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Construction of box-culvert Govt to seek withdrawal of stay order

The government, to alleviate public suffering for waterlogging in the city, will go to court for withdrawal of the injunction on construction of a box-culvert from Segunbagicha to Kamalapur, reports UNB.

A team of Dhaka WASA led by its Managing Director, Dr Azharul Haq, yesterday discussed the matter with Attorney General Barister KS Nabi, official sources said.

After examining the injunction, the Attorney General's office will move to the court to withdraw the stay order on construction of the box-culvert considering people's plight caused by the stagnation of rain water in the capital.

An unprecedented waterlogging almost paralysed the city life causing endless public suffering and massive traffic-congestion on Thursday. City dwellers are worried about any other water-stagnation that might occur even after a moderate rain.

The waterlogging, engineers and experts opined, is occurring mainly for faulty drainage system of Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (WASA).

Engineers and officials at WASA, however, think that the water-stagnation had not taken place if the construction work of the box-culvert from Segunbagicha to Kamalapur could be completed in due time.

They hoped that there would be no waterlogging in the city in the next monsoon if the box-culvert as part of WASA drainage network is constructed after withdrawal of the three injunction orders. "There is no possibility to get rid of the problem in the current season."

According to WASA sources the major part of work of the drainage network that included construction of storm sewerage line and box-culverts, and re-excavation of canals, has already been completed.

The Segunbagicha-Kamalapur box-culvert is not being completed as authorities of a mosque and two families lodged cases and court imposed injunction on its construction at three

DU VC panel polls White panel finalises its candidates

By DU Correspondent

Pro-BNP White panel yesterday nominated three candidates for the election of VC panel for Dhaka University scheduled to be held on September 25.

The nominees are: Dr Wakil Ahmed, former pro-VC; Prof Mahmudul Amin of Zoology Department and Prof Sultan Hossain, Dean of the Faculty of Zoology.

The nominations were finalised at a meeting of the DU senators belonging to White panel with Prof Safi Chowdhury in the chair.

The senate will elect the three-member VC panel.

Meanwhile, the pro-Awami League Blue panel will finalise its panel today through secret ballot from among the earlier selected six candidates. They are: Prof AK Azad Chowdhury of Pharmacy Department, Prof M Anisul Islam of Geography, Prof Sahdat Ali of Zoology, Prof Mosiuzzaman of Chemistry, Prof Mostafa Chowdhury of Political Science and Prof ATM Zahurul Haque of Economics Department.

3-member team Gold haul

From Page 1

According to its preliminary schedule, the delegation is expected to hold talks with Indian experts on September 25 and 26. It was learnt by The Daily Star yesterday. If required, the team could extend the duration of its stay in New Delhi.

The experts' team would prepare the groundwork for a water sharing agreement between the two countries.

Officials said, the two sides would compare the data and would also try to reconcile the differences on the quantum of flow of Ganges water during the dry season.

The official expert level discussions may begin with the Indian External Affairs Minister on the opening day while the main talks would be held at a similar level as the Bangladesh side.

The Delhi meeting is expected to be the beginning of a series of consultations between Dhaka and New Delhi on arriving at a consensus at the expert level based on political understanding between the two governments," said one official.

Rao quits as Cong chief

From Page 1

India's main opposition party welcomed the resignation of former premier PV Narasimha Rao as president of the Congress Party.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) said the century-old Congress was now a spent force. "It is a piece of history, a relic of the past," BJP leader Yashwant Sinha told AFP. "It is only the beginning of the end for the Congress."

The Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M)'s general secretary, Harkishen Singh Surjeet, said: "Rao had no other course open but to resign. This is the first time a former prime minister has been indicted in a criminal case."

The Communist Party of India (CPI), a partner in the ruling coalition government of Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda, said Rao should have resigned much earlier.

The critics of Rao within the Congress Party agreed.

"He did the right thing," rebel Congress leader K Karunakaran said. "There is no question of asking him to take back his resignation."

Sharad Pawar, a member of the party's decision making body, the Congress Working Committee, said Rao's decision upheld "the high traditions of the Congress."

12 detained 3 Bangladeshis hurt in clash with Malaysians

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 21: Three Bangladeshis were injured in a fight with five local people in Johore Bahru today, reports AP.

