

For Documents Door to Door delivery
To 237 Destinations in INDIA

BLUE DART EXPRESS LIMITED

PLEASE CONTACT: BANGLADESH AIR EXPRESS INT'L LTD.
Head Office: 9565114, Fax: 9565112, Gulshan: 887771, Chittagong: (031) 712127, Khulna: (041) 725008



The second batch of commissioned officers recruited during the Liberation War presented a crest containing their names to the Muktiyoddha Museum yesterday. —Star photo

Crest presented to Muktiyoddha Museum

By Staff Correspondent

The second batch of Commissioned Officers recruited during the Liberation War presented a crest containing their names to the Muktiyoddha Museum yesterday.

Museum archive committee member Air Vice Marshal (ret'd) A K Khandker received the crest and some war documents from the representatives of the second batch.

The names inscribed in the crest are: ABM Tajul Islam, Abu Taher Basunia, Abu Taher Sarker, ALM Fazlur Rahman, ASM Shamsul Arefeen, Chandr Kanta Das, Chowdhury Mohammad Ali, Dost Mohammad Sikder, Dewan Gous Ali, Ekramul Haq Khandker, Golam Noor, Julhan Kanti Paul, Jiban Kanti Das, Kaiser Ahmed, Kazi Md Kamal Uddin, Khairul Alam, Khurshid Alam Basunia, Mahfuz Anam, Mahmudul Masud, Md Abdul Muqtadir, Md Abdul Halim Khan, Md Abdul Hamid, Md Abdul Jalil, Md Abdul Kader, Md Abdul Rab, Md Abdus Salam, Md Akbar Yusuf, Md Akhter Hossain, Md Akhtuzzaman, Md Aminul Islam, Md Anisur Rahman, Md Asadul Haque, Md Ashrafud-Doula, Md Atiqur Rahman, Md Bazul Rashid, Md Fazlul Haque, Md Feroze Akhter, Md Hafiz Ullah, Md Harun-ur-Rashid, Md Hasan Imam, Humayun Kabir Chowdhury, Md Issa Gazi, Md Jahangir Osman Bhuiyan, Md Jalal Uddin Siddique, Md Kamrul Haque, Md Latiful Alam Chowdhury, Md Liaquat Ali Khan, Mesbah Uddin Ahmed, BB, Md Mafizur Rahman, Md Motahar Hossain, Md Muqtadir Ali, Md Qumrul Islam, Md Rezaul Ahmed, Md Rezaul Haque, Md Sirajul Islam, Md Solaiman, Md Zillur Rahman, Md Zainul Abedin, Miran Hamidur Rahman, Modasser Hossain Khan, Mohammad Ali, Md Mosharraf Hossain, Mustaque Uddin Ahmed, Syed Abul Bashar, Sheikh Ataur Rahman, SM Habibullah, Md Shah Alam Talukder, Sheikh Jamsed Hossain, SM Shahiduzzaman and Zulfiqur Ali.

One dies

From page 1

mitted to the DMCH and released after treatment. It could not be known immediately whether it was a case of food poisoning. Police said they collected sample of the food items for chemical examination and were waiting for the autopsy report of Kabir.

Owner of a bicycle shop at Nawabpur, Kabir family resided in Shahidbagh area in the city. The nine who fell sick are family members Farha, 6; Isma, 3; Monwara Begum, 50; Nazmul Huq Bhuiyan, 18; Farhana Huq Bhuiyan, 28; Asif Huq Bhuiyan; shop employees Kashem, 40; and Wahab, and maid Sufa, 26.

All the 10 including Kabir were found unconscious when some relatives came to the house yesterday morning. They took all to the DMCH immediately, police said quoting the FIR filed with Mohammadpur thana.

Kabir's brother-in-law Asif Huq Bhuiyan said in the FIR one of their maids, Nasima, was missing since yesterday morning.

Police added that rice, chicken curry, dal and vegetables were served in the dinner. Kabir took milk after the dinner while some others took soft drinks.

The body of Kabir was sent to the DMCH morgue for autopsy. An unnatural death case was lodged in this regard.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

Printed by the Editor from City Publishing House Ltd., 90 Kakrail, Dhaka-1000 and published by him on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmandi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 500092-4, Commercial: 500091, Fax No: 88-02-863035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA. Email: dstar@bangla.net

Heavy fighting in Lanka: 145 killed

COLOMBO, Aug 2: Ferocious battles gripped Sri Lanka today as Tamil Tigers attacked in waves to smash military defences and kill at least 38 troops for the loss of 107 of their own fighters, officials said, reports AFP.

About 1,000 men and women from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) carried out seven assaults near the army-held northern town of Ommathai and destroyed two police posts, officials said.

