

We Make COMPUTER TRAINING
As easy as child's play and have been doing so for the last 14 years

Since 1973
কম্পিউটার লিঃ
THE COMPUTERS LIMITED

54, Inner Circular Road, Purnea Paltan Lane,
Dhaka-1000. Tel: 88091, 80787 Fax: 880-2,
83316 Email: aajcp@dhaka.apc.com

The Daily Star

MARBLE MARBLE MARBLE
WE HAVE HUGE READY STOCK OF
ITALIAN CARRARA, PERLATO SICILIA,
BOTTICINO, INDIAN KESSWARI GREEN,
MALAYSIAN AND PAKISTANI MARBLE
OF DIFFERENT TYPES.

NIRMAN INTERNATIONAL LTD.
199, TEJGAON I/A, DHAKA
TEL: 605957, 607363 SHOW ROOM: 861985

VOL. VII NO. 167 REGD. NO. DA 781 ASHAR 27 1404 BS. DHAKA FRIDAY, JULY 11, 1997 RABI-UL-AWAL 4 1418 HIJRI 12 PAGES REGULAR PLUS MAGAZINE: PRICE TAKA 9.00

Draft of FFYP placed before NEC

The draft of the Fifth Five Year Plan (1997-2002) was placed before the National Economic Council (NEC) in a meeting yesterday, reports UNB.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, presiding over the meeting at the NEC Bhaban, directed officials concerned to form an expert panel for a review of the draft plan from the viewpoint of sectoral experts, policymakers, economists as well as social reformers.

An Economic Affairs Committee headed by Cabinet Secretary will also examine the draft.

Both the expert panel and the committee will give their recommendations on the draft after an overall review for the consideration and finalisation of the FFYP within three months.

State Minister for Planning Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir presented the draft while Planning Secretary Dr Shah Mohammad Farid explained the plan's objectives and strategies.

Power Grid Co set up to manage distribution network

The government has formed a holding company, Power Grid Company of Bangladesh (PGCB), for efficient management of power distribution.

The purpose of the PGCB, set up last week, is to promote, develop, operate and maintain an integrated and efficient power transmission system in the country by gradually taking over the power distribution system from the Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDDB).

The Asia Development Bank (ADB) is financing the set up of PGCB, which has started functioning from

KCC Mayor quits BNP

From Staff Correspondent
KHULNA, July 10: Mayor Sheikh Tayebur Rahman has resigned from the primary membership of BNP on grounds of ill health.

In a message faxed to BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia, the mayor of the Khulna City Corporation expressed his inability to continue in BNP politics due to his physical condition. He mentioned in his resignation letter that it was quite difficult for him to do any party work in addition to his responsibilities as the city mayor.

Meanwhile, according to highly placed sources at the district and city BNP, the mayor will join the Awami League very soon.

When contacted, the former whip Ashraf Hossain confirmed the mayor's resignation from BNP.

Emergency meet of ALCWC today

An emergency meeting of the Awami League working committee will be held at Ganobhaban today at 7 pm, reports UNB.

Awami League President and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will preside over the meeting, said a press release.

BNP Standing Committee meets today

A meeting of the National Standing Committee of BNP will be held today at 29 Minto Road official residence of the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament at 8 pm, reports UNB.

BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia will preside over the meeting, said a press release.

Inside Today Article

Small is Important for the Economy

Column: Time and Tide
by Shah Hossain Imam
Page 4

Focus

Mars mission: 'Imager' is no ordinary camera; and Gajral and neighbours
Page 5

Business

Govt to go for financial reforms on priority basis: Kibria
DSE index posts modest gain
Pages 6, 7

Incessant rain: Rail links snapped Low-lying areas in 10 districts flooded

By Staff Correspondent

Low-lying areas in many districts went under water following incessant rain in most parts of the country yesterday.

Heavy rain and onrush of hill water snarled road links between Chittagong and Cox's Bazar, Sylhet and Gowainghat, and submerged 15 villages of Parshuram thana of the Feni district. Besides, low-lying areas in Chittagong, Bandarban, Khagrachhari, Sylhet, Netrokona, Rajshahi, Natore, Kurigram went under water due to heavy rain.

Normal life in Dhaka city was paralysed while Rajshahi had the record rainfall of 250 mm in the last 48 hours.

Met Office also forecast heavy to very heavy rainfall at

places over the country in the next 24 hours ending at 6 pm today.

Our Cox's Bazar Correspondent says, road link between Chittagong and Cox's Bazar was snapped yesterday as flood water destroyed three bridges on the highway. The bridges at Khota Khali, Dula Hazara and Eidgaon College were totally washed away.

