SECURITY OF VIPS

# Cabinet body nods PMO to buy 3 frequency jammers

UNB, Dhaka

Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs vesterday approved a proposal moved by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) to procure three vehicle mounted frequency jammers (VMFJ) for security purpose of the

Initially, one VMFJ will be procured and then two others will be purchased in phases. The Special Security Force (SSF) will use the equipment for the VIPs.

briefed reporters about the outcome of the committee's meeting, however, gave no details of the proposal.

money will be required to purchase the highly sophisticated equipment, which will be used to create restrictions in the mobile phone frequency during the movement of (BFIDC) for using those in foodstorage.

Razzaq gets

anticipatory

bail from HC

The High Court (HC) yesterday

granted six months' anticipa-

tory bail to Jamaat-e-Islami

leader barrister Abdur Razzaq in

connection with the BDR

Razzaq, the HC bench of Justice

MA Wahhab Miah and Justice

Marzi-ul Huq also issued a rule

upon the government to show

cause within six weeks why the

petitioner should not be

bench yesterday fixed April 6

(today) for passing order on

Razzaq's contempt petition

He filed the contempt peti-

tion for obstructing him from

going to Malaysia and

Singapore on March 19 despite

having an HC order to visit the

Asked whether the govern-

ment will appeal with the

Supreme Court (SC) against the

HC order, Attorney General

Mahbubey Alam told The Daily

Star that he did not receive such

instructions from the govern-

petition yesterday, Razzaq's

lawyer Rafiqul Islam Mia argued

before the court that his client

had no association with the

The Criminal Investigation

Department (CID) notice for

interrogation was to serve

political purpose to harass

bench, upon two separate

petitions filed by Razzaq,

granted him anticipatory bail

on March 29 and directed the

government not to harass or

arrest him in this case till yester-

As the tenure of the order

The CID authorities issued a

expired, Razzaq yesterday filed

a fresh petition with the HC

notice on March 28 asking

Razzaq to appear with his pass-

port for an interrogation on the

Pilkhana carnage case at its

with the HC on March 29 chal-

lenging the legitimacy of the

CID letter. He prayed to the

stay the notice, but directed the

government to consider him as

a witness, not an accused, in the

case during the interrogation

Following the HC order,

Abdur Razzaq appeared at the

and return his passport.

CID office duly.

The HC, however, did not

court to stay the CID notice.

Razzaq filed a writ petition

Malibagh office on March 30.

seeking bail in this case.

Earlier, the HC vacation

Pilkhana carnage.

Razzag, he said.

During the hearing of the

ment till yesterday afternoon.

Meanwhile, another HC

granted regular bail.

against government.

countries.

After hearing a petition by

mutiny case.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

VIPs in specific areas.

MoU Signing Ceremony

Paribartan - Driving Change

has given waiver to the proposal so that the PMO can procure the equipment without complying with the Public Procurement Act a committee to review and examine a for-

It means the PMO will not need to invite any tender for this purchase and can buy the equipment from any country or company through negotiation.

The proposal received the cabinet committee nod at a time when the security issue Cabinet Secretary M Abdul Aziz, who of the VIPs is being widely discussed at auditreporton BIWTA.

The cabinet committee meeting, with Finance Minister AMA Muhith in the chair, It could not be ascertained how much approved another proposal of the food ministry to procure 32,400 pieces of wooden planks from Bangladesh Forest Industries Development Corporation

A waiver was given to the food ministry The cabinet economic affairs committee for which it will not need to pay any security deposit to BFIDC.

> The cabinet committee decided to form eign ministry proposal to procure an apartment in New York for Bangladesh Permanent Mission there.

The shipping ministry placed before the cabinet meeting a report on Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA). The report was prepared on the basis of an

Responding to another proposal of the expatriate welfare and overseas employment ministry, the cabinet committee asked the authorities concerned to make coordination among the youth training centres for creating skilled manpower to increase opportunities of overseas employ-



Pakistan High Commissioner Alamgir Mohammad Babar pays a courtesy call on BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia at her Gulshan office in the city yesterday.

