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Traffic jam on the Biswa Road near Kamalapur station in the city has become a common sight. — Star photo

5 killed, 15 injured in road accidents

Five people were killed and 15 others injured in separate road accidents in Narsingdi, Bandarban and Jamalpur yesterday, reports UNB.

Two people, one of them a schoolboy, were killed and 10 people injured in separate road accidents on Dhaka-Sylhet highway in Narsingdi yesterday.

Police said a Dhaka-bound bus skidded off the road at Amtala in Shibpur thana at about 1:30 pm while trying to save a rickshaw, leaving an unidentified bus passenger dead on the spot and 10 others injured.

Five of the injured were admitted to sadar hospital while the rest given first aid.

In another incident, Sohag, a student of primary school was crushed under the wheels of a Dhaka-bound truck at 2 pm in Dhalanagar area of the town.

Protesting the accident, local students put up barricade on the Dhaka-Sylhet highway, disrupting traffic for nearly two hours.

Later, they removed the barricade after the district administration gave them assurance of taking action against the people concerned.

In Bandarban, one person was killed and five others were injured when a wood-laden truck plunged into a ditch by breaking the railings of a bridge at Khansamapara in Sadar thana early yesterday.

Fire Brigade sources said the accident occurred at about 5 am when the truck (Dhaka Metro No-7829) was going to Keranihat from Roanghchari thana.

The deceased was identified as Mohammad Yunus of Ramu thana. The body was sent to the hospital morgue for autopsy.

The injured identified as Badrul Alam, Bimal Barua, Mosaddeq, Kabir Ahmed and Jamaluddin, were admitted to the Sadar Hospital.

A case was filed with the police.

Two promising girl athletes of the town were killed when a speeding truck knocked down a rickshaw near Jamalpur district bus terminal yesterday.

Police said Soma, 17, a student of Deldia Senior Madrasa and Labony, 16, a class VIII student of Iqbalpur Girls' High School died on the spot when the truck hit the rickshaw at about 12:45 pm.

They were returning home from their friend's house at Mongalpur village in the Sadar thana.

Khaleda's public rally at Noakhali today

BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia will address a public meeting at Noakhali Zilla School ground today, reports UNB.

Party central leaders will accompany the BNP Chairperson, said a press release.

Alleged child trafficker assaulted

By DMC Correspondent

A group of people assaulted a young woman suspecting her to be a child trafficker at Kalabagan near Green Road in the city yesterday afternoon.

The woman identified as Rita, 25, came under attack as she reportedly entered a house and later went to the second floor. She was rescued by the police who took her to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), police and hospital sources said.

Pol Pot

From page 1

Veng

The comments from the general followed earlier conflicting reports about Pol Pot. The notorious Khmer Rouge leader has long been the object of rumours, including those that said he was dead.

Investment Corporation of Bangladesh Notice

This is for the information of the valued investors of ICB Unit Certificates that those who intend to invest their dividend income for the Financial Year 1996-97 under Cumulative Investment Plan (CIP) should apply in the prescribed application form/in plain paper by 30th June, 1997 positively to Corporation's offices and authorised Bank Branches. Those who applied for CIP earlier need not apply again and the holders who intend to cancel CIP may apply in plain paper within the stipulated time.

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FM tells JS SAARC leaders welcomed sub-regional cooperation

By Staff Correspondent

Discussion is on to form a sub-regional cooperation grouping comprising Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Bhutan within the framework of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad said this in the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday while responding to question from Prof Shahidul Islam of BNP.

He said that at the ninth summit of SAARC in Male, heads of states and governments of the seven member-countries had welcomed specific project-based sub-regional co-operation under articles seven and ten of the SAARC charter.

Bangladesh and Nepal had proposed the formation of such sub-regional grouping at the 17th meeting of SAARC ministers' council, held in December last in New Delhi, the foreign minister added.

On a written question from Dabirul Islam (AL-Thakurgaon), Azad said the government has no plan at the moment to introduce a special visa system to facilitate the citizens to visit the SAARC countries.

However, all the SAARC states have been implementing the SAARC Visa Exemption Scheme introduced in March 1992. Distinguished personalities, including MPs and judges of the Supreme Court, are enjoying the facility, he said.

The minister informed that as per the decision taken by the SAARC Council of Ministers at its 18th meeting at Male recently, personalities of 21 specific categories have been brought under the scheme. "The area of the scheme is expanding every year."

