

ISLAM O MUSLIM

Charges pressed against 6 militants

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

Police yesterday pressed charges against six militants including two top leaders of Islam O Muslim, the new JMB offshoot, revealing that they were raising the secret outfit and accumulating small weaponry from India to kill opponents of JMB.

Submitted with the third court of judicial magistrate, the chargesheeted accused Abdul Rahim alias Shahadat, 32, chief of Islam O Muslim and former JMB's Rajshahi regional commander, and Selim alias Saifulah alias Harun Mistri, 26, chief military commander and mastermind of the outfit.

Four others are former JMB's military commander Abdul Momin and Abdul Rakib alias Sumon, 28, of Chapainwabganj, Jalal Uddin alias Sagar, 38, of Naogaon and Hafez Sajedur Rahman alias Hanif of Bagmara.

Sub-Inspector Babul Akhtar of Bagmara Police Station has been investigating the affairs of Islam O Muslim for the last three months and charged them under sections 8, 9 and 10 of Anti-terrorism Ordinance 2008.

According to the charges,

Selim and his brother-in-law Rafikul alias Jahangir were involved with JMB as they both were the disciples of executed JMB leader Siddikul Islam Bangla Bhai.

Rafikul maintained a JMB fund of Tk 1.70 lakh following the execution of its chief Shaikh Abdul Rahman, Bangla Bhai and five other top men.

Knowing it, Selim took the money from his sister (Rafikul's wife) and fled away.

Later, JMB's new commander of Rajshahi division Ashraf asked Selim to give back the money.

As he denied, the JMB men threatened him and his cohorts to kill at sight.

Then in March this year, Selim held two meetings with some 10 to 15 JMB men who also fled with JMB money and were on the run over threats on their lives.

Shahadat, Momin and other accused took part in the meetings at Gomostapur and Kansat in Chapainwabganj and they decided to run the new offshoot to counter the JMB threats.

At the meetings, Jalal and Sajedur were given the responsibility for organising the new offshoot at Bagmara upazila, says the charge sheet.

They decided to shift on small weaponry instead of bombs and grenades with an aim to reactivate and reorganise the inactive JMB men.

A special anti-militancy police team from Dhaka arrested four JMB militants including Momin and Sumon from Chapainwabganj in June.

Following their confessions, police and Rapid Action Battalion members arrested Shahadat, Selim and others from Gazipur, Rajshahi and Chapainwabganj in early July.

The law enforcement agencies also claimed that they were able to nip a 'dangerous outfit' in the bud as they retrieved a total 14 small arms and huge bullets from the arrestees.

Selim bought these small arms from India with the looted JMB fund and distributed those among the offshoot leaders.

A total of seven cases were lodged against them with Shibganj, Bholahat, Chapainwabganj sadar and Bagmara Police Stations.

With yesterday's charge sheet, the investigation into the affairs of Islam O Muslim came to an end, said sources.

DEFAMATION CASE

Hearing on Gen Moeen's petition Oct 1

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday fixed October 1 for hearing a petition filed by former army chief General (Retd) Moeen U Ahmed seeking dismissal of a Tk 100 crore defamation case against him by former state minister for energy Iqbal Hassan Mahmood Tuku.

Judge SM Saiful Islam of the Third Joint District Judge's Court, Dhaka passed the order following a time petition by the plaintiff's lawyers seeking adjournment of the hearing.

The same court set yesterday for hearing the petition after Moeen's counsel Advocate Humayun Kabir Bhuiyan filed the plea with the court on September 8.

During the hearing, Tuku's lawyers told the court that it on August 16 gave the last chance for submission of written objection against the notice issued upon Moeen to explain why his properties would not be attached. But he (Moeen) has yet to submit any reply against the notice.

On the contrary, Moeen's lawyers told the court that they had earlier filed a petition seeking dismissal of the suit. If the suit is dismissed after hearing, it does not need to submit any reply against the show cause notice, lawyers added.

