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Khatib denies involvement in Miladunnabi function incident

By Staff Correspondent

The Khatib of Baitul Mukarram National Mosque, Moula Obaidul Haq, yesterday replied to the show cause notice served on him by the Islamic Foundation.

The Islamic Foundation, the management body of the mosque, served the show cause notice on him on July 23 asking him to explain why he should not be removed from service for his alleged involvement in the disruption of a recent Eid-e-Miladunnabi function at the mosque.

He was given 7 days time for

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Magurjhara fire

Probe report submitted to

Energy Minister

The government enquiry committee on Magurjhara gasfield incident submitted its report to Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Noor Uddin Khan yesterday, reports UNB.

The 11-member committee headed by Additional Secretary of the ministry Mahfuzul Huq was formed following the June 15 incident at Magurjhara gasfield in Moulvibazar district.

The committee members were Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Law Mostafizur Rahman, Director (Operation) of Petrobangla TSN Khan Lodhi, Managing Director of Bangladesh Gasfield Company Limited, Dr M Ismail, Managing Director of Bapex S R Osmanni, ADC (General) of Moulvibazar Motiar Rahman, Drilling Engineer of Occidental James Conners Jr, General Manager of Petrobangla Quazi Shahidur Rahman, its DGMs Abdul Aziz Khan and Yusuf Ali Talukdar, and DGM of Bapex Azizur Rahman.

6-hour hartal at Komolganj today

By Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, July 30: A six-hour hartal has been called at Komolganj thana headquarters tomorrow protesting the 'irresponsible activities' of Occidental at Magurjhara Gas Field.

The hartal call is part of the agitation programme drawn up by the 'Komolganj Ganj Oikya Parishad' following the fire at the gasfield.

It has also demanded immediate restoration of road and rail communication and early payment of compensation to the affected people.

Meanwhile, the Relief Rug and other equipment brought from Thailand and kept at Fenchuganj will be taken to Moulvibazar within a day or two, said an official of Occidental, tonight.

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Business

KL assures Dhaka of giving workers all legal protection

DSE index registers 16-point rise
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PROTEST AGAINST NEWS PUBLISHED

My attention has been drawn to a news item under the caption "Notice Served on 19 Bank Directors" published in The Daily Star of July 29, 1997 falsely alleging that I have been asked to repay alleged overdue loan of about taka 2.11 crores against National Trading Corporation to UCBL. I have no liability of any nature to UCBL. Whatever liability I had to the Agrabad Branch of UCBL was fully paid off and cleared long before, whereupon the Agrabad Branch of the UCBL released all securities by executing registered and unregistered documents and returned back all documents deposited with them and also granted a no claim certificate on 27.02.93 Agrabad Branch of the UCBL however filed Money Suit No. 37 of 1995 against National Trading Corporation and 3 others implying me as defendant No. 3 falsely claiming that I was a guarantor for National Trading Corporation. The claim of UCBL is false and baseless. I did not execute any guarantee and did not become a guarantor for National Trading Corporation at any time. I filed a written statement in the said suit and categorically denied the have executed any guarantee for National Trading Corporation and denied my liability. The suit is still pending. The question as to whether I executed any guarantee and whether I have any liability for the liability of National Trading Corporation is still subjudice. Anything done or any step taken by the Bangladesh Bank or other authority or person treating me as guarantor for National Trading Corporation during the pendency of the aforesaid suit filed by Agrabad Branch of UCBL will clearly amount to contempt of Court.

European Commission (EC) will derogue the rules of origin in clause of GSP for Bangladeshi garments export if it cancels the incorrect GSP certificates issued by the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) since 1993, reports UNB.

This was informed by EC Vice-President Manual Marin Gonzalez, who is in charge of GSP, in a message faxed to Commerce Minister Tofael Ahmed yesterday in reply to a request for considering the GSP

issue with greater flexibility.

