

Ershad faces two more corruption cases

Two fresh cases were begun yesterday against deposed President Hussain Muhammad Ershad in the Divisional Judge's Court accusing the former president of misuse of power and indulging in corrupt practices causing loss to the state exchequer, reports BSS.

Ershad, who is serving various jail terms, was brought to the court from the Dhaka Central Jail and informed of the charges. The dates for the appearance of the accused in the two cases were also fixed.

The cases relate to reinstating an employee of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare long after he was relieved of his job and spending a huge sum of money for procurement of two sets of ENG (electronic news gathering) equipment for the coverage of Ershad and his wife on BTV news.

Divisional Special Public Prosecutor Abdul Tawheed read out the charges of the two cases one after another in the court of

Divisional Special Judge Mohammad Ali Khan.

Ershad is the lone accused in both cases.

After consulting both sides, the judge fixed October 12 and October 25 for the hearing of the charges.

Ershad, who was seated in the dock attired in a cream safari suit, was smiling when the charges were read out.

Earlier, at the outset, Yusuf Hossain Humayun, Ershad's attorney, asked the court to see that his client receives facilities allowed under the Jail Code. He mentioned that Ershad, who had exhausted his funds in the jail, is facing problems in replenishment because of complications created by the jail authorities.

Sudhir Kumar Hazra assisted Hossain.

Ershad has been sentenced to 20 years in jail after conviction in three cases. His appeals against the verdicts are pending before the High Court.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing a delegation of Motawallees of different Mazars, Dargahs, Waqf Estates and Islami-thinkers while they called on her at Sugandha yesterday. Alhaj Syed Najibul Bashar Maizbhandari, an Awami League MP is seen on her left.

Ban-Air to provide amphibious aircraft on charter

By Staff Correspondent

The Bangladesh Flying Academy and General Aviation Services (Ban-Air) will shortly allow the chartering of its amphibious aircraft which could operate anywhere in the country.

This was stated by Group Captain (Retd) Saiful Azam, MP, president of the Bangladesh Flying Club Academy (Ban-Air) while talking to newsmen yesterday.

Azam said, Ban-Air was, in fact, the first step towards establishing a private airlines in Bangladesh. Seven of its aircraft of different types are already engaged in ferrying passengers to different destinations. It does not however, intend to launch large-scale commercial operations, since its primary area is to train pilots, the academy president said. But the academy also plans to provide casualty evacuation services.

Ban-Air, which was earlier known as the Bangladesh Flying Club Ltd, has entered into joint collaboration with the Swedish Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) to upgrade the professional expertise and technical skills of the academy to make it one of the finest civil pilot training academies in the region.

With the support of the MAF, the academy hopes to train pilots from overseas countries as well. More than 20 applications, mostly from Malaysia, are pending with the academy.

The academy, which has trained more than ninety per cent of Biman's pilots, will shortly introduce a twin-engine flying training course, the first of its kind in South Asia. Initially a dozen officers of the Bangladesh Army will receive the training.

A large number of foreigners and expatriates have also applied for the twin-engine flying course.

The Director of MAF, Sweden, Lars-Erik Wallahen, who also spoke on the occasion, informed newsmen that his organisation would provide transfers of skills and knowledge to the Ban-Air as it does in 30 other countries.

Vice President of MAF, Leif Helgesson and honorary Chief Instructor of Ban-Air, Murtaza

were also present at the briefing.

The Flying Academy has about 50 students and each year about ten qualify for a commercial pilot's license.

The Bangladesh Flying Academy aims to award B. Sc degrees in the future and one of its major plans is to provide facilities for aerial survey, an expensive exercise which was previously done by foreign organisations.

President of the Academy Group Captain (Retd) Azam informed that its private charter service operation was picking up gradually and some private companies, individuals and foreign visitors were already utilising the Ban-Air aircraft. He informed that the present costs for chartering an aircraft were Tk 5500 for a 3-seater aircraft, Tk 10,500 for a six-seater, and Tk 15,000 for an eight-seater.

The academy president expressed the hope that with further expansion of Biman's fleet and operation of private airlines, the role of the academy would increase in the coming days.

PM: Religion

From Page 1 Col 8

Begum Zia said the government had already decided to repeal the Dargah and Mazar Management Ordinance 1989 responding to the popular demand to rescind the ordinance. She said the process had already been initiated to rescind the ordinance and it would be repealed in the next session of parliament.

The Prime Minister pointed out that the government had decided to establish a permanent Hajj camp in the city. She said the work of Hajj camp would begin this year and was expected to be completed soon.

