

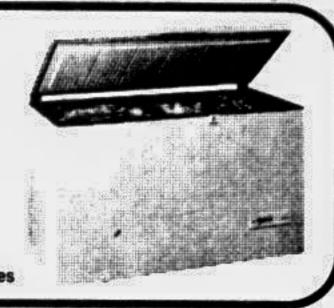
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Crime investigation system to undergo drastic change

The system of investigation into crimes is likely to undergo a drastic change as people widely doubt the fairness and neutrality of inquests usually conducted by police, reports

Broadly hinting at the up-coming changes, Home Minister Rafiqul Islam told a seminar here yesterday that the existing system of investigation has

the investigation procedure ... Wherever I go people ask me for fair, impartial and free investigation to ensure fair justice," he

The Home Minister was inaugurating a 5-day seminar on 'Contemporary Problems in the Criminal Justice System and Administration" at Sheraton Hotel in the morning.

Jointly organised by the Home Ministry and the Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI), the seminar was sponsored by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

The Home Minister said the investigation procedure in the time and for ensuring fair

"We are aimed at updating the investigation system by introducing modern technology so that no offenders can escape law after committing crime," he

On recent rape incidents, the minister said he told parliament the need for draconian

Pointing to the changing pattern of crimes, he asked the participants in the seminar to find out the causes of crimes and the measures for preven-

He said crime formula is imported through different ways, specially through drug traffick-

law and order, Ambassador Yoshi Kazu Kaneko said. "I appreciate the economic policy. particularly the export processing zone policy. Our assistance and investment will continue in the country."

Kaneko said that current political stability in Bangladesh will encourage foreign investors to explore more invest-

UNAFEI director Toichi Fujiwara appreciated the relentless efforts of Bangladesh government for improving the criminal justice administration and prevention of crime.

JICA representative Yuji Okazaki suggested for establishing regional cooperation in addition to training, exchange of knowledge and experience to deal with the criminal problem effectively.

More than 100 participants from UNAFEI, various departments of ministries of Home. Law and Social Affairs, and related non government organisations are taking part in the seminar.

The seminar, first of its kind in the country, will have 11 working sessions where 12 papers will be presented.

Moheshkhali: 18 injured

From Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, Mar 14: At least 18 people received burn injury in a devastating fire that gutted a market, Hoanak Time Bazar in Maheshkhali yester-

All the 63 shops in the mar-ket were gutted in the fire that started at about 11 pm Friday and continued till 5 am today, Maheshkhali police said. There is no fire brigade at Moheshkhali.

Arrested person escapes from police outpost

By Staff Correspondent

An arrested person escaped from a police outpost at Agargaon in the city early yesterday.
Two police constables of the outpost, Abdul Aziz and Abu Taher were suspended after the incident for negligence to duty, police said.

Mona alias Mannan, 30, was arrested by detective police late Friday night from Tejgaon area on charge of robbery. Detective police had report Mona in a room of the outpost at about 1:30 am and went out for another operation. But he escaped while the two police constables were on duty.

A case was lodged with Mohammadpur thana in connection with the incident.

