

FedEX
Federal Express
The World on Time

SIGNED, SEALED & DELIVERED

From documents to packages, FedEx delivers peace of mind reliably to over 210 countries worldwide. Our integrated network of 850 planes, 37,000 vehicles and 1,200,000 people promises smooth delivery every step of the way. We can even advise you on the status of your shipments; thanks to our unique computerized global tracking system. So the next time you have got to send a package, relax - call your FedEx agent BANEJ to deliver your package hassle-free - on time - to your satisfaction.

For more information call - Head Office: 9661147-Fax: 966112
Gulshan: 887771, Chittagong: (031) 712127, Khulna: (041) 25008

Second int'l congress on Bengal art opens

By Staff Correspondent

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad yesterday said, art alone has the power to bring together people who are otherwise not so friendly to each other.

"Shakespeare, Beethoven, Rabindranath or Picasso had therefore played the role of some new kind of prophets of peace. The study of history of art would lead us to discover that pathway to peace," said Azad while inaugurating the Second International Congress on Bengal Art in the city.

The inaugural ceremony of the four-day Congress was held at the main auditorium of the National Museum. Over 50 art historians, academicians and art admirers from home and abroad are attending the congress being held under the auspices of the International Centre for Study of Bengal Art (ICSBA), a Dhaka-based organisation established in August, 1995.

Minister of State for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs

Corded Conventional Kettle
Fast boil: 1 Litre in just over 3 minutes.

Let's make things better.

Transcom Electronics Limited
Official licensee of Philips Electronics NV for lighting products, radio and TV sets
Dhaka: 915306-9, 919625-9, 889993
Ctg: 501082, 505576, Khulna: 20304, Bogra: 6215

PHILIPS

FFs hold rally in Tangail Vow to oust 'killers' of Bangabandhu from AL

From Mizan Ali and Bazlur Rashid

TANGAIL, Jan 7: Speakers at a rally of the district unit of Muktiyoddha Sangsad today declared their firm resolve to "purge" the killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman from the Awami League and free the people of the district from the clutches of "terrorists".

Abdul Kader Siddiky, MP, was the chief guest at the rally held at Nirala Crossing while Fazlur Rahman, Bir Pratik, chaired the session. The rally was organised to protest the alleged threat on the lives of freedom fighters by the terrorists of the area and to start out a programme to fight out terrorism from the district and the country.

"Gallantry awards of 11 freedom fighters are hereby submitted to the Prime Minister," it was announced at the rally.

While making this announcement it was said that the Muktiyoddha Sangsad had its full confidence in the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and demanded justice for her regarding the grievances of freedom fighters and protection against threats by terrorists on their lives.

Similar announcements of six other gallantry award holders of the 'Kaderia Bahini' would be made after their return to the country, it was said.

The Muktiyoddha Sangsad also announced that it would attend the rally called by the district Awami League leadership on January 9.

Abdul Mannan, MP, is scheduled to be the chief guest at the meeting organised to rally public support for the anti-terrorist campaign by the district Awami League.

The rally decided to form anti-terrorist committees in every thana of the district and carry out anti-terrorist operation. The district administration geared up the security measures around the town and deployed BDR, armed police and range reserve police around the venue of the rally.

"Awami League will be freed from the ghosts of Khandaker Mushtaque Ahmed and those who connived with him in the killing of Bangabandhu," said Abdul Kader Siddiky and announced, "1997 will be terrorism free year."

He described his differences with Awami League MP Abdul Mannan as 'totally ideological' and claimed that as the disciple of Bangabandhu he was well-trained in non-violent approach towards life.

"The difference is that he shook hands with the killers of Bangabandhu and I did not," Siddiky said adding, "Awami League that spearheaded the struggle for freedom and led the liberation war cannot afford to keep the ghosts of Mushtaque and the parasites in the party."

Young man held with arms near Jamuna Guest House remanded

By Staff Correspondent

Police were interrogating a young man arrested on Monday evening from near the State Guest House, Jamuna, where Indian Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda was staying during his visit to Bangladesh.

