

BDR-villagers clash leaves 50 injured in Chuadanga

UNB, Chuadanga

More than 50 people were injured as villagers clashed with BDR personnel at Jagannathpur in Damurhuda upazila in Chuadanga yesterday. BDR said a patrol team of 15 from Nagar border outpost chased a group of smugglers numbering about 15 when they entered into the village from across the border with smuggled goods at noon. The smugglers left behind goods, including phenisidyle, bicycles and low-grade fertilizer. Joining with the villagers the smugglers attacked the BDR team with sticks and pelted brickbats. BDR were reinforced from the outpost and the clash lasted more than an hour. Angry villagers partially damaged

Dr Khoo named AUW provost

METRO DESK



The Asian University for Women (AUW) has named Dr Khoo Eng Khoo as the university's first Provost. A graduate of Smith College and a Malaysian national, Dr Khoo holds a PhD in Biochemistry from the University of London and served the faculty of the medical schools at the National University of Singapore (NUS) and the National University of Malaysia, says a press release.

In naming Dr Khoo, Vice Chancellor Nancy Dye said, "Dr Khoo will serve as chief advocate for the academic needs of students and as champion of faculty rights and responsibilities."

She was also Vice Dean at NUS, where she also held positions as associate director of the Centre for Development of Teaching and Learning, and deputy head (Pre-clinical) of the Medical Education Unit. In 2006, she was given an Excellent Teaching Award by NUS.

"I will do my best to ensure that the Asian University for Women builds a strong foundation for its mission to encompass both the progressive liberal arts and requisite professional training in preparing eligible young women," Dr Khoo said.

Dr Khoo will speak on "Preparing young women in Asia to overcome history" on October 18 at the inaugural ceremony of AUW at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city.

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed and Nobel laureate Dr Mohammad Yunus will also speak on the occasion.



Bangladeshi student among Edexcel's top ten

METRO DESK

Zaria Aziza Ahmed, who sat for the GCE O level Art and Design examination at the British Council in Dhaka in June, achieved one of the highest overall marks to become one of the top ten worldwide international students, says a press release issued by the Edexcel International, UK.

Ross Hall, international director of Edexcel, said, "This is a tremendous achievement and testament to the hard work students put into preparing for their examinations. We send our congratulations to Zaria Aziza Ahmed."

Zaria is the only daughter of Kutub Uddin Ahmed, corporate general manager of Rangs Group, and Syeda Maria Ahmed.

a BDR vehicle. BDR fired ten warning gunshots to scare away the fighters. Senior BDR officials rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control. Local BDR commander Lt Colonel Sultan Ahmed said the untoward incident took place as the

smugglers on chase mingled with the villagers and misled them into the clash. They met with the UP chairman and village elders and settled the matter amicably. BDR held Israfil, Asadul, Zafar and Safin from the spot during the clash. All but Safin were later set free.

Sheltech executive shot dead in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Armed assailants shot dead an executive of a real estate company at Lalmatia in the city yesterday.

The victim identified as Khandaker Masud Parvez alias Rana, 29, used to look after the land procurement process of the company. Rana, an executive of Sheltech and a drama artist, went to Lalmatia area with his colleague Mahfuz to talk to a landowner for buying a piece of land for the company.

Keeping the driver and Mahfuz in the car, Rana was searching the house of the landowner in an alley in Block E around 12:00 noon.

Few minutes later, a construction labourer working in a nearby building came and informed Mahfuz that his colleague is lying with bullet injuries on a road, around 200 yards off the vehicle.

Later, Mahfuz and their driver ran to the spot and rushed him to Square Hospital at Panthapath where doctors declared him dead. Rana was shot in his knee and abdomen.

Officer-in-Charge of Mohammadpur Police Station said nobody could tell the name of the assailants or how he was killed. A relative of Rana quoting construction labourers said hearing three to four gunshots they ran to the spot and found two to three persons running away.

The relative alleged that Rana was killed as a sequel to a dispute with Sheltech over procurement of land. They said Rana, a bachelor, had no enmity with anyone.

Rana joined Sheltech two years ago after completing his MBA from Stamford University.

He performed in several plays since joining Prangone More five years ago.



A relative consoles the sister of slain Sheltech Executive Khandaker Masud Parvez as she bursts into tears in front of the body of her brother at Square Hospital in the city yesterday evening.

