Obituary

CU CORRESPONDENT

ABM Yusuf, former vice-president of Social Investment Bank and

general manager of Mostafa Group

of Industries, passed away due to liver cirrhosis at Square Hospital in

He will be buried at his family graveyard at Chunati village under

Lohagara upazila in Chittagong today.

Dhaka yesterday at the age of 52.

METROPOLITAN/NEWS

Hasina returns

to US July 15

for follow-up

Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina will return to the US

on July 15 for follow-up treatment of

After undergoing medical treat-

ment in the US, Hasina went to

Canada to see her daughter Saima

Wazed Putul, and then she left

Toronto for London on Saturday

night, according to a report of US-

based news agency American News

From London, Hasina and her

younger sister Sheikh Rehana will go

to Finland on July 10 to negotiate the

marriage of Rizwan Mujib Siddiqui,

treatment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

her ear and eve.

Agency (ANA).

GLOBAL WARMING

Build up partnership to face challenges

Environmentalists urge South Asian nations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

South Asian nations should build up partnership to conduct comprehensive studies on the impacts of global warming in this region and find out sustainable solutions to the problem which is likely to hit mostly the poor people, said the environmentalists at a roundtable

the downstream during rainy season due to climate change and scarcity of water during dry season is a phenomenon that will threaten

regional cooperation shrinking?' was organised by Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) at WVA

pensation from the developed countries, it will not benefit the poor of this region," said Bapa President Prof Muzaffer Ahmad who chaired the roundtable.

"We are yet to find out any alternative that will serve the interest of the poor," he said, urging leaders of the impacts of global warming.

He said the regional leaders have to sit together and plan for establishing research institutes for information base which could help the nations of the region to face the challenges of climate change.

"Impacts of global warming are different in different countries. So, the strategy that will be applicable for Bangladesh may not be so for India. But still we should raise our voices

the Institute of Water Resources and Flood Management at Buet said frequency of flash floods in the

Brahmmaputra basin is likely to increase in the future having multiple negative impacts on crop production in large parts of the country.

"If we look at data, smaller floods are more hazardous today than that of larger floods of previous time," he said, emphasising more cooperation among the academics and the governments of this region to reduce knowledge They said more flash floods in gap and resolve the problems.

Referring to the threats of climate change, Prof Asif Nazrul of Dhaka University said this is a global problem with serious implications in this region, but unfortunately there is no regional approach or institutions to face the menace regionally.

between Bangladesh and India, Bangladesh Water Partnership President Quamrul Islam Siddique said India, which is a leader of this region, has to understand the implications of climate change and should act accordingly.

Ecology Foundation Executive Dr Abdul Matin also spoke.

to prevent river erosion

of river training.

technically.

ing, he added.

the secretary.

ment of this region.

political interference in the name

erosion of Jamuna river and save

They said a lot of money was area' was organised by the ation, the water expert said, add-

river erosion at the National

ministry Dr Muhammad Ayub

Bhuiyan said, "We need political

commitment to address the river

He said due to undue political

intervention river erosion could

not be addressed properly and

the past in the name of river train-

erosion-affected areas to do some-

thing so that people can under-

stand that something is going

the river training of the particular

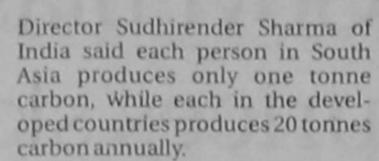
areas was never examined," said

an imperative to water manage-

"Phone calls used to come from

erosion problem in the country.'

Press Club in the capital.



"This proves how the developed countries are responsible for climate change. Why we should be the victims of other countries?" he posed a question.

Columnist Rakesh Bhat of India said climate change is not a new phenomenon, rather it had been there since long, and people also changed their lifestyles according to the changes.

"But the problem now is that we became deaf. We did not listen or respond to the call of nature. Referring to water disputes Therefore, we are in trouble today,"

> Bapa Vice-president ASM Shahjahan, Prof Firoze Ahmed of Buet, The New Nation Editor Mostafa Kamal Majumder, Water Watch Digest Editor Gopal Krishna of India and Bapa General Secretary



He said river training is certainly

"Still river training in our coun-

possible but we need necessary

secretary concerned for allocating

money for river training and

Former adviser to a caretaker

government M Hafizuddin Khan

said crores of taka were spent to

stop river erosion in Jamuna, but

the fact is that erosion could not be

training but erosion was not

keynote paper while Sarwat

Jahan, senior specialist of the

River Engineering Division,

tation on the erosion of Jamuna.

