PM briefs

president

about govt

Zillur Rahman of various

decisions taken by her gov-

ernment in its first three

dent of the new government's

functions when she called on

president posted about dif-

ferent debates in the first

session of the Ninth

faction over the government's

wanted to know about the

president's health condi-

tion," said President's Press

Secretary Abdul Awal

President leaves

President Zillur Rahman left

for Singapore last night for a

medical check-up at Mount

A regular flight of

Singapore Airlines carrying

the president took off from the

Zia International Airport at

president, Secretary to the

President's Office

Military Secretary to the

President Brig Gen Md

Ehtesham Ul Haque and

President's personal physi-

cian Brig Gen Sayedur

Rahman accompanied the

DMC reopens

Family members of the

Mohammad Shafiul Alam,

for Singapore

role in the three months.

Zillur expressed his satis-

"During the call on, Hasina

The PM also kept the

him at Bangabhaban.

Hasina apprised the presi-

months.

Parliament.

Howlader.

UNB, Dhaka

11:55pm.

president.

Saturday

Elizabeth Hospital.

KHALEDA'S HOUSE

decision

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

Those who had allocated the

land of the army to Khaleda

should be tried first, since they

had showed excessive loyalty to

her, Mahbubey Alam told The

Nobody has the right to

The government has taken an

initiative to protect the interest of

the army as well as the nation by

bringing back the properties

through cancellation of the

allotment of the land, the attor-

land is used to build houses for

the family members of army

officers killed during the BDR

decision was taken legally,

Mahbubey Alam said: "We will

look into this aspect when the

When asked whether the

Now it would be better if the

allocate the property earmarked

for the army for any particular

Daily Star at his office.

individual, he added.

ney general said.

mutiny, he added.

JS body asks Jiban Bima to remove anomalies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expressing deep resentment over gross irregularities and confusions in the activities of Jiban Bima Corporation (JBC), a parliamentary standing committee yesterday asked it to remove all its anomalies as soon as possible.

The Parliamentary Standing per their recommendations. Committee on Public Undertaking expressed wonder to observe that JBC audit objections as old as of twenty years that related huge money still remain unresolved.

The committee members headed. stunned to observe vagueness in reinsurance activities of JBC, the lone state-owned life insurance company in the country.

Some members of the committee strongly criticised the officials of JBC for not being able to clarify queries of the commit-

tion BNP Zainul Abdin and confusions in its activities," present at the meeting.

SC to let him

use bank

accounts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former law minister Moudud

Ahmed MP yesterday filed a

petition with the Supreme

Court (SC) to allow him to use

his bank accounts, which were

made frozen during the imme-

diate past caretaker govern-

on the petition, chamber

judge of the SC Justice Md

Abdul Aziz sent it to the full

bench of the apex court and

The SC earlier stayed a

High Court (HC) verdict that

had directed the government

to allow reactivation of all

frozen bank accounts and

unfreezing of his (Moudud)

March 16 stayed the HC ver-

Division extended the cham-

ber judge order, and also asked

the government to file a regu-

lar leave to appeal with the SC

against the HC verdict within

upheld the HC order that had

allowed Moudud to withdraw

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 with-

himself moved the petition,

while Additional Attorney

General M Enayetur Rahim

Norway's state

secretary due

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Norway's State Secretary for

International Development

Hakon Arald Gulbrandsen will

pay a 4-day visit to Bangladesh

beginning April 18 to discuss

various issues, including cli-

mate change, with government

visit is climate change, mitiga-

tion, adaptation, and women

and gender and labour market

issues, according to an official

announcement of the Royal

Norwegian Embassy in Dhaka

white paper on the prevention

of humanitarian disasters.

Bangladesh, Vietnam, China

and Cuba are suggested coun-

tries for initial cooperation in

Bangladesh enjoy a longstand-

ing history as development

Officials said Norway and

This visit will provide oppor-

The state secretary will hold

discussions with ministers,

Norway has recently issued a

The thematic focus for the

leaders.

vesterday.

this area.

partners.

on April 18

stood for the government.

Barrister Moudud Ahmed

The apex court, however, misleading the probe.

bank accounts and FDRs.

The HC on March 4 ordered

The SC chamber judge on

On March 23, the Appellate

FDRs of Moudud.

dict for one week.

three weeks.

draw the money.

fixed April 12 for its hearing.