Legal process for Khaleda's release on: Adviser Zillur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

The legal process regarding the release of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia is going on and now it is time just to wait for it to happen. Education and Commerce Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman said yesterday.

Politics has moved a step forward as the participation of political parties in the upcoming election has been ensured, he said, adding that now the qualitative change in politics has to be ensured.

The adviser said this while talking to reporters after inaugurating a workshop on 'Food processing and preservation technology for the small and medium entrepreneurs as a measure to alleviate poverty' at Maulana Bhashani University of Science and Technology in Santosh.

Replying to a query, Zillur said, "We are sincerely trying to lead the nation to a desired level within a limited timeframe. We have moved a step towards the goal and are entering a new phase."

Women and Children Affairs Adviser Rasheda K Chowdhury also attended the workshop organised by Food Technology and

Nutritional Science Department of the university.

Vice Chancellor of the university Dr Manimul Haque presided over the inaugural session.

Twenty-five participants are taking part in the three-day workshop.

JAIL KILLING 'Uphold lower court verdict'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

leaders of Peshajibi Samannay Parishad (PSP) yesterday expressed their resentment at the High Court verdict in the jail killing case.

They urged the Appellate Division to stay the High Court verdict in the case and uphold the lower court judgment.

They also condemned the meeting of political leaders inside the jail violating the jail code.

The PSP expressed its views at a meeting at the National Press Club on Sunday, says a press release.

PSP Convener Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury presided over the meeting while Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique and Principal Kazi Faruq spoke.

Cop sued for forcing girl into prostitution

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A 15-year-old girl yesterday filed a case against a constable and two others on charges of forcing her into prostitution confining her to a house in the city for over two years.

The accused are Constable Idris, Hasina and Kamal of Mirpur area. All the three are the relatives of the victim.

After the hearing, Judge Mohammad Shamsul Haque of the Fifth Special Tribunal for Prevention of Women and Children Repression in Dhaka recorded the statement of the complainant and took the charges into cognisance against the accused.

The tribunal directed the officer-in-charge (OC) of Mirpur Police Station to register it as a regular case and investigate the matter.

It also asked the OC to submit a report by September 25.

The tribunal also gave an order to send the victim to safe custody, and directed the OC to take necessary step for conducting a medical test whether or not the victim suffers from AIDS.

In her complaint, the victim mentioned that Idris with the help of two others forced her to prostitution and tortured her for non-compliance with their orders.

Zia Hyder laid to rest in Pabna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Noted dramatist Prof Zia Hyder was laid to rest at Arifpur sadar graveyard in Pabna on Tuesday night.

Earlier, his body was brought to his Doharpara residence in Pabna at about 8:30 pm.

After the arrival of the body, teachers, journalists, lawyers, cultural activists and local people thronged his residence to pay their last respects to him.

Later, a namaz-e-janaza was held at Arifpur graveyard mosque. Several hundred people, including politicians, teachers, journalists, lawyers and cultural activists, attended the janaza.

Qulshwani of Zia Hyder will be held at his Doharpara residence today.

Appeal for help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Md Mahtab Uddin has been suffering from chronic renal failure, says a press release.

He needs immediate renal transplantation which will cost about Tk 14 lakh, said his family sources, adding that they have already spent Tk 6 lakh for his treatment.

His father Md Mosleh Uddin, being a staff of a daily, cannot bear anymore the treatment cost of Mahtab who is now under the treatment of Prof Dr Nurul Islam.

Mahtab became sick in 1997 after passing HSC examination from Notre Dame College in the capital.

After different tests it was detected that his both kidneys were damaged.

Mahtab was then admitted to Lab Aid Hospital in the capital where he received treatment for three weeks under Prof Dr Rofiqul Alam who referred him to Christian Medical College at Vellore in India.

Doctors there suggested transplanting his kidney. So the helpless father has appealed to well-off people of the society for financial assistance to save the life of his son.

Contributions can be sent to Md Mosleh Uddin, Savings Account No 3527, Sonali Bank, Khilgaon Branch, Dhaka.

