## ACID THROWING CASES

# Police asked to submit flawless charge sheet

Home ministry unhappy over conviction rate

UNB, Dhaka

Home Ministry yesterday instructed the police to submit flawless charge sheet of acidthrowing cases as the National Acid Control Council (NACC) expressed dissatisfaction over conviction rate in such heinous offence.

A total of 1,585 cases of acid throwing were filed with different police stations across the country between 2002 and 2008.

Of them, charge sheets of 911 cases were submitted while final reports of 644 cases submitted and 30 cases are now under investigation. The instruction was given from the 20th meet-

ing of NACC at the home ministry yesterday. Chaired by Home Minister Advocate Sahara Khatun, the meeting was also attended by State Minister for Home Affairs Tanjim Ahmed Sohel Taj, secretaries concerned, senior officers of law enforcing agencies and representatives of partner organisations.

Briefing newsmen after the meeting, Taj said the meeting expressed dissatisfaction over the existing 50.

conviction rates.

"Convictions were given only in 20 percent of the cases due to poor investigation," said Taj. adding that the police were asked to intensify its investigation to submit flawless charge sheets to increase the number of convicts.

He observed that "acid terrorism" is a tainted chapter of society and most of the acid violence occurred against women. "Government is committed to ensuring equality of the womenfolk. Women society should be evaluated more," he said.

Referring to transportation of acid, he said the police force was instructed to ensure transportation of acid following the Acid Control Act

He said Tk 2 crore was deposited in the Acid Control Fund. The meeting instructed the authorities concerned so that the money could reach district-wise.

Sohel Taj said the meeting discussed an increase in the number of beds of the Burn Unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital from the



Family members of former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria place wreaths at his grave at Banan graveyard in the city yesterday on the occasion of his fourth death anniversary. (Story on Page 16)

#### 'Remove adviser Toufiq-e-Elahi to protect nat'l resources'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Committee to Protect Oil Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Port yesterday demanded removal of Dr Toufiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury as the adviser to the prime minister for his alleged controversial role in the energy sector.

The government should remove Dr Toufiq-e-Elahi, a former energy secretary, to protect national resources and the national interest, the committee leaders said at a discussion at the National Press Club.

During the tenure of the previous Awami League government, Dr Toufiq, then energy secretary, was involved in preparing unequal agreements in favour of multinational companies and did many things to cover up his controversial role, said engineer Sheikh Muhammad Shahidullah, convener of the committee, in his keynote speech.

He also said the AL government has verbally given the responsibility of studying the power sector to such a person whose previous activities were against the interest of the nation.

There are allegations that he was involved in making the deals with Canadian oil company Niko and the Asia Energy, he said.

Prof Anu Muhammad, Columnist Syed Abul Maksud, Dr Samsul Alam and Prof Dr Hossain Monsoor also spoke.

# Abducted trader yet to be rescued

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Parents of an abducted trader have sought intervention of the prime minister to rescue their son, saying that the police did little to this end.

Jahangir Alam, who resided at a house at Shantibagh in Dhaka along with his roommate AKM Rukonuzzaman, have been missing since January 13.

Mohammad Alamgir, younger brother of Jahangir, filed a case accusing Rukonuzzaman of kidnapping his brother.

At a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium on Monday, Jahangir's parents said the police could not extract any important information from Rukonuzzaman, who isnowinjail

They also said Rukonuzzaman kidnapped Jahangir over an issue of transactions involving Tk 30 lakh.

But the police failed to rescue their son even 15 days after

the abduction, they added.

Jahangir's parents Abul

Khayer and Bibi Ayesha live at

their village home in Feni.

AUGUST 21 GRENADE ATTACK

# Next hearing Feb 2

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday recorded statement of Sub-Inspector Sharif Faruque Ahmed of Motijheel Police Station, complainant of the

Speedy Trial Tribunal-1 Judge Mohammad Masdar Hossain recorded the statement and fixed next hearing on February 2.

