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### Premium bus service in city from Dec 15

Twenty luxury air-conditioned buses, under premium bus service, will run on the city streets from December 15, reports UNB.

This was disclosed at a meeting of the Bangladesh Paribahan Samity with Communication Minister Anwar Hossain at the Ministry's conference room yesterday.

Earlier, on November 11, Dhaka City Corporation decided that the premium bus service will be launched on trial basis in two city routes, Lal-labi-GPO-Motijheel and Uttara-GPO-Motijheel.

Yesterday's meeting also decided that a joint team, under the supervision of a magistrate, will regularly check the overloading in buses and trucks in district headquarters and metropolitan areas and take action to stop it.

Representatives from police, Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) and transport owners and employees will be included in the joint team.

The meeting also took decision that no route permit would be issued to bus, truck, minibus and tank lorries from the BRTA without certificate from the central transport association having an authorized trade organisation licence from the Commerce Ministry.

It was decided in the meeting that instead of divisional commissioner, the BRTA would be entrusted with the responsibility to issue or renew route permits for buses and minibuses plying in the divisional areas.

Illegal toll collection from roads and highways, bus and truck terminals as well as other places will also be dealt with a strong hand, the meeting decided.

A 17-member delegation of Bangladesh Paribahan Samity, led by its president Alhaj Mok-bul Hossain, MP and secretary general Muhammad Ashraf Khan, and senior officials of the Communication Ministry, BRTA and DMP were present.

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### Sonargaon Hotel incident Some sacked officials urge PM for reinstatement

Star Report

Some of the officials who were forced to resign after the violent incidents at the Sonargaon Hotel in January have appealed to the Prime Minister for reinstatement on the ground that they have been 'victimized'.

Following the incident at the hotel, in which section of the employees attacked the expatriate General Manager of the hotel, a Japanese team had investigated into the incident and upon its recommendations, the officials had been asked to leave the hotel for 'badly managing it'.

About one of the senior officials, the investigation team reported that he was 'very oriented towards political matters and expanded his political group internally. This is a very risky aspect for the hotel.'

Following the resignation of employees, the Pan Pacific Hotels and Resorts (PPHR) has filled up the vacant posts with both local recruitment and expatriates from its headquarters.

But, according to sources, one of the expatriate officials, Gilbert Chai, is working at the hotel without any work permit.

The General Manager of Sonargaon Hotel Scott Swank said work permit for Chai has been applied for and added that since Chai requires to do 'different kinds of work in the hotel, he uses the designations as

### Hands of young man chopped off

By Staff Correspondent

The two hands of a young man were chopped off by some miscreants at Shakhari-patti under Kotwali thana in the city yesterday.

The victim Sumon, came to the Court of Metropolitan Magistrate in connection with a case lodged against him with the Mirpur thana, said Kotwali police.

Two boys suddenly appeared and took him outside on the pretext of taking tea, police said adding he was later taken to an abandoned house at Shakhari-patti at around 11:30 am, where both his hands were chopped off.

Sumon was under treatment at the Orthopedic Hospital.

### Rajindar Bhattal new Punjab CM

CHANDIGARH, Nov 21: A new chief minister took over Punjab today, as the state's governing party struggled to unify before local elections due in February, reports AP.

Rajindar Kaur Bhattal, 52, was sworn in as the first woman chief minister of the state by Governor BKN Chibber in Chandigarh, the state capital. A day before, her Congress Party decided to drop Harcharan Singh Brar as chief minister.

### Body to probe irregularities in Muktijoddha Kalyan Trust soon

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said an inquiry committee would be set up to look into various irregularities in the Muktijoddha Kalyan Trust, reports BSS.

Talking to a delegation of "Shaheed Paribar-o-Juddhahata Muktijoddha Oikya Parishad," the Prime Minister said the activities of the Freedom Fighters Welfare Trust would be recast for proper rehabilitation of the distressed freedom fighters. The 20-member team called on Sheikh Hasina at her office in the morning.