"If you decide to respond favourably to our request for withdrawal of certificates in schedule-B and investigation of certificates in schedule-C, a separate decision for Bangladesh can be taken and I will personally ensure that such a decision is taken speedily," Gonzalez said in his letter.

The commerce minister in his request letter on July 3 explained in details the situation of the readymade garments

manufacturing industry in Bangladesh.

Tofael said after the visit of the EC investigation team in Bangladesh in 1996, a request had been made to cancel 7293 GSP certificates under categories A and B.

The team also requested the government to further investigate into the nature of the remaining 8562 certificates under category C, he said.

"As soon as I became aware

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EC asks Dhaka to cancel false GSP certificates

New committee of Ctg city BNP announced

By Staff Correspondent

A new executive committee of Chittagong city unit of BNP has been formed with Meer Nasiruddin and Dastgoer Choudhury as its president and general secretary respectively.

The 158-member body was announced yesterday following a series of negotiations between the two conflicting groups of the city unit in the last couple of days, said a party press release late last night.

Other members of the committee are Syed Wahidul Alam, MP — senior vice-president; Prof Arif Moiuddin, Md Salimullah, Ekrumul Karim, Begum Rozy Kabir, A M Najimuddin, Shamsul Alam, Kazimuddin Choudhury and Saleh Ahmad Sowdagor — vice-presidents; F H Khan — organising secretary; M A Sabur, Ershadullah, Abdus Sattar, Shafiq Hossain Selim, Abu Sufian, Abdul Wahab Quasem

SAIFUL ALAM

Director
Al-Arafah Islami Bank Ltd.



Wailing relatives of victims of the stampede at garment factories. — Star photo

Bankruptcy Act comes into force tomorrow

The Bankruptcy Act, enacted by the government to equip the authorities with a sharp legal weapon to deal with loan defaulters, comes into effect from tomorrow, reports UNB.

Official sources yesterday said a gazette notification promulgating the Act is likely to be published within a couple of days, possibly today.

The guidelines framed by the Finance Ministry under the act had already been sent to the Law Ministry for publication of the gazette notification.

The Act, assented to by the president on March 11 after Parliament's approval, could not be promulgated for delays in framing the guidelines, the sources said.

The guidelines containing a total of 73 articles were completed recently, specifying the formalities for filing applications to the bankruptcy courts under the Act.

District judges or additional judges will act as judge in the bankruptcy courts.

Banking circles think that the Bankruptcy Law would

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3 die from gas poisoning in Uttara

By Staff Correspondent

Three persons died from gas poisoning while cleaning a septic-tank located in a house at Uttara in the city yesterday, according to the Fire Service and police sources.

Confirming the incident, police said an unnatural death case was registered in this regard.

The Fire Service sources said that Abdus Sattar, 30, a resident of Noakhali district, Johnnie, 25, and Nurul, 18, both from Barisal district, died from the effect of poisonous gas as they entered inside the septic-tank located at house NO. 44, Sector No 6 and Rd No. 1 in Uttara Model Town.

The bodies were recovered from the water-tank at around 11:00 am and handed over to the Uttara thana, they said.

