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## BMA urges PM Change plan for bringing foreign docs

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said the government had taken the decision to open the health sector for foreign private investment, reports UNB.

She expressed the hope that this would provide local doctors with opportunities to gather experience and also help create jobs for them.

The Prime Minister was exchanging views with the leaders of Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) at her office yesterday.

Mentioning the various steps taken for rapid development of the health sector, Hasina said the main target of the government is to reach the best possible services to the least privileged persons.

She said, "We've taken steps to appoint more doctors and nurses. We've increased facilities in the hospitals, including the nutrition facilities."

In a written statement, the BMA leaders urged the Prime Minister to implement the decision of creating 3,010 posts in the health sector and also change the plan for bringing foreign physicians in the private health sector of the country.

BMA leaders Dr Rashid-e-Mahbub, Dr Mostafa Jalal Mo-hiddin, Prof Gazi Shahidul Alam, Dr Sharfuddin Ahmed and Prof Noorjahan Bhuiyan also spoke on the occasion.

## 5 killed

From page 1

near Tejgaon level crossing. Local people also alleged that a group of people was running at least 20 illegal liquor shops in different slums in Tejgaon area for a long time. They had some regular clients, mostly truck drivers and helpers from the nearby inter-city truck stand. Other clients were Railway workers, van drivers, rickshawpullers and small traders.

Meanwhile, following the reported deaths, agitated local people damaged at least 10 shops including three illegal liquor shops, around the slum. Railway police first recovered the body of Ismail which was lying beside the rail track near Tejgaon level crossing at about 2 pm on Monday. Police quoted local people, said Ismail used to work in an illegal liquor shop in Tejgaon area.

Sources at the Department of Narcotics Control said they were investigating the Tejgaon incident.

In May, 1996, eight people died and more than 30 fell sick after taking adulterated liquor in the city's Rampura-Badda area. The liquor was sold from a homeopathic medicine shop near Rampura bridge.

## Edn ministry

From page 1

The Task Force report. The strike began on January 4.

Due to the strike, registration of the HSC private candidates of the year 1998 from 30 private colleges under Dhaka Education Board could not be completed yet. Registration of the regular HSC examinees will also be hampered as these are scheduled to begin from today, according to sources in the Dhaka Board.

According to our earlier announcement, HSC examination was scheduled to begin from May 23.

The registration of the SSC examinees is more or less complete, the sources said. The examinations are scheduled from April 16.

Delivery of mark sheets, certificates and attestation forms for those applying for higher studies abroad is also being affected by the strike, said witnesses. Scores of people flock to the board office every day for those.

## Ctg traders

From page 1

area in two separate incidents within a span of one hour in the evening, witnesses and police said.

On December 26 three youths who were known as activists of BCL were gunned down in the evening at Chandgaon in the city by some unidentified gunmen.

But none of the killers were arrested despite widespread repercussions and a storm of protests from different quarters.

Many other incidents of crime remained unreported as the victims hardly dare to lodge complaints with the police fearing retaliation, sources said.

However, talking to The Daily Star, Commissioner of Chittagong Metropolitan Police Asraf Huda said that measures were being taken for some drastic actions to curb crimes.

He said a decision has been taken to deploy more patrol police around all city markets and other important places in addition to movement of vigilant teams, apprehending further increase of crime before the Eid festival.

## All govts till '96 patronised killers of Bangabandhu: PW-44

All the governments till 1996 patronised the killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib while General Ziaur Rahman made no attempt to bring the chain of command when he became the Chief of Army Staff after the August 15 putsch, reports UNB.

The allegation came from Col (ret'd) Shafaat Jamil, a witness in the Bangabandhu Murder Case and a key leader of the November 3 army coup in a bid to restore the chain of command, while completing his deposition yesterday.

"General Zia didn't take any punitive action against the killers while General Ershad rehabilitated them for the second time even by providing their arrear bills," said the 44th prosecution witness.