The Defence Ministry said the rebels fired automatic assault rifles, rocket propelled grenades and artillery guns at army positions and security forces hit back using helicopters and heavy artillery.

The attack was a carbon copy of two previous assaults on June 11 and 25 against the same military column trying to open a key highway through

Tiger-held territory to the northern peninsula of Jaffna.

The earlier offensive of the rebels was code-named by them as "Do-or-Die" and officials here said all three attempts were aimed at stalling the military advance through jungle terrain.

The latest attack which began just before midnight on Friday and pursued this morning was not unexpected. Earlier on the same day the military shot dead three Tigers who infiltrated the area.

"We were prepared for them because we killed three infiltrators who had come on a spying mission west of Ommathai," a defence ministry spokesman said.

At least 40 of the bodies were those of women fighters of the LTTE known as "freedom birds," military officials said.

Regional meeting on agriculture from Aug 18

By Staff Correspondent

Development activists from Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Nepal are planning to intensify cooperation among the farmers of the region to promote sustainable agriculture in the context of implementation of various World Trade Organisation (WTO) rules.

For this purpose, some 42 development activists from these countries and Thailand, Malaysia, USA, Canada, Indonesia and Japan will hold a South Asian workshop on "Food ecology and culture: In the context of livelihood struggles of the rural community" on August 18 to 22. It will be held at Bishnupur in Tangail district.

Organised by the South Asian Network on Food, Ecology and Culture (SANFEC), this workshop will also produce a joint statement upholding the interest of the South Asian countries, SANFEC Managing Director Farhad Mazhar said at a press briefing in the city yesterday.

One of the purpose of this

workshop would be to form a regional committee to monitor all WTO committees, identifying the people inside WTO who are against the interest of developing countries, he added.

Besides, the SANFEC committee will try to build a consensus among different nations on re-opening the negotiations over Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIP) agreement.

Under TRIP, which will be implemented from 1999, every country will have to patent biodiversity. SANFEC feels that such agreement would monopolise the control of the developed countries over the agriculture and politics of developing countries and therefore a campaign was necessary to avoid patenting of bio-diversity of the world.

"Multi-national companies in the past had taken thousands of indigenous rice seeds from Bangladesh. Now we don't have these seeds and we have to depend on high yielding varieties (HYV). When TRIP will be applied, they will have complete control over selling these HYV to us," Farhad Mazhar said.

The press briefing was attended by among others, Farida Akhtar of UBING and Hasanul Huq Inu of JSD.

Paite activists torch 100 Kuki houses

IMPAL, Aug 2: Paite activists attacked five Kuki villages in Manipur's trouble-torn Churachandpur district this morning and torched over hundred houses in the renewed ethnic violence, reports PTI.

According to first official reports here, more than 40 Paite activists attacked the villages at about 0700 hours and set ablaze at least five Kuki villages.

Rejoinder

The member-secretary of the National Committee on Education Policy, in a statement yesterday, said that the news item headlined "Education policy: Political fronts on campus opposed" published in The Daily Star yesterday came to the notice of the committee.

"No discussion in this regard took place at any meeting of the committee and no such recommendation was made", the statement said.

7.3 pc growth rate

From page 1

2001-02 fiscal. About the major targets, the draft fifth FYP said the population growth rate, which has already declined, is expected to fall further to 1.36 per cent and the population will increase from 123.8 million in 1996-97 to 132.5 million in the last year of the plan.

The per capita income will also increase at an annual rate of six per cent. The draft document proposed that along side with the increase in the per capita income, the "target group approach" should be strengthened further for effective implementation of the poverty alleviation programmes in collaboration with the local government bodies.

"In the light of recent experiences in social change, reduction of poverty will be taken as synonymous with socio-economic development of the country," it said.

With this end in view, adequate resources will be directed to the expansion of employment and income generating activities, rural development and providing basic services and goods for the target groups.

The FYP projected creation of additional employment of 8.39 million man-year, but added that the thrust of additional employment will be in the private sector though the public sector would also create substantial employment opportunities through poverty alleviation and infrastructural work programme.

The size of labour force of Bangladesh, which was estimated at 41.70 million in 1995 and expected to reach 44 million in 1997, would rise to 49.18 million in the terminal year.

The fifth plan has fixed major physical and social targets marking 1996-97 as the base year and 2001-02 as the terminal year.

According to the estimate, the production of food grains (mainly rice) was 20.39 tonnes in the base year and it would be 25.12 tonnes in the terminal

year. Fish production in the terminal year would be 2.075 million tonnes against 1.373 tonnes in the base year.

Garment products in the terminal year would reach 1.614 million metres from 211 million metres in the base year. The quantity of leather export would be 18.58 million square metres in the terminal year against 13.01 million square metres in the base year.

