## Sylhet BCL factions clash

Somoy TV journalists attacked

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Two rival factions of Sylhet district unit of pro-Awami League Bangladesh Chhatra League locked in a clash over establishing supremacy and extortion in Government MC College and nearby Tilagar areas of Sylhet city yesterday.

During the hour-long clash, both the groups exchanged at least 30 rounds of gunshots, said police and locals.

The BCL activists belonging to the faction led by its Sylhet district unit acting president Hiron Mahmud Nipu and activists of another BCL faction led by the district unit former (relieved) president Pankaj Purkayostha locked in the clash around 12:00pm, they said.

Locals said the clash created panic among the people in

Ikramul Kabir, Sylhet bureau chief of private television channel Somoy TV, alleged that the BCL activists belonging to the faction led by Hiron Mahmud attacked the television channel's reporter Abdul Ahad and videographer Naoshad when they were covering the incident.

The attackers also vandalised their camera, he said.

Despite several attempts over cellphone, both Hiron and

Pankaj could not be contacted for their comments. Shahporan Police Station Officer-in-Charge Liakat Ali said

they went to the spot and brought the situation under control.



# Khaleda will take part in govt's credible poll: Inu

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will arrange the upcoming general election in a credible manner and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia will take part and be defeated, said Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu yesterday.

"We (the Awami League-led 14-party grand alliance government) always come to power through the front door," he told a press briefing in his office in the capital's Bangladesh Secretariat.

He was giving an account of the present government's achievements in the last four years. Opposition leader Khaleda Zia has been putting pressure on the government for restoration of the caretaker government system.

Inu said the government reduced inflation, formerly above 10 percent, to less than 10 percent and raised Gross Domestic Product (GDP), formerly below five percent, to above six percent.

Despite apprehension that manpower export will face setbacks due to the global recession, the government sent 17 lakh workers abroad, he said. On digitisation in all spheres, Inu mentioned that four years back only four crore people used cellphones but now the figure stood at around 10 crore.

awareness raising campaign on its achievements across the

The government will soon launch a seven-day mass country with the help of a firm, Apan Group, he added.

## BBC Sanglap participants urge dialogue to end political crisis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Discussants at BBC Bangladesh Sanglap (27th episode) in the port city's Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh, Chittagong Chapter on Saturday urged the government and the opposition to hold dialogues and end the prevailing political crisis.

The prime minister's offer for dialogue was still open but the opposition leader was issuing ultimatums, said Environment

and Forests Minister Hasan Mahmud, adding that the opposition was killing people by enforcing hartals.

BNP Vice-Chairman M Morshed Khan said people were hoping that politics of confrontation would end through dialogues and processes to pave the way for it was slowing down.

Prof Dr ANM Munir Ahmed Chowdhury of Chittagong University and former Bangladesh Mahila Parishad president Nurjahan Khan also spoke.

### Unicef lauds Bangladesh's Mahasen preparedness

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Though cyclone Mahasen reached Bangladesh's coastline on May 16 weaker than anticipated, preparedness of the government and humanitarian partners saved countless lives, said Unicef Representative in Bangladesh Pascal Villeneuve.

"While unfortunately there has been a loss of life, the government demonstrated its commitment to

disaster risk reduction. Everyone took the threat extremely seriously and made sure the right measures were in place," he said.

Bangladesh is regarded as a global leader in disaster risk reduction since adopting a series of preparedness measures. An estimated one million people were evacuated from 13 coastal districts in the 24-hour period prior to Mahasen's arrival, says a press

# Girls need new thoughts to continue women's gains

Says Nahid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday said Bangladeshi women have been successful in many areas, and the girls of the younger generation need new thoughts, strength and verve to continue the success.

He urged the girls to be patriotic and humane in leading the country.

The minister was addressing members and officials of Bangladesh Girl Guides Association (BGGA) after laying the foundation stone of a 10-storey building of the association at New Bailey Road in the capital. Terming BGGA an effective platform for preparing girls to be future leaders, Nahid

said the association can also play a signifi-

cant role in empowering women.

Rashed Khan Menon, chairman of the education ministry's parliamentary standing committee, hoped that the young generation, through their talents, skills, humanity and dynamism, will take the country to a new height in future.

BGGA's top level members spoke at the function which was chaired by Syeda Rehana Imam, BGGA national commissioner.



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Short-listed EOIs shall be requested to submit a full application at later stage.

### 6th Death Anniversary



We pray for Marhum A. B. M. Kamal Uddin Khan on his 6th Death Anniversary today the 20th May, 2013. Marhum A. B. M. Kamal Uddin Khan was a Founder Life Member of the NSU Foundation, which established NSU.

He was also the member of the Board of Governors of the NSU Foundation and the then Parichalona Porshod of NSU. He was a successful industrialist, prominent banker and enthusiastic philanthropist who breathed his last on 20th May, 2007.

May Allah bless his departed soul and give the members of his family the strength to keep on bearing their loss.



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