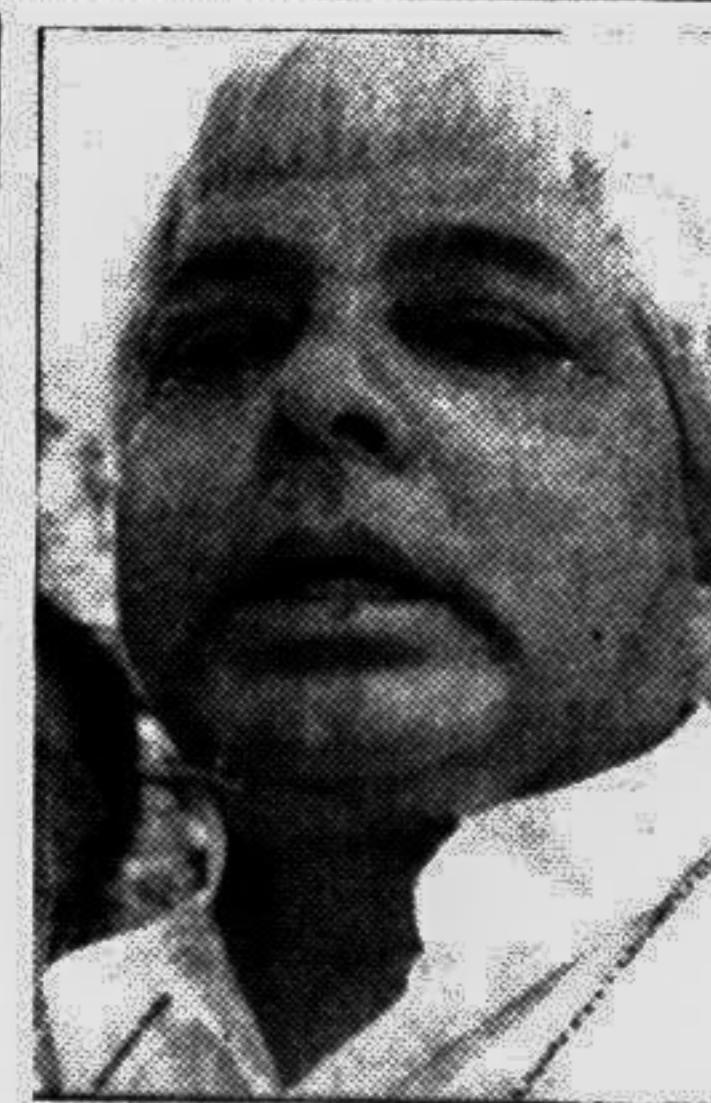
EBL seeks liquidation of Beximco Investment Co

By Staff Correspondent

Eastern Bank Limited (EBL) filed a petition with the High Court yesterday seeking winding up of the Beximco Investment Company Limited (BICL), accusing it of operating 'illegally', 'defrauding' creditor banks and not repaying them a penny, including Tk 74 crore to EBL. EBL counsel Barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud told the court.

It's total debts to different banks and financial institutions, including ADB, British, German and Dutch-aided institutions runs to nearly Tk 500 crore, the EBL counsel alleged.

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Laloo Prasad surrenders, sent to jail

PATNA, July 30: A politician who became an icon of India's lower classes was sent to jail today in the eastern state of Bihar on charges of embezzling state funds meant for cattle feed, reports AP.

Nearly 3,000 supporters blocked the road as police escorted Laloo Prasad Yadav to a police compound that was converted to a luxury jail for the former chief executive of Bihar.

Police cleared tree trunks, oil drums and other obstacles from the road to clear the way for Yadav's motorcade of 30 cars through the 15-kilometer (10-mile) route in Patna, the capital of eastern Bihar state.

Yadav, who was forced to quit Friday, surrendered to Judge Sudhanshu Kumar Lal this morning in response to an arrest warrant.

It said, initially, scientists and engineers of the reactor maintenance unit, radiation control and waste management division, started investigating the cause behind the incident and also remedial measures. Investigation, analysing and assessment works were on, keeping the reactor shut, it added.

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Rust caused leakage in N-reactor tank: BAEC

By Staff Correspondent

Rust and corrosion in the Decay Tank was responsible for leakage of water from the cooling system of the nuclear reactor and the tank was outside the Reactor Core Building, there would be no shortage of water in the core of the reactor at the Atomic Energy Research Establishment (AERE), the release said.

The press release said the leakage did not cause any damage to public life and environment and will not pose any possibility of danger. "People and environment are secured and out of risk", it said. There should not be any misunderstanding among the members of the public about this, it added.

The leakage was detected during routine inspection on July 14.

The press release said the leakage did not cause any damage to public life and environment and will not pose any possibility of danger. "People and environment are secured and out of risk", it said. There should not be any misunderstanding among the members of the public about this, it added.

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