

JU transport pool Tk 5.65 lakh embezzled

By Gobinda Bar

An amount of Tk 5.65,000 was embezzled from the transport section of the Jahangirnagar University during fiscal 1992-93 and 1993-94, according to a JU senate probe body report.

A section of the officers, employees, bus drivers and helpers were involved in the embezzlement of the fund, the report said.

The five-member probe body headed by JU senator and Principal of the Moham madpur Central College M Shariful Islam detected irregularities on 12 counts including embezzlement of passenger fare, showing of exaggerated fuel cost and

payment of extra bill for rented buses, spare parts etc. Registers, log-books, requisition slips and transaction receipts of the transport section were examined in the investigation.

Mentioning some of the irregularities, the report said that Tk 6,804 collected as bus-fare in fiscal 1993-94 was not deposited and an extra Tk 13,590.00 was drawn as fuel cost showing traffic jam.

The probe report made a 13-point suggestion including removal of the present transport administrator and immediate action against him, re-scheduling of the bus trips, increase of bus fare,

appointment of a full-time director for the transport section in place of the present part-time transport administrator.

The probe was ordered at a Senate session in July 1994.

The report was accepted with some corrections at a special session of the JU senate held on December 28. It is now likely to be presented at a meeting of the JU Syndicate for necessary action.

Four other members of the five-member committee were JU senators Siddiqui Rahman, Shamsul Haq, Bashir Ahmed and AKM Wahiduzzaman.

Rs 5m for capture of top MQM militant

KARACHI, Jan 2: Authorities are offering five million rupees (142,857 dollars) as a reward for information leading to the capture of a powerful militant of the ethnic Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM), official said, reports AFP.

Officials are seeking the arrest of Naem Sharri, believed to be an MQM militant, who has more than 60 counts of terrorism registered against him, including the massacre of 15 people in one house late last year.

The reward offer comes hours after Sharri was identified by witnesses as the man who masterminded Monday's attacks which left 17 dead around the troubled city. Four MQM militants were killed by police in a gunbattle today.

Gunmen kidnapped a number of people late Sunday, but released all civilians. An army captain, a paramilitary officer of the same rank and two policemen, who were kidnapped in the same area, were found tortured and dead Monday morning.

Officials said a civilian who was released by the kid-

nappers identified a photograph of Sharri as one of the assailants.

Another man also identified by the same witness was killed in a gunbattle with police Monday evening.

Police said Sharri is believed to be in his mid-20s and warned that he is armed and dangerous, adding that he has escaped security dragnets several times. Official said he is the MQM's top militant leader.

BNP firm

From Page 1

tary general noted that judicial reference could be sought on the Opposition's second demand for extending the time-limit if there was any agreement.

In this regard, Information and Commerce Minister M Shamsul Islam, who was sitting beside Talukdar, quoted AL leader Amir Hossain Anu as saying that they would not sit for talks unless the two conditions were accepted. "They've cancelled today's meeting, scheduled for 10 pm, and thus have blocked the negotiation process and we're not going for further talks unless they withdraw their pre-conditions".

He also denied the Opposition allegation that the BNP avoided Monday's meeting saying no such meeting was scheduled.

Asked if his party had talks with the Jamaat, GF and LDF on formation of an advisory council, Salam Talukdar said, "We have already had informal talks at different times and there might be formal meetings with them."

Both the ministers observed that all the opposition parties should contest the polls under an advisory council with the President holding all executive powers if they wanted democracy and constitutional process in the country.

"If they (the major Opposition) don't do so, we must say they are running after something else, not democracy and the Constitution," said Salam Talukdar.

Little wars

From Page 1

turmoil has disrupted its economics, politics or security. By that measure, the research and lobbying foundation counted 71 little wars last year, one more than the year before, which was double the number in the organisation's first tally in 1989.

Twelve countries have been added this year and eight removed. Some other country listings were combined to account for the increase of one.

Despite progress toward resolution of conflicts during the year in the Mideast, Ireland and former Yugoslavia, "We're having a problem generating peace worldwide," said Andrew Messing, retired Special Forces officer who is the foundation's executive director.

At year's end, no one had an accurate count of the dead from the numerous civil wars, ethnic rivalries, terrorist strikes, border clashes, drug violence, lingering insurgencies and other scattered conflicts. Just counting the battles was hard enough, Messing said.