The 22 accused of launching grenade attacks on an Awami League rally at Bangabandhu Avenue include detained former deputy minister Abdus Salam Pintu, Harkatul Jihad (Huji) chief Mufti Abdul Hannan, Huji members Abu Sayeed, Shahdatullah Jewel, Rafiqul Islam alias Rafiq, Abu Taher,

and Maulana Tajuddin. Lawyers of the defendants cross-examined the complainant on different points.

Fourteen of the accused, now in jail custody, were produced before the court same date under the during the hearing.

Eight others including pending with the same court. Pintu's younger brother Maulana Tajuddin, have been absconding since the cases were filed.

Superintendent of Criminal Investigation Department CMM's Court of Dhaka Fazlul Kabir, also the investigation officer of the cases, to the Chief Metropolitan cases.

Magistrate's (CMM) Court of Dhaka on June 11 last year showing 412 people as prosecution witnesses. RAMNA BLAST CASES

Another Dhaka court yester day adjourned hearing of the August 21, 2004 grenade murder case filed against Huji chief Mufti Abdul Hannan and 13 others in connection with the Ramna Batamul blast following a time petition by the prosecution.

Judge ANM Basir Ullah of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court fixed next hearing on February 4 after Hannan and five others, now in jail custody, were produced before it.

Four other accused Arif Hasan Suman alias Abdur Razzak, Shahadat Ullah alias Jewel, Maulana Abdur Rouf and Maulana Abu Taher, earlier arrested from different places, were produced before the court

Meanwhile, another Ramna Batamul blast case filed against the four on the Explosive Substances Act, is

Criminal Investigation Department (CID) Inspector Abu Hena Mohammad Yusuf also the investigation officer Senior Assistant (IO) of the cases, submitted the charge sheets to the November 29 last year.

The IO included names of submitted two charge sheets Mufti Hannan and 13 others in connection with the cases in the charge sheets of the

University organises a workshop on

forced migration. Venue: RC

Majumder auditorium. Time:

# Conference

Brac Development Institute, Brac University Architecture Department and the Brooks World Poverty Institute, The University of Manchester organise a conference on 'Climate change and urban poverty-infrastructures of development'. Venue: Brac Centre auditorium. Time: 8:30am.

## Workshop

Unnayan Sahajogee Team organises a workshop. Venue: IDEC Bhaban. Time: 9:00am.

Lecture Bangladesh Foundation for Development Research organises a memorial lecture to mark the fourth

#### death anniversary of former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria. Venue: National Museum auditorium. Time: 4:00pm.

#### **Memorial meeting** pay tribute to noted labour leader Saifuddin Ahmed Manik. Venue: Liberation War Museum. Time;

#### 3:00pm. Workshop

associate organisation of the rights of people with disabilities for Refugee and Migratory Movements DCC staff. Venue: Nagar Bhaban Research Unit (RMMRU) of Dhaka auditorium. Time: 9:00am.

during yesterday's hearing.

# DHAKA

## ODA

Seminar Stamford Institute of Career Development (SICD) organises a seminar on BPO passport for students of BBA programme. Venue: Dhanmondi Campus, Stamford University. Time: 4:30pm. Report launch

> Young Power in Social Action (YPSA) will launch a report on child labourers in ship breaking industry. Venue: Dhaka Reporters' Unity. Time: 10:30am.

## Seminar

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO) will organise a seminar on 'Marketing approach techniques for IT companies/ offshore market trend in A memorial meeting will be held to Japan'. Venue: Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre. Time: 9:30am.

## Workshop

Bangladesh Protibandhi Kalyan Samity and Dhaka City Corporation Young Researchers' Forum, an will organise a workshop on the

# 72 joint secretaries promoted to additional secretaries

METROPOLITAN/NEWS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a major move, the government yesterday promoted 72 joint secretaries to the rank of additional secretaries and attached them with the establishment ministry.

Earlier on Sunday, the government promoted seven officers to the rank of secretary and made one secretary and two additional secretaries the officers on special duty (OSDs).