She stressed the need for proper rehabilitation of all freedom fighters' families particularly those, who remained uncared and unnoticed in the rural areas.

The Prime Minister listened patiently to various problems and demands of the crippled freedom fighters and assured them that the problems would be looked into sympathetically. She particularly mentioned that the proposed complex at Mirpur would be developed properly so that the genuine freedom fighters could be given shelter and other facilities.

### Programmes to celebrate silver jubilee of V-Day

The government has drawn up fortnight-long programmes for celebrating the silver jubilee of victory of the War of Independence, reports UNB.

The colourful and impressive programmes will begin on December 1 and continue through December 16, the Victory Day.

The President and the Prime Minister will address the nation on December 15.

Bangladesh Television and Bangladesh Betar will start the programmes of the Silver Jubilee festival from December 1.

During the fortnight, the graveyard of the freedom fighters who had laid down their lives for the cause of independence will be spotted throughout the country and arrangements be made for offering Fateha and prayers at the graveyards. BTV and Betar will telecast and broadcast the programme with due importance.

The heroic sons of the soil, who fought the war, will be given reception at thana and district levels.

Special programmes will be arranged at the historic Mujibnagar premises where the first government of independent Bangladesh was formed.

National and regional dailies will bring out special supplements highlighting the struggle for independence and War of Liberation.

Arrangements have been made for holding Bijoy Mela, commemorative discussion, cultural function, photo exhibition, and exhibition of books, newspapers and magazines published during the liberation war.

Discussion and competitions of drawing, essay writing, sports and cultural functions based on liberation war will be arranged in schools, colleges and madrassahs throughout the country.

Commemorative postage stamps will also be released on the Silver Jubilee Victory Day.

Different organisations will make arrangement for selling insignia inscribed with Silver Jubilee of V Day at minimal price. The business community will take measure to inscribe the slogan of 'Silver Jubilee Victory Day' on their products.

Step will be taken to write down 'Silver Jubilee Victory Day' on different minted coins and paper currency.

### Villagers attack policemen in Moulvibazar

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Nov 21: Two constables were injured when a group of villagers attacked policemen at Binnaganj of Moulvibazar sadar thana last night. They went to the village to arrest some accused persons.

Four villagers were later arrested for their alleged involvement in the attack on the police.

The two policemen Rafiqul Islam and Anisur Rahman - were admitted to the hospital.

### Patarhat RC College closed for 20 days

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Nov 21: The RC College of Patarhat under Mehendiganj thana of the district was closed for 20 days from today, college sources said.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the Academic Council today following yesterday's clash on between two rival student bodies on the campus.

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), college unit filed a case against 26 local JCD and Juba Dal leaders and workers, sources said.

Meanwhile, police arrested 8 persons, including thana Juba Dal Vice President Kazi Asif Tenu in this connection.

### BB governor

From Page 1

managing director posts of Agrani Bank, Sonali Bank and Islami Bank and pioneered various new banking products and services in the country.

So close to the renowned banker said he was also not prepared to take over charges right now. When contacted, the new governor, however, declined to make any comment at this moment.

Huge police were deployed at the central bank and the governor's floor where the officials and employees were demonstrating.

Earlier Deputy Governor Mahubur Rahman Khan was removed from the central bank and was made an officer on special duty (OSD) last September on charge of irregularities in giving licences to some non-banking financial institutions.

An enquiry report by a committee formed after the removal of Mahubur Rahman Khan found the former governor to have been informed about the irregularities in licensing a total of 14 non-banking financial institutions.

"But it is not clear what induced him not to take any action at all," said the report, submitted to the government at the end of October by Finance Secretary Dr Akbar Ali Khan, who was the lone member of the probe body.

"He would have to prove that he did not have any silent blessing to these irregularities," added the 26-page report which was made available to the press at the news conference by the finance minister.



President Shahabuddin Ahmed (R), Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina (C) and chiefs of staff of the three services placed floral wreaths at the Shikha Anirban - the eternal flame - at the Dhaka Cantonment on the occasion of the Armed Forces Day yesterday.

