## Govt to procure rice from farmers to protect them from loss: PM

UNB, Dhaka

rice direct from the farmers to provide them price support moners. We have reduced the and protect them from any possible loss for market slump time, we will take measures so dropped to Tk 10, the governafter new harvests.

Hasina unveiled the plan the price of rice," she said. while addressing the officials Bangladesh Secretariat yester-

KAILASH SARKAR

ment, sources said.

trations.

chief of the police depart-

police administration be

upgraded as in the other

departments of the adminis-

their demands and proposals

at a meeting of the 'BCS Police

Service Association' at

Rajarbagh Police Lines

They also pointed out

Telecom Auditorium on

various discriminations pre-

vailing in the police depart-

'Govt should take

The government should take

Pakistan to the International

Criminal Court for the genocide

and war crimes in 1971 and

realise compensation,

Convener of the War Crimes

Facts Finding Committee Dr

at the inauguration of 'Geno-

cide Plaque' at the mass grave

of Jagannath Hall on Dhaka

Dhaka University Vice

Four teachers were mur-

Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin

Siddique inaugurated the

dered at the staff quarters in the

early hours of March 26, 1971

and some 36 students of

Jagannath Hall were also killed

on that night and buried in a

mass grave on the hall com-

procedures to try the war crimi-

nals would begin by this month

ple were killed, about 4.5 lakh

women were repressed and one

crore Bangalees had to select

the life of a refugee during the

liberation war in 1971. But the

then Pakistani government had

tried to hide their crimes by

War Museum Akku Chowdhury,

freedom fighter Amin Ahmed

Chowdhury and Jagannath Hall

Provost Prof Ajoy Roy were

present at the programme.

Trustee of the Liberation

terming it a revolt, he added.

Dr Hasan hoped that the

Dr Hasan said 30 lakh peo-

He was talking to newsmen

MA Hasan said yesterday.

University campus.

'Genocide Plaque'.

pound.

Pakistan to Int'l

Criminal Court

for genocide'

DU CORRESPONDENT

Wednesday evening.

The police officials placed

our first priority was to bring alliance government's The government will procure the prices of rice within the buying capacity of the comthat farmers do not suffer any

of Power, Energy and Mineral cure rice from the farmers at distortions. Resources Ministry at such a rate that will be higher than the farmers' production prices of oil have also been cost, she said, explaining in reduced and the government

10 IGP posts, upgradation

Senior police officials have while Home Minister Sahara the government should

of the existing one IGP, and the Tripura, Rapid Action of secretary while it has a total

Khandakar, Special Branch

Chief Additional IGP Zaved

a police official, preferring

anonymity, told this corre-

spondent, "Under the 'Police

Chief', 10 IGPs should lead all

the agencies and institutions

of the police department. Four

IGPs should be the chiefs of

Rab, CID, DB and SB; one

should be appointed as IGP

(administration), one as IGP

(training) and another as IGP

(finance) while the other IGPs

should be the heads of the

institutions, including Police

Agriculture Minister Matia Staff College and Police their demands.

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

A case was filed with a

Mymensingh court against 19

people, including a former

BNP lawmaker, yesterday for

their alleged involvement in

war crimes during the War of

the Monthly Madina Maulana

Mohiuddin Khan, 76, MA Bari,

65, Mozammel Haque, 65,

Khalilur Rahman, 60, Md

Shamsul Haque, 62, Maulana

Tajul Islam, 61, Maulana Md

Helim Khan, 75, Fazlul Haque

Khan, 62, Abdul Khan, 70, Latif

Maulana, 62, Nuru, 70, Nazrul,

58, Lal Miah, 58, Kader Khan

alias Pachu Khan, 62, Ali

Munshi, 75, Nayeb Ali Akanda,

65, Mujibur alias Maji and

from Gafargoan.

Farid Ahmed, 59, -- all hailing

martyred freedom fighter

Mohammad Ali Master of

village Deulpara in Gafargoan,

filed the case with the Senior

In the case, Khalid said his

father Mohammad Ali was the

headmaster of Dubail Primary

School in 1971. During the

liberation war, he started to

organise the freedom fighters.

He also fought a battle with the

occupation Pakistani army at

took part in the war under the

statement that on the night of

August 15, 1971, Mohammad

Ali Master along with his

brother Makbul Hossain, also

12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

degrees Celsius at Sayedpur.

country, Met office said.

