul. The search committee will

recommend appointing skilled and qualified persons to the vacant posts of VC, pro-VC and treasurers in the public universities through inviting applications/nominations through advertisements in the national dailies and on the web However, Dhaka, Rajshahi,

Chittagong and Jahangirnagar universities will remain out of the purview of the search committee as their system of appointment of VCs Mohammad Farashuddin, is different from other public uni-

The committee can co-opt

## former VC of Bangladesh members, if necessary. DHAKA

Report launching

The launching ceremony of the report 'Rethinking disaster: Why death and destruction is not nature's fault but human failure' will be held. Venue: Cirdap auditorium. Time: 10:00am.

Scientific workshop

Bangladesh Society for Study of Pain and South Asia Society for Study of Pain jointly organise a scientific workshop and seminar on interventional technique of pain management. Venue: Anesthesia department, BSMMU. Time: 9:00am.

Discussion

Bangladesh Heritage Foundation organises a discussion on 'Price hike of food items and food security'. Venue: Hotel Lakeshore, Gulshan 2. Time:

Seminar

Bangladesh Institute of Planners (BIP) organises a seminar on importance of

local and regional planning to attain PRSP goals. Venue: BIP auditorium. Time:

Scientific seminar

Homoeopathic Foundation Bangladesh organises a scientific seminar and discussion on homoeopathic treatment in health services of Bangladesh. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:00am.

Discussion

Forum for Secular Bangladesh and Trial of War Criminals of 1971 organises a discussion to mark the 37th anniversary of proclamation of the independence and formation of government. Venue: Supreme Court Bar Association auditorium. Time: 4:00pm.

Roundtable

National Democratic Party (NDP) organises a roundtable on responsibilities of politicians and government to make successful the national dialogue. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:30am.

Humidityin

percentage

Evening

26

59

58

56

Morning

43

55

55

71

tomorrow.

City/Town

Chittagong

Cox's Bazar

Rajshahi

Khulna

Barisal

Sylhet

Dhaka

#### No change in temperature likely UNB, Dhaka

day at Rajshahi and lowest 17.0 degrees Celsius at Srimongal.

Temperature in

Celsius

Max

33.5

32,0

36.2

34.0

33.6

33.8

34.7

country in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

try during the period, Met Office said.

major cities and towns yesterday were:

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the coun-

Highest temperature 36.2 degrees Celsius was recorded yester-

The sun sets in the capital at 6:18pm today and rises at 5:41am

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some

Min

20.7

21.6

19.2

21.3

20.3

20.5

23.0

International University Bangladesh (AIUB) in the city recently, says a press release.

Debaters from 17 universities are taking part in this mega event comprising both Bangla and English formats of debate.

The 3rd AIUB Debate Week 2008

has kicked off at the American

A two-day long workshop on both Bangla and English debate was also held for the students of secondary and higher secondary levels.

Renowned debaters Dr Abdun Nur Tushar, Hasan Mahmud Biplob, Shamim Reza, Chowdhury Abdallah Quaseed and Zeeshan Kingshuk Huq conducted the workshop.

Prof Tofazzal Hossain, vice president, Academic Affairs, inaugurated the debate week on April 4. The final of the debate will be held

on April 18. The Daily Star, Radio Today and Channel I are the media partners of the event

### after eating puffer fish STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three die

At least three people, including a couple, died and six others fell ill after eating puffer fish at Belabo in Narsingdhilast night.

The dead are Khandaker Monir Hossain, 48, his wife Hazera Begum, 40, of village Amlabo and Keramat Ali, 70, of Bateswar.

Doctors at Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) declared Hazera and Keramat dead after they were brought to the hospital while Monir died at Belabo Thana Health Complex, family members said.

Six others from two families were now undergoing treatment at

Wahed Ullah, son of Monir, told reporters that they bought some puffer fish from Battola Bazar in Belabo in the afternoon.

"Five members of our family fell ill within half an hour of eating the fish at night," he said.

The family members of Keramat Ali also bought the fish from the same bazaar.

#### DU students demand removal of Hasanuzzaman

**DU CORRESPONDENT** 

Hundreds of students of Dhaka University (DU) staged a demonstration on the campus yesterday demanding removal of Pro Hasanuzzaman Chowdhury, a teacher of political science department, accusing him of hurting the sentiment of the students of other faiths during his class lectures.

They took out a silent procession, burnt an effigy of Prof Hasanuzzaman, and held a protest rally on the campus. The students also met Vice

Chancellor Prof SMA Faiz at his office and submitted a memorandum urging him to take immediate steps to remove Prof Hasanuzzaman.

After the meeting, the students told reporters that Prof Faiz had assured them that he would look into the matter and take steps accordingly.