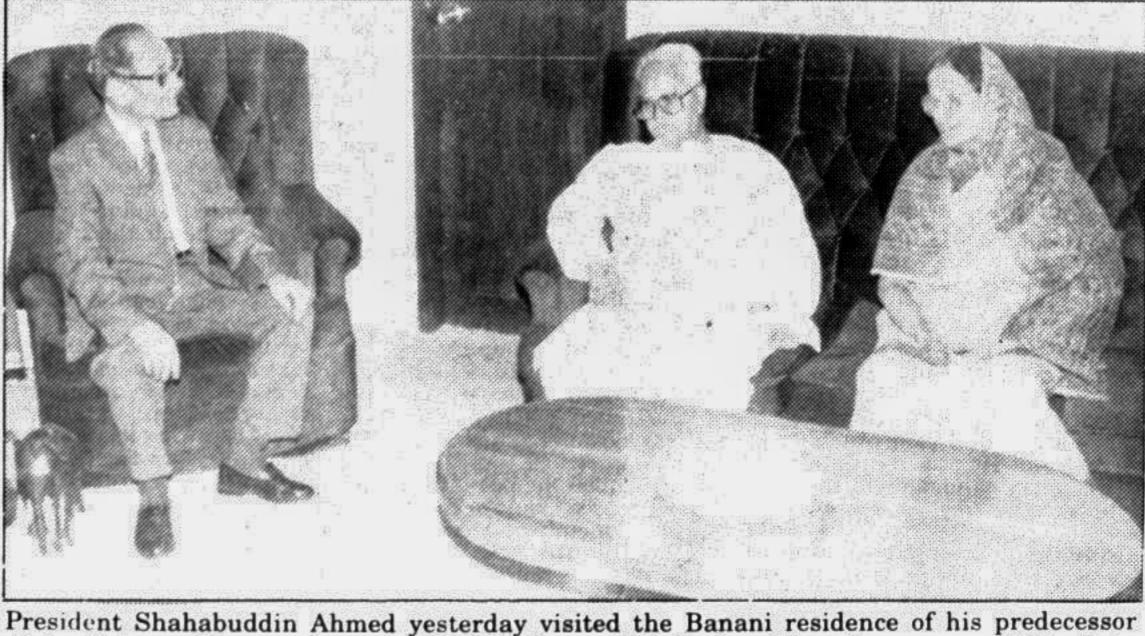
Extortionists loot materials from construction site

SIRAJGANJ, Mar 14: A group of extortionists looted building material from a construction site on Friday night here after they were denied toll, reports UNB.

Police sources said the miscreants demanded Tk 50,000 as toll from contractor Farhad llossain who is constructing the Haripur bridge in Sadar thana. The extortionists looted Tk

7,000, the shed and building materials, and beat up the inof them, Abdul Kader, 40, was admitted to Ibne Sina

clinic in the town. A case has been filed with local thana.



Abdur Rahman Biswas whose son Nasim Biswas, MP, died on Thursday. -PID photo

'81 in every one lakh are criminals'

Some 81.04 people in every 100.000 people in the country are involved in criminal activities, reports UNB.

The rate of increase of crime has shot up manifold as compared to figures three years

According to figures revealed by Inspector General of Police Mohammad Ismail Husain, the percentage of increase of crime was 4.5 in 1994 while it rose to 41.75 in 1997.

The IGP in his paper titled "Prevention of Crime in Bangladesh" presented at a seminar at a city hotel yesterday also disclosed that the number of rape cases has been increased more than a double in last five

The number of registered rape cases was 501 in 1993 which rose to 1,336 in 1997.

The paper, however, showed that there is a decrease in crimes related to rioting, abduction or kidnapping during the last 5 years.

The number of cruelty to women and children rose to 4,960 in 1997 from 1,238 in

On the other hand, the number of rioting and abduction was 6,851 and 1,503 respectively in 1993 which came down to 4,967 and 1,025 in 1997.

The statistics showed that the trend of murder, robbery and dacoity has not remarkably increased.

CID to submit report to court soon

It was midnight on June 14. 1997. Biman crew Nuruzzaman Sharif, 42, in custody of Tejgaon thana was desperately pleading for a glass of water from constable Aziz, reports

Aziz brought the water, but

Court hajat after three days of his arrest. He was taken into custody by police from the Prime Minister's Tejgaon office premises on June 13, on charge of trespass. A section of the press had re-

ported that Nuruzzaman went to the Prime Minister's Secretariat to seek redress of his grievances. The death of Nuruzzaman in

the Court custody sparked off severe criticism. The government constituted an inquiry committee to probe his death.

a glass of water.

Aziz turned wild and asked Alamgir, a police informer, who was standing beside the duty officer ASI Jalaluddin, to

bring a rope. Alamgir brought the rope. They took Nuruzzaman out of

the cage, tied him up and beat him mercilessly. Duty officer ASI Jalaluddin also joined the brutal perfor-

mance. The devils inflicted all kinds of torture on hapless Nuruzzaman until he lost his sense. He was stripped off his clothes and sent to the court in a half-naked condition.

