

Princess and the major: A tale of a treason

LONDON, Oct 4: To the establishment he's a cad and a scoundrel, but if the story of a love affair with Princess Diana is true he's a traitor under the law and — technically at least — could face execution, reports AP.

While Maj James Hewitt ducked the verbal brickbats, sales of a book alleging a five-year affair with the princess soared Tuesday and high society wondered where traditional codes of honour have gone.

"He has gone too far and I think other officers will be disinclined to have anything to do with him," said Bob Higgs, a spokesman for the prestigious Life Guards, Hewitt's former regiment.



James Hewitt

"Princess in Love," a floridly written work by freelance journalist Anna Pasternak, shows Hewitt to be "a fully-fledged cad," wrote Niall Ferguson, a fellow in modern history at Oxford University's Jesus College, in The Daily Telegraph.

But it also symbolised the creeping corruption of our —

supposedly — elite institutions," he wrote.

"If even the (armed) Services and the professions can no longer be depended on to instill a sense of decorum, then the legacy of the Victorians has gone forever," he added.

The book, published by Bloomsbury, alleges Hewitt first made love to Diana in 1986 when she invited him to dinner at Kensington Palace while her husband Prince Charles was away. The affair allegedly ended in 1991.

A spokeswoman for the Home Office said the Treason Law of 1351, still in force, decrees death for various treacherous acts, including sex with the wife of the heir to the throne.

The gruesome penalty was hanging "but not till he be dead," followed by disembowelling "while yet alive" and slicing up into quarters. In 1870 the punishment was amended to straightforward hanging.

Although Britain has abolished the death penalty for other crimes, a person "could still be executed for treason," the spokeswoman said anonymously.

She pointed out that Ann Boleyn, second wife of Henry VIII, was beheaded in 1536 for adultery and incest.

The last people to be executed for treason were during World War II, "and that was for collaborating with the Germans," said Terry Charman, a historian at the Imperial War Museum.

Reportedly unemployed since he was laid off by the army in March, Hewitt now is also finished socially.

In the upper-class world he frequented, "a gentleman's word is his bond," wrote romance novelist Dame Barbara Cartland, Diana's former step-grandmother, in the tabloid today.

PM reaffirms commitment to expand education

Prime Minister Begum Khudea Zia yesterday passed her evening among underprivileged children reared by a voluntary organisation working to provide a better life to the poor and the deprived, reports UNB.

Begum Zia attended the "Surovi" function at the Shilpakala Academy which featured prize distribution, a painting exhibition and a colourful cultural programme staged by the less-fortunate children.

Cheering and singing children greeted the Prime Minister on arrival at the venue where she inaugurated the programme by releasing balloons. She went round the gallery admiring the paintings by the young artists of the organisation.

Surovi is providing schooling as well as vocational training, including book binding, candle making, tailoring, pottery and electronics to some 20,000 children through 17 branches of the charity across the country.

More than one and a half lakh underprivileged children have seen the light of knowledge and a better life through this voluntary organisation since it was established in 1979.

Finding the motherly chief executive of the country amongst them, the beaming children and juveniles sang, danced and recited poems with enthusiasm at the cultural show which preceded the annual prize distribution.

IMF-WB meet opens

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of development remains unchanged: Over a billion people still live in absolute poverty.

Juan Carlos told the group. The burning needs arising from poverty should encourage us to renew our efforts and probably to revise our set of priorities.

Camdessus noted the bright prospects for the world's economy, finally pulling out of a prolonged slump, and urged the nations to guard against rising inflation rates, curtail government spending and fight unemployment.

"We should not miss the opportunity offered by this recovery to secure durable, more broadly based, higher-quality growth, and to raise living standards worldwide," he told the conferees.

"To do so," he said, "we must act decisively on the lessons we have learned in the past 50 years."

The three-day annual meeting may well be anticlimactic after the angry words that marked some of the preparatory talks between the rich and poor nations.

The rich and the poor clashed over the weekend during discussions of proposals for greater assistance to the poor.

