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Shima's death JS body yet to prepare probe report

Star Report
The 11-member parliamentary committee formed to investigate the alleged rape of Shima Chowdhury by police and her subsequent death in jail custody in Chittagong is yet to prepare its report.
The committee would, however, try to place its report in the Jatiya Sangsad during its next session. Prof Khaleda Khanam of the committee told The Daily Star last night.
A five-member sub-committee, headed by Shawkat Ali MP of Awami League, was constituted on June 26 to prepare the draft report before Sangsad goes into the next session. The other members of the sub-committee are Khaleda Khanam and Akhtaruzzaman of Awami League, Salahuddin Kader Chowdhury of BNP and Advocate Fazole Rabbi of Jatiya Party. The sub-committee held its first meeting on July 3.
Meanwhile, the court concerned recently acquitted the accused persons from the case.
See Page 12 col 6

Ganges accord reviewed, Teesta sharing discussed JRC to meet every 3 months



The 32nd meeting of the Indo-Bangla JRC began at the State Guest House Meghna in the city yesterday. — PID photo

By Staff Correspondent
The 32nd meeting of the Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission (JRC), the first in seven years, which began in Dhaka yesterday discussed implementation of the Ganges water sharing accord, sharing of the Teesta waters and wide-ranging issues including problems relating to other common rivers.
In a major development, the meeting yesterday agreed that from now on, the JRC will meet once in every three months to resolve expeditiously all outstanding issues relating to sharing of waters of common rivers, according to meeting sources.
Yesterday's meeting, held at ministerial level, was spread over two sessions. Minister for Water Resources Abdur Razzak, current chairman of the JRC, presided over the meeting, held at the state guest house Meghna. Abdur Razzak also led a 13-member Bangladesh side while

CHT talks end inconclusively

By Special Correspondent
The five-member delegation of the Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) led by its Chairman Jyotindryo Bodhipriyo Larma alias Shantu Larma left Dhaka yesterday morning after five days of intensive negotiations with the National Commission on Chittagong Hill Tracts (NCCHT).
The talks, however, remained inconclusive as both sides failed to hammer out an agreement for a permanent ceasefire in the troubled hill tracts, ending decades of insurgency by the armed wing of the PCJSS, Shantibahini.
Earlier, NCCHT convener Abul Hasnat Abdullah, Chief of Jatiya Sangsad, and Shantu Larma had reported at the end of their fourth round of talks on May 14 that they had reached 'consensus' on all issues and indicated an accord was in the offing.
Abdullah, however, told newsmen yesterday that they made 'satisfactory progress' while working on the draft of the agreement. His single sentence comment came as he saw the PCJSS delegation off at state guest house Padma. But Shantu Larma said he had nothing to say.
The delegation flew back to their temporary headquarters at Dudukchhara, on the Bangladesh side of the border, by a military helicopter and reached there at 11:30 am.
They carried the draft of the proposed agreement for discussion with their colleagues back in their headquarters at Bishnupur, in southern Tripura, India.
Insiders say, the talks which began on July 14, bogged down on new issues the PCJSS raised on repatriation and rehabilitation of the refugees who had returned earlier this year. The talks with the reconstituted NCCHT resumed last year.
The PCJSS echoed the demands of refugee leader Upen-dra Lal Chakma, huddling with

Khaleda's reply to BTV may be sent today

Star Report
BNP Chief Begum Khaleda Zia's reply to BTV's letter inviting her to appear on the *Deshbhashir Mukhomukhi* programme is likely to be sent to the DG of BTV today, party sources said.
The reply, containing some conditions for appearing on the BTV programme, was finalised yesterday.
BTV had sent a letter to the Leader of the Opposition on June 24 requesting her to face questions from a panel of experts, the invited guests and the members of the public.
According to party leaders, Begum Zia in her reply, is likely to express her intention to appear on the programme on condition of BTV 'changing its hostile attitude towards her party and giving the assurance of impartial coverage of the Opposition on the electronic medium.'
Her reply may also propose the selection of the panel of experts and others concerned in consultation with her party.

