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Cabinet okays draft to curb 'special offences'

The cabinet yesterday approved in principle the draft ordinance proposed by the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs to curb some special type of offences, reports BSS.

The offences are extorting money, creating blockade to resist the movement of all kinds of transport, causing

wilful damage to vehicles and other public and private properties, hijacking or snatching away money, valuables or vehicles, teasing the eyes, abducting children and women, creating anarchic situation or intimidating people, creating obstruction in buying tender documents or dropping thereof. The approval was given at

the regular weekly meeting of the cabinet held at Bangabhaban with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in the chair.

The time has been fixed for investigation and trial of the said offences. The offences under the proposed ordinance have been made cognizable and the offenders will be non-bail-

able during the course of investigation. The cases will be conducted under special tribunals.

The cabinet also approved the proposals of Ministry of Commerce to expedite the process of selling out the abandoned commercial establishments by removing the causes, impeding the process.



TWO FACES OF A SINGLE PROBLEM: A severe traffic jam brought all vehicles to a virtual standstill for over an hour, between 10-11:30am, near the Maghbazar intersection in the city yesterday. The congestion was caused only because a contractor felt like undertaking the road repair work during the peak hours, compelling citizens to ask some blunt questions (Top). Lifting of a manhole cover made it miserable for them at the Hazi Maran Ali Road at Tejgaon. A scene at 8.00 in the morning yesterday (Above). — Star photo by Mohsin

BCL-Shibir clash : 30 hurt Ctg Medical College closed sine die

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Sept 14: The Chittagong Medical College was ordered closed for an indefinite period Monday following Sunday midnight's hour-long gunbattle between the supporters of the Chhatra League and the Chhatra Shibir that left at least 30 students injured, college sources said.

Of the injured, seven were admitted to the Chittagong

Medical College Hospital (CMCH) in critical condition while the rest were released after first aid, hospital sources said.

The gunfight between the two rival factions began at 12-30 Sunday midnight at the college hostel that panicked the patients in the nearby hospital and people in the neighbourhood. See Page 12 Col 3

UNGA session begins today

UNITED NATIONS, Sept 14: The UN General Assembly begins its annual three-month session tomorrow (Tuesday) its membership now swollen to 179 countries but increasingly upstaged by the hyper-active Security Council, reports Reuter.

One highlight will be a three-week general debate, beginning on September 21, during which government leaders and foreign ministers deliver major policy speeches.

George Bush, facing an uphill battle for re-election as US President in November, will have an opportunity to spotlight his foreign affairs credentials in the same blue and gold chamber where he once served as Washington's UN envoy.

Modalities for funding jute purchase not yet finalised

Star Report

The modalities to release funds to the private sector jute mills for purchasing jute has not been finalised yet, a Jute ministry source said Monday.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia earlier issued a directive to the concerned authorities to fund purchase of raw jute in the private sector and also to solve the problems of the jute sector.

The modus operandi to release the funds to individual jute mills will be finalised at a meeting between officials of the Jute Ministry and the na-

See Page 12 Col 8

FP office raid Eight taken on remand

By Staff Correspondent

The eight people including a woman arrested during the raid on the Freedom Party's Central Office were taken on three day's remand by the Dhanmondi police station for interrogation.

During an hour-long raid on party's Central Office at Dhanmondi Road No-15A (New) Sunday evening police recovered a large number of arms and ammunition and arrested Rubi, Ashraf Alam, Moteleb, Ali Azam Sarker, Abul Kalam, Rezanur Rahman, Mizanur Rahman and Yusuf Hossain instantly.

Police produced the arrested persons in the chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court yesterday, and sought seven day for questioning. The magistrate granted three days.

The CMM rejected a bail petition for them.

A police source said that the raid was conducted at the directive from the high authorities. Police were still keeping vigil on the surrounding areas. See Page 12 Col 7

Bold move, needs bolder follow-up

by Mahfuz Anam

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia is said to be under pressure from two opposite camps from within the BNP about the possible course of action in containing terrorism and violence by armed cadres belonging to the two factions of BNP's student wing, the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD). One group is advising her to call off the police action, or at least not to push it further than it has so far gone, and confine her future actions against JCD stalwarts to party disciplinary measures. Their argument is that public discrediting of leaders of JCD will in turn discredit BNP itself, which may harm the party's long term interests. Pro-

ponents of this view say that JCD is the most popular and active wing of the BNP and taking tough actions against them may send wrong signals to the student leaders at the district and lower levels. Finally, they are also saying — a sure shot in any BNP argument — that such a move will ultimately help the Awami League, as the JCD will look worse than AL's student wing the BCL.

Countering this view, the other BNP leaders — reported to be the majority — are calling for tough actions against the terrorists. According to this group the armed wing of the JCD are no longer under the See Page 12 Col 1

'Sunday's incident a dacoity' Khaleda will fall in a year, says Farooq

By Staff Correspondent

Freedom Party leader Col (ret'd) Syed Farooq Rahman yesterday blasted Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia for presiding over what he called a democratic autocracy and "giving up people to cling to power."

