A godsend for Kakon Bibi

UNB, Dhaka

To Kakon Bibi, it seemed to be a godsend as the hapless indigenous woman got over Tk 15 lakh, at long last, for her courageous role during the liberation war.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday handed over a cheque for the amount to freedom fighter Kakat Heinchita alias Kakon Bibi, now at her 60s, at a simple but emotioncharged ceremony at her office. The state-owned Janata Bank donated the money.

A member of the Khasia community, Kakon Bibi lost her husband and many others of her family during the liberation

She now only has a daughter and a son-in-law, a press report

Receiving the money, an emotional Kakon Bibi told the prime minister that it is only the PM who can help the freedom fighters so generously.

"Because, we fought in the liberation war under the leadership of your father, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman," she said. Hasina thanked the Janata

Bank board of directors for their help to the freedom fighter hailed from the backwoods of Sunamganj district. She also urged all govern-

ment and private organisations to come forward for such humanitarian activities out of their social responsibility.

Call for bicyclefriendly environment to reduce risks of health hazard

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A bicycle-friendly environment can reduce the risks of health hazard, said speakers at a press conference yesterday.

Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) and WBB Trust organised the press conference at Bapa's office in the city where leaders of the organisations announced that they would hold a bicycle rally tomorrow with a view to raising public awareness about creating a bicyclefriendly environment in the city.

The rally, which will start from the Central Shaheed Minar at 10:00am, will end in front of the National Press Club.

Preventable diseases are on the rise while the environment is becoming more polluted due to excess dependency on motorised vehicles, said the speakers at the press conference.

Prof AR Khan said people have to wait on the road for hours after hours because of traffic congestion, which is wasting their time and money and creating mental pressure as well.

According to a research of Human Development Research Centre (HDRC), 76 percent of the city's transportation covers less than five kilometres while half of this covers less than two kilo-

metres. Underscoring the need for developing the public transport system, Kamrun Nahar Dana said private car is now one of the main causes of traffic congestion in the city.

Camp for diabetic children begins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With a view to create awareness in the society regarding child diabetes and to motivate the children living with diabetes to manage and control it properly, a three-day camp for diabetic children began yesterday.

to write this autobiography Diabetic Association of came from family bonds and Bangladesh (Dab) organised affection. the camp at the Brac Centre in Savar. Novo Nordisk and the Publishers published the book. World Diabetes Foundation assisted the programme.

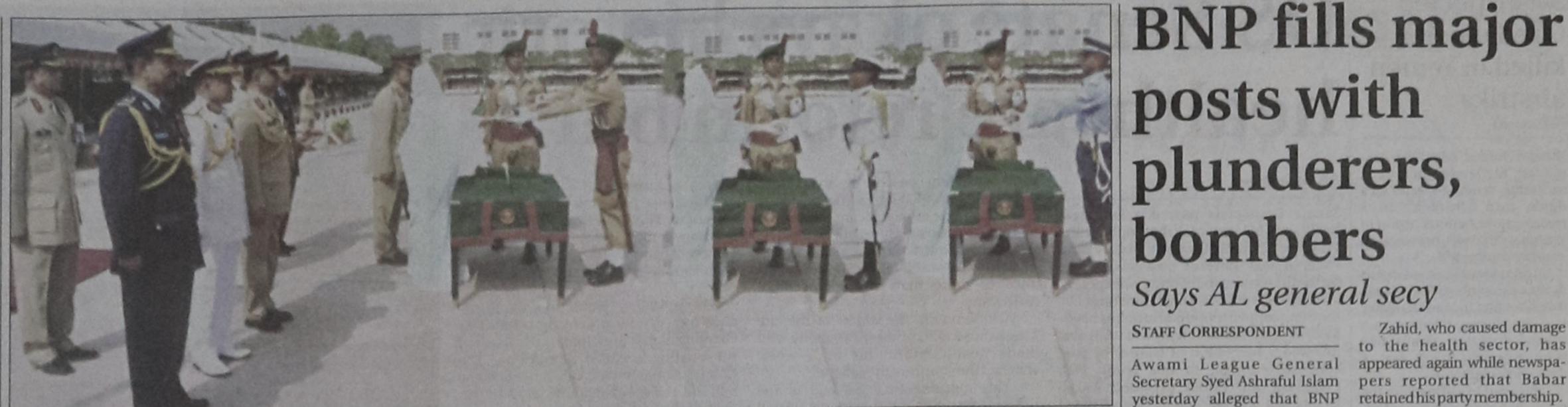
Some 50 children living with diabetes and their parents joined the camp.

