

# Cabinet body okays import of 17.45 lakh MT of petroleum

UNB, Dhaka

The Cabinet Committee on Public Purchase yesterday approved import of a total of 17.45 lakh metric tons of petroleum from Kuwait in the next 21 months under a renewed deal.

In a meeting the purchase committee also approved proposals for the import of 25,000 metric tons of urea fertiliser at a cost of Tk 51.51 crore as well as rehabilitation of the Karnaphuli Paper Mills.

As proposed, 7.15 lakh tons of the fuel oil will be imported during April-December period in 2009 and 10.30 lakh tons in January-December 2010.

The state-owned

Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) will make the bulk import of petroleum from the oil-rich Gulf country's state-owned Kuwait Petroleum Corporation Limited (KPCL).

"The cabinet committee has approved the energy ministry's proposal for renewal of the deal," Cabinet Secretary Abdul Aziz told reporters while briefing about the outcome of the meeting.

He, however, said the premium of the import is yet to be determined. "This will be fixed later through negotiation."

Bangladesh has been importing a bulk portion of its petroleum fuel from the Middle-Eastern country for

long under state-to-state agreement. Bangladesh's annual petroleum requirement is between 3.6 and 3.8 million metric tons.

In the last two years, Bangladesh had also imported petroleum from other sources in Asia, like Malaysia, the Philippines and the Maldives.

"The Cabinet approved the proposal for renewal of deal with KPCL in order to ensure the country's energy security," Aziz added.

The cabinet purchase committee approved a proposal of the industries ministry for the import of 25,000 metric tons of urea fertiliser at a cost of Tk 51.51 crore.

Per-ton urea will cost

\$296.92 since it will be imported through Chittagong port.

The cabinet secretary said the cost is comparatively much lower than that of the previous imports.

He said originally a total of 100,000 tons of urea fertiliser was tendered to import in three separate bids. But the rest three bids were not found suitable, which prompted the committee to recommend re-tendering.

Another proposal of the industries ministry for rehabilitation of the Karnaphuli Paper Mills was approved in the meeting.

According to the proposal, the rehabilitation works will cost Tk 93.60 crore.



(Left) BNP leader barrister Nazmul Huda along with other party leaders hands a memorandum over to Deputy Commissioner Dhaka Md Zillur Rahman mentioning the present activities of the ruling party. (Right) Police chase the BNP activists at old Dhaka while they were marching to submit the memo. (Story on Page 16)



# Bangladesh needs more modern silos to stock food grains: FAO

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh needs more modern food storage and silos to stock more food grains, particularly rice, for reaping benefits of the ongoing bumper boro harvest, said Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

The observation comes when farmers are selling paddy at Tk 380 to Tk 420 per maund in many northern districts. These prices are much lower than the government-fixed price of Tk 560 per maund.

FAO also observed that more investment for research and agriculture extension is required in the southern districts to face the challenges of the country's food security, said a press release.

The observations came following the visit of an FAO

team led by its Bangladesh Representative Ad Spijkers to Jessore, Bogra and Naogaon on May 22 and 23. The team accompanied Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury and Food Minister Dr Abdur Razzaque.

Ad Spijkers called for an immediate action plan for water, including revival of the river Gorai, in the south to boost boro and other winter crop cultivation.

Underscoring the need for supporting the 1.4 million Sidr-affected farmers in the southern districts, he said a major programme is expected for giving farm inputs to the farmers with World Bank fund.

He assured the ministers of continuous FAO support for sustainable agricultural development and food security.

"Farmers should get the benefit of the price of rice

declared by the government," Dr Razzaque said during his meeting with rice millers in northern districts.

Matia Chowdhury said the south and southwestern regions have enormous potentials to ensure food production, self-sufficiency and food security, which is the highest priority of the government, the FAO press release said.

"South and southwest regions are the most suitable areas for agricultural development and we need fresh water for the south to utilise the huge potentials," she said while briefing government officials in Jessore.

The minister stressed use of new technology for the southern region.

"The southern Bangladesh will again be back as a food basket," she hoped.

# DELAY IN DCC POLLS HC asks EC, govt to explain

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday issued a rule upon the Election Commission (EC) and the government to explain within two weeks why they should not be directed to hold the election to Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) as early as possible.

The court also asked them to explain why the discharging by the incumbent DCC mayor and ward commissioners after the expiry of the term of the last election should not be declared illegal.

The HC bench of Justice Syed Rezaul Karim and Justice Moieyunn Islam Chowdhury came up with the rule upon a writ petition filed by Chowdhury Irad Ahmed Siddiky, son of BNP's expelled leader Chowdhury Tanbir Ahmed Siddiky.

The CEC secretary to the LGRD ministry, CEO of DCC and deputy commissioner of Dhaka have been made respondents in the rule.