Without passing any order

Farroque attended the meeting for a short period.

Meanwhile, Opposition complex. Chief Whip Zainul Abdin Farroque in parliament on Tuesday said opposition members would not attend the parliamentary standing committee meeting if the committees were not reconstituted as

"We have observed irregularities between the share of profits and expenditures of Jiban Bima Corporation," Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir told reporters after the meeting he

"Have you attended the meeting to taught us on plus and minus," Dr TIM Fazle Rabbi, a member of the committee, criticised a high official of JBC for his failure to clarify on premium and profit accounts of IBC, meeting sources said.

"We have directed both the The lone member in the finance ministry and IBC to committee from the opposi- remove its huge irregularities Gen (retd) SK Abu Bakr were

petition with CID records statement of

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

day recorded the statement

Corporation (DCC)

attack on an AL rally in 2004.

CID sources said they

recorded Mokles's statement

as he was arrested following

the confession of Joj Miah

who was forced by three

former CID officers to give

confessional statements on

ment as an witness to the

attack. He was called at

3:00pm and we quizzed him

till 5:00pm", said Assistant

Superintendent of Police

(ASP) Rownakul Huq

Chowdhury of CID, also the

investigation officer (IO) of

the case filed against three

summoned Saibal Saha

Partho, arrested for sending

an e-mail threatening AL

chief Sheikh Hasina, to

appear at the CID's

Malibagh headquarters on

the questioning, Moksles

said former CID investiga-

10 leaders of

Ahle Hadith

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ten top leaders of Ahle Hadith

Andolon resigned from the

party on Tuesday after accus-

ing its Ameer Dr Muhammad

Asadullah al Galib of anti-

Galib's chief assistant Abdus

Salam Salafi, Nayebe Ameer

Maulana M Uddin, publicity

secretary Maulana Abdul Latif

and social welfare secretary

Latif said more Ahle Hadith

In a press release, Abdul

Maulana Golam Azam.

leaders will follow suit.

The ten leaders include

resign

party activities.

CID sources said during

April 12 for questioning.

"We recorded his state-

the grenade attack.

attack case.

commissioner Mokhles

The Criminal Investigation name him and therefore the

Department (CID) yester- CID had arrested him on

Commissioner Mokhlesur 2004 CID officers arrested

Rahman in connection with Saibal Saha Partho from the

Mokhles, a Dhaka city Partho are now on bail as

Awami League (AL) leader, the present IO of the gre-

was arrested in 2005 on nade attack case dropped

charge of his involvement in their names from the

retired CID officers for Akash Sarkar alias Jiten.

He also said they had ment of Joj Miah, his

of former Dhaka City Maghbazar residence.

the August 21 grenade city's Hatirpularea.

the August 21 grenade chargesheet.

Alamgir said after the meeting at the parliament building

"The committee noticed that the corporation has not taken an initiative to collect Tk 227 crore that was invested," he said, adding, "We also observed that huge amount of money is remaining in idle in corporation forwantofinvestment."

"We were stunned to see the unclear activities in reinsurance of the corporation," he added.

Alamgir further said that finance ministry which is the concerned administrative ministry also did not notice the irregularities in JBC.

He went on saying, "It's interesting that reinsurance activities of the corporation is being done by foreign brokers since 1972."

Members of the committee Mayeen Uddin Khan Badal,

Khaledur Rahman Tito, Brig Moudud files | AUGUST 21 GRENADE ATTACK

Arman and Joj Miah to

June 10 in 2005 from his

Earlier on August 26 in

Both Mokhles and

Apart from Mokhles and

Partho, former CID investi-

gators had arrested 20

people in connection with

the case. They are Joj Miah,

Abul Hashem, Shafiqul

Islam, Monjur Hossain,

Shah Alam, Haji Shoyeb

alias Dikon, Mokhlesur

Rahman, Aiub Ali Khan,

Habib alias Abdul Hannan,

Badsha Mia, Abdur

Rahman, Mohammad

Hasan alias Tushar, Zahir

Hossain alias Liton,

Akhteruzzaman alias Ata,

Abdur Rahim, Waliullah

alias Ali, Mohammad

Hossain, Monir Hossain

alias Pichchi Monir, and

mother and brother on

Hasem Rana and Shafiqul

Islam to appear at the

CID's Malibagh headquar-

ters on April 12. Both Rana

forced to give confes-

sional statements in the

grenade attack case.

found dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

first year student of

Malibagh Biggyan College was

found dead on the roof of the

college at Malibagh intersec-

Zishan, was the son of Sergeant

AHM Nurullah of Rapid Action

the police rushed to the sport

and found the body lying in a

pool of blood. They sent the

body to Dhaka Medical

Humidityin

The victim, ASM Ahsan Nur

On receiving information,

tion in the city last night.