Official said, 31 unions under five thanas were flooded affecting more than 70,000 inhabitants.

The district experienced 154 mm rain since 6 am Wednesday till 6 pm yesterday.

All roads and lanes of the town were virtually under water. Attendance at schools and

offices were very thin.

Officials said the onrush of hill water triggered by down-pour started to roll down on Wednesday night submerging 15 unions of Chokoria and 10 unions of Sadar and Ramu thanas.

The road communication of Chokoria thana with rest parts of the district was also snapped as water continued to surge at Mognama Hargang. Flood water was also rolling over the Badorkhali-Chiringa road.

According to the officials, water level in Matamuhuri continued to swell at Chakoria point and was flowing 82 cm above the danger mark.

People from affected villages

See Page 12 Col 7



The city experienced incessant rains for the second day yesterday. —Star photo

JS budget session prorogued Govt, Opposition hope to form standing bodies in next sitting

By Staff Correspondent

The budget session of the Jatiya Sangsad was prorogued yesterday.

Speaker Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury read out the prorogation order, issued by President Shahabuddin Ahmed, at 7:10 in the evening.

Prior to the prorogation, Deputy Leader of the House Zillur Rahman and Deputy Leader of the Opposition Prof Badruddoza Choudhury delivered their winding up speeches thanking all concerned for successful functioning of the House. Jatiya Party Whip Fazle Rabbi repeatedly tried in vain to draw the Chair's attention to allow him to give a speech on behalf of his party.

In their deliberations, both Zillur Rahman and B Choudhury expressed optimism about formation of the 35 parliamentary standing committees on different ministries in the next session of the House and hoped that the process of negotiation initiated to bury differences over committee formation would bring positive result.

They also noted that Post

and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim and Opposition Chief Whip Khan-Dakker Delwar Hussain had initiated a dialogue to resolve the problems over formation of standing committees.

The dispute centred proportionate distribution of committee membership.

The Deputy Leader of the Op-

position said, "We have heard that Treasury Bench is now willing to form standing committees accommodating our proposal for proportionate distribution. This is a good move. List of our nominees for these committees is ready."

In a similar spirit, the Deputy Leader of the House also said that negotiation initiated by the two leaders from the two sides would bring positive result and hoped that the standing committees would be formed in next session.

The just-concluded Sangsad session witnessed passage of the national budget for fiscal 1997-98, adoption of a resolution condemning the heinous Zionist act of blasphemy, passage of a bill on Biman security and sending of six private members' bills to the parliamentary special committee for scrutiny. Besides, discussions on the budget for 13 working days and on issues of national importance took place and some other businesses were transacted during the session that had begun

See Page 12 Col 3

By Nazmul Ashraf
"You are a professor. I'm lucky because I did not happen to be your student. Had I been so, I'm sure you would have given me very poor marks."

This is how Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury humorously reacted to Deputy Leader of the Opposition Prof AQM Badruddoza Choudhury's assessment of the Speaker's performance during the budget

See Page 12 Col 3

By Staff Correspondent



Bikash

Ashique Iqbal, another contractor, who was shot dead by gunmen near the PG Hospital recently.

His lawyer, Shahiduddin Manik told Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Habibur Rahman that police had tortured his client and his accomplices after arresting them on Wednesday.

The Detective Branch (DB) police arrested the 11 alleged accomplices of Bikash during a 90-hour special drive in and around the Dhaka metropolitan area. Police also recovered from

See Page 12 Col 8

Bikash on 6-day remand, 11 accomplices held

Detective police took Bikash, a notorious criminal in the city on a six-day remand yesterday. The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court granted the remand when he was produced before it yesterday.

Bikash was arrested from Narayanganj on Wednesday. Earlier, police announced a reward of Tk 25,000 for information leading to the arrest of Bikash who was on the run after police had started hunting him. Police announced a similar reward for the arrest of his brother, Prakash. The two brothers, who allegedly built up a network of criminals, extortionists and professional killers are wanted for a number of criminal cases filed with police. Prakash has still been absconding.

Police took Bikash on remand for interrogating him in connection with a double murder case lodged with Tejgaon thana.

He is allegedly concerned in the killing of Mamun and Shamim, two contractors, who were gunned down when they went to submit tenders at a PWD office at Mirpur earlier this year.

He is also accused of being involved in the murder of

HC upholds order for removal of AB Bank MD

A High Court division bench justified the order of removal of Abdur Rahim Chowdhury, the Managing Director of Arab Bangladesh Bank, by discharging a writ petition filed by him challenging the removal order, reports BSS.