Irad Ahmed filed the writ petition as a candidate for the post of mayor of the city corporation.

In the petition, he stated that as per provision of the article 59(1) of the constitution, the local government elections have to be held in accordance with law, but the respondents have not taken an initiative to hold the election to the posts of the mayor and the ward commissioners of DCC, although the term of the last election to DCC has expired over two years ago.

Advocate KS Nabi appeared for the petitioner, while Assistant Attorney General S Rashed Jahangir was present for the government.

# Death anniversary

Today is the 9th death anniversary of Dr Jahan Ara Rabbee, wife of Shaheed Dr Md Fazle Rabbee and former additional director general of Health Directorate, says a press release.

To mark the day, wreaths will be placed and fataha will be offered at her grave at New Azimpur Graveyard. Khatee Quran, milad mahfil, special prayers will be held and foods will be distributed among the children at Salimullah Muslim Orphanage.

Friends, relatives and admirers are requested to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

# Monwar Hossain Manik

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 2nd death anniversary of Monwar Hossain Manik, former president of Bangladesh Photographic Association (BPA), says a press release.

BPA members have been requested to pray for salvation of his departed soul.

# Abdul Majid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 26th death anniversary of Abdul Majid, father of Mostafa Kamal, principal of Dhaka Public College, says a press release.

On the occasion, a Quarnkhani will be held at his village home in Purnamoti village under Burichang upazila in Comilla district.

Relatives and admirers have been requested to pray for salvation of his departed soul.

# Force Israel to stop atrocities in Palestine

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh urged the international community to force Israel to stop continued atrocities in the Palestinian territory and its abhorrent practices and create conditions for the establishment of an independent Palestinian State.

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni made the appeal at the 36th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of OIC in Damascus, according to a release of the Foreign Ministry yesterday.

She supported the idea of Islamic Common Market, which is especially important for the LDCs of the OIC at this

time of economic crisis and welcomed the idea of an independent human rights commission in the forum.

She underscored the need for greater cooperation among the Muslim states "to root out these evils and to convey the message of peace and harmony of Islam to the West".

On the sidelines, she met Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zuberi and hoped that Iraq would soon overcome its internal difficulties and unrest and move towards the path of development.

Dipu Moni also met Lebanese Foreign Minister Fawzi Salloukh who praised the Bangladeshi workers. He

hoped soon the number of workers from Bangladesh could grow up to 50,000 from the present 22,000.

Dipu Moni also had meetings with Philippine Foreign Minister Alberto Gatmaitan Romulo, Foreign Minister of Bahrain Shaikh Khalid Bin Ahmed Bin Mohamed Al Khalifa, Oman's Foreign Minister Yusuf bin Alawi bin Abdullah, Sri Lankan Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Hussein Bhalla and Pakistani State Minister for Foreign Affairs Nawabzada Malik Amad Khan.

During these meetings, they discussed bilateral economic and trade cooperation.

# Obituary

RU CORRESPONDENT

Abdus Sobhan, assistant professor of Economic Department of Bhubaniganj Degree College under Bagmara upzila in Rajshahi, passed away due to blood cancer at his Berabari village at the age of 55 on Saturday.

He left behind his wife, two daughters and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death.

He was buried at his family graveyard after namaz-e-janaza at Bhubaniganj degree college playground.

Bhubaniganj Degree College teachers, officers and employees yesterday expressed their deep shock at his death.

They prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family members.

# Khandakar Altaf Ali

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Khandakar Altaf Ali, elder brother of Planning Minister Air Vice Marshal (Retd) AK

Khandakar, passed away due to old age complications at Holy Family Red Crescent Medical College Hospital in the city yesterday at the age of 85, says a press release.

