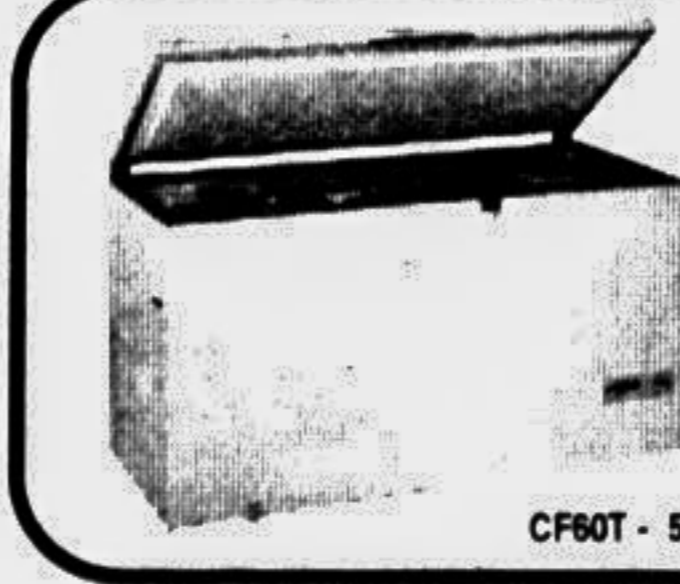




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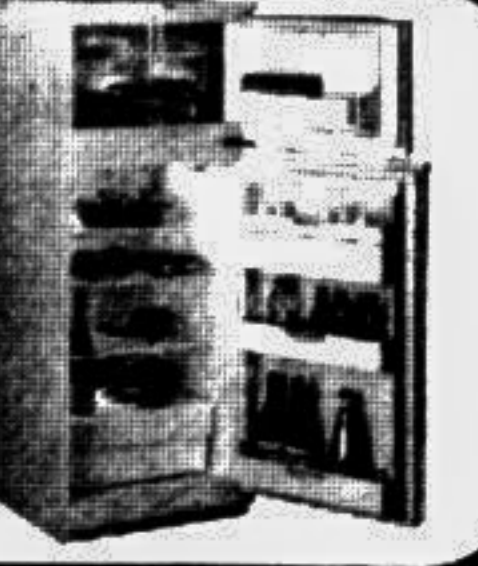
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BUET Syndicate to hold talks with resigning teachers

By Staff Correspondent All 11 Syndicate members of the BUET yesterday held a meeting to discuss the 'mass resignation' of 15 teachers of the Architecture Department on Sunday.

Sources in the BUET said that the Syndicate members decided to talk to the resigning teachers individually "and a letter has been drafted in this regard." The letter would be sent to every teacher who signed the 'mass' resignation letter protesting the introduction of a new admission test system.

Sources also said that BUET's 165-member Academic Council also met yesterday discussing the present crisis at the Architecture Department.

Meanwhile, in a press release signed by the BUET Registrar Md Shahjahan last night, it was alleged that some students of the Architecture Department 'gherooed' the Dean of Faculty of Architecture and Planning Prof Faruque A U Khan pressurising him to resign from the post of Dean.

The incident happened at the Academic Council was in a meeting. When its members were informed of the siege, they immediately went to the Department of Architecture and later returned to the meeting with the Dean, the press release said.

The Academic Council requested the VC to take action against the students who 'gherooed' and put pressure on the Dean of the Faculty of Architecture and Planning, the press release said.

BUET's Vice-Chancellor declined to comment on the decision of the Syndicate, of which he is the Chairman.

Heated debate

From Page 1 order that relate to the Constitution or to violation of the JS Rules of Procedure.

Mannan regretted that the Chair was often found allowing members to speak on point of order regardless of the subject.

The Speaker appreciated the opposition MP's views.

Soon after, Haji Mohammad Selim and Abdul Latif Mirza of AL and G M Kader of Jatiya Party spoke on their points, not related to the Constitution or the Rules of Procedure.

Taking the floor, Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Abdul Muttib Khan supported Mannan's views and quoted from rules relating to point of order.

Joining the debate, Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed also shared Mannan's views.

Amidst shouts by the BNP members, Deputy Leader of the Opposition Prof Badruddoza Choudhury took the floor and requested the Speaker to continue his current practice of allowing a specific number of MPs whose notices on current issues were not accepted, to speak on point of order.

Hands of 2 chopped off in city, one dies

By Staff Correspondent

A young man was killed while another wounded when an unidentified gang beat them up severely and chopped off their arms at city's Postagola area yesterday noon.

Police identified the dead as Hazrat Ali, 25, son of Shawkat Ali, a resident of Babubazar in Jurain.

