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Students of a city school and their guardians brought out a procession yesterday demanding eradication of mosquito from the city.

Deng passes away

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revolutionary, statesman, military strategist and diplomat, and a long-tested communist fighter, the chief architect of China's socialist reforms, opening up and modernisation drive, and the founder of the theory of building socialism with Chinese characteristics.

Comrade Deng Xiaoping was among the earliest CPC members and activists. During the First Civil Revolutionary War he was first in charge of political work in the revolutionary army in northwest China. Later, he went to Wuhan, where he participated in the urgent meeting of the CPC Central Committee, namely, the August 7 Meeting (of 1927), at which the policy of waging armed struggles against the Kuomintang reactionaries was adopted.

During the Second Civil Revolutionary War, he launched and led the base and Longzhou Uprisings, founding the Seventh Army and the Eighth Army of the Red Army and the Youjiang and Zuojiang

revolutionary bases. After arriving in the central revolutionary base, he was dismissed from his post by the then left leaders within the party for supporting the comrade Mao Zedong's correct line. Later, he went to work in the Red Army General Political Department, and participated in the Long March, during which he attended the enlarged meeting of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, i.e. the Zunyi meeting, which is of great significance as a turning point in the party history.

During the war of resistance against Japanese aggression, together with comrade Lin Bocheng, he led troops in founding the Shansi-Hebei-Henan Revolutionary Base and other revolutionary bases, and served as the Political Commissar of the 129th division and the secretary of the Taihang sub-bureau of the north China Bureau of the CPC Central Committee.

Later, he served as the Acting Secretary of the North China Bureau and took charge of the work of the headquarters of the Eighth Route Army, shouldering the heavy task of leading the anti-Japanese base areas behind the enemy lines in North China. He was elected a member of the CPC Central Committee at the party's Seventh National Congress.

Rule Nisi

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should not be declared to have been made without lawful authority.

According to a press release issued by Ramzan Ali Sikder, Advocate on record for Mr. Khan, the showcause notice was served on his client on February 3 under the government Servants (Discipline and Appeal) rules, 1955.

The petitioner said the rules have no manner of application to him as he did not fall within the definition of "government servant" because he had been in the service of the Bangladesh Bank.

The Division Bench also stayed the operation of the show cause order for four weeks.

Earlier, Mahbubur Rahman was made an OSD on charge of misusing his authority in granting licences to a number of financial institutions. Dr. Kamal Hossain, Dr. M. Zahir along with Advocate Ramzan Ali Sikder appeared for the petitioner.

Severe punishment

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ers, Jahanara Khan, Mahmuda Shawgat, Tahura Ali, Jannatul Ferdous, Hosne Ara Wahid and Syeda Jebunessa — all MPs — Dr. Kamal Hossain, Maleka Begam, Salma Sobhan and Sultana Kamal.

The suggested amendment redefined the meaning of 'court' saying a court would mean a special tribunal formed under this act or a sessions judge's court. This broadens provisions for carrying out trials which are, under the current act, carried out only under special tribunal.

It proposed some choices for the judges for punishing the guilty under this act. Section 6 (2) of the present law only provides for death sentence to the guilty for killing of women and children during or after rape. The proposed amendment now adds a choice — life imprisonment.

"If the judge is given more than one choice (for the verdict), he would be less hesitant in completing the trial," noted Amirul Islam.

The Nari Samaj draft further adds that if a person incites or helps somebody in committing crimes punishable under this act, he would be given 10 years imprisonment. It also allows under-trial accused to get bail. The current act does not allow the accused to get bail during the prescribed period for the investigation into the case.

"Denying a bail deprives the accused of human rights," noted Amirul Islam.

The proposed amendment says that a special tribunal should be consisted of a judge and a sessions judge having at least two years of experience.

Kibria tells JS Provision of capital transfer approved by previous govt

By Staff Correspondent

Finance Minister S A M S Kibria told the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday that capital transfer by investors from the share markets is a normal phenomenon.

Replying to a question of Jatiya Party MP Fazle Rabbi, the Finance Minister said, provision of capital transfer was approved by the previous government and any portfolio investors can take away the profit from the share market.

He said, taking away profit from the capital market cannot be dubbed as siphoning off money.

Fazle Rabbi had earlier drawn the minister's attention to alleged siphoning off of taka from the Dhaka bourse and expressed his concern whether the same would happen in the case of the National Stock Exchange.

