Operation of

ACC notice

against BNP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hasina stayed

The High Court (HC) yester-

day stayed for a month the

operation of the notice issued

by the Anti-Corruption

Commission (ACC) asking

Hasina Ahmed, a BNP law-

maker, to submit her wealth

Upon a writ petition filed

statement to ACC.

lawmaker

METROPOLITAN/NEWS

Two-day

SCBA polls

begin today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The two-day polling of the

annual election to the Supreme

Court Bar Association (SCBA)

for its 14 executive posts,

including president and secre-

from 10:00am to 5:00pm today

cast their votes in the country's

taken all preparations for hold-

prime bar association polls.

ing the election, sources said.

The polling will take place

More than 1,800 lawyers will

The SCBA authorities have

Advocate Abul Kashem

Fazlul Haque will lead the

seven-member election sub-

committee to conduct the

According to the sources,

the main contest in the election

will take place between the

panel of ruling Awami League-

backed Bangladesh Sammilita

Ainjibi Samannaya Parishad

(BSASP) and the opposition

BNP-backed Bangladesh

(BJAOP) and Mohammad Zakir

Other candidates of BSASP

are Kazi Md Sazawar Hossain

and Syed Haider Ali (for vice

president), SM Rezaul Karim

(for secretary), Md Habibul

Gani (for treasurer)

Mohammad Ali and Md

Badruzzaman Badal (for assis-

tant secretary) and Md

Nurunnabi Bulbul, Md Enamul

Huq Mollah, Dilhad Niazi

Manna, Anzuman Ara Begum

Ranu, Md Shahid Ullah, Joya

Bhattacharva and Md Nurul

Ibrahim Mollah and Golam

Mostafa (for vice president),

Md Helaluddin Mollah (for

secretary), Mohammad Abdul

Baset (for treasurer), Shirin

Afroz and Md Abul Kalam

Azad (for assistant secretary)

and Monir Hossain, Md Jalal

Uddin, Golam Rahman

Bhuiyan, Shahidul Islam,

Shahanara Begum Sanu, Md

Abul Kashem Sarkar and Md

Shahidul Islam (for member).

FROZEN BANK ACCOUNTS

BJAOP's candidates are Md

Islam Matubbar (for member).

Hossain (independent) are con-

testing for the post of president.

tary, will begin today.

and tomorrow.

SCBA polls.

OFF-SHORE SANGU FIELD

Cairn to install compressors to keep gas flow steady till 2011

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As gas production from the off-shore Sangu field may become uneconomic by the year-end, British oil company Cairn and its joint venture partners have started a project to install compressors that will keep the gas flow steady till 2011 for Chittagong region.

The US 6 million dollar compressor project will be complete by July, says a press release.

This is an onshore com-

against Jamaat

leader Razzaq,

Proceedings

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday

stayed for a month the proceed-

ings against Jamaat leader bar-

rister Abdur Razzaq Siddik and

his wife Saleha Razzaq Siddiqin a

case filed by the police on

charges of criminal intimidation

Responding to a writ peti-

to on-dutypolice and trespass.

tion filed by the accused, an HC

bench of Justice Syed Mahmud

Hossain and Justice Quamrul

Islam Siddiqui also issued a

rule upon the government to

explain why the proceedings of

the case against the petitioners

should not be declared without

bench upon a bail petition

granted them anticipatory bail for

Hossain, police inspector of

the Immigration at Zia

International Airport (ZIA),

filed the criminal case with the

Airport Police Station against

them on charges of obstructing

the authorities at the airport

during their duties at early

deferred its order until April 5

on a contempt of court petition

petition with the HC on March

19 against the authorities

concerned for preventing him

from going to Malaysia and

Singapore in spite of having an

HC order allowing him to visit

appeared for the petitioners.

Barrister Ajmalul Hossain

The same court also

He filed the contempt

hours on that day.

filed by Razzaq.

the two countries.