Jamil, who was commander of 46 Brigade in Dhaka Cantonment during the August 15 carnage that killed the country's founding President Sheikh Mujib, began his lengthy deposition at the District and Sessions Judge Court on Monday.

He said Zia emerged as the holder of supreme power through the "so-called sepy revolution" on November 7, 1975 and rehabilitated the people who were involved in the killings of August 15 and November 3 by providing them with jobs in foreign missions.

"The November 3 coup was inevitable as Ziaur Rahman, after becoming the Chief of Staff, did not try to restore the army's chain of command which was broken on August 15," the witness said adding that the rebels also tried later to overthrow the Zia government.

He said Major Rashid and Major Farooq, who did not get

jobs in foreign missions after the 'killers group' had gone to Bangkok on the night of November 3, returned to the country and attempted mutiny in the army.

"Major Farooq attempted mutiny in Savar and Bogra cantonments while Major Rashid tried to re-capture the charge of the CO of 2 Field Artillery. But Zia did not take any action against the duo even this time," said Col Jamil.

Without elaborating the many abortive coups and counter-coups during the Zia regime, he said the people involved in the killings of August 15 went for another abortive putsch to topple the government in later part of 1980.

"All involved were dismissed this time and began to lead exile life abroad. Ershad rehabilitated them for the second time after he forcibly captured the state power," said Jamil who was given retirement for arresting Zia on November 3, 1975.

Resuming his Monday's incomplete deposition, the PW-44 said Bangladesh Army was running on 'ad hoc basis concept' until November 7, 1975. Later, Zia introduced the concept he preferred (army organisation on brigade basis), but his predecessor Shafiqullah had opposed it earlier, he said.

A meeting of senior officers of the inter services forces was held on August 18 that discussed bringing back the chain of command in the army. Col Jamil said recalling the incidents of 22 years back. Chiefs of BDR and police also attended the meeting.

"I protested when Major Rashid and Major Farooq came

to a meeting of senior army officers the following day at the order of President Khandaker Mushtaque. I also told the meeting to bring them back under the chain of command," he told the court.

He said he told Major Rashid and Major Farooq "you people are multitudes, deserters and killers, you will be brought back to chain of command and tried for your crimes." Rashid and Farooq were speechless and looked sad, he added.

Recalling the reshuffle in the army on August 24 when Shafiqullah was given retirement and Zia made his successor, Jamil said the new chief did not attempt to restore chain of command that led to a coup on November 3.

"We went for a coup on November 3 under the leadership of CGS Brig Khaled Mosharraf to bring back the lancer tanks and August 15 killers under the chain of command," he said claiming that all the units in Dhaka Cantonment except Bengal Lancer were with them.

After completing the deposition in the court of Dhaka District and Sessions Judge Kazi Golam Rasul, the PW-44 identified Lt Col (dismissed) Syed Farooq Rahman, Lt Col (ret'd) Sultan Shahriyar Rashid Khan and Lt Col (LPR) Muhiuddin on the dock.

During cross-examination by the defence lawyers, the former brigade commander refused to accept the August 15 killings as a successful coup. "This was not a successful coup, rather simply a murder," he said.

The court will resume the proceedings at 9:30 am on January 12.

## 7 security men at Mongla Port suspended

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Jan 6: The Mongla Port Authority has suspended seven security men for their alleged involvement in theft of speed boat spare parts worth over Tk one crore.

The speed boats were donated by Japan in 1990 for meeting any eventuality during natural disaster.

The suspended security men are: Abdul Jalil Munshi, Abdus Sattar, Shahajahan Razi, Rezaul Karim, Shaheeb Ali Shikder, Amjad Hossain, Nasirul Alam Khan, Golam Mostafa and Abdul Wahed Bhuiyan.

The port authority has formed an enquiry committee and asked it to submit report by Sunday next.

## Bangabandhu Medical Varsity starts formal functioning soon

Bangabandhu Medical University will soon start its formal functioning, said Dean of Postgraduate Medical Sciences and Research Faculty Dr Mohammed Suhrah Ali yesterday, reports UNB.