### Manzoor murder case: Hearing of Ershad's petition not held

By Staff Reporter

Former president and Jatiya Party chief HM Ershad's petition for bail in Major General Abul Manzoor murder case could not be heard yesterday.

Ershad's counsel Yusuf Hussain Humayun said the petition could not be taken up by Special Additional Judge Abdul Majid as he could not complete hearing of the bail prayers of four other co-accused.

The judge fixed November 26 as the next date for hearing as arguments by lawyer for Major (Rtd) Emdad, a co-accused, remained inconclusive yesterday.

Earlier, the judge heard petitions moved by lawyers for Maj. Gen. (Rtd) Abdul Latif, a former DFI chief Lt. Col (Rtd) Mostafa Kamal and Lt. Col (Rtd) Shams.

Two more bail petitions for Ershad will be moved on November 23 - one in a case concerning allocation of RAJUK lands and another relating to evasion of income tax - will be moved on November 24.

Ershad's counsel said they are planning to move the High Court praying for bail in Radar purchase case. Earlier, a prayer was rejected by the court of Additional Sessions Judge Mohammad Shahidul Huq on November 17.

### Benapole

From Page 1

ment to provide facilities like warehouses, bridge, wide roads, hotels and banks as well as to ensure law and order by deploying patrol police.

Around 400 cargo carrying trucks pass through Hariadaspur check-post daily and most of those face delay of 10 to 20 days sometimes, Nag added.

Such a backlog on the Indian side also worried Bangladeshi importers as they were facing delay in getting their consignments routed through Hariadaspur-Benapole check-posts, sources said.

A Bangladeshi diplomat based in Calcutta said that it was creating serious problem to the importers and exporters from Bangladesh.

Some sources pointed out that is the backlog persists, bilateral border trade between India and Bangladesh might be affected.

### Memo to Home Minister 6 trade bodies threaten agitation

By Staff Correspondent

Six trade bodies, including the Bangladesh Inland Water Passenger Transport Association, yesterday staged a demonstration near the secretariat demanding release of Tarique Hossain, vice-president of the association.

Leaders of the trade groups submitted a memorandum to the Home Minister denying the allegation that Hossain is a terrorist and toll collector.

They said, if he is not freed by today they would go for further agitation paralysing the river transport.

The five other groups are the Oil Traders Association, the Dockyard Owners Association, the Sadarghat Traders Association, the Wiseghat and Kaliganj Ports Traders Association and the Wiseghat and Kaliganj Workshop Owners Association.

### CSE turnover

From Page 1

the past one week resulted in dull transactions.

CSE recorded the highest transactions of Tk 37.5 crore early this month, but the turnover slid down to Tk 2.59 crore only today.

The turnover was recorded at Tk 3.81 crore yesterday down from Tk 5 crore the previous day.

Fifty-three issues were traded of which 32 suffered loss and 21 gained in today's trading, CSE reports said. The share price index stood at 1570.09 and market capitalization at Tk 17,833 crore.

### Jyoti Basu

From Page 1

A fencing with barbed wires on RCC pillars are being raised on the boundary of the house.

Abdul Aziz, a supervisor of PWD Circle IV of Narayanganj, is looking after the renovation work of the house on behalf of the PWD, which began in October 16.

Bricks are being laid on the dirt road that leads to the house from the local bazaar where Basu had landed in a helicopter to walk back to his childhood memories during the first visit.

He will probably be using helicopter this time also as the metal road from the Dhaka-Chittagong highway through the Sonargaon thana headquarters disappear near the village on a canal, an off-shoot of the mighty Meghna.

The renovation includes repair of the aging cracks on the plasters, restoring the four bedrooms, toilets, doors and windows and the well in the compound.

## Armed Forces Day observed

The Armed Forces Day was observed yesterday with a fresh vow to uphold the country's independence and sovereignty, reports UNB.

The day marks the formation of Bangladesh Armed Forces during the War of Liberation in 1971.