The members of the Special Security Force (SSF) challenged Masrur Ahmed Sumon, 30, when he was roaming suspiciously around the house at Hare Road at 7:40 pm, said police.

Sumon was later handed over to the Ramna police, who produced him before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) court yesterday morning. The court granted a two-day remand for interrogation.

During interrogation, Sumon said that he resides in North Shajahanpur in the city and his father is an advocate of the High Court. His brother is a doctor at a city hospital, according to police sources.

Sumon further told police that his family comes from Kaligan under Debgatha thana in Satkhira district. He is a commerce graduate.

He recently got a job with an insurance company in Dhaka.

Police who are verifying his statement, said he appears to be behaving abnormally.

Kidnapped garments worker rescued

By DMC Correspondent

Police rescued a kidnapped female garments worker from a house in the city's Adabara area yesterday afternoon.

Amena Akhtar, 14, was kidnapped from Road No 14, Dhanmondi the previous day when she was going to her workplace at about seven in the morning.

Two persons were arrested in this connection.

RUTA polls

From Page 1

The elected office-bearers of RUTA are: President, Prof M Shahidul Islam (Applied Chemistry), general secretary, M Abbas Ali (Philosophy), vice president, M Azizul Islam, treasurer, M Zahidul Hasan and joint secretary, M Fayek-uzzaman. The 10 elected members are: Aminul Haq Beg, Rezaul Karim (Badal), Mamunur Rashid, Mahbulul Kabir, Abdull Muttalib, Mudasser Chowdhury, Mamunul Keramat, M Habibur Rahman, Idris Ahmed and Muhammad Younus. Only the posts of a VP has gone to the Green Panel.

The 5 elected syndicate members, all from the Yellow panel are M Entajul Haq, M Saidur Rahman Khan, Habibur Rahman Akhon, Saiful Islam Faruque and Md Elias.

The 6 elected academic members, all from the Yellow panel are Shamsuddin Ahmed, Wajed Ali Pramanik, Jamshed Ali Sarkar, M Saiful Islam, Sayeed Ziauddin and Khondakar.

In the Dean election of 6 Faculties 4 candidates came out successful from the Yellow panel while two from the Green panel.

The elected Deans are: Prof M Yakub Ali (Arts Faculty from Green), Prof M Mizanuddin (Social Science), Prof M Fakhrul Islam (Science), Prof M Abdur Khaled (Life and Earth Science), M Sha Nawaj Ali (Commerce) and Prof M Fayeze Uddin (Law from Green panel).

Editor: Mahfuz Anam
Printed & Published by A. S. Mahmud, Managing Director, on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd, 52, Motijheel CA, Dhaka-1000, from City Publishing House Ltd, 90, Kakrail, Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmandi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 5000992-4, Commercial: 5000991 (Direct), Fax No: 88-02-863035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA. Email: dstar@bangla.net

Khaleda

From Page 1

democracy. But the government is not allowing us to speak about its misdeeds and misuse. It is suppressing our voice on the floor of the House and not letting the people know about our speeches there."

Accusing the ruling party of trying to make the Parliament ineffective, the Opposition leader said, "They want to establish one-party rule in the country by forcing the Opposition out of the parliament."

She said the parliament could be made effective by resolving her party's 10-point demand through discussions "but the government is yet to take any effective measure in this regard."

She termed the Ganges water-sharing treaty unbalanced and opposed to national interests. "Make public what you are giving India in return," she said.

She also demanded compensation from India for the huge losses Bangladesh incurred due to lack of water in the past years.

About the planned Asian Highway, the BNP chief said, "We're not opposed to the idea. But we can't accept giving corridor to India in the name of Asian Highway... India will use the planned corridor for movement of its troops."

BNP organised the rally to press its demands for withdrawal of "false" cases against Begum Zia and other party leaders and workers, release of detained party workers, public holiday and to protest signing of the water-treaty, killings in Jessore jail and price-hike of essentials.

