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TO INDIA

## Mismanagement in hospitals

### 'Probe ordered, punitive measures to follow'

Health and Family Welfare Minister Salahuddin Yusuf told the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday that he had ordered investigation into all acts of mismanagement and irregularities in the government hospitals and health complexes.

Punitive measures would be taken soon against all the persons responsible, the minister said adding he himself found such mismanagement during his surprise visits at different health centres.

Replying to a call attention notice by Awami League lawmaker Mirza Azam, the health minister also admitted the fact that in many cases the government physicians remained absent from their workplaces for a whole month and attended their offices only to draw salaries.

Salahuddin Yusuf said the civil surgeons had been asked to prepare reports of attendance of the government doctors at their respective areas on a monthly basis. "We've also ordered the civil surgeons to pay surprise visits to the hospitals and other health centres," he added.

Referring to the shortage of doctors hampering health services at the thana and district level hospitals, the minister told the House, "The government has decided to appoint

## Serious traffic jam on airport road

Thick mud fallen from dumper trucks on the Airport Road near Joarshahara created a serious traffic jam throughout the day yesterday causing suffering to the people.

Hundreds of vehicles had to wait for hours to cross the one kilometre section of the road from Joarshahara to Kuril as thick clay became very slippery due to light rain early in the morning.

An official of Zia International Airport said, Biman's morning flight to Saidpur was delayed by an hour as most of the passengers, officials and employees could not reach the airport in time due to heavy traffic jam on the road since the morning.

Hundreds of dumper trucks are loading huge mud on this very important road everyday hampering smooth traffic, said an official of the Roads and Highways Department who was supervising the works for clearing mud from the road.

Departure of three international flights were delayed at Zia International Airport yesterday.

The flight of Saudia to Jeddah was delayed by nearly two hours, the Indian Airlines flight by about five and a half hours and the Biman flight by nearly three hours.

## President's address

From Page 1

nation in 1971", Akbar said. "If the question of giving credit for leading the War of Independence arises, it is Tajuddin Ahmed or General Osmani who deserves it — nobody else," he added.

Referring to Suranjit's 'urge for democracy' the BNP leader posed a question: Does the Awami League really believe in democracy? "If it is so, the party must appreciate the steps taken earlier to free democracy from the clutch of one party rule," he said adding, "No country in the world ever freed democracy from one party dictatorship without blood shed."

Referring to the Ganges water sharing agreement, Akbar said, "Let water come first, then we will discuss about it."

He, however, said that it was surprising why the Indian authorities signed the agreement with the Awami League government. They had refused to do it with the BNP government, even with the government of Ershad, he said.

"We want to know, what the agreement will cost the people," Akbar said.

Referring to the proposed sub-regional grouping, the BNP leader said: "We are very much for a sub-regional grouping, but let the people of Assam, Mizoram, Nagaland and other north eastern states of India who are separately fighting for independence, be successful

## 200 bags of urea seized in Habiganj

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Jan 21: Habiganj police seized 200 bags of urea fertilizer while being smuggled to India yesterday evening.

According to police, the fertilizer was allotted to a dealer of Moulvibazar district.

Acting on a tip off, a contingent of police from Habiganj sadar thana seized the truck carrying the fertilizer at Shaistaganj Purnabazar.

The truck driver was arrested. A case has been filed.

## Robin Raphael

From Page 1

meet of US ambassadors had been described by the official as "a routine procedure". The meeting, however, was rotated among countries where there is "ambassadorial level presence," he said.

The visiting US Assistant Secretary of State will hold bilateral meetings with senior officials of the Foreign Ministry and political leaders on January 27 and 28 "to update herself of the political situation."

Diplomatic sources said Raphael will call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Foreign Minister Abdus Samad, Commerce Minister Tofael Ahmed and Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Lt Gen (ret'd) Nooruddin Khan during her current tour. She will also meet BNP chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia and some other opposition leaders.