The meeting was also addressed

by economist Dr Atiur Rahman,

of Water Development Board,

Liaqot Ali, executive engineer of

Humidityin

Dr Abdur Rahman, president

stopped," he lamented.

"Many people became rich over

Prof Muzaffer Ahmad speaks at a roundtable at WVA auditorium in the city yesterday. On his right is Sudhirender Sharma and on his left are ASM Shahjahan and Dr Abdul Matin.

misused in the past due to undue mismanagement in river training.

people and economies of the try moves from political consider-

Committee to prevent Jamuna ing, "Pressure used to come to the

Secretary to water resources accordingly some stones were

A lot of money was misused in night who were engaged in river

the high-ups of different river of the committee, presented the

there, but the technical aspect of presented a power-point presen-

He said regional cooperation is Mokhles uz Zaman, former official

A noted water expert Dr Ainun Bangladesh Bridge Authority, and

Nishat criticised the officials of Enamul Haq of Sparso (Space

Water Development Board for their Research and Remote Sensing

non-professional attitude and Organisation).

stopped.

The discussion titled 'Prevent amount of money.

son of Rehana, with the bride's parents, said Abdus Sobhan Golap who is accompanying the former prime minister. Take steps to prevent sexual harassment of female students' STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a press conference yesterday urged the teachers to revive their image by taking steps to prevent sexual harassment of female students on the campus.

They also strongly condemned sexual abuses by a section of university teachers who are considered as the architect of the nation.

The press conference was organised by Samajik Protirodh Committee at the National Press Club in the capital.

The committee is a coordinating body of 47 non-government organisations, which has been working for establishing human rights for women since 2002.

The sexual abuse on women has risen to such extent that the female students of the universities, the highest institutions for learning, are not free from such heinous crime, said Ayesha Khanam.

It is a matter of great concern that the teachers, who are next to parents for taking care of students, are play-Political commitment a must ing the role of abuser, said Dr Mahmuda Islam.

Quoting the reports of torture against women published in 14 national newspapers from January to June this year, the Protirodh Committee showed number of killing was topping the chart among the 22 types of crime against women.

A total of 402 killings occurred among 1687 incidents of violence while the number of rape was 190 taking the second position in the crime list.

Dhaka University as an independent body, it could take necessary steps to prevent such occurrences to ensure a secure environment for female students, said Executive Director of Steps Towards

Development Ranjan Karmakar. The committee placed a sevenpoint demand at the press conference to resist violence against female students.

Former adviser to the caretaker government Sultana Kamal was also present at the press conference.

PRICE HIKE OF FOOD DU students' protest today

DU CORRESPONDENT

Chhatra Odhikar, a platform of students of Dhaka University, will stage a demonstration on the campus today to press home their threepoint demand, including government subsidy on food items in the hall canteens.

"The canteens of the university are hard hit by the spiralling prices of essentials. As a result, prices of meal at canteens are increasing day by day and the quality of food is also declining," Md Rashedul Islam, joint convener of Chhatra Odhikar, said in a statement yesterday.

House tutors of the halls also pay no attention to the canteens and the quality of foods, he added.

The students will take out a protest procession and hold a rally on the campus at 11:30am to press for their demands.

The other demand are reducing prices of food items and ensuring quality of foods.



BIDS workshop

Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) organises a workshop to disseminate the preliminary findings of the study 'Gender analysis for improving

mobility in Dhaka city'. Venue: BIDS conference room. Time: 9:30am. Dialogue Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association and UNFPA

jointly organise a policy dialogue on

'Reproductive rights, health and gender

situation of garment workers'. Venue: Sheraton Hotel. Time: 10:00am.

Time: 9:30am.

Workshop Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unity organises a two-day workshop to disseminate the study findings on 'Recruitment industry in South Asia'. Venue: Brac Centre Inn.



Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal activists gather on a road in Sangsad Bhaban area in the city yesterday when BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia was brought to a special court in connection with Niko graft case.

Islam, NCTB Chairman Dr M Nasir

Uddin and other officials of the

education ministry, education

boards and Directorate of Secondary

and Higher Education were also

Light tremor felt

A light earthquake measuring 4.5

on the Richter scale occurred yes-

hours 50 minutes and 40.83 sec-

onds (BST), had its epicentre near

Ukhrul of Manipur, India, about

484km northeast from Bangladesh

Meteorological Department

(BMD) Seismic Centre at Agargaon

Oikya Parishad (SKOP) also said that

restriction on trade union activities

production, ensure the rights of the

workers and to maintain a peaceful

restriction on trade union activities

would not ensure the basic rights to the

Samajtantrik Sramik Front Abdullah

Sarkar and General Secretary

Rajekuzzaman in a joint statement

said that it is not possible to create a

democratic environment at the indus-

trial institutions except ensuring the

environment inside the industries.

workers, the SKOP leaders said.

and Mesbahuddin Ahmed.

tradeunion rights.

