Donors assure

funds

of climate change.

present at the meeting.

UNB, Dhaka

office.

Secretariat.

of more climate

Donors on Sunday assured the government of providing

more assistance to the Bangladesh Climate Change

Resilience Fund (BCCRF) to cope with the adverse impacts

organisations and countries of the Fund met Environment

and Forests Minister Hasan Mahmud at his Secretariat

Development (DFID), the World Bank, the European

Commission (EC), Denmark, Switzerland and Sweden were

ongoing projects of the BCCRF and finalisation of two new

projects on disaster management and solar-driven pumps

projects at the next meetings of the managing committee

ministry has taken an initiative to set up the BCCRF

bank account to set up the BCCRF Secretariat, and the pro-

cess to hire two consultants in this regard will be completed

for irrigation within the next 2-3 months.

and governing council of BCCRF in April.

The assurance came when representatives from donor

Representatives from the Department for International

During the meeting, they discussed the progress of the

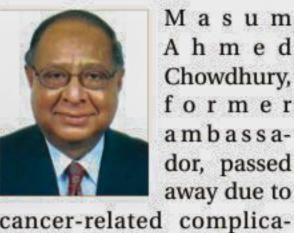
The meeting stressed the need for placing the two new

Dr Hasan Mahmud informed the meeting that his

"We've already selected an office space and opened a

Diplomat Masum Chy passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Masum Ahmed Chowdhury, former ambassador, passed away due to

tions at the Suburban Hospital in Bethesda in Maryland on Saturday night. He was 69. Masum was undergoing

treatment at Johns Hopkins Hospital for lung cancer, said a press release of Bangladesh Embassy in New York.

He left behind his wife, sons, daughter in laws, and grand children to mourn his

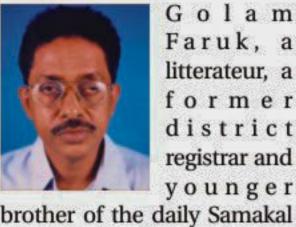
He is the son of late Ghyasuddin Ahmed Chowdhury and late Rafiqunnesa Khatun Chowdhury of Sylhet and brother of Faruq Choudhury and Enam A Chowdhury. BSS adds: Masum was

buried in Maryland yesterday A doa mahfil will be held

at Gulshan Jame Mosque in Dhaka at 5:00pm on March

Golam Faruk

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Faruk, a litterateur, a forme distric registrar and younger

Golam

editor Golam Sarwar, died of cardiac arrest in a city hospital yesterday, says a press release. Hewas 59. He left behind his wife, two

daughters and a host of relatives to mourn his death. He was buried at his family graveyard in Banaripara upazila of Barisal after holding his namaz-e-janaza on

Death anniversary

Banaripara High School

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



premises.

Today is the 41st death anniversary of M Osman Ali, editor of Sabu Bangla

Today is the

newspaper and a language movement hero. A milad mahfil, destitute

feeding programme and discussion will be held at his Narayanganj residence, said a press release.

Abu Zafar Obaidullah

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



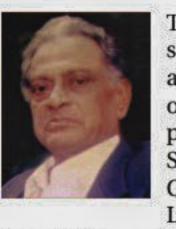
11th death anniversary of poet Abu Zafar Obaidullah.

He was born in Barisal in 1934, said a press release.

His talent in poetry burgeoned from the childhood. Zafar was picked up by police from a procession during the Language Movement in 1952. He then composed a famous poem "Mago, Ora Bole".

Kazi Golam Mahbub

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the sixth death anniversary of former president of Supreme Court Lawyers

Association and a language movement veteran Kazi

Golam Mahbub. A doa mahfil will be held in

Dhaka and Barisal.

Qulkhwani STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Qulkhwani of Abdul Ali, former director of Sudhijan Library, will be held today.

On the occasion, a milad and doa mahfil will be held at Galachipa Jame Mosque in Narayanganj after Maghrib prayers, said a press release.

Abdul Ali passed away on last Friday.

Journalists chant slogans at a grand rally on the street before the Jatiya Press Club yesterday demanding immediate arrest and trial of the killers of their colleagues, Sagar Sarowar and his wife Meherun Runi. (Story on Page 20) PHOTO: STAR

Alleged ISI funding to BNP slammed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different political party leaders believe that the main opposition BNP received money from Pakistan's Inter Services Intelligence (ISI) ahead of the 1991 parliamentary elections and termed it a shameful incident for the nation and its politics.

They demanded that the government investigate the matter and find whether the BNP is still receiving money from the ISI.

The BNP has termed the allegation "baseless".

During a hearing in the Pakistan Supreme Court, the ISI admitted to meddling in Indian's Northeast and funding BNP during from the Saudi government. 1991 general election, reported Daily Mail Online on March 15. Recently a UAE-based daily had alleged that ISI paid Rs 50 crore to BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia ahead of the 1991 elections, it said.

By taking money from the ISI, the BNP proved that it nurtures the values and principles of Pakistan, a leader of Workers Party of foreign intelligence agency, she said, urging Bangladesh, Bimal Biswas, told The Daily Star.

has a pro-Pakistan political ideology. Bangladesh is harmful for the country's

League-led 14-party combine leader. (retd) Faruk Khan said, "It is a matter of great shame that Bangladesh's second largest BNP in it and the BNP chief has committed political party took money from a foreign an unforgivable crime.

and political activities. "They (BNP) took money from the ISI leave the country for Pakistan," he said. once, which was proven in the Pakistani court. But I doubt whether they (BNP) are continuously taking money from ISI!

country's intelligence agency for election

whole matter immediately and take appro- help of the BNP at different times for priate steps accordingly."

Talking to The Daily Star, Faruk said the ISI Pakistan and its neighboring countries and Daily Star.