Ekushey '97 Newspapers played significant role in all democratic movements

By Staff Correspondent

The newspapers of the country have played a very significant role in our democratic movements, said Prof. Shahkhat Ali Khan in the city yesterday.

He was presenting the keynote paper at a lecture session on "Panchisat Baharer Bangladesh" (Fifty Years of Bangladesh) organised by the Bangladesh Academy of Letters.

Abul Monem and Muhammad Jahangir took part in the discussion presided over by Rahat Khan.

The newspapers have also played a very important role in ensuring the freedom of speech, Prof. Khan said.

But the right to the freedom of speech is not yet fully established, he said adding "a free press cannot be ensured until democracy is established in every tier of society."

Rahat Khan said, the newspaper is the fourth pillar of the state. A society without a newspaper cannot be thought of, he said.

The lecture session was followed by a musical soiree. Rezwana Chowdhury Banna, Sadi Mohammad and Papia Sarwar took part in the musical session.

Today's lecture session will be on "Panchisat Baharer Bangladesh" (Fifty Years of Bangladesh).

Telecom minister

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Post and Telecommunications Ministry had requested the 400 former MPs in writing to pay their telephone bills.

Of them, Md. Ali Jinnah, a former BNP MP of the fifth Parliament owes the highest amount of Tk 16,52,717 while Md. Shamsuddin, an ex-ALP MP of the same parliament, owes the lowest amount of Tk 1,027.

UNB adds: Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury of Jatiya Party also owed to the T&T over Tk 16 lakh.

According to the list, former Prime Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed owes over Tk 9 lakh, Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed Tk 2,45 lakh, Law Minister Abul Matin Khasru Tk 1.11 lakh, State Minister for Land, Rashid Mosharraf Tk 1.61 lakh, State Minister for LGED Syed Abul Hossain Tk 43,575, State Minister for Shipping Dharendra Devnath Shambhu Tk 1.3 lakh, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury Tk 2.47 lakh, Chief Whip Abul Hasanat Abdullah Tk 3.77 lakh and former MP Rashid Khan Menon of Workers Party Tk 98,022.

Former State Minister Redwan Ahmed owes Tk 4.2 lakh, Sardar Anwar Hossain Tk 2.76 lakh, Dr. Fazle Rabbi Tk 5.32 lakh, Abu Lais Mohd Mobin Chowdhury Tk 4.67 lakh, Amnaullah Khan Tk 5.9 lakh, Abdullahi Wajed Tk 8.71 lakh and Mirza Azam Tk 3.46 lakh.

Deputy Speaker Abdul Hamid who was in the chair frankly admitted that he also owes to the T&T. However, his amount is very small compared with others, which is Tk 40,704.

According to the list, most of the defaulting MPs owe over Tk one lakh to the T&T Board.

ADP target

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cause of seasonal reasons the rate of ADP implementation is normally somewhat slow in the first six months, but the rate is much faster than that of the January-June period.

The amount spent in the first six months included Tk 2,452 crore local currency and project aid of Tk 1775 crore. The total amount of local currency released during the period is Tk 2,915 crore which is 40 per cent of the total amount allocated for the ADP.

The amount spent during the first six months is three per cent higher than that of the corresponding period of the last fiscal year (1995-96).

The Daily Star

Leaders of GF, left groups join AL

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said political stability and harmony are essential for accelerating economic activities and ensuring economic emancipation of the people, reports UNB.

"Our politics is for the welfare of the people, their economic freedom and for national development," she said while addressing a function at the Engineers' Institute in the afternoon.

The function was organised to welcome several thousand leaders and workers of the Gano Forum, and of some left political groups who formally joined the ruling Awami League.

Former Gano Forum leaders Shamsuddin, Shekhar Dutta, Nuh-ul-Alam Lenin, Kamal Haider, advocate Mahbub-e-Alam, Dr. Kazi Rahim, H. H. Moulvi Chowdhury and Shamsunahar Bhuiyan, former MP Muhammad Shahidullah, labour leader Muhibullah, railway trade union leader Mohammad Nawab Ali, youth leader B A Rashid and student leader Pathik Saha joined the party at the function.

Leaders and workers of Gano

Forum and Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) from across the country attended the function to express their allegiance to the Awami League.

Hasina cautioned that vested quarters were hatching conspiracy so that the country could not make economic progress and the people could not raise their head with dignity and honour.

Welcoming the newcomers to the party, the Awami League President said: "You have come to the right track. Now you will get the real scope to join the struggle for economic development of the people, the struggle for building the nation."