The tremor, which hit at 08

present at the press briefing.

BSS, Dhaka

Withdraw ban on trade

terday morning.

Error-free textbooks Confusion over next year

Says education adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

All students in primary and secondary levels will get fresh and wellbound textbooks free from all kinds of errors next year, Education Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman said yester-

"We have formed an advisory committee to correct the mistakes in primary and secondary level textbooks," he said and hoped that the textbooks to be published in 2009 will be error-free and well bound, have beautiful graphic designs and be printed on quality paper.

The National Curriculum and Textbooks Board (NCTB) with the help of experts has already corrected the mistakes in 64 textbooks of secondary levels while the Bangla textbook for class one has been rewritten, the adviser said.

The textbooks will be free from mistakes gradually, he added.

"We are also going to introduce in the city, a Met office release said.

Labour leaders ask govt

Leaders of different labour rights organi-

sations yesterday urged the government

to withdraw the restriction on trade

the industries to be flourished prop-

erly, the leaders of Bangladesh

Sanjukta Sramik Federation (BSSF)

said, adding that the workers of differ-

ent industries had to undertake tre-

mendous pain as the government

imposed restriction on trade union

following the state of emergency for

which they were not responsible at all.

Employment Adviser Anwarul Iqbal's

comment that the state of emergency

would be eased on a limited scale to allow

the trade unions carry out the activities for

holding the overdue elections to the CBA

tions on trade union activities after the

declaration of the state of emergency

The government imposed restric-

(collective bargaining agents) bodies.

on January 11 last year.

However, they hailed Labour and

Trade union rights is important for

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

union activities completely.

union activities

capacity in colleges STAFF CORRESPONDENT Creative Question (CQ) Pattern from class six to eleven in phases," he said. Education Secretary M Momtajul

Confusion over the enrolment capacity of colleges in the country reigns as the education ministry and other research institutes gave different figures of the capacity. The issue of enrolment capacity

came to a head after a record number of students passed SSC examiof them may not get admitted to the colleges of their choice because of shortage of seats.

According to the education ful this year.

However, Education Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman said a meeting with the officials of the education ministry, Banbeis, education boards and others organisations concerned will be held within next few days to remove the confusion.

All the data on enrolment capacity in colleges will be scrutinised in the meeting, he added.

He also said that every successful SSC candidates will enrol in colleges but many students having GPA 5 may not get admitted in colleges of their first choice as seats in renowned colleges is limited.

should be withdrawn completely for the growth of the industries, to increase The adviser also said that the ministry has requested the 'Class-A' colleges to introduce double shifts But the partial withdrawal of the

or increase seats if they have sufficient facilities. "We just held a meeting with the

the meeting, we requested them to Presided over by Abdul Matin increase seats or introduce double Sarkar, the discussion at the SKOP shifts if they can. We are ready to office was also attended by Shah provide all facilities to this end," Mohammad Abu Zafar, Mohammad Nurul Islam, Abdul Kader Howlader Zillur told reporters. He, however, said the ministry Meanwhile, President of

would not create any pressure on colleges to introduce double shifts. The education adviser pointed out that there are a total of 3,192

general colleges, 2,842 madrasas and 1,453 vocational colleges in the

It also demanded the government withdraw the restriction on trade GPA-4 or above.

enrolment

nations this year. As a result, many

ministry, around 16 lakh seats are available in colleges while Bangladesh Bureau of Education and Information and Statistics (Banbeis) and other research bodies said less than six lakh students can enrol in colleges, although around 7.26 lakh students became success-

The ministry gave the figure at a press conference yesterday.

principals of renowned colleges. At

Among the successful SSC candidates, a total of 52,500 secured GPA 5 and around 1.90 lakh students got

METRO DESK



Nahar, a language movement veteran, will be held after Maghrib prayers today, says a press

Kamaluddin, former chairman and managing director of Bangladesh Shilpa Bank, passed away at Birdem Hospital on July 4. She was the past chairman of Inner Wheel

daughters and grandchildren to mourn her death.

