Generous

to aid of

on Friday.

other gifts.

people come

Sumi's family
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Generous people came to the aid of the family of Sumi, who

was killed in a road accident

# Call to amend Upazila Parishad Act

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday called on the government to amend the Upazila Parishad Act 2009 to establish an effective upazila parishad as well as autonomous local government.

At present, the upazila parishad has become virtually inoperative, they said.

The Upazila Parishad Act should be amended to enable the elected representatives to work independently, they added.

The Governance Advocacy Forum organised the discussion on 'Review of the Local Government Act 2009 in light of democratic

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

State Minister for Home

Shamsul Haque Tuku yester-

day sought cooperation from

both the ruling and opposi-

tion parties to maintain a

congenial atmosphere in the

educational institutions,

including the Dhaka

the home ministry, Tuku also

urged the two major political

parties, AL and BNP, to pull

the strings of their student

organisations and help law

enforcing agencies to estab-

lish peaceful atmosphere on

brilliant third year student of

Islamic History and Culture,

sustained fatal injuries during

a factional clash of

Advocate

Mosharaf

Hossain,

former

lawmaker

Awam

Abubakar Siddique, a

the DU campus.

Obituary

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Netrakona-5 (Purbadhala-

Dhubaura) constituency,

passed away due to old-age

complications at Renaissance

Hospital in Dhaka yesterday at

He left behind his wife,

three daughters and a host of

relatives and admirers to

long member of Mymensingh

AL Organising Secretary

Ahmed Hossain, former AL

lawmaker Jalaluddin Talukder

and lawmakers Warasat

Hossen Belal, Ashraf Ali Khan

Khasru and Manjur Kader

Kurashi and Netrakona AL

President Shamsujjuha and

leaders and workers expressed

their deep shock at his death

and conveyed sympathy to

was held at Sangsad Plaza. He

was buried at his family grave-

yard at his village home

Laukhai under Purbadhala

upazila after second janaza at

Shamganj Eidgah maidan

His first namaz-e-janaza

members of bereaved family.

Mosharaf was also a life

the age of 68.

Press Club.

mourn his death.

Briefing the journalists at

University.

National Press Club in the city yesterday.

speakers alleged that the local government bodies are not being allowed to discharge their functions properly.

They also expressed dissatisfaction that the parliament members have been made advisers to upazila parishads.

Local government bodies should be empowered to carry out its activities independently and have sufficient funds to execute them, said Advocate Azmat Ullah Khan, president of

maintain campus peace

his injuries.

Bangladesh Chhatra League

at Sir A F Rahman Hall last

week. He later succumbed to

is unexpected," the state

minister said when asked

about what actions were

Khatun, who termed the kill-

ing incident an isolated one

few days back, said the govern-

ment is investigating into the

death and recent violent inci-

dents at the DU. She said that

stern actions would be taken

of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal at

the DU, Tuku said some were

arrested instantly. "A case has

been filed in this regard while

police are looking for the

culprits," he told the reporters.

About the internal clashes

against the offenders.

Home Minister Sahara

taken in this regard.

"The death of the student

decentralisation' at the Municipal Association of Bangladesh.

He also said that only At the discussion, the 2.34 percent of the national development budget is allotted for the local government bodies, whereas in other countries, the local government institutes receive up to 40 percent of the budget.

> Speaking as the chief guest, Advcoate Rahmat Ali said that the local government act needs some amendments, but some other issues can be corrected by introducing specific policies.

He also suggested holding discussions with general

Sahara said the home

ministry will set up a DNA lab

at Agargaon in the city with Tk

20 crore to be funded by

Japan. "Japan has already

provided Tk 5 crore," she

Investigation Department

will soon submit the charge

sheet into the Bangladesh

Passport (MRP) and

Machine-readable Visa

(MRV) projects are also

going on in full swing.

introduced by the dead-

line April 1, 2010," said

ministry has also taken a Tk 487

crore project to purchase vehi-

cles for the police department.