At one stage, the judge asked both the parties to take part in the hearing on the dismissal petition. But the plaintiff's lawyers sought adjournment of the hearing.

After hearing both the sides, the judge adjourned the hearing until October 1.

On July 12, Tuku filed the Tk 100 crore defamation suit accusing the former general of making derogatory remarks that damaged his (Tuku) reputation.

On a petition filed by Tuku, the court the same day asked Moeen to explain within three weeks why his property would not be attached.

On March 27, 2007 Gen Moeen said at a tea party at the National Parade Square that corrupt politicians had siphoned at least Tk 20,000 crore from the energy sector during the tenure of four-party alliance government, reads the complaint.

The party was held in honour of the freedom fighters.

'BNP to support programmes against govt's anti-state steps'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain yesterday said they will continue to give moral support to any programme which will be called to protest the steps that go against the interest of the country.

"We don't want our natural resources go to other's possession or smuggled to other countries, and that is why we only lend our moral support to the hartal called by the National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas," he said at a discussion meeting organised by Jatityabadi Krishok Dal at the party office in Nayapaltan in the city.

Rejecting the allegations made by some ruling party leaders that BNP instigated the hartal, he said they did not instigate, they only gave support to hartal call considering the country's interest.

The BNP leader said the understanding to import power from India by giving transit facilities is nothing but an imaginary matter as people will not accept such kind of exchange.

Delwar also demanded withdrawal of all cases filed against party chairperson and her two sons, saying that this government will not be able to stay in power for long.

He asked the government to implement electoral pledges leaving aside all conspiracies, otherwise the people will resist its all anti-state activities.

Referring to prime minister's recent request to the opposition leader Khaleida Zia to return to parliament, he said the opposition will return to parliament if congenial atmosphere is created.

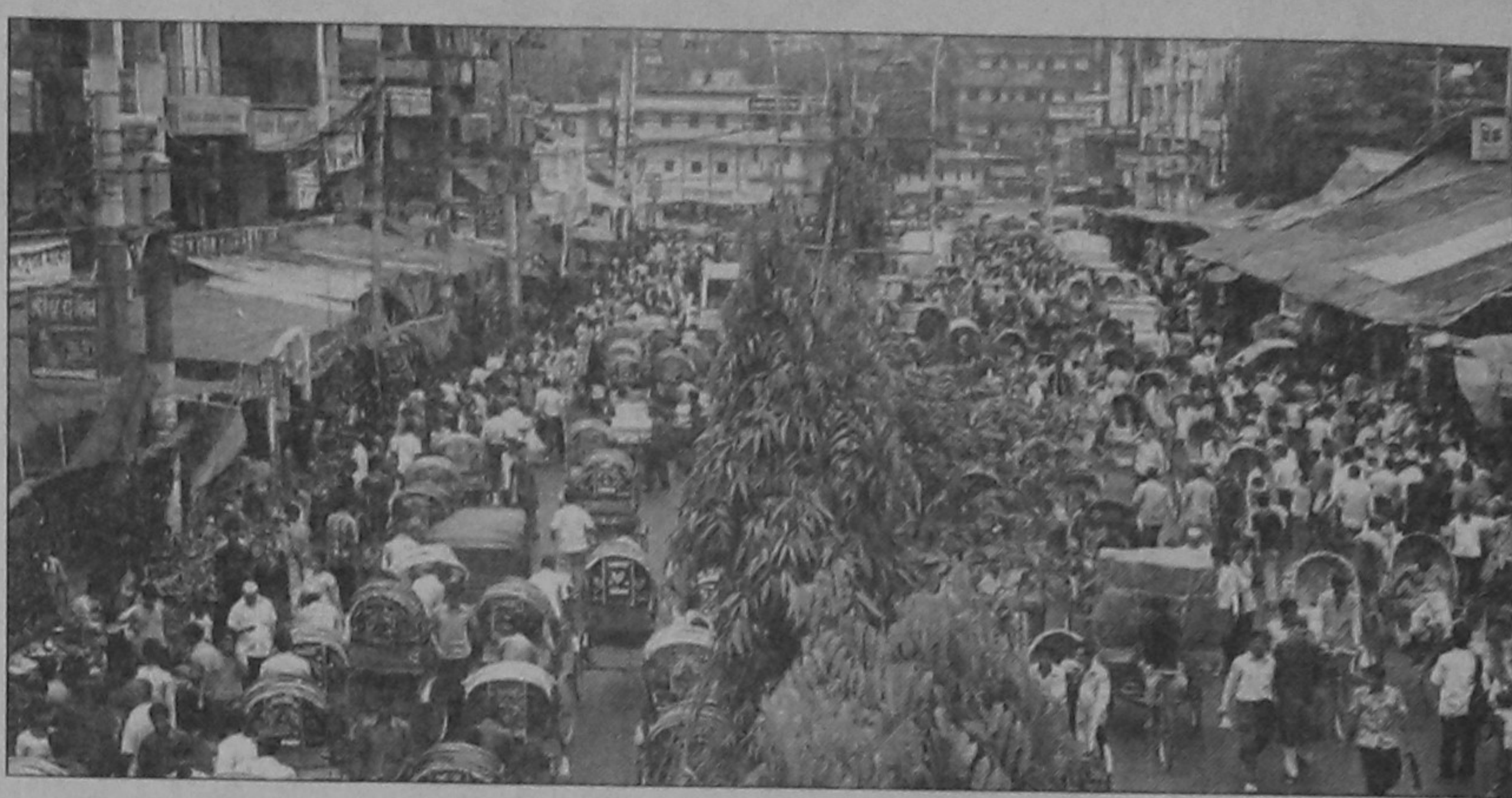
Krishak Dal President Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir presided over the meeting which was also addressed by its General Secretary Shamsuzzaman Dudu, Jubo Dal General Secretary Moazzem Hossain Alal and Chhatra Dal President Sultan Salahuddin Tuku.