The bench comprising Justice Mainur Reza Chowdhury and Justice MA Aziz pronounced this judgement yesterday. The court held that the order of removal was not illegal, but stayed the operation of the judgement for four days to provide an opportunity to the petitioner to file a leave to appeal in the Appellate Division.

Earlier on December 22, Bangladesh Bank removed Abdur Rahim Chowdhury from the post of chief executive director on the ground of irregularities in the distribution of loan to the Messrs Martial, a business house. Two days later, Chowdhury filed a writ petition challenging his removal order and the court issued rule nisi upon the government to show cause as to why the removal order should not be set aside and stayed the operation of the order till the hearing.

Attorney General Barrister KS Nabi moved for the government while Barrister Istiaque Ahmed and Barrister Rukun Uddin Mahmood appeared for the petitioner.

Body formed for demolition of illegal buildings

A four-member committee was formed yesterday for the demolition of illegal buildings and constructions built in different parts of the city violating Rajuk plans and rules, reports UNB.

The Ministry of Housing and Public Works formed the committee at a meeting held at Rajuk Bhaban with Post and Telecommunications and Works Minister Mohammad Nasim in the chair.

The meeting also held a discussion on implementation of the proposed Furbachal Housing Project.

Housing and Public Works Secretary MAM Zauddin, Rajuk chairman Humayun Khan and other high officials were present in the meeting.

SPA required for security of people, JS told

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Abdul Matin Khasru yesterday told the Jatiya Sangsad that the Special Powers Act (SPA) is required for the security of people and society in view of the changed behaviour and technique of miscreants, reports BSS.

The necessity for keeping in force the Special Powers Act for some more time is being felt in view of the present law and order situation as the criminal gangs seem to have become desperate and extremely dangerous for public life and property for changing their techniques and being equipped with modern illegal weapons," he said.

The minister's comments came in response to a question by BNP legislator Mohammad Fazul Azim (Noakhali).

Khasru said 23 years have elapsed since the law was enacted, and during this period the present ruling party was not in power for 21 years.

Today those who are strongly opposing the law had used it indiscriminately. They did not repeat it although they had the opportunity to do so," he said.

See Page 12 Col 7

10000 workers join EPZs Garments factories face acute labour shortage

By Govinda Shil

Export-oriented readymade garment factories are suffering labour shortages in this peak production season, resulting in wages hike in Dhaka and Chittagong areas.

The problem became acute as some 10,000 skilled workers joined the factories in the export processing zones (EPZs) in the last six months. Mostafa Golam Qudus, president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), told The Daily Star.

He said the workers left the garment factories because EPZs offered higher wages. Manufacturers trained workers gradually and could not keep pace as their skilled workers left in droves. The BGMEA president said he is planning to urge the government to set a rule for the workers so that they would require a certificate from the previous employer before they joined a new factory.

BGMEA Second Vice President Nurul Haq Sikder said a section of the workers recently went abroad to hunt for better jobs. The factories near the Chittagong EPZ suffered the greatest shortages and some

were trying to organise programmes to quickly train lower level employees to fill up the vacancies.

A leading apparel exporter, Yahi Khan, told this correspondent wages of helpers and sewing operators increased by Tk 150 to 300 in the last couple of months due to huge demands in the labour market.

Khan said the demand for technical labourers increased at this time each year because March to August is the peak season for apparel manufacturing and trading.

Some 300 to 400 factories which run on sub-contracting basis were also busy with large orders from their parent factories. Trade disputes between the USA, EU and garment producers in East Asia also increased business, he noted.

Export Promotion Bureau Vice Chairman Faisal Ahmed Chowdhury and International Labour Organisation Director in Dhaka Saul J Baily agreed that Bangladesh factories were running shortage of trained labourers.

Faisal Ahmed said there were production delays because of the shortage.



A road is being constructed along the Gulshan lake by partly filling it. —Star photo by Amran Hossain

Master Plan ignored: Foreign firm gets allocation

Part of Gulshan Lake to be filled up for hotel, apartments

By Morshed Ali Khan

More than 200 acres of Gulshan Lake and its adjoining area have been allocated to a foreign firm to construct a massive complex of high rise condominiums, service apartments and luxury hotel, by the Rajdhani Unnayan, Kartipakkha (Rajuk) violating the building code and ignoring the Master Plan for the city.

The deal which virtually handed over the prime property at a throwaway price of Tk 40,000 per bigha (one acre equals to three bigha) has raised concern among the town planners, residents and environmentalists.

