PM to attend

cabinet divn

office today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina

will attend her cabinet divi-

sion office in Bangladesh

Secretariat today for the first

time after assuming prime

ministerial duties for the

She is scheduled to go to

her office at the secretariat at

10:00am and expected to hold

second time.

DHAKA SUNDAY JANUARY 11, 2009

Sea border, trade to get priority

Hasan Mahmud on foreign policy

UNB, Crg

The new government will take government. effective measures on emergency basis for determining maritime boundary with the neighbours and enhancing trade cooperation with eastern countries, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Hasan Mahmud said yesterday.

He also told newsmen that the matter of giving port transit facilities to seven-sister

any decision in this regard after considering country's interest and sovereignty," the minister said in reply to a question on the issue of transit facilities through Chittagong

guerillas, he said the decision noon.

states of India and to China is on Ulfa operatives and under consideration of the Bangladeshi criminals arrested in India would be taken "on the "The government will take basis of bilateral talks".

Hasan Mahmud made the observations on the important issues while talking to the journalists on his arrival at Shah Amanat International Airport.

He offered special prayer at the shrine of Shah Amanat About another Indian and joined a meeting at demand for return of Ulfa Laldighi maidan in the after-

BCL factions fight to occupy JCD rooms at Dhaka College

Five injured, 10 rooms ransacked

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least five Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists were injured and 10 rooms ransacked at two student dormitories in Dhaka College during a factional clash over occupation of JCD rooms last night.

Two groups -- one led by college unit President Sagir Ahmed and the other led by Secretary Arefin Tutul -- equipped with firearms clashed for four hours that began at 9.00pm, leaving five of both the groups injured. At least 10 rooms were ransacked in North and South halls, campus sources said.

A tense situation was prevailing on the campus during the last few days as the feuding BCL groups tried to occupy the vacant rooms of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) members who left the dormitories after the national election on December 29.

Sagir and Tutul groups held a meeting last of Art Buildings for the same reason. night to settle the issue but at one stage of the meeting they locked in fresh clash failing to settle their issue.

Both the groups fired at least 25 bullets and exploded at lest 10 bombs on the campus during the four-hour long clash, campus sources said.

Anisur Rahman, officer-in-charger of Newmarket Police Station, said on information police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

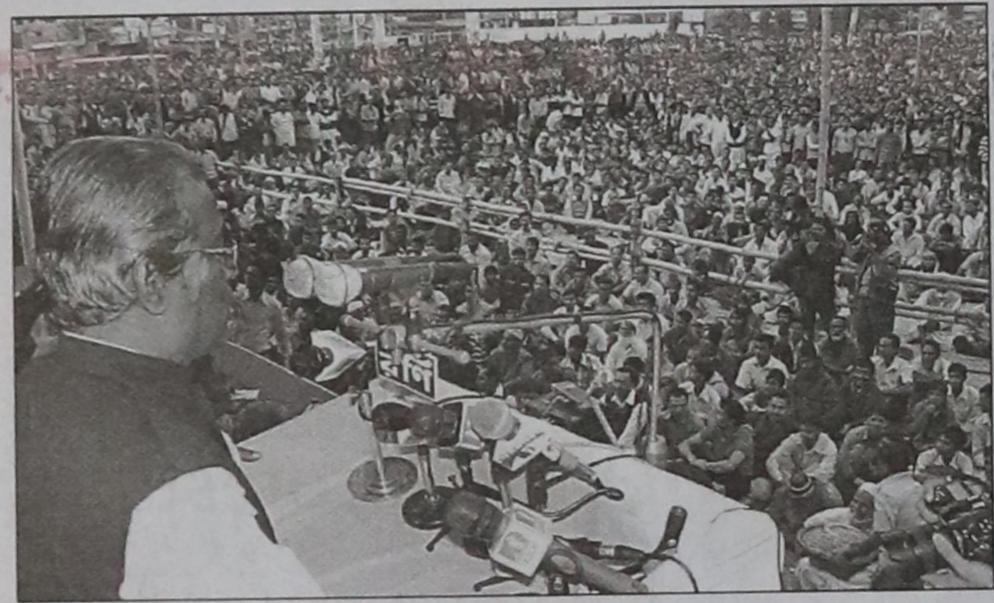
FIVE STUDENTS ASSAULTED AT DU

Meanwhile, The BCL activists beat up five students on charge of supporting Islami Chhatra Shibir at Dhaka University (DU) yes-

