



YESTERDAY IN THE SANGSAD  
Fultoli incident

# Matin assures JS of legal action

**By Staff Correspondent**

Home Minister Abdul Matin Choudhury told the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday that appropriate legal action would be taken against the persons responsible for the November 12 incidents in Fultoli thana of Khulna district.

The Home Minister, while replying to a call attention notice moved by Salahuddin Yusuf of the Awami League on the incidents, added an investigation was on in connection with a case filed regarding the happenings.

The Minister, however, denied having any information about the AL MP's allegation of repression by some BDR personnel on a group of villagers.

Earlier, Yusuf alleged that the BDR personnel tortured the villagers in the name of recovering smuggled cows and urged the Home Minister to take necessary action in this regard.

In his notice, moved under section 71 of the Rules of Procedure, he said the BDR men raided the two villages — Chhatian and Baddagati — on November 12 and indiscriminately beat up the villagers, including women, robbed their valuables, including Tk 63,500 in cash and damaged their houses.

According to the notice, 250 villagers, injured in the incident, were now undergoing treatment at the Khulna Hospital. The Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali visited the affected villages, the AL lawmaker informed the House.

Replying to a question on the allegation, the Home Minister told the House a special Task Force of the BDR raided the two villages to recover 12 smuggled cows adding a mob attacked the Task Force members and snatched the recovered cows.

# Hasina stays away from the House

**By Staff Correspondent**

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina continued to remain absent from the House ever since she threatened to resign on November 24 which created a deadlock in Parliament.

The stalemate was resolved on Sunday, November 28 following a negotiation between the ruling party and the Opposition mediated by the Speaker.

Hasina's resignation threat came when Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali entertained a Treasury Bench sponsored privilege motion against her and allowed a two-hour discussion on her reported comment at the airport on the return from China.

No clarification was given from the party about her absence.

# Probe report on ZIA boarding bridges

**By Staff Correspondent**

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Civil Aviation yesterday submitted a report after probing the alleged anomalies in constructing four boarding bridges at Zia International Airport.

The nine-member committee during investigation found that the allegations brought by Rashed Khan Menon were not true.

Menon submitted a notice on June 14 alleging that the tender was not awarded to the lowest bidder which caused financial losses to the state. According to his notice, the China Machinery Corporation was the lowest bidder of the tender which was floated in February. The tender was not awarded to that company rather it was revoked and retender was called. He alleged that the first tender was cancelled to award it to a particular company which was the third lowest among the six bidders — the Jetway Company.

Nine companies competed in the retender.

The committee was convinced that the quotation of the China Machinery was technically faulty. It had limited experience in stalling boarding bridges. Moreover, during the retender, the Hyundai Corporation became the lowest bidder but the tender of this company was also rejected along with five others because of technical and financial faults.

The three companies — Jetway System, G-Net Corporation and M/s Elbert Industries — were accepted from the technical and financial point of view. Of which the Jetway was the lowest.

Committee member Shaikh Fazul Karim Selim and Shah Haiduzzaman put their note of dissent for hasty opening of LC for procuring the bridges.

During submission of the report, Tofael Ahmed of the Awami League pointed out a contradiction in the report.

The matter was not discussed yesterday.

Meanwhile, the construction work of four boarding bridges started at Zia at a cost of Tk 15.5 crore including Tk 6.5 crore in foreign currency.

# DESAs system loss 31.05 pc

**Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain** yesterday told Parliament that system loss of the Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (DESA) was 31.05 per cent in 1992-93 which was 4.50 per cent less than that of the previous year, reports UNB.

The minister was replying to a question from M Abdur Rahim (AL). Replying to another question from Enamul Huq (Jamaat), the minister said punishment measures were taken against 2,747 officers and employees of the Power Development Board (PDB), 49 of the DESA and 444 of the Rural Electrification Board for their failure in achieving the target of reducing system loss.

Some 21,927 officers and employees of the PDB, 4,230 of the DESA and 1,554 of the REB were given awards during the period for achieving their target, the minister added.

BSS report adds: Forty Palli Bidyut Samities (Rural Electrification Society) out of a total 45 have been distributing power on commercial basis in the country, Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain told the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday.

# Border confce in Sylhet begins Dec 6

**From Our Correspondent**

SYLHET, Dec 2: A four-day border conference between Bangladesh and India will begin here December 6.