Admission tests of Pabna science varsity Dec 11

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The admission tests of 'Ka' unit and 'Kha' unit at Pabna Science and Technology University for the academic session of 2009-2010 will be held on December 11 from 10:00am to 12:00pm and 3:00pm to 5:00pm.

The results will be published on December 13 and 14, said a press release yesterday.



Eid shopping in the port city of Chittagong gains momentum, but hawkers set up makeshift shops occupying the footpaths in New Market area, creating massive traffic jam almost every day. The photo was taken yesterday.

Lottery for Purbachal, Uttara plots likely Sept 16

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After a huge criticism at home and abroad over uncertainty in lottery arrangements for Purbachal and Uttara, Rajdhan Unnayan Kartipakkha (Rajuk) is likely to hold it in three categories for the Purbachal New Town Project on September 16.

The lottery will be held on wage earner, freedom fighter and artist or sportsman categories around 11:00am at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the city where State Minister for Housing and Public Works Abdul Mannan Khan is expected to be present as the chief guest, a Rajuk source said.

Nevertheless, uncertainty still looms over lottery on some other categories for both

Purbachal and Uttara in the third phase.

Rajuk will distribute 6,383 plots under Purbachal New Town Project under different categories and 800 plots under Uttara third phase. A total of 1.67 lakh applications were dropped for the two projects.

It will also distribute 2,177 plots to people affected under Purbachal project.

Plots of government service holder and autonomous bodies category will be awarded based on their age and salary while plots of ministers, state or deputy ministers or persons at their status and justice who submitted valid application will be given directly, said an official of Rajuk.

All listed for Armed forces division will be given plots. According to the guideline,

the government job holder will get 40 percent, employees and officials of autonomous bodies 15, freedom fighters 2, journalists 1.5, art or literature or sports 1, businessmen and industrialists 10.5, private job holders 12, wage earners 10 and other category for employees and officials of Rajuk, including the ministry concerned, will get 2.5 percent, sources said.

Rajuk sought applications for its two projects, Uttara Model Town Third Phase and Purbachal New Town Project in November 2008.