Five boys and girls received gold medals and nine silver medals for excellence in different extracurricular activities. Some 22 teachers also were given certificates of acknowledgement for their sincerity and dedication in making the lives of the destitute children happy.

Addressing the function, the Prime Minister said only education could accelerate creativity and increase skill.

"There is no alternative to education for ensuring development and progress," she added.

Exit points

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has already been sent to New Delhi by air which would be handed over to the Indian authorities by Bangladesh High Commissioner to India Faruk Sobhan.

Meanwhile, the National Anti-Plague Committee after a series of daily meetings, did not meet yesterday after being assured that none had been infected by plague anywhere in the country.

Government officials said that the Committee would sit again today at 8 pm.

Talking to The Daily Star, a Health Ministry official said the medical teams were active at all entry-points to the country including the land checkpoints and air and sea ports.

None was taken under observation for plague tests anywhere in the country yesterday, they said.

Therefore, the government said such comments made by the Leader of the Opposition without verifying facts is "really unfortunate". It urged the people not to be misled by such a statement which is far from the reality.

Kazi Zafar hospitalised

By Staff Correspondent

A former Prime Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed, was admitted to a private clinic at Gulshan in the city yesterday with serious heart problems, according to a press release.

He is now under the treatment of National Professor Nurul Islam.

Polytech teachers call off strike

Bangladesh Polytechnic Teachers Association (BPTA) has called off their strike following a satisfactory discussion with Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar yesterday, reports BSS.

The teachers of the Polytechnic Institutes of the country will join their duties on October 8, and take extra classes to compensate the losses due to strike, according to an official handout.

Govt refutes Hasina's allegation

The government yesterday described as "baseless" a recent statement of Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina about irregularities and misappropriation of funds for checking erosion of the river Padma in Louhajang under Munshiganj district, reports BSS.

An official handout said that Sheikh Hasina's allegations about corruption, sanction of an amount of Tk 19 crore and an expenditure of only Tk three crore against it and misappropriation of the fund were "baseless". How could there be misappropriation of Tk three crore when the government had not made any allocation of funds, the government asked.

The handout said river erosion is a regular phenomenon in the country but of late the extent is growing high. No government has the financial capability to check such erosion when all the gates of the Farakka barrage are opened during the monsoon.

It said the government is fully aware of the erosion problem of Louhajang and in December last year the Prime Minister had visited the erosion-hit areas and gave orders to check it. Following the directive of the Prime Minister a Tk 59 crore "preservation of the left bank of the river Padma in Louhajang of Munshiganj" project brief was prepared. The implementation of this project can come only after approval of the Planning Commission, and availability of fund from the donors.

The handout said the Water Resources Minister and concerned officials and engineers had visited the site of erosion and taken steps for approval of the project expeditiously.

Besides, the minister reviewed the erosion situation at a meeting at the Secretariat on September 17 and gave directives to the Water Development Board to start work within three days as an emergency measure.

The minister also sanctioned immediately an amount of Tk one crore for the project to face the calamity.

The Water Development Board has already formed a committee and issued directives to take all possible steps. Apart from this, an amount of Tk 27 lakh was sanctioned in the last year while another amount of Tk 50 lakh this year to save Munshiganj town from river erosion.

Therefore, the government said such comments made by the Leader of the Opposition without verifying facts is "really unfortunate". It urged the people not to be misled by such a statement which is far from the reality.

No new death from plague in India

NEW DELHI, Oct 4: For the first time in two weeks, no deaths were reported today in India's plague, and the government and the World Health Organisation said the epidemic will soon end, reports AP.

The country will be free from the plague problem by mid-October, Health Secretary MS Dayal told reporters.

Although the pneumonic plague has killed at least 61 people, Dayal said that nearly 95 per cent of the people being treated for plague symptoms across the country have tested negative.

"The pneumonic plague will almost be nil by mid-October," said Dr. Nayrayan Keshary Shah, WHO's representative to India.