#### Bapex starts drilling well at Shahbazpur Gas Field

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration and Production Company Limited (Bapex) has started drilling a 3,500metre deep development well at Shahbazpur Gas Field at Char Borhanuddin in Bhola recently, says a press release.

The drilling work is scheduled to be completed by June. Earlier, Bapex had drilled another well on the gas field.

After successful completion of the drilling work, the two wells are expected to produce 30 to 35 mil lion cubic feet of gas.

Bapex has already installed a 32 kilometre pipeline to supply gas to Bhola, the press release added.

#### Int'l edn fair begins in Ctg today

**CU CORRESPONDENT** 

A three-day education fair titled "Chittagong International Education Fair (CIEF) 2008" begins in the port city today.

opportunities for Bangladeshi students to know about education systems, admission processes and tuition fees for higher education at home and abroad. Extreme Exhibition and Event

Management Ltd (E3 Solutions) is organising the fair at Institute of Engineer Bangladesh (IEB) Chittagong auditorium.

Over 32 colleges, universities, IT institutes, students counselling farms, immigration and language learning institutes of the country and the world are participating in the fair.

Representatives from reputed colleges and universities of Bangladesh, the UK, the US, Malaysia, Cyprus, Thailand, India, Australia, Ireland, Poland, Singapore and other countries will also attend the fair. Social Scientist and Vice

Chancellor of Premier University Prof Anupam Sen will formally inaugurate the fair as the chief guest. The Daily Star, Channel-i and local daily Azadi are the media

partners of the fair, while Radio

Today and bdjobs.com are radio

and web partners.



Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed visits BDR-run open market sale (OMS) centres at Mirpur, Agargaon and Pallabi in the city yesterday.

#### Govt aims at big food stock FROM PAGE 1

and provide income support for

the low-income groups," he said. He said in all 1.20 lakh tonnes of

rice have been allocated for the OMS programme in April compared to 42,000 tonnes in last month so that rice prices come down gradually. Referring to some newspaper

reports, he said prices of rice have already started to come down on the wholesale market and hoped that the expected bumper harvest of Boro would have a positive impact on the market. Noting the important role of the

media, he urged the newspeople to play a positive role in keeping the prices of commodities, especially of food, at tolerable levels. He said the government has

decided to increase agricultural production in a bid to keep food prices stable as there is no other alternative to this, adding that the next budget would provide increased allocation for agriculture and related sectors. Besides, he said the government

would expand the Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) programme in a bid to broaden the food-safety net at places where there is seasonal unemployment problem.

On employment generation, the noon. chief adviser said the food ministry has already taken a Tk 100-crore project to that end. The Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) has got the nod to launch such programmes in a few weeks while the communications ministry would also take similar

since the country has no parlia-

ment now," Hamid told The Daily

The former speaker said law-

makers join IPU assemblies and

speakers may also sometimes

attend the event as team leaders,

but added, "The current speaker

should not attend the IPU assembly

since it will bring no result other

Speaker Sircar is leading a four-

member Bangladesh delegation

including Additional Secretary to

the Parliament Kuddus Khan,

Speaker's Personal Secretary

Habibur Rahman, and his Assistant

The additional secretary was

included in the team as the delega-

tion's secretary and Sircar's two

personal staff was included as

assistant officers, the sources said

accompany the speaker at her own

expense, the official circular added.

Sircar's wife NA Sircar will also

The IPU assembly is scheduled

Elected parliaments of sovereign

to be held from April 13 to 18 in

states are members of IPU and

lawmakers of the parliaments join

IPU assemblies where discussions

Personal Secretary MA Majid.

quoting from an official order.

Cape Town.

FROM PAGE 1

than spending of public money."

FROM PAGE 16

Star yesterday.

programmes to provide support for

the poor and low-income people.

He said the government is also mulling over growing two major crops within a short span in a year. On his experience at the BDR-run outlets, Fakhruddin said one of the main problems people face while

buying rice from OMS outlets is that they have to spend much time there. He, however, informed that the BDR would open 25 more outlets next week to ease the problem.

The chief adviser visited BDR outlets at Taltola, Agargaon, Shere-Bangla Nagar, Mirpur- 2 and Kalyanpur.

Most of the people at the outlets asked him to increase OMS rice sale from five kg to 10 kg at an even lower price.

Now one kg rice sells for Tk 25 at BDR shops which also sell salt, potatoes and other essential food items from 8:00am to 5:30pm Earlier, the government increased the amount of rice under OMS from three kg to five kg.

The chief adviser asked the people to be patient, assuring them that the government would increase the amount of rice and take steps for quick supply of rice to the outlets.