They were treated on an outpatient basis at the Sultanah Aminah Hospital in Johore Bahru, 300 kilometers (180 miles) south of Kuala Lumpur, said Assistant Commissioner of Police S. Divakaran.

The fight began when a group of locals apparently tried to extort money from the foreigners, the national news agency Bernama reported.

Divakaran said no arrests had been made. He offered no details.

In Kangar, meanwhile, 450 kilometers (270 miles) northwest of Kuala Lumpur, police said they detained 12 illegal Bangladeshi immigrants after getting a tip. The Bangladeshis were to be handed over to immigration authorities for further action.

Kashmir Arsenic

From Page 1

"So where is the need for coercion."

Kashmir's All Party Freedom Conference, an alliance of around 30 separatist groups boycotting the polls, announced, however, that Saturday's elections were "a blow to Indian claims that Kashmiris were in favour of elections."

Kishoreganj poursava dissolved

KISHOREGANJ, Sept 21: The Kishoreganj Poursava has been dissolved on charges of corruption, irregularities and misuse of power by its office-bearers, reports UNB.

According to a government notification, posts of all the 13 poursava members including three selected women commissioners have been vacated with immediate effect.

The fired poura chairman, Alhaj Abu Taher Miah, is a district unit leader of opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party.

The government dissolved the poursava according to Article 135 of the Poursava Ordinance, 1977. The dissolution letter was signed on September 18 by Local Government Secretary A H M Abdul Hye as per the President order sent here.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Chowdhury Mohammad Babul Hossain has been asked to take over the responsibility of the poursava.

5 Rly Staff

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Mahanagar-Urmi coming from Chittagong.

One member of the inquiry committee, however, disagreed to this view.

The committee submitted the report in due time of five days, said the BR release.

Meanwhile, the Inspector General of Bangladesh Railway also has conducted separate investigation into this accident, which left some 8 people dead and about a hundred injured. He is due to submit his report to the government by September 30.

Chenny calls on Khaleda

Former American Defence Secretary Dick Chenny and US Ambassador to Bangladesh David N Merrill paid a courtesy call on Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia at her cantonment residence yesterday, reports UNB.

They discussed exploration and utilisation of off-shore gas in the Bay of Bengal for which a production sharing agreement was signed in 1994 during Begum Zia's tenure as Prime Minister, party sources said.

During the discussion, Dick Chenny stated that he had valued the wisdom of the policy pursued by the former Bangladesh government headed by Begum Zia for the development of energy, especially the gas sector.

The former US defence secretary said that he had discussed the matter with senior officials concerned of the Bangladesh government for continuation of the project.

Dick Chenny recalled Begum Zia's visit to the Pentagon as Prime Minister when he was the Defence Secretary of the US government headed by President George Bush.

He thanked the former Prime Minister for the help and cooperation extended by her government in exploration of gas in the off-shore of the Bay of Bengal.

Begum Zia assured all-out support and cooperation to the multinational companies engaged in the project as a matter of her party's policy, aimed at sharing in the country's development process.

The BNP chairperson, during the meeting, invited investors from the United States and other countries for participation in the energy sector.

Hasina meets partymen

Prime Minister and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina yesterday held discussion with party leaders and workers at Bangabandhu Avenue central office in the city yesterday afternoon, reports BSS.

Sheikh Hasina, who spent over one and a half hours at the party office, listened to various problems as well as suggestions from leaders of different districts, thana and city committees. She discussed with them organisational matters and gave necessary instructions and suggestions.

38,000 Bangladeshis for murder

PIROJPUR, Sept 21: District and Sessions Judge Fazlur Rahman here today awarded life-term to seven people in a murder case, reports UNB.

The convicts are: Uttam Sikder, Monoranjan Sikder, Ratan Sikder, Rangalal Hawlader, Rattan Sikder, Shamal Sikder alias Fran and Bhupati Sikder.

According to the prosecution, the convicts shot dead one Samiran Sikder of Kuriana village of Swarupkathi thana near Kuriana girls school at about 8.30 pm on June 14 in 1993.

Removal of BB official

From Page 1

"I can assure you that no whimsical decision will be taken against anybody. Whatever step was taken as per the rules and regulations," he said when the CBA leaders came to him during his visit to Bangladesh Bank.