been requested to attend the qulkhwani and pray for salvation of the departed soul



wife of late advocate Wajed Ali, will be held at her residence at Hasnabad Apartment at 189 Bara

city after Asr prayers today, says a press release. Razia, mother of martyred

freedom fighter Rezaul Karim Manik (Bir Protik), breathed her last on Saturday due to a cardiac

Relatives, friends and admirers are requested to attend the milad and pray for salvation of her

Khaleda's new formula FROM PAGE 1

Leaders of Sramik Karmachari union activities completely.

is not even-handed in the way it treats the political parties. If it were neutral it would not have been treating BNP differently. Earlier, Judge Khandaker Kamal Uz-

zaman of Special Court-9 deferred the hearing on charge framing in the case till July 16. The BNP chief was produced

before the special court set up on the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban premises at 10:08am. She told the reporters that her party wants to cooperate with the

government, but it must resolve to hold the long-stalled general election as soon as possible. She said, "Handing over power to an elected government after a free and fair election should be the main

objective of the caretaker administra-BNP is always in favour of elec-

fair and involving participation of all parties, she added. Expressing apprehension over trial at special courts, she said, "The way trials are taking place suggests

tion, but that will have to be free and

it's not possible to get justice here." Criticising the government for failing to keep the prices of essentials within people's reach, she said four crore people have become poor and the middle-income group too would

slip below the poverty line soon. "The BDR-run fair price shops and OMS programmes have been closed. People are starving, and committing suicide out of anger and frustration. Even the middle class families are crowding mazars (shrines) for food. Only Allah knows what's going to happen in Ramadan," she went on.

"Only an elected government can bail the nation out of this difficult situation."

Referring to the delay in arranging overseas treatment for her detained sons, she accused the government of

critically ill. Despite suggestions from the medical board, the government is not sending them abroad while it's sending others," she alleged. Replying to a query, she said, "We

salaries of government employees, but what about others?" Asked whether any action would be taken against those participating in the August 4 local elections, she

have no objection to increasing the

About BNP leader Salauddin Quader Chowdhury's reported remarks that the current crisis could be solved if Khaleda and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina agree to meet and hold talks, she said, "I had talked to everyone in the past

replied, "Time will say."

9 transport brokers arrested at ZIA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT Police yesterday arrested nine

transport brokers at Zia International Airport (ZIA) after two groups of brokers had clashed overtaking a passenger. Police said the clash began as

two taxi drivers scuffled in the canopy area of the airport at around 12:00 noon over taking of passengers. Later, the transport brokers and helpers belonging to two drivers chased each other groups for around 10 minutes. The incident created panic

among the passengers at the air-

Airport police said a case has been filed against the arrestees. They will be produced before the court today, police said.

double standards. "My sons are for the wellbeing of the country and democracy."

She condemned misbehaviour with journalists covering special court proceedings on June 30. DAY'S PROCEEDINGS After the court sat at 10:12am, the

defence submitted a lawyers' certificate seeking adjournment of the proceedings. They said since they have filed a writ petition challenging the validity of the case, proceedings should be

adjourned till the High Court issues

an order on the petition. The prosecution lawyers opposed the arguments and said senior lawvers from the defence on the previous day had said they would not file any adjournment petition and let the hearing begin.

were seeking adjournment on genuine grounds. The state lawyers said at least the

In reply, the defence said they

allegations mentioned in the first information report (FIR) should be read out. Then as one of them moved to open the case, the defence raised objection in chorus.

At that stage, former law minister

and co-accused Moudud Ahmed prayed for adjournment till July 16 so they could return to this court after having the writ petition disposed of at After hearing both the sides, the

court fixed July 16 for the next date for hearing. Eight other accused including

former state minister AKM Mosharraf Hossain were produced before the court yesterday.

On December 9 last year, the Anti-Corruption Commission filed the case with Tejgaon Police Station against Khaleda and 10 others for abusing power in awarding a gas exploration and extraction deal to Canadian company Niko.

BSS, Dhaka Mohammad Mofizur Rahman, former joint secretary to the government, passed away due to cardiac problems at a city facility at Uttara in the city on Sunday at the age of 75.

Mofizur Rahman

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

He was buried at Sector 4 graveyard at Uttara in the city after

namaz-e-janaza on Sunday night. He was an expert on economic and trade policy issues and worked for years in the commerce ministry and in Moscow as the commercial

SMA Gafur METRO DESK

councilor.