The home minister said her

hoped that MRP will be

"Machine-readable

Rifles mutiny.

Sahara.

She also said Criminal

people before enacting any newlaw.

UNDP adviser to local government issues Dr Tofael Ahmed, Senior Assistant Editor of the daily Sangbad Md Muniruzzaman, Bangladesh Upazlia Parishad Assictaion member secretary Badiuzzaman Badshah, Bangladesh Upazlia Parishad Forum chairperson Mahbubur Rahman Tulu and Danish International Development Agency (Danida) senior adviser Hans Hofmayor also spoke at the discussion moderated by Governance Advocacy Forum

### coordinator Mohsin Ali. PADMA BRIDGE Tuku seeks cooperation to Govt places draft tender doc with donors for

opinion STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has placed a draft tender document for the Padma Bridge with four development partners including the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank who are financing the construction of the bridge.

The draft was placed before the donors during a meeting at the Economic Relations Division conference room yesterday.

Representatives of Japan International Cooperation Agency of the Japan government and Islamic Development Bank were

present in the meeting. After the meeting, Communications Minister Syed Abul Hossain told journalists that the government will float the tender for construction of the Padma Bridge, if the donors approve the draft

"We are now ready. After getting the opinion of the donors we will float the tender," Abul Hossain said.

tender document.

Earlier in last December, the finance minister, after an interministerial meeting on the Padma Bridge, said that they would float the tender in

The communications minister also said the donors do not have any reservations regarding the draft tender document except for some minor suggestions.

"We will modify the draft after they give suggestions in a body," he said.

The construction of the Padma Bridge will cost \$2.4 billion, as per the estimate by

the consulting firm, he added. Finance Minister AMA Muhith, Planning Minister AK Khandker, the prime minister's Adviser Dr Mashiur Rahman and other high officials were present in the meeting.

### DEATH OF HAMIM Punishment to driver demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Teachers, students and guardians of Willes Little Flower School yesterday demanded exemplary punishment to the driver responsible for the death of Shiekh Hamim, a KG student of the school.

Wearing black ribbons, they formed a human chain in front of the school at around 10:00am to press for their demand

Hamim was crushed to death under the wheels of a bus just in front of his school when he was returning home with his mother on Wednesday.

Speaking at the programme, the demonstrators called for steps to ensure road safety and amend the law concerned to ensure punish-

ment to the rule violators. They also urged the author-

ities concerned to take immediate action against the drivers who have fake licences and drive unfit vehicles.

The protesters also demanded that the owner of the bus be punished, as he employed a driver with fake

to express solidarity.

licence. President of Workers' Party and lawmaker Rashed Khan Menon joined the programme



Sheikh Hasina at Kuwait International Airport yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

### Cell phone crime goes unabated

FROM PAGE 16

Various gangs are also demanding hefty amounts from government high-ups, businessmen and wealthy people using such SIM (subscriber identity module) or RUIM cards. If anyone does not want to meet their demands, the criminals threaten to kill them or abduct their children.

Moreover, SIMs which are sold without any registration or by providing fake information are also being used for issuing threats for personal vengeance or teasing girls. In many cases criminals use photographs of other people to get the registration, said law enforcers.

Rab alone receives 70 such complaints on an average

number of such complaints. "We fail to trace offenders

every day sources said adding

that police also receive a good

in ninety percent cases due to their fake registration," said a top Rab official wishing ano-

A retailer who sells SIMs of different mobile operators in Mirpur area said in many cases buyers express unwillingness to provide necessary documents including photographs. "In that case we fill in the registration form attaching photographs of another person," he said adding a section of traders in the city's Nilkhet area sells photographs of people.

Director General of Rab Hassan Mahmood Khandkar said the registration process modern technology to stop such threats and other criminal activities. Commissioner of Dhaka

should be made flawless using

Metropolitan Police Shahidul Hoque said such crimina activities have marked a decline after they started a crackdown but such incidents marked a rise in the last week.

