#### AL MP Matiur Rahman passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dr Mohammad Matiur Rahman, a renowned cardiac surgeon and an Awami League lawmaker from Tangail-3 (Ghatail) constituency, passed away in a Bangalore hospital in India early yesterday. He was 66.

He left behind his wife, Deoan Monowara Begum, a heart patient currently undergoing treatment at Mount Elizabeth Hospital in Singapore, one son and one daughter to mourn his death. His brother, Mahfuzur

Rahman, said Dr Matiur underwent a kidney transplant in Columbia Asia Referral Hospital on September 11 and suffered a cardiac arrest the next day. He was unconscious till he

passed away in the hospital's intensive care unit at 1:00am, reports our Tangail correspondent.

Dr Matiur will be buried in his family graveyard in Khilgati village of Tangail's Ghatail upazila once the body arrives in Bangladesh, he added.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Health Minister AFM Ruhal Haque, State Minister for Health Mozibur Rahman Fakir and the prime minister's Health Adviser Syed Modasser Ali, in separate messages, expressed their condolences to the bereaved family.

Born on November 1, 1947, Dr Matiur passed MBBS from Mymensingh Medical College in 1972 and received the Doctor of Philosophy degree, with a major in Cardio-Vascular Physiology, from an Iowa university in the US in 1994.

Dr Matiur, director of Lab Aid Cardiac Hospital in Dhaka, was elected for the first time in the 2008 parliamentary elections.

Ghatail unit Awami League has chalked out a two-day mourning programme.



PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Riding on separate boats, around 200 students of four private universities collect waste with nets from the Buriganga river near Second Buriganga Bridge in Keraniganj. Smile Foundation, a social organisation, launched the clean-up campaign yesterday.

# Tofail, Menon's refusal political defeat of govt

Says Fakhrul

UNB, Dhaka

BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir : minister, as the proposal was not made yesterday said Tofail Ahmed and Rashed Khan Menon's : maintaining a due political process. refusal to join the cabinet was a "political defeat" of the present government.

Sheikh Hasina on Thursday expanded her cabinet with five : journalists at a meet the reporters new ministers and two state ministers.

president of Workers' Party of Bangladesh, turned down the : ATN Bangla. offer to join the cabinet.

which has already plunged into deep water." He was talking to journalists after inaugurating a solo exhi-:

bition of artist FM Anis at Dhaka Art Centre in the capital. Fakhrul said senior leaders of the AL-led grand alliance, like : Rashed Khan Menon refused the offer. Tofail and Menon, realised that the government's time was up: as people had no trust in them.

He said, "They did the right and appropriate thing and: to be a minister and asked if I would join the saved their political careers."

phone call to Tofail and Menon asking them to join the cabinet. becomes a minister in a civilised country gripped the nation, Menon said.

# Due political process not followed: Menon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Workers Party of Bangladesh President Rashed Khan Menon yesterday said he rejected the government's offer to be a

"This was never part of a political process, and that has also been reflected in With only one year left for the government, Prime Minister: the Prime Minister's remarks," he told programme organised by the Dhaka Tofail, a veteran Awami League (AL) leader, and Menon, : Reporters Unity at its auditorium, reports

Menon's remarks came a day after the Mirza Fakhrul thanked Tofail and Menon for their decision, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Thursday saying, "They acted like wise men by not boarding a boat : expanded the cabinet by including seven : new members.

> Veteran Awami League leader Tofail Ahmed and Workers Party President

> Menon said, "The cabinet secretary called me and informed that I was offered council of ministers and take oath."

Healsoblasted Hasina for her claim that she did not make any: "I have no knowledge if anyone

after being invited in such a manner," he added.

Menon alleged that the government is not engaging the partners of the 14-party grand alliance in the decision-making process, and that the alliance has been inactive, which resulted in a centralised governance.

"Interestingly enough, the advisory council is more important than the cabinet in running the country," said Menon of Workers Party, a key ally of the grand alli-

He, however, said the relations between the alliance and the Workers Party would not be affected even he did not accept the offer of being a minister.

The prices of essentials are beyond the common peoples' buying ability, while in the name of addressing power crisis, the government encouraged quick rental power plants, whose objective was to serve personal interests, he noted.

There are dangers ahead if the government fails to address the crises that have

# Students take part in Buriganga clean-up campaign

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 200 students of different private universities have taken an initiative to set a good example about how to keep the capital's water bodies clean.