The eight-member Indian team to the meeting will be led by P K Pillai, Inspector-General of BSF for Tripura, Cachhar and Mijoram. The team includes the Inspector-General of Shillong, the Deputy Inspector General of Tripura (South), Tripura (North), Gouhati and three staff officers.

The Bangladesh team will be led by the Deputy Director-General of BDR, Brigadier T U Iftekharul Bashar. The other members are Sector Commanders of BDR at Sylhet, Rangpur, Mymensingh, Comilla, Khagrachhari and Chittagong and three staff officers.

Trans border crime and problems and other related matters will be discussed at the conference, an official source said.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia inspecting the smartly turned out passing out parade of the 27th batch of General Duties (GD) pilots and 31st batch of ground course officers of the Bangladesh Air Force Training Academy (BAFA) at Jessore BAF Matiur Rahman Base yesterday.

# PM: Chaos in the country

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goods in the country," she claimed. "Rice is now available at Tk 6 to 7 per seer."

"We should produce more in our soil. Our soil is very fertile. It's very easy to produce everything here," she told the meeting, adding "this is why we have launched the politics of production."

Referring to population control, she said, "Bangladesh is a very small country, but the problem is very big and terrible." She urged the educated people to go to villages to check population boom.

She called for making government's education programme a success. Without education, it is impossible to develop the country, she said, adding her government has given top priority to education for removing illiteracy.

Begum Zia said her government had attached more importance to women education and said it was considering providing free education for girls up to class ten, up from present provision up to eight.

Begum Zia informed that her government had taken a massive programme to eradicate the unemployment problem and called upon all to plant trees massively.

The Prime Minister assured the people of Chougachha of fulfilling their demands and resolving all problems as soon as possible. She gave spot instruction to concerned authorities to reconstruct the Sutighata bridge on Jessore-Keshabpur road within next two months.

# Corruption by BNP MP

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case the investigators found any difference between the two figures.

However, Sarder Shakwat Hossain Bokul of the Treasury bench, who is presently the chairman of the Investment Corporation of Bangladesh (ICB) denied the allegation in the House. He claimed that he did not violate the rules of the bank in granting the credit to the company owned by his brother, friends and others. On the other hand, the ruling party MP accused the PUC of not hearing him before preparing the report. Besides this incident, the PUC made certain recommendations to check anomalies, mistakes and wastage in the Sonali Bank.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism also placed in the House a report on the buying of four boarding bridges by the Civil Aviation Authority. The Standing Committee prepared the report following an allegation of Rashed Khan Menon that irregularities had taken place in purchasing the bridges. The investigation, a brief one, did not find any irregularities.

The JS yesterday, the private members day, also witnessed the introduction of four private members bills including one relating to the setting up of an independent Parliament Secretariat.

Professor Rafiqul Islam moved the bill while Law Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz opposed the introduction of the bill arguing that it was a money bill which needed prior approval of the President before consideration by the House.

The minister also argued that the Treasury Bench sponsored bill on the same subject would definitely come to the House in the first week of the next session of Parliament.

Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali allowed the AL MP to introduce

# Dainik Bangla gets maximum govt ads

The government has provided advertisements of Tk three crore ninety-one lakh 20 thousand and 732 to 119 newspapers during the first four months of the current fiscal year (1993-94), reports UNB.

Replying to a question from Abul Kalam Azad (AL), Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda informed Parliament that the amount was distributed among 47 daily newspapers published from Dhaka and 72 from outside the capital.

A break-up given by the minister shows that the highest number of ads of Tk 62,44,501 was given to the Dainik Bangla, followed by the Bangladesh Times which received ads of Tk 51,20,352.

The daily Dinkal was provided with advertisements of Tk 23,70,199 while the largest circulated daily Ittefaq received ads of Tk 21,18,144.

The daily Banglabazar Patrika received ads of Tk 6,63,154, Bhorer Kagoj Tk 4,62,591, Azker Kagoj Tk 8,25,211 and Dainik Sakiti Tk 4,47,646.

English daily the Telegraph was given Tk 6,22,490, the Morning Sun Tk 4,51,158, the Daily Star Tk 4,21,718 and the Bangladesh Observer Tk 1,87,408.

# 36 more industrial units to be disinvested

**From Our Correspondent**

INDUSTRIES Minister A M Zahiruddin Khan told Parliament yesterday that the government plans to disinvest 36 more nationalised industrial units, reports UNB.