Indian diplomat

From Page 1 legedly confessed to being trained by India to conduct terrorist raids in Pakistan.

Nair's expulsion follows a sein today in the southern port city of Karachi where he blamed "The government of Pak-

istan has incontrovertible evi-

tails about the evidence or the type of espionage that Nair allegedly was engaging in.

and Pakistan, have fought three soring terrorism.

wars since the Asian subcontinent gained its independence 50 years ago. The two nations routinely accuse the other of spon-

Death of Nuruzzaman in police custody

of CID police.

day after.

former.

The story of tragic death of

The investigation report is

Nuruzzaman was unfolded

during the investigation by

Munshi Atiqur Rahman, ASP

being submitted to the court,

along with some specific rec-

ommendations, today or the

ing to the investigation report

a murder case will be field

against ASI Jalaluddin, con-

stable Aziz and Alamgir, the in-

steps against some officials for

negligence of duty. The officials

are OC of Tejgaon thana Md

Mohsin-uz-Zaman, ASI Sakha-

wat Hossain, Constable Jahan-

gir Alam of Sutrapur Thana,

Doctor Azizur Rahman of Na-

tional Hospital and the Ma-

Meanwhile, a petition case was filed in the CMM's Court by

a brother of the victim, Adnan

Babu, aided by Bangladesh

Manabadhikar Sangstha, is

Sources said the CID investi-

gation report will be taken with

SPGRC concern

over delay in

repatriation

From Staff Correspondent

patron of Stranded Pakistanis

General Repatriation Commit-

tee (SPGRC) Nasim Khan ap-

CHITTAGONG, Mar 14: Chief

gistrate Afzalur Rahman.

the case filed by Adnan.

under hearing.

The investigating officer has recommended departmental

Police sources said, accord-

not for Nuruzzaman. He gave it to other inmates of the thana Nuruzzaman died in Dhaka

Before his death Nuruzzaman did not know why he was not given a glass of water to quench his thirst. He stretched his hands out of

the iron cage of the Thana hajat. At one stage, Nuruzzaman got angry. He caught the collar of constable Aziz and begged for

Nuruzzaman did not survive the police torture. He died on June 16, 1997 in the hajat adjacent to the Dhaka District Court.

news conference by Information Minister Mushahid Hus-India for the recent bombings.

dence of the involvement of Nair in acts of espionage and subversion," the APP quoted the Foreign Ministry as saying. However there were no de-

Uneasy neighbours, India

pealed to the government to press Pakistan for immediate announcement of repatriation date for stranded Pakistanis. Addressing a press conference here today, Nasim Khan

expressed his concern over the delay in starting repatriation of the stranded people. He informed that a process is

underway for repatriation of 932 families to Pakistan. "But no positive announce-

ment of date for the same has so far been made," Khan said.

Replying to a question, Khan said "we have resorted to silent agitation now instead of any action programme."

BJP hopeful From Page 1

an impasse that plunged India into days of political uncertainty.

She told reporters today in the southern city of Madras that she set no conditions, but her announcement of support for the BJP was accompanied by accusations the party had not shown her enough respect.

"We don't want to be accused of destabilizing the BJP government even before it's formed," she said. "We are doing this in the interest of the nation.

In talks with BJP leaders earlier this week about forming a coalition government, "we got the feeling that we were treated as inferior partners and secondclass citizens," Jayalalitha

She said Vajpayee had asked her to join his cabinet and offered her the defence portfolio. But she declined the offer as

she did not want any position for her or for her party, Jayalalitha said. She said none of the 27

members of parliament she controls would join a BJP cabinet, preferring to support its government from outside. A similar arrangement between two BJP rivals - the Congress party and the United Front proved fragile during the last parliament.

Hasina, Khaleda

Assistant Office Secretary of BNP Emran Saleh Prince also said that permission for the JCD programme was sought from PWD and that the authorities concerned earlier assured

Nepali minister

Nepalese Minister for Local Development G N Singh yester-day called on Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia at her official Minto Road residence, reports UNB.