Mahmudul Bashar Bappu
A CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

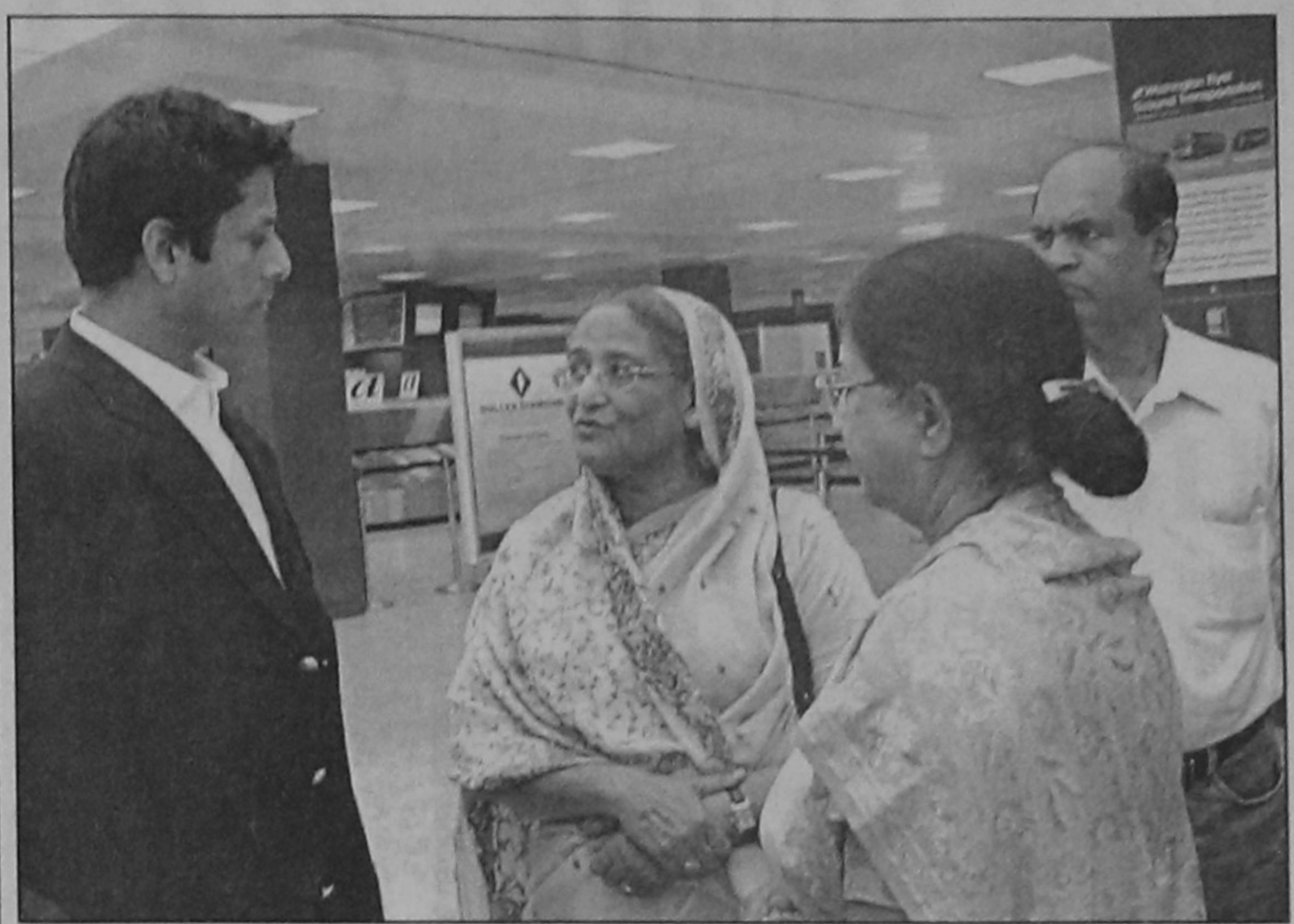
Mahmudul Bashar Bappu, a brilliant student, has been suffering from blood cancer, says a press release.

Doctors have advised Bappu to go abroad immediately for better treatment to save his life.

The cost of his treatment will involve around Tk 60 to 70 lakh which is impossible for his family to manage.

So Bappu has appealed to 15 crore people of the country to extend their helping hand giving one taka each to save his life. His family has also sought financial assistance from Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed for the treatment of their son abroad.

Contributions can be sent to Mohammad Mahmudul Bashar Bappu, Savings Account No 100138072, Sonali Bank, Green Road Branch, Dhaka.