The foundation's alphabetical listing includes bloodshed from Afghanistan to Yemen and in lands as diverse as Comoros, which suffered an attempted coup, and the United States, included because of drug violence and organised crime.

Fire damages plastic factory

By Staff Correspondent

A fire partially damaged a plastic factory in Nawabganj area in the city yesterday afternoon.

The cause of the fire and the extent of damage could not be known immediately, fire service sources said.

The fire damaged some of the goods inside the finished Khairul Plastic Industries located at the second lane of Nawabganj, the sources added.

Train derailed in Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Jan 2: Rail communication in the Sylhet-Chhatak route has been snapped following the derailment of a goods train.

The train derailed at a place between Chhatak and Khajanchibari railway station this afternoon.

The Prime Minister was speaking at the foundation-laying ceremony of the Kendua-Brahmankhali bridge at Kendua ferry ghat in Rugganj in the afternoon.

The ceremony also marked the start of construction of a 6.50-kilometre road from Chhanpara on the Dhaka-Narsingdi highway to link the proposed Purbachal New Town at Yusufganj.

The cost of the bridge-cum-road project has been estimated at about Tk 76.33 crore, including Tk 3.50 crore for the 350-metre-long bridge, with completion scheduled in 1997-98 fiscal year.

The Prime Minister said lack of bridges was a formidable obstacle to road communication in Bangladesh, the land of



The Awami League brought out a torch procession in the city yesterday in support of the 48-hour hartal which was scheduled to begin today but was shifted to January 8-9. — Star photo

Kendua-Brahmankhali Bridge by '98 likely

RUGGANJ (Narayanganj), Jan 2: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today called upon all to help building a prosperous Bangladesh for the next generation, reports UNB.

The Prime Minister was speaking at the foundation-laying ceremony of the Kendua-Brahmankhali bridge at Kendua ferry ghat in Rugganj in the afternoon.

The ceremony also marked the start of construction of a 6.50-kilometre road from Chhanpara on the Dhaka-Narsingdi highway to link the proposed Purbachal New Town at Yusufganj.

The cost of the bridge-cum-road project has been estimated at about Tk 76.33 crore, including Tk 3.50 crore for the 350-metre-long bridge, with completion scheduled in 1997-98 fiscal year.

The Prime Minister said lack of bridges was a formidable obstacle to road communication in Bangladesh, the land of

rivers. To overcome the hindrance, the government has given top priority to the construction of bridges all over the country, she said.

She said the government is beginning massive construction works under an integrated plan for expansion of the overcrowded capital city.

Implementation of the plan starts with the foundation laying of a bridge across the river Sitalakha connection a bypass being constructed as part of the capital expansion schemes, she added.

The government has planned to construct a 20-kilometre road from Khilkhet beside the Zia International Airport road to Yusufganj-Rugganj-Chhanpara for the bypass in a continuous expansion of the metropolis.

Begum Zia also inaugurated the Kanchan Digital multi-exchange Radio Terminal at Rugganj and unveiled a plaque there.

Land to set up Mongla, Bogra airports acquired

Adequate lands to set up two new airports at Mongla and Bogra have been acquired at a cost of about Tk 3.10 crore, reports UNB.

Official sources said in Dhaka yesterday 95 acres of land costing about Tk 1.05 crore have been acquired in Mongla port area while adequate lands acquired in Bogra at a cost of Tk 2.4 crore.

The authorities concerned are expected to start earth filling and other necessary works soon.

Further probe in Bangabazar fire begins

Star Report

The Fire Brigade probe body on Bangabazar fire in the city has started further investigation as it is yet to find out the cause of the incident.

The five-member departmental committee, headed by Director (Operations) of Civil Defence and Fire Brigade, Habibur Rahman Chowdhury, had earlier submitted a report on December 23.

Bangabazar, one of the biggest wholesale and retail markets of cheap clothings, was destroyed in a fire on November 27. The four markets in the cluster are Gulistan, Adarsha, Mahanagari and Bangabazar hawkers markets.

3 killed, 15 hurt in road mishaps

SAVAR, Jan 2: Three people were killed and 15 others were injured in three road mishaps within an hour on the Dhaka-Aricha highway today, reports UNB.

In Savar, one unidentified rickshaw passenger was killed and two others wounded in a mishap near the Karnapara Bridge at 2:30 pm. The rickshaw passenger died on the spot after an Aricha bound truck hit him from behind.

