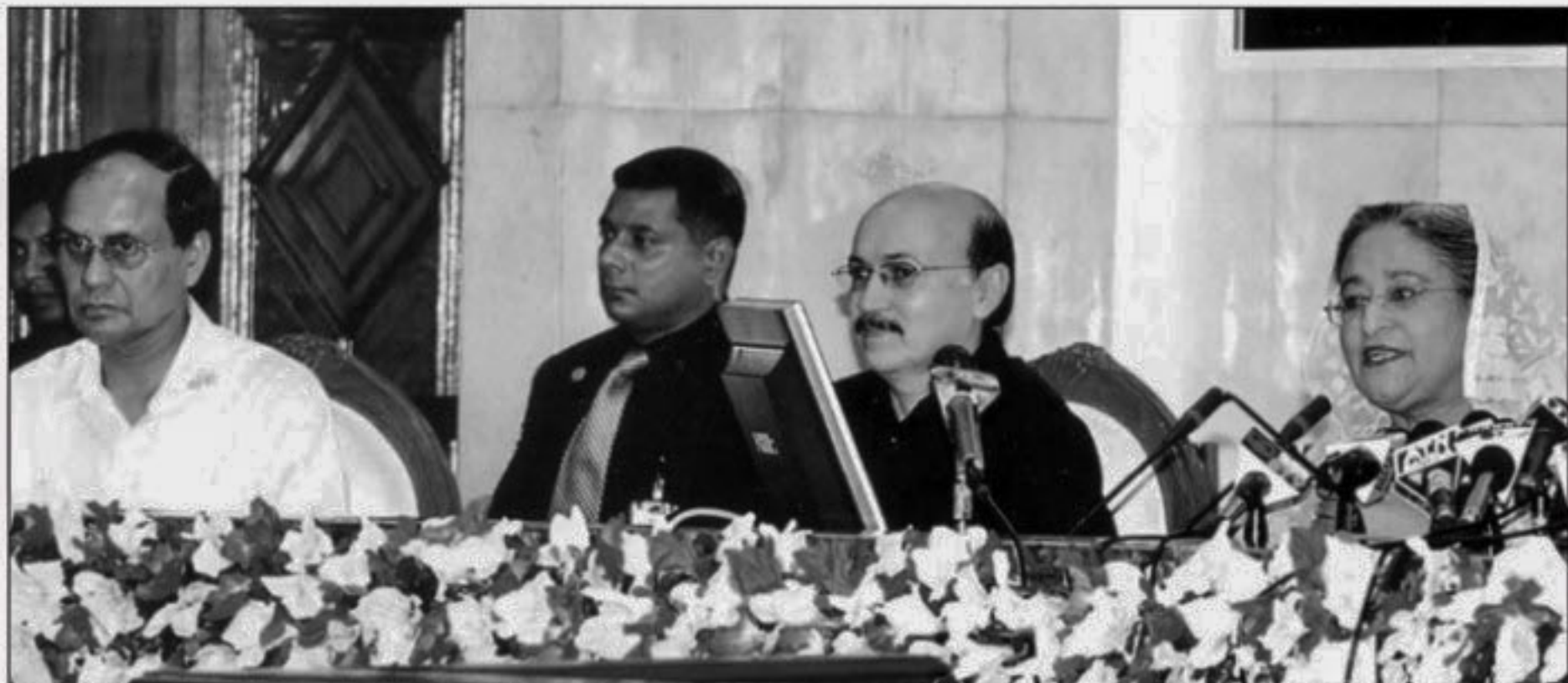


PM asks SSF not to annoy people while on duty

UNB, Dhaka Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the Special Security Force (SSF) to ensure that they do not annoy the mass people while performing their security tasks. "Make sure your actions do not annoy ordinary people," she said while addressing a function marking the 24th founding anniversary of SSF at the International Conference Centre (ICC) of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). Hasina said it is very much painful for the politicians to live isolated from the people. "Ensure that people are not kept far away from us due to your security concerns."