Sources in the establishment ministry said more promotions and transfers are in the offing as the government decided to rearrange the entire administration.

# Tarique's bail extended for five months

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court (SC) yesterday extended for five months its earlier order granting bail to Tarique Rahman, elder son of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, in the Tk 21 crore bribery case involving the murder of Bashundhara Group Director Humayun Kabir Sabbir.

Tarique is now abroad for his treatment.

The four-member full bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice MM Ruhul Amin yesterday extended the bail order for the second time upon a prayer moved by Barrister Rafique-ul Huq.

Meanwhile, the High Court (HC) yesterday started hearing the bail petitions filed by some politicians who were earlier convicted in absentia in different criminal cases.

In the morning, the politicians, including former Awami League lawmakers Abul Hasnat Abdullah, Mokbul Hossain and Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya and Jatiya Party (Manju) chairman Anwar Hossain Manju appeared before the HC bench and prayed for bail in the cases against them.

All of them were sentenced to imprisonment in corruption and criminal cases, sources

The HC bench of Justice Syed AB Mahmudul Huq and Justice Moyeenul Islam Chowdhury will also hear the petitions today.

Mokbul Hossain, dressed in the gown of a lawyer, told reporters that he came to court as a lawyer, not as a bail seeker.

# 2,250 Yaba tablets seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rab members yesterday seized 2,250 pieces of contraband Yaba tablets and arrested two peddlers in this connection from the city's Shyamoli

The arrestees were identified as Sukur Ali, 18, son of Elias Ali, of Teknaf in Cox's Bazar and Farid Alam, 37, son of late Inna Amin of the same

Acting on a tip-off, a Rab-3 team conducted a raid at Mohananda Bhaban of Ring Road area at around 1:30am and seized the contraband tablets and arrested them.

During an interrogation, the arrestees disclosed that they are wholesale traders of Yaba tablets and also accomplices of one Rafiq in the area.



# BCS Info Assoc executives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

AKM Shameem Chowdhury and Md Akhtaruzzaman were elected president and secretary general of BCS Information Association for the next two years, says a press release.

Other office bearers are MA Halim and Md Joynal Abedin, vice presidents, Nripendra Chandra Debnath and Md Nizamul Kabir, joint secretaries, SM Golam Kibria, treasurer, Munshi Jalal Uddin, organisational and interservice secretary, Md Bazlur Rahman, office secretary, Md Mofakkharul Iqbal, training and publishing secretary, and Kamal Pasha, sports, culture and welfare secretary, and members Tasir Ahammad, Surath Kumar Sarkar, Md Enamul Haq, Md Sarwar Alam, AM Motaher Hossain, Ferdousi Begum and Md Mominul Haq.



Saudi Ambassador Dr Abdullah-bin-Naser Al Pushairi calls on Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia at her Gulshan office in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 5)

# Japan to hold further talks on funding Padma Bridge

UNB, Dhaka

Japan will hold further discussion with the Bangladesh government on the funding of the mega-bridge Padma on completion of its design, Japanese Ambassador Masayuki Inoue said yesterday.

"Padma Bridge is a very important project month, he added. for Bangladesh. ADB is now working on its design. After that we will have further negotia- ambassador has told the Japanese investors tions with the government, World Bank and that this is the right time to come to Bangladesh ADB," he told reporters after meetings with Foreign Minister Dipu Moni and State Minister for Foreign Affairs Hasan Mahmud.

Last week the new government approved the hiring of a company to design the proposed bridge. Morcel Ltd got the Tk 140 crore (\$20.3 million) work order for the 6.01-km bridge's River.

The total cost of the bridge to be built between Mawa and Jajira will be \$1.8 billion.

The ambassador also said the Japanese government recently announced \$440 million to finance the second phase of Haripur Power Station project to generate 360MW

The secretary of state of Japan's foreign ministry would be coming to Dhaka next

Later, Hasan told the reporters that the for investment. He sought Japanese assistance for moderni-

sation of jute mills and production of jute goods and marketing. Hasan also sought Japanese cooperation in construction of tunnel under the Karnaphuli

During the meetings, the two sides also discussed cooperation with the new government in other sectors of mutual interest.