Sajib Wazed Joy receives his mother Sheikh Hasina, president of Awami League, at Virginia airport yesterday when she arrived there from Canada for treatment.

New flood forecasting tech can reduce losses

Experts say at seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh can use a technology from next year that can forecast flood ten days ahead, which the experts said, would significantly reduce the losses wrought by flood, almost an annual phenomenon in the country.

Bangladesh presently has the flood forecasting technology of 72 hours and, therefore, the new technology, which has been piloted in five districts, could be applied countrywide next year.

Officials of Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) said this at a two-day seminar 'Long lead flood forecast technology for disaster management' organised by water resources ministry at a city hotel yesterday.

Flood management experts from the US, Japan, Nepal, Bhutan, China, India, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines and Thailand and Bangladesh are participating in the seminar to share the findings of the technology for collaboration.

Speaking at a press conference after the inaugural session, Processing and Flood Forecasting Circle Project Director Sazedul Karim Chowdhury said the latest flood forecasting technology, which is the outcome of a research by Dr Peter Webster of Georgia Institute of Technology, US, has been piloted at Rajpur of

Lalmoinrhat, Uria of Gaibandha, Kajuri of Sirajganj, Bekra Aigram of Tangail and Gazirtek of Faridpur districts.

"Data of rain is collected and analysed to forecast on flood through satellites. We have experimented it in five districts... The result was significantly well... We are further validating it for application in the rest of the country," he added.

Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC) in partnership with Flood Forecasting and Warning Center (FFWC) with national partners is testing and validating the technology in Bangladesh.

Shouhardo Programme of CARE Bangladesh with support of USAID is helping transfer the technology from 2006.

Under the programme, there are two other schemes - medium and long-term technologies to increase the lead-time - one is of 20 to 25 days and the other of one month to six months for flood forecasting.

Speaking at the press conference, Agriculture and Water Resources Adviser CS Karim said flood is a regular phenomenon in the country and it is the most pressing issue for people, particularly the farmers.

Development of such a technology that can forecast flood ten or twenty days ahead of a probable disaster can truly bring a change in

food security scenario of Bangladesh, he added.

Referring to the possible impacts of climate change, he said Bangladesh is very much vulnerable to such climatic changes and, therefore, food security issue is looked at seriously.

"Nowadays, you don't get food during crisis even though you have money. So, food security based on own production is the best option," he said, adding that development and application of cutting-edge technology on flood forecasting therefore is of utmost importance.

Speaking as the special guest, US Ambassador James F Moriarty said advanced technology on flood forecasting can help the farmers immensely to protect themselves and their properties and crops from the scourge of floods.

"The model developed in Bangladesh can also be replicable in other Asian countries. Regional information system on flood forecasting will help a lot," he noted.

CARE Bangladesh Country Director Nick Southern, USAID Mission Director Denise Rollins, BWDB Director General HS Mozaddad Faruque and Water Resources Ministry Joint Secretary Saifuddin Ahmed also spoke at the inaugural session with Additional Secretary to Water Resources Ministry Badrul Alam Tarafdar in the chair.

Cooperation with Cuba to be strengthened

President tells new ambassador

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed hoped yesterday that bilateral cooperation between Bangladesh and Cuba will be strengthened in the coming days.

The president made the remark when newly appointed Cuban Ambassador to Bangladesh Miguel Angel Ramirez Ramos presented his credentials to him at Bangabhaban.

The relations between the two countries, he hoped, would reach new heights during the new envoy's tenure to Bangladesh.

Referring to the identical views of the two countries on a number of international issues, he said

Bangladesh and Cuba support each other.

"Cuba is strong advocate of South-South cooperation and has always voiced concerns at the diminishing flow of technical and financial resources from the developed north to the developing south."

The president told the envoy that the present caretaker government is committed to return to a sustainable democracy through institutional reforms and holding free, fair and credible elections by end of the year.

"Bangladesh is a land of communal harmony where people of all faiths live together peacefully," he said.

The Cuban Ambassador, resident in New Delhi and concurrently accredited to Bangladesh, sought cooperation of the president and the government in discharging duties during his tenure.

The envoy expressed his satisfaction over the various reform programmes of the present government and hoped that the next general elections would be held according to the election roadmap.