The day's programme began with offering of *munajat* after Fazar prayers in all mosques at army garrisons, naval ships and establishments as well as airforce bases throughout the country.

President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina separately placed wreaths at "Shikha Anirban" (the External Flame) in the morning.

They stood in solemn silence to pay homage to the members of the Armed Forces who had embraced martyrdom in the War of Liberation in 1971.

### PM assures steps to keep stock market vibrant

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday assured that the government would take every possible step to keep the booming stock markets vibrant, sources in the (DSE) said.

The Prime Minister's assurance came when a councilor of the DSE met her on behalf of the DSE members, yesterday afternoon to explain the situation arising out of a bitter dispute between the DSE members and the Kerb market operators in the capital on Wednesday, an influential member of the DSE told The Daily Star last night.

While briefing the DSE members in the evening, the councilor told them that the Prime Minister had assured all possible cooperation to the DSE authorities to protect the capital market from any unusual situation and keep it vibrant.

A source in the Prime Minister's Secretariat, confirming the meeting of the one-member DSE delegation with the Premier, said that she was eager to see the capital market operating normally.

The active stock dealers of the DSE at a meeting Wednesday night, felt it necessary to immediately apprise the Prime Minister of the situation and put forward to her a set of suggestions for further development of the capital market. The selected Rakibur Rahman, a councilor of the DSE who is also the President of the Sheikh Russel Smriti Sangsad, to inform the Prime Minister about the problems being faced by the DSE.

### PM: Pride

From Page 1

hunger and poverty and build a Sonar Bangla to fulfill the dream of the Father of the Nation.

Ministers, leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia, politicians, judges of the Supreme Court, high civil and military officials, journalists and elite of the city attended the reception.

Earlier on arrival at Senakunja, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was received by the Chiefs of The Services.

### Corruption case against Shahidul Haq Jamal

The Bureau of Anti-Corruption yesterday sued former BNP MP Shahidul Haq Jamal and two others charging them with misappropriating Tk 1.60 crore, reports UNB.

According to the case history, the former Chairman of Red Crescent Society, Jamal, former Secretary General of the society Abdul Matin and former Director (Administration) of Holy Family Hospital misappropriated the money of the hospital.

An officer of the Bureau, Akhtaruzzaman, filed the case with Ramna police both under Anti-Corruption Act and CrPC.

### Prof Salam

From Page 1

physics in 1979, will be buried in Rabawa in Punjab province, a centre of the Ahmadi sect to which he belonged.

He was Chief Scientific Adviser to the President of Pakistan for 11 years until 1974. He resigned in that year after Ahmadi was officially branded non-Muslims under the government of then Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

Salam was professor of Theoretical Physics at London's Imperial College of Science and Technology from 1957 to 1993. He founded the International Centre for Theoretical Physics in Trieste, Italy, and served as its Director from 1964 to 1993.

Salam, who had been suffering from Parkinson's disease, is survived by his wife, two sons and four daughters.

### Condolences

UNB adds: Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed profound shock at the death of great scientist Prof Salam.

In a message of condolence, she said Prof Salam was acclaimed as a world famous scientist for his outstanding contribution and extraordinary merits.

BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia also expressed deep shock at the death of Prof Abdus Salam.

In a condolence message, Begum Zia said Prof Salam achieved an honorable position among the greatest scientist of the contemporary world by dint of his extraordinary merit.

BSS adds: MA Quaiyum, Chairman, Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC) yesterday condoned the death of Prof Salam.

Dr MA Wazed Miah, member, BAEC and President, Bangladesh Association of Advancement of Science, also condoned the death of Prof Salam.

### 2 shot as terrorist groups clash in city

By DMC Correspondent

Two youths sustained bullet wounds during a clash between two terrorist groups in the city's Hazaribagh area under Dhanmondi thana yesterday.

Harun, 25, and Bipul Chandra Shil, 26, with bullet injuries in their legs were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), police and hospital sources said.

The armed clash which erupted at around 1 pm lasted about half an hour. None was arrested in this connection, police said.

