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## RAJUK asked to submit list of dilapidated bldgs

Star Report

The Ministry of Housing and Works has instructed RAJUK to ascertain the condition and number of multi-storied residential buildings in the city posing threat to public safety and security.

Minister of State for Housing and Works Afsaruddin Khan, talking to The Daily Star yesterday, said that the list of dilapidated multi-storied buildings in the RAJUK area was yet to reach his office.

Following the collapse of a seven-storied structure at Kalabagan in the city, the government has decided to take drastic action as regards buildings threatening public safety and security, he said.

The under-construction building at Lake Circus in Kalabagan under Dhanmandi thana collapsed in the early hours of Monday leaving five people dead and one injured.

Owner of the building Shabbir Ahmed, a contractor, remained untraced till last night. A case was filed with Dhanmandi thana and the incident was being investigated by police.

Officials of RAJUK told this correspondent that one inspector of the organisation was suspended and three others were

being interrogated on charges of negligence of duty.

Asked about removal of debris from the site of the collapsed building they said it would take at least another five days.

Earlier RAJUK had issued a notice to the owner of the building for removal of the debris within 24 hours, that expired yesterday.

Workers were seen demolishing the structure with sledge hammers yesterday while the police had raised a barricade in the surrounding area.

Some residents of the nearby buildings complained that power supply and telephone service, disrupted due to collapse of the building, were yet to be restored.

One Dulal, said to be a brother-in-law of the owner of the building, told this correspondent he had engaged 60 people for removing the debris.

Admitting that a notice was served earlier for doing the job within 24 hours, he said RAJUK had also engaged its own people for this.

The cost for removal of debris would be realised from the owner of the structure, a source concerned said.



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## 2 killed over cow lifting incident

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Sept 18: A bullock owner and a bullock lifter were killed in an incident at village Shahpur under Gowainghat yesterday.

Five others also sustained injuries.

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Tahir Ali's men while escaping also hit the bullock lifter Shamsheer Ali. He also died on the spot.

The five men of Tahir Ali sustained serious wounds.

The local people alleged that Shamsheer Ali is involved in cow lifting for a long time.

Police went to the village today and recovered the bodies. Autopsy of the bodies will be done at the Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital morgue.

## Trade Commissioner tells Tofael Australian investors keen on venture dairy firms

Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed has said Bangladesh wants to increase exports to Australia for reducing trade gap between the two countries, reports UNB.

The Minister said this while exchanging views with Australian Trade Commissioner Colin Hook when he called on him at his office here yesterday.

He said the present government had removed almost all the barriers to private investment and it was ready to amend rules and regulations, if necessary, to encourage investment.

Tofael hoped that the Australian investors would find Bangladesh as an ideal place for investment.

The Australian diplomat informed the Minister that the Australian investors were interested in setting up joint venture industries in textile sector and there was also plenty of scope to establish dairy and poultry firms in Bangladesh on joint venture.

In the last fiscal, Bangladesh imported Australian products worth about 343 million US dollars against Bangladesh export to Australia worth about 96 million US dollars.

The imported products are live animal, animal products, animal and vegetable fats and oils, mineral and chemical products. The exported items from Bangladesh were frozen food, tea, leather, agri-products, raw jute and garments.

The Minister requested the diplomat to take initiative to import more raw jute and jute products and garments by Australia.

Two stabbed in Chandrima Udyan

By DMC Correspondent

An unidentified gang stabbed two gardeners in Chandrima Udyan near the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday.

The gang of some youths attacked and stabbed the gardeners as they asked the youths not to stay inside the garden after sunset, the local people alleged.

The injured identified as Rafiqul Islam, 26, and Kohiruddin Sarder, 35, were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), hospital sources said.

Police arrested five persons in this connection. A case has been filed with Tejgaon thana.

Case against Tareq, Iskander protested

Different front organisations of the BNP yesterday protested against the 'false case' filed against former Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia's kinsmen as part of a 'deep-rooted conspiracy' to tarnish the image of the BNP, reports UNB.

They also demanded immediate withdrawal of the cases filed against Tareq Rahman, Syed Iskander and other BNP leaders.

In a statement, Abdul Khaleque and Habibunnabi Sohel, acting president and general secretary respectively of the Jatiyatadabi Chhatra Dal (JCD) alleged, the ruling Awami League hatched a conspiracy to tarnish the image of Begum Khaleda Zia.

They said the ruling party had chosen the path of filing 'false' cases against BNP leaders and their relatives to undo the BNP government's nation-building activities during last five years.

