

## Obama phones Hasina, says US to stand by Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

US President Barack Obama Monday night phoned Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and hoped that she would play an important role in the Copenhagen climate summit.

Obama assured her that the US government would stand beside Bangladesh in its battle against climate change.

Awami League's Joint General Secretary Mahbubul Alam Hanif told this to reporters at the Zia International Airport after Hasina's departure for the summit.

Obama's assurance came three days after UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown extended his country's support to Bangladesh for its position in the ongoing climate talks.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

## Grabbers over 8,000

Govt reports on 4 rivers tell court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Over 8,000 land grabbers have occupied areas of the Buriganga, Shitalakkhya, Turag and Balu rivers around the capital, building various structures, say survey reports of four district administrations concerned.

Districts administrations of Dhaka, Narayanganj, Gazipur and Munshiganj calculated the figures of land grabbers as per the Cadastral Survey (CS 1910-1913) records.

But, veteran activists of river protection campaigns have a different opinion about the figure of encroachers, which they said should be much higher if estimated according to the CS records.

Only Narayanganj district administration has mentioned the amount of river area lost to grabbers, which is 1,158 acres as per the CS records.

The four district administrations prepared the reports on river demarcation and submitted them to the High Court in the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4



Private initiatives have recently located 282 graves of freedom fighters at two places of Agartala in Indian territory across Akhaura border. Inset, the grave of freedom fighter Prof Wahab Talukdar lies uncared for in Kalamati village, India.

PHOTO COURTESY: Q SAJJAD A ZAHIR

## Tafazzul new chief justice

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Justice Md Tafazzul Islam, a senior justice of the Supreme Court (SC), was appointed



chief justice yesterday.

President Zillur Rahman gave the appointment as per article 95(1) of the Constitution, an official hand-out said. But he superseded senior judge of the Appellate

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

## Mugging bid by cops foiled

ASI caught with Tk 16 lakh snatched from shop staff, 3 others flee

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pedestrians caught red handed an assistant sub-inspector (ASI) of police during his alleged attempt to snatch Tk 16.5 lakh from two employees of a mobile phone set shop in the city's Paltan area yesterday afternoon.

Three others, including two policemen, however, managed to flee.

ASI Mainul Islam of Adabar Police Station was handed over to Paltan Police Station along with the money recovered from his possession.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

## Victory Day today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today the nation celebrates the 38th anniversary of its glorious victory over Pakistani occupation forces.

The day, back in 1971, the country achieved its independence as well as a name, Bangladesh, as an individual nation after nine-month-long Liberation War.

People across the country and the Bangladesh missions abroad will celebrate the Victory Day paying tribute to the three million martyrs for their ultimate sacrifice for the nation.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

## Heroes away from home

They lie buried across the border, long for land they liberated 38 years back; 282 graves found so far

INAM AHMED and JULFIKAR ALI MANIK

Thirty-eight years into independence, an uncountable number of fallen war heroes still lie buried on Indian soil without being identified or their graves preserved. Only recently 282 such graves have been found across the Akhaura border, a major war theatre of 1971, opposite Sanarbadi village.

From across the border at Bhurungamari, the grave of another freedom fighter, Prof Wahab Talukdar, has been located in Kalamati village of India.

These graves have been located com-

pletely at private initiatives by freedom fighters who have been researching on Liberation War and those who had fought at the front that became one of the earliest flashpoints of resistance. The fallen heroes were mainly policemen, members of the East Pakistan Regiment (EPR) that was later turned into BDR or Bangladesh Rifles and civilians.

After that, the researchers have written to the Ministry of Liberation War asking it to initiate talks with India to have the graves properly preserved and monuments built to identify them.

The government has communicated

the issue with the Bangladesh mission in Delhi and the matter has been taken up with the Indian government.

"This is just one small example of our war heroes lying buried anonymously on Indian soil," said Lt Col (Retd) Q Sajjad A Zahir, Bir Protik, a brave freedom fighter and war researcher. "There must be thousands of graves strewn around the major war theatres along the borders. Those who fought on the ground know so many of our co-fighters died in the battles. But where are their graves? Our latest find only confirms that they are buried across the border."

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1



Dilu's mother works as a house-help and Dilu sells flowers and chocolates at traffic intersections. Her mother dreams that one day, her daughter will be enlightened and will grow up to be someone great. To fulfill her mother's dream Dilu continued to study despite many challenges. This hard work and perseverance brought Dilu a golden A+ in her SSC examination. Dilu and her mother's achievement tells the story of a new victory.

## Tales of victory

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