In another incident, one Khokon Chandra Shaha of Paltakhon Lane under Sutrapur thana sustained injuries in his head when a gang hit him with an iron rod in Narinda at about 3 pm.

### DSE trading

From Page 1

several hours yesterday.

A few thousand kerb market operators gathered at the busy road in front of the DSE office in Motijheel. They were seen busy trading in shares.

### Tigers

From Page 1

nior police official.

The DB, asked by the authorities concerned, formed a special team under the supervision of the DC of DB to investigate the over all situation at the Zoo, the official added.

The DB is likely to submit its probe report within 10 days.

### Benazir

From Page 1

came out of retirement to become chief accountability commissioner under a special anti-corruption law enacted by Leghari this week.

The President pledged to create an independent body to investigate and prosecute politicians and bureaucrats after ousting Benazir Bhutto as Prime Minister on November 5.

Benazir, whose government was accused by Leghari of massive corruption and misuse, has reportedly rejected the anti-corruption drive and accused the president of victimising her party.

Mirza's department will process corruption cases referred by the government as well as public complaints. They will then be sent to court within 60 days.

The anti-corruption drive spanning more than 10 years since December 31, 1985, covers Benazir's previous 1988-1990 stint in office as well as the 1990-1993 government of her arch rival Nawaz Sharif.

### 3 alleged dacoits held, mugger caught in Khulna

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Nov 21: Kotwali police arrested three suspected dacoits - Kabir, Alam and Alangir - from Natun Bazar on Wednesday night.

Four pigeons and two hand bombs were recovered from their possession. Police arrested them when they were preparing to commit a robbery in a fish godown in the area, police said.

Meanwhile, one alleged mugger - Yunus, 30 - was caught red-handed by pedestrians today. He was caught when he, along with two others, was trying to escape after snatching Tk 80,000 from a businessman, Modasser Ali.

The money was also recovered from his possession. The two others made good their escape.

### Teenage boy beaten to death in city

By DMC Correspondent

A teenage boy was beaten to death reportedly by an autorickshaw driver at Bashbo under Shabujbagh thana in the city yesterday.

Md Ali, 13, an assistant of a shop near the Bashbo autorickshaw stand was assaulted by Dilder as the boy did not give him a cigarette refusing to accept a torn five Taka note at about 9:30 am, police said.

Ali who sustained fatal injuries was immediately taken to a local physician and later to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), where doctors declared him dead. Police said.

The body was sent to the DMCH morgue for autopsy.

The autorickshaw driver, Dilder, who often used to visit his father-in-law's house at Bashbo fled immediately after the incident. A murder case has been filed with Shabujbagh thana.

### Kibria

From Page 1

was 2.94 per cent in September is fully under control, export marked a rise of 9.5 per cent during July-September period compared to the same months in last fiscal and import also grew by 10.36 per cent during the period.

The composition of imports, dominated by capital machinery, intermediary goods and industrial raw materials, indicates that a healthy trend is prevailing in the economy, he said.

The finance minister said overall revenue collection upto October is satisfactory as the collection stood at Tk 3771.62 crore which is 10 per cent higher than that of the corresponding period of last fiscal year.

But it was 98 per cent of the target set for the period, he said and attributed the shortfall to delayed placement of budget in parliament which resulted in a lower collection of revenue.

Referring to the aid disbursement, he said the foreign aid disbursement was 211.1 million US dollars during July-August period of the current year which is 96.2 per cent higher than that of last year when it was 107 million US dollars.

The foreign exchange reserve was 1.87 billion US dollars on November 17, down from the level of 2.4 billion dollars a year back. Kibria said it is due to payment of bills in the Asian Clearing Union (ACU).

Banking Division Secretary Shah Abdul Hannan, ERD Secretary Dr Masrur Rahman, National Board of Revenue Chairman Dr Sadaat Hossain, Securities and Exchange Commission Chairman Dr Harun-ar Rashid and member Dr AKM Shahabub Alam were present.