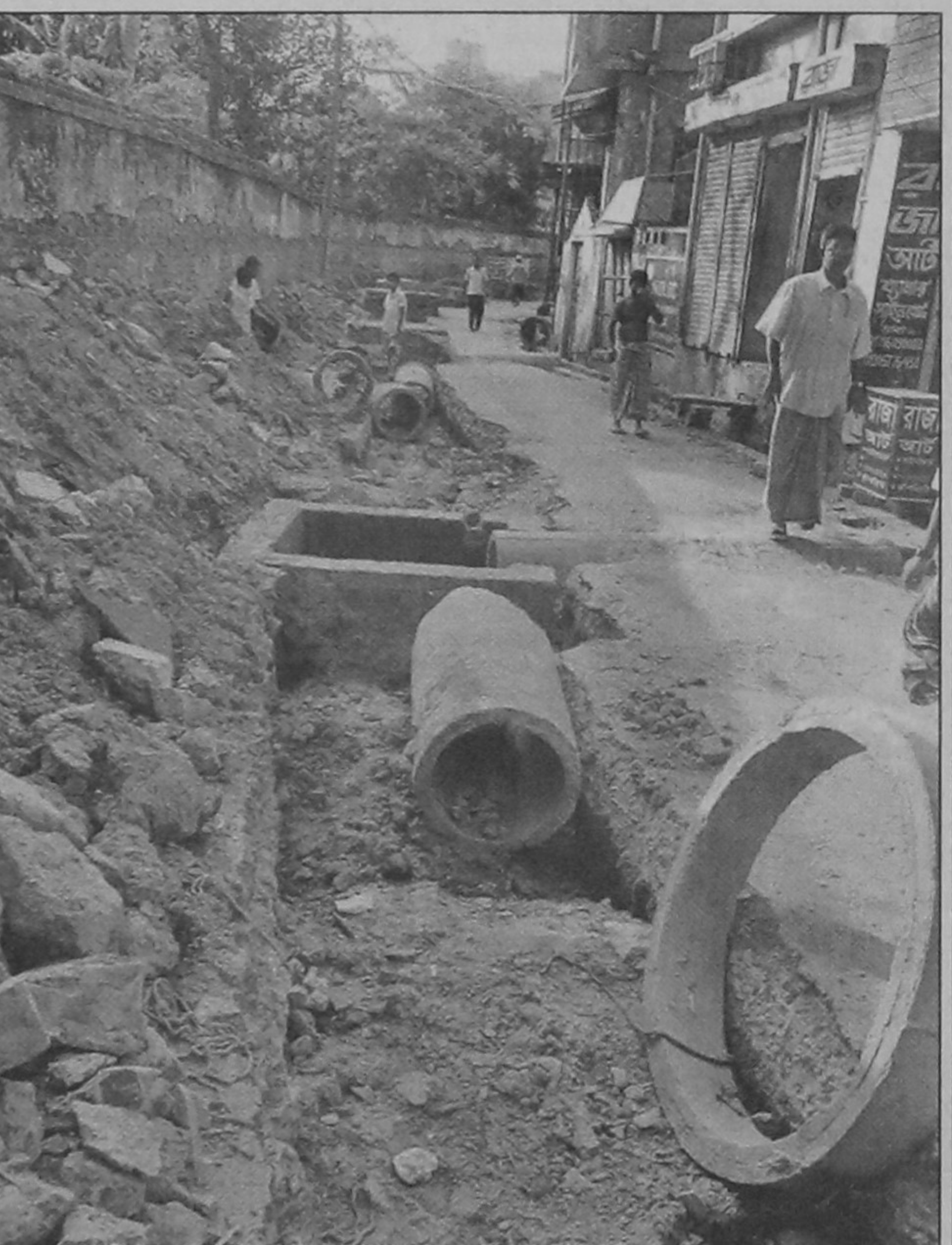
He left behind his wife, two sons, one daughter and a host of relatives to mourn his death. Holy Family Red Crescent Medical College Hospital authorities expressed deep shock at his death and conveyed sympathy to members his bereaved family and prayed for the salvation of his departed soul.

# Tanzila Ahmed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tanzila Ahmed, mother of Gonotantik Majdur Party President Comrade Abdus Salam, passed away due to brain haemorrhage on Friday at her residence in Rajshahi at the age of 80, says a press release.

Gonotantik Majdur Party General Secretary Shamsujjoha in a statement expressed deep shock at her death and conveyed sympathy to members of her bereaved family.



Dhaka Wasa authorities are carrying out installation of a sewerage pipeline in the city for a long time, causing huge suffering to the local people. The photo was taken yesterday.

# SQ METHOD Call to cancel full implementation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Shikshak Samity yesterday called on the government to cancel full implementation of the Structured Question (SQ) Method for SSC examinations to be introduced in 2011, saying that most teachers and students are still in the dark about this new question pattern, says a press release.

Saying that only a small number of teachers have received training on SQ method, the leaders stressed the need for completing trainings for all teachers first and then to introduce the method to get good results.

In another statement, they requested the guardians not to misunderstand them regarding the issue.

WEATHER TODAY

# Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at many places over Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions with moderately heavy to heavy falls at places and at a few places over Dhaka, Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions in next 14 hours until 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may fall by 1-2 degrees Celsius over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:39pm today and rises at 5:12am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 36.5 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 24.0 degrees Celsius at Rangamati.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	35.1	26.4	79	57
Chittagong	34.6	25.5	79	72
Rajshahi	33.6	26.2	79	65
Khulna	32.3	26.5	76	66
Barisal	32.6	27.5	74	81
Sylhet	34.7	24.5	87	58
Cox's Bazar	36.5	26.3	81	68

# DHAKA TODAY

## Roundtable

Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS) organises a roundtable on 'Countering radicalisation in South Asia: Bangladesh perspective'. Venue: BISS. Time: 11:00am.