Obituary

Thakurgaon

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Khoka Roy, district leader of

Communist Party of

Bangladesh (CPB), passed

away due to a cardiac arrest at

Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital

sons, one daughter and a host

of relatives and admirers to

parties and student organisa-

tions paid their last respect to

the CPB leader at his Akcha

village under Sadar upazila and

conveyed sympathy to mem-

(UNO) Sultana Parvin placed

wreaths on his coffin before

Akcha village crematorium

Death anniversary

Bangladesh Lions Foundation

and a retired assistant inspec-

tor general (AIG) of police,

and doa mahfil will be held at

Lions Bhaban at Agargaon at

On the occasion, a milad

says a press release.

7:00pm today.

METRO DESK

Mainul Islam

Today is the

fifth death

anniversary

of Lion

Aminul

Islam Miah,

former

chairman of

Upazila Nirbahi Officer

bers of the bereaved family.

He left behind his wife, three

Leaders of different political

yesterday at the age of 57.

mourn his death.

cremation.

yesterday.

METRO DESK

three months in the same case.

Earlier on Sunday, another HC

On March 19, Dewan Abul

lawful authority.

stayed

at the Sangu gas terminal in Chittagong. Construction and site preparations are underway with 50 local contract workers involved in preparing the site for the arrival of the two 30-tonne compressor

The decade old offshore field Sangu's gas production saw a gradual drop till last year when a successful well intervention programme increased gas production by 60 percent pushing it up to 50 to 55 mil-

pression project implemented lion cubic feet per day (mmcfd).

"Without the compressors, the gas production may drop to a point by December when there will be no gas," an official told The Daily Star.

"The compressors will pump out gas from the offshore wells and keep the production steady till 2011,' he added.

The compressors are now under construction in Singapore and by April these will be ready for shipment.

The field has produced in excess of 440 billion cubic feet since production started in

Sangu has been a major discovery for Bangladesh that stimulated an international interest in the nineties for investment in the country's energy sector. To date, Cairn and its partners have invested nearly one billion dollar.

The partners in the Sangu field are Cairn, Santos and HBR Energy.

পানিসম্পদ খাতে সুণাসন: চাই স্বচ্ছতা ও জবাবদিহিতা ww.ti-bangla

TIB Trustee Board Chairman Prof Muzaffer Ahmad speaks at a roundtable at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. On his left are Dr Iftekharuzzaman and Md Rafiqui Islam. (Story on Page 16)

Boost bilateral ties to build stronger Saarc

his wife Saleha Says Saarc secretary general

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The visiting Secretary General of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc) Dr Sheel Kant Sharma yesterday said stronger bilateral ties among the member countries could help build a stronger Saarc.

He stressed mutual cooperation among the countries of the region for getting maximum benefit from the huge potentials of the member countries, said a press release.

The Saarc secretary general, who arrived in Dhaka on Sunday, made the observations when he called on Foreign Minister Dipu Moni at the Foreign Ministry yesterday

implementing two projects tries of the region.

titled 'Empowerment of Women' and 'Maternal and Child Health' under the auspices of the Saarc Development Fund.

The 'Maternal and Child Health' project would be implemented initially in Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal. This project aims at providing maternal and child

healthcare at grassroots level. "As the 'birth place' of the organisation, Saarc attaches great importance to Bangladesh," he added.

Dipu Moni said Bangladesh keeps friendly and cordial relations with the countries of the region.

She referred to the proposed South Asian Taskforce to combat terrorism, which is Dr Sharma said Saarc was a common threat to the coun-

She said, "To resolve power crisis, sub-regional initiatives like building mega-power project could be undertaken.'

The minister also laid emphasis on removing nontariff barriers in the sphere of trade and commerce among the Saarc countries.

She added that mutual cooperation is needed to unlock the potentials of the region with a view to improving the lives of the people.

Dr Sharma said 100 acres of land had been acquired in New Delhi and a CEO had been appointed for South Asian University.

He hoped that the first academic session would start in 2010. A satellite campus would

Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Oikya be established in Dhaka, he Parishad (BJAOP). added. Three senior lawyers AFM Mesbahuddin (BSASP) Khondokar Mahbub Hossain

FBI to continue to help probe BDR mutiny

Says US envoy

UNB, Dhaka

US Ambassador James F Moriarty said FBI would continue to work with its counterparts in Bangladesh to investigate the bloody BDR mutiny, American intelligence agency completed initial phase of their collaboration.