Battalion (Rab)-4.

College morgue.

College

student

and Shafiqul were also

They recorded the state-

The CID also asked Abul

matters will come to the court." Meanwhile, Barrister Mahbubuddin Khokon MP, a counsel for the BNP chairperson, told The Daily Star that the party would take legal action against the government decision after consultation with the senior BNP lawyers. tors had forced top terror

Terming the decision unfair and politically motivated, he said the cabinet or the government has no right to cancel the registered deed to the residence where Khaleda Zia has been residing for the last 29 years.

The vested quarter who tried to destabilise the country by carrying out the massacre of army officers at the BDR headquarters but failed has provoked the prime minister into taking such an illegal decision, he

When contacted, legal expert Dr M Zahir said it is difficult to make any comment on the issue without going through the terms and conditions of the allotment.

AUCTION

Channel 1 writ petitions dismissed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday dismissed two separate writ petitions challenging the legality of the Prime Bank's move to auction off the equipment of Channel 1, a private television An HC bench of Justice

Khademul Islam Chowdhury and Justice Md Miftah Uddin Choudhury passed the verdict. One Entertainment Ltd., the

parent company of Channel 1 filed the writ petitions. Advocate Prabir Neogi, a

lawyer for the Prime Bank, told The Daily Star that the auction for selling the equipment would remain valid following the HC verdict.

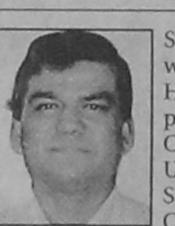
One Entertainment Ltd borrowedTk23 crore and 90 lakh in loan from the Prime Bank.

The Prime Bank authorities issued a notice to the One Entertainment Ltd to pay back the loan. But the One Entertainment authorities failed to pay the loan.

The Prime Bank then took the initiative to arrange an auction to sell the equipment of Channel 1.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Sayed Khwaja Moinul Hassan, professor, Claflin University South

campus, passed away due to a cardiac arrest on April 3 in the USA, says a press release.

He was laid to rest at Long Island in New York on April 5.

Dr Chowdhury B Mahmud STAFF CORRESPONDENT

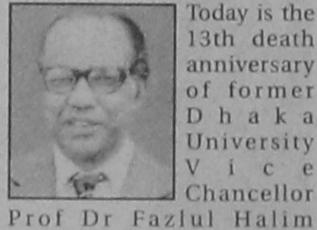
Dr Chowdhury B Mahmud, eminent child specialist and former principal of Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH), passed away on Tuesday in the capi-

He left behind his wifeto mourn his death.

tal, says a press release.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Dhaka University Chancellor Chowdhury, says a press

On the occasion, a doa has been arranged at Dhaka University Central Mosque after Asr prayers today.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina calls on President Zillur Rahman at Bangabhaban in the city yesterday.

DELAY IN INITIATING LEGAL MOVES

Govt losing control of abandoned properties

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

huge abandoned properties worth crores of making the delay in taking the decision of filing taka due to 'unreasonable delay' in initiating the writ petition. legal moves to recover them.

the delay, since there are no satisfactory reasons behind such delay. As a result, the government losing control of abandoned properties, government law officers said.

initiative to file a writ petition with the High settlement has been sent to the Attorney Court (HC) with a view to recovering the House No. 1/22, Block-D, Mohammadpur in the city 22 years after an individual took its possession.

one Abdur Rahim following a judgement of the court of settlement in 1987. On February 22 this year, the Housing and letter.

Public Works Ministry sent a letter to the Attorney General's office through the Solicitor's office to file a writ petition challenging the legality of the judgement of the court of

Although the court of settlement in Dhaka court. delivered the verdict on December 27, 1987 initiative to challenge the judgement, sources expired long ago.

has sent the file back to the ministry, fearing added. that the government might face an embarrass-

after so many years. - In addition, Additional Attorney General M settlement.