He said they have already placed the issue of faulty registration process before the law and order meeting of the home ministry. "We're trying to stop such crime," he said. Director of Rab Intelligence

Wing Ziaul Ahsan suggests activating SIM only after verifying information given in a registration with the database of National Identity Card

### Govt to send

UNB, Dhaka

The government has taken initiative to send 18,000 pilgrims to Saudi Arabia this year by ship so people can perform

than airfares. Meanwhile, a private ship-

ment said yesterday. Under the arrangement, each passenger needs to spend a minimum of \$850 for the voyage to Saudi Arabia for the pilgrim-

held in mid-November.

Khan in the chair.

The shipping lines, with its two ships, would carry the pilgrims to and from Chittagong seaport and Jeddah Port from

October 1 on six up and down trips each. Each trip can carry 3,000 passengers.

convenor, was formed to implement the proposals.

perennial problems involved in carrying thousands of pilgrims by air for aircraft shortages and other hassles.

ministries concerned, NBR, Ctg port, Bangladesh Shipping Corporation, Mercantile Marine Department and Shipping Lines are made committee members.

on March 19 last year to con-

duct an inquiry into the alleged

widespread corruption in the

Parliament Secretariat during

the last seven years from

November 2001 to January 25,

lawmaker Fazle Rabbi Mia,

chief of the parliamentary

probe body, placed the 784-

page report in parliament on

July 9 with huge documents on

corruption and misuse of

power committed by Sircar,

The report contains 16

The white paper of the

Akhtar Hamid and Delwar.

recommendations.

Ruling Awami League

# ACC gets JS probe report

within our schedule and then

we'll take action thereby." The ACC yesterday issued notices against Mahmudur, Mainul and Manju asking them to submit their wealth state-

Three different people filed the allegations against the three. Of them, Mainul filed the allegation against his brother Manju, while names of the other complainants could not be known immediately.

more involved with the private

fits even then. An inquiry against rough and partial figure of what Mahmudur will be conducted as per the allegation that he owns wealth worth Tk 8-10 crore amassed beyond known sources of income and that he

received huge financial benefits from Shinepukur Ceramics when he was holding the post of executive chairman of the Board of Investment (BoI). The allegation mentions 5,380 in landline and cellphone that Mahmudur received salary from the private organisation though he was holding a

organisation due to his resig-

A report published by The Daily Star on October 10, 2003 said even two years after Mahmudur left Shinepukur Ceramics, he allegedly contin-

against him after he joined BoI in October 2001 and continued receiving the money and bene-The report also presented a

Mahmudur was alleged to have received from Shinepukur from November 2001 to September 2003 which esti-

mated over Tk 86.58 lakh. That includes Tk 15.4 lakh in house rent from November 2001

2003 in monthly instalments of

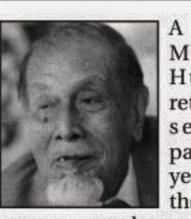
Allegations mentioned in that report also include giving two luxurious vehicles to the BoI chief and payment of all repairs and maintenance and salaries of two drivers by Shinepukur. One of the vehicles was a Nissan Patrol and the

Mainul brought against his brother is that Manju distributed Tk 2 crore he amassed by illegal means in the Daily Ittefaq to establish his supremacy in the newspaper house. The allegation brought against Mainul said he misused power

alleged corruption points out anomalies in taking medical bills, using unauthorised public vehicles and taking additional fuel allowances, corruption in procurement, beautification and arboriculture, recruitment, entertainment bills, allocation of residence for officials and receiving money from the Parliament Members' Club.

### after Esha prayers. Staff correspondent adds: Speaker Abdul Hamid Advocate and State Minister for Cultural affairs Promod Mankin in separate condolence messages expressed their deep shock at his death. They also conveyed sympathy to members of the bereaved family and prayed for salvation of the departed soul.

ABM Motahar Husain METRO DESK



B M Motahar Husain, a retired joint secretary, passed away yesterday at the age of 92,

says a press release. He left behind three daughters, one son, grandchildren and a host of relatives to buried at Banani graveyard.

mourn his death. He was A doa mahfil will be held at 7/K, Road No. 24, Banani, at 6:30pm on February 11.