Secretary of the President's Office Md Sirajul Islam, Foreign Secretary Touhid Hossain, Military Secretary to the President Maj Gen Mohammad Ruhul Amin and the President's Press Secretary Abdul Awal Hawlader were present.

Tac asks 12 govt officials to return

FROM PAGE 1

Sylhet City Corporation. He, however, did not disclose their names and the details of their ill-gotten wealth.

The Tac chairman said the government officials have been directed to deposit the money to a Bangladesh Bank account.

"Until September 2, we ordered 11 government staffs to deposit over Tk 5.69 crore to the state exchequer as we are convinced that these persons are repentant of their misdeeds and they confessed to having amassed the wealth beyond known sources of income," said Justice Habib at a regular press briefing yesterday.

"These government officials have promised in the name of god that they will not indulge themselves in corruption anymore," he said.

"As we do not have any authority to investigate whether disclosures made by the corruption suspects are true or not, we are matching information disclosed by them with the investigation reports conducted by National Coordination Committee to combat crime and corruption (NCC) and Anti-Corruption Commission

[ACC] against them," he said, adding that no major discrepancy was found yet.

He also said these 11 government officials had deposited Tk 21 crore to the state coffers at different times before the Tac was formed.

Sources, meanwhile, said the Tac also held hearing of eight more government officials yesterday and that they confessed to having accumulated over Tk 1 crore beyond their known sources of income.

Besides taking statements from them, the commission is considering NCC and ACC investigation reports against them.

The Tac is presently directing absolution seekers to deposit liquid money equivalent to their illegal immovable properties since the commission does not have any specific provision for confiscating those.

"We are working on how to confiscate immovable property and a decision in this regard would be made soon. Confiscation of immovable property is a complicated process," said Justice Habib.

The Tac chairman said the commission would pass the final order granting mercy to those who

are voluntarily disclosing their ill-gotten wealth when they deposit the money fixed by the Tac with Bangladesh Bank.

The Tac began hearing of the corruption suspects on September 1 and extended the deadline for seeking mercy up to September 30.

Justice Habib said 199 corruption suspects have so far applied to face the Tac for making voluntary disclosure of information about their ill-gotten wealth.

"We have not received applications from any politician; turnout of businessmen is also low and far behind expectation," he added.

Of the 199 absolution seekers, 44 applied through the ACC and 151 through the NCC while four applied directly to the Tac. Of them, 173 collected the Tac forms required to be filled in but only 98 have so far submitted the forms to the commission.

Meanwhile, former chief engineer of Sylhet City Corporation Saiful Islam, who faced the commission on September 1, was asked to appear before the commission once again on Sunday.

The Tac began functioning on August 3 with a five-month tenure.

Hasina in Washington for follow-up treatment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former prime minister and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina arrived in Washington DC again yesterday morning from Canada for follow-up treatment of her ear and eyes.

AL leader Abdus Sobhan Golap, who accompanied Hasina, told this to ANA, a US-based news agency.

Hasina will undergo treatment and also have a heart check-up at John Hopkins Hospital today, he said, adding that the date for her return home can be fixed after she gets the nod from physicians.

Deputy Chief of Mission of Bangladesh Embassy in Washington DC Sheikh Mohammad Belal and Hasina's son Sajib Wazed Joy received Hasina at the airport. She is now staying at Joy's house in Virginia.

In the last two weeks, Hasina stayed at the house of her daughter Saima Wazed Putul in Toronto.

It has been learnt that Hasina may form a conference preparatory committee soon in order to form a new committee of the US chapter of the party, as there are allegations of anti-organisational activities against some leaders of the present committee.

Dr Moniruzzaman passes away

DU CORRESPONDENT

Noted lyricist and a teacher of Bangla department of Dhaka University Prof Dr Mohammad Moniruzzaman passed away at Bangladesh Medical College Hospital in the city yesterday at the age of 72.

He left behind his wife, one son, one daughter and a host of relatives, colleagues and admirers to mourn his death.

He was honoured with many awards including Ekushey Padak, Bangla Academy Padak and Alaul Padak for his contribution in Bangla language and literature.

He composed many songs on background of the Liberation War.