At around 12:00 noon, a group of BCL men led by third year student Mubarak and second year student Muktadir Rahman Shimul of chemistry department took second year student Shohel and master degree student Mehdi of the same department and first year student Mosharraf of soil science department to the gymnasium ground and beat up them up for supporting Shibir on the campus.

They also assaulted third year student Emdad of Islamic studies department in front

The BCL activists led by second year student Sabuj ransacked belongings at room No-321 in F Rahman hall. Abdul Halim, a master degree student of law department, is the resident of the room. The BCL men also torched his books for supporting Chhatra Shibir on the campus.



Shipping Minister Dr Afsarul Amin speaks at a public meeting marking the homecoming day of Bangabandhu at Laldighi ground in Chittagong yesterday.

'Health sector to be modernised'

UNB, Dhaka

Health Minister Dr AFM Ruhul Haq yesterday said country's health sector would be modernised through making 'community clinics' effective and commoners' access to health service would be ensured at any cost.

"The government gives 'health management system' top priority so that poor get the medicare without any hassle," the health minister said while talking to journalists during his visit to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) in the evening.

Death anniversary



The 15th death anniversary of late justice Abdur Rahman Chowdhury will be

observed today, says a press release.

He was the VP of Salimullah Muslim Hall in 1948 and a language movement veteran.

Biplobi Debendra Nath OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Today is the 10th death anniversary of Biplobi Debendra

Nath Ghosh. On the occasion Biplobi Deben Ghosh Smriti Sangrakkhan Committee and Kheyali Group Theatre arrange a discussion on his life

and achievement.

He said the government is at that time. sincere about providing health care to the poor. They will no more be deprived of getting necessary service.

Replying to a question the minister said, "mismanagement might be seen in particular cases, but we will dig out how the mismanagement takes place and who are responsible for that."

"We must overcome mismanagement at any cost, no matter how difficult it is," Dr Ruhul said adding that when demand is high and supply is slow, mismanagement appears

Describing the scenario of DMCH he said that approximately 500 hundred patients routinely visit the hospital and their healthcare must be ensured.

"You know people consider DMCH as heart of public healthcare services. They come here to get quality treatment, so their desires should be fulfilled," the minister told the physicians.

He visited different wards of DMCH, talked to patients and physicians.



UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country in next 12 hours until 6:00pm today. Light to moderate fog may occur over the river basins of

the country during midnight till morning, Met Office said in Night temperature may fall slightly over the country, it

said. Highest temperature 30.2 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 9.3 degrees Celsius at

The sun sets in the capital at 5:30pm today and rises at 6:44am tomorrow.

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

Temperature in Humidityin City/Town percentage Celsius Evening Min Morning Max 14.2 26.8 Dhaka 16.0 69 28.2 Chittagong 73 11.7 87 26.2 Rajshahi 88 86 15.5 27.5 Khulna 77 70 14.0 28.0 Barisal 72 58 Sylhet 27.1 13.2 66 30.2 16.4 Cox's Bazar

Unicef concerned as UNRWA forced to suspend work in Gaza

BSS, Dhaka

Unicef has expressed deep concern as United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) was forced to suspend its humanitarian operation in Gaza due to the ongoing violence.

"This can only deepen an already critical humanitarian situation and put children at even greater risk of death or permanent damage. The distribution of food, water, fuel and medicine should not be impeded," Executive Director of Unicef Ann M Veneman said in a statement received in Dhaka yesterday.