They fear that it would turn one of the few surviving lakes in the city and its surrounding areas, including park and wooded walk ways, into another component of a concrete jungle the

Gulshan and Baridhara area is fast becoming.

The Department of Environment (DOE) officials said before clearing the project Rajuk did not seek their clearance on the environmental aspect of it.

A top DOE official, preferring anonymity, said it had never been a practice of Rajuk to get their projects cleared from it.

Rajuk did not bother to conduct any public hearing or solicit public opinion about the project, clearing it in an amazingly fast pace. It did not even invite any public bidding before leasing the land for commercial purposes as it had been the practice, said Prof Nazrul Islam, a noted town planner and a teacher of Dhaka University.

Rajuk Chairman Humayun Khadem, however, denied there had been any wrongdoings. Ev-

erything had been done according to the rules, he claimed.

But he failed to give any satisfactory reply as to why the land had been given away for commercial purpose without public bidding. He said the project is not a commercial one.

"We have only given it on Built-Operate-Transfer basis for 75 years. They are going to give us a royalty for five years out of the 6.25,000 US dollars deal which will be increased by 10 per cent afterwards." He also said that it was cleared by the DOE.

The Chairman further said the project would help beautification of the area and would not harm the surrounding environment.

The Singapore-based developer, Indus Valley, plans to

See Page 12 Col 4

BCL leader stabbed to death at DU

By DU Correspondent

A leader of the Bangladesh Chhatra League was stabbed to death on the Dhaka University campus early yesterday morning, police and hospital sources said.

The victim was identified as Imam Hossain Tonal, the assistant library secretary of Dhaka City Unit (North) of the ALB-based BCL.

Police found the body of Tonal on the road near the East Gate of the Curzon Hall of the university at around 5 am. The body was sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) for autopsy.

Some 30 stab marks were found on Tonal's body including throat and two eyes, hospital sources said.

The motive behind the killing could not be known. But BCL sources hinted that the killing might be linked with internal conflict of the organisation.

Imam Hossain Tonal, a close aide of BCL vice president Iqbal Hossain Apu, was last seen in the TV room of the Fazul Haq Hall of the university till 3:30 am yesterday.

Tonal was scheduled to conduct a meeting yesterday afternoon organised by the Pach-

Body of Mahub arrives today

The body of Mahub who died in the wheel carriage of a Biman aircraft 47 days back is expected to be reached in Dhaka today from Saudi Arabia, reports UNB.

After all formalities, Saudi authorities handed over the body to Biman and along with the body its flight BG-039 will reach the Zia International Airport at 8:15 am.

State Minister for Jute and Textiles A K Faezul Haq and State Minister for Civil Aviation

See Page 12 Col 7

Lawyers boycott courts in Khulna

KHULNA, July 10: Lawyers here today boycotted the courts protesting, what they said, continued acts of terrorism and the deteriorating law and order in the city, reports UNB.

In a meeting at the bar council office, Khulna Lawyers Association president Shahiduzzaman and secretary Faruq Ahmed demanded immediate arrest of the terrorists.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড
ঢাকা
বিভাগ

এতদ্বারা সকল আয়করদাতা তথা সমগ জনসাধারণের জ্ঞাতার্থে জানানো যাইতেছে যে, বেশ কিছুদিন যাবৎ একটি কুচক্রী মহল আয়কর বিভাগের বিভিন্ন পর্যায়ের কর্মকর্তার নামে মসজিদ, মাদ্রাসা অথবা এতিমখানার নামে চাঁদা, অন্যবিধ অবৈধ দাবী করিয়া করদাতা ও সাধারণ জনগণকে প্রতারিত করিতেছে।

সর্বসাধারণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাইতেছে যে, যদি কোন ব্যক্তি ঐরূপ চাঁদা দাবী করে তাহলে তাহা অতি সত্বর নিকটস্থ থানা/আয়কর সার্কেল/কমিশনার/জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ডকে অবহিত করার জন্য এবং একই সঙ্গে ঐরূপ চাঁদা আদায়কারীকে পুলিশের নিকট সোপর্দ করার জন্য অনুরোধ জানানো যাইতেছে।

কাহাকেও কোন অবৈধ অর্থ বা চাঁদা প্রদান না করার জন্য বিশেষভাবে পরামর্শ দেওয়া যাইতেছে।

জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড, ঢাকা।
ফ্যাক্স নং ০০-৮৮০২-৮৩৬১৪৩
ফোন - ৯৩০১৮৮০
১৬০০-৮/৭
৯-১০১
পিএবিএক্স নং ৮৩৮১২০-৯৬/৩২০