5:47am tomorrow.

City/Town

Chittagong

Cox's Bazar

Rajshahi

Khulna

Barisal

Sylhet

Dhaka

Khalid also said in the case

Sector No. 3.

UNB, Dhaka

Goyeshpur and Kawraidh. He sion.

Judicial Magistrate's Court.

Md Abu Khalid, son of

Rahman Sultan, 73, editor of them dead.

Mymensingh

Liberation.

Elaborating their demands,

Chowdhury attended the Training Academy."

meeting as the chief guest Another police official said

Ex-BNP MP, 18 others

The accused are former two brothers to the bank of old

BNP lawmaker from Fazlur Brahmaputra river and shot

sued for war crimes

BCS POLICE SERVICE ASSOC MEETING

of ranks demanded

demanded that at least 10 Khatun as the special guest.

inspectors general of police IGP Nur Mohammad,

(IGPs) be appointed, instead Additional IGP (admin) NBK

post of a 'Police Chief' be Battalion (Rab) Director

They also demanded that Patwary and other senior

introduced, who will be the General Hasan Mahmood

the rank of more posts in the officials were present.

responsive agricultural marketing policy.

"As for example, when the price of rice. But, at the same market price of wheat ment decided to buy wheat at Prime Minister Sheikh loss following the reduction of Tk 14 from the farmers," she said about the timely market The government will pro- intervention to prevent price

Not only rice, skyrocketing

upgrade more posts, as the

entire police department has

only a single post with the rank

The meeting sources said

the police officials also

demanded the inspectors be

granted the rank of a first-class

non-cadre officer and the sub-

inspectors and sergeants the

rank of a second-class non-

increase in the number of

additional IGP, DIG and other

least, causing dissatisfaction

among the police personnel,'

the ministers who were pres-

ent at the meeting assured the

police officials of considering

a freedom fighter, came to

their house. MA Bari, one of

the accused, then informed

the local Razakar camp, Local

collaborators rushed to their

house immediately and took

the two brothers to the camp

and tortured them severely. In

the evening of August 22, the

anti-liberation forces took the

Accepting the case,

Magistrate Begum Farhana

Ferdous asked the police to

take necessary steps after

proper investigation.

'Mahastami

Snan' begins

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Narayanganj

began yesterday.

to 8:00am today.

amid festivities.

of them.

Thundershowers likely

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty

or squally wind is likely to occur at a few places over

Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and at one or two

places over Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions in next

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the

The sun sets in the capital at 6:16pm today and rises at

Country's highest temperature 35.2 degrees Celsius was

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded

Min

23.8

23.3

21.5

24.6

24.0

21.6

23.6

recorded yesterday at Jessore and Mongla and lowest 19.0

in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Max

33.4

31.0

34.2

34.8

33.5

32.0

33.0

Temperature in

Celsius

at Langalbandh

Thousands of Hindu devotees

have gathered at Langolbandh

in Narayanganj to have a holy

dip in the old Brahmaputra as

the Mahastami Snan festival

almanac, the ritual began at

10:31am and will continue up

Nepal, Bhutan and other

countries have also thronged

the river banks on the occa-

According to the Hindu

Devotees from India,

A three-day fair in about 3

There are 13 ghats along

Humidityin

percentage

Evening

54

61

59

73

Morning

78

70

92

64

km area is also being held

the banks of the Brahmaputra,

but the devotees are using 11

said another police official.

senior police officials.

They also demanded an

"We do the most but get the

Sources also said that both

of 1590 cadres.

cadre officer.

"When we assumed office, advance her centre-left grand has decided to give necessary subsidy on fertiliser, said Hasina, whose government took the remedial steps when there were allegations of market manipulation by business syndicates.

METROPOLITAN/NEWS

"Our main aim is to ensure commoners' welfare. We will do everything possible so that people of fixed-income group who lead honest life do not face any hardship in living a decent life," she said.

Death anniversary METRO DESK



Today is the 30th death anniversary of chief justice Syed

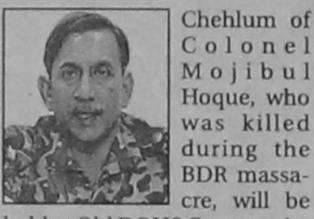
jurist and a prominent constitutional lawyer of the subcontinent, says a press release.