ELECTION EXPENDITURE

# EC asks 38 parties to submit statement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) will today send letters to 38 political parties took part in the ninth parliamentary elections, asking to submit their statement of election expenditure by March 31.

The Secretariat yesterday issued a press release on this

The EC will also send a prescribed form to each of the political parties for furnishing particulars of their election expenditure.

Under the section of the Representation of the People Order 1972, the political parties participated in the general elections have to submit their

election expenditure to the EC within 90 days of the publication of election results in the gazette. Since the list of winning

candidates was published in

the gazette on January 1, the political parties have to submit the statement by or on March 31. The expenditure details of Noakhali-1 constituency will, however, have to be submitted by April 14 as the election to

the seat was held on January

12. The election was post-

poned due to the death of

Ganotantri Party president Nurul Islam: The law empowers the EC to fine political parties failing to submit the election expen-

#### diture within the stipulated DEATH OF NURUL ISLAM

# Wife rejects probe report, seeks PM's Detective police yesterday arrested three more suspects, including a woman, in connects interference

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The wife of late Ganotantri Party flammable. chief Nurul Islam yesterday rejected the final report of the Tamahor, papers and other inquiry committee on the fire such things were not burnt in that broke out at their house and the fire but Tamahor burnt alive killed Nurul Islam and his son.

minister's intervention for a thefamily members. proper and impartial probe into the fire incident so that crimi- injured Nurul Islam told the nals can be brought to trial.

Addressing a press confer- incident of the fire was not an ence at Ganotantri Party office accident as he received death in the city, Nurul's wife Rubi threats from a vested quarter, Rahman said there is no said Rubi Rahman. chance of the fire originating from the electric short circuit president Mohammad Afzol of their fridge, which was out of and vice president Mahmudur order and without electricity Rahman Babu, among others, connection for over two years. were present at the press con-

She said further the report is ference. not true as a fridge does not report, but it remains intact.

after its explosion, she said, national election.

adding that the gas of a refrigerator's compressor was not

She said T-shirt of her son and the matter created suspi-She also sought the prime cion among people as well as Before death critically

Ganotantri Party acting

people present there that the

On December 3, Nurul contain gas cylinder rather it has Islam's son was burnt alive in a compressor, which was stated a fire at their Lalmatia resito be exploded according to the dence in the city while Nurul Islam who sustained critical It was stated in the report burn injury in the incident that the fire originated when died on December 4. Nurul sparks from the short circuit Islam was a nominee of the came in contact with the gas Awami League-led grand emitted from the compressor alliance for the December 29

## Moderate to thick fog likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rajshahi.

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Moderate to thick fog may also occur over the country during midnight till morning, Met Office said, predicting nearly unchanged night temperature over the country. Highest temperature 30.6 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Mongla and lowest 14.5 degrees Celsius at

The sun sets in the capital at 5:42pm today and rises at 6:41am tomorrow. Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Humidityin Temperature in City/Town Celsius percentage Morning Evening Max Min 25.8 20.2 Dhaka 27.2 83 15.8 Chittagong 100 24.2 14.5 Rajshahi 29.5 21.0 87 Khulna 82 28.5 84 19.3 Barisal 79 74 Sylhet 27.5 18.1 17.8 72 80 Cox's Bazar 28.5

# 60 shanties gutted in city slum fire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 60 shanties were gutted in a devastating fire in a slum at city's Meer Hajirbagh under Shyampur Police Station last night. The fire originated from a

burning candle at about 9:30pm. The fire fighters put out the blaze after frantic effort of over

one hour. Locals said several people remained missing after the fire incident while over 200 people were living under the open sky as they have lost all their

Fire service sources said they could not ascertain the loss due to the fire incident.