Samad Azad also informed the Jatiya Sangsad that expenditures on Bangladesh Missions abroad during the first nine months of the current fiscal amounted to Tk 73 crore 31 lakh and 70 thousand.

KCC official assaulted by commissioner

KHULNA, June 22: A senior official of Khulna City Corporation (KCC) was assaulted by a Ward Commissioner today, reports UNB.

Witnesses said Ward Commissioner Miah Mujibur Rahman attacked Chief Executive Officer M Mahbubul Alam following an altercation over appointment of KCC assistant cashiers.

The commissioner alleged that the executive officer had given appointment to the posts, ignoring the list prepared by an interview board six months back.

Meanwhile, the KCC officials and employees condemned the attack and held a protest meeting.

Sabur

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acts and heroin-trading in Dhalpur city Pally area.

The other arrested were identified as Mohammad Ali, Mizan, Anwar Hossain, Abdul Barek, Ramjan Ali, Raihanuddin Mollah alias Ripon and Milon.

The injured DB officials are Inspector Matiar Rahman, SIS M Shahjahan, Abdur Rab, M Nurul Alam and M Hayatul Islam Thakur, said a DMP press release.

Meanwhile, Ramna police in an operation at T & T Colony on Saturday night arrested four terrorists and recovered some arms and ammunition.

The recovered arms and ammunition included three foreign-made revolvers, a single-barrel gun, 21 revolver bullets and five cartridges of rifle.

The arrested were identified as Jasimuddin, Kishor Ahmed, Kamaluddin and Habib Mia.

The Daily Star

Monno authorities allege 400 armed people stormed factory

By Staff Correspondent

The police have taken necessary steps to restore normal life in and around the Monno Ceramic Industries Ltd at Dhamrai, which was stormed allegedly by terrorists Saturday morning.

A senior police official last night said, a large contingent of police has been deployed in the area to maintain law and order. The ceramic factory resumed functioning yesterday, he said.

However, the factory authorities could not be contacted for comment.

Following the incident, the Monno factory authorities in a written statement said, a gang of about 400 armed people attacked the factory and seriously injured a number of senior factory officials, including a manager and an electrical engineer. The attackers damaged and looted valuable machinery, raw materials and finished goods. They destroyed official documents, telephones, the fax machine, computer machines, and office furniture.

They also alleged that the gang attacked the bungalows of the senior factory officials and looted furniture, television, refrigerators, gold ornaments, money and other valuable goods. They claimed the rampage which lasted about five hours, took place in the presence of the police.

According to Monno authorities, the factory came under attack after the management announced indefinite closure of the factory at about 7.45 am Saturday. Earlier in the morning, the authorities had served notices to workers who stopped working.

The authorities termed the work abstention as illegal and warned the workers that they would be forced to shut down the factory if such a situation continued, the Monno statement said. They alleged that the workers stopped their work as some ad hoc committee members, suspended by the trade union, provoked them.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Ceramic Wares Manufacturers Association in a statement yesterday urged the government to arrest the persons involved in the attack on the Monno Ceramics.

The Bangladesh Chamber of Industries has also expressed deep concern over the incident and demanded the government take steps to stop the recurrence of such incidents in future.

Progress in Indo-Pak talks

MURREE (Pakistan), June 22: The Pakistan-India talks on normalising ties made considerable progress here today and the two sides were close to a successful conclusion, leaders of both delegations said, reports AFP.

"We are very close to a final agreement which will emerge in the form of a joint statement," Pakistani Foreign Secretary Shamshad Ahmed said after a six-hour session in this hill resort near Kashmir state.

"We will have a closing session late tonight," he added.

Asked about his earlier statement in the morning that it would be a make-or-break session, Ahmed said: "We have made it. We have not broken it."

Indian Foreign Secretary Salman Haider said the two sides had worked hard and "made considerable progress."

Suppl budget passed

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on eight cut motions. The Chair then applied certain provisions of the Rules of Procedure of the Jatiya Sangsad to quash the remaining cut motions.

While discussing the cut motions, the BNP legislators were especially vocal against the grants sought for government officials. They were also very critical of other grants, particularly the grants for the finance ministry. A number of BNP legislators, however, appreciated the 'sincerity' of the Law Minister and the Agriculture Minister. On the performances of the Home Minister, the opposition MPs observed that he was a 'sincere person' but it seemed that he could not discharge his responsibilities properly due to 'party pressure'.