On the occasion, Qurankhwani will be held at his mazar at Banani and Syed Mahbub Murshed Memorial Committee will place wreaths. A milad mahfil will also be held at his residence at NW-A5, Road 68, Gulshan in the city after Asr prayers.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in a message paid tributes to the late chief justice and prayed for salvation of the departed soul.

### Chehlum

METRO DESK



Colonel Mojibul Hoque, who was killed during the BDR massacre, will be

held at Old DOHS Community Centre at Banani in the city after Asr prayers today. All friends, admirers and

relatives are requested to attend the Chehlum and pray mises at Mirpur in the city. for the eternal peace of the army officers killed in the

Col Mojib left behind his wife, two sons, a daughter, two brothers and a sister alongside a number of friends and admirers.

Hosne Ara Khanam

METRO DESK



Chehlum of Hosne Ara Khanam wife of late Prof Dr AK Rafiqullah, will be held at House # 173, Gulshan Avenue, Gulshan

# 2, after Asr prayers today, says a press release. She passed away at Dhaka on February 26 after pro-

longed illness. She is survived by two sons,

a daughter and three grand children. Relatives and well-wishers

are requested to attend the Chehlum and pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

# DHAKA

#### Art exhibition

The inaugural ceremony of an exhibition of artworks titled 'Lyrics of line' by noted Indian artist Sanat Kar will be held. Venue: Bengal Shilpalaya. Time: 6:00pm.

#### **Annual sports**

The annual sports and prize giving ceremony of Kurmitola High School will be held. Venue: School premises. Time: 2:30pm.

### **Painting exhibition**

The inaugural ceremony of a photography and painting exhibition titled "For the love of Egypt' by Aadil Hoque will be held. Venue: Drik

### Gallery. Time: 5:00pm.

Handicraft fair The students of Kanan, the education centre of Autism Welfare Foundation, organise a two-day handicraft fair beginning today. Venue: House # 38/40, Road # 4, Pisciculture Housing Society,

Mohammadpur. Time: 10:00am.

#### Exhibition

The inaugural ceremony of an exhibition of thematic wood engravings by Naresh Kumar Sutradhar, a village carpenter, will be held, Venue: Nolinikanta Bhattyashali Gallery, National Museum. Time: 4:30pm.



Prof Sultana S Zaman, founder president of Bangladesh Protibandhi Foundation (BPF), and other guests look at artworks by autistic and disadvantaged children at an exhibition on the foundation premises in the city yesterday. United Nations Information Centre and BPF jointly organised the event.

WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY OBSERVED

# Call to turn autism Mahbub Murshed, an eminent into strength

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 2nd World Autism Awareness Day was observed in the country yesterday with a call for raising awareness about autism to turn this special ability into strength.

Experts also called for treating autism as special ability, not weakness and its early diagnosis and intervention since it enhances the chance of people with autism achieve their full potential.

Study says that autism is the fastest-growing serious developmental disability in the world and it affects as many as 1 in every 150 chil-

Boys are four times more likely than girls to be diagnosed with autism, it added.

Different organisations chalked out elaborate programmes to mark the day.

United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) and president of Shishu and Bangladesh Protibondhi Foundation (BPF) jointly organised a discussion and art exhibition on the BPF pre-

Speakers at the discussion said mothers have a more important role to play in early detection of autism among children.

Prof Dr Sultana S Zaman, president and founder of BPF, said mothers spend more time

possible for them to identify autism at an early stage and now mothers are more aware, Library auditorium.

of schools for the autistic children should have more interaction to develop strategies to involve autistic children in general social activities, she added. Kazi Ali Reza, officer-in-

charge of UNIC Dhaka centre, said autistic children are unique in many ways and they should not be discriminated for their exceptional feature.

just one class, a country or a international autism day is to create awareness among the fortheir welfare. masses and to mainstream the autistic children," he added.

Dr Naila Zaman Khan, professor of Shishu Hospital Bikash, Dr Shamim Ferdous, executive director of BPF, Anuza Begum, principal of BPF, were present.