The Freedom Party chief was addressing a press conference at the party central office at Dhanmondi to protest Sunday night's police swoop that resulted in the recovery of according to police a large quantity of illegal arms and the arrest of eight persons including a woman from the office premises.

"This lady is liable to end up with Ershad... Ershad came down on us in the eighth year of his reign... it took us one year to make him go..." the Freedom Party leader warned the Prime Minister predicting her fall within a year. "She has surrendered to the same concept as Ershad did... she is no

longer a nationalist." Branding Begum Zia and her BNP pseudonationalist Col Rahman said, "As far as I am concerned..." See Page 12 Col 7



Faruk Rahman making a point at a press conference. — Star photo

Discord in constitution committee of AL

By Nurul Kabir

With the party's two-day central council scheduled for 19 and 20 this month, the last meeting of Awami League's present Central Working Committee begins this afternoon.

The Awami League Working Committee (ALWC) will finally discuss the much talked-about proposals for amendment to the party constitution, proposed amendments to the party manifesto and scrutinise different aspects of last minute preparations for the council sessions to be held in the city.

The ALWC had constituted separate sub-committees for drafting the amendments to the party's manifesto and constitution.

The sub-committee for amending the party manifesto had proposed that 'socialist economic system' be replaced by 'social welfare oriented economy'.

According to the party's policy planners, the party has brought this change in its economic policy "to cope with the changed world scenario." See Page 12 Col 6

'Oct 14 programme will be more than a Gana Adalat'

By Staff Correspondent

Delegates of the Ekattorer Ghatok Dal Nirml Samannay Committee from around the country Monday renewed their pledge to "eliminate" anti-Liberation forces from the country.

At the day-long representatives' conference held at the Engineers' Institution they also pledged to make the grand conference October 14 successful.

"It will be something more than a Gana Adalat, Dhaka will be swarmed by lakhs of people," one Committee member

declared. Nearly 1000 representatives from 59 districts attended the conference and presented their reports.

Committee Convener Jahanara Imam inaugurated the conference in the morning amid tight security. The opening session was also addressed by Begum Sufia Kamal, Awami League General Secretary Sajeda Chowdhury, Communist Party leader Shamsuddoha, MP, and Five-Party leader Nirml Sen. See Page 12 Col 7

DBL gets registration as public ltd company

By Sohel Manzur

The Development Bank Limited (DBL), successor of the Bangladesh Shilpa Rin Sangstha (BSRS) has got the registration yesterday as a public limited company under the Companies Act, 1913, according to official sources.

All the shares and undertaking of BSRS would be handed over to the new company soon.

An eight-member Board of Directors, comprising the members of the existing six-member Board of Directors of BSRS and two Joint Secretaries from the Ministry of Finance would take the responsibility of the new company for one year, the sources said, adding that a new board would be elected at the annual general meeting of shareholders of the company to be held at the end of the year.

The members of the Board of Directors include, Dr Abdullah Faruq (Chairman), Mamunur Rashid (Managing Director) and Abdur Rab, Dr Syed Yusuf Faruq, Brig Safat Ahmed, M M Nurul Huj, Dr M A Mobin and Al Amin Chowdhury (Directors). Dr M A Mobin and Al Amin Chowdhury are the two Joint Secretaries, who See Page 12 Col 3

20 held on charge of child smuggling

Star Report

Police took 20 people including 10 minor boys into custody in Dhaka and Sylhet in connection with two separate attempts to smuggle minor boys to Dubai.

Airport immigration police arrested a woman, reportedly a human-trafficker, and her accomplice at the Zia International Airport (ZIA) and recovered two minor boys from their possession Monday morning.

The arrested Rawshan Akhter, 40, and her accomplice Ezahar Mia, 45, were

detained in the Cantonment Police Station while the two boys Iskander, 6, and Abdur Rahim, 7, will be sent to safe-custody today (Tuesday), according to a police source.

An immigration official said, when the woman, along with the two boys, was due to fly for Dubai by a Bangladesh Birman flight, police arrested her at the airport immigration at 8 am yesterday.

When police on suspicion challenged the woman the identity of the minors, she failed to provide any satisfac-

tory answer, the official said. Later police also arrested Ezahar Mia who came to the ZIA to see off the woman, police said.

Immigration police seized the passport and handed over all the four persons to Cantonment police Monday evening.

Our Sylhet correspondent adds: Kotwali Thana Police Monday took 16 persons including eight minor boys into custody in connection with an attempt to smuggle the minors to Dubai.

Police said one Astokim Ali 70, of village Kunasalswer of Bianibazar came to 'Rahman Travels' of Sylhet town along with 14 minor boys for preparing their passports.

The boys aged about four to ten were to be sent to Dubai with 'lucrative' jobs.

Some of the kids' guardians also accompanied their wards to the travel agency for the purpose. Being suspicious of the matter the travel agent informed the police. See Page 12 Col 3

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