

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 Siddiqur 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

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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

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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 Rupganj 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-Rupganj-Chhanpara for the bypass in a continuous expansion of the metropolis.

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

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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.

Kendua-Brahmankhali Bridge by '98 likely

RUPGANJ (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 Rupganj in the afternoon.

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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 Gullistan, 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 Dhamrai, an unidentified truck-helper, 25, was killed and eight other people were wounded when two trucks collided head on at Dhamrai 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

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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

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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.

Besides Ershad, five former army officers were also arrested in connection with the mysterious death of Major General Abul Manzur, the GOC of Chittagong Cantonment in early June 1981.

Manzur's elder brother filed a case with Panchlaish thana, Chittagong in February last year.

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 gang intercepted the motor bike of Nazrul Islam at Azimpur road at about 11:30 am and snatched the cash, police said.

The armed men also fired at least three gunshots. A case has been filed with Lailbagh thana in this connection.

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.

Hartal
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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
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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.

Highway blocked

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Narsingdi road at Satipara in the town from 9 am, protesting the nomination of Narsingdi-1 constituency.

They demanded that the nomination of Shamsuddin Ahmed for the constituency be changed in favour of any other candidate.

Another report from Chandpur says, a faction of ruling BNP today held a rally in the town protesting the nomination of Prof Mohammad Abdullah.

Prof Abdullah, a former MP, has been nominated for the constituency of Chandpur 4.

Naeem Hasan replaces Silwal

KATHMANDU, Jan 2: New secretary general of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Naeem U Hasan has taken up his assignment to replace his predecessor Yadav Kant Silwal, reports Xinhua.

Hasan, a former Pakistan diplomat, arrived here on Monday after Silwal of Nepal completed his two-year tenure as SAARC secretary general by the end of last year.

WTCD

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parking facilities for 2,000 vehicles.

After full implementation, the trade centre is expected to contribute Tk. 559.30 million to the government exchequer every year, officials said.

The function was attended among others, by Commerce and Information Minister M Shamsul Islam, Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdullah Al Noman, State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Major (Retd) Abdul Mannan, Commerce Secretary AH Mofazzel Karim, EPB Vice Chairman Anisul Huq Chowdhury.

Earlier, the Prime Minister on December 20 laid the foundation stone of the country's first World Trade Centre at Agrabad in the port city of Chittagong.

A 20-storied building for the WTC in Chittagong will be constructed at a cost of Tk. 40 crore by Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industries.

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