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Boat sinks in Kutubdia: 45 bodies found

COX'S BAZAR, Oct 16: At least 100 people are feared drowned when an overloaded engine boat carrying a bridal party capsized in the Kutubdia channel at around noon today.

According to district administration sources, 45 bodies were recovered till 11 pm. Rescue operation by local people continued till the writing of this report.

Thousands waited on the banks of the Kutubdia channel at Ujantia where the boat sank. Witnesses said the ill-fated country-boat, fitted with an outboard shallow tubewell engine, was carrying a bridal party of about 170 persons to Matarbari village of Mohekhali thana from the Baraghup launch ghat on Kutubdia Island in the Bay of Bengal. The boat tipped to one side and sank when it tried to change its direction.

Of the bodies recovered, 12

were of men while the others were of women and children. The bridegroom — Zafar Alam Chowdhury — was recovered in an unconscious state, but his mother and two sisters were missing.

Some 60 passengers of the boat either swam ashore or were rescued by local people. Members of the bridal party told this correspondent that only eight of the total 80 women passengers of the boat

were rescued. The local Thana Nirbahi Officer said that the rescue operation was limited to initiatives by local people and boatmen. The district administration was still to do anything.

Some 40 passengers of the engine-boat were given first aid at the Kutubdia health complex.

General Secretary of the Cox's Bazar Press Club Atahar Iqbal, who was a witness to the

incident, told this correspondent that as the engine-boat capsized, fishing boats in the canal rushed to the spot and recovered many passengers. Besides, more than 10 from distant areas soon joined the rescue operation.

The Thana Nirbahi Officer and thana magistrate of Kutubdia visited the spot, 50 km from Cox's Bazar town, at around 4 pm and along with

Condolence

The President, the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition yesterday expressed deep shock at the tragic loss of lives in Kutubdia channel, reports BSS.

In a condolence message President Abdur Rahman Biswas conveyed his heart-felt sympathy to the members of bereaved families and prayed

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S M Ali's death anniversary today

By Staff Correspondent

The first anniversary of the death of Syed Mohammad Ali, the founder-editor of The Daily Star, will be observed today.

S M Ali, as he was better known, died at a Bangkok hospital due to kidney failure on this day last year. He was also

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Commonwealth emissary Ninian Stephen (R) called on Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Husina at her official residence yesterday. — Star photo

Sir Ninian seeks to find common ground

By Staff Correspondent

Commonwealth Secretary General's emissary Sir Ninian Stephen, during his talks with the chiefs of the two major political parties over the past couple of days, tried to gauge their respective positions with regard to the proposed government- Opposition dialogue and also how much concession either side was willing to give.

In his meetings with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia Saturday and Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Husina yesterday Sir Ninian tried to explore common grounds for fruitful negotiations to find a way out of the country's current political impasse, sources close to the two camps said.

Sir Ninian is also learnt to have enquired about the opposing camps' plans in case the proposed dialogue failed to produce any solution.

The Prime Minister, during her talks with Sir Ninian, told him that she was ready to accept any Opposition suggestion for improving the electoral system for holding general elections in a free and fair atmosphere, sources close to her told The Daily Star yesterday. But she asserted that the ruling party would not entertain any suggestions beyond

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Dialogue Oct 19 if interim govt is main topic, says Opposition

The Opposition have said they are ready to hold the proposed dialogue with the government on October 19 for resolving the current political crisis caused by the dispute over holding free and fair national polls, reports UNB.

The date was proposed after a lengthy meeting of leaders of the opposition parties and groups in parliament with Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Husina in the chair.

"We want that the dialogue should start on October 19. We are looking forward to joining the talks with all preparation"

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Construction of Jamuna Bridge begins

By Asiuzzaman, back from Tangail

The nation took a long step forward towards bridging the chasm between the relatively developed eastern and the neglected western halves of the country yesterday when Communications Minister Oli Ashraf switched on a dredger to begin actual physical construction of the much-cherished Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge (JMB).

The Jamuna Bridge is no longer just a dream. Until today not many believed the bridge would ever be built. But from today there will remain very few doubters. The bridge will be constructed, and constructed on schedule," Oli said while inaugurating the river training work, a major component of the 700-million US dollar project.

The ceremony took place at Shyamshoil under Kalihatt thana in Tangail district, on the eastern bank of the mighty Jamuna, early yesterday morning.

"Insha-Allah, we shall come here again to open the bridge to traffic," Oli declared. He also said that despite the formal laying of foundation stones by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia on April 10 last and the mobilisation of necessary funds certain quarters had tried to impede the smooth progress of the country's biggest civil engineering project.

According to a 40-month construction schedule, the 4.8 km long and 18.5 metres wide bridge is to be completed by December 15, 1997.

After the inaugural function the Communications Minister switched on a HAM-219 dredger. He then crossed the Dhalshwari river, a tributary of the Jamuna, by boat to visit

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Cloud over today's FBCCI polls

By Staff Correspondent

Today's scheduled elections of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) have been thrown into uncertainty following reports that a city court had issued a temporary injunction.