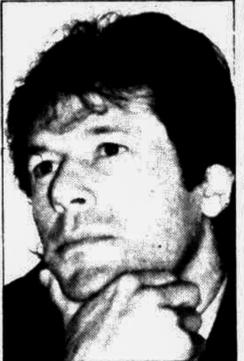
Among other BNP leaders, Prof AQM Badruddoza Choudhury, Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, KM Obaidur Rahman, Salahuddin Kader Choudhury, Moudud Ahmed, Tariqul Islam and Mir Shaukat Ali also addressed the rally, chaired by the city unit convenor of the party Sadek Hossain Khoka.

In her 28-minute speech, Begum Zia also blamed the government for "running" the country's economy, law and order situation, "disaster" in the share market, and unleashing terrorism throughout the country. She demanded compensation to the small share investors who suffered loss due to slump in the share market.

Commenting on cancellation of the November 7 public holiday, Begum Zia said, "No matter the government has cancelled the holiday, the people will continue enjoying the holiday... I doubt if this government will last till its decision comes to effect."

The BNP chief observed that the people had voted for the party, now in power, due to its words of repentance before the polls. "But the people have meantime realised that their character has not yet changed. They're behaving worse than they did in the '72-'75 period."

Paternity suit filed against Imran Khan



LOS ANGELES, Jan 7: A Beverly Hills woman has filed a paternity suit against Imran Khan, a former Pakistani cricket star now running for prime minister in his homeland, reports AP.

Siti White, 35, the daughter of the late billionaire Lord Gordon "Gordy" White, contends in the Superior Court lawsuit filed Monday that Imran is the father of her daughter, Tyrian Jade, 4.

"It's devastating to me that it has become necessary to go public to defend my character and integrity," White said in a prepared statement.

Imran's office said the former cricket star has refused to comment on the controversy, although he has denied involvement with White and fathering the child in the past.

His spokeswoman Nasim Zehra, who is also running as a candidate for the National Assembly on Imran's Pakistan Justice Party ticket, said, "There is no truth to this claim and we will not comment further."

She added that Imran would "certainly not" travel to Los Angeles if there is a trial.

White, who lives with her daughter in Beverly Hills, filed the suit here, demanding that Khan provide a blood sample within 30 days that would prove his paternity. She is also seeking child support for an unspecified sum.

"If he fails to do so, then we believe that it is tantamount to an admission of paternity," said White's attorney Gloria Alred, a celebrity domestic law attorney.

White, who is now married to actor Alan Marshall, said her only interest in the suit is to protect her child.

Ctg base of Coastguard

CHITTAGONG, Jan 7: The Chittagong Base of Bangladesh Coastguard, was formally commissioned today, reports UNB.

Home Minister Rafiqul Islam inaugurated the base on the bank of river Karnaphuli, hoping that the newly raised force would play a significant role in curbing the smuggling of contraband through the area besides guarding marine resources.

Teesta next focus, JEC to take up transit

From Page 1

gency is there and in future more steps will be taken to eliminate them through discussions." He said many outstanding problems had been discussed and a definite progress has been made in the last three months between the two countries.

The Indian prime minister said that such bodies as the Joint Economic Commission (JEC) and Joint Working Group (JWG) that existed earlier also were not operational, and these would now be made effective to sort out issues to make further progress.

Asked if the transit issue was being pursued by India, Gowda replied that it would be taken up in the next meeting of the Joint Economic Commission which is now scheduled to meet in early March.

At the outset of the press conference, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina read out a three-page written text while Deve Gowda made an extempore delivery detailing the new perspective of relations.

Only three questions from the press were entertained, one on the sub-regional grouping, another on transit and the other on insurgency.

Sheikh Hasina in her deliberation said the two countries have "agreed to work together to further strengthen regional cooperation within SAARC, as well as seek avenues for having a faster track of development involving countries of our region in a sub-regional approach."

