

CFTC imposes congestion surcharge for one month

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Aug 16: The Chittagong Feeder Trade Committee (CFTC), a Singapore-based organisation of feeder vessel operators, imposed a congestion surcharge on container cargo at Chittagong Port for one month from today despite requests by a Bangladesh delegation not to do so, official sources said.

The six-member delegation comprising port officials and port users went to Singapore on August 12 and held meetings with representatives of the CFTC on August 14 and 15 to persuade it to withdraw the surcharge. See Page 12 Col 6

Arguments in Yasmin murder case today

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, Aug 16: Arguments in the Yasmin rape and murder case will be held tomorrow in the District and Sessions Judge's court, Rangpur.

Hearing of the case concluded on July 29 after taking testimony of 45 prosecution witnesses out of 54. All the nine accused in the case are facing trial under Section 201(34) of Penal Code for offences like lapses in duty, attempt to damage 'Alamat', concealing facts and diverting the case.

The nine accused are former See Page 12 Col 2

PATC closed, 23 employees sacked

The Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre (BPATC) at Savar has been declared closed from today by an executive order in the wake of unrest, reports UNB.

All the trainee officers have been asked to leave the centre temporarily while the staff dispute is resolved. See Page 12 Col 3

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Situation in Kushtia worsens Fresh flood hits 3 northern dists

By Staff Correspondent

The low-lying areas in Chapainawabganj, Rajshahi and Natore districts have been flooded following incessant rain and on-rush of hill waters while the flood situation in five thanas of Kushtia district worsened further.

Our Natore Correspondent reports: Low-lying areas of Natore Sadar, Boraiagram and Gurudaspur thanas of the district have been inundated due to incessant rain. The roads in Sadar thana areas went under

water and flood water entered some houses of the area.

In Rajshahi city, the low-lying areas of the city went under knee-deep water affecting several hundred people. City roads at several points, were also submerged.

The water levels in Padma, Mohananda, Atrai, Choto Jumuna, Punarbhaba, Korotoa and Barni in the region marked a sharp rise and most of them are flowing above the danger marks.

Char areas of Shibganj and Sadar thanas of Natore district have also been flooded.

According to official sources, a total of 250 mm rainfall was recorded in the region during the last 24 hours.

Our Kushtia Correspondent writes: The flood situation in five thanas of the district has worsened further with the rise of water levels in the Ganges and Goral.

Water level at Hardinge See Page 12 Col 2

Oust-govt movement aimed at protecting killers: Hasina

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said the oust-govt movement threatened by the husband of the present Leader of the Opposition had awarded the killers of Bangabandhu with diplomatic postings. "If the trend of giving support to killers continues, politics of murder and coup will never end," Hasina said.

Sheikh Hasina said there is no need for launching any movement to oust the government because "we ourselves will resign three months ahead of the next general elections and hand over power to a caretaker government."

She mentioned the incident at a recent Miladun Nabi function at the Baitul Mukarram National Mosque in presence of the President and said the BNP has formed its unit to support the miscreants.

Hasina reiterated that her administration was determined to free the society from terrorism. "I am ready to take any stringent actions to curb terrorism," she mentioned some of the steps for removing "terrorism" from educational institutions and said "whenever a worker of BNP or JCD is arrested with arms, BNP alleges persecution."

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Prime Minister and Awami League Chief Sheikh Hasina addressing a public meeting organised by the city unit of AL at the Bangabandhu Avenue yesterday. —Star photo



President Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina stand in solemn silence after placing wreaths at the portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Bangabandhu Museum in the city on the National Mourning Day on Friday. —PID photo

Thousands gather at Tungipara

TUNGIPARA, Aug 16: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said Bangabandhu lives in the hearts of every Bangalee and none will be able to erase his name from the hearts of the people, reports UNB.