The assurance came when he met Foreign Minister Dipu Moni, Commerce Minister Lt Col (retd) Faruq Khan and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's adviser Tarique Siddique on Sunday to provide an update on the US assistance for the investigation into the carnage inside BDR headquarters.

Moriarty explained that the FBI team had shared its expertise in investigating complex cases with the Police Criminal Investigation Department, which has "primary responsian onerous task that takes bility for conducting this impor- their collaboration is complete, extra time and effort, as the tant investigation", said a US Embassy release yesterday. He noted the massive scale

of the investigation and suggested it could take considerable time to complete.

"With FBI assistance, the Police have put in place the mechanisms necessary to conduct this complex investigation in a thorough and transparent manner," the

"The ministers assured the term.

ambassador that Bangladesh would devote all the resources required to complete the investigation, taking into account the formidable task that lies ahead," it said.

While the initial phase of FBI officials will return to Bangladesh at an appropriate time in the future to review the progress of the investigation and provide any additional suggestions that might be appropriate, the release added.

The US ambassador stressed that the United States was committed to strengthening its partnership with Bangladesh's law enforcement agencies over the long

station are working round the

OF MOUDUD

SC extends stay on HC order

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court (SC) yesterday extended its earlier order staying the High Court (HC) verdict that directed the government to allow reactivation of all frozen bank accounts and FDRs of former law minister and BNP leader

Upon a government petition moved by Attorney General Mahbubey Alam, a three-member full bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice MM Ruhul Amin also asked the government to file a regular leave to appeal with the SC against the HC verdict within three weeks.

The apex court, however, upheld the HC order that had Tk 5 lakh a month from one of his frozen accounts with IFIC Bank and to deposit it with his savings account in the same bank from where he can withdraw the money.

March 16 stayed for one week the March 4 HC verdict that ordered unfreezing of Moudud's bank accounts and FDRs.

Moudud Ahmed is now contesting as a BNP candidate the by-election for Bogra-7 constituency scheduled for

Barrister Rafique-Ul Huq

lawyer said.

Govt urged not to always highlight militant issue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

President of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry country. (FBCCI) Annisul Huqyesterday urged the government not to always highlight the militant issue, as it would have an impact on the country's image.

As a result, business people, students and workers could have difficulty obtaining visas of other countries, he

and government officials government, he said.

have been talking about the militant issue in such a manner as if there are militants everywhere in the But the business commu-

nity does not want to believe that the situation is so bad, Huq said at a pre-budget discussion at the FBCCI Bhaban.

Many people think that the militant issue might have been one of the reasons behind the cancellation of The FBCCI chief said 55,000 visas of Bangladeshi some responsible ministers workers by the Malaysian

Renewal of Indo-Bangla water transit treaty today

DHAKA

DA

9:00am.

2:30pm.

Human chain

Time: 4:00pm.

Workshop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh and India will renew the bilateral agreement on inland water transit today with a view to enhancing the inland water trade between the two neighbouring countries for the next two years.

Meanwhile, an 11-member Indian team, led by Additional Secretary of India's road transport and highways ministry Vijay Chhibber, came to Dhaka and held a meeting with a Bangladesh team led by Shipping Secretary Masud Elahi yesterday. On behalf of the govern-

ments, Vijay and Masud will represent their sides in the negotiation and sign the deal on 'Protocol on Inland Water

Masud said the bilateral agreement scheduled to expire on March 31 would be renewed for the use of the and Pandu for Bangladesh.

Liberation War Museum will hold a

discussion on the International

Crimes Tribunal Act (1973) and trial

process. Venue: Museum premises

Unnayan Shamannay with the

assistance of Canadian

International Development Agency

Dhaka organises a workshop on

'Gender budgeting in Bangladesh:

Budget 09-10'. Venue: Cirdap

Bangladesh Insurance Association

and Bangladesh Insurance

Academy will jointly organise a

seminar on micro-insurance

Venue: Metropolitan Chamber of

auditorium. Time: 9:30am.

Discussion

Time: 5:00pm.

Workshop

Seminar

waterways for commerce keeping the river routes navigable within each territories. The inland water transit

protocol was first signed in 1972 under the bilateral trade agreement which was renewed in every two years, he added.

