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Bangabandhu Ain Chhatra Parishad (Law student council) brought out a procession in the city yesterday in observance of the National Mourning Day on Aug 15. — Star photo

Govt in dilemma

From page 1

porter said, speaking anonymously. The use of the word "fake" came under fire from both the issuing agency EPB and the BGMEA.

"There may be dispute about it but the word 'fake' is something I strongly object to," said Mozaharul Huq, an EPB director general.

The Commerce Secretary also agrees. "The certificates are genuine... whether it satisfies the rules of origin criteria is a different question," he said. Huq called the matter "disputed", while admitting that there may have been a "mixed" situation of local as well as imported yarn. The use of imported yarn for knitwear and sweater disqualifies an exporter from benefiting from the GSP or generalised system of preference, under which Bangladesh exporters get a 12.5 per cent duty rebate from EU countries.

"We requested the EU for a lenient view," Huq said.

In most cases, a three-stage transformation — cotton to yarn, yarn to fabric and then fabric to ready-to-wear garments — is required to qualify for GSP. Knitwear and sweater come under the mandatory three-stage formula, while a two-stage transformation is enough for women products to qualify for GSP.

Cancellation of certificates means the EU Customs authorities will realise duties for imports from Bangladesh. Theoretically, the importers will pay the price, but the Bangladesh exporters will lose their competitive edge.

An EU official in Dhaka said the move is intended to make the importers pay the duty. "The EU believes that derogation given to applicant countries involves duty evasion worth millions of dollars," the official explained.

EU will wait till October 2 for cancellation of the 6910 certificates in the Schedule B

3 women killed in Gazipur incidents

GAZIPUR, Aug 9: Three women were killed in separate incidents in Sripur and Sadar thanas here on Friday-Saturday, police and hospital sources said, reports UNB.

A housewife committed suicide by taking insecticide at Baupara village in Sadar early today. Halima Khatun, 30, wife of one Zigir Ali, died on the spot. Reason behind the death could not be known.

Salma, 25, second wife of Ruhul Amin, took endrime at their village home at Sripur in the Friday morning. She died at Sripur health complex at night.

Relatives of Salma filed a case while her husband managed to flee.

Also on Friday, an elderly woman succumbed to injuries at her residence.

Shabjan Bibi, 45, mother of one Omed Ali, was seriously wounded when a man hit her with his fist over a silly matter on July 27.

She was first taken to Sripur health complex and then shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital from where doctors released her on August 6. She expired on Friday.

A case was lodged with Sripur police.

Discontent

From page 1

Bhavan where he urged the activists and supporters to "have patience and not to go for further agitation."

But the meeting was not attended by Mir Md Nasiruddin and Dostagir Chowdhury, president and general secretary of the new committee, party sources said.

Abdullah Al Noman left for Dhaka the same night after holding the meeting.

On the other hand, member of the new city committee led by Mir Nasiruddin organised a meeting at the BNP office yesterday which was also not attended by some of the leaders and activists belonging to the Noman faction which opposes the committee, the sources said.

category and for investigation by EPB into the 8562 certificates under Schedule C. A total of 383 certificates under Schedule A were cancelled in November last year. The Schedule B cases were jointly investigated by EPB and an EU team, which found the origin of yarn unproven.

If the EPB does not comply with the request within the deadline, the EU will ask the member states to collect duties for all 15000 certificates. Bangladesh is still one of the eligible countries on the list of derogation of rules of origin although Bangladesh has requested for derogation of rules only on knitwear products. Derogation given to Nepal, Cambodia and Laos effective from August 1 includes both woven and knitwear products.

However, there will be quantitative restriction on products eligible for GSP derogation as in case of Nepal, Cambodia and Laos, EU sources said.

There are a total of 86 companies involved in the Schedule B certificates. If the companies belonging to one group are taken as one unit, the number of companies involved in the dispute comes down to about 60.

Meanwhile, EU customs authorities still suspect that 'fake' GSP certificates are being issued once again. They have reportedly found that the same suppliers who had earlier been found to have used 'false' certificates are again exporting to the same buyers at previous volumes.

The EPB has been told to clarify if these products adhere to GSP rules of origin. The Bureau is yet to respond to EU customs authorities by supplying them back-to-back LC documents.

Dacoity at house in N'ganj

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Aug 9: A gang of dacoits looted cash and gold ornaments worth about Tk 3.74 lakh from the house of the president of Narayanganj Press Club in the town this afternoon.

Police said the dacoits broke open the main gate of the house of Md Ayub on BB Road at about 3:30 pm when none was inside.

They took away Tk 40,000 and gold ornaments worth about Tk 3.34 lakh. Md Ayub filed a case with Narayanganj Sadar thana.