Mosquito Control Directorate to be brought under DCC

By Moshed Ali Khan
All employees of the Mosquito Control Directorate will soon be brought under the jurisdiction of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC), sources at the DCC's health department said.
The decision was taken following claims from DCC that it had failed to eradicate mosquitoes in the city due to lack of control over the field-level workers.
A DCC official, requesting anonymity, said that the LGRD Ministry has already agreed to the shift and now an inter-ministerial meeting was required to finalise it.
There are 21 supervisors, three inspector collectors, and 340 sprayers to confront the mosquito menace in the city. This field-level manpower has been under the directorate.

16 hurt as prisoners in Ctg jail clash

CHITTAGONG, July 19: At least 16 people, including five jail guards, were wounded in clashes between some convicts and under-trial prisoners in the Chittagong Jail today, police and jail sources said, reports UNB.
Among the injured, four jail guards — Abdus Sobhan, Mohammad Ismail, Abul Nayesh and Probr Chandra Dey — were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital. Others were given first aid.
The clash ensued following a brawl among the prisoners at the jail hospital when under-trial prisoner Abul Hossain and convict Hafizuddin went to see another prisoner Jahangir there at 10 am.
However, some other inmates of the jail as well as jail guards rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.
Later, under-trial prisoners and convicts of the nearby wards were locked in a clash when under-trial prisoner Masum and others broke the hospital gate at 4 pm as only Masum got the permission to see his friends at jail gate.
Then some more convicts joined others and chased the under-trial prisoners who broke the hospital gate. However, the feuding groups stopped chasing each other when jail guards took position between them.
Jail Superintendent Jahangir Hossain told UNB that the situation was brought under control within 15 minutes. He said that six prisoners were wounded in the clashes.
He also said that no additional force had to be deployed round the jail.

CPA threatens to impose penal rents for slow delivery of cargo

CHITTAGONG, July 19: The Chittagong Port authorities have threatened to impose penal rents on imported container cargo if their delivery is not taken within 15 days from the port jetties, official sources said.
The authorities took the decision of a meeting today following space congestion at the jetties.
Some 12,500 containers remain dumped at the jetties as against the port's capacity to accommodate 9,000 containers.
The port officials said the importers were very slow in taking delivery of their cargo though the port is kept open round the clock.

Transport workers clash with students in Barisal: 60 hurt

From Staff Correspondent
BARISAL, July 19: At least 60 people were injured, 50 of them students, in a clash over the ongoing transport strike in the southern districts that continued for the fifth day today.
The trouble started near the Kalizira bridge on the Barisal-Jhalakati road when a group of transport workers allegedly attacked a bus of the Barisal B M University College at about 8 this morning.
The driver of the bus and 30 students were injured.
Later, at 11:30 am, the students and transport workers were locked in a clash at the minibus terminal that left more than 20 persons injured.
Some 45 buses and minibuses parked at the terminal were damaged.
Police lobbed teargas shells to bring the situation under control.

HC order to release imported cars Revenue income may face setback

By Inam Ahmed
The government's revenue collection is likely to face a setback following a recent High Court order permitting release of imported vehicles from the ports without payment of supplementary duties and development surcharge imposed in this year's budget.
A division bench of HC on July 7 asked the Customs authorities to show cause why the imposition of 40 to 60 per cent supplementary duties and 2.5 per cent development surcharge on import of cars should not be declared to have been passed without lawful authority.
The HC decision will also enable car dealers to release vehicles from port without payment of supplementary duties and development surcharge. Instead, importers now can release their vehicles on payment of duties and taxes at the 'invoice value' instead of 'Japanese Yellow Book', which sets value of reconditioned cars. Most of the reconditioned cars are imported from Japan.
The order will cover those importers who registered their bills of entry before the passage of the budget, said a source. A source in the National Board of Revenue (NBR) said already a huge number of importers are coming to them to avail the "concession".
The HC order came following a writ filed by a car importer, One Step Motor of Chittagong.
The HC's rule has been made returnable within six weeks.