During the meeting, G N Singh, who is also the Chairman of Nepal Sadvabana Party (NSP), said the existing relationship between the two countries was excellent.

He extended an invitation to Begum Zia to send a delegation of her party to attend the 3rd Convention of NSP to be held on March 25, said a press re-

tation and endorsed the idea of establishing links between the two political parties as exists between the people of the two countries.

at deterioration

Referring to the Tuesday's raping of minor girl at CMM Court premises by a cop, the meeting observed that the people are not feeling safe and secure under the present govern-

rity forces are becoming the served the meeting at Mirpur Town Hall.

It said abuse of women and children as well as death under police custody have surpassed previous record. "Murder, mugging, extortion of tolls, rape are now everyday affairs."

City Ameer of Jamaat A T M Azharul Islam speaking at the meeting accused the government of its failure to check spiralling prices. Corruption and nepotism have divided the administrative system.

Kuakata From Page 1

kilometres from the capital,

double beds and a 30-bed dormitory), restaurant, swimming pool and modern tourism facil-

In his inaugural speech, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina natural splendours.'

There is enormous scope for attracting the foreign as well as area, she said.

ing its coastal belt, the scenic Kuakata sea resort enables the tourists to enjoy the beauty of both sunrise and sunset. The Prime Minister also

Helicopter and STOL ser-

tal, she said adding that the

government will consider any proposal from the authorities concerned in this regard. She further stressed the need for creating green belts along the coast for further beautifica-

tion as well as a protective measure against natural calamities. Awami League presidium member Amir Hossain Amu, Food and Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury, Forest and

Environment Minister Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, State Minister for Textiles K M Jahangir. State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed and Chief Whip Abul Hasnat Abdullah were present.

Nari Samaj From Page 1

Nari Samaj also put four other demands including the removal if the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM) alleging his failure in discharging his duties as a judge following the

Samaj said last night that the CMM failed to arrest the officer and constables on duty at the police control room by filing a suo moto case when bloodstained Maria was taken to his court following the rape.

Nari Samaj also demanded that Maria's friends should also be handed over to the human rights organisation. It said that a representative of Nari Samaj should be included in the inquiry commission formed to

Quoting newspaper reports. Nari Samaj expressed concern at the reported move to divert investigation into the rape incident. It also expressed concern

Samaj demanded immediate arrest of the person involved in the rape

demonstration in front of the court building in the Old City this morning.

For more information call-Dhaka, Tel: 9565114, 9883927, 9130647, 894213, DEPZ 9338931 Chittagong, Tel: (031) 712127, CEPZ (031) 740108 Khulna, Tel: (041) 725008, N'Ganj, Tel: 9714336

criminal offences will be modernised to suit the demand of

justice of criminal cases.

become outdated. "People have little faith in law to deal with such crimes.

tion, control and elimination.

Japanese Ambassador in Dhaka, Yoshi Kazu Kaneko, UNAFEI Director Toichi Fujiwara, JICA Resident Representative Yuji Okazaki, Home Secretary Shafiur Rahman and Dr M Enamul Huq of UNAFEI Association in Bangladesh also addressed the inaugural ses-

Appreciating the Bangla-desh's recent effective steps in



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addressing a public meeting at Barguna Stadium yesterday. (Story on Page 3) -PID photo

From Page 1 activities in the banks. loss-making branches. It The proposals include ban blamed trade union leaders and on processions and demonstraactivists for disrupting normal tions in the premises of the functioning of the banks. banks during working hours. It is our democratic right