### Place amended real estate bill to JS Bela urges JS body

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association has urged a parliamentary standing committee to return the Amended Real Estate Development and Management Act 2009 to parliament so that it can be passed during the current parliamen-

tary session. The Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (Bela) sent a letter to the committee yesterday stating that the Act will prevent unauthorised housing projects, illegal earth

fillingandlandgrabbing. The Act was placed before parliament in September last year and it was then referred to the standing committee on housing and public works.

"Despite demands for a speedy passage, for unknown reasons the parliamentary committee has not yet returned the Act to parliament," reads the letter.

Bela's letter highlights the fact that the cabinet committee has already approved the amended Act.

protect consumer interests by introducing penal provisions for advertising unauthorised or fraudulent projects.

Bela believes that dishonest housing developers will continue to invest money in illegal housing projects until the Act is passed.

The prime minister's private secretary also received a copy of the letter.

The letter urges the committee to reconsider the provision for arbitration rather than upholding the consumers right to file a case directly.

It also demands specific provisions against land grab-

The president of the Real Estate and Housing Association of Bangladesh (REHAB) recently proposed that the criminal penal procedure be replaced with a civil one and that bail should be available to those charged

with land grabbing. Bela argues that these proposals are inappropriate, given the level of anger expressed by the prime minister and works minister on the

The Act is designed to WEATHER

## Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry over the country with partly cloudy sky over Rajshahi division in the next 12 hours till 6:00pm today. Light fog may occur over the river basins of the country

during late night till morning, Met Office said. Prevailing mild cold wave over Srimongal region may continue, it said predicting slight rise in night temperature. The sun sets in the capital at 5:49pm today and rises at

6:35am tomorrow. Country's highest temperature 29.9 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and lowest 6.0 degrees Celsius at Srimongal.

in some major cities and towns yesterday were: Temperature in **Humidity** in City/Town Celsius percentage

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded

	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	28.2	12.6	54	41
Chittagong	26.5	13.0	55	51
Rajshahi	27.5	10.5	76	58
Khulna	28.2	13.0	71	57
Barisal	28.5	11.6	82	66
Sylhet	29.9	13.0	58	42
Cox's Bazar	29.2	15.5	44	60



international market. Now, as

the price has gone down, the

power tariff has come down to

Tk 7.68 per kilowatt-hour,

Jabed said. The power tariff of

this plant would always be

determined according to the

price of furnace oil on the

international market, he

plant started in January last

year entrusting Hong Kong-

based firm Royce Power for

technical assistance. As per

agreement with the PDB,

Energies was supposed to

complete the project within

July. But the company seriously

lagged behind schedule and

convinced the PDB to give it a

Construction work of the

Power generation to start Thursday fresh deadline of December 31. However, Energies missed that

> deadline too. Earlier in May 2009, another 24MW rental power plant was launched at Barabkunda under Sitakunda upazila in the district. Regent Power Limited of Habib Group set up the plant at a cost of Tk

130 crore. Meanwhile, construction of the state-owned 150MW Peaking Power Plant at Shikalbaha is almost complete. The Tk 534 crore gasfired plant is expected to go into generation at the end of March or beginning of April this year on the basis of getting gas supply, said Chittagong

tion) Abu Taher. He said when seven of the

government-run power units of Chittagong had long remained shut, the supply of 55MW power from Energies Power Corporation will rid the power crisis to some extent.