Khaleda

From page 1

Attacks on political opponents in educational institutions at the very nose of the members of law enforcing agencies are taking place regularly. Even the women's colleges are not free from attacks by terrorists and outsiders.

The Leader of the Opposition said academic atmosphere has been hampered seriously following appointments of party-men in the key posts of the universities.

Begum Zia called upon the teachers to unite the nationalist forces in all professional groups, including the university teachers and work unitedly for restoring congenial academic atmosphere.

She also stressed the need for proper coordination and communication of nationalist professionals in the greater interest of the country.

The BNP chairperson said repression came down on the nationalist forces everywhere in the country since the takeover by the party in power. BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and party leaders Anwar Zahid and Ehsanul Kabir were present on the occasion.

DU teachers Prof Mahmudul Amin, Tajmer Islam, Shafiqur Rahman, Yusuf Haider, Khalilur Rahman, Saidur Rahman, Nurul Amin Bepari, Abul Kaiser and Nazrul Islam, among others, were present at the function.

Meanwhile, a delegation of newly formed convening committee of Gopalganj district BNP led by its convener Saifur Rahman Nantu paid a courtesy call on Begum Zia at 29 Minto Road.

Salman Shah's death

CID may bring Rezvi on remand

Rezvi Ahmed, a self-confessed accomplice of filmstar Salman Shah's killers, is likely to be brought under CID custody on remand in a couple of days, sources said, reports UNB.

Earlier, the CID investigators could not bring him on remand despite a CMM court order as he was given a one month detention by the district magistrate following prayer from Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP).

The cantonment thana of DMP had prayed for the detention for "unknown reason," the CID said.

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) sought permission of the Home Ministry for bringing Rezvi on remand from Dhaka Central Jail and it was granted.

After a dramatic arrest from Salman's house, Rezvi in a confessional statement to the court said that the filmstar did not commit suicide, he was killed. Rezvi also told the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court that he had played the role of an associate during the 'killing of the popular hero on September 6, 1996.

CID investigators, however, said it will be clear if the statement of Rezvi was true or arranged after he is interrogated by them on the court approved remand.



Five-week-old siamese twin sisters Vu Thi Dao (L) and Vu Thi Diep sleep in a HoChiMinh-City Pediatric Hospital's operation room yesterday. The hospital's surgeons tried to separate Friday the siamese twins who share a liver and a heart. The operation was not medically possible because they have only one heart. This is the 7th siamese twin separation operation carried out in the hospital since early 1980s. — AFP/UNB photo

UN medals for 30 Bangladesh police personnel

Thirty Bangladesh police personnel have been awarded United Nations medals for rendering outstanding service with UN peacekeeping missions in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Angola, reports UNB.

According to a message received in Dhaka yesterday, the UN medals were handed over to the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the United Nations in New York.

In addition, 10 more police officers were given certificates for their service.

In a note to the head of Bangladesh Mission, Ambassador Anwarul Karim Chowdhury, the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations said, "The United Nations appreciates the services rendered by your countrymen and the efforts made by your government to the UN peacekeeping operation."

Ninety-four Bangladesh police personnel are serving on various peacekeeping missions of the United Nations in different parts of the world.

They are part of 1,155 personnel, including troops and military observers, contributed by Bangladesh to the UN peacekeeping operations.

Schoolgirl stabbed in city

A teenaged girl was stabbed as she refused to accept a proposal for love affair from a young man in city's posh Banani area yesterday, reports UNB.

Hospital sources said one Manjur was rejected by Sheuli, 14, a class nine student of Banani Model High School, while she was going to school in the morning.

The dejected young man beat up Sheuli and later stabbed her. Sheuli's father Abdur Rahman was also roughed up by Manjur as he rushed to the spot to rescue her.

Sheuli was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital while her father was given first aid.

2 found dead inside a house at Mugda

By Staff Correspondent

Two persons including a woman were found dead inside a house at North Mugda under Shabujbagh thana in the city last night.

Police said the identities of the dead aged between 25 and 30, could not be known immediately. The bodies were sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

A resident of the locality said police broke open the main entry gate of the third floor apartment at about 10 pm and recovered the bodies. The owner of the house informed police at about 9 pm yesterday that a bad smell was coming out of the apartment which was locked from outside for the last few days.

A young man rented the house on July 26. But none of the members of the tenant's family could be traced till last night.

Senior police officials visited the spot and were investigating the incident.

Australia 56/1 at tea

NOTTINGHAM, England, Aug 9: Australia continued to tighten their stronghold on the fifth Test against England today as both their bowlers and batsmen showed their quality at Trent Bridge, reports AFP.

After bowling England out for 313, 114 behind Australia's first innings total of 427, the tourists quickly put on 56 for the loss of one wicket at tea to leave them 160 ahead and in a dominant position in a match they need only draw to retain the Ashes.