Also in Savar, Abdul Momen, 25, was killed and five other people were wounded in another road mishap near the Nayarhat Bridge at 3 pm. Details of the mishap could not be known immediately.

In Dharmrai, an unidentified truck-helper, 25, was killed and eight other people were wounded when two trucks collided head on at Dharmrai Bus-stand at 3.15 pm.

Two killed in city incidents

By DMCH Correspondent

One person was reportedly murdered while another killed in a road accident in the city yesterday.

Gulshan police recovered the body of an unidentified man aged about 45 from a ditch in Baunapara at Badda yesterday.

Mark of injuries was found over the body, police said. A case has been filed with the Gulshan thana.

Meanwhile, another unknown person reportedly suffering from insanity aged about 59 was killed in a road accident at Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue in the city early yesterday.

ALCWC

From Page 1

govt demand is fulfilled. Meanwhile, the City Awami League yesterday held a rally at Bangabandhu Avenue.

Addressing the rally the party leaders said elections must have to be deferred again and held after Ramadan under a neutral caretaker government.

"The people do not want elections in the month of fasting, and under a party government. They will force the government to hold it under a caretaker administration," senior Awami League leader Abdus Samad Azad told the rally.

Demand of the people would be realised through agitation, he said.

Awami League General Secretary Zillur Rahman said the government was wasting time on various pretexts, in the name of dialogue.

Manzur murder

From Page 1

The case was adjourned till January 13. The charge hearing was adjourned in early November till yesterday as Ershad was suffering from jaundice with high percentage of bilirubin content.

Another source said the miscreants have gone in the rural areas to avoid arrest where crimes are on rise causing panic among the peace-loving people.

NIPORT officer robbed

By Staff Correspondent

An unidentified armed gang snatched Tk 1.25 lakh from an administrative officer of the NIPORT at Azimpur in the city at around noon yesterday.

The Midnight File

Anti-US rally in Iran

TEHRAN, Jan 2: Some 3,000 Iranians staged here today an anti-US rally to protest Washington's 20 million dollar cover-action aimed at destabilising the Islamic regime. Amid slogans of 'down with USA,' a young man said at the rally we are ready to attack the US fifth fleet in the Persian Gulf, reports Xinhua.

Prabhakaran woos Indian Tamils

COLOMBO, Jan 2: Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger guerrillas today sought to win back sympathy from fellow Tamils in neighbouring India, and in a statement accused unnamed countries of wrongly judging them to be "separatist terrorists."

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) said Tamils in India, which once deployed troops to unsuccessfully disarm the Tigers, should support their struggle for a separate state called Eelam in Sri Lanka's northeast.

In a statement issued in London, Tiger supremo Velupillai Prabhakaran made no reference to the 1991 slaying of former Indian Premier Rajiv Gandhi, for which he has been blamed, but said Colombo was trying to drive a wedge between his movement and Indian Tamils.

The Sinhala state has been making desperate efforts to characterise the mode of armed resistance based on the struggle of self-determination as a form of "terrorism" and "separatism."

These ill conceived notions are being propagated among the Indian people and among the international community," Prabhakaran said in a three-page statement.

He did not name countries that have allegedly misunderstood the LTTE, but Australia, Canada, the European Union and several Asian nations have blamed the Tigers for breaking a truce and resuming fighting.

Prabhakaran for the first time acknowledged defeat at the hands of security forces unleashed by President Chandrika Kumaratunga, who last month captured the northern town of Jaffna, the LTTE's former citadel.

The Tiger supremo said President Kumaratunga had deceived the international community by projecting herself as a peacemaker while pressing ahead with military action against the Tigers.

Liquor shops, bars closed Jan 6-7

All types of liquor shops, bars and clubs will remain closed from sunrise on January 6 to sunset of January 7 on the occasion of holy Shabe-Barat, an official handout said in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

During the holy month of Ramadan, hotels, clubs and bars will not serve liquors during the daytime. However, hotels, clubs and bars of international standard can serve liquors to foreigners only at any time of the day.

The handout said foreign liquor shops will remain open between 8 am and 12 noon during the month of Ramadan. Local liquor shops will follow the same arrangements.

It said the permit holders will not be allowed to drink liquor at the liquor shops while the 'tari' shops will not remain open during the daytime.

Forex reserve

From Page 1

ing his claim of the banks decreasing import. "The banks are now cautious about opening Letters of Credits (LCs) and are bringing back their money from importers. This will force hoarders to off-load their inventory in the market."