"Many conspiracies were plotted to erase the name of Bangabandhu, but all went in vain and Bangabandhu remained alive in the hearts of millions," she told a gathering of grief stricken people near the mazar of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The Prime Minister flew in here in the morning to pay homage to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib. See Page 12 Col 1

Glowing tributes to Bangabandhu

The nation paid glowing tributes to its paramount leader of independence, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Friday, on the 22nd anniversary of his martyrdom, reports UNB.

The day was observed as the National Mourning Day through state level programmes for the second time after the Awami League regained power last year after a lapse of nearly 21 years.

The father of nation, along with his family members, excepting two daughters, Sheikh Hasina and Sheikh Rehana, was assassinated on the black night of August 15, 1975.

The pre-dawn coup led by some disgruntled army officers toppled the Bangabandhu gov-

ernment serving less than four years in office, changing the country's entire political scenario.

The slain President was buried at his village of Tungipara in Gopalganj district while the rest at Banani graveyard.

President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina placed wreaths at the portrait of the great leader at the Bangabandhu Memorial Museum in the morning.

Ministers, MPs, diplomats, heads of three services, high civil and military officials were present. A munajat was offered there seeking divine blessings for the martyrs. See Page 12 Col 4

Pay hike likely to put fiscal balances under pressure: WB

By Inam Ahmed

The World Bank (WB) has observed that the fiscal balances are likely to come under greater pressure in fiscal 1997-98 because of pay increases of government employees.

It also said that the government should move quickly this year to implement the long outstanding reform measures in some key areas like financial sector, infrastructure, privatisation and governance. Or else, time would run out as election year draws nearer and the reform issues become much more politicised, it added.

The FY '97 macroeconomic outcomes reaffirm the urgency of restoring macroeconomic stability and accelerating structural reforms in order to have

high and sustained economic growth," the Periodic Macroeconomic Update of the Bank released on August 10 said.

Finance Minister SAMS Kibria talking to The Daily Star last night said, he will stay within the budgetary allocation in implementing the pay scale and for that the economy will be able to control fiscal pressures from the pay rise of government employees.

About the speed of reforms, he said he was in full agreement with the WB and that regardless of election timing, the pace of reform must be speeded up.

"Privatisation, administration, financial sector, local government, all these critical areas of the government must

come under the reform programme for the economy to move forward quickly," said Kibria. "I am confident, as we implement reforms, the economy will show greater dynamism, and investment will pick up."

About macro-economic stabilisation, he said the government is trying to restore stabilisation and the situation is now stable because the inflation rate is less than four per cent and overall economic activities are steadily growing.

"The only area where we want more result is forex reserve. We want to increase it and we are working on a variety of steps to increase reserves,"

See Page 12 Col 4

Lead pollution in certain areas of city high

By Special Correspondent

The lead pollution level in the city's air is yet to become alarming but there is no scope to remain complacent as the increasing number of vehicles using leaded fuel are posing danger to the residents, a survey report says.

The report released by the Department of Environment (DOE) after a year long survey in different parts of the city showed that the lead pollution level in certain parts of the city is high. See Page 12 Col 3

Judge found dead at Magura circuit house

JHENIDAH, Aug 16: A senior assistant judge of the district allegedly committed suicide on Friday night at Magura circuit house, police said today, reports UNB.

Judge Jayanta Kumar Biswas, 45, was found dead in a room of the circuit house this morning.

The circuit house staff told police that they broke into the room as the judge was not responding even after repeated calls from outside.

Police seized two slips, found on a table in the room, with the writings of the judge.

About 20 sedatives were also found on the table and the doctors, who performed the autopsy of the body at Magura general hospital, suspected that Biswas had taken a large quantity of sedatives.

Sources said Biswas left his Jhenidah residence on Friday. See Page 12 Col 6

Khaleda tells editors of dailies Mid-term polls won't be good for country

By Staff Correspondent

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia has said she believes that mid-term election would not be good for the country.