Enayetur Rahim has sent a letter to the state minister for housing and public works to take The government has been losing control of punitive action against those responsible for

He told The Daily Star that there are thou-Most land cases filed by the government are sands of cases in which the government is facing dismissals at the higher court because of being defeated at the High Court and the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, since there is no satisfactory explanation of such

In the letter, Enayetur Rahim said that only a Recently, the government has taken an photocopy of the judgment of the court of General's office, but other relevant documents have not been sent.

Although there is no specific time limit for This abandoned property was allocated to filing any writ petition, it is a recognised rule that such petitions should be filed without any delay after the lower court orders, he said in the

> In 1986, the government had issued a gazette notification along with a list of abandoned properties, stating that anybody can get back the lands, subject to proving his or her ownership of the abandoned properties in the

Sources said about 90 percent of such cases ordering allotment of the property to Abdur are being declared dismissed at the higher Rahim, no previous governments took any court, since the dates of the case proceedings

The cases are not being moved in time due Meanwhile, the Attorney General's office to the interference of the middlemen, they

Enayetur Rahim has also recently sent some ing situation at the High Court rather than land related cases to the solicitor's office, saygetting the expected result if the petition is filed ing that it will be a futile exercise to file any writ petition against the decision of the court of

acy' against BNP and its

Chairperson Khaleda since

Awami League assumed power.

Mamun and General Secretary

Saiful Islam Feroz spoke at the

adds: Rajshahi city and district

unit of BNP jointly staged a

demonstration in the city

yesterday evening against the

cabinet decision to cancel the

lease of Khaleda's cantonment

activists of BNP and its associate

organisations brought out a

procession and held a protest

meeting at Sonadighi Crossing.

cancellation of the decision.

They demanded immediate

Azizur Rahman, presi-

dent of district unit,

Several hundred leaders and

residence.

DU JCD President Hasan

Our RU Correspondent

STAFF CORRESPONDENT Dhaka Medical College (DMC) will reopen on Saturday after a

closure following a fierce clash between two factions of Bangladesh Chhatra League

The decision was taken at its academic council meeting yesterday. Three hostels of the college will reopen on Friday while its classes and examinations will begin from Saturday, DMC sources said.

Two factions of BCL clashed with each other at Dr Fazle Rabbi Hostel on March 31 that left its college unit top leader Abul Kalam Asad Rajib killed and 20 people injured.

Later on the day, the medical college was closed for an indefinite period and a 3-member probe committee, headed by Prof MA Khan, was formed to investigate into incident.

Prof MA Khan of the college told The Daily Star that the investigation is going on and statements will be colleted from the students after opening the dormitories.

Small cities need to be developed: Mashiur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To reduce pressure of the overpopulated Dhaka city, small and medium-sized cities and towns across the country must be developed with adequate economic activities, Adviser to Prime Minister Dr Mashiur Rahman said vesterday.

Speaking as the chief guest at the inaugural function of Planning Week-2009 on the Buet campus, the adviser said though Rajuk is trying to develop the city and two more development authorities are also working in Khulna and Chittagong, there is no attempt or little try for the development of small towns.

Department of Urban and Regional Panning (URP) and URP Students' Association of Buet launched the three-day week with the theme 'Planning for inclusive urban devel-

opment'. Buet Vice Chancellor AMM Safiullah said town planners must have to understand the complicacies and they will need to give integrated solutions to these problems during planning, adding that the duty of a planner should be like an

adviser. Senior Management Adviser of UNDP Jean Cluade Rogirue said overpopulation is affecting achieving over all MDG target in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh Institute of Planners President Prof Sarwar Jahan spoke as the special guest at the programme with Head of URP department Prof Rukhsana Hafiz in the chair.

Protest against govt decision

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Andaleev Rahman, a lawmaker from the opposition Bangladesh Jatiya Party (BJP), yesterday resigned form the parliamentary standing committee on home ministry, reconstituted on Tuesday.

BJP lawmaker

resigns from

JS committee

Andaleev

Andaleev in his resignation letter sent to the Speaker Abdul Hamid Advocate said, "I was surprised to see my name in the reconstituted committee of parliamentary standing committee on home minis-

He said his name to include in that committee is supposed to be sent by the opposition party. But his name was included in that committee though it was not sent to chief whip of the parliament, he added.

Andaleev is the lone lawmaker from BJP, a component of the BNP-led four-party alliance.

