

Govt not to hinder CCC development efforts

Ashraf assures mayor urging for more revenue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Syed Ashraf Islam urged the Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) to explore new revenue sources for increasing its own income to implement more development projects.

He said, "The city corporations would have to depend on the government for money if their own incomes cannot be increased, and this is how their autonomy is restrained and the development works are hampered."

Syed Ashraf was addressing a view exchange meeting on the development activities at CCC conference room with the Mayor Mohammad Manjur Alam in the chair. State Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Jahangir Kabir Nanok attended the programme as special guest.

Ashraf urged the CCC authorities to realise the outstanding money from different institutions and advised to go to the court if necessary.

He said the importance of Chittagong would be enhanced with the construction

of Dhaka-Chittagong-Kunming Highway and the deep-sea port. The minister told the authorities to prepare for this, and assured them of approving the development projects.

He also assured the mayor that the government would not hinder any development projects in Chittagong for political causes.

Mohammad Manjur, who was earlier a pro-Awami League ward councillor, won the mayoral election on June 17 with BNP ticket, defeating AL leader ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury who ruled the city corporations three terms.

Ashraf said, "The mayor took part in an anti-government demonstration yesterday (Wednesday), yet we have sat here with him today (Thursday) to discuss the city's development." This is the goal of the present government.

Mayor Manjur and some ward councillors in their speeches cited some crises including manpower shortage and backlogs of development projects.

State Minister Nanok urged all to work

together for the sake of the country, ignoring political differences.

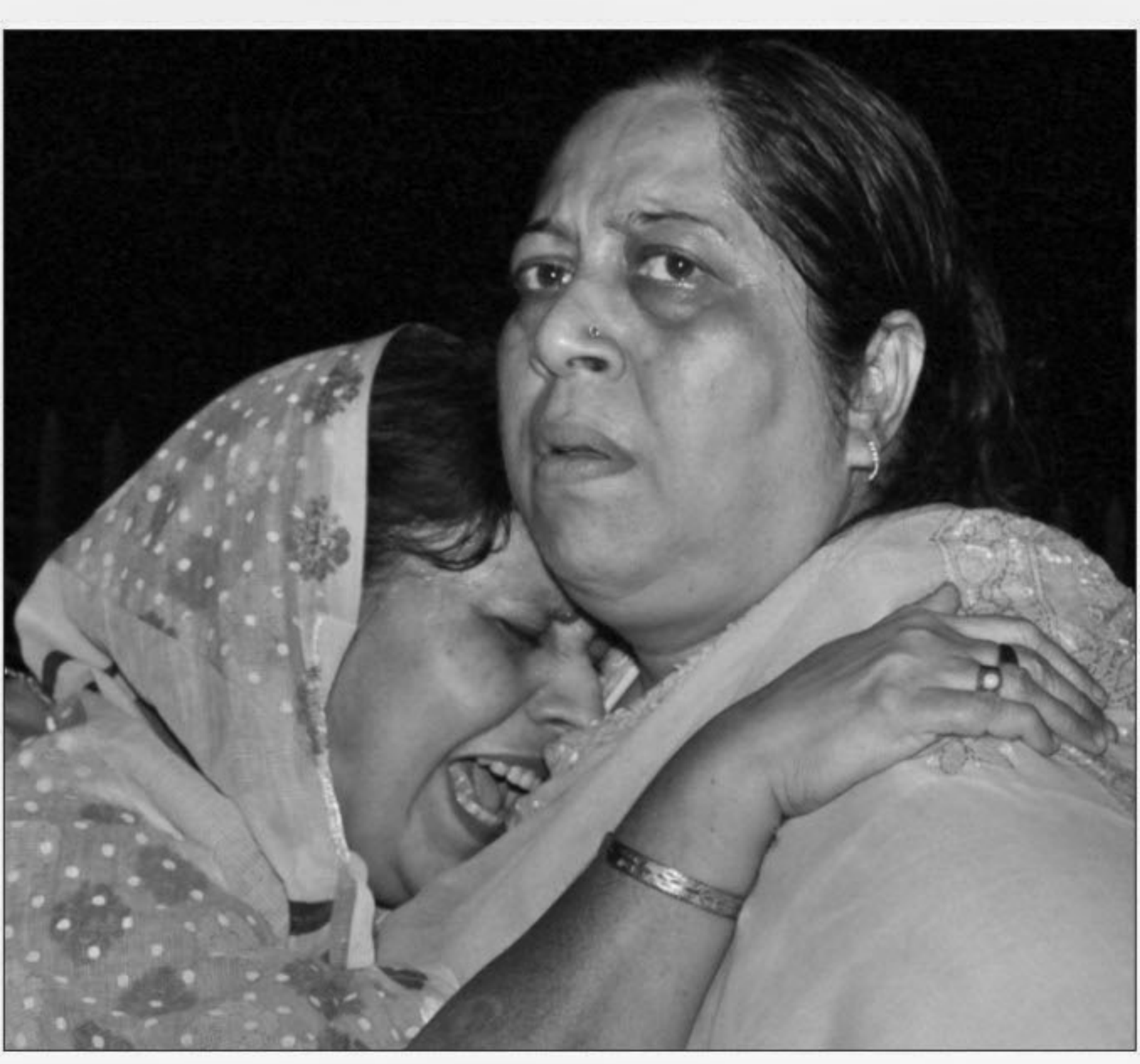
Later, both Ashraf and Nanok attended a view exchange meeting at Chittagong Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa).