The physical and psychological damage that this conflict is inflicting on children on both sides must end, the statement said, adding that children are being killed and injured everyday as a result of the current military operation. "This is unacceptable and

every effort must be made by all concerned to ensure that children receive the protection that is their right and our collective duty," it said.

Unicef urged all parties to the conflict to take every measure to protect children, saying, "It is only with an end to the conflict that children's rights can be fully respected."

In the interim, safe spaces and unimpeded humanitarian access must be established in Gaza urgently to ensure that children have access to regular life-saving supplies and support, the statement said.

Koko's money

FROM PAGE 1 According to the US justice department forfeiture complaint, the majority of funds in Koko's account are traceable to bribes allegedly received in connection with a China Harbour project for building a new mooring container termi nal in Chittagong port.

"This action shows the lengths to which the US law enforcement will go to recover the proceeds of foreign corruption including acts of bribery and money laundering," said Matthew Friedrich.

"Not only will the department, for example, prosecute companies and executives who violate the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, we will also use our forfeiture laws to recapture the illicit facilitating payments often used in such schemes."

Siemens Aktiengesellschaft (Siemens AG), a German corporation, and three of its subsidiaries pleaded guilty on December 15, 2008, to violations of and charges related to the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA).

The company will pay \$800 million in criminal and civil fines after admitting it paid bribes to government officials in Argentina, Bangladesh, China, Iraq, Israel, Mexico, Nigeria, Russia, Venezuela and Vietnam.

Siemens Bangladesh admitted that between May 2001 and August 2006, it caused corrupt payments of at least \$5,319,839 to be made through purported business consultants to various Bangladeshi officials in exchange for favourable treatment during the bidding process on a mobile telephone project.

According to the forfeiture complaint, the bribe payments from Siemens AG and China Harbour Engineering Company were made in US dollars, and the illicit funds flowed through financial institutions in the US, before they were deposited in the accounts in Singapore, subjecting them to the US jurisdiction.

Money laundering laws in the US cover financial transactions that flow through the country involving proceeds from foreign offences including foreign bribery and extortion.

In August 2006, the US president announced a national strategy to internationalise efforts against kleptocracy to fight high level corruption around the world.

The strategy combines policy and law enforcement tools of several federal agencies, including the departments of justice, treasury, state, and homeland security.

The case is being prosecuted by Deputy Chief Linda Samuel and Trial Attorney Frederick Reynolds of the Criminal Division's Asset Forfeiture and Money Laundering Section.

Additional assistance was provided by the Criminal Division's Office of International Affairs.

The case was investigated by FBI's Washington Field Office in cooperation with Bangladeshi lawenforcement.



Bangladesh Chhatra Moitri burns an effigy of Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert on the Dhaka University campus yesterday protesting the Israeli air strikes on noncombatant Gazans.

Road crashes kill five

METRO DESK

Five people were killed and 17 others injured in separate road accidents in the city, in Magura, Pabna and Gopalganj yesterday.

Staff correspondent reports: Two people were killed in separate road accidents at Gabtali and Palashi in the city yesterday.

The dead were identified as Mohammad Masum, 20, of Posta in Lalbagh and Mohammad Helal, 18, helper as Saiful Islam of health complex. of a human hauler.

human hauler helper, was standing on the road near Gabtali bus stand at 9:30am, another speeding human bridge on Maura-Faridpur hauler knock down Helal, leaving him dead on the spot.

In another accident, when wans Masum was going to Panthapath riding a rickshaw, a bus knocked his rickshaw from behind and crushed him under its wheel at Palashi

ODA

Roundtable

Shujan organises a roundtable on 'Responsibilities in establishing democracy and good governance'. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:00am.

Workshop

FROM PAGE 1

Unesco Dhaka Office organises a two-day workshop on 'Education for sustainable development' Venue: IDB Bhaban meeting room. Time: 9:00am.

Secretariat said the commis-

sion is relying on an electoral

provision regarding the

reserved seats, skirting around

the constitutional stipulations.