However, Shah also said in an interview that it will probably take longer to stop the bubonic plague.



Housemaid Romena, sole suspect in the gruesome double murder of mother and daughter at Lalmatia in the city Sunday, seen at the Detective Branch office at Minto Road last night with the stolen money and jewellery. This picture was taken at 3:15 am.

Murder suspect held

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immediately attacked her with a hot.

She hit her several times with the kitchen tool before slashing her throat. She then dragged the lifeless body to the girl's bedroom and hid it partially under the bed. The reapon she went about cleaning the house of all traces of blood, even using detergents to sweep and mop the floor absolutely clean. She also washed the boy.

Unmoved by her crime, she went about her daily chores as if nothing had happened. Several hours later, around 2 in the afternoon, Shoma's mother Nilufar Chowdhury returned from her college. When asked about the daughter's whereabouts, Romena told Mrs. Chowdhury that she had gone out.

Then Romena carried hot water to the bathroom for Mrs. Chowdhury to bathe.

After this Mrs. Chowdhury sat down for lunch. At one point she called Romena from the kitchen and rebuked her about the quality of the fried fish, one of the dishes. At once, Romena rushed to the kitchen, picked up the boy and hit Mrs. Chowdhury. Soon afterwards, the mother, too, had died the way her daughter did some hours earlier.

However, after the second murder Romena realised that she had done something wrong and that she should escape. But before fleeing the scene, she felt she should take away the gold ornaments and money kept in the chest of drawers in Mrs. Chowdhury's room, lest someone else should come and steal those.

When asked by this correspondent in the presence of Bank and the Fund.

He also stressed careful consideration of the specific socio-political and cultural dimensions of individual countries in providing policy advice by the Bretton Woods institutions in the effort to combat world poverty.

Provision of adequate social safety nets for the vulnerable groups and improvements of health, education and investment in human capital development also got emphasis in his statement.

The WB-IMF chairman noted with satisfaction that the world economic activity, stimulated by the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round, represents an opportunity for all nations to push ahead with solid economic programmes.

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many top police officials—Romena said she knew that she would be caught. She also said that she neither had any regrets nor did she once feel any remorse.

The gold ornaments recovered from Romena's possession by police included at least three expensive necklaces, several gold chains, bangles, a fancy set, three rings, several earrings and a ladies' watch. The recovered cash, about Tk. 7000, was mostly in Tk.500 and fresh Tk.100 notes.

Police also brought one of Romena's relatives from Char Govinda with them to the DB office.

After committing the two murders, Romena had gone into hiding and took shelter in the house of her step sister at Char Gobinda village under Shibabala thana in Manikganj. She hails from village Khasbaga under Nagarpur thana of Tangail.

She was arrested at around 10:30 pm.

Earlier, police raided Romena's house in Khasbaga and picked up her two brothers-in-law — Hashem Ali and Nabu Sheikh — and a cousin, Dilip Sheikh, in the interest of investigation and to know the whereabouts of Romena. She is known in her village as Nomi.

Police took the two brothers-in-law to Char Gobinda village wherefrom they arrested Romena. Her cousin was kept at the Minto Road office of detective police in the city.

Meanwhile, Qui Khwant of Nilufar Chowdhury and Shoma will be held at House No-43, Road No-8, Dhanmondi, after Asr prayers today.

Saifur at Madrid meet

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IMF board of governors.

According to a message received in Dhaka from the Spanish capital, he pointed out a lack of coordination mechanism among the major industrialised countries had been responsible for their macroeconomic imbalances and structural rigidities.

"It is both just and desirable that the cost of adjustment is shared equitably by both the developing and the industrial nations," Rahman said stressing that the major economic powers should strengthen their fiscal and monetary policies.

In the interest of stabilising the international economic situation, he added, the Fund should exercise a more effective surveillance over the macroeconomic policies of the major industrial countries.

Noting the private equity flows to developing countries increased recently, Rahman said the poorest among those countries which need official assistance for investment in infrastructure and social sectors are yet to see such resource flows.