Juba Dal president Mirza Abbas and general secretary Goyeswar Chandra Roy in a separate statement said in the meantime the nation had realised that the ruling party resorted to making 'false' statements and remarks and 'malicious' efforts to destroy the image of Begum Zia.

In another statement, Mahbul Alam Tara and Shamsuzzaman Dudu MP, acting president and general secretary of Jatiyatadabi Krishak Dal, termed graft cases filed against Begum Zia's son and brother as outcome of a plot and malicious and ill-considered efforts of the Prime Minister and her cabinet colleagues.

SBMCH deputy director assaulted

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Sept 18: The deputy director of the Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital (SBMCH) was assaulted allegedly by some angry patients and their relatives here this morning.

The victim, Dr Khondker Abul Bashar was admitted to hospital.

Witnesses said, some patients after having failed to get outdoor tickets became angry. The deputy director went to them to say that there was strike in the hospital.

After some time the patients and their relatives became more agitated and at one stage allegedly went on the rampage damaging six outdoor rooms of the hospital.

Shot dead

From Page 1

November 3, 1975. After the incident, the then DIG (Prison) had filed a case in this connection on the next day of the murder.

Officials said that the CID has also recorded statements of eight jail officials who were serving at the Dhaka Central Jail at that time.

"But the then DIG (Prison) Abdul Awal is yet to be interrogated in connection with the jail killing incident," officials said.

The persons whose statements have been recorded are: the then Jailor of Dhaka Central Jail Aminur Rahman, four deputy jailors — Abduzzahir, Iqbal Hossain, Tayyab Ali Mollah and another three other jail staff. Abduzzahir is now Superintendent of Habiganj jail, Iqbal Hossain is Superintendent of Narsingdi jail, Tayyab Ali Mollah is Superintendent of Brahmanbaria jail, Aminur Rahman, who was DIG, was suspended after the July 15 jail break incident at the Dhaka Central Jail.

Besides the CMM had also issued warrants of arrest against three former army officials — Col Farooq Rahman, Col Shahriar Rashid Khan and Major Khairuzzaman on September 10, after the CID had formally taken up the jail killing case filed with the Lalbagh thana earlier.

Road accidents

From Page 1

area of the town in the morning. The rider died on the spot.

According to UNB, Rajan, 16, a student of Nasirabad College, was critically injured when a Dhaka-bound minibus hit his motorbike near Krishnapur Madrasa at 10 am. Rajan succumbed to his injuries on the way to Dhaka.

UNB adds: A truck driver was killed when his brick-laden vehicle skidded off the road and fell into a roadside ditch at Kawla in Cantonment thana in Dhalla district yesterday.

The victim was identified as Bachchu Mia, 42, of Dowla in Borhanabad thana of Bhola district.



A sketch by Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin on the Bengal famine, 1943 (inset) the Shilpacharya. — Star photo

By Staff Correspondent

## Remembering Zainul's famine sketches '43

The publication ceremony of a folio comprising Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin's famine sketches-1943 will be held at the Shilpakala Academy auditorium at 5 pm today.

Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria will attend the publication ceremony as chief guest while Prof Kabir Chowdhury will preside.

Prof Khan Sarwar Murshid, Prof Mustafa Nurul Islam and artist Qayyum Chowdhury will be guest speakers.

On the occasion of the publication ceremony today, the folios will be sold at a 20 per cent discount.

Zainul Abedin, the pioneer of modern art movement in Bangladesh, is best known for his powerful sketches on the 1943 famine in the then Bengal which took the lives of some 5 million people.

In Calcutta in 1943, humanity was at its most ignominious condition competing with dogs. A shocked Zainul tried to control his emotions and began to sketch the nightmarish scenes.

Zainul made hundreds of sketches but ultimately could preserve not more than 20 of the finished works, 18 of which remained in his family custody after his death in 1976. Some of these are now being displayed at the Zainul Gallery of the National Museum in Dhaka.

The famine sketches depict the destitute rural poor driven to Calcutta by hunger. The compositions include a whole family, or a mother with her children, awaiting death often by a

roadside dustbin or so. The most touching one is that of a baby climbing on to mother's emaciated breasts for milk, but the mother is nearly dead by then.

These drawings were executed in black Indian ink with dry brush on the cheapest kind of drawing paper, slightly tinted with yellow or light brown. He also used a gray packaging paper.

