

## A unique initiative to help sidr-hit acid victims

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It was unique initiative for extending hands of friendship and assistance to those who are the survivors of acid attack, a cruel form of menace that destroys beautiful dreams of life.

People from various walks of life—showbiz, diplomatic corps, businesses and social services—gathered at the residence of British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Anwar Choudhury in the capital yesterday to extend their helping hand to acid survivors and to say that they are not alone.

At the fundraising programme



PHOTO: STAR

British High Commissioner Anwar Choudhury speaks at a function to raise funds for Acid Survivors Foundation at his residence at Baridhara in the city yesterday.

chairman Abdul Hossain Khan were present.

Asked about his comment on political parties' demand for holding the parliamentary elections first, Tulu told reporters that political parties can not demand it as the local body elections are non-political.

He said the advisers told them that if the local body election is held first it would not create any problem for national election.

They also expressed their firm commitment to hold the national elections according to the set timeframe.

Adviser Anwarul Iqbal told the reporters that the Oikya Jote leaders raised their various demands and sought local body elections

first to stop unwarranted interference by MPs.

The Oikya Jote also demanded seats reserved for women representatives in the local body institutions.

The adviser said the government would consider their demands.

The Jote demands include 40 percent allocation of the annual development budget for local body institutions, steps to ensure that MPs can not interfere in projects undertaken by the local government after establishment of the national government, 40 percent women representation to local body institution and placement of all manpower working in local government bodies under the local government authorities.

UNB, Dhaka

A delegation of the Union Parishad Oikya Jote at a meeting with advisers yesterday demanded local government elections before parliamentary elections.

During the meeting held at the state guesthouse Meghna, the Jote delegation led by its President Mabbubur Rahman Tulu also placed proposals to strengthen the local government institutions.

Communications Adviser Ghulam Quader, Law Adviser Hassan Arif, Education Adviser Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman and LGRD Adviser Anwarul Iqbal were present at the meeting.

Oikya Jote Secretary General Matiur Rahman Tapan and Co-

## Rotarians pledge to make dreams real

The District (national-level) Assembly 2008 of Rotary International District 3280 Bangladesh was held at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city on Saturday, says a press release.

Participants from all over the country pledged at the Assembly to fulfil the Rotary theme for 2008-2009 'Make Dreams Real' to reduce child mortality, provide safe drinking water and education to children.

The daylong programme for over 1700 Rotarians, the largest Assembly ever, was hosted by Rotary Club of Dhaka Urbana.

The inaugural plenary session was addressed by District Governor Rafiq Ahmed Siddique, District Governor-elect Md Hafizullah, former DGS M Jamaluddin and Salim Reza, DG-nominee AKM Shamsul Huda, DG-nominee Dr Manzurul Haque Chowdhury, past DG of District 3290 India-Nepal-Andaman Islands Sekhar Mehta and incoming District Secretary PP Fariduddin Khan Siddiqui.

President Rotary Club of Dhaka Urbana Major Qamrul Islam (Retd) delivered the vote of thanks with Deputy Governor-elect Prof Nizamuddin Ahmed of Dhaka Urbana in the chair.

## 6 held on charge of cheating

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday arrested six youths with a video camera from the city's Uttara area on charge of cheating former Awami League lawmaker Chayon Islam of Sitraganj district.

The arrestees are Kamruddin Hasan Nasim, 31, Saiful Islam Razu, 31, Jahangir Alam Suman, 28, Shahidul Huda Russell, 22, Aimal Hug, 26, and Jasim Uddin, 30.

Police said they arrested the youths from the residence of the former lawmaker for cheating him.

Uttara Police said the youths took Tk 7,000 from him saying that they would telecast his interview on a television channel.

The arrestees told police that they make package programmes for different television channels.

## LDC MINISTERIAL MEETING

### Dhaka for UN task force to address food security issues

UNB, Accra

Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury has urged the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon to immediately establish a high level Task Force to address the acute global food crisis.

He made the appeal while chairing a ministerial meeting of LDCs on the eve of the inaugural of UNCTAD-XII in the Ghana's capital on Saturday.

Iftekhar proposed that the task force, comprising eminent persons, should address long-term food security issues including those of agricultural productivity, grains trade, land utilisation and diversion for bio-fuels.