Primary and Mass Education Minister Afsarul Ameen was present at the discussion, with Chittagong Wasa Managing Director AKM Fazlullah in the chair.

The LGRD minister assured steps to complete all the three Wasa-projects including Karnaphuli Water Supply Project, Madunaghat Water Supply Project and Mohra Water Treatment Plant within the tenure of the present government.

The LGRD minister also attended a rally organised by Chittagong Divisional Jubo Samabesh at Laldighi Maidan yesterday.

As the chief guest, Ashraf said no power can stop war crimes trial. "The war criminals thought that Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and the USA would come forward to save them when the trial starts, but they didn't come."



Family members and relatives burst into tears after they learned that Mridhat Sarima Rahman, 19, was stabbed to death allegedly by her lover at Amirbag in Chittagong city yesterday. (Story on Page 16)

Mugger killed in 'shootout'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An alleged mugger was shot dead by Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in the city's Banani Wednesday midnight.

Rab sources claimed the mugger was killed in a "shootout" between his accomplices and the elite force members. The dead aged around 35 years was yet to be identified.

A Rab team around 11:45pm on Wednesday was patrolling the area on foot when a gang of four to five muggers tried to rob two Rab personnel at gunpoint near Banani Star Kabab, said Capt SM Shafiqur Rahman, Rab-1 senior assistant director.

As the other Rab members approached the scene and tried to arrest the criminals, they opened fire on the law enforcers prompting them to retaliate. At one stage of the gunfight, the muggers fled the scene leaving one of them dead on the spot.

The Rab team recovered one LG, three bullets and a bullet cartridge from the possession of the dead.

A case was filed with Gulshan Police Station in this connection.

Dhaka wants to share experiences with Kabul: FM

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni reiterated Bangladesh's readiness to share its development experience with Afghanistan.

She told outgoing Afghan Ambassador to Bangladesh Ahmad Karim Nawabi when he paid a farewell call on her.

She said that Bangladesh had been consistent in lending support to build Afghan government's capacity.

"We attach great importance to our relations with Afghanistan, and the people and the government of Bangladesh have a special feeling for the brotherly people of Afghanistan," she said.

The foreign minister reiterated Bangladesh's steadfast commitment towards a stable, democratic and prosperous Afghanistan.

She expressed her conviction that the people of Afghanistan would be able to build a modern state and a dynamic nation in the days ahead.

During the meeting, they discussed further widening of relations between the two countries. They also exchanged views that the two countries might extend cooperation in areas like empowerment of women, non-formal primary education, community healthcare, sanitation, human resource development, judicial system reforms and social and humanitarian programmes.

Ambassador Nawabi expressed his deep gratitude for the support and cooperation he received from the government of Bangladesh during his tenure in Dhaka, saying that his attachment to Bangladesh would remain ever alive.