"If he is found innocent, he will be reinstated," the minister said, adding that the decision to make Khan OSD was not taken on anybody's suggestion. It was taken on some preliminary reports, he added.

BB employees

From Page 1

A visibly disturbed finance minister wanted to talk to the employees later at which the employees went back to their working place, sources said.

Later, the minister assured the employees that a one member committee headed by Finance Secretary Dr Akbar Ali Khan will look into the allegations against M R Khan and actions will be taken upon this report. If the report proves nothing wrong against the DG, then he will be returned to his previous post, the minister assured.

Meanwhile, an atmosphere of deep resentment was prevailing at the central bank following the action against M R Khan on Thursday.

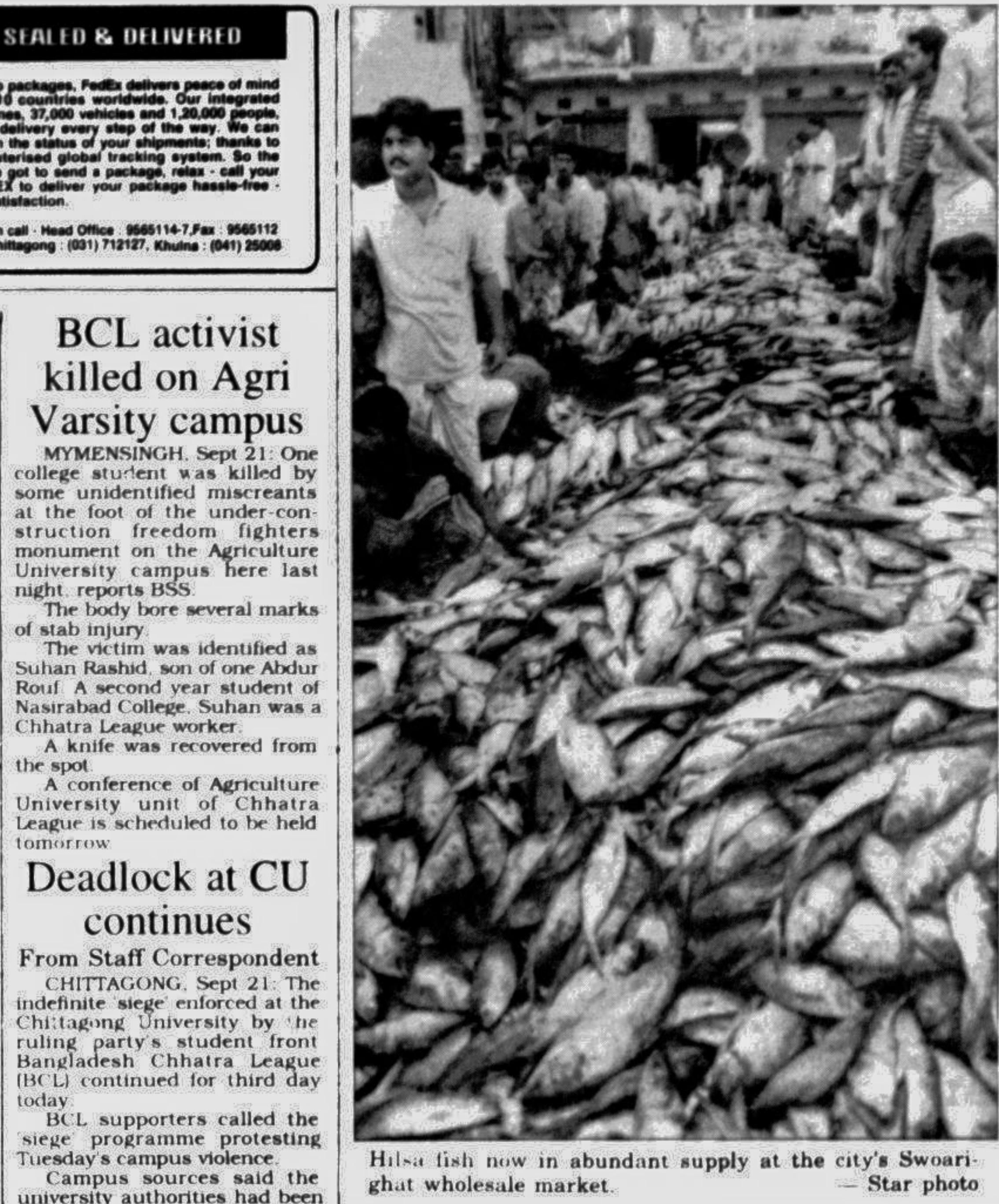
Talking to The Daily Star last night M R Khan claimed he had done nothing wrong and he had gone by the guidelines in giving permission for non-banking financial institutions.