The new government, just after assuming power, extended the time for submission of applications till April 30 and was supposed to announce the names of the winners by two months.

HC asks govt to allow Kazi Jafar, Mir Nasir to go abroad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday asked the government to allow former prime minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed and former state minister for civil aviation and tourism Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin to go abroad for medical treatment.

The vacation bench of the HC comprising Justice Nozrul Islam Chowdhury and Justice Nizamul Huq passed the orders upon two separate applications filed by Kazi Zafar and Mir Nasir.

The court permitted Kazi Zafar to go to Australia for four months and Mir Nasir to Saudi Arabia for three months for treatment.

Kazi Zafar's lawyer Advocate Khan Saifur Rahman yesterday told The Daily Star that his client filed the application with the HC for permission to go to Australia, since he (Kazi Zafar) has been convicted and jailed in a criminal case.

He said his client is now on bail and his conviction has been suspended by the High Court order.

Khan Saifur said his client has so far got HC permission for 13 times to go to Australia for treatment.

Mir Nasir's lawyer Advocate Haji Saifuddin Ahmad Chowdhury said his client on March 2 went to Saudi Arabia for treatment for two months and returned home on March 28 as per the HC order.

Mir Nasir recently filed this application seeking HC permission to allow him to go to Saudi Arabia for his further treatment as two months period earlier given to him by the HC has already been expired.

Barapukuria graft case
The same HC bench yesterday upon a petition stayed for three months the proceedings against detained former post and telecommunications minister and BNP leader Aminul Haque in the Barapukuria coalmine corruption case.

Deputy Attorney General Forhad Ahmed was present for the government.

Obituary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Siddique Hossain, a freedom fighter and former chairman of Kushtia Union Parishad under Mymensingh sadar upazila, passed away due to brain stroke at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital on Saturday at the age of 60.

He left behind his wife, four sons, a daughter and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

He was buried with state honour at his family graveyard.

Death anniversary

METRO DESK

Today is the second death anniversary of Md Shaheb Ali, father of SM Munna Miah, staff reporter of the Daily Amarsh, says a press release.

On the occasion, Quran-khwani and doa mahfil will be held at his residence.

Three killed in road crashes

METRO DESK

Three people were killed in separate road accidents in Moulvibazar and Jhenidah yesterday.

Our correspondent in Moulvibazar reports: Two people were killed and five others injured in a road accident at Kulaura upazila in Moulvibazaryesterday.

Police said the accident occurred when a Kulaura-bound bus collide head-on with a CNG run three-wheeler on Kulaura Shamshagar road.

The dead were identified as Moin Uddin, 23, and Mohabbat Ali, 45.

The injured were admitted to the Kulaura upazila health complex.

Our correspondent in Jhenidah reports: A truck-helper was killed in an accident at Churmuraidah village under Jhenidah sadar upazila yesterday.

The victim was identified as Gazir Uddin, 22, of Kurapara village under Shaikupa upazila.

Police and locals said when Gazir was repairing a wheel of his truck on Dhaka-Khulna highway, a speeding truck ran over him on the road.



PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh Jubo Union takes out a procession from Mukhtangan in the city yesterday demanding steps to provide scope for working youths to pursue higher education.

Give priority to maternal, child nutrition in nat'l health policy

Experts urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Health experts at a seminar yesterday urged the government to give priority to maternal and child nutrition as well as infant and young child feeding (IYCF) in the national health policy to improve their nutritional status as 32 percent mothers suffer from chronic malnutrition while 33 percent suffer from anaemia.

Stressing the need to prioritise breastfeeding also, they said breastfeeding situation didn't improve in the last decade as only 24 percent children are given breastfeeding within one hour after their birth.

Around 46 percent children are underweight while 40 percent are undergrowth due to poor dietary intake, but there is no specific guideline on nutrition and IYCF in the health policy to improve the present situation, they added.