Replying to Moulana Habibur Rahman (Jamaat), he said those industrial units include the Bangladesh Machine Tools Factory, Bangladesh Diesel Plant, Bangladesh Blade Factory, Bangladesh Cycle Industries, Ujala Match Factory, North Bengal Paper Mills, Keru and Company Ltd., Chhatok Cement Factory, Bangladesh Insulator and Sanitary Ware Factory, Palash Urea Fertilizer Factory, Sylhet Paper and Pulp Mills Ltd, Khulna Hardboard Mills and Chittagong Chemical Complex.

# Disabled are equal partner in dev process: PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday reiterated her government's commitment for establishing equal rights and human rights of the disabled people in the country, reports BSS.

In a message on the eve of the World Disabled Day, she said the present government was a signatory to the charter of the Equal Rights of the Disabled and had undertaken due measures for flourishing of their merit and efficiency.

Begum Zia said they (disabled) belonged to this society and were the equal partner in the development process. The national development process will be retarded if they are not integrated in the development activities," she added.

# One strangled to death

**By Staff Correspondent**

A man was strangled to death by his neighbours over a quarrel at North Badda in the city yesterday.

Abul Hossain, 45, died on the spot and his body was sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) for autopsy last night.

The Gulshan police said that two next-door neighbours had a quarrel over digging soil yesterday afternoon.

# Bangla Academy

**From page 1 Col 5**

of the anniversary, said the Bangla Academy would inspire the coming generations to get them involved in further development of the mother tongue as well as our literature.

Today, the Academy will remain open from 8 am to 5 pm so that the guardians can show different sections of the institution to their children.

The Academy will also hold a discussion in the evening in which Post and Telecommunications Minister Tariqul Islam will attend as the chief guest.

Prof Moutazur Rahman Tarafdar will be the main speaker. In observance of the anniversary, the Bangla Academy will also hold discussions to mark the death anniversary of Begum Rokeya on December 9 at 4 pm, Shaheed Intellectuals' Day on December 14 at 4 pm, Death anniversary of Meer Mosharraf Hossain on December 19 and the Victory Day of December 16.

To celebrate the 38th founding anniversary of the Bangla Academy, postal department will release postage stamps on the Bangla Academy (Burdwan House) of Taka two each today.

A first day cover of Taka five will also be released and a special canceller used on the occasion.

The commemorative postage stamp and the first day cover will be sold through four GPOs and the Bangla Academy Post Office from 10 am to 12 pm today.

Subsequently, the stamps will be sold at all other post offices of the country.

# Int'l confce

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south causes and sustainability effects," Women: The poorest of the poor," policies to narrow the economic gap between the north and the south" and "restructuring the foreign debt burden".

The conference would also include a parliamentary debate on "Global environmental degradation: A north-south shared responsibility".

"One person of the north approximately consumes 100 times more than a person of the south", Dr Khan highlighting the conference said, "in terms of consumption and wastage — the number of the huge population in the south means nothing."

He further added, the economic development was directly related to a sustainable democratic system and the legislators would address such issues in the conference.

Guest speakers at the conference will include Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, PGA President Murl Deora and president of the Population Council Margaret Catley-Carlson.

The conferences would frame some recommendations which will be conveyed to the 75 parliaments across the world and also to the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), to be held in Cairo in next September.

The press briefing was also attended by among others Programme Officer of the PGA Mercedes Mas De Xaxas, Executive Director of the Centre for Advance Studies Dr Saleemul Huq, Executive Director of the Khan Foundation Rokhsana Khandker, Professor of Dhaka University Aminur Rashid and Assistance Programme Co-ordinator of the PGA Aly A Jetha.

The countries to participate at the conferences include, Australia, Cambodia, Germany, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Malaysia, Mexico, Nepal, the Netherlands, Pakistan, the Philippines, Peru, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the UK, the USA, Zimbabwe, Japan and host Bangladesh.

# RUTA to observe token strike Dec 5

**From Our Correspondent**

RAJSHAHI, Dec 2: The Rajshahi University Teachers' Association (RUTA) will observe a token strike on December 5 in protest against the police excesses on a cultural procession on the campus Wednesday.

This was decided at an emergency meeting of the RUTA today.