"It is designed in such a way where the children will have fun and at the same time they will learn," said A Rajan Kumar, managing director of Novo Nordisk Pharma (Pvt) Limited,

at the discussion. In Bangladesh, around 60 lakh people are suffering from diabetes and the number of the children suffering from this is around

National Professor MR Khan

inaugurated the camp. Saifuddin Ahmed, secretary general, Prof Ziauddin Ahmed, director general of Birdem, and Prof Nazmun Nahar, additional director general of Birdem, spoke at the discussion.



Awami League General Secretary Syed Ashraful Islam yesterday alleged that BNP

PHOTO: ISPR

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina awards "Sword of Honour" to Battalion Senior Under Officer Md Shafiur Rahman of 61st BMA Long Course, Midshipman Md Abdullah Al Momin of Midshipmen Batch 2008A and Flight Cadet Sergeant Md Saiful Monir of 60th Flight Cadet Course for all round best performance in their respective courses at Combined President's Parade at Bhatiary, Chittagong yesterday. (Story on Page 3)

'ROAD TO RIGHTS'

Call for inclusive education for children with disabilities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at an awareness campaign yesterday called on all to stand by the children with disabilities and help ensure their rights.

They also called for inclusive education for them so that they can integrate into the mainstream of society.

Autobiography

of Rawshan

Ara launched

The publication ceremony of an

autobiography entitled 'Smritir

Bagane Shesh Bikeler Meye' by

noted writer Prof Rawshan Ara

Rahman was held at the

Women's Voluntary Association

(WVA) auditorium in the city

Rahman, former chief adviser to

the caretaker government, was

present as the chief guest while

Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui

Alo Editor Matiur Rahman,

founder of the Bishwa Sahitya

Kendra Prof Abdullah Abu

Sayeed and theatre personality

Begum Mamtaz Hossain were

her outstanding book and

hoped that today's girls and

women would learn a lot from

readers would know about the

turbulent life of a woman though

author Prof Rawshan Ara said,

"My endeavour was to express

my thoughts on my challenging

life experiences. My inspiration

The University Book

reading this autobiography.

Prof Zillur Rahman said the

Speaking on the occasion,

They praised the writer for

present as special guests.

Prof Anisuzzaman, Prothom

presided over the ceremony.

Justice Muhammad Habibur

yesterday.

this book.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Disabled Research and Rehabilitation Association (DRRA) in collaboration with ActionAid Bangladesh and Liliane Fonds-Netherlands organised the four-day programme titled 'Road to Rights' that ended on the Central Shaheed Minar premises in the city yester-

The campaign was aimed minister. at raising awareness about the rights of children with disabilities who account for about three percent of the persons with disabilities.

During the campaign that began at Satkhira, the organisers collected signatures on a white canvas. The signatures will be submitted to the prime

Speaking at the closing session of the campaign, State Minister for Law Quamrul Islam said the government has already made a draft law to establish the rights and dignity of persons with disabili-

The law will be finalised soon, he added.

Shaheen Anam, executive director of Manusher Jonno Foundation, said the children with disabilities should get the opportunity to grow up and achieve their potential like other children in society.

She also emphasised the need for inclusive education for them in order to integrate them into the mainstream of society.

They do need special education, but they should be taught according to their particular needs, she added.

Wahida Banu, president of Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum (BSAF), Khandakar Zahurul Alam, president of National Forum of Organisations Working with the Disabled (NFOWD), Dr Golam Rahman, president of DRRA, and Kazi Rozi, convener, Disability Rights Watch Group, also spoke.

Earlier, the children with disabilities presented a cultural show.

ATTACK ON PROF AZAD Court allows CID to quiz JMB man at jail gate

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday allowed Criminal Investigation Department (CID) to interrogate Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) member Mizanur Rahman Minhaz at the jail gate in the case of attempt to murder Prof Humayun Azad. First Additional Chief

Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Ali Hossain passed the order after CID Inspector Mostafizur Rahman submitted a petition seeking permission to interrogate the accused. CID for the first time yes-

terday sought permission to allow them to interrogate an accused since a court ordered a further investigation into the attack to find out the real culprits involved with the incident.

The same court on October 20 ordered fresh investigation following a petition submitted by the complainant. The court on December 20 again extended time to complete its investigation by March 8 next Monjur Kabir, brother of

Prof Azad, filed a petition on October 6 seeking further investigation into the attack on Prof Azad.

4

Says AL general secy Zahid, who caused damage through its council has given important party positions to

tion and bombings in the past. "This force has reorganised to activate the politics of corruption and bombings. If Khaleda Zia comes to power again cashing on our mistakes, her Gulshan office will be turned into the second Hawa Bhaban," he said.

those who were linked to the

politics of plundering, corrup-

Ashraf, also LGRD and cooperatives minister, was addressing a discussion organised on the occasion of 16th founding anniversary of ALbacked physicians' organisation Swadhinata Chikitshak Parishad (Swachip) at Biam auditorium in the city.