The issue of share market scam and order, crisis in industrial sector, export and import and allocation for new pay scale also came up for discussion, mainly participated by BNP lawmakers.

BNP's Ziaul Huq Zia said despite absence of political unrest during the last one year, export import showed a downward trend. "If BNP did not do good, why Awami League also will not do it?" he questioned.

Prof Shahidul Islam of the same party raised the issue of share market scam and criticised the government for handling the crisis inefficiently.

Chief Whip Abul Hasnat Abdullah said the opposition members were engaged in making personal attacks on ministers using unpleasant words and urged the Speaker to expunge those.

Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury assured the Chief Whip that all the unparliamentary words will be expunged.

Major (ret) Akhtaruzzaman of BNP said they were not making personal attacks on ministers. "Ministers are not only persons. They are institutions. So, if necessary, we must speak against them and this is why we've come here."

Finance Minister Shah A M S Kibria said this year export growth was 14 per cent. It might have been better if there were no wrongdoings in the past, he said, referring to the issuance of fake GSP certificates under the previous government.

Kibria said the duty drawback procedure has been simplified to facilitate export. The nation witnessed such a large scale corruption in the last five years, that never happened in the past, he added.

The government has introduced self assessment procedure for income tax and corporate tax as a 'revolutionary reform' and withdrawal of new taxes in the proposed budget.

Bhuiyan said the Awami League government has completely failed in all sectors during its one-year rule.

Terming the government anti-people, the BNP secretary general said the government has done nothing for the welfare of commonman.

Instead, the government has increased the price of fertiliser and imposed new taxes and surcharge in the proposed budget, he said, adding that people of all walks of life would be affected if the budget is adopted without withdrawing anti-people measures.

Bhuiyan said the economy of the country has already been ruined due to subservient policy of the Awami League government. A large number of people became paupers after the slide in the stock and leather markets, he added.

He called upon all to rally round BNP to raise their voice against the "subservient and destructive" activities of the government.

Later, Mannan Bhuiyan led a huge procession which paraded the main roads in Badda and Gulshan.

Sangsad snippets

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lowing the PM's return from the United States," he said.

But he added, he was later told by the PM's office "Winter is over. What will you do with the blankets now? You better apply for fans."

Speaking on his cut-motions on additional allocations sought by Finance Minister SAMS Kibria in the 1996-97 supplementary budget, BNP deputy Ziaul Huq Zia told the Prime Minister, "We wish you stay in power for five years. But I warn you the finance minister won't let you complete the term. Unlike Kibria (a technocrat minister), you've travelled across the country and you know people's sentiment. They won't accept the load of fresh taxes. "Please get rid of him because there are agitations and hardships ahead. Otherwise, you'll have to pay dearly."

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, while replying to cut-motions moved by the Opposition MPs against his proposal for additional allocations, remarked, "During her visit to the burning Magurchhara gasfield, Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia did not go close to the gasfield fearing she might catch fire."

Referring to BNP lawmaker Mashur Rahman's allegation that the fire is the outcome of an Indian conspiracy, Samad Azad advised, "Don't play with fire. It will endanger you."

Despite repeated requests from Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury to shorten his deliberation, the foreign minister continued to blast the Opposition members. When he concluded his speech, the Speaker

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PHILIPS

Allocation for defence sector not enough, says Jamaat

By Staff Correspondent

Jamaat-e-Islami has criticised the proposed budget for 1997-98 for 'not giving proper attention' to the defence sector and demanded more allocation for strengthening and modernising the armed forces.

Addressing a press conference at the party central office yesterday, Jamaat Ameer Goum Azam said that the allocation for defence sector in the proposed budget was not enough. The number of armed forces personnel compared to the total population of the country is still less than that in the neighbouring countries, he added.

The Jamaat chief, criticised the new budget proposals for imposing various taxes on different items including medical equipment and motor parts, "squeezing" allocation for the education sector and suggesting 'mass privatisation'.

He said the new budget lacked any direction for the economic emancipation of the people.

Other Jamaat leaders including its Secretary General Moulana Motiur Rahman Nizami, Naeb-e-Ameer Abbas Ali Khan, Yusuf Ali, Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed, Kamruzzaman and Abdul Kader Molla were present at the press conference.

Reviewing the budget proposals, the Jamaat Ameer said it seemed that all governments policies relating to tax, investment, industry and business were formulated to please a neighbouring country and earn instant popularity.