They spent around three hours yesterday cleaning the Buriganga river near Buriganga Second Bridge in Keraniganj with fishing nets from boats. Though the volunteering students could collect a very little

amount of waste from the river, they tried to show how everyone can take part in activities to keep the water bodies of the country clean and free from pollution and encroachment. "We know this is a very little effort, but it will aware others

to keep the river clean and not to pollute it," said Quazi Taif Sadat, founder of Smile Foundation, a social organisation, which has brought together the student volunteers. Several studies on the Buriganga have identified sedi-

mentation, encroachment, and disposal of solid waste, sewage and industrial waste into the river as major reasons for its pollution. Taif said over 200 students from four universities--

Bangladesh University, North South University, American International University, Bangladesh and Independent University, Bangladesh--took part in the clean-up campaign, and it would be held every four months.

"Our activities may encourage many other organisations to do similar works," he said. Taif said their main vision was to engage more youths in

this kind of social work, as a huge number of students and youths were drug addicted. They also plan to turn the campaign into a big movement to save the Buriganga, he added. Taif also said, "Around 16 volunteers of Smile Foundation

have been cleaning Dhanmondi lake once every month since July." Tanvir Azad, a volunteer of the foundation, said they

would take another initiative to urge the industries not to drop waste into the river.

# People to never return to BNP's 'horrific era': PM

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the country's people would never return to the 'horrific era' that BNP and the last caretaker government created in seven years since 2001.

"The country' people did not have to live in that horrific situation during our past three and a half years and we have tried our best to give them social peace and economic stability," she said.

Hasina was addressing a meeting of Bangladesh Mohila Awami League in Gono Bhaban.

Urging the mohila league leaders and activists to highlight the programmes taken by the government for people's welfare, particularly of women, she said self-confidence should be instilled in women so that they learn to stand on their own.

Hasina said the country's people do not want the return of militancy and repression on women that BNP and its allies launched after their win in the 2001 general election.

Listing the government-implemented development works and policies to uplift women, she said the government diverted resources to rural areas to improve the rural economy.

Agriculture Minister Begum Matia Chowdhury and State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury attended the meeting while the mohila league President Ashrafunnesa Mosharraf was in the chair.

### 'Functional food' intake stressed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a views exchange meeting yesterday emphasised on building awareness on "functional food", that is food containing chemical ingredients having positive health benefits beyond basic nutrition, among people to ensure good health.

Voluntary Consumers Training and Awareness Society (Vocta) organised the meeting with journalists at Dhaka Reporters Unity in the capital with its Chairman Muhammad Ali Jinnah in the chair.

Prof Hossain Uddin Shekhar of biochemistry and molecular biology department of Dhaka University said there are a lot of vegetables and fruits having functional values but there is no central data-

base about it in the country. Functional foods are what we find everyday like tomatoes, carrots, spinach, lemons, and pineapples, rich in ingredients helping to control fat and sugar levels and prevent different diseases, he said.

Vocta Executive Director Khalilur Rahman Sajal said creating awareness about functional foods requires massive publicity. Good health can be ensured if functional foods can be ensured regularly in people's diets.

National Income Tax Day 15 September 2012 Income Tax Today **Promises Beautiful Life** 



jointly organised by DEL and Dhaka University Photography Society at DU senate building yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## GAZIPUR CORRECTION CENTRE Inmates kill fellow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An inmate of the National Juvenile Correction Centre was strangled to death allegedly by his roommates early yesterday at his room in the center at Tongi in Gazipur as he reportedly protested abusing him.

Deceased Shahadat Ali, 16, son of Shamsul Alam of Comilla, was a resident of Room No 4 on the fourth floor of the centre.

Police said Alam, an accused in a murder case, was taken to the juvenile correction centre in 2009. Ismail Hossain, officer-in-charge at Tongi Police

Sadar Hospital Morgue for autopsy. In preliminary interrogation, Alam's roommates admitted that they strangled him around 5:15am following an altercation, he said, adding that five out of six roommates

gate the roommates of Alam in this connection after they are taken into custody, police said.

nile correction centre could not be reached for comments.

According to police and some former officials of the centre, incidents of drug abuse and physical harassment among

some inmates are prevalent in the centre. Under the children act, convicted or under trial juveniles

#### took part in the killing. Permission would be sought from the court to interro-Despite several tries over cellphone, authorities of the juve-

are sent to the correction centre.

#### **US-Bangladesh** naval drill begins Sept 17

UNB, Dhaka

A joint exercise titled "Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT)" between the US Navy and Bangladesh Navy will begin in Chittagong on September 17.

The inaugural ceremony of the 2nd eight-day annual exercise will be held at the Station, said they recovered the body and sent it to Gazipur | Naval Base Issa Khan in Chittagong, a press release said yesterday.

CARAT is a series of bilateral military exercises between the US Navy and the armed forces of Bangladesh, Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Cambodia, and Timor Leste.

This year CARAT exercise features a sea-rider exchange programme, shipboard helicopter operations and a three-day at sea phase.