Giving permission depends on unanimous decisions of the departmental committee on non-banking financial institutions and there are instances in the past that no permission from the Governor was taken in doing so.

Meanwhile, central bank sources said that the Governor had been making secret reports on the issue of giving permission for non-banking financial institutions and these had been sent to the finance ministry.

M R Khan returned from Guyana where he served as an IMF advisor in January 1995 and joined his old working place, the central bank. He was vocal about the autonomy of the central bank and was also closely involved with the liberalisation of the financial sector, the sources said.

He was a prospective candidate for the post of Governor as the tenure of present Governor Khورشid Alam, now on an extension, is due to expire in December, the sources added.



Hilsa fish now in abundant supply at the city's Swoarghat wholesale market. — Star photo

Hanil Bank branch opens in city

By Staff Correspondent

Finance Minister SAMS Kibria yesterday hoped that Korean entrepreneurs would invest in Bangladesh in a large scale.

Opening a branch of the Hanil Bank of Korea at Banani in the city, the finance minister said, the government has made laws providing for setting up of export processing zone in the private sector to expedite foreign investment in the country.

"A congenial atmosphere is prevailing in the country for foreign investment and the government is ready to provide all legal support and necessary logistic facilities to them," he said.

The inaugural function was also addressed by South Korean Ambassador in Dhaka Byun Jong Kyu and Moazzem Hossain Khan, Executive Chairman of the Bangladesh Export Processing Zone Authority (BEPZA). A message from the bank's president and chief executive, Lee Kwan, was read out at the function.

High officials, leading bankers and some Korean businessmen and entrepreneurs also attended the function.

Termining opening of the branch a symbol of friendship between the two countries, the finance minister said that the bank, besides giving customer service, would also help bring foreign investment in Bangladesh.

Through this bank, economic co-operation between Bangladesh and Korea will be further strengthened," Kibria hoped.

He said that foreign investment would also help Bangladesh achieve the targeted 7 per cent annual growth rate.

Hamil Bank in a leading bank in Korea, established in 1932, it has now 430 domestic and 19 overseas branches. It also has nine subsidiaries in the areas of securities, trust and leasing.

South Korean Ambassador Byun Jong Kyu, said that the bank has come at the right time as more than 1000 Korean businessmen are now in Bangladesh and they are successful and happy with their overall business performances.

Locals clash with Ansars

By Staff Correspondent

A group of local people clashed with on-duty Ansars near the National Cardiac Institute at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar under Tejgaon thana in the city yesterday morning.

The Ansars fired at least five blank shots to bring the situation under control, police sources said.

The clash reportedly took place between a group of local people and Ansars on duty at the site of the under-construction Kidney Hospital, close to the Cardiac Hospital, police sources added.

The reason behind the clash that sparked off at about 11:30 am could not be known immediately. However, it was alleged that the trouble began over the disconnection of a power supply line, police added.

Nusrat blames

From Page 1

Around the family graveyard outside Larkana, 300 kilometers (160 miles) north of Karachi, security was tight as an estimated 5,000 demonstrators condemned Ms Bhutto.

Mourners beat their chest, wailed and cried. They shouted anti-Benazir Bhutto slogans and vowed to take revenge.

At the graveside dozens of brightly coloured flags were erected and colourful shawls were strewn on the sun-drenched ground, both signs of respect for the dead.

Murtaza and six of his supporters were killed Friday in a hail of bullets outside his posh Clifton neighbourhood in Karachi.

In Larkana — the birthplace of the Bhuttos — shops were shuttered while on the street dozens of young men threw stones at government buildings, burned vehicles and blamed Ms Bhutto for the death of her brother.

"People are sad and angry," said Mohammed Nasir, the owner of a local hotel. "They hold her responsible for the death of her brother."

Ms Bhutto and her brother had been in odds since his return to Pakistan in 1993. They met briefly last July in an attempt at reconciliation, however nothing came of it.

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