"I, therefore, strongly urge that IDA resources be allocated solely for the poorest and least developed countries with weak institutional and technical capabilities," he told the meeting attended by the Spanish king, governors and officials of the

Bank and the Fund.

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Property worth Tk one cr gutted

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Oct 4: A devastating fire at Chaktai on Monday midnight gutted four salt crushing mills, one godown and four wholesale shops, fire brigade sources said.

Fifty fire service people brought the blaze under control after struggling for an hour with seven fire fighting vehicles. Two fire men were injured, fire control sources said. The origin of the fire is yet to be ascertained.

According to sources, the loss of property was estimated to be over Tk one crore.

Murder

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singh Medical College, were brutally hacked to death at their 5/5, Block-A, Lalmatia residence.

Meanwhile, Qui Khwant of Nilufar Chowdhury and Shoma will be held at House No-43, Road No-8, Dhanmondi, after Asr prayers today.

Hasina

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Kurigram and Lalmonirhat. She also suggested long-term measures to solve various problems there.

The Awami League president feared that condition of the people might be severe in the coming days if the government did not take any practical steps to deal with the present situation caused by drought and river erosion.

"Living skeletons are roaming around for food but the government seems to be unconcerned about the situation," she said, adding, "Being in the Opposition, we've done what is possible for us. The government will have to take initiative to mitigate the sufferings of the people."

Haiti leader

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cording to border officials who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

"His departure represents a major step forward" in laying the groundwork for the restoration of democracy, Schragger, the US embassy spokesman said. "There is a new sheriff in town. We fully anticipate the departure of Gen Cedras and Gen Bamby in the near future."

Francois, travelling in a four-wheel-drive vehicle, was accompanied by his wife, his brother, Evans, two other women and three bodyguards, a customs agent said.

Evans Francois has a luxurious residence in the Dominican Republic, which shares the Caribbean island of Hispaniola with Haiti.

Despite the reports, the Dominican Republic's foreign affairs secretary, Carlos Morales Troncoso, would not confirm today that Francois had been granted political asylum.

HC injunction

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rely only on public health facilities, because of the ongoing strike and the authorities' failure to restore the services.

He pointed out the violation of laws and the failure of all the respondents in performing their respective statutory and public duties and prayed for Rule Nisi, appropriate directive and mandatory injunction to end the deadlock.

Earlier on Monday, the Dhaka District Court issued an ad-interim injunction restraining BMA president Dr M A Majed and secretary general Gazi Abdul Haque from continuing the doctors' strike. In response to a case filed by Advocate Firoz Kamal Hasan on September 28, the court issued a show cause notice returnable within 24 hours.

UNB adds: The Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) in an emergency meeting last night reaffirmed that the nationwide doctors' strike would continue and termed a television news on it 'confusing'.

The state-run TV telecast last night a High Court order, upon a writ petition, for an immediate end to the strike that passed off a fortnight paralysing medicare at government hospitals and medical centres across the country.

A resolution of the meeting said the medicare system had not been disrupted at any place because of the strike enforced to press a 21-point charter of demands.

A BMA press release said indoors of the hospitals and emergency departments remained open for treatment of the indoor patients. Besides, alternative outdoors of the BMA also remained open.

The physicians working in drought-hit areas and those engaged in anti-plague activities have been exempted from the indefinite strike.

Meanwhile, in a late night insertion in the press release, the BMA said, "We have not yet received any court order. On receipt, we will move for legal measures."

The Midnight File

24 killed in Indian blast

NEW DELHI, Oct 4: At least 24 people were killed and more than 100 injured when an explosion ripped through a firecracker plant in the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh today, the Press Trust of India reported. A police spokesman told the news agency that the factory in the industrial town of Jhansi was levelled by the powerful blast and several nearby buildings were damaged, reports AP.