### BREAK-IN AT RAILWAY 3 more held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

tion with the sensational breakin at Bangladesh Railway headquarters in the city on January 18 night, totalling the number of arrestees to 11. The DB personnel also

seized the stolen laptop computer and Tk 5,000 from their possession. The arrestees were identified as Shafiq Miah alias Basa Mia, 25, of Satkania in Chittagong, Mukta Begum, 22, wife of Milon Miah of Debiddar in Comilla,

and Halim, 30, son of Sohrab-

ul-Islam of Sonargaon in

Narayanganj. A team of DB, led by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Mainul Hasan, arrested Shafiq and Mukta by conducting a raid at North Mugda Jheelpar with the laptop computer and Tk 5,000 from their possession. Later, they arrested Halim from Kakrail area by setting a trap.

Shafiq said he got the money as a share from the stolen amount. The DB DC said the laptop was stolen from the railway building.

# NDI keen to arrange orientation for MPs

UNB, Dhaka

The Washington-based National Democratic Institute (NDI) has expressed its interest in organising an orientation course for the newly elected members of parliament (MPs), as many of them are first-timers.

A discussion to this effect was held between NDI Senior Resident Director Jacqueline Corcoran and Chief Whip Abdus Shahid at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban yesterday.

"Matters relating to Rules of Procedure and other parliamentary affairs came up for

discussion," said a news release. The chief whip also laid emphasis on training and increased cooperation of international organisations to enhance knowledge and expertise level of the MPs to make the

ninth parliament effective. Among others, Whip ASM Firoz, NDI Senior Adviser Nasim Firdaus and Secretary of the Parliament Secretariat Ashfaque Hamid were present.

### Stop publishing misleading ads by developers'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four environmental groups have urged Rajdhani Unnayan Kartipakkha (Rajuk) to take initiative to stop publishing in the dailies misleading advertisements by Real Estate Developers for selling their unauthorised plots. The call was made in a

letter to Rajuk chairman on January 26 by Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (Bela), Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa), Centre for Urban Studies (CUS) and Institute of Architects Bangladesh (IAB). The letter mentioned that The Private Housing Projects

Land Development Rules 2004 has prohibited advertisement regarding selling/allotment of plot/land/building without taking prior approval of the authorities concerned. The Real Estate Development and Management Ordinance 2008

ing two years or fine not exceeding Tk 10 lakh or both. The copy of the letter has also been sent to the state minister and secretary to housing and public works ministry and

has also made such advertise-

ment punishable with an

imprisonment of not exceed-

## PS to the prime minister. Qulkhwani



Qulkhwani of Imran Hussain Chowdhury, son of Shamsuddin Chowdhury of Faridpur, will be held at his father's

city after Asr prayers today, says a press release. Imran died of cardiac arrest in Faridpur town on January

residence at 12, Gulshan, Road

99 (Khaja Baba House) in the

22 at the age of 63. He is survived by his father, wife, one son, two daughters, siblings and relatives to

Relatives, friends and wellwishers are requested to attend the programme.

mourn his death.



য় আন্তর্জাতিক

জাनুয়ারী ২৪ - ৩০, ২০০৯

মূল উৎসব কেন্দ্ৰ

किनीय भावनिक नारेखिती, भारवान, जाका অন্যান্য ডেন্য: বৃটিশ কাউন্সিল, জার্মান সাংস্কৃতিক কেন্দ্র, রুশ বিজ্ঞান ও সাংস্কৃতিক কেন্দ্র, ইরান সাংস্কৃতিক কেন্দ্র, আলিয়স ফ্রনেস দো ঢাকা।

নিয়মিত প্রদর্শনী: ২৫-৩০ জানুয়ারী প্রতিদিন সকাল ১১টা, দুপুর ২টা, বিকেল 8 हो ७ मस्त्रा ५ हो। সকল প্রদর্শনী শিত-কিশোরদের জন্য উন্মুক্ত

বিস্তারিত প্রদর্শনসূচি মূল উৎসব কেন্দ্রে পাওয়া যাবে

আয়োজনে:

Ifs Children's Film Society Bangladesh