Maksud Ali Majumdar

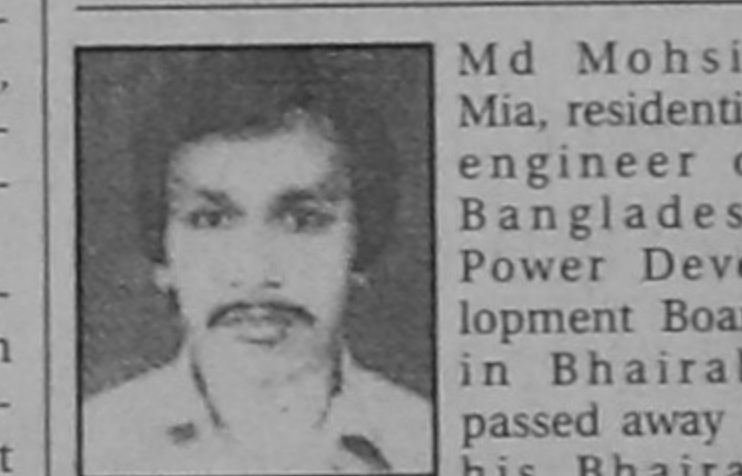
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Maksud Ali Majumdar, former president of Bangladesh Shishu Academy Officers Association, passed away due to a cardiac arrest at Holy Family Hospital in the city on Monday, says a press release.

Officials and employees of Bangladesh Shishu Academy expressed shock at his death and conveyed sympathy to the braved family members.

Md Mohsin Mia

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



residence yesterday at the age of 55, says a press release.

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

PDB Chairman Md Shawkat Ali expressed deep shock at his death and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family members.

Alhaj Abdur Rashid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

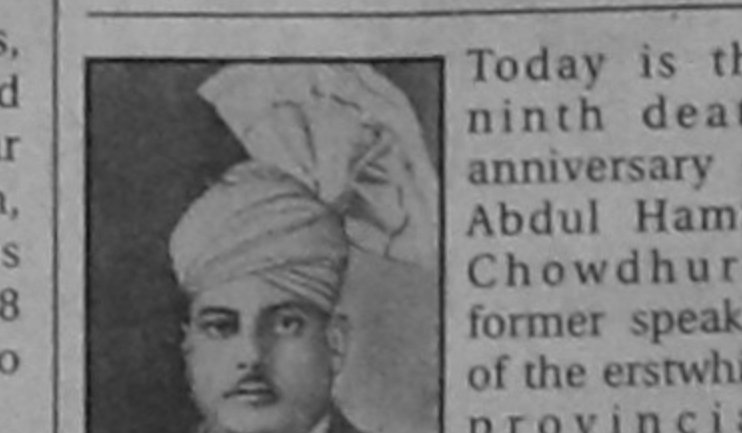
Alhaj Abdur Rashid, father of Shaiful Alam, Awami League leader in Brahmanbaria, passed away due to old age complications at his residence on Tuesday at the age of 93.

He left behind his five sons and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death.

Awami League acting President Zillur Rahman expressed shock at the death and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family members.

Death anniversary

METRO DESK



Today is the ninth death anniversary of Abdul Hamid Chowdhury, former speaker of the erstwhile provincial assembly and father of former president late Justice Abu Sayeed Chowdhury, says a press release.

On the occasion, a Quankhwani and a memorial meeting will be held at Nagbari in Tangail.

WEATHER TODAY

Moderate rain likely

UNB, Dhaka
Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over all the six divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy rainfalls are also likely at places during the period, Met Office said predicting nearly unchanged day temperature over the country.

Highest temperature 34.0 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and Ishwardi and lowest 24.5 degrees Celsius at Sylhet and Rangamati.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:13pm today and rises at 5:41am tomorrow.

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	33.4	27.4	82	69
Chittagong	30.7	26.0	83	88
Rajshahi	34.0	27.0	85	80
Khulna	33.1	27.1	82	76
Barisal	32.5	26.5	84	83
Sylhet	27.5	24.5	96	91
Cox's Bazar	32.1	25.4	83	88

DHAKA TODAY

Roundtable
Unnayan Shamannay organises a roundtable on "Taxing tobacco in budget 2008-09: What really happened". Venue: Cirdap auditorium. Time: 10:00am.

Seminar
Department of Architecture of Buet organises a seminar on "Energy in building: Adaptability and resilience to climate change". Venue: Buet auditorium. Time: 10:00am