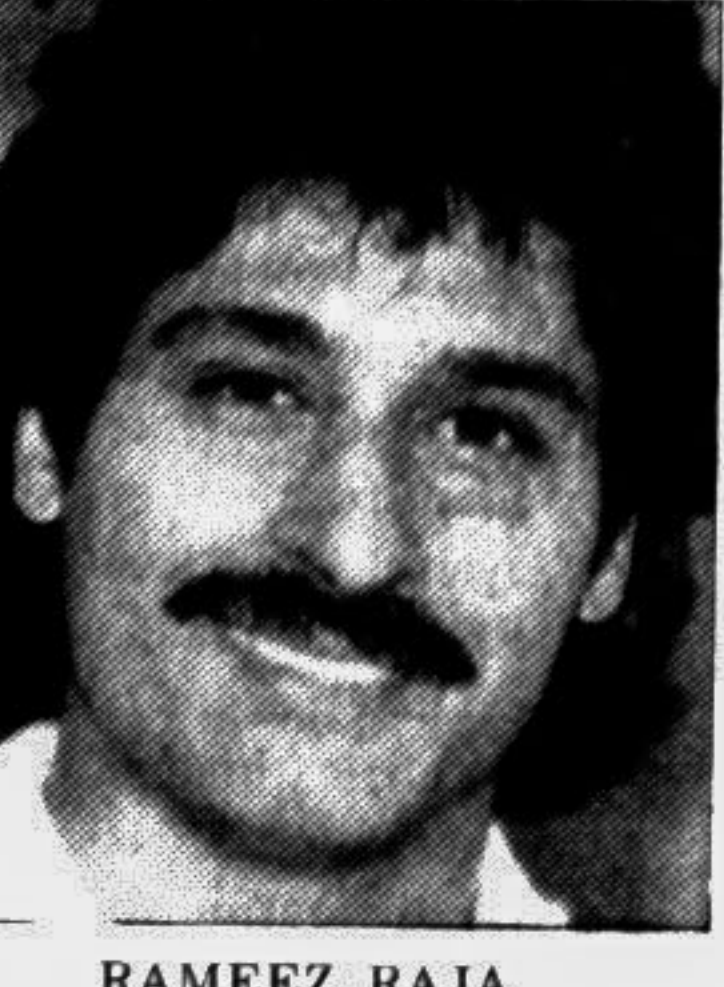
'Prospective BNP candidates being jailed to rig local govt polls'

By Staff Correspondent
BNP has accused the Awami League government of sending its 'prospective candidates' to jails filing false cases against them with the motive of rigging the forthcoming elections to local government bodies.
"They don't understand democracy nor do they realise partnership in democracy. They only know forcible occupation — false cases and attacks will bring their downfall", BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan MP told a meeting of Jatiyatabadi Juba Dal, party's youth front, yesterday.
Addressing the meeting as chief guest, Mannan Bhuiyan demanded of the government to list those filing false cases and their patrons as well as to identify the 'touts' merging in the ruling party.
He also called upon the Juba Dal.