Hasina said the task entrusted to SSF is a very sensitive one. "It will be your credit if you can keep the VVIPs in touch with the public. Don't keep them (VVIPs) away from the mass people while providing security," she told the SSF. "Integrity, sharp intelligence and tolerance as well as unquestionable loyalty are essential in carrying out security responsibilities," she said. The prime minister underscored the need for building up flawless trustworthiness and integrity among all agencies concerned to ensure proper security to the VVIPs. "Otherwise, the security won't be foolproof," she said. Providing security to the VVIPs has now become a very sensitive and complex task in the present national and international context, she said, referring

to the existing multi-dimensional terrorist and militant activities both at home and outside world. Hasina said tactics and types of criminal offences have also changed along with the rapid expansion of science and technology. "Under such a circumstance, the security personnel need to be given time-befitting quality training so that they can properly ensure security to the VVIPs." She said keeping this in mind her previous government set up 'firing range' for the SSF in 1999 to make the force more skilled and capable. The PM assured to continue her government's endeavors to further modernise the SSF resolving their problems in future. Director General of SSF Maj Gen Joyanal Abedin also spoke on the occasion.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina speaks at a function marking the 24th founding anniversary of SSF at the International Conference Centre (ICC) of the Prime Minister's Office yesterday.

High casualties, devastation if 7.05 magnitude quake strikes Dhaka city: Study

Dhaka city may witness high civilian casualties and devastation if a 7.0 to 7.05-magnitude earthquake strikes the capital, according to a study. Citing the findings of the study, Food and Disaster Management Minister Abdur Razzaque said about 90,000 people would likely be affected if such an earthquake hits the city at night. In a scripted answer to lawmakers' queries, the minister

said the number of casualties might be around 70,000 if the quake occurs at day. Razzaque said some 70,000 buildings in the capital would be destroyed completely while 85,000 partially. The study was conducted on 3.26 lakh houses situated in the Dhaka City Corporation area. He, however, said there is no sign of occurring an 8.0 magnitude earthquake in the city. But a fault existing at Madhupur, 60 kilometre off Dhaka, may cause a 7.0 to 7.05-magnitude earthquake.

The minister said there would be a loss of about \$6 billion (half of national budget) for structural damage following this shock. Such a quake from the Madhupur Fault will generate a total of 30 million tonnes of debris, he said. The food minister also said the government is taking various measures to ensure food security for all. Those include increasing domestic food production and people's purchasing capacity, he said.

Saudi Arabia denies British newspapers' allegations

METRO DESK The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has categorically denied allegations circulated in the British newspapers that the Kingdom has given permission to Israeli aircraft to fly over its territories to attack Iran, a reliable Saudi source said. Such permission would be against the policy adopted and followed by the Kingdom, he said. He also reiterated the Kingdom's stand in rejecting any violation of its territories or airspace, the Saudi News Agency said in a statement recently. The source added that it would be illogical to allow the Israeli occupying force, with whom Saudi Arabia has no relations, to use its land and airspace.



Akikunnessa's 28th anniversary of death today

METRO DESK Today is the 28th death anniversary of Akikunnessa Ahmad, a noted writer and pioneer in progressive women's movement in late 40's, says a press release. She was the wife of renowned litterateur, journalist and politician of the sub-continent late Abul Mansur Ahmad and daughter of eminent Islamic thinker and litterateur Maulana Ahmad Ali Akaluki. Her significant literary works include 'Adhunik Stree' (Modern wife) and 'Adhunik Swami' (Modern husband). Special prayers will be held at her children's homes tomorrow to mark the death anniversary.

IT equipment to be provided for physically challenged persons

State Minister for Science and ICT Yeafesh Osman yesterday said his ministry would provide computer and other necessary equipment for the persons with disabilities for developing their skills in order to turn them into human resources. They should be provided with maximum facilities and care to help develop their talents, as they are the most underprivileged and neglected section of society, he said as the chief guest at a workshop on the rights of physically challenged persons to education. The Bangladesh Visually Impaired People's Society in association with the Sightsavers International organised the seminar at the National Press Club in the city. The state minister urged the well-off section to come forward to help protect the rights of the persons with disabilities. He also urged all to change their attitude towards the physically challenged persons. They should be treated as human beings, not as a burden on society, he added. Addressing the workshop, Visually Impaired People's Society general secretary Mosharraf Hossain Mazumder called on the government to

take initiatives to ensure access to education for the persons with disabilities, especially the visually impaired people. He also demanded introduction of inclusive education system for the visually impaired people. Jawaherul Islam Mamun, secretary general of the National Forum of Organisations Working with the Disabled (NFOWD), laid emphasis on development of disabled-friendly infrastructure at each educational institution across the country to ensure their education. Presenting the keynote paper, executive committee member of Visually Impaired People's Society Nazma Ara Begum said there are 1.6 million children with disabilities in the country. But the enrolment rate is less than 20 percent, even somewhere less than 5 percent. She also placed some recommendations including arranging training for schoolteachers and providing Braille equipment to visually impaired people. Visually Impaired People's Society president Golam Mostafa presided over the session while Sightsavers International Country Director Dr Wahidul Haque and a number of visually impaired people from across the country took part in the workshop.