"No new issue will be incorporated in the renewal agreement," said Masud, adding that both the countries allow transit for cargo through eight routes, adding that Indian government provides Tk 2 crore for the navigability of the route.

The two countries now allow each other four water points as ports of call to ferry their goods. The ports are Narayanganj, Mongla, Khulna and Sirajganj for India, while Kolkata, Haldia, Karimganj

Development Wheel (DEW) jointly

organise a national policy workshop

on agriculture, fisheries and

livestock sector. Venue: IDB

Bhaban meeting room #1. Time:

Bangladesh Society for the

Enforcement of Human Rights

(BSEHR) organises a workshop

titled 'Review and compilation of

different PILs filed so far since the

independence of Bangladesh.

Venue: National Press Club, Time:

Relatives and friends of slain Syed

Muhaiminul Bari will form a human

chain demanding punishment to his

killers. Venue: Rabindra Sarobar.

The inaugural ceremony of three-

day Swadhinata Utsab organised by

Sammilita Sangskritik Jote will be

held. Venue: Central Shaheed

Prajanma '71, Uttaradhikar '71 and

Natuke will hold a discussion to

mark the Independence Day.

Venue: Teacher-Student Centre

(TSC), Dhaka University. Time

Dustha Shasthya Kendra in

association with WaterAid

Swadhinata Utsab

Minar. Time: 4:30pm.

Discussion

further to her (Hasina).

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The police recovered the body of an unidentified woman from Mirpur embankment in the city

identify the victim, aged

Morgue sources said the around her neck.

nals might have killed her elsewhere and dumped the

body at Diyabari Beribadh. Road crashes

METRO DESK

The accident occurred at about 12:30pm when two head-on. Meanwhile, two buses while trying to overtake

The dead was identified as Shariful Islam, driver of one of the buses. A correspondent in Narail

adds: Thirty people were Sitarampur.

The accident occurred at about 2:30pm when a Narailbound passenger bus from

ten were released after they

were given first aid.

Khilkhet area. The injured were identified as ASP Mohammad Nurul Amin Hawlader and driver

College Hospital (DMCH), which referred Jamal to (CMH).

Gazipur overturned on the Airport-Mohakhali road at Khilkhet while trying to over take the car.

Police removed the bus and the car from the road, which interrupted traffic movement

3 Ashuganj power units inoperative

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Three units of Ashuganj Power Station Company Limited (APSCL) have remained inoperative, adding to the electricity crisis.

(GT)-1 of 56 megawatts, Steam Turbine (ST) of 30 MW and Unit-1 of 64 MW of capacity. He was cremated at his

Dry weather likely

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky

There are chances of rain or thundershowers accompa-

The sun sets in the capital at 6:11pm today and rises at

Highest temperature 35.2 degrees Celsius was recorded

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded

22.0

22.2

19.6

20.6

20.8

20.0

22.0

Min Morning

Humidityin

percentage

53

Evening

yesterday at Sitakundu and lowest 17.5 degrees Celsius at

in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Max

33.6

32.2

33.7

33.2

34.0

34.5

34.2

Temperature in

Celsius

nied by temporary gusty or squally wind at one or two places

over the regions of Mymensingh and Sylhet, Met Office said.

Day temperature may rise slightly over the country.

over the country in next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

UNB, Dhaka

5:58am tomorrow.

Srimongal.

City/Town

Chittagong

Cox's Bazar

Rajshahi

Khulna

Barisal

Sylhet

Dhaka

due to machinery and technical faults at different times.

Sources said all eight units of the power station are dilapidated. So, any one of the units may be halted any time.

According to APSCL, power generation came down to 472 The units are Gas Turbine MW yesterday.

When contacted, Md Abdul Khaleque, managing director (MD) of APSCL, said the engi-

clock to resume production of the units.

Unit-1 might go into operation in a day or two, while production of the remaining two units -- GT and ST -- might resume by the first week of the next month, he said.