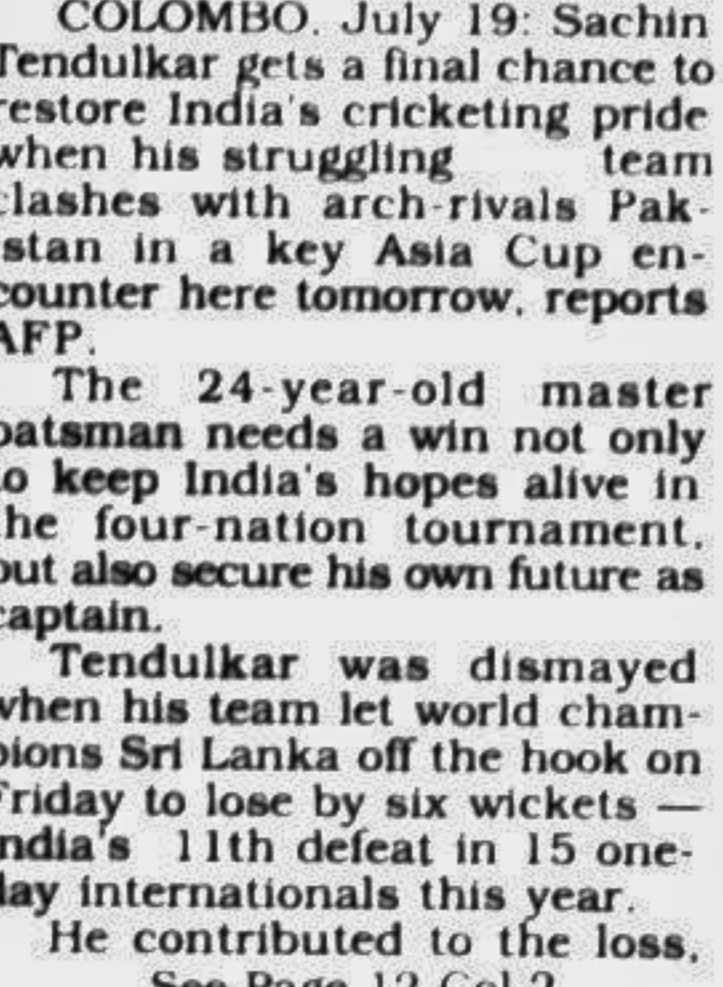
Garments workers' strike July 30

Six labour organisations will gherao the BGMEA office on July 24 and enforce strike in all garments units on July 30 to press their demands, reports UNB.
In a meeting yesterday they expressed shock at the death of nine garment workers in fire at two factories at Mirpur in the city and demanded Tk 2 lakh as compensation for each of the fire victims.
Shahidullah Badal, Shafiqul Islam, Hasna, Rafiqul Islam and Mosharraf Hossain Shamim addressed the meeting, chaired by Bangladesh Garments Workers' League general secretary Badruddoza Nizam.
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Tough test for Tendulkar Indo-Pak battle today to secure berth in final



RAMEEZ RAJA



SACHIN TENDULKAR

COLOMBO, July 19: Sachin Tendulkar gets a final chance to restore India's cricketing pride when his struggling team clashes with arch-rivals Pakistan in a key Asia Cup encounter here tomorrow, reports AFP.
The 24-year-old master batsman needs a win not only to keep India's hopes alive in the four-nation tournament, but also secure his own future as captain.
Tendulkar was dismayed when his team let world champions Sri Lanka off the hook on Friday to lose by six wickets — India's 11th defeat in 15 one-day internationals this year.
He contributed to the loss.

President assents to Bill

President Shahabuddin Ahmed on Thursday gave assent to the Biman (Anti-Security) Offence Bill, 1997, according to a press release of the Jatiya Sangsad issued on Friday, reports BSS.
The Bill was passed in the Jatiya Sangsad on July 9 in the fifth session of the Seventh Parliament.

Rohingya repatriation resumes today

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, July 19: The repatriation of Rohingya refugees suspended for the past two and a half months, will resume tomorrow, official sources said.
They said, preparations were being made to send 400 Rohingya refugees to their homes in Myanmar in the first batch while clearance for repatriation of seven thousand more has already been received from Myanmar.
About 22,000 Rohingya refugees are staying in the camps awaiting repatriation, which became uncertain because Myanmar was not responding properly, official sources said.
The last time Rohingya refugees were repatriated was April 30 and since then it had remained suspended.
But, the official sources said, due to diplomatic pressure from Bangladesh and other sides, the government of Myanmar agreed to resume repatriation from tomorrow.
During talks held in Chittagong in January this year, the Myanmar team agreed to complete repatriation of all Rohingya refugees by March 31. But Myanmar failed to abide by the agreement and also did not organise the repatriation talks.

Magurchhara gas well fire intensifies

From Staff Correspondent
SYLHET, July 19: The fire at the Magurchhara gas well intensified again today.
Authorities of Bangladesh Railway today again suspended train services running through the Magurchhara gas well area due to the sudden intensification of the fire.
BR sources said that the US company Occidental, which is now trying to douse the Magurchhara fire, in a letter to the railway authorities this afternoon asked it to stop train services.
Occidental said that the fire intensified suddenly and it was not safe to use the train line.