She further said, "For example, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan and the region of India immediately contiguous to us could very fruitfully and mean-

Indemnity

From Page 1

legal with the Constitution is illegal and void and the Indemnity Ordinance being protected by the Constitution has been repealed without amending the Constitution and, as such, the repeal act is illegal and void.

He also submitted that as per the 1972 Constitution judges of the Supreme Court could only be removed by a two-thirds majority of Parliament, but by the 4th amendment to the Constitution made by the then government judges may be removed by the President in allegation of misconduct which is not only contemptuous but it also distorted the basic structure and principles of the Constitution.

"By the anti-people activities of the then party in power various sections of the people became agitated and impatient and felt the necessity to change the government which was achieved on 15th August, 1975," he argued.

"Occurrences of 15th August, 1975 are not criminal offence, but it was a successful revolution," Barrister Qurban Ali said.

"Though at the time of the revolutionary change of the government some killings took place, but those killings are not punishable offences as it was done in state necessity," he submitted.

He said, "The Indemnity Ordinance was the outcome of a successful revolution and a successful government formed through that revolution proclaimed the ordinance."

During the hearing Barrister Rafique ul Huq and Senior Advocate M Nurullah, amicus curiae, and for the government Attorney General Barrister KS Nabi, Additional Attorney General Abdul Wadud Bhuiyan, AAG Bazlur Rahman Chhana were present in the court.

Water treaty to help strengthen ties

From Page 1

Indian Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda yesterday said his country has given tariff concessions to about 500 Bangladeshi items to ensure a congenial trade co-operation between the two countries, reports UNB.

Gowda said this when he called on President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban.

Officials said the existing trade imbalance between the two countries also came up for discussion between President Shahabuddin and Prime Minister Deve Gowda.

Welcoming the Indian Premier, the President said the excellent relations and the bonds of friendship that exist between Bangladesh and India would grow further in the days ahead.

Shahabuddin expressed his satisfaction that the process set in motion to further improve the relations between the two countries would continue to be strengthened for the mutual benefit of the two peoples.

The President referred to the recently concluded treaty on sharing the Ganges water and said it reflects the goodwill and determination of both the countries to move ahead in our bilateral relations.

He thanked the Indian Prime Minister for his personal initiative in expediting the matter, saying that the treaty would no doubt create environment for further cooperation.

Later, President Shahabuddin Ahmed hosted a luncheon in honour of Indian Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda.

end of the day, the sky blues had to pay through their nose for spoiling at least three ample chances.

Although Malaysians drew the first blood in the 16th minute through midfielder Ahmed Shaiful who had also scored the second goal for his side in the second half, it was Abahani that enthralled the audience with some attacking brand of soccer. Undaunted by the early setback, Abahani who after a disappointing season perhaps played their best game last night, bounced back scoring two goals in a span of 14 minutes. Striker Mizan, who came as substitute for Tipu, scored the first goal for the vanquished in the 38th minute while Rumi stabbed in the second goal capitalising on a left-side Masum cross in the 51st minute.

But the spirited Malaysians killed off the brief celebration of the crowd with Sharul brilliantly heading the ball home from a right side Shanmugam cross leaving Dhanu completely frozen.

With yesterday's two goals, Sharul emerged out as the highest scorer of the 12-team meet, having scored three goals.

In the 30 minutes extra time, the locals strained every nerve to get a match-winner with an all-out football. But the Malaysians kept their cool and played a defensive game to take the match to the sudden-death stage.

In today's second semifinal, Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club will take on PMS Football Club (Ujung Pandang) of Indonesia at the same venue at 6 pm.

Appointments & transfers

By Staff Correspondent

Some transfers and contractual appointments were made at the upper level of administration, according to a government announcement yesterday.

Post and Telecommunication Secretary M M Reza has been transferred to the Election Commission as its Secretary.

Additional Secretary of ERD Mahbub Kabir has been made the acting Secretary of Telecommunication Ministry.

Major General (ret'd) Mustafizur Rahman has been appointed as Director General of National Security Intelligence on a two-year contract. Acting DG of NSI, M Wahidul Haq (additional IG of police) has been transferred to the Directorate Immigration and Passport as its DG.