The sketches illustrate extremely powerful drawings in heavy brush lines, in European expressionist style, while the compositions are distinguished by minimalism typical of the orient, says a press release.

## 30 hurt as JCD, BCL clash at Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, Sept 18: About 30 people were injured in a clash between activists of pro-Awami League Chhatra League (BCL) and BNP-backed Jatiyatadabi Chhatra Dal (JCD) at Sirajganj Government University College today, reports UNB.

Authorities closed the college for two days following the clash during which the two groups used lethal weapons, exploded bombs and fired 10 rounds of bullets.

Witnesses said the clash erupted at about 11 am after a BCL activist, Arju, was beaten up in the town. Police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control at about 2 pm.

Fourteen BCL activists were admitted to Community Hospital and five JCD activists to General Hospital, hospital sources said.

Of them, General Secretary of district BCL Moinuddin Khan Chinu, BCL leader Nazmul Haque and Juba League leader Abdul Jalil were wounded in bomb explosion.

President of JCD town committee Abdul Halim Mondal and worker Mondal were seriously injured.

## \$ 105m IDA loan

From Page 1

cro-lending will specially focus on poor rural women.

The project will bring about a fundamental shift — from a mostly grant-based micro-finance system to a loan-based system," said Abid Hasan, the Bank's Principal Operations Officer, Private Sector Development Division. "As a result of the project, the government has decided that all future budgetary funding of PKSF will be in the form of loans, not grants and several partner organisations will be using loan funds for the first time."

This project is the first micro-finance operation in Bangladesh by the WB.

The PKSF is a private non-profit foundation although it has been established and funded by the government. It pro-actively solicits new 'partner organisations' — the term used by PKSF for micro-financing organisations borrowing from it — but maintains tight entry standards.

Currently PKSF has more than 120 partner organisations which have mobilised 1.2 million poor women into groups. However, only a quarter of the mobilised women have been provided loans because of funding shortages and cautious lending policies, the Bank press release said.

## Editor: Mahfuz Anam

Printed & Published by A. S. Mahmud, Managing Director, on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd, 52, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000, from City Publishing House Ltd, 90, Kakrail, Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmandi RA, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 500092-4. Commercial: 500091 (Direct), Fax No: 88-02-863035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA. Email: dstar@bangla.net

## 3 shot in city

By DMC Correspondent

At least three persons were injured when a group of unidentified gunmen opened fire in Farmgate area in the city yesterday evening.

Among the injured, Mahmud Hasan Mamun, 20, was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) in a critical condition with bullet injuries in his neck, hospital sources said. He was later shifted to the Suhrawardy Hospital.

Local people said that a few cracker blasts were heard when some unruly youths opened fire and fled the scene.

## CU strike

From Page 1

supporters of both BCL and Shibir took positions on the campus, police and campus sources said.

The rival groups staged demonstrations and at one stage at noon, they were about to be locked in a fresh clash.

The police dispersed the two sides by lobbing tear gas shells. The BCL supporters later began a siege of the entrance to Road No 1 and Shibir supporters took position inside Gate No. 1, campus sources said.

The buses carrying the teachers and the shuttle train carrying the students could not operate.

A large number of police have been deployed on the campus to contain further violence.

Sources said the university authorities were trying to bring the feuding group leaders together with the aim of restoring normal life on the campus.

## Langadu massacre JS body continues investigation

The parliamentary enquiry committee on "Rangamati killing" continued its investigation for the second day yesterday as the committee chairman and Chief Whip Abul Hasnat Abdullah and other members visited the killing spot, reports BSS.

According to an official handout, the committee members visited Hemendra Chandra and Manikpur Chhara under Langadu thana of the district and talked with the local people about the killing of 30 woodcutters.

The handout said during the discussions with the local people "the enquiry committee felt that the hill people were feeling insecure," but they (the local people) thanked the government for instantly taking administrative steps to provide security to their life and property.

The also informed the enquiry committee that they have full confidence in the present government regarding the solution of their problems.

Members of the parliamentary enquiry committee are Kalparanjan Chakma, Dipankar Talukdar, Advocate Fazle Rabbi, Engineer Mosharrar Hossain and Bir Bahadur.

## Khaleda

From Page 1

She said during the last three months, the Awami League government could do nothing but unleash terrorism and throw thousands of BNP workers into jail. The prisons are now overcrowded with political workers, she alleged.

Begum Zia said her government during its five-year rule had undertaken a massive programme for poverty alleviation, development of education and building a sound infrastructure including roads, bridges, culverts, schools and colleges.