and if the government tries to

ing losses due to government

policies and orders and not be-

cause of "illegal activities of the

employees". The banks had to

give "waiver and write off crores

of taka in loans due to govern-

grammes. So they could not

make high profit over the

that they had taken different

measures to bring back disci-

pline in the bank. They also put

forward a four-point proposal

to ensure healthy trade union

FBCCI

From Page 1

ing all terms and condition of

the bank, but later they became

unable to repay the loan due to

that the identified fraud de-

faulters and their associates in

the banking sector remained

unpunished for reasons un-

curacy of the list published in

Parliament as many names and

companies who are not default-

ers at all have been included in

mittee said the list is also a

misleading one as it did not

contain detailed information

about the defaulters and there-

by accused everyone indis-

Reward

From Page 1

in in different hospitals for

quite sometime after the inci-

I waved at her from the window

at the CMH last evening," she

said. "She was smiling at me

which shows that she will be

able to recognise someone

whom she met at a difficult

Rafigul Islam, Home Secretary

Shafiur Rahman and Inspector

General of Police Mohammad

Ismail Hossain today visited

the spot where minor girl was

raped, an official handout said.

Meanwhile, Home Minister

"She could identify me when

criminate'v.

time.

The FBCC' Executive Com-

It raised question on the ac-

known, the Federation said.

But it is a matter of regret

various "adverse" situation.

The CBA leaders claimed

years," he asserted.

ment decisions and pro-

leader Jamal Uddin Ahmed.

CBA: Task force report

ban CBA activities in the natenure of a CBA to three years tionalised commercial banks, from two years now. we shall resist it," said CBA They also said that CBA office would be kept open after He claimed that the nationbanking hours. alised banks have been suffer-

The CBA leaders opposed privatisation of nationalised banks, saying that it would make about 40 per cent of the employees jobless. CBA leader Aminul Haq

Farouq also spoke at the press

conference held at Jatiya Press

allowing only one CBA office at

district level, extending the

Club while other leaders were present. When asked whether they had been playing the role of a parallel management, as alleged, Jamal Uddin said. "We have the right to see the good and bad of the organisation where we work and we are against a corrupt section of the management which always terms us criminals. "Virtually,

we are forced to speak out against our big bosses.

Nepali Cong

From Page Nath Rana Bhatta, who participated in today's talks told the agency: "Prime Minister Thapa has agreed to relinquish the prime minister's post to NC president Koirala at an appro-

"Our party high command along with five other NC senior central committee members, recently held separate talks with the Nepal Workers and Peasants Party (NWPP) leader and MP Narayan Man Bijukachhe for his cooperation to

set up a stable government," he "We have sought the cooperation of all the political parties to help run a stable government, control administrative corruption, terrorism and im-

prove the economy of the country," Rana Bhatta said. The NC is the country's largest political party with 88 deputies in the 205-member

elected parliament. The NCP-UML which had 89 deputies has now split into two factions. The original NCP-UML now has only 50 MPs in the house of representatives, while the NCP-ML has three MPs in the lower house of par-

According to the constitution, the support of at least 103 deputies is needed to form a government.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

liament.

Published by the Editor from City Publishing House Ltd., 90 Kakrail, Dhaka-1000 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmandi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 866772-4, Commercial: 866771, Fax No: 88-02-863035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA. Internet edition address: http://www.dailystarnews.com and Email address: dstar@bangla.net

Ershad

From Page 1

munications Minister in the Awami League government. Manju did not attend yesterday's meeting. When contacted last night, Manju did not make

coordinators to build up movement on the basis of those programmes Acting Secretary General of the party Naziur Rahman

chalk out programmes, the press release said. Addressing the meeting, JP Presidium member A B M Golam Mostafa welcomed the party chief's decision of withdrawing support from the gov-

The meeting also decided to April 30, upazila committees by May 30, hold council sessions of district committees by June 30, council sessions of Jatiya Chhatra Samaj and Jatiya Jubo Sanghati by May and to hold a

in Dhaka once a month.