140 hurt in Japanese quake

TOKYO, Oct 4: Northern Japan was rocked by a strong undersea earthquake Tuesday night, shaking buildings as far away as Tokyo. Tidal wave warnings were issued for the Pacific. The Central Meteorological Agency estimated the magnitude of the quake at 7.9, making it the strongest to hit Japan in 26 years. A total of about 140 people were injured, almost all in the northernmost main island of Hokkaido, Kyodo News Service reported. Police reported some minor damage but no deaths, reports AP.

Newsprint price up

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ensures uninterrupted power supply necessary for production of papers, is now being overhauled. The maintenance work began on October 1 and is scheduled to be completed in a month.

As a consequence, production at the KNM has dropped below 2500 tonnes per day from the usual of 4000 tonnes, the official said.

"This overhauling was supposed to take place in June last but as the demand for newsprint has risen drastically, we had to reschedule it several times. Now we are compelled to begin the overhauling," he said.

The demand for newsprint has risen to 4500 tonnes per day from the usual 4000 tonnes over the last several months, the source noted.

The newspapers, which are the main buyers of the

KNM production, have increased their circulation in the recent months. Besides, there is a booming-publication industry. Another newsprint mill should be set up," the BCIC official said.

He pointed out that the KNM did not increase the price of newsprint.

The production at Karna-phuly paper mills has also declined but the demand for papers is steadily increasing, the source said.

Paper dealers, pointing fingers at big merchants and unscrupulous employees of the paper mills alleged that only a few dealers were getting papers while the rest were being ignored.

18 killed

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Collided head on. A woman aged 25, a girl 16, and a baby died on the spot.

Thirty other passengers injured in the accident were rushed to hospitals and clinics.

The bus fell into a roadside ditch and the drivers of both the vehicles fled, said police.

In another mishap on the highway at Comilla, a Chittagong-bound truck hit an autorickshaw from behind killing its driver and two passengers.

The truck escaped but was later caught by Mirersharai Police.

Details were not available.

BGMEA: Permits

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Redwan sought technical suggestions from the NBR in the initial stage.

To assume the new responsibility, the BGMEA has rented an office in the Kawran Bazar area. Its Executive Committee members and officials have been given a two-month orientation course on the issuance of the utilisation declaration.



বাংলাদেশ শিল্প রিন সংস্থা

Head Office
BIWTA Bhaban (5th Floor)
141-143, Motijheel Commercial Area
P.O. Box No-473, Dhaka

Notice for Pre-Qualification for Construction of Office Building

Bangladesh Shipila Rin Sangstha (BSRS) will undertake construction of one Multistoried Building for its Head Office at Kawran Bazar Commercial Area, Dhaka soon. For consultancy and supervisory work BSRS is going to prepare a panel of professional consulting firms for execution of the above works Consulting firms will be responsible for carrying out the following works:

- Preparation of Master Plan and model;
 - Foundation and structural design of the building;
 - Electrical planning and installations;
 - Mechanical and other related works including installation of lift etc;
 - Air-conditioning unit system;
 - Preparation of cost estimate and tender schedule & contracts; and
 - TOP supervision.
2. Interested Consulting Firms having their Head Office in Bangladesh and suitably qualified and experienced structural engineers and architects may submit application to the General Manager (Administration), Bangladesh Shipila Rin Sangstha, BIWTA Bhaban (5th floor), P.O. Box No-473, 141-143, Motijheel Commercial Area, Dhaka by 16-10-94. The application should contain the following information documents:
- Name & address of the Firm;
 - Name of the proprietor and/or names of the partners if it is a Joint Stock Company/Registered Firm;
 - Memorandum and Articles of Association or Partnership Deed of the Firms as the case may be;
 - Bio-data of key professional/technical personnel and list of work done so far by the firm during the last 5 (five) years and also work on hand;
 - Name of Bankers and Income Tax Certificates (photocopy);
 - Other relevant information which they may think necessary for their enlistment or those information which may be asked for by the Sangstha subsequently;
3. Those who do not have previous experience need not to apply.
4. Bangladesh Shipila Rin Sangstha reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the applications without showing any reason whatsoever.

Yusuf A Hassan
General Manager

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