He said Lutfozzaman Babar and Dr AZM Zahid were key players of those who were indulged in the politics of corruption, killings and bombings centring Hawa Bhaban during the previous governmentrule.

to the health sector, has appeared again while newspapers reported that Babar retained his party membership.

These all are symptoms of reorganisation of those who were involved in the politics of corruption and bombings, he said, adding that all need to be watchful so that corrupts and war criminals could not come to power.

Steps have been taken to modernise Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University while a medical college and a nursing institute will also be built there, the AL leader observed. Deputy Leader of the

House Sajeda Chowdhury said like vote rigging and capture of polling booths, the physicians' organisation was also captured, prompting to the formation of Swachip.

Swachip President AFM Ruhal Haque, also health minister, said telemedicine project would be launched at eight places in the country soon, adding that river ambulance is being made to reach remote areas.

Islami Andolon starts long march towards Tipaimukh Dam

UNB, Dhaka

Islami Andolon Bangladesh (IAB), led by its president Charmonai Peer Mufti Syed Rezaul Karim, yesterday started a three-day long march from the capital towards the proposed Tipaimukh Dam site to press for scrapping the Indian project considered a big threat to Bangladesh's ecology. Witnesses said more than

1000 protestors joined the long march chanting various slogans down to Jatrabari crossing from where they boarded buses, trucks and cars and proceeded towards Sylhetin the afternoon.

Addressing a pre-march rally at Muktangan, the Charmonai Peer said the people of Bangladeshi are now united to protect their motherland from the Indian conspiracy and described the Tipaimukh Dam as a death trap for Bangladesh.

He alleged that the grand alliance government has given legitimacy to the controversial dam and sold out Bangladesh's interests to please Indians.

BNP Joint Secretary against the dam. They walked Amanullah Aman, who also joined the pre-long march rally, said Bangladesh faces all types of crises whenever Awami League forms the government.

Children with disabilities perform at a cultural programme at the closing session of an awareness

Dhaka University, presented

children are absent in the pro-

posed City Corporation

Ordinance 2008, current Citizen

Charters and in work plans of

City Corporation standing

committee. This largely

excludes them from basic

amenities, including primary

education, health services and

legal protection, which increase

ment of night shelters by city

corporations, ward-based

committee involving commu-

nity leaders to safeguard their

rights and awareness-building

Adv Md Rahmat Ali MP, chair-

man of the parliamentary

standing committee on LGRD

and cooperatives ministry,

said by strengthening the rural

economy employment can be

generated for their (children)

AKM Mustaque Ali, conve-

parents, thus flow of children

nor of NACSEC and executive

director of INCIDIN

Bangladesh, Shamsul Huda, a

panel mayor of Dhaka City

Corporation and commis-

sioner of Ward No. 29, Ishrat

Ahmed from SCSD, among

Dr Kazi Maruful Islam, Zakia of Unicef, and Selina

others, spoke.

to the cities can be stopped.

Speaking as the chief guest

programmes for the people.

He suggested for establish-

He pointed out that issues of

the keynote paper.

their vulnerability.

campaign titled 'Road to Rights' on the Central Shaheed Minar premises in the city yesterday.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a national consul-

tation yesterday stressed on

effective role of the city corpo-

rations in ensuring rights of

the sexually exploited street

ity of the street children live in

the urban areas. According to

Bangladesh Bureau of

Statistics, there are about

3,89,893 street children in six

divisional headquarters

among which more than 75

titled 'Role of local govern-

ment to promote and ensure

the rights of sexually exploited

children including street

children: Context of city cor-

poration' was organised by

National Alliance for

Combating Sexual

Exploitation of Children

(NACSEC) at National Press

tion are high among these

children for lack of night

shelters, family support and

their inability to protect them-

selves. They are subjected to

many other forms of violence,

including physical, they

assistant professor of

Development Studies at

Chances of sexual exploita-

Club in the city.

pointed out.

The national consultation

percent lives in Dhaka city.

Speaker added that major-

children.

Ensure rights of

street children'

Remarks of **SCBA** president protested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Seven pro-BNP and Jamaat lawyers in a joint statement yesterday protested the farewell address of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) president to the retiring judges of the Appellate Division on December 17.

The lawyers said the SCBA president saw it fit to make aspersions at one of the retiring judges.