Begum Zia said the Waqf could build a 15 storied building on its own land at Eskaton. She said as the country had resource constraints, the problems would be solved in phases.

Greets Sihanouk

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has congratulated King Norodom Sihanouk on his ascension to the throne of Cambodia, reports BSS.

In a message of congratulations Begum Khaleda Zia said, "It gives me great pleasure to extend, on behalf of the government and the people of Bangladesh, our warmest congratulations on your ascension to the throne of Cambodia following the adoption of the new constitution."

"I take this opportunity to express our satisfaction at the recent developments in Cambodia. I am indeed happy to note that the people of Cambodia will soon achieve their long cherished goal of peace and amity."

Govt to buy 1cr maunds of jute

GOKULKHALI (Chudanga), Sept 25: Jute Minister ASM Hannan Shah today said the government would purchase one crore maunds of jute through 125 purchasing centres during the current year for ensuring fair price to the farmers, reports BSS.

Indian ex-AG nominated as prosecutor of war crimes court

UNITED NATIONS, Sept 25: UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has nominated India's former attorney general as prosecutor of the International War Crimes Court for the former Yugoslavia, diplomats said Friday, reports AFP.

Boutros-Ghali named Soli Jehangir Sorabjee for the international tribunal which was formed to prosecute human rights abuses in the war-torn region. Sorabjee, 63, was India's solicitor general from 1979 to 1980.

The Midnight File

Arafat arrives in Turkey

ANKARA, Sept 25: PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat arrived here today for a 24-hour visit to Turkey at the invitation of President Suleyman Demirel. Arafat arrived at 3:50 pm (1250 GMT), accompanied by his wife Suha. Demirel welcomed the Palestine Liberation Organisation leader at the airport with a 21 gun salute, reports AFP.

Rival Afghan factions meet to resolve disputes

KABUL, Sept 25: Rival Afghan factions met Saturday to try to resolve religious disputes that have deadlocked talks on a new constitution. The meeting followed several days of heavy fighting on the western edge of the Afghan capital that left at least 16 people dead and dozens more wounded, reports AP.

UN sanctions on UNITA

UNITED NATIONS, Sept 25: The UN Security Council decided Friday to impose an oil and arms embargo against rebels fighting the Angola government unless they agree to a cease-fire. The sanctions are scheduled to take effect Sunday, 12:01 am (0401 GMT), reports AP.

Croats round up Muslims in Central Bosnia

SARAJEVO, Sept 25: Bosnian Croats have rounded up the Muslim population of several villages in Central Bosnia, using the men as forced labour and locking up women and children in a "virtual concentration camp," a UN official said here today, reports AFP.

Farakka issue

From Page 1 Col 8

crucial issue, vital to the survival of Bangladesh.

A seminar will be organised by the Columbia University, New York, on October 10 on the adverse effect of the Farakka Barrage on Bangladesh.

Top US experts, including geologists, hydrologists, environmentalists and geo-physicists, will present papers in the seminar showing how north-western Bangladesh is being systematically annihilated due to withdrawal of the Ganges water by upper riparian India.

A four-member Bangladesh team is likely to attend the seminar to assist the participants with facts, figures, data, diagrams, charts, slides, still pictures etc to present a graphic account of the aftermath of Farakka in Bangladesh.

Sylhet air cargo closed as Customs men go on strike

From Our Correspondent
SYLHET, Sept 25: Officials of the air cargo circle of the Sylhet Customs Department have gone on strike since last Wednesday demanding deployment of security force in the office.

An official source informed this correspondent that a group of youngsters went to the office on September 21 and demanded clearance of some cargoes violating customs rules. A number of crackers were also exploded at the time.

A case has been filed with the Kotwali thana, but no action has yet been taken against the culprits.

50 Shibir cadres

From Page 1 Col 4

procession in the hostel area yesterday morning.

APSU sources said the ICS activists had threatened two of their erstwhile colleagues who joined the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) after quitting the pro-Jamaat students' wing on Thursday.

A procession under the banner of the APSU raided rooms reportedly belonging to the ICS members and forced them to leave the hostel, at around 3 pm yesterday, witnesses said.

Some 15 crackers were exploded and at least eight rooms were damaged during the hour-long attack. No casualties were, however, reported.

34 held so far

Body to probe RU incident

The government yesterday constituted a one-member commission with Supreme Court Judge (retired) Justice Abdul Wadud Chowdhury to inquire into the September 19 incident of the Rajshahi University, reports BSS.