### 4 donors sign MoU with TIB to support

METRO DESK

Four leading bilateral development organisations -- DFID of the UK, SIDA of Sweden, SDC of Switzerland and Danish embassy -- yesterday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) to support its new initiative, says a press release.

new initiative

Consistent with the poverty reduction strategy paper (PRSP) and implemented with the approval of the government, the project titled 'Paribartan -Driving Change' aims at achiev ing positive changes in policies and practices conducive to accountable and transparent governance in the country.

The objectives of the project include strengthening national integrity system, reducing costs of corruption and improving citizens' access to entitlements through a strengthened and sustained social movement against corruption.

- Working through an intensified national level, advocacy and an up-scaled local-level citizens' engagement, the project will strive to achieve better enforcement of policies, laws and rules at both national and local levels.

The total budget of the project is \$19.6 million (Tk 135 crores) which will cover programmatic and operational expenses of the anti-graft watchdog and its 45 local offices across the country called 'Committee of Concerned Citizens' for five years from April 2009 to March 2014.

DFID Country Representative Chris Austin, Swedish Ambassador Britt F Hagstrom, Danish Ambassador Einar Hebogaard Jensen, Swiss Ambassador Dora Rapold and TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman signed the MoU at TIB office in the city.

TIB Chairman Prof Muzaffer Ahmad and two trustees Prof Khan Sarwar Murshid and Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed and head of mission of SDC were present at the signing ceremony.

The representatives from donor agencies expressed their continued commitment to support the anti-corruption movement in Bangladesh



#### Seminar

Humanities organises a seminar on 'Hazrat Imam Khomeini: Some aspects of his socio-political innovations'. Venue: 434 Lecture theatre, DU. Time: 4:00pm.

Centre for Advanced Research in

### **CPD** dialogue

Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) organises a dialogue on 'Ongoing WTO Doha round negotiations: Concern and interests of Bangladesh and other LDCs'. Venue: Brac Centre Inn. Time: 3:30pm.

#### Seminar

Bangladesh College-University Teachers' Association organises seminar on 'Mondemisation of education: Immediate initiatives'. Venue National Press Club. Time: 3:00pm.

Book fair

The inaugural ceremony of a book fair organised by Bangladesh National Unesco Club Association will be held. Venue: Public Library. Time: 10:00am.

#### Seminar

Bangladesh Society of Agronomy organises a seminar on 'Climate change and challenges of food security Bangladesh perspective'. Venue Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council auditorium. Time: 3:00pm.

# 25m people at risk of arsenic contamination Speakers tell conference that because of the mitigation each other to ensure access to

efforts by the government with

opment partners 14 percent of

the people living in arsenic-

drinking water.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

About 20-25 million people of the support of several develthe country are at risk of exposure to arsenic contamination, speakers said yesterday at the inaugural ceremony of an international conference. They also said there are exposed to arsenic," he said

more than 8,000 villages in the country which are at the risk of arsenic contamination.

Department of Public Health and Engineering (DPHE) and United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) jointly organised the five-day conference at a city hotel where around 53 experts and government delegates from 12 Asian countries including Bangladesh are taking part.

Sheikh Kurshed Alam, secretary of Local Government Division (LGD) inaugurated the conference.

Speaking as the chief guest Kurshed Alam said the country has long been suffering from arsenic problem. "We have to ensure safe water for all," he said adding that regional support is imperative to face the crisis.