Captain Mark Taylor (12 not out) and Greg Blewett (five not out) were together at the tea interval after Andy Caddick had Matthew Elliott brilliantly caught on the boundary by John Crawley for a quickfire 37.

Accused commits suicide in thana hajat

CHITTAGONG, Aug 9: An accused in a dacoity case allegedly committed suicide in Fatikchhari thana hajat here today, reports BSS.

According to district police control room sources, the accused Nurul Ahsan committed suicide today, the last day of his three-day remand by hanging himself from the water tank of the toilet.

He was arrested on August 5 in connection with dacoity at Fatikchhari thana health complex a few days back.

One killed by colleague in city

A middle-aged man was killed allegedly by a colleague after a hot exchange of words on Friday night, reports UNB.

Police said both Shahabuddin and his colleague Alauddin locked themselves in a quarrel over who will cross a drain at Babupura in Nilkhet first.

As Shahabuddin crossed the drain first, Alauddin beat him up mercilessly. His body was recovered yesterday.

Miladunnabi

From page 1

He was accused of provoking the incident that forced President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed leave the Eid-e-Miladunnabi function without delivering his speech.

The Khatib denied the charges and sent a reply to the IF within seven days.

But the authorities are yet to take a decision on his fate.

It will be decided after the probe committee submits its report, Nurul Islam told The Daily Star last night.

"We are taking time to investigate every aspect of the July 17 incident carefully. Thus, the delay," he explained.

HC directive to give poet Ghalib's house a facelift

NEW DELHI, Aug 9: The Delhi High Court yesterday directed the city government to take urgent steps to give poet Mirza Ghalib's house a facelift, reports PTI.

Justice CM Nayar directed the city government to "immediately provide funds and take steps for urgent repairs which are required without further delay and not later than three months" to prevent decay and "preserve the structures in their original form."

Justice Nayar directed the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to render all technical expertise for preservation and conservation of the house and consider declaring it as protected ancient monument to protect it as cultural and historical heritage of the country.

Blender with mill and chopper



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Female freshers at DU face acute accommodation problem

The female freshers of Dhaka University are facing acute accommodation problem, reports UNB.

A good number of students hailing from outside the capital, are yet to turn up for first year classes, which began on August 3, as they could not manage seats in the dormitories.

Campus sources said some of them failing to attend their new classes, went back to their village homes.

Every student male or female — is attached to one of the 14 halls of the university.

But only three halls are for the female who constitute 40 per cent of the total 28,000 students of the university. The rest 11 are for the male students.

Every year a total of 4,000 students, about 2,000 of them female, are admitted into the university. Most of them come from outside the city.

A small number of the female students reside with their relatives in Dhaka while the rest take admission hoping to get accommodation in one of the three residential halls.

But due to lack of adequate seats and strict rules in the female dormitories, the female freshers face serious accommodation problem.

The rules are so rigid that

they cannot even enter into the halls being the 'attached students'. On the other hand, the seat-allotment process is very lengthy.

Only four or five seats of each female hall are allotted for first year Honours students every year. As a result, most of them coming from outside the capital usually share with their seniors.

Meanwhile, DU authorities recently decided not to allow the non-residents to stay in the halls.

Defying the rules, though some outsiders belonging to different student organisations are staying in different male halls, the rules are being strictly followed in the female dormitories, sources said.

A female student from Narail district narrated her sad story to the news agency as she is facing the accommodation problem.

"I have no relatives in Dhaka... I have nowhere to stay," she said, adding "I would never have taken admission into Dhaka University if I had an idea of the sufferings."

She alleged that some girls were contacting student leaders to solve their problems.

Another girl from Nilphamari, who got admitted into Sociology Department, has

been forced to stay in a city hotel with her father several days as she failed to get accommodation in a residential hall.

Inmates said even if any fresher goes into the hall to stay at night, the authorities force her to go out. Some alleged that the hall authorities behaved harshly when they went to contact them for a permission.

When contacted, Shamsunahar Hall provost Prof Sultana Shaif said they had nothing to do in this regard.

"In the female halls it is impossible for a human being to stay with such problems," she said, adding "at least two female halls should be built immediately to solve the problem."

Prof Shaif said every year they inform and request the university authorities to solve the problem immediately, but the problem is yet to be resolved.

When his attention was drawn, Vice-Chancellor Prof A K Azad Chowdhury said that the university authorities had already planned to construct two residential halls, one for the male and the other for female.

He said, necessary papers were sent to the government for quick consideration. "I think session jam is one of the reasons behind the accommodation problem."

ITGLWF secretary unhappy over mismanagement in garments units

Secretary to the International Textile Garments and Leather Workers Federation of Asia and Pacific region N Suzuki yesterday visited the four garments factories in Mirpur where 26 workers were killed on July 30, reports UNB.

