PHOTO:

PMO

## Zia's death anniversary observed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders and workers of the BNP and its front and associated organisations across the country observed the 31st death anniversary of the party's founder, late president Ziaur Rahman yesterday.

Zia was assassinated by a group of disgruntled army officers at Chittagong Circuit House on May 30 in

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, along with party leaders, activists and supporters, placed wreaths at Zia's grave and offered special prayers. She, however, did not deliver any speech.

A number of party leaders, including acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, were absent as they are in jail in connection with an arson case.

Afterwards, Khaleda attended a milad mahfil organised by Jatiyatabadi Ulema Dal on the premises.

She also inaugurated a voluntary blood donation programme organised by Doctors' Association of Bangladesh. Standing committee members Moudud Ahmed, Lt Gen (retd) Mahbubur Rahman, Rafiqul Islam Mia, MK Anwar and Nazrul Islam Khan were present.

Later on, she inaugurated a four-day food distribution programme Mohammadpur and attended similar programmes in at least 18 points across the capital. BNP's local units organised the programmes.

### NO CONTROL OVER POLICE

Talking to reporters at the grave, Moudud expressed annoyance at the recent police attacks on journalists, saying that such incidents prove that the government has no control over the law enforcement agen-

He also said the chairperson will declare fresh agitation programmes on June 11 if the government failed to restore the nonparty neutral government system to oversee the general elections within this

#### BNP'S BUDGET PROPOSAL

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, as practiced for the last few years, will reveal the budget proposal for the government's consideration through a press conference at a city hotel on June 5, said party sources.

scheduled to place the national budget for the coming fiscal year on June 7.

The finance minister is

ALISTAIR BURT'S VISIT TO SYLHET

# **UK** wants transparency in fund use

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The visiting British Minister for South Asia Alistair Burt has stressed on transparency in utilisation of funds of different aid programmes in various countries.

"We want it works effectively so that more and more people could be benefited. The funds are to be spent properly and fairly", the minister said adding, transparency is very impor-

The minister was talking to the journalists yesterday afternoon while visiting Barnamala School at the city's Bagbari area which also provides learning for physically challenged children. British High Commissioner to Dhaka Robert Gibson and other officials accompanied him.

"During my first trip to Sylhet, as well as to Bangladesh I am visiting a few of the UKaid-funded projects, run by organizations to gather knowledge about them", he said.

While talking to the school children, Alistair said children with disability should be given special care since facilities forthem are very limited in the society.

It is not only in Bangladesh, but also everywhere they are more or less neglected or lack proper and due attention from the family as well as the society.

Changing attitude towards the disabled children is very important, he said adding, the organizations working for this group also need to be more capa-

> With only a little efforts these people can become as important as others through getting into small business or study.

ble and widen their activities.

As the school authorities and the children informed him of the **Alistair Burt** institution in details the British

being run saying, there are lot many things to do for them. No doubt, it is challenging, Alistair said adding, "The UKaid funded projects are doing well I think". The media need to cooperate social advancement activities in a responsible way and

minister expressed his happiness over the way the school is

they also should focus more on the people with disability. Sylhet City Corporation donated the land for the school, run under the project 'Promoting Rights and Dignity of Children with Disability' implemented by the 'Centre for Services & Information on Disability' (CSID) supported by the UKaid through Manusher Jonno Foundation.

Earlier in the morning, the British minister visited a nonformal school 'Community Learning Centre' at Doloipara of Sylhet Sadar upazila run by an NGO 'Friends in Village Development', Bangladesh (FIVDB) with the assistance from UKaid and MJF.

A centre styled 'Nari Odhikar Sahayata Kendro' is also run there to educate the poor and under privileged women and children on legal issues.

Ending a 2-day trip to Sylhet, Alistair who is on his first visit to Bangladesh flew back to the capital yesterday afternoon.



Minister Sheikh Hasina at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in the capital yesterday on her return after attending 'US-Islamic World Forum' 2012 in the Qatari capital Doha.

Urges Dr Akbar Ali Khan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country's people must keep at following the idealism which Prof Muzaffer Ahmad upheld and fought for during his lifetime, said Dr Akbar Ali Khan at a discussion yesterday. "Politics cannot be left only to politicians,

as the pioneer of citizen activism, Prof Muzaffer, showed us how a citizen can become aware of the wrongs, injustice and corruption... "...while remaining active, making his

voice heard out loud against them," he explained. The former adviser to a caretaker govern-

ment, addressing as chief guest, hailed the late professor as an outstanding teacher who always stepped up with his advice and direction in the country's moments of crisis. The discussion, "Dr Muzaffer Ahmad's

fight against corruption but how far we have achieved in establishing good governance", was organised by Gorbo Bangladesh at Institute of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh in the capital.

"In order to fight back corruption, we have

to impart lessons on moral teachings, justice and etiquette in relation to our Bangali Muslim culture," said a member of Gorbo Bangladesh, Khondoker Faridul Akram. "Corruption has spread all over as the

country's constitution repeatedly failed to meet the demands of its people," alleged another member, Abdul Malek Ratan. Spokesman for the organisation, Kamrul

Hasan Nasim, said, "We need more people like Dr Muzaffer to pull out from the current democratic crisis." "People are being suffocated by corruption

government which will conduct the next national polls," said the organisation's convener, Dr Shaheda Obayed. On the MoU the government signed with Sahara Group for investment in low-cost

and they are really not bothered by the form of

township schemes in Bangladesh, she said such a deal was not necessary. The country has the adequate logistic and manpower support for such projects, she said, adding that Real Estate and Housing

Association of Bangladesh was not notified

about the signing.

Follow Muzaffer's ideals EMERGENCY LANDING

## India returns BAF aircraft

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole** 

The training aircraft of Bangladesh Air Force (BAF), which made an emergency landing on a paddy field in India due to bad weather on April 25, was returned yesterday.

A 20-member BAF delegation, led by Shahidul Islam, a wing commander of the BAF in Jessore, received the aircraft from Indian Air Force officials at Benapole check-post at

Two trucks of the BAF carried the partially damaged aircraft to an air force base in Jessore.

The BAF aircraft lost contact with the air force control tower some time after it had taken off from BAF Matiur Rahman Base in Jessore.

Later, the aircraft made an emergency landing on the paddy field at Raipur village in Salar thana of Murshidabad district in Paschimbangla.

Earlier on April 26, the Indian authorities sent back Cadet Rashed Sheikh, who crash landed his PT-6 trainer aircraft on the field, and received minor injuries, to Bangladesh after a check-up at the Eastern Command Hospital in Alipore of India.



BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, along with party leaders, activists and supporters, places a wreath on the grave of late president Ziaur Rahman in the capital yesterday, marking the party founder's 31st death anniversary.

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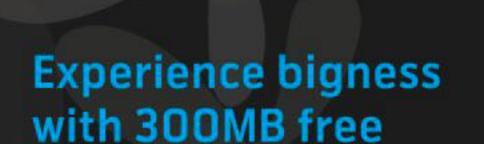
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