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## Indemnity Ordinance

### Two-third majority needed to repeal it, court told

By SC Correspondent

The Indemnity (Repeal) Act, 1975 has to be struck down as it is unconstitutional and ultra vires of the Constitution, observed Khandker Mahbubuddin Ahmed, amicus curiae appointed by the High Court Division in hearing on the writ petitions filed challenging the Act.

Among six amicus curiae, Khandker Mahbubuddin Ahmed alone observed that the Indemnity Ordinance being a part of the Constitution can only be amended by a two-third majority in the Parliament.

The other amicus curiae are Barrister Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed, Dr Kamal Hossain, Barrister Rafiqul Haq, Senior Advocate M Nurullah and Barrister Amirul Islam.

Barrister Qurban Ali, counsel for the petitioners, Col (ret'd) Shahriar Rashid Khan and Mahmuda Rahman, mother of Col (ret'd) Faruk Rahman, today will make reply to the arguments of Attorney General Barrister K S Nabi and those of the amicus curiae and, by the leave of the court, the Attorney General may also submit his reply.

"In the normal course of law-making under Article 93(1) of the Constitution, a president could not enact an ordinance like the Indemnity Ordinance, 1975 because it would be violative of the basic constitutional provisions guaranteeing the rights and rule of law," said Khandker Mahbubuddin Ahmed. "But the situation at the relevant time was in no way 'normal', lawful president of the country had been brutally killed by a mutinous section of the army of the country, martial law was promulgated, tanks and guns were surrounding the president's house and Khandker Mushtaque Ahmed made himself the self-proclaimed president of the country."

He added, "In a situation like this the de facto president purported to act in pursuance of the

## Clinton for peace, stability in South Asia: Raphael

ISLAMABAD, Jan 21: Robin Raphael, US Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia, said here today American President Bill Clinton was likely to give greater attention to South Asia during his second term, reports AFP.

"Clinton was deeply interested in peace and stability in South Asia," Raphael told Pakistani President Farooq Ahmed Leghari during a meeting with him at the presidency, an official Pakistani statement said.

It was likely that this region would receive "greater focus" to the President's second term, the statement quoted her as saying.

Two major problems besetting the region — the dispute over Kashmir between Pakistan and India and continuing fratricidal war in Afghanistan figured during her talks with Leghari.

## Woman murdered at city slum

By DMC Correspondent

A woman was killed allegedly by her daughter-in-law at a slum at Tejgaon in the city yesterday afternoon.

Fulechha Begum, 55, sustained fatal injuries in her head when Tahera Bano, 38, reportedly hit her with a brick during a quarrel at 3 pm. Fulechha was immediately taken to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where doctors declared her dead, police and hospital sources said.

Tejgaon police arrested Tahera and her husband, Fazal Miah.

## JS tidbits

From Page 1

Like any other day, ruling party MP Haji Mohammad Selim yesterday uttered "Bismillahir Rahmanir Raheem" before his deliberations in the House making the Opposition BNP legislators giggle.

An apparently embarrassed Selim, in his typical Dhaka dialect, then replied, "Whenever I utter Bismillah... they laugh at me. No where in the holy Quran, it is written that only BNP members can say Bismillah and nobody has leased out Bismillah to BNP."

A young Selim also urged the Chair to ask the BNP legislators not to laugh at him. This caused laughter in the Opposition benches.

In his deliberations on the President's address in the House, Col. (ret'd) Akbar Hossain of BNP questioned why India agreed to release Ganges water soon after the Awami League came to power, depriving the country of its shares of water for the last 21 years.

"Why didn't they (India) give us (the governments in past 21 years) water? Are our faces ugly? Is Ershad's too?" the former minister in BNP government posed the questions.

Pointing his finger at Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the BNP leader further asked, "In exchange of what have they released water?"

In his speech, Col. (ret'd) Akbar also ridiculed AL lawmaker Suranjit Sengupta who preceded him calling him (Suranjit) "the great leader of the Bangladesh nation".

Earlier, Suranjit, who was the opening speaker on the President's address, advised BNP lawmakers to follow former finance minister Saifur Rahman and "abandon those pursuing the politics of Pakistan".

Suranjit highly praised BNP leader Saifur for his "outspokenness and admitting the facts."