The meeting condemned the police action and threatened to go on an indefinite strike if the persons responsible were not punished by December 8.

# Contraband seized from BSC ship

**From Staff Correspondent**

CHITTAGONG, Dec 2: Anti-smuggling customs officials in a sudden raid today recovered smuggled goods from a BSC ship at the Chittagong Port.

According to customs, the recovered goods worth over Tk two lakh, included crockeries and beers.

# The Midnight File

## Aided arrives in Addis Ababa

**ADDIS ABABA, Dec 2:** Somali warlord Mohamed Farah Aided arrived here late today to join informal talks with other Somali factions on peace in the Horn of Africa country, airport officials said. General Aided and his Somali National Alliance (SNA) had boycotted a UN conference on humanitarian aid to Somalia held in the Ethiopian capital from Monday to Wednesday, reports Reuter.

## EC tightens sanctions against Nigeria

**LONDON, Dec 2:** The European Community has decided to tighten sanctions against Nigeria's military government to press it to restore democracy, Britain said today.

Alastair Goodlad, a Foreign Office minister, told parliament that Britain for its part would restrict the movement of defence officials from the Nigerian embassy in London, curb arms exports to Nigeria and expel four Nigerian military students, reports Reuter.

## Talks with Israel at an impasse: PLO

**TUNIS, Dec 2:** The PLO said today that negotiations with Israel on Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and Jericho were at an impasse, reports Reuter.

It appealed to Washington to intervene to make sure Israel meets its obligations under the self-rule agreement signed by the PLO and Israel in September.

The Palestinian-Israeli negotiations in both Cairo and El Arish have reached an impasse which threatens the credibility of the peace process," an official PLO statement said.

The impasse had come about because of the practices of the Israeli army and settlers in the occupied territories and because the Israeli government was trying to delay implementing the agreement beyond the deadline, it added.

Under the agreement, Israeli troops should start withdrawing from Gaza and Jericho and handing over to a Palestinian police force by December 13.

The PLO warns that the Israeli practices and policies which deserve strong disapproval and condemnation need the urgent intervention of the co-sponsors of the peace process and the international community to guarantee implementation of the agreement," it added.

Meanwhile, hundreds of Jewish settlers set up barricades of flaming tires and snarled traffic throughout the West Bank on Thursday to protest the killings of two Israelis by Palestinian gunmen.

The coordinated protest, mounted by vehement opponents of the government's peace accord with the PLO, prevented thousands of Palestinians from getting to work. But under orders from the Settlers' Council, protesters did not stone Arab cars or smash their windshields as they had in previous demonstrations.

Israeli troops did not intervene in the protests.

The army, meanwhile, began implementing an understanding with PLO leaders to reduce its presence in the occupied Gaza Strip and halt its war against the PLO's Fatah Hawks, Israeli and Palestinian officials said.

## GPO staff commits suicide

**By Staff Correspondent**

A man reportedly committed suicide by jumping onto the ground from the roof-top of the city's four-storey General Post Office (GPO) building yesterday morning.

The victim, Quamruzzaman, committed suicide over some allegations of corruption. He was an Assistant Inspector in the GPO, relatives said.

A source said that there were some allegations of irregularities against Quamruzzaman which were under investigation. Quamruzzaman was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital where he was declared dead by the attending doctors.

## SAARC confce

**From Page 1 Col 7**

Fatullah Jameel and Foreign Minister of Bhutan Lyonpo Dawa.

Nepal will be represented by Minister for Tourism Joshi as Nepalese Prime Minister. Girtja Prasad Koirala himself holds the portfolio for Foreign Affairs.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, who is the current chairperson of the SAARC will inaugurate the two-day Foreign Ministers meet at 10 am tomorrow at the International Conference Centre.

The forthcoming meet is the 13th meeting of the Foreign Ministers of SAARC since its inception in 1985. The eight-year forum has identified 13 areas of regional cooperation.

Programmes of poverty alleviation, trade liberalisation and areas of economic cooperation highlighted in the 7th summit held in Dhaka are likely to feature prominently in the Foreign Ministers meet.

The Council of Ministers are also likely to deliberate on SAPTA and the Integrated Programme of Action (IPA). It is also expected to review the progress related to the conventions on drug abuse, drug trafficking, anti-terrorism and narcotics control adopted at the previous summits.

The meeting is also expected to set a date for the next summit to be held in India.

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