Gunfight

him in his chest.

with Gulshan thana in this regard. B Chy From Page 1

ignoring people's welfare. been making false statements. They will continue the movement in and outside parlia-

ment, he said.

court building. The meeting was presided over by BNP Mirpur unit president Abdul Malek and addressed, among others, by Tariqul Islam, Sadek Hossain Khoka MP, Alamgir Kabir MP, Ehsanul Kabir and Eklas Uddin Mollah.

leader joined BNP, said a BNP press release.

retary General. Manju is Com-

any comment about the meet-Ershad said in the meeting that political programmes of his party would be announced soon and advised the district

Manju told the meeting that the central council session of JP would be convened soon to

ernment. He said the present government is "one type of BKSAL government. form JP union committees by

meeting of district coordinators

From Page 1 Meanwhile, police arrested one person, identified as Tushar Ahmed, for his alleged

involvement in the killing. The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy. A murder case was lodged

pushed the country to a unbearable situation by resorting to repression on its opponents and On BNP's joining parliament, Dr Chowdhury said in absence of the opposition from the House, the ruling party had

tion has deteriorated and referred to the incident of rape of a six-year-old girl at the CMM's

He said law and order situa-

CWC meeting said, "to remove Later, a city Chhatra League the confusion and state of uncertainty leading to irreparable and immense harm to the party

Sonia named Cong president (in the wake of Kesri's an- lies announced support for a to the expectations of the nouncement on Monday to re- BJP-led government. sign), the CWC resolves to apparty," party officials quoted point Sonia Gandhi as the pres-Sonia Gandhi as saying during ident of Indian National a closed-door meeting of the

Congress in exercise of its pow-

ers conferred in Clause (J) of Ar-

ticle 19 of the party constitu-

BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in

parliament Begum Khaleda Zia at the bedside of the six-

year-old rape victim at the CMH yesterday. -Star photo

Working Committee this

prime minister Rajiv Gandhi.

Kesri had called for Sonia

Gandhi to replace him when he

announced Monday that he

would resign following a poor

election showing by Congress.

Today, he said he still supported

her, but objected to the way in

A resolution adopted at the

which she was appointed.

Sonia also called on Kesri a

evening.

by Kesri at the gate.

tion with immediate effect." few hours later. She drove to It was not clear whether Kesri's Purana Qila road resi-Kesri had resigned but the andence but neither Sonia nor nouncement about the ap-Kesri talked to waiting mediapointment of Sonia Gandhi as the new president was made by Sonia Gandhi was seen off senior party leaders, Sharad Pawar and Ghulam Nabi Azad, The 51-year-old Italianborn Sonia Gandhi is the widow who held discussions with Gandhi midway through a of Congress leader and former

meeting of the CWC.

Kesri had earlier walked out of the meeting and when asked whether he had submitted his resignation, a senior CWC member, A K Antony said "wait for some time." The emergency CWC meeting, convened in the wake of the President K R Narayanan's dis-

cussions with party leaders on

government formation, sud-

denly turned its attention to

change in leadership appar-

ently after AIADMK and its al-

The resolution, which was adopted after the exit of Kesri during the meeting, was silent

on whether he had resigned.

Kesri's sudden departure from

the venue had triggered specu-

lations on his fate as party

chief. Following the announcement, about 100 elated Congress members gathered in front of Sonia Gandhi's home on a fashionable New Delhi street, playing songs praising her, waving flags and setting off firecrackers in celebration.

Jyoti Basu today wished Sonia luck on her taking over as chief of Congress Party 'which is in serious crisis'. The octogenarian CPI-M leader, who earlier ridiculed the

West Bengal chief minister

Congress for banking on the leadership of a housewife said, the way the faction-ridden party had projected her in the elections had given enough indications about her leading it.

From Page 1 the Public Works Department

(PWD) earlier.

of giving the permission today (Sunday)

calls on Khaleda

Begum Zia accepted the invi-

Jamaat concerned of law, order

City Jamaat leaders at a meeting in the city yesterday expressed concern over deterioration of law and order situation, reports UNB.

"The rising trend of crime and moral degradation has reached a stage where the secuforces of violation of law," ob-

involving an amount of Tk 1.34 It has 50 beds (10 rooms with

stressed the need for taking a massive development programme for the area 'full of

local tourists by developing the Groves of coconut trees lin-

emphasised on developing the communications network of the area for attracting tourists in large number. vices can also be introduced linking the resort with the capi-

A press release of Nari

probe the incident.

over the safety of Maria. It also alleged that in the name of interrogation police were threatening Maria's friends in the custody. Nari

Nari Samaj will stage a



Bazar gutted in