Replying to a supplementary question on makeshift bazaars on the highways, Communications Minister Anwar Hossain said, "The way such bazaars are growing, we'll have to construct by-pass roads for the highways as well as by-passes for the by-passes."

## Myanmar citizen jailed for killing Bangladeshi boy

COX'S BAZAR, Jan 21: A Myanmar citizen was sentenced to life term rigorous imprisonment today for killing a Bangladeshi minor boy here in 1994, reports UNB.

The Additional District and Sessions Judge, Mohammad Miaz Uddin, also fined the accused, Ilias Prakash alias Bormala Ilias, Tk 3,000, in default, to suffer three months more RI.

According to prosecution, Bormala Ilias, son of Iqbal Hossain of Monglapara of Mongdu thana in Myanmar, strangled Monir Ahmed Prakash, 3, son of Sonam Miah of South Kutubdiapara in Sadar thana, to death on August 14, 1994.

The Judge after examining the witnesses and evidences pronounced the judgment.

## Use Parliament for Consensus

From Page 1

the open, then we might be able to achieve what on the surface appears to be, at least for now, impossible. And that platform is the parliament.

We suggest that if she really means business then Sheikh Hasina should immediately propose an open debate in the parliament on achieving national political consensus on economic issues. Let the Prime Minister enunciate a four or five point economic programme and announce in the Sangsad. Then let her invite the opposition to say what they would like to see included in that policy which will make them join a consensus on those specific areas. For the sake of argument let us say Sheikh Hasina's policy consists of the following five main thrusts: a) rapid industrialisation; b) doubling agricultural output; c) quick privatisation of the state owned enterprises; d) attracting foreign investment; and e) financial sector reforms. Having made these five points in the parliament, the PM can invite the opposition to say what specific suggestions they have by incorporating which we can formulate a consensus economic policy — a policy which will be owned by all and not just the ruling party and its allies. Not only on these points, the PM can invite the opposition to make new points which we may consider to be of more im-

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Let's make things better

PHILIPS

## Kamal Siddiqui made OSD

Secretary Dr Kamal Siddiqui has been made officer on special duty (OSD) at the Ministry of Establishment until further order, according to an official announcement, reports UNB.

Additional Secretary of the Agriculture Ministry, M Saiful Islam has been transferred to IMED as its Secretary-in-charge.

Retired Secretary Dr Ekram Hossain was appointed Rector of BPATC to a one-year contractual term from the date of his joining.

Additional Secretary Aminul Islam, who was on LPR, has been appointed Private Secretary to the President, said the handout issued last night.

Additional Secretary of the Economic Relations Division Mohammad Shahidul Alam has been transferred to BCS (Administration) Academy as its Director on deputation.

Deputy Secretary Azizur Rahman, who recently came back after completing his assignment as Economic Counsellor at the Bangladesh Embassy in Stockholm, was made Director of BJMC on promotion to Joint Secretary.

## Zobaida's bail: HC decision today

By SC Correspondent

The order on the bail petition of Zobaida Rashid, wife of Col (ret'd) Abdur Rashid Khandker, in the arms case may be passed today by the High Court Division.

The Division Bench of the HC comprising Justice Mahmud Amin Choudhury and Justice Mohammad Jounal Abedin after hearing of the petition yesterday fixed today for the order.

Zobaida Rashid was arrested from her house in Gulshan in allegation of keeping unauthorised arms.

Subsequently she was also implicated in the 15th August '75 killings.

Advocate Mahbubur Rahman assisted by Farah Mahbub moved for the petitioner, while Deputy Attorney General Mansurul Haq Chowdhury on behalf of the state opposed the bail petition.

## Clash over land in Rajshahi

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Jan 21: Fifteen people were injured in a clash between two rival groups at the Kathabaria crossing here this afternoon.

A dispute over land was the cause of the clash.