The discussion was followed by an art exhibition on Independence Day. A total of 42 artworks were selected for the exhibition where 220 autistic children from 7 centres of BPF across the country

took part. Meanwhile, Autism Welfare SWAC, also spoke.

with the children. So, it is Foundation organised a discussion and cultural programme at the Public

Autistic children of the Mothers and the teachers foundation's school and their teachers performed at the programme. Social Welfare Minister

Enamul Haq Mustafa Shaheed was present on the occasion as the chief guest.

Society for the Welfare of Autistic Children (SWAC) also held a discussion at Social Service Department auditorium in the city. Speakers at the discussion

"Autism is not a problem of stressed the need for conducting a census immediately to region. It can be faced by find out the exact figure of anyone. The objective of the autistic children in order to take an integrated action plan With a call for observing

the day at state level, the speakers also urged the government to establish a training centre of international standard for the autistic children and their guardians.

Mansur Ahmed Chowdhury, managing director of Jatiya Protibandhi Unnayan Foundation, Engineer Anwar Hossain, chairman of SWAC, Khandaker Jahurul Alam, president of Jatiya Protibandhi Forum, and Sabina Hossain, president of

#### Doctor held in connection with killing of BCL leader at DMC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) members yesterday arrested a doctor from Comilla in connection with the killing of Abul Kalam Asad, general secretary of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) Dhaka Medical College unit, on Monday night.

The arrestee was identified as Dr Kamrul Hasan, a doctor who practices at a private clinic and a member of Swadhinata Chikitsak Parishad.

Later, he was handed over to Lalbagh police in the eve-

Meanwhile, BCL central committee yesterday suspended nine members of DMC unit BCL.



### Appeal for help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Md Arif, a 15-year-old boy, has been suffering from Guillain-Barré syndrome, an acute illness which leads to muscle weakness, complete paralysis and breathing difficulty. The boy, hailing from East

Jagannathpur at Birampur in Dinajpur, is now undergoing treatment at Bangladesh Medical Collage in the city, says a press release. According to doctors, Arif

needs to be given IGV injection urgently to save his life. The cost of his treatment amounts to Tk 10,000 to 12,000 a day.

But it is quite impossible for his parents to afford such an expensive treatment as his father is suffering from paralysis and his mother works as a domestichelp.

His mother has appealed to generous people and philanthropic organisations to extend a helping hand to save

Contributions can be sent to Chowdhury Morselina Akter, Savings Account No. 14621010007905, Prime Bank, Dhanmondi Branch, Dhaka.

Phone: 01672616718.

# Out with the lonely warrior

FROM PAGE 1

2008, the ACC boss said that the commission dealt with over 1,100 cases since February 2007 after his takeover.

In another interview with the same newspaper in end-January this year, Mashhud said, "What bothers me most at this time is that the number of cases in which we got verdict is only 10 percent of the cases filed. If we had initiated 100 cases, we got verdict only in 10 cases in the last two years. So, we have to have a better mechanism for disposal of more cases -- at least at the trial court level. And that is a

time-consuming process." Mashhud's success could be termed mixed as things got stuck in courts. According to the ACC's annual report, it has filed 384 cases until June 2008. Other organisations such as police have filed 710 cases, which are being pursued by the ACC. Among these, 643 cases were in the process of investigation, chargesheets of 156 have been submitted and about 17 are being processed. Writ petitions have been filed

people were asked to submit their wealth statements of whom 273 have submitted the same while 32 did not comply who are mostly in hiding.

The corruption cases ACC filed are against political bigwigs, who are mostly from One of the peak challenge

for Mashhud was dealing with corruption allegations against the two former prime ministers Sheikh Hasina, Khaleda Zia and two of her sons ---Tarique Rahman and Arafat Rahman Koko. But on occasions the com-

mission had to compromise about the drive against some bigwig politicians when the question of holding election became the prime concern Mashhud also had to face

the big challenge of running the anti-graft drive by absorbing the staffs from defunct Bureau of Anti-Corruption, who were known as mostly corrupt and unskilled to deal grand corruption. Even many of the staffs

against 265 cases. Some 314 were not comfortable to work under Mashhud's manage-During the regime of

> caretaker government National Coordination Committee (NCC) to combat crime and corruption had been always a help to the anti-graft body in investigating an allegation against corruption accused. After NCC was dissolved in

> December last year the ACC felt the necessity of getting help from external experts and recommended inclusion of a provision in the ACC Act to allow the commission to form a temporary team of experts from the defence and other government institutions. The recommendations were

> sent to the cabinet for approval this year, but it was sent back to ACC for further review. With the coming of a politi-

cal government in power after the December 29, 2008 general elections, ACC's activities almost stalled and there was a palpable sense of frustration among the ACC officials. Since then it only dealt with further boost.

two cases filing of a money laundering case against Arafat Rahman Koko, younger son of former prime minister Khaleda Zia, and issuing a notice to submit wealth statement to Syed Iskander, brother of Khaleda.