When asked about the amount of bad loans Abdur Rakib, Executive Director of the central bank, supplemented the Government's views and said 29 per cent of bank loans are classified as of 1994. Of this, about 50 per cent are bad loans.

"We are monitoring quarterly the situation of top 20 defaulters of each bank," said the Governor. "We will increase the numbers in this list. We will be monitoring those defaulters owing Taka five crore and above."

The Governor said the central bank will not revise its programmes on monetary development keeping targets of inflation at four per cent, and increase in broad money supply at the rate of 13.2 per cent.

Hartal

From Page 1

Central Working Committee yesterday decided to continue its agitation for holding the ensuing election under the caretaker government.

Some leaders at the meeting suggested to discontinue talks with the ruling BNP because of what they called its lukewarm response. AL sources said, Leaders of the three opposition parties were scheduled to sit again last night to review the situation.

Trade fair

From Page 1

investors and the recipients of investment," she said.

Begum Zia said the government has given special emphasis on export trade as it results in economic prosperity. For this, she added, all obstacle in the way to export trade have been removed.

Similarly, she said, her government formulated a dynamic industrial policy to boost production and adopted free market economic policy to encourage private investment.

The trade fair will provide an opportunity to local investors to know about the standard of products and higher technology of different counties, and will also help them improve our products.

Commerce and Information Minister M Shamsul Islam, Commerce Secretary AH Mofazzel Karim and EPB Vice Chairman Anisul Huq Chowdhury also spoke on the occasion.

Officials said products are on display in 206 stalls, 28 pavilions and 42 mini pavilions in the fair. Of those, 87 stalls and pavilions have been booked by foreign firms and the rest by local firms.

The foreign firms are displaying products like sewing machine, electronic items, machinery of motor vehicles, jewellery, carpets, consumer goods, textiles and light engineering and medical equipment.

The major local exportables being displayed include jute goods, jute yarn and twine, jute carpets, garments, textiles, leather and leather goods, electronic items and handloom products.

The overseas business houses participating in the fair are: Singapore-1, Italy-1, China-4, Taiwan-1, Malaysia-6, Hong Kong-4, India-18, Pakistan-36, Canada-1 US-1, Thailand-2, Iran-1, South Korea-2, UK-1 and Japan-1.

Biggest fire from cigarette butts

BEIJING, Jan 2: Cigarette ends left by migrant farm workers caused a major fire near China's southeast city of Xiamen, destroying more than 160,000 seedlings and 353 cubic metres of pines, the China news service said today, reports Reuter.

The butts set alight pine needles and grass on a mountain near the city and caused the biggest fire in Xiamen's history on December 24, 1995, the report said.

It gave no more details of the fire.



The Samajtantrik Chhatra Front demonstrating in front of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday demanding trial of three Bangladeshi war criminals in Britain. — Star photo

IU students gherao VC's office

ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY, Kushtia, Jan 2: A group of students of the Islamic University today gheraoed the VC's office to realise their three-point demand, including the authorities move to construct a sculpture on Liberation War on the campus, reports UNB.

According to Election Commission Law and Order Coordination Cell, they also recovered 139 rounds of ammunition and 69 explosives, and detained 471 people on various charges, including possession of illegal arms.

The law enforcing agencies are conducting the combing operation to ensure a secure environment in the country for holding the upcoming elections in a free and fair manner.

Meanwhile, the arms recovery drive has virtually failed in Manikganj till Monday.

Till the 11th day Monday, police only recovered one pipe gun, and 11 rounds of bullets and rounded up a few people.

On the other hand, crimes like theft, mugging and dacoity are still going on as usual during drive.

According to local people, a large number of firearms were

39 arms recovered, 471 arrested

Law enforcing agencies recovered 39 firearms till morning yesterday, the 13th day of the nationwide hunt for illegal arms ahead of the general elections, reports UNB.

Another source said the miscreants have gone in the rural areas to avoid arrest where crimes are on rise causing panic among the peace-loving people.

They also said many of the arms holders are known face who went into hiding since the drive started.

Another source said the miscreants have gone in the rural areas to avoid arrest where crimes are on rise causing panic among the peace-loving people.

They also said many of the arms holders are known face who went into hiding since the drive started.

Another source said the miscreants have gone in the rural areas to avoid arrest where crimes are on rise causing panic among the peace-loving people.

They also said many of the arms holders are known face who went into hiding since the drive started.