## Short film fest

Dhaka University Film Society organises the 3rd International Inter University Short Film Festival in collaboration with Goethe Institute. Venue: Goethe Institute. Time: 4:30pm.

## Memorial meeting

Sammilita Nagarik Andolon organises a memorial meeting in memory of noted nuclear scientist MA Wazed Mia. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 4:00pm.

## Birth anniversary

The inaugural ceremony of the programmes to mark the 110th birth anniversary of poet Kazi Nazrul Islam will be held. Venue: Osmani Memorial auditorium. Time: 11:30am.

## Publication ceremony

The publication ceremony of 'Muktijuddher Din Guli', 'Samaj, Muktijuddher Din Guli' and 'Tin Desh Vin Desh' authored by Dr Anwarul Haq Chowdhury will be held. Venue: Centre for Excellence seminar room, Dhaka University. Time: 4:30pm.

# Cooperation sought for textbooks in time

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday sat with printers and publishers to discuss printing, publishing and supply of primary and secondary-level books for 2010 and also sought cooperation of all concerned.

The printers and publishers gave their opinions regarding supply of free textbooks in the secondary level and also assured the minister of giving cooperation in this regard.

At the meeting held at the ministry, they also urged the minister to take immediate steps to ensure textbooks in time so that the students will not suffer textbooks crisis in the next, said sources.

Nahid said the government would take all necessary steps in this connection.

The ministry officials and other stockholders in book printing, publishing and supply were also present at the meeting.

# Shamsuzzaman takes over as Bangla Academy DG

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Noted folklorist Prof Shamsuzzaman Khan took office as the director general of Bangla Academy yesterday.

After joining the Academy, he placed wreaths at the Central Shaheed Minar.

Acting secretary of the academy Apareesh Kumar Banarjee, Director Abdul Hai and Dr Abdul Wahab were present.

Prof Shamsuzzaman taught folklore and Bangla language and literature at Jagannath College, Bangladesh Agriculture University and National University.

He also served Bangla Academy as director and acting director general.

He was also a member of Dhaka University Senate and finance committee.

Prof Shamsuzzaman led the Bangladeshi delegation in different Saarc meetings in different countries.

He has also won numerous awards, including Bangla Academy Award and Ekushey Padak.



Newly appointed Chief Executive Officer of Proshika Mahbub-ul-Karim speaks at a press conference organised by the NGO's governing body at the Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium in the city yesterday. On his left are Chairman advocate Abdul Wadud and Golapi Begum. (Story on Page 1)

# BNP LEADER MURDER SC clears Shahid Commissioner, Tonai of charges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court (SC) yesterday upheld the High Court (HC) verdict acquitting condemned prisoner Shahidur Rahman alias Shahid Commissioner and Tonai Mollah, who was awarded life term imprisonment, in sensational BNP leader Habibur Rahman Mondol murder case.

The four-member full bench of the Appellate Division, headed by Chief Justice MM Ruhul Amin, delivered the verdict dismissing the leave-to-appeal petitions against the HC verdict.

Earlier on January 30 last year, the High Court cleared detained Shahid Commissioner and Tonai Mollah of the murder charges.

The lawyers concerned said there is no legal bar to release of Shahid Commissioner and Tonai Mollah from jail following the SC verdict.

They said that the SC upheld the verdict, as the HC was correct and justified.

Advocate Habibur Rahman Mondol, a city unit BNP leader, was gunned down by unidentified assailants in front of his Banogram residence in Old Dhaka on August 20 in 2000.

A speedy trial tribunal in Dhaka on May 29, 2003 awarded death sentence to Shahid Commissioner and Tonai Mollah and acquitted three others in the murder case.

Following jail appeals against trial court verdict, the HC on January 30 last year exonerated Shahid Commissioner and Tonai Mollah and upheld the death sentence of Kala Jahangir and life imprisonment of 12 other convicts.

The government and the informant filed separate leave-to-appeal petitions with the SC against the HC verdict.

Advocate Anisul Huq appeared for Shahid Commissioner and Advocate Abdul Baset Majumder argued for Tonai Mollah, while Deputy Attorney General SM Abdul Mobin stood for the government.

# Call to end fatwa practice

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Karmojibi Nari condemned the cruelty to injured Rahima at a hospital due to a fake fatwa imposed on her and demanded punishment to those responsible, says a press release.

General Secretary of the organisation Sharmin Kabir and Executive Director Rokeya Rafiq in a joint statement protested the incident of whipping poor Rahima, daughter of Abdul Matin of Comilla, by the oppressive fatwa imposer.

The demanded an immediate end to fatwa practice, ignoring the existing law and order of the country.