Out of 11 power plants only the Barabkunda 24MW rental plant and three units of Karnaphuli Hydro Power Station are now operating because of a lack of sufficient gas supply, technical glitches and rehabilitation work. Together these units produce only 162MW power on an average, which has resulted in a load-shedding of around 250MW during PDB Chief Engineer (Generapeak hours.

ship of party activists and

leaders. Sheikh Hasina is the

first who renewed her mem-

programmes aiming to

strengthen the party and its

grassroots structures, reduce

gap between the lawmakers and

the party leaders and activists,

said AL organising secretary

the party's grassroots leaders

to obtain a real picture of the

party. Nasim hoped that it

would help bring radical

change in the grassroots level

He said the councils of

district to ward level commit-

tees would be held during June-

July after holding the extended

meeting. The next grassroots

level committees would see

relatively young leaders' domi-

nation, said party insiders.

He said they would listen to

AFM Bahauddin Nasim.

committees.

"We are starting our

bership recently.

## Maya reinstated as city AL gen secy

move where party high com-

mand would direct grassroots

level leaders to counter

oppositions' anti-government

propaganda and threat of

would also be instructed to

start massive campaign high-

lighting government's one-

year successes and refrain from

tender manipulations and

On the first day AL will hold

AL central leaders would

a meeting of the Barisal district

The grassroots leaders

movements.

and city units.

added.

expressed satisfaction with the decision and sought cooperation from all.

AL general secretary and LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Syed Ashraful Islam was present at the meeting. Moreover, a meeting of AL-

led 14-party alliance will be

held tomorrow at AL president's political office in Dhanmnondi at 4:00pm. The meeting has been called aiming to boost up coordination within the alliance up to its grassroots

level in the wake of main opposition BNP's meeting at the grassroots and threat to forge movement against the government, said deputy office secretary of AL Mrinal Kanti Das.

Besides, AL would hold extended meeting of its different district units as part of the

extortions. AL would listen to its grassroots' voice, take notes at those meetings and submit it to the party high command.

councils.

tours soon to hold district level Besides, AL would also start recruiting new members and

also start massive district level

renewal of primary member-

ued receiving Tk 5 lakh in gross monthly salary. The allegations were raised

to August 2003, Tk 93,742 in car maintenance in May, June and September of 2003 alone, Tk bills for June and September 2003, Tk 14,500 in electricity bills for May-July 2003, and Tk 70 lakh government post and was no which was transferred between

January 2003 and September

other was a Honda Accord. The allegation Barrister

while he was an adviser to the caretaker government and amassed huge wealth beyond known sources of income. PARLIAMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT

A parliamentary probe committee found that Jamiruddin

priatedTk2.5 crore.

Sircar, Akhtar Hamid and Khandaker Delwar misappro-The committee was formed

Sumi's mother Hasina Begum and 14-month-old brother were critically injured in the same road accident at Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue in the city, but her father could

not afford their treatment. As reports on Sumi's family were published in several newspapers, including The Daily Star, generous people came forward and donated about Tk 60,000 as of yesterday evening. CT scan of the mother was also sponsored along with shower of many

run over by a bus on Friday just two days after the road crash in which kindergarten student Hamim Sheikh was killed. The media yesterday

Seven-year-old Sumi was

reported that Monjur Sarker, father of Sumi, could not manage to pay for the treatment of his injured wife and son. They were admitted to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital after the accident. Expressing gratitude, Monjur Sarker yesterday said, "I bought

(wife and son) with the donated money. Doctors are also taking special care of them." The doctors said that the condition of the baby is improving. The CT scan on the injured Hasina shows that she developed a crack in her scull.

necessary medicine for them

unchanged. Lawmaker and human rights activist Tarana Halim and her sister Samia Halim, who lost her son Saif Ahmed to a road accident two months ago, visited Sumi's mother and brother at the hospital.

Her condition remains

She also gave money, cloths and foods to Sumi's family.

### 18,000 Hajj pilgrims by ship

the holy Hajj at lower expenses

ping corporation has made some proposals to the government for carrying the pilgrim passengers at 40 percent less than the cost of travel by airplane, an official announce-

age. This year Hajj is likely to be The plan was unveiled at a

meeting of the shipping ministry with its Minister Shahjahan

At the meeting, an 11member committee, with Joint Secretary of the ministry (Commercial) M Abdul Quddus as

The step also helps avert

Representatives from the