The Jatiya Sangsad (re-

served seats for women)

Election Law states that the

election would be held within

90 days after publication of the

general election results in

session," Election

Commissioner Sohul Hussain

told The Daily Star Wednesday.

Referring to the electoral

Last Sunday, Election

be held after the January 22

at Wednesday's meeting, but

to reserved seats, former attor-

ney general Mahmudul Islam

the election for the reserved

seats was held. The election of

the reserved seats could not

wait on the ground that some

persons elected to the general

seats had not made and sub-

scribed the oath as otherwise

even a single member of parlia-

ment could delay the sitting of

parliament by not making and

subscribing the oath.

provision, he said the EC is not

worried about the matter.

upazila elections.

meeting sources said.

Locals said agitating peo-

the accident. rushed to the spot and rescued the driver and brought

> Magura reports: Two people injured in separate road acci- with a pickup van.

the situation under control,

dents in Magura yesterday. Doyarampur village and Police said when Helal, a Shaymol, 35, of Hopghat village in Faridpur.

Police and witnesses said Saiful was killed near Garaihighway when a Faridpurbound bus hit his rickshaw

Shaymol was killed on the spot when a speeding truck knocked him down near Kachabazaar in Magura town a routine medical check-up. whilehe was crossing the road. Meanwhile, at least ten

In another accident,

people were injured when a passenger bus fell into a roadside ditch loosing its for a regular check-up. control at Ramnagar on Zillur might stay at the Magura-Faridpur highway. Our Pabna correspondent

adds: One person was killed in a road accident on Dhaka-Pabna highway yesterday. The victim was identified

as Md Abu Taher, son of Rajen

Biswas of Darisardia village in Pabna. Sources said the accident occurred when a speeding bus rammed a nosiman (local motorised vehicle) leaving the driver of the nosiman

Taher dead on the spot. UNB from Gopalganj

published in 2003 when opera-

tion of the previous constitu-

tional provision on the

women's reserved seats had

and 152(1) of the constitution,

the High Court in its verdict

said, "... thus the parliament for

Bangladesh can be fully estab-

lished only after general elec-

tion of 300 representatives to

[which is now 45] seats exclu-

sively reserved for the women

members to be elected by the

members of the parliament

elected from the single territo-

the verdict also read, "...the use

of the expression first meeting

(a) of the constitution itself

some persons elected to the

tion prescribed for members of

parliament, election to the 30

take place as soon as possible

previous constitutional provi-

sions for reserved seats how-

ever is almost same. The two

differ mainly in the number of

seats, which rose to 45 from 30.

response to a writ petition filed

by a leader of HM Ershad-led

The HC ruling came in

Wording of the current and

after the general election.

Delivered on April 2, 1991 by

rial constituencies."

Explaining article 65 (2) (3)

EC sits on election

expired.

"We have yet to decide on be elected in accordance with

the election to reserved seats. law from single territorial

We may begin the process after constituencies by direct elec-

new parliament goes into tion and the election to the 30

Commissioner Brig Gen (retd) the bench of Fazle Hossain

M Sakhawat Hossain said the Mohammad Habibur Rahman

election to reserved seats will and Mainur Reza Chowdhury,

The EC discussed the issue of parliament in Article 67 (1)

Referring to the High parliament fail to make and

Court's verdict on the election subscribe the oath or affirma-

in his book "Constitutional Law seats exclusively reserved for

of Bangladesh" said, "While the women members under Article

provision for reservation of 65 (3) of the constitution shall

seats was operative, take place so that the first

Parliament could not sit unless meeting of parliament may

did not take any decision, clearly indicates that even if

But sources in the EC book's last edition that was

adds: Seven people, including five policemen, were injured ple damaged a bus following in a road accident at Tilchhara in under Kashiani On information, police upazila in Gopalganj yester-

Police said the accident took place at about 11:30am when a police vehicle, escort-Our correspondent from ing Khulna City Mayor Talukder Abdul Khaleque on were killed and 10 others were his way to Dhaka, collided