The health experts said this at the seminar on 'Health policy: Nutrition and IYCF' organised by Eminence, a non-government research-based health organisation, at the National Press Club in the city.

Dr AM Zakir Hussain, former director of the Directorate of Health Services and health adviser of Eminence, said nutrition is not only a food intake or poverty-related issue. So, how community resources, professional organisations, relevant organisations and infrastructure would be used for enhancing the case of infant and young child nutrition needs to be mentioned more categorically and elaborately in the health policy.

He underscored the need to give priority to nutrition-related research and increasing budgetary allocation for improving the nutritional status of both mothers and children.

Stressing the need to strengthen National Nutrition Council, Prof Aminul Haque Bhuiyan of Dhaka University said nutrition issue is not only for mothers and children, all the population are entitled here. So, steps should be taken to develop the capacity building of the council.

He called on the government to create cadres in Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) on nutrition to cover upazila and district-level nutrition programmes.

Prof Soofia Khatoun, secretary of the Bangladesh Breastfeeding Foundation

(BBF), underlined proper training for concerned doctors, nurses and health workers on nutrition and breastfeeding issue, while Dr Sabina, vice-president of Bangladesh Breastfeeding Foundation (BBF), focused on food security issue in the health policy.

Dr MM Reza, former secretary of the Directorate of Health Services, presided over the seminar which was also addressed by Dr Barakat-e-Khoda, executive director of Eminence, Dr MQK Talukder, chairman of CDWCH, and Dr MA Sabur, former health secretary.



Light rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital at 7:03pm and rises at 6:45am tomorrow.

Highest temperature 36.2 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 25.2 degrees Celsius at Sirimangol.

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	35.3	27.5	66	60
Chittagong	33.3	27.4	87	84
Rajshahi	35.5	27.4	69	67
Khulna	35.2	28.0	80	70
Barisal	35.0	27.5	81	78
Sylhet	34.5	27.5	80	72
Cox's Bazar	32.7	26.0	97	87

Govt to revive Nat'l Women Dev Policy '97 Says state minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will revive the National Women Development Policy 1997, which was formulated by the previous Awami League (AL) government, State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury told the House yesterday.

While replying to a query of AL lawmaker Junaid Ahmed Palak, the state minister said the previous government of Sheikh Hasina formulated the national women policy after holding a series of dialogues and discussions, but the BNP government cancelled it.

Replying to lawmakers' queries, the state minister also described various measures taken by the government for the welfare of women and children.

In reply to a query of Jatiya Party lawmaker Mahjabin Morshed, the state minister said the government has planned to construct women hostels at the district headquarters in phases.

"The women hostels will be built on availability of fund and need," she said.

On eliminating repression on women and children, Shirin said the government has revitalised its network across the country to prevent women and child repression.



PHOTO: COURTESY

HeidelbergCement Bangladesh Limited Managing Director Jean-Claude Jamar hands over a cheque to AKM Mofizur Rahman, executive director of Community Development Library, to help run a school 'Chetona Bikash Kendra' for slum-dwelling children as part of the company's CSR activities recently.

Reshuffle in police dept

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a latest reshuffle in the police department yesterday, 16 senior assistant superintendents of police (ASPs) were promoted to the rank of additional SP and also transferred to different places across the country.

According to a release issued by the Police Headquarters, of the promoted senior ASPs, Tabarak Ullah was transferred to Special Branch, Mohammad Maniruzzaman to Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP), Zamil Hasan to Tangail, Sana

Shamimur Rahman to Criminal Investigation Department, Habibur Rahman to Bhola, Mehedul Islam to Gaibandha, Mohammad Maniruzzaman to DMP, Foyzal Mahmud to Sylhet Metropolitan Police, Hamidul Alam to Kurigram, Anisur Rahman to Mymensingh, Biplob Bijoy Talukder to Sylhet, Nihar Ranjan Hawlader to Bandarban, Sanjoy Kumer Kundu to Comilla, Harun Or Rashid to DMP, Maniruzzaman to DMP and Mollah Zahangir Hossain to Khulna.