Dr Ali said it is a long-standing demand for establishing a medical university in the country. In 1972, the authorities concerned accepted the demand on principle and it came under active consideration during President Zia's tenure in 1979.

Ahmed, Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad will make a courtesy call on the visiting dignitary.

Romano Prodi is also expected to address the leaders of trade and industry at a meeting organised by the FBCCI. President of the leading chambers and the Chairman of Board of Investment are also likely to call on the visiting dignitary.

Italian investors are due to hold separate meetings with local entrepreneurs.

Italian Foreign Trade Minister Augusto Fantozzi will hold extensive discussions with Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed.

Director General of European Desk at the Foreign Ministry said that Bangladesh is enjoying a favourable trade balance with Italy.

Dhaka exported goods worth 207 million US dollars, mainly ready-made garments and leather, while Rome exported commodities worth 50 million dollars, mainly chemicals and industrial machinery, in the last fiscal year.

Italy has a sizeable Bangladesh national, around 18,000, of whom nearly 9000 work and reside in Rome.

The Italian prime minister is due to address a press conference before his departure for Rome on January 9.

The visiting dignitaries will be lodged at Sonargonah Hotel.

## Khaleda warns of tougher movement after Eid

BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday said that the government has failed to ensure security of public life and property, reports UNB.

"A vigorous movement will be launched after Eid if the government does not change its behaviour," Begum Zia said while addressing an iftar party at the Sayesha Khan Centre at Lalbagh, in the city.

Begum Zia criticised the government for, what she said, being involved in the conspiracy to destroy the country's economy and for making plan to sell out the country's gas resources to foreign countries through pipelines.

"With the signing of the peace agreement on the CHT, one-tenth of the country's territory is going to be delinked from the mainland," she said.

Criticising some provisions of the accord, the leader of the Opposition said the accord has endangered the country's independence and created confusion in public minds.

K M Obaidur Rahman, Barrister Abul Hasanat, Chowdhury Tanvir Ahmed, Lt Gen (ret'd) Sawkat Ali, Mirza Abbas and Sadek Hossain Khoka also attended the iftar party.

In another programme in the city yesterday, the BNP Chairperson said the present government has pushed the country towards destruction.

## Cold wave

From page 1

passengers were stranded on river Jamuna for 13 hours from 10:20 pm on Monday night because of the dense fog.

Ghat police said some 4,500 vehicles were stranded at Aricha ghat while 1,400 at Daulatdia, forcing thousands of passengers to suffer in the shivering cold.

BIWTC authorities have requested all concerned not to proceed with their vehicles toward the ferry ghats.

## Admn cadres

From page 1

member action committee, headed by Dr Mujibur Rahman, a deputy secretary in the Finance Ministry.

The committee will meet Cabinet Secretary Ataul Huq today. On Monday they are scheduled to meet Finance Minister S A M S Kibria.

"We are ready to meet the Prime Minister to explain to her our grievances," one of the

The BCS Administration cadre officials have threatened to launch movement if their 7-point demand is not met by January 12. The Action Committee gave the ultimatum after its leaders, led by convenor Dr Mujibur Rahman, met Finance Secretary Dr Akbar Ali Khan at his office yesterday, reports UNB.

action committee leaders said.

After demonstrating before the office of Finance Secretary Dr Akbar Ali Khan, a committee delegation met him to convey their resentment against suspension of the upgradation order.

The committee leader said the finance secretary told them that the order was put on hold by the Finance Minister. They also wanted to know how the ministry could suspend implementation of an order approved by the Prime Minister.

On the approval of creation of eight more posts of secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the finance secretary told them that it was cleared by the Finance Minister, the committee leader claimed.

The action committee delegation included Abu Alam Shahid Khan, Belayet Hossain, Mizanur Rahman and Mosharraf Hossain.

They said they have no grievance against other cadres. "Some vested quarters are trying to pit them against us," one of them said.

## Tribal ministry

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The meeting yesterday was attended by Finance, Establishment and Special Affairs Secretaries.