'CONTROVERSY' OVER OATHS CJ begins consultation with jurists, SCBA leaders

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Justice ABM Khairul Haque has begun taking opinions of jurists and leaders of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) before making up his mind about administering oaths to the remaining two "controversial" additional judges of the High Court.

On September 30, soon after assuming the office, the chief justice told the media that he would look into the legal aspects of the hanging matter of the two appointee-judges, which needs consultation with the jurists and leaders of the apex court bar.

As part of the consultations, the chief justice talked with SCBA Secretary Barrister M Bodruddoza Badal at his chamber yesterday.

After the meeting, Barrister Badal told the media that he gave his opinion in the light of the SCBA resolution that had urged the Chief Justice not to administer oath to the "controversial" advocates Ruhul Quddus Babu and M Khasruzzaman, appointed on April 11, as additional judges.

"I told the chief justice that he should follow his predecessor's stand declining to give oath

to the two judges. If the appointee-judges took oath of office, agitation will start from the apex court by hoisting black flag," the SCBA secretary said.

He further told the chief justice that if the SCBA demand was ignored, a series of programmes including court boycott across the country would be executed.

Replying to a question, Barrister Badal, disagreeing with the incumbent chief justice's earlier statement, said it is the discretionary power of the Chief Justice, not a constitutional obligation, to administer oath to an additional judge following the appointment.

Chief Justice ABM Khairul Haque on September 30 said the chief justice is under obligation to administer oath to the judges since the gazette notification is in force.

On April 18 this year, the immediate-past Chief Justice M Fazlul Karim administered oath to 15 newly-appointed additional judges of the High Court leaving out the two "controversial" appointees - advocates Ruhul Quddus Babu and M Khasruzzaman.

Govt plots to oust Khaleda Zia

Says Delwar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is intriguing to oust Khaleda Zia from the country to implement the agenda by foreign forces, BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain said yesterday.

Extremely critical of the government, Delwar said people have no confidence in the treaties signed between Bangladesh and India. "Hold a referendum to see what people want -- to uphold independence or domination."

He said the government wants to drive Khaleda Zia out of her cantonment house using the judiciary; it is absolutely a political decision. "In fact the government wants to implement the agenda of New Delhi. What they are doing were not in their electoral pledges."

The BNP leader was addressing a roundtable at the Jatiya Press Club in the city, organised by Khelafat Majlish, an Islamist party close to the main opposition.

Delwar urged all like-minded parties to go for action programmes that will create an anti-government wave, paving the way to oust the ruling party.

With Khelafat Majlish President Mohammad Ishak in the chair, the discussion was addressed, among others, by Jamaat Acting Secretary General ATM Azharul Islam, Bangladesh Jatiya Party Secretary General Shamim Al Mamun, and Islami Oikya Jote Secretary General Abdul Latif Nezami.

Qulkhwani

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The qulkhwani of Mirza Aziza Idris will be held today after Asr prayers at 12/A Eskaton Fortune Apartment, Eskaton Garden in the city and at her village Munshipara in Rangpur, says a press release.

Her friends and well-wishers are requested to join the qulkhwani.

Mirza Aziza Idris, a veteran women leader and one of the organisers of the Liberation War, passed away at Birdem Hospital in the city on October 17. She was 85.

Also a member of the Gonotantary Party Advisory Committee, she left behind her three sons, three daughters and a host of relatives and well-wishers to mourn her death.

Death anniversary

METRO DESK

Today is the eighth death anniversary of Journalist Aziz Misir, an advisory editor of Dainik Manabjamin and columnist, says a press release.

He was also known as litterateur and dramatist.

He worked for the Dainik Azad, Dainik Banglar Bani, Dainik Bangla Bazar, Saptahik Citrakash and Dainik Barta.

On the occasion, milad mahfil and destitute feeding programme will be held at the different parts of the country.

Safiuddin Ahmad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the first death anniversary of Journalist Safiuddin Ahmad, a former president of Bangladesh Journalists' Association, says a press release.

On the occasion, Bangladesh Journalists' Association will arrange a commemorative meeting at about 10:00am at conference lounge of the National Press Club in the city.