Of the injured, Ali Hossain, 30, Sonejan Shah, 50, Mohammad Amir Ali, 35, Mohammad Asir Ali, 30, Mohammad Nasir Ali, 24, and Momejan Khatun, 16, were admitted to the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

## ALPP meets today

The Awami League Parliamentary Party (ALPP) will hold a meeting at Sangsad Bhawan at 3 pm today, reports UNB.

## 5 sub-committees

From Page 1

gathering, evaluation and monitoring of the existing health care services (convened by state minister for health Prof M Amanullah); Sub-committee for formulating necessary policies for ensuring main (essential) health services (convened by National Prof Nurul Islam); Sub-committee for formulating policies for improving hospital based health services (convened by State Minister for Health Prof M Amanullah); Sub-committee for innovating techniques for human resource development, management and implementation (convened by UNICEF Consultant Manjur-ul-Karim); and Sub-committee for involving NGOs and private sector and expenditure and financing (Prof AGM Badruddza Chowdhury).

The meeting laid emphasis on coordinating the private and public health services both in rural and urban areas and ensuring the treatment of complicated diseases inside the country.

The meeting also discussed the policies regarding private clinics and medical education in the private sector.

## Sovereignty at stake, says Mannan Bhuiyan

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday called on the nationalist forces to thwart the conspiracy hatched by the "neo-autocratic government" to sell the country's independence and sovereignty, reports UNB.

"Country's independence and sovereignty are now at stake as the proposed sub-regional grouping got the approval of our neighbouring country," he said addressing as chief guest a discussion meeting at the Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday evening.

Shaheed Siraj Sikder Smriti Jatiya Committee organised the discussion on the occasion of the Shaheed Asad Day observed in the country on Monday.

The BNP Secretary General said the dream of Shaheed Asad was to establish a sovereign and democratic Bangladesh. "Asad had dreamt for an exploitation-free society, but his dream is yet to be materialised."

Recalling his personal relations with Asad, Mannan Bhuiyan said the supreme sacrifice of Shaheed Asad had fuelled the 1969 massupurge that led us to the liberation.

are also convinced, like all sensible and farsighted citizens of the country, that we need such a national consensus. We are also aware that without a single minded attention on economic development and without bringing the different view points and political interests within some sort of converging policy framework, it will be impossible for any government, however sincere and popular, to bring about the type of speedy economic growth that we need.

Considering all the above we suggest that the Prime Minister should take the following initiative. After talking to BNP leaders who formulated the party's economic policies during the last five years and also her own ministers, she should announce, on the floor of the parliament, a four or five point economic policy framework, inviting the opposition to debate it, amend it, re-formulate it to their hearts content, and then come to some sort of consensus on the basis of a broad understanding.

It is our belief that this is the only way that a consensus may emerge on economic policies as desired by Sheikh Hasina. If at the end of it all, a consensus does emerge, even then the Prime Minister will have a good enough idea about the thinking of the opposition, and she will also get full marks in the public eye for having sincerely tried.

## List of items seized from Bangabandhu's house

Star Report

Following is the list of items seized from Bangabandhu's Dhanmondi residence and other government offices mentioned in the charge-sheet as evidence:

Blood soaked scrapping from the place in occurrence.

Five books collected from the ground floor library a) History of India; b) Shradhanjali (Mamata Mohan Neera) with fragments of bullets inside it; c) Urojahaj Koidi (Sri Bhubesh Chandra Sen Gupta); d) Tomer Jonnya Bhalobasha (Humayun Ahmed); and e) Direct From England: The great new guide to playing guitar.

Splinters of glass of the show case; Splinters of glass of almirah; bullet hit framed photo of Khandker Mushtaque Shahrwardy and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman; blood-soaked check lungi with five bullet holes, which according to curator Syed Siddikur Rahman was identified as used by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman; and one old cotton white blood-stained panjabi, with several bullet holes. Of these four bullet holes are on the right side, three on the left side along the chest besides four along the abdomen and another at the lower part of the panjabi. Curator Syed Siddikur Rahman identified the panjabi as used by Bangabandhu.

One pair of black spectacles identified by the curator as used by Bangabandhu.

One white blood-stained sari with red border, one blood-stained blouse with 13 bullet holes, one blood-stained handkerchief. These articles were identified as being used by Begum Mujib.