Bangladeshis must understand how terrorism was created here in the country.

Communist Party of Bangladesh General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim said the US Central Intelligence Agency had been financing the ISI for a long time and a portion of that money was coming to Bangladesh.

"Those who took money from the ISI should apologise to the nation," he said, without naming anyone.

Alongside the US and Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and India are also financing political parties in the country. For example, he said, Jamaat-e-Islami regularly receives money

"The government should form a commission to let people know which countries are financing political parties in Bangladesh." Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal leader Shirin

Akhter said such funding is not good for the country and its politics. No patriotic leader can take money from a

the government to establish a mechanism to He said the ISI gave the money as the BNP monitor such funding. Awami League Joint General Secretary "Any foreign funding in the politics of Mahbubul Alam Hanif said the information about the funding was revealed by the for-

sovereignty," said Bimal, also an Awami mer ISI chief Asad Durrani in Pakistan's Supreme Court and is not the allegation of Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Lt Col his party or by any pro-government media. He said the country is not safe with the

"BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia should seek apology to the countrymen and then

Referring to the killing of thousands of AL leaders and workers since 1995, Hanif, also a special assistant to Prime Minister Sheikh "The government should inquire into the Hasina, said the ISI wanted revenge with the Pakistan's defeat in 1971.

Both the BNP and the ISI wanted to turn is widely blamed for sponsoring terrorism in Bangladesh into a failed state, he told The

Self-sufficiency in food not achieved yet Says Muhith

UNB, Dhaka

Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday said that the country is yet to achieve the overall self- sufficiency in food.

"[When it comes to] overall self sufficiency, [I'll say] no. But, self sufficiency in rice is yes, in food grains, mostly," he told reporters after visiting director general of Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) Jose Graziano met him at his office at the Economic Relations Division (ERD).

Muhith said the country has shortages in whea production, but it is almost self-sufficient in maize output.

"But, still we have a better prospect for more maize production. We always have shortages in wheat because we can't produce more than one million tonnes a year," he added.

The finance minister said the overall self-sufficiency also means meat, egg, milk and fish.

The FAO DG said the organisation has some regular and emergency programmes in Bangladesh involving \$ 100 million which are engaged in tackling cyclone, drought and heavy rains.

"We've decided to integrate these two programmes (regular and emergency)," he added.

Khaleda in conspiracy since liberation Says Hasina

within two weeks," he said.

UNB, Dhaka

Accusing her arch rival Khaleda Zia of having no feeling for Bangladesh, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the opposition leader had been conspiring against the country since its liberation. "It's now clear that Khaleda has been hatch-

ing conspiracy against Bangladesh since its independence," she told a discussion on 'National Children Day' at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre (BICC). Awami League organised the discussion with

its Presidium Member and Deputy Leader of the House Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury in the chair. AL Presidium Member Yusuf Humayun,

Railways Minister Suranjit Sengupta, Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury, Presidium Member MK Alamgir, General Secretary Syed Ashraful Islam, Jute and Textiles Minister Abdul Latif Siddiqui and Joint Secretary Mahbubul Alam Hanif also spoke. Hasina said Ziaur Rahman was a freedom

fighter by chance, but his wife (Khaleda) never expressed solidarity with the country's independence. "According to a book by BNP leader Major

Hafiz, she (Khaleda) did not went to her husband, rather she preferred living in a mess of Dhaka Cantonment with Pakistani army," the prime minister said. "Now it's clear to everyone why she didn't go to her husband, who was a sector commander during the Liberation War."

Refereeing to a news report, Hasina said there is nothing abnormal that Khaleda would take money from Pakistani intelligence ISI. In this connection, she mentioned that

Ziaur Rahman and Khaleda were born in India. "She (Khaleda) was born in a tea garden in Shiliguri (India). Ziaur Rahman was also born in India. That's why they have no feeling for Bangladesh." Hasina also said there is nothing dirtier like

acting as a 'middleman' for a defeated force. She mentioned that taking money from the

ISI was revealed in a Pakistani court where a former ISI chief made his statement. "It'll also come to light one day that how much money Khaleda had taken from the ISI during the 2001 elections."



Kazi Golam Mahboob

Loving grandfather, father and husband.

A former President of the Supreme Court Bar, he was an activist of the 1944 Liberation Movement against the British Rule & Convener of the 1952 Language Movement.

Today, on his 6th death Anniversary, a milad mahfil & prayer congregation have been arranged in Dhaka & at his birthplace, Gournadi, Barisal.

Family Members

TIPAIMUKH DAM Indian lawmaker supports concerns

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Calling for united protest against India's plan to construct the Tipaimukh dam, an Indian parliament member yesterday said the dam would adversely affect both Bangladesh and India's Manipur, Assam and Mizoram states.

Addressing a rally at Sylhet Central Shaheed Minar, Dr

Tarun Mandal, member of Lok Sabha (the lower house of parliament), said thousands of Manipur residents would be displaced once the dam on Barak river becomes operational. Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal organised the rally where its General Secretary Khalequzzaman and former member

of the Assam Bidhan Sabha Zainal Abedin also spoke. Speakers at the rally expressed concern on India's unilateral control of the Barak-Surma-Kushiyara though it is an international river.

They said the dam would greatly reduce the flow of Surma, Kushiyara and Meghna rivers during the dry season and trigger river erosion and flooding in the rainy season, rendering thousands of Sylhet residents homeless.

Moudud gets bail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

ADhaka court yesterday granted bail to former law minister and the BNP standing committee member Moudud Ahmed in a tax evasion case.

Judge Mohammad Zahurul Haq of the Senior Special Judge's Court passed the order after Moudud appeared before the court and sought bail in the case as his bail period granted by the High Court (HC) expired on March 16.

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