Miladunnabi function AL demands stern action against trouble-makers

The ruling Awami League has demanded immediate arrest and stern action against those involved in creating trouble at Miladunnabi function at Baitul Mukarram mosque in presence of the President, reports UNB.
"Without further delay, the anti-state elements have to be arrested and punished to prevent recurrence of such activities," said a party press release.
The suggestion came from an emergency meeting of the Awami League Working Committee, held on Friday at Awami Foundation office in the city.
The ruling party also called upon all pro-liberation forces.



The DMP imposed Section 144 around the Baitul Mukarram mosque Friday morning and it will remain in force till further orders, police sources said. Section 144 has been imposed in the area against the backdrop of an incident Thursday evening in which an Eid-e-Miladunnabi programme of the Islamic Foundation was disrupted. — Star photo

One stabbed to death in N'ganj

From Our Correspondent
NARAYANGANJ, July 19: One elderly person was stabbed to death in Rupganj last night. Besides, two bodies were recovered from Siddhirganj and Bandar thana areas in the last two days.
Khabiruddin, 60, of village Mir Gadai under Rupganj thana, died on the spot as some gamblers attacked him near a club at 10 pm after he asked them not to indulge in gambling.
The brother of the victim filed a case.
Police recovered the body of an unidentified youth, aged about 29, from Chowdhury Bari area under Siddhirganj thana at 11 am today. The body bore marks of injuries.
Another body was recovered from the Old Brahmaputra river at Langabandh under Bandar thana last night. The body was identified as of Azizul Islam, 18, a rice trader.
Islam, son of Mofazzal Husain of Kaliganj under Sonargaon thana, has been missing since July 16.

Kishoreganj JCD leader beaten to death

KISHOREGANJ, July 19: A local leader of the Jattabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) was killed in intra-party conflicts, sources here said today, reports UNB.
Zakir Hossain, 22, a degree student of Gurudayal Government College and general secretary of JCD's town unit, was beaten up by a group of young men at Kharampaty in the town when he went there to see an ailing friend on Thursday night.
Hossain, with severe head injury, was rushed to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital, where he died today.

21 AL, BCL leaders sued in Barisal

From Staff Correspondent
BARISAL, July 19: A case has been filed against 21 Awami League (AL) and Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) leaders of the Barisal town in connection with the incidents during hartal hours on July 2 last.
One Mostaq Ahmed Shameem lodged the case accusing them of damage and setting fire to the local BNP office.
The accused are Advocate Golam Abbas Chowdhury Dulal, Balamam Podder, Meshbah Uddin Jewel, Tariq-bin-Islam, Mohammad Jasim, Chhunu, Rafiqul Islam Khokan, Masudur Rahman Rana, Prince, Parvez, Pulak, Pinju, Arif-bin-Islam, Shafiq, Biplab, Nipu, Jamal, Alamgir, Aminur, Sanakar, and Iqbal.

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Dhaka-N'ganj air conditioned bus service opens today

By Ehsanul Haq
Air conditioned bus service, launched in the capital in January this year in Motijheel-Uttara route, will now be introduced also in Dhaka-Narayan-ganj route today.
Communications Minister Anwar Hossain Manju will inaugurate the bus service at 1:30 pm from Shaheed Muktijoddha Auditorium at Chashara, Narayan-ganj.
Bangladesh Metro Bus Company Limited is launching the service with 25 thirty-two seater air-conditioned buses, which will run 20-km through Chashara-Adamjee-Chittagong Road, having two stoppages. The route will change when the under-construction Dhaka-Narayan-ganj link road, now at its final stage, is completed, company officials said.
The service is being managed by the company for the time being. It will be incorporated into the on-going World Bank aided

Miladunnabi observed

Holy Eid-e-Miladunnabi, the 12th of Rabiul Awal, was observed throughout the country as elsewhere in the Muslim world on Friday, reports UNB.
President Shahabuddin Ahmed, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia gave separate messages on the occasion.
The day was a public holiday.
To mark the day, government as well as various religious organisations, educational institutions, Islamic cultural bodies and mosques