Ravi Sankar arrives Feb 24

Renowned sitarist Pundit Ravi Sankar will arrive in Dhaka on February 24 on a four-day visit to Bangladesh, an official handout said yesterday, reports BSS.

He will perform sitar recitals in the Osmani Memorial Hall and Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on February 26 and 27 respectively.

Decision on projects now quicker Bureaucratic interference has reduced: Japan

The present government takes quick decision on projects financed with Japanese assistance compared to its predecessor, Shushe Takashahi, a minister at the Japanese Embassy has said.

Takashahi was briefing a press team which visited some Japanese aided projects in Dhaka and Chittagong on February 17 and 18. The tour was organised by the Japanese Embassy.

"Interference from the bureaucracy which earlier used to delay the decision making process has now been reduced. But the decisions at times are taken drastically," he said.

He, however, said, "visible changes in the implementation of the projects are yet to be noticed."

Takashahi said Japan is ready to provide more assistance to Bangladesh if it can utilise those. "Japan considers that it has obligations to the people of Bangladesh."

He appreciated decision-making process of the present government and cited the Chittagong airport project as an example. "We could not make it

under the previous regime but the present regime is sympathetic towards the project."

He said that the present government is giving due importance to the meetings with representatives of various donor agencies. In the past, sometimes meetings were cancelled even after fixing the schedule, he added.

The ECNEC meeting is now being presided over by the Prime Minister herself which was never done earlier," he added.

The ECNEC, during the previous government's rule, also rejected some of the Japanese aided projects for which Bangladesh had earlier sent formal requests to the government of Japan, Takashahi said.

Representative of the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) of Japan Odajima, representative of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Morimasa Kanamaru, second secretary of the Embassy of Japan Yoichi Yamauchi and Information Attache, Mayu Hagiwara were also present during the briefing.

Japan is the biggest donor to Bangladesh.

Regional cooperation

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generated enthusiasm for sub-regional cooperation.

The minister described Bangladesh and northeastern parts of India as poorer parts of the region and said there was tremendous scope for mutual cooperation.

Kibria, who formerly served as executive director of ESCAP, said the organisation had promoted the ideas of developing regional cooperation in different areas, including the Asian Highway and Asian Railway.

Abul Hasan Chowdhury said that the proposed sub-regional cooperation would bolster co-operation between Bangladesh and the bordering Indian states to attain a sustainable economic development and it would in no way harm the SAARC spirit.

In the first working session on "Overview and Perspectives of Interactions Across the Borders", four papers were presented. The first paper was on "An Overview of Bangladesh-India Relations" by Dr. Shaikat Hassan of the Institute of Development Studies, North South University, Dhaka.

Dr. Shaikat felt that common strategic requirements of Bangladesh and India led to the signing of the 25-year Friendship Treaty. He also said that the Awami League government which advocated establishing socialism and secularism could not effectively es-

tablish the linkage and failed to market the ideals.

"We now have another opportunity to re-shape the relations with India after a gap of several years," he said.

Dr. Paula Banerjee of Calcutta University called for setting up 'binational institutions'. Binational groups could cut across unwarranted apprehensions that characterise South Asian politics and could explore issues like transit facilities "which were essential in terms of economic interests of both countries," she observed.

Dr. Paula said, "Suspicion makes it problematic to grant transit facilities through Bangladesh territory or from the port of Chittagong to north-eastern states of India."

Prof. Barun De and Dr. Ranabir Samaddar of Maulana Abul Kalam Institute of Asian Studies, Calcutta, in their paper on "A note on complexities of sub-regional dialogue", said that the Farakka accord spirit should be followed by greater communication interlinkages across the sub-region. It observed: "Vulnerable to any internal agitation or insurgency which is tempted to seek to cut communication between the Indian corals of the Hindustani Gangetic plains and its northwest, makes revival of speed navigation now running from Calcutta to Haldia — an interim solution to West Bengal-Bangladesh trade linkage."

Speaker's appeal

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as a contempt of the Chair."

At this stage, Humayun Rashid Chowdhury said that there was no reason for him to review the ruling he had given the day before.

However, Prof. Chowdhury further said that the BNP members did not demand resignation of the Speaker. "But you yourself had said that you would resign if you cannot substantiate the ruling concerned. We hope you will act according to the statement you made," he went on.

The speaker said "it is noticed with much pains that some of the honourable members are often found devoid of common sense and hurling filthy words at the Speaker. Some of the members yesterday (Tuesday) uttered such words about me which were far from the standard of being mentioned even in a gentlemen's gathering, not to speak of the parliament, he added.