#### 2 women RMG workers killed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two female garment workers were killed in separate incidents at Kafrul and Pallabi in the city yesterday. The dead are identified as

Shahnaz Begum, 25, of Mirpur-11 and Monira Begum, 28, of Ibrahimpur. Pallabi police recovered the body

Pakistanis' camp namely Rabeda Camp at Mirpur-11 in the after-Police said Shahnaz's husband Jahangir stabbed her to death over a

quarrel with her mother-in-law at around 2:00pm. Neighbours caught hold of Jahangir, who works at Benarasi Palli, and handed him over to the

police. Jahangir, who hails from

Lawmakers of Bangladesh Jatiya

Sangsad joined previous IPU

assemblies. But currently there is no

parliament in the country as the

election to form a new parliament

has not been held since the immedi-

ate past eighth parliament's disso-

According to the rules of IPU, its

The speaker also attended the

The speaker sent an official to

assembly shall be composed of

117th assembly of IPU in Geneva in

October of last year, which also met

after the dissolution of the parlia-

India in March to collect visas for the

delegation to Cape Town assembly of

IPU, since South Africa does not have

a foreign mission in Dhaka. Ali

Ashraf, senior assistant secretary to

the parliament, stayed in New Delhi

from March 24 to 27 to collect the

visas, expenditures for which also

came from the parliament secretar-

the Parliament Secretariat on Tuesday

sent a letter to Zia International

Airport asking the airport authorities

to take necessary measures to keep

open the airport's VIP lounge today

On instructions from the speaker,

iat's budget, sources said.

for the delegation's use.

'sitting members of parliaments'.

are held on various issues.

lution on October 27, 2006.

menthe represents.

Comilla, rented the house at the camp. Shahnaz also hailed from the same district. The body of other victim was

found at an empty plot with boundary walls at Ibrahimpur. Kafrul police recovered the body of Monira at 1:30pm and sent it to Dhaka Medical College morgue.

Morgue sources said they found of Shahnaz from a house at stranded marks of injuries at her neck, cheek

Her cousin Marium Begum said Monira, who worked at Amin Fashion at Ibrahimpur was returning to her home at Ananda Road after drawing her salary, but she had been missing since then.

Monira had been living with her three-year-old child as her husband deserted her a year ago, she said.

"Officials of the Parliament

Secretariat will be present there to

see off the Bangladesh delegation

led by Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar to

of the eighth parliament earlier

travelled to some other countries to

attend parliamentarians' confer-

ences spending the entire fund of Tk

54 lakh form the Parliament

Secretariat's itemised allocation for

cated Tk 30 Lakh from other items of

the budget to meet the expenditure

for attending the IPU assembly in

Cape Town, and if necessary for

other tours, sources in the

able on the official website of IPU,

role of parliaments in striking a

balance between national security,

human security and individual

freedom, their role in averting threats

to democracy, and parliamentary

oversight of state policies on foreign

aid will be discussed in the assembly,

while a general debate on political,

economic and social situation in the

world will also be held with an overall

theme of pushing back the frontiers

former joint secretary Hossain

Serniabat and businessman Nur Ali

were indicted in the case after

investigators found their involve-

now-defunct Bureau of Anti-

corruption submitted the charge

on December 11, 2001, showing 40

Hasina filed petitions with the High

Court on different dates for quash-

ing the case. Following their peti-

tions, the High Court stayed the

Later, all the accused including

people as prosecution witnesses.

sheet to the Dhaka Chief

ment in the alleged scam.

According to information avail-

Parliament Secretariat said.

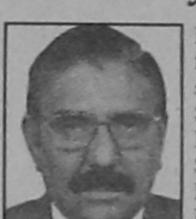
The speaker in March reallo-

the purpose.

The speaker and deputy speaker

the IPU assembly," the letter read.

# Speaker to join IPU assembly



Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Board, Dhaka,

due to brain stroke vesterday at the age of 67, says a press release. He left behind his wife, two sons and a host of relatives and admirers

He will be buried at his family



Doha, a noted music director and senior staff singer of Bangladesh

Betar and Television, will be held

today, says a press release. On the occasion, Qurankhwani and milad mahfil will be held after Asr prayer at Z-22, Tajmahal Road, Mohammadpur in the city.

# the port city today. The fair aims at providing Trial to start at makeshift court in JS complex

making an attempt on Hasina's life in August, 1989 will begin soon at a court adjacent to the Dhaka. Central Jail.

Judge Golam Mortuza Majumder of the Special Court for Dhaka Division set the next date for hearing on charge framing against Hasina and others after getting a gazette notification from the law ministry.

The gazette said the trial of the case would be held at the Jatiya Sangsad (JS) Bhaban complex instead of the court situated in old Dhaka on security grounds.

Earlier, the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) commissioner appealed to the government on February 26 for setting up a sessions court adjacent to the sub-jail, where Hasina has been kept, citing security reasons.