Unicef Representative Carel de Rooy said around 60 million people in the world are at risk of exposure to high levels of arsenic contamination and more than 80 percent of these people live in Asia. Around two-third of this people live in two countries -India and Bangladesh, he

"Bangladesh has accomplished a lot in terms of arsenic mitigation during the last decade," he said adding

#### Prof Tofail made NU pro-VC STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday appointed new pro-vice chancellor and warer of National University (NU). It also appointed new trea-

surer of Bangladesh Open University (BOU). Prof Tofail Ahmed

Chowdhury of chemistry department of Dhaka University has been appointed pro-vice chancellor and Prof Quazi Farruque Ahmed, former principal of Sheikh Borhanuddin Post-Graduate College and chief coordinator of National Front of Teachers and Employees, has been appointed

Prof Shanti Narayan Gosh of Accounting and Information System department of Dhaka University has been appointed treasurer of Bangladesh Oper University.

treasurer of the National

University.

which was also addressed by affected area of the country have already switched to safe Shahjahan Ali Mollah, joint secretary of LGD, Hans Spruijt, "But millions more remain water, environment and sanitation (WES) chief of the Unicef, and Mark Henderson, urging the government, civil Unicef East Asia and Pacific society, private sector and Regional Adviser. communities to complement

safe water.

## 2 shop employees shot

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two shop employees were shot during a gunfight between two groups of criminals in the city's Basabo under Sabujbagh Police

### Swiss help for economic dev sought

UNB, Dhaka

State Minister for Environment and Forest Advocate Mostafizur Rahman yesterday sought more assistance from Switzerland for the economic development of the country.

The state minister made the request when Swiss Ambassador Dr Dora Rapold called on him at his office.

During the meeting, they discussed matter relating to the bilateral issues and mutual interests, particularly climate change of Bangladesh and environment related Switzerland-based projects.

Terming Bangladesh one of the most climate vulnerable countries in the world, Mostafiz sought all out support and cooperation from Switzerland to mitigate the bad impacts of climate change.

Head of operation of Swiss without any hindrance. Agency for Development and Cooperation Joseph Guntern was present.

Station last night. Critically injured employee

Kawsar Ahmed was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, while the other was identified as Harun, who received minor injuries. Sources said the criminals

Mustafizur Rahman, chief

engineer of the DPHE, pre-

sided over the conference

were locked into clashes following an internal feud at around 9:00pm at Patwari lane. At one stage, they sprayed

gunshots indiscriminately which wounded the nearby shop employees.

Sabujbagh police said they could not arrest anybody in this connection.

### Tk 70,000 snatched from bus counter

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A gang of muggers snatched away around Tk 70,000 from a bus counter at Phulbari in the city leaving its manager stabinjured last night.

The muggers entered the bus counter with machetes and knives at around 7:00pm and swooped on the manager as he resisted them snatching the amount. Snatching the amount they left the scene

When contacted, police said they are not aware of the incident.



Justice Gholam Rabbani speaks at a press conference organised by Governance Advocacy Forum at the Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium in the city yesterday. On his right are Mohsin Ali and Taleya Rahman and on his left is Harun-or-Rashid. (Story on Page 16)

## Rajshahi has potential of 125MW power plant PDB survey team briefs RCC Mayor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

years, a PDB survey team lackofapowerplant. informed RCC Mayor AHM Khairuzzaman Liton yester-

day. The four-member team led Barapukuria coal mine is easy by Latifur Rahman, chief and establishment of gas pipeengineer of Rajshahi Power lines in Rajshahi is underway. Distribution Centre, met the mayor at his office after completing a two-day survey at the

skirts of the city. The survey team was water to the plant is already at ent.

formed following a proposal of the site. the mayor for setting up of a 40-MW power plant at Katakhali to Rajshahi has potential for the concerned ministry as the setting up of a 125-megawatt city dwellers are suffering from (MW) coal-fired power plant acute load-shedding and

They informed that coal or gas can be used as fuel of the plant as carrying coal from

They also said that necessary water for the power plant Manager Debashish Das, would be available from the Superintendent Engineer of site at Katakhali on the out- nearby Padma river and an Rajshahi PDB Arjad Hossain infrastructure for carrying the and senior officials were pres-

Other members of the team

include Executive Engineer of PDB Design-1 Kazi Absar Uddin Ahmed, Deputy Director Debabrata Ukil and at Katakhali within three erratic power supply due to Executive Engineer (Planning) AK Mahmud. They said establishment of

the power plant would take only three years instead of normal six to seven years as an infrastructure for such plant is already there. Power Grid Company

#### AL lawmaker Latif misbehaves 1 with govt official yet again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg.

Awami League lawmaker from Chittagong-10 (Bandar and Patenga) constituency MA Latif once again misbehaved with a government official yesterday.

