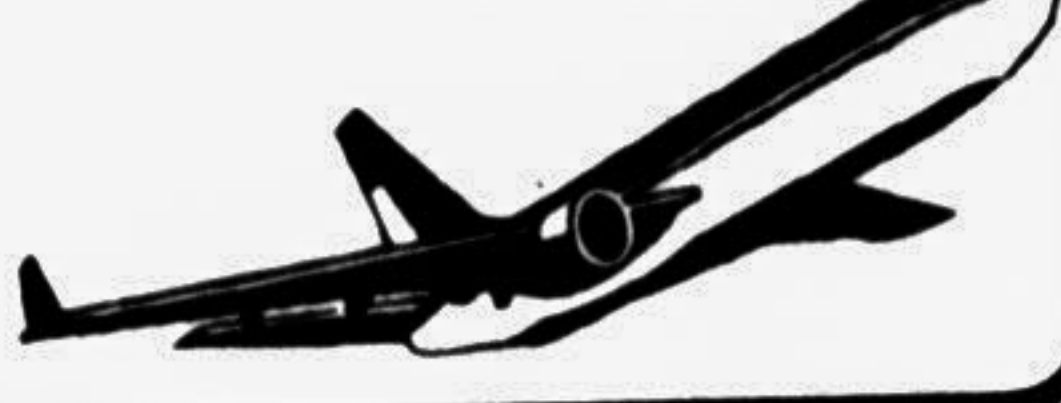


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BNP leader Prof. Badruddoza Chowdhury addressing a seminar at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday, organised to mark the 21st death anniversary of Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani. —Star photo

Bangabandhu murder

From Page 1
Major Dalim, Major Noor and some other officers were hatching a conspiracy against the government.
The witness said Brig Rouf, then DGFI chief, also told him that President Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was informed of the conspiracy through a letter.

He said Bangabandhu was scheduled to attend a programme in Dhaka University on August 15 morning and DGFI assigned him as the personal bodyguard of the President and also gave him the responsibility to deploy plainclothes soldiers on the campus.

At about 12 noon on August 14, he said, some powerful explosions took place near the Public Library area and DGFI sent him to inspect the area. He along with a few soldiers went to the spot and recovered some evidences of the explosion, he added.

The witnesses said on August 14 afternoon he ordered his soldiers to take their positions in the earmarked places by 4:30 am on August 15.

On August 15 at about 5:30 or 5:45 am, the witness said, he left the DGFI officers' mess at Gulshan and on his way to the university he saw two tanks at Mohakhali — one on the road island and another in a dry ditch beside the road.

The witness said he reached the Shalibagh crossing a state of DGFI raising a hand hinted him to stop his jeep.
"As I stopped the jeep, the soldier ran to me and said, 'Sir, Sheikh Shaheb has been killed.'"

To know the fact, he said, he went to the nearby radio station. Inside the radio station, he said, he saw an agitated Major Dalim shouting at the top of his voice: "We have killed that son of a bitch with his whole family."

The witness said then he tried to contact his seniors at DGFI over phone and after some time Brig Rouf came to the office. He said he narrated to the DGFI chief what he had seen and requested him to go to the Army HQs.

The DG left for the Army HQ, he said, adding that after some time, he also went to the Army HQ and found Gen Shafiqullah, Gen Ziaur Rahman, Brig Khaled Mosharraf and other senior officers there. He said he saw Major Dalim with a stungun standing behind Gen Shafiqullah.

Major Dalim later took Gen Shafiqullah to the 1st Bengal Regiment while Gen Ziaur Rahman, Brig Khaled Mosharraf and other senior officers followed them, he said, adding that he along with Brig Rouf also followed them.

He said the Air and Naval chiefs also came to the 1st Bengal Regiment at the cantonment, where Dalim abused the senior officers.

Major Dalim then escorted Gen Shafiqullah to the radio station and Gen Ziaur Rahman, Brig Khaled Mosharraf and other senior officers followed them, he said, adding that he along with Brig Rouf also followed them.

He said while they were going to the radio station from the Rakkhi Bahini HQ, he found Rakkhi Bahini forces in battle dress.

At the radio station, he said, he saw Khandaker Mushtaque Ahmed, Taheruddin Thakur, Major Dalim, Major Rashid, Major Noor, Major Shahriyar, Major Mohiuddin (Lancer) and Major Rashed Chowdhury.

After some time Major Farooq came there and later Col Taher also came to the radio

station, he said.

Then Major Farooq and Major Rashid discussed with Col Taher. Col Taher had also exchanged hot words with them as he asked why they had killed Bangabandhu. Angry Taher then left the radio station, the witness said.