The commission will submit its report to the Home Ministry within one month.

The Deputy Commissioner of Rajshahi will provide all kinds of secretarial assistance to the commission.

Meanwhile, a total of 34 persons were so far arrested in connection with the Rajshahi University incident, official sources said yesterday.

In the latest drive, police arrested seven Islami Chhatra Shibir activists from Katakhal area Friday night.

Dollar drops

From Page 1 Col 8

After liberalisation of the forex market as a step towards convertibility of the Taka, the banks have been engaged in interbank dollar transactions. Before that, they could only make interbank Taka lendings.

According to a high official of the BB, demand for the dollar plummeted over the last few months because of an increase in the country's exports and a decrease in imports. They said exports rose by 19 per cent while imports fell by about ten per cent.

They also pointed out that current account expenditure is also low now and added that all these factors together have contributed to the comfortable level of forex reserves, equal to seven months' imports.

The bankers see no immediate change in the near future and predict the Taka would continue to remain strong if the above factors remain constant.

The dollar rate picture was the same in the SAARC region Saturday. According to Reuters, the Standard Chartered Bank dollar selling rate was 31.3750 Indian Rupees on Saturday, but the Reserve Bank of India rate was 31.53 Rupees.

Meanwhile, despite a significant difference between the reference rate and interbank rate in the country, the client rate remained unchanged at 39.90 on Saturday.

Testimony of 17 JU teachers recorded

The enquiry commission, constituted to investigate the July 29 incidents of the Jahangirnagar University, has so far recorded the testimony of 17 teachers, reports BSS.

The testimony of the other teachers will be recorded today while, the university officials and employees, police officials and employees and the local political leaders and workers will testify on September 27, 28 and 29 respectively before the commission.

The date of recording the testimony of the students and other concerned will be announced later.

JCD withdraws strike at CU

CHITTAGONG, Sept 25: Students of different educational institutions here today abstained from classes due to a strike called by the All-Party Students' Unity (APSU) protesting Tuesday's Shibir-sponsored violence at Chittagong University, reports UNB.

Police said no untoward incident took place during the strike, enforced also to protest killing of a Chhatra League leader allegedly by Shibir activists.

The APSU brought out a series of processions and held rallies in the city demanding a ban on the politics of Jamaat-Shibir.

Meanwhile, the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) has withdrawn its indefinite strike at Chittagong University today (Saturday) after a fruitful discussion with the university authorities.

The university unit of JCD called for the strike on September 22 protesting the attack on its general secretary Rafique Islam Helati by Shibir activists.

The Vice Chancellor of CU at a meeting with JCD leaders assured that stern action would be taken against the attackers.

CU authorities served show cause notices against eight Shibir men as per the complaint of JCD. The Proctor of the university said that those responsible for the incident would not go unpunished.

CU may lift ban on politics today

CHITTAGONG, Sept 25: The ban on political activities in Chittagong University is likely to be withdrawn tomorrow (Sunday), an official source said tonight, reports UNB.

Authorities imposed the restriction on student politics more than a year ago in the wake of frequent violence on the campus.

The Syndicate of the university today (Saturday) recommended a "code of conduct" for student politics to avoid clashes. It provides for seeking permission of the authorities to hold any political programme on the campus, the source said.

Fighting continues for control of Sukhumi

MOSCOW, Sept 25: Fighting continued today for control of Sukhumi, capital of the separatist region of Abkhazia, as Georgian officials denied that Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze had fled the Black Sea port, reports AFP.

Meanwhile, ousted leader Zviad Gamsakhurdia, whose supporters are also fighting Abkhazian separatists, accused Shevardnadze of provoking the conflict, and in an interview with AFP pledged to return to Tbilisi within days to retake power and restore peace.

The Interfax news agency quoted Abkhazian government sources as saying Shevardnadze, who had pledged to defend the city "to the end," had fled by helicopter overnight, although it did not report his destination.

But the head of the parliamentary press service in Tbilisi categorically denied the report. "I have just spoke to Shevardnadze by phone from Sukhumi," Ramin Chelidze said.

Shevardnadze has been holed up in the town, which is encircled by Abkhazian rebel forces, from more than a week, during which Georgian troops have striven in vain to break a blockade by the separatists.

Interfax said today fighting was continuing at Ochamchira to the south of Sukhumi, where Georgian troops have been trying to drive through a corridor to reach the besieged town.