All the persons who were accused or sentenced in graft cases filed by the ACC ultimately came out of jails on bail. And many of the convicts and accused who were on the run since the anti-graft drive by the past caretaker government are now back in the country. Many of the accused and convicts also participated in elections.

And finally, it was evident that Mashhud, who fell out of favour with politicians of both camps -- AL and BNP -- and of a certain quarter of the business community had become a lonely warrior.

It was then that a sense of frustration crept into public minds and the apprehension about the fate of the anti-graft drive grew larger. With the exit of the ACC boss, this fear got a

### Power crisis must be resolved now

FROM PAGE 1

plants, she suggested that not install a single power plant spare electricity is sought form neighbouring countries that can be imported for an immediate remedy.

Hasina observed that if the four-party alliance and the last caretaker governments had followed the power policy adopted by the previous Awami League (AL) government, the country would not have to suffer from the present electricity crunch.

"When we came to power in 1996, country's total power generation was only 1600 megawatt (MW) which was increased to 4,300 MW during our five-year tenure. We had adopted a power policy that electricity generation would be increased estimating the total national demand every

The prime minister went on saying: "But, unfortunately, the BNP-led four-party alliance did not follow our power policy.

year," she said.

The alliance government did in its tenure." The premier deplored that

hundreds of crores of taka had been allocated for the power sector during the BNP-Jamaat regime, but the nation got nothing out of the public money. She said Bangladesh has

the scope and potential for producing necessary electricity. To make that happen, the country needs only initiatives. Hasina stressed the need

for setting up coal-fired power plants and a plant in Bhola district as gas has been found there from which electricity can be supplied to the southern part of the country.

Laying emphasis on alternative sources of power, the prime minister said the fountains that flow downhill in Chittagong and Sylhet dis- crisis. tricts, water bodies like haors and baors can be used for

producing hydroelectricity.

power can be effective alternatives to traditionallyproduced electricity. Mentioning the two pilot

Besides, solar and wind

projects, in Noakhali for wind energy and another in Narsingdi for solar energy, initiated by the last AL government, she said the present government already withdrew all taxes from the solar-energy producing systems.

Hasina said solar energy can be used in offices, educational institutions and hostels in urban areas on a large scale. "Installation cost of solar panel may be very high. But we do not have any alternative said. either. We must do it for the public good."

The prime minister also called for properly utilising the foreign investment potential to ease the electricity

"After a long time Bangladesh has got a democratically elected government

in our country. We will have to make best use of the investment potential," she said. The premier said it will take time to set up new power plants, but decision has to be taken

which will inspire the foreign-

ers to invest in larger volumes

immediately as to how soon new plants can be installed. "As we had been successful in giving the nation necessary electricity in 1996, this time also

we will be successful as there is no way but to work for the welfare of the people," she said. "We will have to be successful in removing all problems for welfare of the masses," she

Prime minister's Adviser for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Towfiq-e-Elahi

Chowdhury, State Minister Shamsul Haque Tuku, Power Secretary Nasiruddin Ahmed, Energy Secretary Mohammad Mohsin and prime minister's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azadwere present.



held at Banani Bazaar masque after Asr prayers tomorrow.

# STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Obituary

Zakir Hossain Akand (Badal), a freedom fighter, passed away due to a cardiac arrest while chanting slogan at a protest rally in New York on Sunday at the age of 55, says a press releases. He left behind his wife, one

son, one daughter to mourn his death. His body was flown to

Matin Uddin

Ahmed Bara

Bhuuiyan,

founder

managing

director of

Shahajalal

Islami Bank

Bangladesh yesterday. Matin Uddin Ahmed



Al-Arafa Islami Bank and director of Dhaka Bank passed away due to a cardiac arrest yesterday at United Hospital in the city, says a press release. His namaz-e-janaza will be