He said then he went back to the DGFI office from the radio station and Col Moshduddowla and Col Mahmudul Hasan were given the responsibility of taking pictures of the bodies at Bangabandhu's residence.

Ziauddin said he along with them went to Bangabandhu's house after 11 am and found Major Bazul Huda and Major Noor there.

Near the corridor of the garage the witness said he saw bullet-riddled body of Col Jamil in a car.
In the telephone room on the ground floor of the house, he said, he saw three bullet-riddled and blood-soaked bodies including those of Sheikh Kamal and Sheikh Naser. "We took snaps of those bodies."

While going upstairs, "we were startled and stopped seeing the body of Bangabandhu on the stair case," said the witness.

"It appeared to me that an innocent child was sleeping. There was no sign of pain on the face of Bangabandhu although many bullets of the assailants pierced his chest. It seemed to me that death could not defeat him," he said. Then they took snaps of Bangabandhu's body. He said there were soldiers of lance and artillery on the corridor of the first floor who helped them find the other bodies.

At Bangabandhu's bedroom, Ziauddin said, he saw the bullet-riddled bodies of Begum Mujib, Sheikh Jamal, Sheikh Rusul, Sultana Kamal and Rosy Jamal. They took pictures of the bodies.

The witness said they deposited the films to the DGFI office and he then left for Bangabandhu.

Later, the witness identified accused Taheruddin Thakur, Lt Col (dismissed) Syed Farooqur Rahman and Lt Col (retired) Sultan Shariyar Rashid Khan on the dock.

Declare services at Ctg Port essential: BGMEA

By Staff Correspondent

"Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) has demanded that all activities in the Chittagong port be declared 'essential'."

In a statement yesterday, BGMEA president Mostafa Golan Qudus said the export oriented readymade garments sector will face a 'disaster' and the country's economy will suffer if normalcy is not restored in the port immediately.

Imported fabrics and garments for export have stockpiled in the port due to the fresh deadlock. Container carriers from Singapore can not arrive at the port from the outer anchorage. As a result, commercial banks can not make any payment to their parties and negotiate Letters of Credit, he said.

Bangladesh's quota year is going to end and any failure in shipment will result in cancellation of quota, Qudus said.

"If necessary, existing laws should be amended to free the port from such recurring deadlock, he said."

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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The Daily Star

B Chowdhury says

BNP politics not based on anti-Indian stand

Deputy Leader of the Opposition Prof. AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury has urged all, irrespective of religion and cast, to join the ongoing movement to protect the country's independence and sovereignty, reports UNB.

He made the call when the leaders and activists of Jatiyaatabadi Tapshill Cell met him at his residence here on Tuesday night.

"Country's independence, democracy and integrity are now at stake," B Chowdhury said urging all to participate in the current movement imbued with the spirit of the 1971 Liberation War.

"We all have to join the movement to ensure a safe future for the next generation," he said.

He assured the members of the Tapshill Cell of standing beside them in the struggle for protecting their religious rights as his party did in the past. "We are committed to maintain the glorious example of communal harmony in the country."

In his speech, BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan said: BNP believes in welfare and our politics is to safeguard the country's sovereignty. We have friends outside the country, but no master.

Referring to propaganda against BNP that the party's politics is based on anti-Indian stand, he said, "It's a false campaign against us. We are not anti or pro of any country. We are pro-Bangladesh."

He said people of this soil had never compromised with any one in the question of their motherland and expressed his firm determination to stand against those who will conspire against the country.

The BNP Secretary General said Awami League had given false assurance to the Hindu community to bag their votes, but it's true that the minorities in the country are being oppressed by the ruling party members.

He said many Hindus had lost their land and a large number of temples were damaged during the regime of Awami League.

President assents to two bills

President Shahabuddin Ahmed yesterday assented to two bills passed in the seventh session of the Parliament, reports UNB.

The Bills are: The Administrative Tribunals (Amendment) Bill, 1997 and Securities and Exchange Commission (second amendment) Bill, 1997, said an official handout.

Pre-polls violence in Sirajganj 23 injured

SIRAJGANJ, Nov 19: At least 23 people were injured in pre-election violence at two unions in Kadirpur thana of the district in the early hours of today, reports UNB.

Witnesses said a clash erupted at Kalikapur of Gandhail union at 1 am when two processions of supporters of two rival candidates came face to face. Fifteen people injured during the clash.

Another clash at Malbari union at around same time left eight people injured.

Tribal leaders want to send refugees in batches

NEW DELHI, Nov 19: Despite a Bangladesh request to Indian government to send back more than 44,000 tribal refugees from Tripura at "one-go," the tribal leaders want to send them in batches, a news agency reported today, say BSS.