Electricity generation in the terminal year would be 5132 mw against 2690 mw in the base year. The distribution network would be expanded to 50,268 kilometre line from 41,177 kilometre line in the base year.

The overall literacy rate would be 75 per cent in the ending year against 47.3 per cent in the base year. The female literacy rate would be 50 per cent against 32 in the base year.

Five hundred and thirty-eight million gallon drinking water per day could be provided in the urban areas against 294 million gallon per day in the base year.

In rural areas, the number of tubewells would be 1,561,991 against 1,032,991 in the base year.

Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births) would be reduced to 55 in the terminal year against 77 in the base year. And maternal mortality rate would be reduced to 3.2 (per 1,000 live births) against 3.6 in the base year.

The contraceptive prevalence rate (CPR) would be increased to 60 per cent against 48 per cent in the base year. The average energy intake would be 2300 kilo-calories in the terminal year against 2266 in the base year.

The population below poverty line would be reduced to 30 per cent in the ending year against 45 in the base year.

The number of hospital beds would be 42,000 in the ending year against 37,131 in the base year.

Rechargeable Beard Trimmer

Transcom Electronics Limited
Official licensee of Philips Electronics N.V.
for lighting products, radio and TV sets

Dhaka: 815306-9, 819625-9, 889993
City: 716353, 723578, Khulna: 720304, Bogra: 8215

Let's make things better.

PHILIPS



Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad and City Mayor Mohammad Hanif along with other AL leaders at a discussion meeting organised by Joy Bangla Sangskritik Oikya Jote yesterday as part of its August 15 observance programmes. —Star photo

Anti-liberation forces hatching conspiracy, says Samad Azad

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad yesterday said the shock of the killing of Bangabandhu should be converted into an inspiration for taking the nation forward, reports BSS.

He was addressing a discussion on the occasion of the August 15 organised by Joy Bangla Sangskritik Oikya Jote as part of their fortnight long programme.

He said father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman along with his family members was killed as part of the conspiracy of the anti-liberation and communal forces.

He said the anti-liberation forces have also been hatching conspiracy against the eternal flame which is the symbol of the Liberation War.

The discussion, chaired by Jote president Salahuddin Badal, was also addressed by acting president of Awami League, Amir Hossain Amu, Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak, Forest and Environment Minister Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury and Dhaka City Mayor Mohammad Hanif.

Abdur Razzak said Bangabandhu was killed as he wanted to bring smile on the faces of the teeming millions, removing poverty and ensuring economic development.

He said after the killing of Bangabandhu, Mushtaque and Zia came to power through the barrel of guns and it is unfortunate that Zia is called the introductor of multi-party democracy.

Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury said the government has to work in a hostile environment which had been created during the last 21 years. She described one year as not enough to rectify the irregularities of the last two decades.

Biman admits

From page 1

of any airport in the country had not been changed. When contacted, Managing Director of Biman Air Commodore Rafiqul Islam declined to make any comment about the circular but acknowledged the issuance of it.

Talking to The Daily Star last night, Minister of State for Civil Aviation and Tourism Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir said, issuance of such circular by Biman was "not in my knowledge".

"Ask Mannan Bhuiyan (BNP Secretary General) from where he got the copy of the circular," he said, adding "We stand by our commitment, we did not and will not change the name of the airport."

The State Minister, however, said if one chooses to call the airport "Dhaka International Airport," the government has got nothing to say about that.

Sources in the Civil Aviation Ministry told The Daily Star that no instruction regarding the name of ZIA was given from the ministry.

BNP clash

From page 1

persed them and brought the situation under control. None was arrested. Policemen were deployed in front of Nasiruddin's residence and at BNP's office premises at Nasim Building, he said.

Later, activists of the rival factions held protest rallies and brought out processions blaming each other for the clash.

Mir Nasiruddin, talking to The Daily Star alleged that the party activists opposing the new committee had deliberately attacked his residence, injuring his family members and some party activists.

He also alleged that they ransacked and damaged his house.

But a leader of the opposing faction, Md Ali, alleged that the attack was made from inside the residence of Nasiruddin. Ali's faction is demanding leadership of Abdullah-Al-Noman in the city committee. They held protest rallies and staged demonstrations in front of the party office for the third consecutive day today.

Murtaza murder case Threatening gestures at court alleged

KARACHI, Aug 2: Alleged threatening gestures by two visitors twice disrupted proceedings today in a court trying former Pakistani premier Benazir Bhutto's husband and 18 others on murder conspiracy charges, reports AFP.