Police attack rally

From Page 1 Col 4

of the weekly Khabarer Pata, Morsalin Babla of the Daily Janakantha and Mostafa Kartm of the Daily Banglabazar Patrika. Badal was admitted to the Narayanangj hospital while others were treated at different clinics.

The injured also include Prof Nazma Rahman, President of the Narayanangj town Awami League, Uttam Kumar of the AL-backed Chhatra League, Dipak Bhoomik of the Samilitto Sangskritik Jote, Tolaram College student Mihir and two passers-by Hannan and Noor Hossain. All of them needed first aid.

According to witnesses, an Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP), all on a sudden, drove his jeep into the rally during a break for Maghrib prayers at around 6pm. The police official reportedly started throwing away the chairs.

The infuriated attendants then began brickbattening the policemen whom the ASP ordered to resort to baton charge against the protesters. At one stage the ASP called in additional police from the Sadar thana where the emergency bell was rung and an announcement made ordering the rest of the thana's police force to rush to the troubled spot.

During the clash, police beat up the participants of the rally, newsmen covering the

incident, the shoppers of the area and passers-by. On the other hand, the agitated people hurled brickbats and beverage bottles at the policemen, witnesses said.

Some of the policemen used hockey sticks to beat up the people, witnesses said.

An impromptu all-party protest rally at Number Two railgate demanded resignation of the Home Minister and action against the policemen responsible for the occurrence.

UNB adds: ASP Habbibur Rahman and some other policemen were suspended following the incident.

Form Nirmul units in educational institution, says Jahanara

By Staff Correspondent

Convenor of the Ghatok Dalai Nirmul National Coordination Committee Jahanara Imam Saturday urged the formation of units of the Nirmul Committee in every educational institution to resist the anti-liberation forces.

She was addressing as chief guest a rally organised by the Projanmo-71 yesterday afternoon at the Dhaka University. The rally, presided over by its president Sayedur Rahman, was also attended by poet Shamsur Rahman as a special guest.

ঢাকা ওয়াসা জরুরী বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ম্যাজিস্ট্রেটের নেতৃত্বে নারায়ণগঞ্জসহ ঢাকা ওয়াসার সকল জোনের আওতাভুক্ত সকল শ্রেণীর খেলাপী গ্রাহকদের সংযোগ বিচ্ছিন্নকরণ ও তাঁদের বিরুদ্ধে পিডিআর এ্যাক্টের অধীনে আইনানুগ কঠোর ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণের কাজ অব্যাহত আছে।

লক্ষ্য করা গেছে যে, বিগত মে-জুন '৯৩ইং এর ডাইভের সময় যে সকল গ্রাহককে কিস্তির সুবিধা মঞ্জুর করা হয়েছিল তাঁরাও অনেকেই কিস্তির টাকা নিয়মিত পরিশোধ করছেন না।

এমতাবস্থায় সংযোগ বিচ্ছিন্নসহ পিডিআর এ্যাক্টের আওতায় আইনানুগ গৃহীতব্য কঠোর ব্যবস্থা এড়াবার জন্য কিস্তির টাকা যথাসময়ে পরিশোধ এবং বকেয়াসহ হালনাগাদ পানি ও পয়ঃ বিল পরিশোধের নিমিত্ত ঢাকা ওয়াসার সকল শ্রেণীর সম্মানিত গ্রাহকবৃন্দকে সবিশেষ অনুরোধ করা হচ্ছে। ইতিমধ্যেই জুলাই-আগস্ট '৯৩ মাসের বিলও জারী করা হয়েছে।

বিল না পেয়ে থাকলে আজই নারায়ণগঞ্জ অফিসসহ ঢাকা ওয়াসার সংশ্লিষ্ট রাজস্ব আঞ্চলিক অফিস অথবা ওয়াসা ভবনে বাণিজ্যিক ব্যবস্থাপক (ফোনঃ ৩২৭২৪৫) অথবা সদস্য (অর্থ) (ফোনঃ ৪৮১৬৭৯৯) এর সাথে যোগাযোগ করুন।

আপনার সেবায় নিয়োজিত

ঢাকা ওয়াসা

ওয়াসা-জরুরীঃ ৪৩২/৯৩
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Condolence

The Officers and Staff of Transcom Group of Companies express their heartfelt condolences at the death of Begum Shakera Rahman, w/o. Late Khan Bahadur Mujibur Rahman.

We pray to the Almighty for Maghferat of the departed soul. May Allah grant her eternal peace and strength to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss.

Officers and Staff of

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