In this regard, the Speaker urged all concerned to refrain from such conduct in future and said defamation of the elected Speaker tantamounts to 'defamation of you all'.

The Chair of the Speaker is the symbol of unity of the parliament, i.e. the country, i.e. the people, and the Speaker, no matter that Humayun Rashid

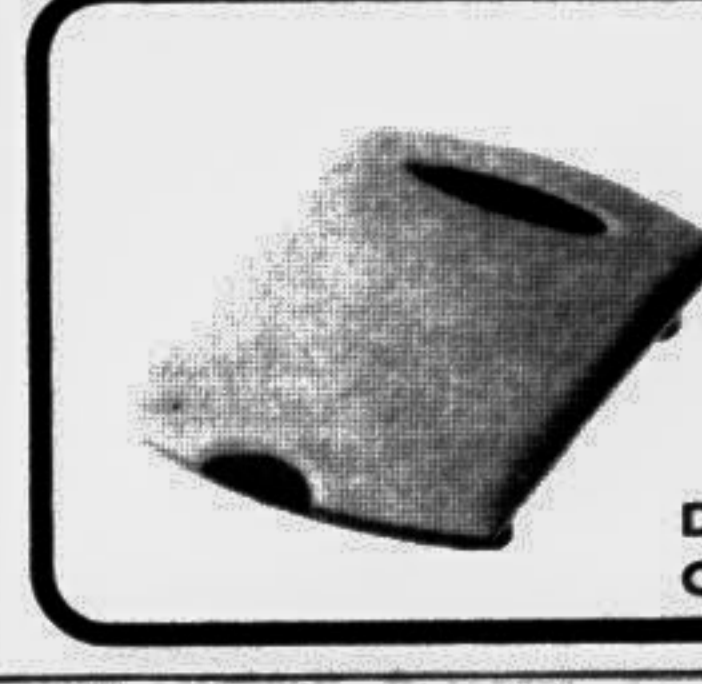
Chowdhury is now in the Chair, represents 330 MPs or the 12 crore people, he said. Insulting the Speaker is insulting the whole nation, he noted.

"I hereby remind all that parliament is not a place to quarrel. It's the examination hall for the politicians. Since the whole nation and the world community keep vigilance on the House, we all must be aware of maintaining its dignity so that the electorate gets the impression that their representatives are educated, gentle, dignified, honourable, courteous and cultured," the Chair said.

Reminding the lawmakers of their sacred duties to the voters, Humayun Rashid Chowdhury pointed out that the elected representatives of the people should evolve measures for public welfare.

"People always expect responsible behaviour from their representatives.... It is bound to be suicidal for the nation if we're locked in mud-slinging in the House."

Mentioning that each and every word in the House is spread all over the world by virtue of technological advancement, the Speaker advised all to keep in mind that their words might undermine the dignity of parliament and its members.