After the visit, the federation's secretary expressed dissatisfaction over the 'mismanagement' and 'un-hygienic condition' prevailing in the garments factories.

He, however, lauded the government for taking measures to preserve the rights of garments workers, said a press release of the Bangladesh National Coordinating Council of ITGLWF.

Among others, Textile Industries Sramik League president Z M Kamrul Anam, Garments Workers League general secretary Badruddoza Nizam and Garments Sramik Karmachari Federation general secretary Kamrul Ahsan accompanied Suzuki.

Alleged thief beaten to death

TANGAIL, Aug 9: An alleged thief was killed in mob beating in a village of Sadar Thana on Friday night, reports UNB.

Police said the burglar entered the house of one Abdus Samad at village Hatila at night. His neighbours caught the thief red handed following hue and cry raised by him.

Pak violence

From page 1

capital Lahore for interrogation.

Punjab authorities said they suspected both shoot-outs were retaliation for two attacks Wednesday on Punjab mosques that left 12 Sunni Muslims dead and more than 40 injured.

Punjab authorities have deployed thousands of heavily armed police and arrested hundreds of known Islamic militants in a bid to end the violence.

But clashes have become routine in Punjab, which is Pakistan's most populous province and home to most sectarian organisations.

In another attack today, unidentified gunmen shot and injured a Sunni Muslim activist outside his home in Bahawalpur, 80 kilometers south of Multan.

Dr Rana Yousef, a member of the extremist Sunni group known as 'Guardians of the Friends of the Prophet', was rushed to a hospital where he was recovering from gunshot wounds to the chest.

Most of Pakistan's 140 million people are Sunni Muslims and get along with the minority Shi'ite community.

MK Alamgir

From page 1

ple. She gave the call following a party MP's argument that the government should give some opportunities to the partymen, a top leader of the AL told The Daily Star.

She also called upon the top ranking leaders and ministers to make all efforts to bridge the already created gap between the party and the people. She instructed them to visit their respective constituencies on a regular basis.

Some senior leaders of the party said a section of top level bureaucrats are responsible for making shrimp and garments exports 'complicated', and demanded punitive measures against them.

2 killed, 20 hurt in road accident

NARSINGDI, Aug 9: Two passengers were killed and 20 others injured when a bus hit a rickshaw on Dhaka-Sylhet highway in Sadar thana today, police and eye-witnesses said, reports UNB.

The Dhaka-bound bus from Brahmanbaria knocked the rickshaw in Rainadi area at 12 noon, killing its two passengers who could not be immediately identified.

Schoolgirl commits suicide in hostel

TANGAIL, Aug 9: A student of Santal Islamic University Girls' High School allegedly committed suicide by hanging at her hostel room today, reports UNB.

A class-IX student Mira Afroz Shemi, 17, daughter of one Emdadul Huq of Uttara in the capital, hanged herself from the rafter of her room at noon.

Later, Shemi, in a critical condition, was taken to Tangail General Hospital where the doctors declared her dead.

Jyoti Basu

From page 1

Jyoti Basu in reaching the

Ganges Water Treaty between Bangladesh and India, and his commitment for continued support.

Awami League presidium member Amir Hossain Amu, Bangladesh High Commissioner to India CM Shaif Sami and Deputy High Commissioner Sheikh Ahmed Jalal were present at the meeting.

Earlier, Sonmath Chatterjee, Leader of the CPM Parliamentary Party in Lok Sabha called on Bangladesh Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad at his hotel suite.

Azad and Amu also attended a reception, hosted by Congress President Sitaram Kesri in honour of the heads of foreign delegation at a local hotel yesterday afternoon.

US military ready to evacuate survivors of Korean jet crash

AGANA, Guam, Aug 9: The US military prepared today to evacuate seriously burned survivors of the Korean Air flight 801 crash which killed 225 here, while investigators continued to search for the cause of the disaster, reports AFP.

A C-141 hospital plane was on standby at Andersen Air Force Base on the island to evacuate six survivors to the brook army medical centre in San Antonio, Texas.

Major Lee Cancio, heading up a 12-person brook team, said the six had burns to more than 20 per cent of their bodies, with two having suffered 80 per cent burns.

Meanwhile, a woman who lost 11 relatives in the crash was preparing to fly out of Guam on Saturday without any news of her but some 200 other south Koreans were still awaiting a miracle.

Khaleda to visit

From page 1

several other party programmes and seminars in the city and elsewhere in the United States.

Begum Zia will meet BNP leaders and supporters in New York.

On her way back home, the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament is expected to stay a day or two in London, where she will meet the BNP leaders from European countries.

Party sources said presidents and general secretaries from a number of European countries, including France, Germany, Italy and UK, will assemble in London for the occasion.

Some central leaders will accompany Begum Zia during the trip.

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