After being criticised for his behaviour with an additional inspector general of police on board a flight few months ago, MA Latif yesterday reminded the member (engineering) of Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) of his position and power as a member of parliament (MP).

The unpleasant incident took place when the sixmember Public Undertaking Committee - Parliamentary Committee on Government Organisations - was visiting different jetties inside Chittagong port.

While accompanying them as the local MP, Latif provided the committee members with some information on New Mooring Container Terminal (NCI) that the official concerned of CPA couldn't agree with.

He once again put up some complaints regarding NCT activities to the committee while visiting jetty no 4. At this point, CPA Member (Engineering) Captain Zubaer Ahmed tried to refute the allegation when Latif challenged the CPA member to prove him wrong.

As Zubaer was about to explain his position, MA Latif rushed towards him raising his

"I am a member of parliament," he reminded the CPA

"You are not allowed to talk until I ask you," he shouted. The CPA official stepped back immediately to see the situation does not turn worse.

The incident created an embarrassing situation for the CPA officials as well as for the visiting committee members.

Latif, also the president of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI), also misbehaved with customs officials at a meeting with NBR chairman at CCCI conference room on Saturday.

#### Maintain status quo HC asks Ittefaq

STAFF CORRESPONDENT The High Court (HC) vesterday directed the authorities concerned to maintain status quo for three months in respect of management and publication of the daily Ittefaq by the Ittefaq Group of

Publications Limited. After hearing a writ petition, an HC bench of Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain and Justice Quamrul Islam Siddiqui issued a rule upon the authorities to explain why the letter issued by the Additional District Magistrate of Dhaka declaring Anwar Hossain Manju as printer and publisher of the Ittefaq should not be declared

A lawyer concerned told The Daily Star that following the HC order the name of Saju Hosein, one of the directors of the Ittefag Group of Publications Limited, will be published as printer and publisher of the Ittefag.

The Information Secretary, District Magistrate and Additional District Magistrate of Dhaka, the Ittefaq Group of Publications Limited, Saju Hossain and Anwar Hossain Manju have been asked to reply to the HCrule.

Additional District Magistrate

of Dhaka, on March 25, issued the

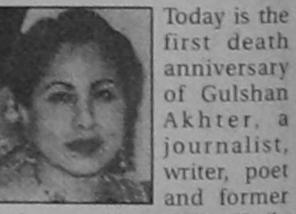
letter to Saju Hosein, declaring Anwar Hossain as printer and publisher of the Ittefaq. Saju Hossain, wife of company's executive director-1, earlier applied to the district magistrate of

Dhaka to declare her as permanent printer and publisher of the newspaper. On October 17, 2007, the district magistrate permitted Saju Hossain to discharge as printer

and publisher of the Ittefaq for a temporary period. Moinul Hosein vesterday filed writ petition with the HC chal-

lenging the legality of March 25 letter of the additional district magistrate. Deputy Attorney General Razik-Al Jalil was present for the state.

#### Death anniversary STAFF CORRESPONDENT



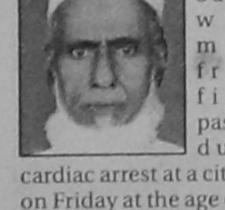
journalist, writer, poet and former assistant editor of the Daily Jugantor, says a press release.

She passed away due to cancer on this day last year. She was the treasurer of

Dhaka Union of Journalist (DUJ), vice president of Bangladesh Women Journalists' Forum, senior vice-president of Bangladesh Music Journalists' Association and vice-president of Bangabandhu Jubo Parishad. Relatives, admirers and

colleagues have been requested to pray for salvation ofher departed soul.