Benazir's husband Asif Ali Zardari, former intelligence bureau chief Masoud Sharif, and 17 police officials are on trial for alleged involvement in a plot that led to the killing of Mr Murtaza last year.

Zardari first drew the attention of the judge to the behaviour of a person attending the trial.

"We feel threatened as he is

making threatening gestures towards us. He looks at me and twists his moustache," Zardari complained, pointing toward a man in the audience.

The judge ordered the police to take the visitor into custody. He was handcuffed and led out of the courtroom.

Later the former intelligence chief made a similar complaint against another visitor who was taken out by the police after the court ordered his expulsion.

Police said the two visitors belonged to the party of Murtaza, who was killed along with seven of his political colleagues in a police shoot-out in Karachi last September.

The main plaintiff in the case, Noor Mohammad, who was a close aide of Murtaza, was cross-examined today by the defence counsel.

The hearing was adjourned until August 9 by the district and sessions judge, Shah Nawaz Awafi, who started the trial on July 15.

Mohammad, in his testimony recorded earlier, said Murtaza was killed in a "targeted shooting by the police."

The court is holding the trial in Karachi's main jail for security reasons.

Zardari and other accused were brought from other city jails protected by a convoy of police and paramilitary soldiers.

Cox's Bazar

From page 1

unions in the Sadar thana. The rainfall in the last two days was recorded at 226 mm, local Met office said.

Deputy Commissioner Ali Imam Majumder told reporters that some three lakh people were affected by the flood. Seedbeds and crops on 50,000 acres of land have gone under water.

He said, 450 houses have been damaged completely and another 1,500 partially.

The district administration sanctioned 20 tonnes of rice and 25,000 in cash today for distribution among the flood affected people.

Bakhkali and Matamuhuri rivers are flowing above their danger levels.

Arsenic

From page 1

West Bengal, where the arsenic level of above 1.0mg have been found in only 58 samples.

In Lumbar district 413 samples were collected covering four thanas including the Sadar thana.

BSS adds: Bangladesh can combat arsenic calamity in its suspected 34 districts through restricting the withdrawal of groundwater and proper utilisation of vast surface and rain water resources, research articles on the groundwater arsenic calamity in Bangladesh released here yesterday said.

The research articles composed by 13 experts from the School of Environment Studies, Jadavpur University, Dhaka Community Hospital, Malibagh, and the National Institute for Preventive and Social Medicine, Dhaka, suggested that a proper watershed management is urgently required in Bangladesh to check the arsenic calamity.

The DCHT so far surveyed 20 districts for arsenic patients, of which in 20 districts, they identified people having arsenic skin lesions, such as melanosis, Leuco-melanosis, keratosis, hyperkeratosis, dorum, non-pitting oedema, gangrene and skin cancer.

During the preliminary field survey in 45 arsenic-affected villages in 18 districts, from a random examination of 1630 people including children, the experts found 57.5 per cent have arsenic skin-lesions.

The experts observed that if their suspicion about the groundwater of Bangladesh's 34 districts comes true, then more than 50 million people would be at risk.

Transport strike in Sylhet continues

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Aug 2: The inter-district bus service remained suspended for the second day today, causing suffering to the commuters in the greater Sylhet district.

The transport workers went on a strike following a clash between rival groups of workers over illegal extortion in the Shaistaganj bridge area Thursday night.

14 Indian fishermen released

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Aug 2: Fourteen Indian fishermen were released from jail hajat after one month's imprisonment following a request by the Indian High Commission to the Deputy Commissioner of Patuakhali.

The fishermen had reached Mahipur under Kalapara thana of Patuakhali by a trawler as they lost their route in the Bay of Bengal amid storm on June 30 last.

They came to Patuakhali district headquarters and surrendered to the Deputy Commissioner.

The DC sent them to the office in-charge of Kotwali thana who filed a case against them on charge of crossing into Bangladesh territory illegally.

Indian High Commission in Dhaka sent a letter to the DC requesting their release. After hearing of the case, the court released the fishermen.

Agri commission

From page 1

commission and head of Social Science Department of the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) Dr Mahbub Hossain placed four reports.

Commission Chairman AM Anisuzzaman and its members Begum Matia Chowdhury, Agriculture Secretary Dr AMM Shaukat Ali, Prof Rehman Sobhan and officials concerned were present.

The other members of the commission are Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud, Dr SM Hasanuzzaman, Shahidul Islam, Prof DR Ainun Nisat, Syed AH Kabir and D Z Karim.

Edn system

From page 1

Class IX to Class XII in secondary level. For the graduation level, it recommended three-year course at colleges and four-year course at the universities.

Two-year and one-year Master's degree courses have also been suggested for those having three-year graduation course and four-year course respectively.

The committee also recommended modernisation of madrasah education.