Bangladesh to open embassy in Brazil

Brazilian govt keen to help for development of football UNB, Dhaka She said Brazil can import readymade garments, ceramics, handicrafts and food items from Bangladesh, as these items are of world-class standard. The prime minister mentioned that her government has been giving utmost importance to social safety net and food security. She expressed deep shock at the death of Brazilian peace-keeping personnel in Haiti. In this regard, Hasina said both Bangladesh and Brazil are contributing a lot to the UN peacekeeping missions. Brazilian Ambassador de Carvalho praised the prime minister for her firm leadership on the climate change issue and in establishing world peace. He said the Brazilian government would be happy to help for the development of football in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh will open an embassy in Brazil soon to facilitate bilateral relations and trade between the two countries. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said this yesterday when Brazilian Ambassador to Dhaka Ricardo L Viana de Carvalho paid a courtesy call on her at the Prime Minister's Office. Brazil recently reopened their Embassy in Dhaka. Press Secretary to the Prime Minister Abul Kalam Azad briefed reporters after the meeting. Assuring the Brazilian Ambassador of all-out cooperation from Bangladesh side, Hasina said with the opening of the Brazilian embassy here it would be possible for the two friendly countries to strengthen friendship and cooperation.

WEATHER TODAY

Light rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at many places over Barisal, Chittagong, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Rajshahi and Khulna divisions with heavy to very heavy falls at places over Barisal and Chittagong divisions in next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today. Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:48pm today and rises at 5:11am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 37.6 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chuandanga and lowest 24.4 degrees Celsius at Sylhet.

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	32.3	28.3	77	81
Chittagong	30.3	27.5	89	86
Rajshahi	36.0	26.0	90	77
Khulna	36.2	28.3	84	72
Barisal	34.0	27.6	88	83
Sylhet	28.5	24.4	98	96
Cox's Bazar	31.0	24.5	83	92



Police requisition many buses for today's Chittagong City Corporation election duty. The picture was taken from Dampara police lines ground in the port city of Chittagong yesterday.

Acute transport crisis in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT Commuters in the port city are facing an acute crisis for transport as more than three fourths of the public transport has been requisitioned while others are remaining off the roads fearing requisition. Traffic Department of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) requisitioned a total of 1420 vehicles, including 604 city service buses for the Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) electoral duties. Election Commission (EC), district administration officials, and law enforcement agencies personnel will use the vehicles during electoral duty. Sources said large number of buses, minibuses and micro-buses were requisitioned this time as trucks, the usual mode of transport for serving this purpose, can not be used in the monsoon. EC officials would require 673 buses to carry the ballot boxes. Other forms of public

vehicles requisitioned for include 337 out of 499 pick-up vans and 310 out of 500 minibuses that ply the city streets. Commuters are seen regularly waiting for public transport all over the city. Many Khulshi and spend another half hour to get a rickshaw at Golpaharer Mor to reach my workplace at Jamal Khan Road," said Md Anis Talukder while narrating his plight. Shamsuddin Gani Babul, an official of a private firm at

More than three-fourths of the public transport have been requisitioned while others are remaining off the roads fearing requisition

Malik Sramik Okya Parishad Golam Rasul Babul said, "The sufferings of commuters could have been eased if requisition of public transport was made after those belonging to government or non-government organisations following the provision." "We hardly get anything for our vehicles. The drivers and their assistants do not even get anything for lunch or refreshment," alleged Golam Rasul. CMP DC (Traffic) Faruk Ahmed said unavailability of buses in government or non-government organisations forced them to call for a large number of public transports. "The problem could have been eased if law enforcers had enough vehicles," he observed. Regarding payment of fare or wage, DC Faruk said the budget provided by EC was far less than what required. Assistant Returning Officer Farhad Hossain also said requisition of vehicles from government organisations could have lessened the pressure on public transports.