"But the ruling party is pushing the country once again into poverty," she said.

The function, organised at the Minto Road official residence of the Leader of the Opposition, was presided over by convener of Dhaka City BNP Sadeq Hossain Khoka MP.

It was also addressed by former minister Shahjahan Siraj, former whip Ashraf Hossain, Mashur Rahman MP, Jaijal Abedin Faruk MP, Ziaul Haq Zia MP, City Juba Dal president Abu Sayeed Khan Khokon and Abdul Mannan, a businessman of Dohar who led the people from different political parties to join the BNP.

## Public park

From Page 1

source noted. "A decision was needed at the policy-making level to crack down on these anomalies," he added.

At the entrance of the park, adjacent to the main road, a signboard says "Shaheed Feroz Cleaner Colony, Dhaka City Corporation, Zone-9, Talata, affiliated with Scavengers and Workers Union." The word 'cleaner' relates to more than 100 DCC employees who live there.

Inside, before getting into the 'colony,' one can see three offices in a row with signboards reading 'Bangladesh Awami League and Bangladesh Jatiyatadabi Samik Dal.

A longtime resident and a shopkeeper at the 'colony' offered this correspondent a single room with common bath, common toilet and common kitchen at a rent of Tk 700 a month. He pointed out that a prospective tenant has to see one of the three 'chairmen.' "Or you can go to the Zonal Office-9 near Gulshan-1 circle-1 and sortout the matter," he said.

Another resident, living there for 10 years said, "some rich entrepreneurs want to build an amusement park here, that is why they want to evict us, where shall we go?"

## Import of rotten rice Probe body yet to submit report

Star Report

The enquiry committee formed to probe into the alleged import of rotten rice, is yet to submit its report.

A two-member committee comprising a judge of the Supreme Court and an additional secretary, was constituted earlier on July 28 and was due to submit its report by August 28.

A highly placed source in the Food Ministry told The Daily Star that after expiry of the time-schedule, the committee has sought another month for completing the probe.

The enquiry committee was formed to probe into alleged import of rotten rice unfit for human consumption during the 1994-95 and 1995-96 fiscal years.

Earlier, on July 2 a cabinet decision was taken to investigate into the matter.

## Ashasuni TNO detained in office for five hours

SATKHIRA, Sept 18: The TNO of Ashasuni thana was detained in his office for five hours allegedly for teasing the local MP today, reports UNB.

The thana Nirbahi Officer (TNO) reportedly made an 'objectionable remark' about Dr Mokhesur Rahman MP at a meeting of the thana development committee at TNO office in the morning.

## Samad Azad back home

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad returned home yesterday ending his two-day visit to Calcutta, reports BSS.

During his stay in Calcutta, the foreign minister had free and frank exchange of views with Jyoti Basu, the Chief Minister of West Bengal on the issue of the Ganges water sharing arrangement between Bangladesh and India.

Foreign Minister Samad Azad will meet the press Saturday.

## BSF returns 6 Bangladeshis

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Sept 18: Six Bangladesh nationals, kidnapped by the Indian BSF from the Jafflong border on Monday afternoon, were handed over to the BDR yesterday.

The six Bangladeshis, who came from Dhaka with a picnic party, went to the Jafflong tourist spot Monday afternoon and at one stage, they reached near the zone line attached to the border pillar number 1272.

Suddenly, some BSF personnel swooped on the Bangladeshis and took them away to the Indian territory.

The BDR immediately lodged a protest and asked the BSF to return the Bangladeshis nationals, but they refused.

However, the BSF and the Immigration police of India handed over the Bangladeshis to the BDR yesterday.

## Izetbegovic wins most votes

From Page 1

through the streets of Sarajevo, beeping car horns, leaning out windows and waving green and white party banners.

"I am happy for Alija's victory," said 21-year-old Almir Bicakcic. "This is the party which will take Bosnia into its future."

Robert Frowick of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe said complete returns from Saturday's vote gave Izetbegovic 729,034 votes to Krajcinik's 690,373. Zubak had 342,007.

Krajcinik's key opponent for the Serb vote was the more moderate Miladen Ivanic, who made a surprisingly strong showing with 305,803 votes, or about 30 per cent of the vote. Otherwise, Krajcinik might have garnered enough votes to claim the chairmanship.

Frowick said the results would become official at the end of the three 'chairmen.' "Or you can go to the Zonal Office-9 near Gulshan-1 circle-1 and sortout the matter," he said.

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