Ershad's passport

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is yet to decide when he will leave the country for his treatment abroad."

After his release on January 9 the JP chief had requested for the return of his passport through the cabinet division and the parliament secretariat.

The parliament secretariat observed that permission from the court was required prior to the issuance of the passport to him as he was accused in a number of cases and that he was granted bail by the court.

Ershad's request was sent to the Law Ministry, which observed that he could be granted all the facilities permissible under law to a former president. It, however, also observed that permission from the Prime Minister was required prior to granting such facilities.

BNP: Agitation

From page 1

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'AL ran show like previous govts'

Opposition leaders were critical of the one-year rule of the Awami League government, some of them saying that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has failed to fulfill people's expectation.

Talking to UNB, they vented frustrations about the government performance in the economic front and remarked that it ran the show mostly like the previous governments.

Jatiya Party leader Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury said although one year is not sufficient enough to assess the performance of a government it can be said that the gap between expectation and achievement is very high.

He said law and order, prices of essentials, sudden decision on two days' weekly holiday and above all, the annual budget placed in parliament created rooms for criticism of the government.

Chowdhury said though there are some achievements of the government, the fruits are yet to be seen.

President witnesses JS proceedings

President Shahabuddin Ahmed yesterday witnessed the proceedings of the Jatiya Sangsad, reports UNB.

The President stayed at the President's gallery for some time and listened to the deliberations on the supplementary budget for 1997-98 fiscal year.

DMP sends

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According to the report, Monir, who was all the time with Sharif since their arrest from the Prime Minister's Office, was also assaulted by Sharif at the court hayat.

The report mentioned six points that "contradicted each other." These are:

- * Sharif's lawyer in the bail prayer did not mention that he was injured.
- * Court did not find any assault sign while it received him at the hayat.
- * National Hospital physicians mentioned cardiac failure for the death.
- * No injury was reported in the surathal report prepared by the magistrate.
- * It is a mystery that the victim's wife took the body from Mitford Hospital to DMCH morgue for autopsy.
- * The co-accused categorically said Sharif was not tortured in thana hayat by police.

A sub-inspector of Tejaogaon thana, Sakhawati, was suspended on Friday and closed to Rajbargh police line in connection with the death of the Biman crew allegedly following police torture.

He was the investigation officer of the case filed with Tejaogaon thana against Sharif and his associate Monir for their trespass on the Prime Minister's Secretariat on June 16.

Sharif along with Monir reportedly drove to the top-security PM office compound and went up to lobby number one at International Conference Centre without any prior permission.

They were later handed over to Tejaogaon police who brought them on two-day remand. Along with 19 people accused in other cases, they were sent to the CMM Court on June 16.

The court granted bail to Sharif and Monir. But in the afternoon police rushed Sharif to nearby National Hospital where attending doctors declared him dead.

Gasfield fire

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bangla and officials concerned of the forest and environment ministry and railway also attended the meeting.

The Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources directed the authorities concerned to immediately rehabilitate the railway tracks, control the situation and stop further deterioration of the situation.

The chairman of Petrobangla said the severity of fire has further reduced today. The flame, was now limited to 50 to 60 feet, he said.

He said the intensity of fire would gradually reduce and the process of rehabilitation of railway tracks would soon be started.

Hasina

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autocracy movement, and conveying greetings to the people, the Prime Minister said, the objectives of the present government was to ensure political stability in the country to build a society free from hunger and poverty.

On completion of the one-year of her government, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will appear in a live television programme tonight and entertain questions from the audience.

Ruling AL will also hold a public rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club this afternoon. Sheikh Hasina is scheduled to address the rally.

Earth summit

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adopted by consensus. In addition, a key concrete proposal for a global tax on airline fuel to help finance sustainable development — is opposed by the United States and Japan.

Lubricant

From page 1

said that the Petroleum Act needed amendment to completely deregulate import of base oil and other types of fuel by the private sector.

BGMEA

Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association

7-9, Kawran Bazar, BTMC Bhaban, (Ground Floor) Dhaka

Mr. Mostafa Golam Quddus, President, BGMEA requests all European Buyers and their representatives residing in Bangladesh to attend a meeting at 1300 hours on 26 June, 1997 in the BGMEA conference room to give their views regarding cancellation of 6910 GSP cases under schedule-B of the report of the European Union Investigation Team and probable achievement of two-stage derogation.

The meeting will be followed by lunch.

Secretary

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