Graft eating into dev funds Says planning minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT Corruption has become so endemic in the country that hardly 20 percent of the allocation for development can be utilised for the same purpose, Planning Minister AK Khandaker said at a news conference yesterday. "Corruption has penetrated every facet of society. The chain of corruption begins at the stage of awarding tender for a development project. There are doubts whether over 15 percent or 20 percent of the allocation are spent on development," he said. The Social Science Research Centre organised the two-day seminar on 'Dissemination of research outcome' at the National Economic Council auditorium in the city. Speaking at the inaugural session as the

chief guest, the minister also urged the social scientists to conduct researches on corruption. "Social scientists can play an important role in addressing multifaceted problems piling up in the country. Using research-based information, they can provide guidelines for us to follow in resolving the problems," he added. Dr Qazi Kholiqzaman Ahmad and Social Science Research Centre Director Abdur Rahim Khan also spoke at the session presided over by Planning Secretary Habib Ullah Majumder. In between July 2008 and June 2010, the Social Science Research Centre financed 131 researches. Currently, 446 researches are being conducted under the centre.

President leaves for London June 19 for check-up

UNB, Dhaka President Zillur Rahman will leave Dhaka for London on June 19 for medical check-up at Bupa Cromwell Hospital. During his 10-day visit to the United Kingdom, Zillur will be accorded a reception at Kensington Hall in London by Bangladesh expatriates in the UK as well as in Europe. Family members and secretaries of office to the president's consent will accompany the president. Zillur is expected to return home on June 29.



Police bring BNP leader Salauddin Quader Chowdhury to Bakolia Police Station in Chittagong last night. The BNP leader, however, was released several hours after his arrest. (Story on page 1)

'Increase budgetary funds for health sector'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT Members of Swasthya Andolon at a press conference yesterday urged the government to increase budgetary allocation in health sector. They also called for giving highest priority to free health services for the underprivileged and controlling commercialisation of the health sector. Swasthya Andolon, a platform of doctors and rights activists, held the press conference at the National Press Club. Farida Akhter, convener of the platform, said health sector clearly did not get much priority in this budget especially the rights of the underprivileged. The government has failed to consider the increase in population, inflation rate, price spiral of medical resources, which calls for increased allocation, Farida added. Farida also the executive director of

UBINIG, said the health policy is completely missing from the discussion. Health sector of a country cannot run without a policy, she said. Spending is mostly focused on construction of buildings in this budget. It lacks clear strategy to improve the service delivery, she noted. Members of the platform called for improving the health services at the grassroots level, providing adequate supply of medicines, blood bank and proper facilities to manage communicable diseases at health complexes, making it mandatory for doctors to go to the rural areas. They also suggested separate budget for women and people in remote areas and introducing proper regulations for drug manufacturing industry. Members of Swasthya Andolon Dr M Mustaque, Dr Enamul Hasib, Shima Das Shimu and Rokeya Begum were present at the press conference.

Newspaper Employees Matiur, Khairul re-elected president, secy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT Md Matiur Rahman Talukdar of the Daily Ittefaq and Md Khairul Alam of the Daily Sangram were re-elected president and general secretary of Bangladesh Newspaper Employees Federation yesterday, says a press release. Other office-bearers are Vice Presidents: Md Salmuddin Selim, Kazi Bazlur Rahman, Enamul Haque, Abdul Kadir and Khokon Chandra Das; Assistant Secretaries: Jahannara Begum and Md Ebadullah; Treasurer: Habibullah Habib. Organising Secretary: Md Farooq Hawladar; Office Secretary: Sharif Makkul Hossain, Publicity Secretary: Nazrul Islam; and Cultural Secretary: Tanvir Hossain. Executive committee members are Humayun Kabir, Devendranath Majumdar, Sarafat Ali Patwary, Abdus Sattar Pramanik, Mostafizur Rahman, Khalilur Rahman, Shafiqul Islam, Abdul Malek Miaji, Amir Hossain, Kamal Hossain, Abdul Gafur, Sakhat Hossain and Sekandar Ali. Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) Secretary General Altaf Mahmud conducted the election as chairman of the five-member Election Commission.