Our Khagrachhari correspondent adds: The meeting between the National Committee on CHT and the Parbatyia Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) will be held on January 16.

This was conveyed to NCHT convenor Abul Hasanat Abdulah, MP, by convenor of the Liaison Committee Hansadhai Chakma yesterday.

Earlier, PCJSS had proposed to the NCHT that the meeting be held on January 15. But the NCHT told them that it would not be possible for them to organise the meeting because of the three-nation Business Summit on January 15 and parliamentary session beginning on January 14.

Sources in Dhaka said the NCHT would send its confirmation to the PCJSS today accepting the new date for the meeting.

## Muggers stab 3, snatch Tk 2.20 lakh in city

By Staff Correspondent

Muggers stabbed three persons and snatched about Tk 2.20 lakh from them in two incidents in the city yesterday.

In the first incident, two officials of Agrani Trading Company were robbed of Tk two lakh in the Motijheel area in the morning, according to police.

The snatchers also stabbed the officials — Tapan Babu and Bhasan Chandra. A driver of a pushcart, Abdur Razzak, was also injured as the snatchers exploded cocktails while leaving the scene.

The incident happened when the officials came to deposit money in the Motijheel branch of the Pubali Bank by a microbus. The snatchers, who were also in another microbus, attacked them in front of the bank at around 10:20 am.

The injured officials were admitted to the Orthopaedic Hospital.

In the other incident, Abdul

Matin, accountant of Dana

Dhaka Trade Fair

Dhaka International Trade Fair '98 will be held from February 22 to March 21 at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the city instead of February 7 to March 6, a press release of Export Promotion Bureau said yesterday, reports BSS.

## BIRDEM

From page 1

clusion of two members of the association in the committee to help in prepare the service rules, another source in the EWA said.

The Diabetic Association of Bangladesh (DAB) and the EWA reached an agreement on Sunday to prepare new service rule for the hospital by February 10.

## Decision on PSC

From page 1

article. The articles which are related to extension of PSC term clearly say that the contractors are obliged to fulfil the minimum work commitment of on-going work period in order to get the next extension," one source said.

The PSC signed on January 11, 1995, requires that during the three-year initial exploration period, the company should have drilled at least one exploratory well in each of the blocks. But Occidental failed to drill a single well till now due to "slow and inefficient operations," he pointed out.

It ended up with a disaster in Magurchara while drilling the Moulabazar-1 well on June 14 last. Earlier, while it was conducting seismic survey and mobilising exploration equipment about a year ago, four or five persons were killed in two accidents.

Occidental recently applied for a one-year extension period for initial exploration in these blocks.

## No request yet from India to hand over ULFA leader: FM

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad yesterday said that Bangladesh has not received any formal request from India to hand over Anup Jetia alias Golap Barua, General Secretary, United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA), reports BSS.

Golap Barua along with his two accomplices were arrested from a house in Mohammadpur area on December 21.

In reply to a question, Azad said law will take its own course.

Azad said that Indian High Commissioner came to the Foreign Ministry on Monday and met officials. He gave no details.

To another question, Azad said he has no knowledge about the call made by ULFA chief Paresha Barua to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina not to hand over Anup Jetia to India. A foreign radio broadcast such a report on Monday.

## Arrest of ULFA leaders: CID yet to take up case

By Staff Correspondent

The CID is yet to take up the case filed with Mohammadpur thana on Monday against Anup Jetia alias Golap Barua, the said general secretary of United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) and his two accomplices.

Golap Barua, Laxmi Pradip and Babul Sharma were arrested by Special Branch police from a flat at Adabar on December 21.

Meanwhile, a BBC report said last night that ULFA had called a general strike (bandh) in Assam on Friday demanding release of Golap Barua. They have already started a campaign for the release by organising rallies and demonstration in Assam.

The BBC report quoting chief of ULFA's armed wing Paresha Barua said, they would not go for any offensive action. Paresha said they would only write to Bangladesh government seeking release of their leader.

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