The power units remain idle neers and technicians of the

After the repairing, all the eight units would be able to generate more than 618 MW of electricity regularly, he added.

shot dead in city STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A gang of unidentified crimi nals shot dead a bus helper at Shyampur in the city yester-

son of Kamal Hossain of West Dhulaipar in the city.

police said the criminals fired point-blank at Sohagh in his head around 12:30pm, leaving him seriously injured at Saban Factory Lane in West Shyampur.

ries on the way to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, the police said. Victim's father Kamal told The Daily Star that his son

went out of his house after

receiving a cellphone call. Local people who rushed Sohag to hospital told this correspondent that he was involved in drug peddling in the area and that he might have been killed over drug

peddling.

The deceased was identi-

Quoting locals, Shyampur

He succumbed to his inju-

Bus helper Moudud Ahmed.

fied as Mohammad Sohag, 22, allowed Moudud to withdraw

The SC chamber judge on

April 2.

appeared for Moudud. The government has moved the stay petition against the HC

judgment in order to tarnish the image of Moudud, as he is Traidcraft Exchange (TX) and 5:00pm. contesting the by-election, the

Commerce and Industry conference hall. Time: 10:00am. **IUB Seminar** Centre for Health, Population and

Development of Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) organises a seminar titled 'Mobile phones: A new dimension of telemedicine in Bangladesh' Venue: C3 Room # 201, School of Environmental Science and Management, IUB campus, Baridhara. Time: 4:00pm.

Workshop The UNV Programme in

collaboration with the National Press Club and the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) will organise a media workshop on recognising volunteerism to increase local participation for the achievement of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:00am.

Cultural programmes Nazrul Institute organises three-day

cultural programmes to mark the

Independence Day beginning today. Venue: Kabi Bhaban. Time: 3:00pm. Workshop

Bangladesh will hold a consultation on Watson Network. Venue: WVA conference room. Time: 9:30am.

Seminar

Consultation

4:00pm.

Sheikh Russell Shishu Sangsad organises a seminar on secularism in child education Venue: Dhaka Reporters' Unity Time: 3:00pm.

Rotary Dhaka The regular weekly meeting of

Rotary Club of Dhaka will be held. Venue: Hotel Sonargaon. Time:

by Hasina, an HC bench of Justice Nazmun Ara Sultana and Justice Md Rezaul Haque also issued a rule upon the ACC to explain within four weeks why the notice should not be declared illegal. The ACC, on March 17,

served the notice to Hasina, wife of former BNP state minister for communications Salahuddin Ahmed, for submitting a statement on her wealth within a week to the ACC. Hasina, lawmaker from

Cox's Bazar-1 constituency, yesterday filed a writ petition with the HC challenging the legality of the notice. She stated in the petition

that earlier her husband Salahuddin submitted statements on the properties of all of family members, including Salahuddin and Hasina to the The ACC filed a case against Salahuddin and Hasina in

connection of the wealth statement. In this case Salahuddin was sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment and Hasina got released, the petitioner said, adding that the ACC cannot issue a notice Barrister Rafique-Ul Huq

appeared for the petitioner, while Advocate Khursiduzzaman Khan for ACC.

Woman found

and sent it to Dhaka Medical College morgue yesterday. Local people could not

around 22, the police said.

body bore marks of torture and a scarf was wrapped Police suspects that crimi-

kill one, injure 82

A man was killed and 82 people, including two members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), were injured in separate road accidents in Netrakona, Narail

and Dhaka yesterday. Our correspondent in Netrakona reports: A man was killed and 50 others were injured in a road accident on Netrakona-Mymensingh highway at Jhoushi in Netrakona Sadar.

passenger buses collided the colliding ones collided

head-on themselves.

injured in a road accident on Narail-Jessore highway near

Jessore skidded off. The injured were rushed to Narail Sadar Hospital while

Our staff correspondent adds: An assistant superintendent of police of Rab-10 and his driver were injured in a road accident in the city's

Sepoy Mohammad Jamal. Locals rushed both the injured to Dhaka Medical

Combined Military Hospital The accident occurred at around 12:30pm when a Mohakhali-bound bus from

for half an hour.

a press release.

first death anniversary directors of Brothers Ltd, Brothers Garments Ltd, SP

Today is the

of Mainul Islam (Shapon), member of the board of Chemicals Ltd, Dhaka Bank Ltd and Dhaka Phone Ltd, says