Golam Sarwar

METRO DESK

Today is the sixth death anniversary of Golam Sarwar, a freedom fighter and former president of Bangladesh Chhatra League, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held around 3:00pm at Sonaimir College in Noakhali.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to attend the programme.

Dr Wali Ahmed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 16th death anniversary of Dr Wali Ahmed, a veteran AL leader and one of the organisers of the Liberation War in 1971.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at House No 20 of Japan Garden City after Maghrib prayers, says a press release.

WEBSITE ON FAZILATUNNESA LAUNCHED Present her works before new generation: President

UNB, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman yesterday stressed on projecting work and contributions of Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib, wife of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, before the new generation and encourage them to do noble work imbued with patriotism.

"Standing beside Bangabandhu, the contributions made by this great woman in building the nation would remain unforgettable," he said while inaugurating a website of Bangamata Parishad at a function in Bangabhaban in the city.

The address of the website is http://www.bangamata.com. People would be able to find information in detail about Fazilatunnesa and the Bangamata Parishad.

Zillur appreciated the Bangamata Parishad for taking such a noble initiative, which would encourage the young generation to imbue with patriotism and work for the nation.

"It's our responsibility to present the great sacrifice and contribution of Fazilatunnesa in the nation building process," he said.

The president recalled that Fazilatunnesa gave leadership and necessary directives to Awami League in the absence of Bangabandhu to keep the movement going.

Even Bangabandhu was encouraged by her before making his historic address at the then racecourse ground on March 7 in 1971, said Zillur.

"There are many such instances, still unknown to the people of the country," the president said.

He recalled that Fazilatunnesa played a vital role in the country's political arena by giving constructive advices to Bangabandhu throughout his political life especially during Bangabandhu's long 14 years of imprisonment.

Bangamata Parishad President Principal Razia Matin Chowdhury, Presidium Member and Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique, Adviser Mozaffar Hossain Poltu and General Secretary Anisur Rahman also spoke on the occasion.

Razia said the country would achieve much progress if all women could follow the lifestyle and work of Fazilatunnesa.



Popular author Mani Shankar Mukharjee (Shankar), second from left, poses with one of his three novels -- Chowranghee, Asa-Akankha and Katha-Manthan -- published in Bangladesh recently. Shankar yesterday attended the launching ceremony at Dhaka University senate building with author Imdadul Haq Milon, extreme left, Prof Anisuzzaman, second from right, and publisher Mahiuddin, extreme right.

WEATHER TODAY

Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at a few places over Rajshahi, Rangpur and Chittagong divisions and at one or two places over Khulna, Barisal, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions in next 24 hours till 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the city today at 5:27pm and rises tomorrow at 6:00am.

Country's highest temperature 35.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Mongla and Jessore and lowest 22.5 degrees 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	34.3	25.9	66	63
Chittagong	33.0	24.8	73	89
Rajshahi	32.7	24.8	83	87
Khulna	33.5	25.0	77	90
Barisal	34.0	26.0	78	83
Sylhet	34.5	23.7	68	69
Cox's Bazar	33.5	25.0	71	82

DHAKA TODAY

Cultural programme

Ghashful Shishu Kishore Sangathan will arrange a cultural programme. Venue: Rabindra Sarobar, Dhanmondi, Time: 4:30pm.

Meeting

Bangabandhu Academy will organise a meeting. Venue: Bangladesh Shishu Academy, Time: 6:00pm.

Discussion

Bangladesh Sangbadik Samity will arrange a discussion. Venue: National Press Club, Time: 10:00am.

Meeting

Old Rajshahi Cadets Association will arrange a meeting. Venue: Lake Drive Road, Nikunja, Time: 4:00pm.

A programme

Youth in Action on Climate and Nagarik Sanghati will arrange a programme. Venue: Institute of Fine Arts, Time: 10:30am.

Human chain

Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote will form a human chain. Venue: National Press Club, Time: 11:00am.



Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon stages a sit-in in front of Shahbag in the city yesterday underscoring the need for reconstructing and integrating the country's communication systems including road, rail and river ways, to curb accidents.