

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 sur-

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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

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Situation in Kushtia worsens Fresh flood hits 3 northern dists

By Staff Correspondent

The low-lying areas in Chaitnayabganj, 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, Boraigra and Gurdaspur thanas of the district have been inundated due to incessant rain. The roads in Sadar thana areas went under

The water levels in Padma, Mohananda, Atrai, Choto Jumuna, Punarbhaba, Korotao 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 Gora.

Water level at Hardinge See Page 12 Col 2



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

Oust-govt movement aimed at protecting killers: Hasina

By Staff Correspondent

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The Prime Minister recollects that the husband of the present Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsads is aimed at protecting the killers of the Father of the Nation.

"When the trial is underway, the Opposition leader is threatening to oust the government to save the killers," Sheikh Hasina said without naming Begum Khaleda Zia.

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 Miladunnabi 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".

Sheikh Hasina also said her government will build a society free from poverty, hunger and exploitation, dream by Banga-

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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 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 Mujib

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See Page 12 Col 1

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.

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Glowing tributes to Bangabandhu

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

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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 him.

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

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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

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."

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BCL leader shot dead in Ctg

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

Police said Abdul Jabbar, 36, son of late Nur Ahmad of Purbabupur 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 Idiyapur 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.

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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	600	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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LGC report

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.

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

LGC report

to the Parishad.

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).

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