

# 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.

decentralisation' at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.

Municipal Association of Bangladesh. He also said that only 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.

people before enacting any new law. UNDP adviser to local government issues Dr Tofael Ahmed, Senior Assistant Editor of the daily Sangbad Md Muniruzzaman, Bangladesh Upazila Parishad Assiciation member secretary Badiuzzaman Badshah, Bangladesh Upazila 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.



Adviser to the Kuwaiti Prime Minister Dr Sheikh Rafah al Sabah al Jaber receives Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Kuwait International Airport yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

## Generous people come to aid of Sumi's family

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Generous people came to the aid of the family of Sumi, who was killed in a road accident on Friday.

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 other gifts.

Seven-year-old Sumi was 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 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 necessary medicine for them (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 skull. Her condition remains unchanged.

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

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

# Tuku seeks cooperation to maintain campus peace

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

State Minister for Home Shamsul Haque Tuku yesterday sought cooperation from both the ruling and opposition parties to maintain a congenial atmosphere in the educational institutions, including the Dhaka University.

Bangladesh Chhatra League at Sir A F Rahman Hall last week. He later succumbed to his injuries. "The death of the student is unexpected," the state minister said when asked about what actions were taken in this regard.

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 added.

## PADMA BRIDGE 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.

# Cell phone crime goes unabated

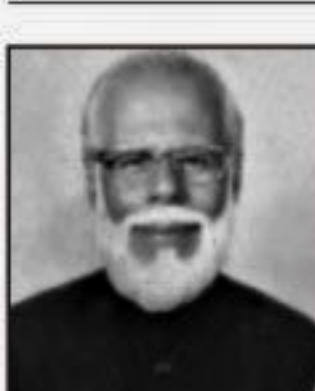
FROM PAGE 16 Various gangs are also demanding hefty amounts from government high-ups, businessmen and wealthy people using such SIM (subscriber identity module) or RUM cards. If anyone does not want to meet their demands, the criminals threaten to kill them or abduct their children.

every day sources said adding that police also receive a good number of such complaints. "We fail to trace offenders in ninety percent cases due to their fake registration," said a top Rab official wishing anonymity. 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 Nikhet area sells photographs of people.

should be made flawless using modern technology to stop such threats and other criminal activities. Commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police Shahidul Hoque said such criminal 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 in the home ministry. "We're trying to stop such crime," he said.

## Obituary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona



Advocate Mosharaf Hossain, former Awami League lawmaker from Netrakona-5 (Purbadhala-Dhubaura) constituency, passed away due to old-age complications at Renaissance Hospital in Dhaka yesterday at the age of 68.

# 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 parliamentary session.

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 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.

## Power generation to start Thursday

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international market. Now, as the price has gone down, the power tariff has come down to Tk 7.68 per kilowatt-hour, Javed said. The power tariff of this plant would always be determined according to the price of furnace oil on the international market, he added.

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.

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 peak hours.

## Govt to send 18,000 Hajj pilgrims by ship

UNB, Dhaka

The government has taken initiative to send 18,000 pilgrims to Saudi Arabia this year by ship so people can perform the holy Hajj at lower expenses than airfares.

Meanwhile, a private shipping 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 announcement said yesterday.

Under the arrangement, each passenger needs to spend a minimum of \$850 for the voyage to Saudi Arabia for the pilgrimage. This year Hajj is likely to be held in mid-November.

The plan was unveiled at a meeting of the shipping ministry with its Minister Shahjahan 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.

At the meeting, an 11-member committee, with Joint Secretary of the ministry (Commercial) M Abdul Quddus as convener, was formed to implement the proposals.

The step also helps avert perennial problems involved in carrying thousands of pilgrims by air for aircraft shortages and other hassles.

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

The Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA) sent a letter to the committee yesterday stating that the Act will prevent unauthorised housing projects, illegal earth filling and land grabbing.

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.

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 Mashur Rahman and other high officials were present in the meeting.

## Maya reinstated as city AL gen secy

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expressed satisfaction with the decision and sought cooperation from all. AL general secretary and LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Syed Ashrafur 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 Dhanmondi at 4:00pm.

move where party high command would direct grassroots level leaders to counter opposition's anti-government propaganda and threat of movements. The grassroots leaders would also be instructed to start massive campaign highlighting government's one-year successes and refrain from tender manipulations and extortions.

ship of party activists and leaders. Sheikh Hasina is the first who renewed her membership recently. "We are starting our 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 AFM Bahauddin Nasim. He said they would listen to 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 committees.

## ACC gets JS probe report

FROM PAGE 1

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 statements. 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.

organisation due to his resignation. A report published by The Daily Star on October 10, 2003 said even two years after Mahmudur left Shinepukur Ceramics, he allegedly continued receiving Tk 5 lakh in gross monthly salary. The allegations were raised against him after he joined BoI in October 2001 and continued receiving the money and benefits even then.

2003 in monthly instalments of Tk 5 lakh. Allegations mentioned in that report also include giving two luxurious vehicles to the BoI chief and maintenance and salaries of two drivers by Shinepukur. One of the vehicles was a Nissan Patrol and the other was a Honda Accord. The allegation barrister 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 while he was an adviser to the caretaker government and amassed huge wealth beyond known sources of income.

on March 19 last year to conduct an inquiry into the alleged widespread corruption in the Parliament Secretariat during the last seven years from November 2001 to January 25, 2009.

Ruling Awami League 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, Akhtar Hamid and Delwar.

The report contains 16 recommendations. The white paper of the 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.

WEATHER TODAY

## 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.

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	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

## ABM Motahar Husain

METRO DESK



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

## 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.

They formed black ribbons, wearing 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 punishment to the rule violators. They also urged the authorities 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 licence. President of Workers' Party and lawmaker Rashed Khan Menon joined the programme to express solidarity.