They injured were admit-The dead were identified ted to Kashiani upazila

Zillur Rahman hospitalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country's would-be president and deputy leader of parliament Zillur Rahman was admitted to Square Hospital in the city yesterday afternoon for

Ranjit Riberu, special assistant to the veteran Awami League leader, said he is quite well but he was hospitalised

hospital for a few days to avoid everyday rush of large number of people at his Gulshan resi-

dence, he added. Brig Gen (retd) John Gomez, general manager of the hospital, told The Daily Star that though the AL leader came to the hospital for a check-up, he has somewhat

physical weakness too. Doctors advised him to stay there for three days, as it will take two days to complete the check-up and other formalities.

the parliamentary election in

1991. The petition challenged

the formation of new parlia-

ment and election to reserved

seats, saying that some of their

lawmakers could not take oath

ELECTIONS TO RESERVED

The available information

shows that elections to

reserved seats for women in

parliament were held immedi-

ately after the general elections

and before inaugural sessions

The fifth parliamentary

of the parliaments since 1991.

election was held on February

27, 1991. The EC on March 9

announced the schedule for

the election to reserved seats.

The polling day was April 4, and

the then parliament went into

polls were held on June 12,

reserved seats on June 25. The

date for election was July 7

while the seventh parliament

expired with dissolution of the

seventh parliament. The eighth

parliament did not have

reserved seats till the constitu-

tion was amended to introduce

a new provision in this regard

announced that election to

on September 6. The

announcement came after the

then BNP-led alliance govern-

ment had enacted the Jatiya

Sangsad (reserved seats for

women) Election Law.

The EC on August 2, 2005

The tenure of reserved seats

convened on July 14.

The seventh parliamentary

session the following day.

The court summarily

due to their detention.

rejected the writ.

SEATS

The quote was from the Jatiya Party immediately after

meetings with senior bureaucrats of her office there, sources in the cabinet division DU Gha, Kha unit results

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

published

The results of the 1st year admission tests of 'Gha' and Kha' units at Dhaka University for the academic session 2008-2009 were pub-

lished yesterday. The admission tests were held on November 28 and December 1 last year, says a

press release. Sources said considering the concerns of around 33,000 admission seekers and their

guardians, the authorities published the results 'tempo-However, the students will have to wait for choosing the departments and the admission process until the final

judgement of a writ petition from the High Court, the release added. A total of 5,163 students --1,759 from science group, 2227 from humanities group and

1177 from commerce -- passed the written examinations. The lists of those promoted have been pinned to the main gate of arts building. Students can also see their results on

The successful students will be called for interviews later through newspaper advertise-

ments and general notices. If any student wants to recheck his or her answer script, they will have to apply to the social science dean with a copy of the admit card and Tk 500 between January 15 and

January 20. Seven departments of the university last year decided not to allow admissions of madrasa students who did not study Bangla and English of 200 marks each in their higher secondary or equivalent courses that led them to file a writ petition.

Obituary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Gazi Shahidul Islam Talukder, a freedom fighter, former municipality chairman and former acting president of Sirajganj district unit of Awami League, passed away due to heart attack at a hospital in Sirajganj town on Friday at the age of 71.

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

He was buried with state honour at Rahmatganj graveyard in the town.

Sirajganj district unit of Awami League, Muktijoddha Sangsad, Sirajganj Press Club and many other organisations expressed shock at the death of Shahidul Islam.

Belayet Hossain STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Belayet Hossain, a freedom fighter and manager (film distribution) of Department of Films and Publications,

passed away due to a cardiac arrest at his residence in the city on Friday, says a press release. He left behind his wife, two

daughters and a son to mourn his death. 1996. The EC announced the Acting president of BCS schedule for election to

Information Association and senior deputy chief information officer of Information directorate MA Halim expressed deep shock at his death and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family members.

Kali Prova Mishra STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Kali Prova Mishra, mother of Jibon Kumar Mishra, deputy reserved seats would be held | registrar of Dhaka University, passed away on January 6 at the age of 75, says a press release.

She left behind his three sons and two daughters to mourn his death.