SMA Gafur, former labour officer, passed away due to old age complications at his residence in the city yesterday at the age of 75,

says a press release. He left behind his wife, three sons and one daughter to mourn his death. He was buried at

Mohammadpur graveyard after Zohr prayers yesterday. His qulkhwani will be held on 11 July after Asr prayers at his residence (27/1 Tajmahal Road, Block-

Death anniversary METRO DESK

C, Mohammadpur) in the city.



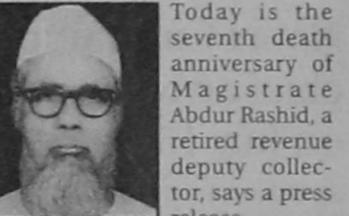
anniversary of AZ Syed Ahmed Chowdhury, a politician and social worker of Feni, says a press release. He passed away on this day in_

193 at Holy Family Red Crescent ospital in the city at the age of 79. He left behind his wife, four laughters and three sons. His contribution to the field of

sports, education and culture in Feni is held in high esteem. He was a life member of Feni

Sports Association. Abdur Rashid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT Today is the seventh death



Abdur Rashid, a retired revenue deputy collector, says a press release. On the occasion, Qurankhwani

and a doa mahfil will be held at his residence at 59 Forest Office Road in Moulvibazar and his village home at Borokapon at Rajnagar upazila.

Qulkhwani



Lutfun Nahar, wife of late AHM

District 328. She left behind one son, two

Relatives and admirers have

Razia Begum STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Maghbazar Wireless Gate in the

arrest at the age of 78.

departed soul.

food production in the region. The roundtable titled 'Melting glaciers and rising seas: Is space for

auditorium in the capital. "Even if we get money as com-

this region to frame a strategy to face

together," said the Bapachief. Prof Jahiruddin Choudhury of

Speakers tell discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT Political commitment is a must to prevent river erosion in the country, said the speakers at a discus-

Women Polytech Instt principal

transferred in

sion yesterday.

face of protest STAFF CORRESPONDENT The Directorate of Technical Education transferred the principal of

Dhaka Women Polytechnic Institute yesterday in the face of protest against her by the students. The students staged a two-hour demonstration in front of the institute at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar to press for their 10-point demand, including the

removal of the principal for her irregularities, at around 9:00am, prompting the authorities to take action.

Mohammadpur.

The principal, Izzat Ara, was trans-

The authorities also assured the

ferred to Graphic Art Institute at

students of meeting their all other demands. According to sources, the students had been staging protests for the last two months against various irregular-

ities carried out by the principal.

students. Witnesses said about 700 students of the institute took to the street and formed a human chain at Sher-e-Bangla Nagarin the morning. Receiving information, Abul Bashar, director general (DG) of the

The students alleged that she had

been collecting extra charges from the

rushed to the spot along with some other officials and assured the students of meeting their demands. The agitating students then withdrew their protest programme.

Talking to The Daily Star, DG Abul

Bashar said a new principal was

Directorate of Technical Education,

Police intercept procession

DU CORRESPONDENT

appointed yesterday.

Police vesterday intercepted a procession of Nirjatan Pratirod Chhatra Andolan (NPCA) on Dhaka University (DU) campus while they were proceeding to lay siege to the Chief

Election Commission (CEC) office. Demanding national elections before upazila polls the NPCA, an anti-repression students' movement and mainly formed by Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leaders and activists, brought out the procession from the footstep of Aparajeo Bangla at around 12:00pm.

No sooner the procession reached in front of the Institute of Fine Arts police intercepted it. Then they staged demonstration there for half an hour blocking the road.



Rain likely

major cities and towns yesterday were:

Temperature in

today.

tomorrow.

City/Town

UNB, Dhaka Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at many places over Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions and at a few places over Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm

Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions during the period, Met Office said. Highest temperature 34.8 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rangpur and lowest 23.1 degrees Celsius at Sandwip. The sun sets in the capital at 6:50pm today and rises at 5:18am

Moderately heavy to heavy rainfalls are also likely at places over

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some

Celsius		percentage	
Max	Min	Morning	Evening
31.8	25.6	87	76
29.2	24.7	97	92
33.2	26.7	77	66
31.0	25.0	93	83
29.3	25.5	94	88
34.5	25.0	73	66
27.0	24.2	98	96
	Max 31.8 29.2 33.2 31.0 29.3 34.5	Max Min 31.8 25.6 29.2 24.7 33.2 26.7 31.0 25.0 29.3 25.5 34.5 25.0	Max Min Morning 31.8 25.6 87 29.2 24.7 97 33.2 26.7 77 31.0 25.0 93 29.3 25.5 94 34.5 25.0 73