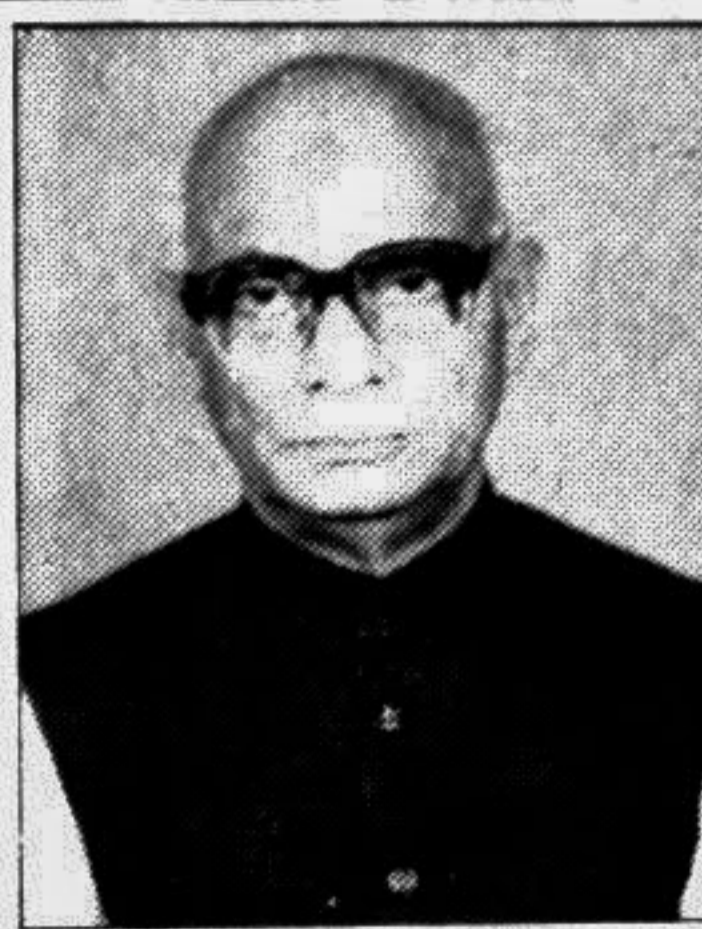


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PHILIPS



Syed Yahya Bakht dead

Syed Yahya Bakht, a renowned jute expert of the country, died of lung cancer at a city clinic here last night. He was 69.

He left behind his wife, three daughters, a son, and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

His namaj-e-janaja will be held at 9:30 am today at New Mansion 'Isphani' Colony, Magbazar in the city.

His son Syed Yameen Bakht is the Joint News Editor of The Daily Star.

I was always first class first, says Kibria

By Staff Correspondent

Finance Minister S A M S Kibria yesterday wondered how many persons of his calibre were there in Parliament while an opposition member reminded him that one claiming himself to be a great man was not really a great one.

While replying to the Opposition criticism that some of his wrong steps contributed to the recent crash of the country's share market, Kibria, a technocrat minister of Sheikh Hasina's cabinet remarked, "How many persons are there in this House who can match my level of knowledge about economics and experience?"

In this regard Kibria informed the House that he secured first class first positions while doing his graduation and masters in Economics and stood first in the Central Civil Service examination in the then Pakistan.

Quoting newspaper reports, M K Anwar said that the Finance Minister himself had admitted that he did not understand the capital market.

On the said newspaper reports, Kibria said that some reporters had misquoted him. "I only said that I do not understand the mode of operation of the share market in which a share certificate worth Taka one hundred is being sold or bought by Taka twenty thousand," the minister claimed.

In reply, M K Anwar of BNP said that whatever the Finance Minister had said in the House about his past success, was true. "But the minister should accept the reality of life, which perhaps all of us know, that success in one field may not help bringing in success in another field."

Removal of RU VC: Showcause on govt

By SC Correspondent

The High Court Division in two separate writ petitions yesterday directed the government to show cause within two weeks as to why the removal of Prof. Dr. Yousuf Ali from the office of the Vice-Chancellor of Rajshahi University and cancellation of nominations of Prof. M. Amirul Islam and Syed Monzur Hossain as BNP MP and the nomination of Senior Assistant Secretary of the Ministry of Education and that of Mohammad Mohsin as members of the Syndicate of the university should not be declared to have been made without lawful authority and are of no legal effect.

No classes and examinations were held and all offices on the campus remained closed. ICS activists also brought out a procession.

The ICS will hold a protest rally at 10 am tomorrow.

Shibir enforces strike at RU

From RU Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Feb 19: The Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) Rajshahi University Unit, enforced a day-long strike on the campus today protesting the removal of Prof. M. Yousuf Ali from the office of the Vice-Chancellor.

No classes and examinations were held and all offices on the campus remained closed. ICS activists also brought out a procession.

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SEC bills

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ment) Bill 1997, was passed by voice vote in amended form.

The BNP lawmakers who staged walkout on Tuesday returned to the House when the process of passing of the second bill began. It was also passed by voice vote in amended form.

Proposals for further amendments, sending the bills to select committee for seeking public elicitation — excepting two amendment proposals by M K Anwar — were also rejected by the House.

Earlier, a special committee to scrutinise bills, headed by Advocate Rahmat Ali of ruling Awami League, had proposed certain changes in the original bills.

The urban poor are the artisans who develop cities and in the interest of civic needs the should be arrangements for their living in urban centres. We should have a positive attitude towards them," Dr. Ahmed, who is also the executive director of Proshika, an NGO, told a workshop in the city yesterday.

The two-day workshop on 'Exchange of Experience on Urban Poverty Alleviation by NGOs and Immediate Action Plan', was arranged by the Coalition for the Urban Poor (CUP) at the auditorium of the Local Government Engineering Directorate (LGED) at Agargaon.

Dr. Nazrul Islam, Professor of Geography of Dhaka University presented the keynote paper on the 'Urban Poverty, Government Policy and its implications on NGOs in Bangladesh'.

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