## Obituary STAFF CORRESPONDENT



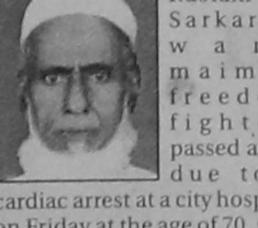
on Saturday.

Rustam Ali Sarkar, a warmaimed freedom

fighter, a press release.

at his village in Brahmanbaria

due to a cardiac arrest at a city hospital on Friday at the age of 70, says He was buried with state



passed away honour at his family graveyard

# new HC judges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

judges to implement separation of the judiciary.

in the city.

the lawyers. cases will also be reduced grad-

Shafique further said that as lawyers of the country and will

Newly elected President and Secretary of SCBA AFM

Mesbahuddin and SM Rezaul

country, Met office said.

5:44am tomorrow.

Celsius at Dinajpur.

City/Town

Chittagong

Cox's Bazar

Rajshahi

Khulna

Barisal

Sylhet

Dhaka

Karim and outgoing secretary rally.

Thundershowers likely

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty

or squally wind is likely to occur at one two places over

Rajshahi, Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the

The sun sets in the capital at 6:17pm today and rises at

Country's highest temperature 37.0 degrees Celsius was

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded

Min

25.6

24.2

24.0

26.3

25.5

22.0

24.8

recorded yesterday at Mongla and lowest 19.7 degrees

divisions in next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Max

34.3

31.0

34.5

34.6

33.6

31.8

33.0

Temperature in

Celsius

## BACKLOG OF PENDING CASES

pending cases at the HC causing sufferings to the litigants, but those cannot be disposed quickly of due to shortage of judges, he said, adding that the government will provide logistic supports for the lower court Sangbadik Sramik Karmachari

The minister was presiding over a meeting at the handover ceremony of the charge of Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) to its newly elected office bearers at its auditorium

that the number of the pending

# Says law minister

lawmaker Nurul Islam Sujan

backed Sammilita Ainjibi

Shamannay Parishad led by

Mesbahuddin and Rezaul won

SSKOP token

strike on

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Oikya Parishad (SSKOP) will

hold a token strike on April 12

demanding implementation

of the 7th Wage Board Award in

all the newspaper houses and

formation of a national news-

The leaders of the Parishad

said though implementation

of the wage board is obligatory

for every newspaper house,

most of the newspapers and

news agencies have not imple-

They demanded the gov-

ernment take proper steps to

solve the problems of different

national dailies, including the

Observer, the Janakantha and

The Oikva Parishad leaders

They also sought the gov-

announced to hold the strike

at a rally at the National Press

Club to realise their demands.

ernment intervention in

taking legal action against the

owners of newspapers and

news agencies who are not

implementing the wage

Parishad Iqbal Sobhan

Chowdhury presided over the

Co-convener of the Oikya

Humidityin

percentage

Evening

63

77

73

Morning

69

87

76

83

78

69

the Dinkal.

mented the wage board yet.

paper industry policy.

Apr 12

The ruling Awami League-

addressed the meeting.

Law Minister Shafique Ahmed vesterday said the government would take steps soon to appoint some competent, honest and neutral judges to the the landslide victory in the polls High Court (HC) in order to on March 25. relieve the lingants of their woes through speedy disposal of the

There is a huge backlog of

ernment has a plan to make compulsory the alternative

the courts in the mediation of within a very short time through

a lawyer, he is aware of the problems of the judges and try his best to solve the prob-

pending cases.

Shafique Ahmed was the outgoing president of the SCBA. The minister said the govdispute resolution (ADR) system to dispose the cases outside

The commercial cases and Ittefaq, The Bangladesh family disputes can be settled easily and at minimum cost the ADR system, he said, adding

#### Representatives from four development organisations, TIB Chairman Prof Muzaffer Ahmad and trustees Prof Khan Sarwar Murshid and Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed pose for photograph after signing an MoU at TIB office in the city yesterday.

# Steps soon to appoint