The court directed the jail authorities to produce Hasina before the court on the scheduled date. The court also asked six other accused, who are now out on bail, to appear before the court on the same date.

Hasina's lawyers submitted a exchequer. petition for adjourning proceedings of the case for two months Iftekhar-Ul-Bashar and former the special court adjacent to Dhaka killing case.

suffering from various diseases.

the stalled trial proceedings. The SC on March 18 dismissed the leave to appeal petition submitted by Hasina against the HC order

before the court during yesterday's hearing. But the six other accused were present.

They are former army chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court Director of Unique Group Nur Ali.

According to the case filed with Tejgaon Police Station against Hasina and four top defence officials, the purchase of eight MiG-29 fighter jets during the tenure of the Awami League government caused a loss of Tk 700 crore to the public

saying that their client has been deputy secretary Hasan Mahmood Central Jail, court sources said. Delwar were dropped from the list Earlier, the Supreme Court (SC) of accused due to lack of evidence upheld the High Court (HC) judge- while former army chief Speedy Trial Tribunal-4 Judge ment that ordered for holding the trial Mustafizur Rahman, air commo- Mohammad Israil Hossain for dore (retd) Mirza Akhter Maruf, and also cleared the way for resuming

of poverty.

that asked for revival of the case. Hasina was not produced

Mustafizur Rahman, former air force chief Jamaluddin Ahmed, air commodore (retd) Mirza Akhter Maruf, former joint secretary Mohammad Hossain Serniabat, former defence secretary Syed Yusuf Hossain and Managing

case proceedings. Hasina was arrested on July 16 last year after businessman Azam J Chowdhury filed an extortion case against her. Four other cases were also filed against her on different dates. CASE AGAINST FARUK

The trial of the case against Faruk,

The law ministry on Tuesday sent a gazette notification asking holding its trial at the new courtroom from the next date.

According to the prosecution, a group of Freedom Party activists blasted bombs and fired shots aiming at the house of Inspector Abdullah Al Zahid of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in an attempt to kill Sheikh Hasina who was staying in the house on August 11 night, 1989. Later, they left the scene by two vehicles chanting slogans 'Faruk-Rashid Zindabad'

Havildar Jahirul Haque filed a

general diary with Dhanmondi Police Station. Later, an investigation was conducted in this regard. The Criminal Investigation

Department (CID) pressed charges against 16 people including Faruk, Huda and Rashid on February 20, 1997. But the trial of the case could not begin in the last 11 years due to legal tangles. Earlier, Huda, Faruk and Rashid

were sentenced to death in the Bangabandhu murder case and life The names of Brig Gen (retd) Huda and 14 others will be held at term imprisonment in the jail

### Demand for release of Hasina, Khaleda

reiterated DU CORRESPONDENT

BCL, the student wing of Awami League (AL), and JCD, the student wing of BNP, yesterday reiterated their demand for the release of

Sheikh Hasina and Khaleda Zia. Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) brought out a procession on the campus that ended amid a protest rally at the foot of Aparajeo Bangla while Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) took out another procession and hold a separate rally in front of the arts building (Battala) at around 12:15pm to press home their demands.

In their respective processions, leaders and activists of both the organisations chanted slogans for the release of the two leaders.

At the BCL rally, student leaders demanded immediate release of Hasina and her proper treatment, and said BCL would go for tougher programme if their demands are not met immediately.

They also demanded release of detained BCL General Secretary Mahfujul Haider Roton.

BCL central unit President Mahmud Hasan Ripon, acting General Secretary Syed Abul Kalam, DU unit President Sohel Rana Tipu and General Secretary Sazzad Saqib Badsha spoke at the rally. At the JCD rally, student leaders

demanded immediate release of Khaleda and BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Tarique Rahman. They said JCD would not accept any dialogue with the government or the Election Commission with-

out Khaleda. JCD acting President Sultan Salauddin Tuku, General Secretary Safiul Bari Babu, DU unit President Hasan Mamun, and General Secretary Saiful Islam Feroz spoke

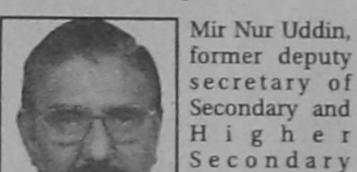
#### Historic photo handed over to Ducsu centre

DU CORRESPONDENT

A group photograph of historic 'Nathan Commission", formed in 1912 by the Government of Bengal to prepare a complete scheme for the establishment of a University at Dhaka, was handed over to the Dhaka University Central Student Union (Ducsu)collection centre yesterday, says a press release.

DU Treasurer Prof Syed Abul Kalam Azad handed over the photographs to Gopal Chandra Das, collector of Ducsu collection

#### Obituary



passed away

to mourn his death.

graveyard in Kishoreganj. Death anniversary