Opposition Chief Whip Zainul Abdin Farroque on Tuesday demanded that the treasury bench include names of the opposition lawmakers in the standing committee on home ministry as per their recommendation.

He said the opposition lawmakers would not attend any of the standing committee meeting unless their demand is met.

Bir Shreshtha Noor Md Rifles Public School reopens on Saturday STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Classes of Bir Shreshtha Noor Mohammad Rifles Public School and College will resume on Saturday, says a press release yesterday.

It said the students of morning shift would have to enter the school through BDR Gate 4 (Rifles Square gate) or through the BDR Gate 5 (Hazaribagh gate) at 7:15am.

The students of day shift would have to enter the school at 10:45am using the same gates and would depart after their classes under the supervision of the teachers.

KHALEDA'S CANTT RESIDENCE

DU CORRESPONDENT

Leaders and activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), student wing of BNP, yesterday demonstrated on Dhaka University (DU) campus protesting the cabinet decision that cancelled the lease of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's cantonment residence.

Protesting the decision around 100 JCD leaders and activists brought out a procession that marched through different roads and held a rally on the campus in the afternoon.

At the rally near the Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) intersection, JCD leaders threatened to launch tough agitations in all educational institutions across the country if the government does not cancel its decision immediately.

They also blamed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for what they said 'hatching a conspir-

DHAKA

The European Commission organises a conference on children with

Publication ceremony The publication ceremony of 12 books edited by Prof Anisuzzaman will be held. Venue: Public Library seminar

Memorial meeting

meeting to pay tribute to its founderlate Azizul Haq Bhuiyan, Venue: Shams Hall, Scout Bhaban. Time: 4:00pm. Human chain

of the bill regarding the lawmakers' supremacy over the upazila parishad. Venue: Muktangan. Time: 4:30pm.

Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies and UK Department for

International Development jointly organise a conference on 'Market volatility, vulnerability and food security: Strategic choices and policy options', Venue: Hotel Sheraton, Time: 9:45am.

Film show Naroshundor, a short thriller set during

the liberation war, and Muktir Kotha, a documentary on genocide and war crimes, directed by Tareque Masud and Catherine Masud will be screened. Venue: British Council auditorium. Time: 3:30pm.

Fair

organise a three-day young designers' fair beginning today. Venue: House # 20, Road#16 (new), Dhanmondi. Time: 11:00am. Conference

UNB, Dhaka

tunities for reviewing some of the results in the field as well as set the course for future bilateral relations between the two countries, they added.

senior officials and NGOs and business representatives. He will also undertake a field trip to Barisal. Hosted by Brac, he will visit Patharghata to see activities of the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Programme (WASH) and Disaster, Environment and

hand impression of activities carried out by Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BMP) and visit UCEP (Underprivileged Children's Educational Project) Technical School for working children.

(DECC). The delegation will get a first

Climate Change Programme

Thundershowers likely

City/Town

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at one or two places over all six divisions in next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Mild to moderate heat wave may continue over Khulna division and the regions of Rajshahi, Met office said. The sun sets in the capital at 6:18pm today and rises at 5:42am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 38.7 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and lowest 21.6 degrees Celsius at Sayedpur. Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Temperature in

Celsius percentage Morning Min Evening 36.3 25.8 Dhaka Chittagong 32.0 24.6 80 38.7 Rajshahi 23.8 76 36.8 25.8 Khulna 72 51 25.5 Barisal 35.5 80 63 Sylhet 34.0 22.5 66 61 Cox's Bazar 33.5 25.0

Shafiqul Haque Milon, former general secretary of city unit, BNP leader Elahi Bux Mondal and others addressed the meeting.

T O D

Conference

Westin. Time: 10:00am.

disabilities in Bangladesh. Venue: The

room. Time: 5:30pm. Baishakhi Utsab

Oxford International School (OIS) organises a three-day OIS Baishakhi Utsab beginning today. Venue: OIS Junior Campus, Dhanmondi # 9/A. Time: 10:00am.

Bilate Muktijoddha Sangathak Forum, Bangladesh organises a memorial

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) forms a human chain demanding cancellation

Conference

The students of Shahrukh's Collection

The 7th National Conference of Bangladesh Khetmojur Samity will be

held. Venue: Muktangan. Time:

Lecture

3:00pm.

Management Development Programme of IBA, Dhaka University, will be hosting a public lecture titled 'Exercising Leadership'. Venue: IBA auditorium. Time: 12:30pm.