However, a press release of the FBCCI issued very late last night said the elections would be held as per schedule, from 10 am to 1 pm and 2-4:30 pm, notwithstanding "rumours" about any prohibitory court order.

The press release, claiming that certain quarters were spreading rumours, said the federation's election board was yet to receive any order from any court prohibiting today's elections.

Meanwhile, according to a press release issued earlier yesterday by Advocate M Ali Ashraf of Badrul Ameen & Company, the Fourth Court of Assistant Judge, Dhaka issued a temporary injunction asking the federation to maintain the status quo until disposal of a title suit by one Mizanur Rahman.

The court order was reported to have been issued

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Legal Notice

It is notified for general information that in the Title Suit No. 255 of 1994 of the 4th Court of Asstt. Judge, Dhaka filed by our client Mr. Mizanur Rahman against the Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce & Industry for declaration and permanent injunction, a petition for temporary injunction against holding of election on 17.10.94 was filed and it was heard by the learned Court on 15.10.94 in presence of the parties and the learned Court vide its order of the same self date passed the following order:

"আদেশ হইল যে, ... অত্র মূল মোকদ্দমা নিষ্পত্তি না হওয পর্যন্ত উভয় পক্ষকেই ১৭-১০-৯৪ইং তারিখ নির্বাচনের ব্যাপারে স্থিতিবস্থা (Statusquo) বজায় রাখার আদেশ প্রদান করা হইল।"

M. Ali Ashraf
Advocate
for Badrul Ameen & Company
Barrister-at-Law & Advocates
72, New Elephant Road
Monjur Bhaban (First floor)
Dhaka-1205

বিসমিল্লাহির রাহমানির রাহিম

একবিসিসিআই নির্বাচন ১৯৯৪-৯৬

রেদোয়ান আহমেদ প্যানেল

সভাপতি পদার্থী

ইনশাআল্লাহ একবিসিসিআই কে ব্যবসায়ীদের পার্লামেন্ট হিসাবে গড়ে তুলব-রেদোয়ান

দশ লক্ষাধিক কর্মসংস্থান সৃষ্টির জন্য আমরা বদ্ধপরিকর

রেদোয়ান আহমেদ এম, পি
জাতীয় নং-৪১২ ক্রমিক নং-০

Outnumbered cops!

Less than half of Dhaka's police force is entrusted with combating crimes while a good number is deployed to protect key installations and VIPs, reports UNB.

Of the 12,000 strong Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP), only five to six thousand are engaged in dealing with crimes and criminals in the city, police sources said.

About one thousand police are posted in the key installations of the metropolis, like Bangladesh Bank, T&T and radio-television, and some 1,100 personnel are placed under the traffic division.

Besides, more than 1,400 policemen guard the President, Prime Minister, ministers and other VIPs including diplomats. The remaining law enforcers are too inadequate to deal with crimes and criminals, said a police officer on condition of anonymity.

For a city of 85 lakh people, the existing number of policemen simply cannot cope with the situation, he said.

Bangladesh, with a population of 12 crore people, has a police force of about 84,000, a ratio of one policeman for every 1,429 people, ranking the country 145th in the global context.

Asjaweek, a Hong Kong-based international magazine, in a recent issue termed Bangladesh a "safe haven for the criminals."

Law cannot touch the criminals here for various reasons. One reason is the inadequate number of policemen, the magazine remarked.

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Russia backs US-drafted UN move against Iraq

UNITED NATIONS, Oct 16: The UN Security Council late on Saturday demanded that Iraq pull back its elite troops from the Kuwaiti border area and barred any new threat to the Emirate, reports Reuter.

The vote on the US-drafted resolution was a unanimous 15-0. Russia supported the measure after US officials agreed to some amendments following a day of tortuous deliberations.

The resolution condemns Iraq's recent military movements southwards towards Kuwait and demands the immediate withdrawal of elite Revolutionary Guard units to their original positions. It also bars Baghdad from using its forces in a hostile or provocative manner to threaten either its neighbours or United Nations operations in Iraq.

Baghdad today dismissed the UN resolution calling it a "face-saving" exercise by the United States.

An Iraqi official said on condition of anonymity "this resolution is face-saving for the United States after they showed their military might."

The official was referring to the US decision to proceed with its military build-up in the Gulf despite the announcement by Baghdad that it was withdrawing its troops from the Kuwaiti border.

Ap adds: The United States will not wait to retaliate the next time Saddam Hussein sends his troops south to threaten Kuwait, Secretary of State Warren Christopher said today.

The warning came a day after the UN Security Council voting.

বিসমিল্লাহির রাহমানির রাহিম

দেশের স্বার্থে - ব্যবসায়ীদের স্বার্থে

সালমান এফ রহমান পরিষদকে জয়যুক্ত করুন