The Bangladesh government has taken up the repatriation issue with the Indian government at the highest level and expressed its willingness to settle them in the Chittagong Hill districts immediately, United News of India (UNI) said today.

But the tribal leaders want to return in batches and have decided to send another group of 6,300 refugees to Bangladesh on November 21, the agency said quoting sources.

Sharif's bilateral visit

From Page 1
Interaction with the local business community during the bilateral visit.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and his Pakistani counterpart will hold official talks on November 24. The entire gamut of bilateral relations will come up for discussions.

The two prime ministers will discuss expansion of bilateral trade links and opening a regular shipping service between Chittagong and Karachi. They will also discuss the prospects of joint ventures.

The issue of repatriation of stranded Pakistanis, popularly known as Biharis, will also be mooted. Bangladesh will insist that the process of repatriation of stranded Pakistanis be resumed.

Repatriation of stranded Pakistanis had taken place only once in the last 20 years and it was in January, 1993. This followed a joint announcement made by the then Bangladesh premier Begum Khaleda Zia and Nawaz Sharif, who was premier also at that time.

After the repatriation of only 325 stranded Pakistanis in 1993, an estimated 2,38,000

continue to live in some 60 camps in Bangladesh.

According to the agreement reached between Begum Zia and Nawaz Sharif in Islamabad during the former's official visit to Pakistan, 3000 people were to be repatriated by December 31, 1992. But not a single person could go after the first batch had left.

The initial repatriation process that had begun after the independence of Bangladesh was suspended in 1974. At that time, some 4000 families were sent back to Pakistan.

The government and the stranded people are hopeful that the Pakistani premier, who had initiated a process earlier, will resume it.

Incidentally, the then Pakistan premier Benazir Bhutto, during an official visit to Dhaka in October, 1988, refused to talk to representatives of the stranded people and termed them 'Biharis, not Pakistanis Biharis.'

Discussions on sharing of assets and liabilities are also on the official agenda but it was not known if the government had prepared a policy approach paper on the issue.

When approached LGED officials at Dhamrai said it was the result of "political engineering" in 1993, on which real engineers had no say. "Despite objections from our side, it was decided by influential politicians that the road had to pass through the particular part of the village acquiring the required land," said one official.

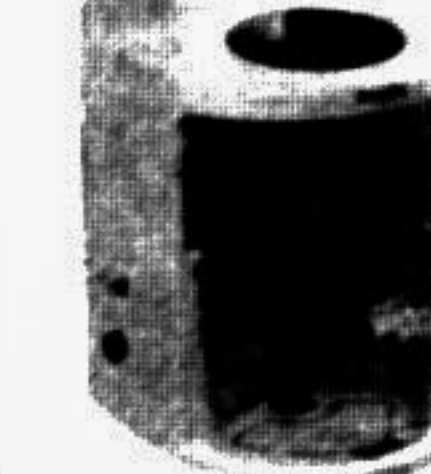
The earthshaking work of the road has been completed and now, tender has been floated to make it mentalled," he said, adding that LGED had requested the DC (Land) two months ago to hand over the remaining land immediately.

Local people said when a 150-metre long bridge was being built over the Bangshi river, hardly 100 yards from the site, they had raised the question whether the connecting road would pass through their village.

They replied in the affirmative but assured us that the existing narrow road would not be expanded because of the important sites and structures on both sides. But a few months later, we heard another story, Gopal Banik said.

The LGED then told us that

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Indo-Bangla border confce begins

RANGPUR, Nov 19: A two-day border conference between Bangladesh and India began at Kurigram circuit house today, reports BSS.

The four-member Bangladesh delegation is being led by Deputy Commissioner of Kurigram Abu Waheed. The other members are commander of 16-Rifles Battalion Col Abul Bashar, commander of 29-Rifle Battalion Lt. Col Parimal Bikash Chakma and Police Super of Kurigram Nur Mohammad.

District magistrate of Dhupri, Lal Chand Shindhi is heading the three-member Indian team which includes police super of Dhupri Pronob Saikia and settlement officer Bhogaban Bora.

The conference, discussed issues like disputes related to border demarcation, areas which experienced erosion and cross-border smuggling, an official of the district administration said today.

The official said, both the teams are expected to sign an agreement tomorrow with a view to bringing an end to the cross-border problems.

Bail prayer of Maj Khairuzzaman rejected

A High Court division bench yesterday rejected the bail prayer of Major (retired) M Khairuzzaman, an accused in the Jai Killing Case, reports BSS.

The bench comprised Justice Mohammad Mozammel Huq and Justice Mohammad Awlad Ali.