Anisul Haq Chowdhury, Secretary, Cultural Affairs Ministry, has been transferred to Board of Investment as its Chairman on deputation.

Former secretary Aminul Islam has been appointed on contract for two years a full-time Member of Public Administration Reform Commission while the Principal of Planning and Development Academy, Jagannath Dey (an official of additional secretary rank), was appointed the Commission's Secretary on deputation.

Abdur Rab Khan (joint secretary rank), Chairman of BRTC, has been appointed as Director General of the Prime Minister's Office.

Besides, some others appointments, transfers and promotions were also announced.

Indo-Bangla joint official level meet

soon to discuss bilateral trade

Bangladesh and India have agreed to hold a joint meeting at official level very soon to discuss the whole gamut of bilateral trade, reports UNB.

The agreement reached at a discussion between Indian Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda and Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed when later called on the former at the state guest house Jamuna yesterday.

The Bangladesh Commerce Minister requested the Indian Prime Minister to remove all tariff and non-tariff barriers and withdraw the quantitative restrictions on import of Bangladeshi goods to narrow the huge trade gap.

They also discussed matters relating to mutual interests with special reference to bilateral trade.

Referring to the Ganges water treaty, the minister said this agreement is the gateway in solving other outstanding issues between the two countries.

Indian External Affairs Minister IK Gujral, Indian Foreign Secretary Salman Haider, Bangladesh High Commissioner to India CM Shafi Sami and Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Dev Mukherjee were present.

President tells Indian PM

Water treaty to help strengthen ties

Indian Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda placing wreath at the National memorial at Savar yesterday. — PID photo

Sylhet JCD observes hartal

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Jan 7: Nine vehicles were damaged by the pickets in Sylhet town today during the 8-hour hartal called by the pro-BNP student wing Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD).

Police arrested six activists of JCD. Three others were injured during clashes with police.

Indian national held with arms in Jessore

From Page 1

JESSORE, Jan 7: Two people, including an Indian national, were arrested from a frontier area in Sarsa thana on Monday night, reports UNB.

BDR sources said Touhiduzzaman, 35, of Jhikorgachha thana and Delwar Hossain, 32, of Bongaon of Chhabish Pargona in India were picked up from Baraachra area at about 11 pm.

BDR jawans also recovered seven revolvers and 20 bullets from their possession.

The arrested were handed over to Sarsa police. A case was filed in this connection.

Youngman

From Page 1

Abul and Faruq from the spot. The body was sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) for autopsy, hospital sources said.

The motive behind the murder could not be known immediately. Police said that Jamal came under attack when some local people suspected him to be a thief.

Jamal's mother filed a case with Kotwali thana in this connection, police said.

FBCCI

From Page 1

that the countries concerned needed to take early actions for enhancing cooperation in the areas of taxation, customs and standards.

FBCCI President Yousuf Abdullah Harun in his welcomed address said the visit of the Indian Prime Minister would help to enhance bilateral cooperation in the sectors of trade, industry and investment through private sector participation.

The FBCCI President pointed out that while trade between the two countries is growing the trade imbalance continues to increase in India's favour. The main reason for this imbalance lies in the difference in trade policy regimes between Bangladesh and India, he said.

Imports from India shot up from 180 million US dollar in 1990-91 to 1 billion dollar in 1995-96 while Bangladesh's exports to India rose from 31 million dollar to 70 million in the corresponding years showing mounting imbalance of 830 million dollar against Bangladesh.

The FBCCI President said Bangladesh needs to be looked at not merely as a destination of goods but also as a competitive source of goods to India.

He hoped that both sides would initiate steps to increase trade cooperation through removal of tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade, setting up joint ventures, buy-back arrangements, marketing collaboration, infrastructure development, sub-contracting, joint marketing of commodities and collaboration for technology.

Indian Foreign Minister I K Gujral, Home Minister Indrajit Gupta, Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed and Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria were present at the meeting at a local hotel.