One used blood-stained white panjabi with eight bullet holes in its front and same number in its back. The curator identified the panjabi as being used by Sheikh Abu Naser.

One round blood-stained cap, identified as being used by Sheikh Abu Naser.

Foot-bridges

From Page 1

from crossing those haphazardly and oblige them to use the bridges, he said. He, however, declined to say how much would be spent for the motivational programme and the construction of the railings.

DCC recently completed three steel framed foot-bridges in the city while six more are awaiting final touches under a Tk 2.75 crore project. A DCC official said that a large amount is always spent on compensation during construction of foot-bridges or underpasses in the city.

Tak, the case of the foot-bridge at Hotel Elysium point. The bridge costs us Tk 23 lakh while we had to pay DESA Tk 26 lakh as compensation to remove the overhead cables," a source in the DCC said. The construct the nine foot-bridges, some 1.28 crore taka was drained out from DCC coffers.

The DCC will soon start building a link-bridge between the PG Hospital and the BIRDEM hospital. The bridge will be covered with fibre sheets, the source said.

The twenty foot-bridges have been planned at Syedabad intersection, Gulistan Golap Shah Mazar point, Nawabpur-Johnson Road intersection, North Road, Fakirpore Bazar, Nilkhet-Babupura Market, Babshabo Moar, Kakrai Road crossing, Science Laboratory-Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi Boy's School point, Mohammadpur Town Hall point, Tongi diversion-Sat Rasta point, Pragati Swarni Badda, Joar Sahara crossing, and Rajluxmi Complex crossing. The following five bridges will be built soon: Shaheed School-Old Airport Road point, Kalyanpur Bus Stand, Shaorapara Bus Stand, Mirpur No 1 crossing and Mirpur No 10 crossing.

## Ershad

From Page 1

"Being heir to our predecessors, we have to fight on the basis of Bangladeshi nationalism for economic emancipation of the country as well as social progress," he told the meeting.

The JP chief asked his party leaders and workers to forget all differences inside the organisation and prepare for achieving a landslide victory in the next election.

A total of 26 presidium members, out of 32, attended the two-hour meeting at Asatic Printers Bhawan in the city in the evening.

Ershad expressed his gratitude to the party workers for their struggle in the last six years. He specially thanked Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury for running the party in his absence.

The JP chairman also paid respect to those who sacrificed their lives to realise the demands for his freedom and caretaker government.

Cold wave

From Page 1

gripped Sylhet, Mymensingh and Khulna regions.

Our Khulna Correspondent says, mercury fell to 7.8 degree Celsius. The sky remained overcast with deep cloud and icy experienced dizzles pouring normal life till afternoon. Chilly wind turned the situation worse.

Sky in Sylhet was cloudy and severe cold wind forced the people to remain indoors for the whole day.

## Salda gas

From Page 1

the Salda exploratory well from July 19 last year and confirmed existence of the gas reserve after drilling up to a depth of 2511 metres. The budget of this exploration was around Tk 30 crore. Salda is the 20th gas field of the country.

Bangladesh now has a proved reserve of around 11 trillion cubic feet of gas.

Depotees

From Page 1

ter paying Tk 1,20,000 to a manpower agent.

"But I was forced to work in a workshop as my sponsor did not provide me with a job as driver," said Kader.

Kader alleged that many Saudis were engaged in 'visa-business' exploiting the workers through fake documents.

Another deportee, Mizanur Rahman, 45, narrating almost a similar tale said, "I don't think the laws now in force in Saudi Arabia are in favour of us".

Rahman went to Saudi Arabia in September last year after buying a service visa from a travel agency in Dhaka in exchange for Tk one lakh.

Another returnee, Shah Alam, 32, who hails from Barura of Comilla district said, he had gone to Saudi Arabia with a visa of a salesman, but his sponsor could not provide him with the job.

The sponsor allowed him to work elsewhere, he said.

The deportees alleged that they were given low quality food during the journey.

When some deportees protested, the staff of the ship beat them mercilessly, they alleged.