"We want the government to stop its anti-people activities and oppression on the Opposition activists and complete its full term by doing good work," the BNP chief told the editors of the national dailies, weeklies and news agencies at a meeting with them at the Sheraton Hotel in the city yesterday.

"...But we'll be compelled to go for agitation against the government unless it gives up autocratic practice," she said and alleged that at least 200 of her party workers were killed and false cases were filed against 10,000 others since this

government came to power.

The Opposition leader compared Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina with Hitler. "She is comparable with Hitler for accumulating powers and repressing the political opponents."

She also blamed the Awami League government of Sheikh Hasina for "crippling the economy in a planned way."

Replying to a question, Begum Zia said unlike the previous Opposition her party is co-operating with the government but regretted that each and every act of cooperation by her party was reciprocated with repression on her workers.

Asked to comment on trial of Bangabandhu's killers, Begum Zia said, "We want trial of See Page 12 Col 8

BCL leader shot dead in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Aug 16: A BCL leader of Fatikchhari thana here was gunned down allegedly by Islami Chhatra Shibir activists today, reports UNB.

Police said Abdul Jabbar, 36, son of late Nur Ahmad of Purbabuzpur village in the thana, was killed by some Shibir activists, led by Ezahar Hossain.

The armed Shibir activists shot Jabbar when he went outside his residence to respond to a call of nature at about 5 am. He died on the spot.

The body was sent to Chittagong Medical College Hospital for autopsy. A case was filed with the local police.

Another report said, one Abu Taher, 30, of Idylpur village in the thana died in mob beating on Friday morning. He died on the spot.

Taher was beaten to death by some co-villagers for his alleged involvement in seducing a woman.

Zilla Parishad chairman will enjoy state minister's status

By Nurul Kabir

The Local Government Commission (LGC) has proposed that the fourth tier of the local government should be at the district level and it be called Zilla Parishad (ZP).

According to the LGC report, the Zilla Parishad will be headed by a Chairman who will be called Zilla Parishad Chairman or District Minister, elected directly by the voters of the thanas. Every thana will elect two members to the Council. One-third of the Zilla Parishad members will be women, also directly elected by people. But the LGC report has not defined the area of the women member's constituency.

The Zilla Parishad Chairman will enjoy the status of a State Minister. Besides, the Chairmen of the Upazilla Parishads and munic-

ipalities in the zilla and all the district level government officials except those of the judiciary will be members of the Zilla Parishad by virtue of their positions. But they will have no voting right.

The NGOs operating in the zilla will send a representative to the Parishad.

The Deputy Commissioner of the district will work as the Executive Officer of the Zilla Parishad, while the Members of Parliament (MPs) in the district will act as the advisers to the Parishad.

All the district level officers and employees excepting those of the judiciary will be transferred to the Zilla Parishad on deputation. They will work

"under the supervision of the Zilla Parishad."

The Zilla Parishad Chairman will give 'performance report' of the officials, while their Annual Confidential Reports (ACRs) will be written by the higher authorities in various departments concerned. The LGC, in an 'alternative proposal' also said that the Zilla Parishad Chairman could be given the right to write the ACRs of officials working in the Zilla.

The LGC has not proposed any general schedule for meetings of the Zilla Parishad.

The LGC has proposed that the Zilla Parishad will address different issues and problems through various standing committees. Such bodies could be formed on issues like 'Law See Page 12 Col 7

EBL'S 6th YEAR

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	Dec '92	Dec '93	Dec '94	Dec '95	Dec '96	June '97
Authorised Capital	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
Paid up Capital	310	600	800	600	600	600
Reserve	213	213	213	213	213	213
Deposits	2379	2217	2967	4182	7487	7631
Advances	206	632	1374	2625	3629	4275
Operating Profit/(Loss)	(21)	36	53	193	273	166
Assets	1888	1826	2729	4380	8079	8885
Number of Branches	4	5	11	14	16	16

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