"He commented adversely and with impunity on judicial orders passed by the honourable judge. He has used the occasion (and the publicity it offers) for furtherance of his personal cause," said the statement.

It said, "The Bar cannot and does not identify itself with such aspersions. The aspersions made were incorrect, impudent, unfortunate, and do not reflect the views of the

The lawyers said the SCBA president unjustifiably attacked the office, honour and dignity of a judge of the Supreme Court and consequently has encroached on the independence of the judiciary, which is protected by the constitution.

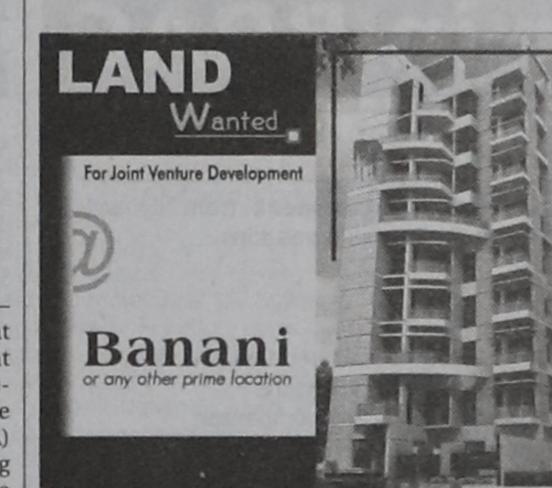
Signatories to the statement include TH Khan, Khondker Mahbubuddin Ahmed, Jamiruddin Sircar, Moudud Ahmed, Khandker Mahbub Hossain, AJ Mohammad Ali and Abdur Razzaq.

Cuta election on Dec 31

BSS, Chittagong

The election of Chittagong University Teachers Association

(Cuta) will be held on December 31. Two panels -- Yellow panel backed by Awami League and left-leaning parties and White panel supported by BNP and Jamaat -- are in the race for 11 posts.

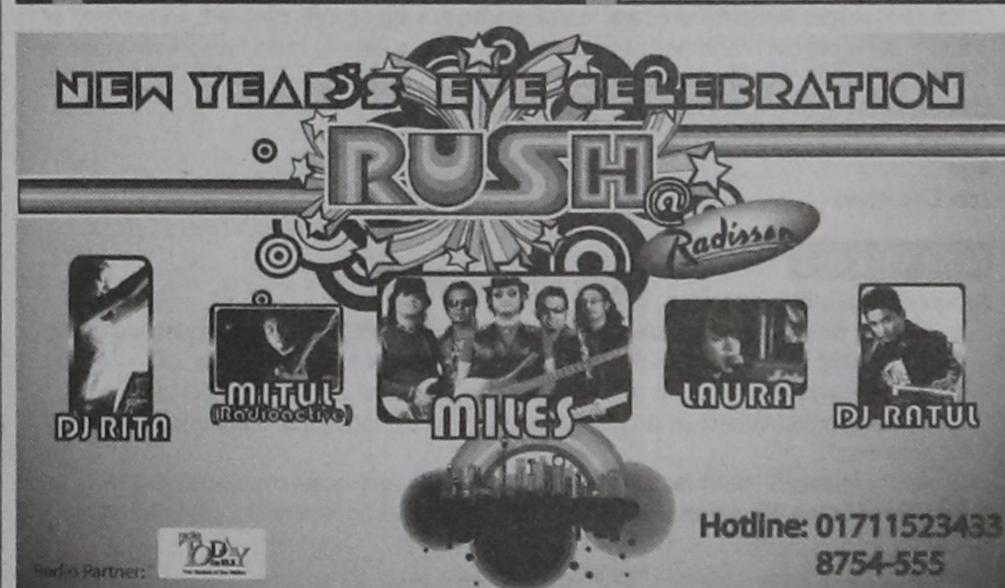




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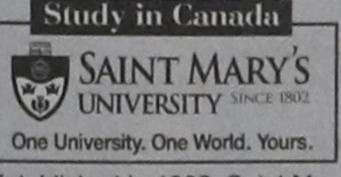


south facing 145% open space .

DATE: December 31, 2009

Venue: RADISSON WATER GARDEN HOTEL, UTSHAB HALL

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Book your appointment. Contact: Canadian University Application Center Hosna Centre, Suite 210, 106 Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka 1212 (Bangladesh)

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PHOTO: STAR

(From left) Begum Mamtaz Hossain, Prof Anisuzzaman, Prof Rawshan Ara Rahman, Justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman, Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui, Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed and Matiur Rahman hold copies of a book titled 'Smritir Bagane Shesh Bikeler Meye' by Prof Rawshan Ara at its launching ceremony at WVA auditorium in the city yesterday.