Earlier the bail prayer of Major (retired) Khairuzzaman had been rejected by the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka and Sessions Judge, Dhaka.

Hyderabad

From Page 1
was popular actor Mohan Babu, the movie's star.

Singh said many of the injured lost limbs. The death toll was likely to rise, the police chief added.

Andhra Pradesh State police chief HJ Dora, citing witnesses, said the blast was caused by a car bomb parked at the site.

For pieces of the explosives packed car, which was completely destroyed.

Singh said he believed the target was a politician, Partal Ravi, who was producing the movie. Police at first said Ravi, a former leftist guerrilla fighter whose political rivals may have been behind the attack, was seriously injured, but later said his nose was broken and his condition not life threatening.

Govt employees

From Page 1
It will put pressure on the budget but the government, considering the disparity in salaries of different categories of employees and officials, decided to revise certain pay scales, one top official said.

Some categories of employees at the lower level to upto 40 per cent pay hike. But in Class three category, certain sections of employees did not get any benefits from the new pay scales because of various complications. So the government decided to revise its earlier decision, the source said.

However, he made it clear that there would be no further revision.

The Secretariat employees will review the latest decision in a meeting of their leaders today, employee sources said.

Leaders of employees working outside the Secretariat have convened a rally at the Central Shahid Minar on November 25 demanding fixation of minimum basic salary at Tk 2500 instead of Tk 1500 in the new pay scales.

\$11.35m WB credit for silk project

The World Bank yesterday announced the approval of a \$11.35 million US dollar credit for a project to revitalise silk production in Bangladesh, reports UNB.

The credit will be provided by the International Development Association (IDA), the World Bank's soft loan window, said a Bank press release.

The silk development project will support government decisions to establish an autonomous and non-profit Bangladesh Silk Foundation to take over some of the commercial responsibilities formerly exercised by the Bangladesh Sericulture Board.

The project is the first phase of a long-term programme to transform Bangladesh's sericulture into a technically up-to-date sector with a reputation for quality in world market.

The newly created Silk Foundation, with representatives of small-scale silk producers, NGOs, private financial institutions, garment manufacturers and the government on its board, will be in charge of project implementation.

The resulting improvement in the quality and value of Bangladesh's silk production is expected to increase the incomes of small-scale silk producers, most of whom are poor rural women.

Delhi HC concerned 15 Bangladeshi children in Indian jail

NEW DELHI, Nov 19: The Delhi High Court today expressed serious concern over 15 Bangladeshi children, including a two-year baby, kept in jail after they were rescued by the local police while being sent to Dubai for camel races, reports BSS.

The court comprising the Chief Justice, A P Misra and Justice Dalveer Bhandari, asked Delhi government to find a suitable place for those children by tomorrow.

The contempt charges follow statements about the Supreme Court and Chief Justice Sajjad Ali Shah following a verdict last month that suspended a constitutional article.

In one statement, Sharif was reported to have called the suspension illegal and unconstitutional.

The suspended article was introduced by the government in June with the aim of curbing party defections in parliament.

Several petitioners have launched a legal challenge claiming the article gives arbitrary powers to political party leaders to unseat a dissenting deputy. They said it was a threat to free expression.

The Chief Justice, who is heading a five-judge bench hearing the case, exempted the Prime Minister from attending further proceedings unless he was summoned.

Sharif's counsel said the case should be dropped after the Prime Minister came to the court to assure "highest" regards for the judiciary.

The court will resume the hearing tomorrow when Sharif's counsel S M Zafar is expected to answer the charges.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of Dhaka Club Limited will be held on Saturday 22nd November, 1997 at 11.00 A.M. in the Club premises. The A.G.M. will be followed by election for the post of the President and Executive Committee for the year 1997-98.

All eligible Life & Permanent members of the club are requested to attend the A.G.M. and participate in the election.

Dhaka Club Limited
Ramna, Dhaka

ঢাকা ওয়াসা জরুরি বিজ্ঞপ্তি

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ইদানীং লক্ষ্য করা যাচ্ছে যে, কিছু বহিরাগত কর্তৃক ওয়াসার কর্মচারীর পরিচয় প্রদান করে সম্মানিত গ্রাহকগণকে হয়রানি করা হচ্ছে।

কাজেই মিটার রিডিং গ্রহণসহ অন্য কোন কাজে হোডিং পরিদর্শনসমূহক ওয়াসা কর্মকর্তা ও কর্মচারীবৃন্দের পরিচয়পত্র নিজ স্বর্থে যাচাই করে নিতে সম্মানিত গ্রাহকগণকে সবিশেষ অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

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