He also suggested that the Task Force submit its recommendations

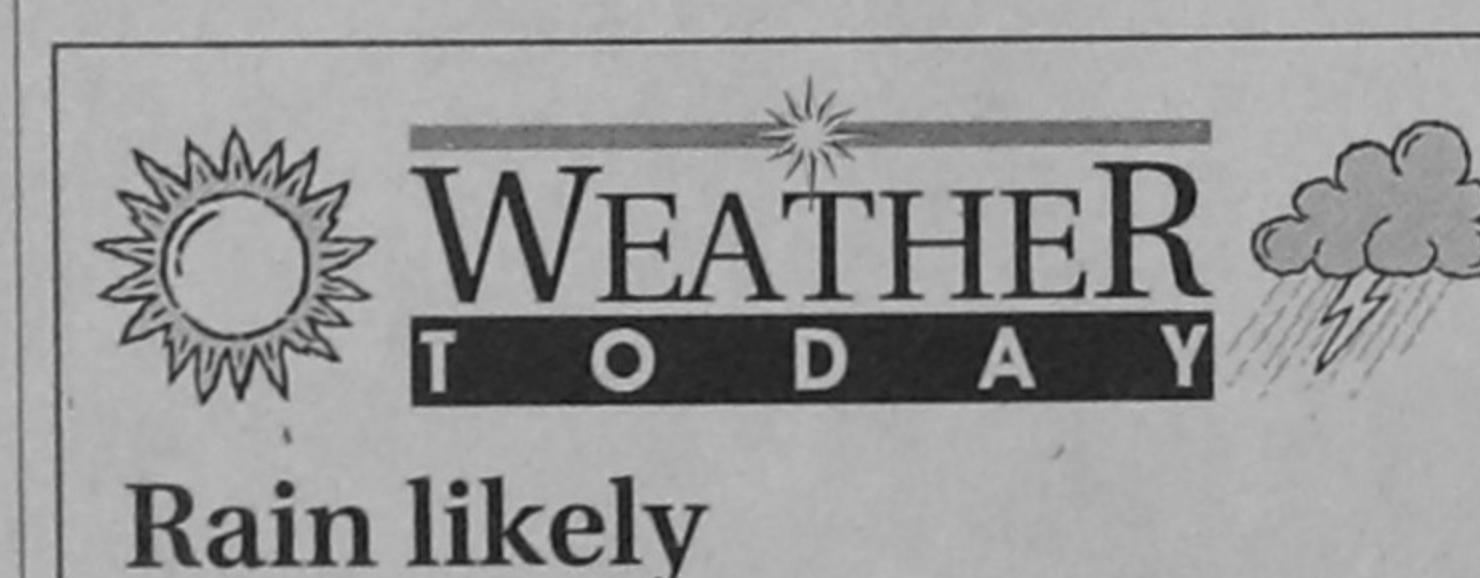
within three months, following which the secretary general should convene an international meeting to take appropriate action.

"The magnitude of the crisis demands no lesser action," he said.

The proposals received enthusiastic support from the LDC ministers and were incorporated in the Declaration Document.

The foreign adviser also offered to share Bangladesh's experiences in agricultural production with other African countries within the context of South-South Cooperation.

The conference, which adopted a 35-para action-oriented document, was also attended by UNCTAD Secretary General Dr Supachai Panitchpakdi.



### Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at one or two places over Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Tangail, Mymensingh and Comilla in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Weather may remain with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country.

Mild to moderate heat wave sweeping over the Rajshahi, Dhaka, Khulna and Barisal divisions may continue, Met Office said predicting nearly unchanged day temperature over the country.

Highest temperature 40.0 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chaudanga and lowest 19.8 degrees Celsius at Dinajpur.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:23pm today and rises at 5:31am tomorrow.

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

City/Town	Temperature	Humidity in percentage			
	Celsius	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	36.4	27.4	74	43	
Chittagong	32.0	26.3	78	71	
Rajshahi	39.4	23.0	86	31	
Khulna	37.0	27.3	75	51	
Barisal	36.3	27.0	80	72	
Sylhet	34.5	24.0	77	70	
Cox's Bazar	34.5	27.3	73	74	

## Allegation of Tk 10crore misappropriation from retired armed forces staff

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

ASF teams rushed to sidr-affected areas to identify the acid survivors, said Foundation Chairman Shawkat Hossain, adding that the teams identified 61 families who have already received some money from ASF rehabilitation fund, but more help is needed for their welfare.

Anwar Choudhury said acid attack is a heinous crime and the unfortunate victims deserve sincere help and sympathy.

"Therefore, what we need is to sharpen our actions to help the survivors," said Choudhury, who is a board member of ASF.

"We need to stop such crime by 2015 when the Foundation would close this organisation. So let us commit to the point," he said in an emotion-choked voice, urging all to help by donating resources so that the survivors' houses could be built before the next monsoon starts.

Australian High Commissioner Douglas Foskett, Canadian High Commissioner Barbara Richardson, cultural activist Ramendu Majumder, film actress Babita, dance artist Mummun Ahmed, actress Tareen, singer Shuro Dev, Andrew Kishore, Fakir Alamgir and Kumar Bishwajit, actor Ilias Kanchan and businessmen Sadat Selim, Syed Fahad Ahmed, SM Sazzad Hossain, Rafiqul Islam and Mahzabin Masud were present.

AGM Akther Hossain and Mossafer Hossain, two other victims, also spoke.

The victims said they started depositing the money since 2004 and one of the victims deposited highest Tk 14 lakh.

Asked, they said they deposited the money to private company Al-Akaba Trading and Suppliers Ltd as it had assured them of providing more interest than the banks.

When contacted, DMP Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Mirpur-Pallabi zone Anwar Hossain told The Daily Star, "We are alert so that the accused cannot leave the country and, therefore, we have sent letters to the immigration departments."

Anwar Hossain, however, said police are also trying to arrest them in this connection.

### Mostaq, Shyamol elected CUJ president, secy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Mostaq Ahmed and Nazim Shyamol were elected president and general secretary of Chittagong Union of Journalists (CUJ) yesterday.

Mostaq of the daily Inquilab defeated incumbent President Shahid Ul Alam while Shyamol of The Daily Independent incumbent general secretary Reaz Haider of the daily Purbokone.

Other office-bearers are Vice President Sultan Ahmad Ashrafi, Joint Secretary: Mohammad Ali, Press and Publication Secretary: Alamgir Sabuj, Treasurer: Ratan Kanti Debashish and Organising Secretary: Soumen Dhar. Executive committee members are Nuruddin Ahmed, Santu Kumar Das and Mujahidul Islam.

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The conference, which adopted a 35-para action-oriented document, was also attended by UNCTAD Secretary General Dr Supachai Panitchpakdi.

He also suggested that the Task Force submit its recommendations

within three months, following which the secretary general should convene an international meeting to take appropriate action.

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