The injured Masud Hossain, 26, a resident of Shampur in Demra, was under treatment at the Orthopaedic Hospital, hos-

Nasim Biswas died of 'hyper-osmolar syndrome'

Star Report

After a two-hour meeting yesterday, doctors at the PG Hospital came to a conclusion that Dr Ziteshamul Huj Nasim Biswas MP died due to 'hyper-osmolar syndrome' triggered by gastro-enteritis following a metabolic derangement.

'Hyper-osmolar syndrome' is explained as a symptom of pre-diabetic state.

Nasim Biswas, a BNP legislator and son of former president Abdur Rahman Biswas, died on Thursday at the age of 38.

Earlier reports said Nasim Biswas had dinner at a wedding ceremony in the city on Wednesday night. He had started vomiting with loose motion the following morning. He was rushed to Holy Family Hospital and later shifted to PG Hospital in a state of coma.

One doctor told The Daily Star last night that possibility of 'food poisoning' was not rejected altogether but, "we could not confirm it".

The idea of 'mid-brain haemorrhage' as a cause for the death, was not 'well-founded', he said adding, "a post-mortem could provide more scope in pinpointing the exact cause of the death."

Physicians and specialists including Dr M N Alam, Dr Rashiduddin Ahmed, Dr KM Iqbal, Dr Anwarullah, Dr Mahmud Hasan and Dr Taher, Director of the PG Hospital attended the meeting.

Jamaat

From Page 1

of the Jatiya Sangsad." Sayeedi, who was standing beside Nasim, said that the government side assured the Jamaat delegation that there "shall be nothing in the CHT accord which is inconsistent with the Constitution."

"Government will amend the accord if any clause is found inconsistent with any provision of the Constitution during the parliamentary debate".

Asked about a tentative date for their return, Sayeedi said the party's policy making body will fix the date. Commerce Minister Tofael Ahmed, however, quipped: "They will join the session on March 22."

Meanwhile, yesterday's JS sitting was adjourned at 1:38 pm to resume at 10:00 am on March 22.

Allegation of rape by police SI in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Mar 16: Special Branch of Chittagong Metropolitan Police started an investigation into an allegation of rape lodged with the Additional Police Commissioner here by a woman against a police sub-inspector at Chittagong court.

Raju Aktar, wife of one Nurul Islam under Pahartoll thana, used to go to the court building as a complainant in a case, became familiar with Sub-inspector Delwar Hossain, she said in her petition.

The police sub-inspector on February 9 lured her to a residential hotel in the city promising to help her in the case and then raped her in a room. Raju Aktar mentioned in the petition.

The police authorities have asked the Special Branch to investigate the allegation.

Jubo League factions clash in Khulna: 6 hurt

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Mar 16: Fierce armed clashes between two factions of Jubo League at Gallamari area in the city left six persons including a policeman injured on Sunday night.

Activists of both the factions used firearms and hand bombs during the hour-long clashes. They also damaged at least 15 vehicles, six roadside shops and set three semi-pucca houses on fire.

Police lobbed six teargas shells and fired several shots in the air to bring the situation under control.

Police said the clashes took place over establishment of supremacy in the area and toll collection from Banargati market.

Both the groups lodged separate cases with Sonadanga thana.

3 Jubo League activists hurt in bomb blast

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Mar 16: Three Jubo League activists were seriously injured when the bombs they were making exploded in an abandoned house at Gallamari today.

The injured were identified as Kalam (23), Shahidul (23) and Hemayet (25).

They were admitted to Khulna Medical College Hospital under police custody with serious burn injuries.

Police said they were wanted in a lot of criminal cases lodged with Sonadanga thana.

Khaleda

From Page 1

cept harassment by terrorism, price hike, killing and repression on political opponents.

It has failed in all sectors as it is serving the purpose of its alien masters. The subservient, oppressive, and inefficient government has no right to remain in power, she added.

"You have to participate in the movement. Your active participation is needed to change the government. Mere support will not do," Begum Zia told the audience.

The former Prime Minister said that while in opposition, the Awami League in a planned way had created unrest across the country over the incident of Yasin in Dinajpur.

"But as the ruling party, the Awami League now remains silent when a number of such incidents have occurred during its rule," she said.

On the CHT accord, Begum Zia said unrest is prevailing in the hill tracts instead of peace.

The rally was also addressed by Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury, Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder, Barrister Nazmul Huda, Sadek Hossain Khoka, Mirza Abbas Amanullah Aman, Shaheed Uddin Chowdhury Anwar and Habib-un-Nabi Soheli. City JCD president Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu presided.

Mayor Hanif

From Page 1

When asked why his office was issuing trade licences for opening hazardous workshops and businesses in residential areas, the Mayor denied issuing any such licence in the last four years. But he said, "We are regularly carrying out demolition of illegal structures."

He said he had asked the police to seize rickshaws plying in the city with authorisation from different trade unions.

When pointed out that there was hardly any transparency in his office because newsmen were denied access to information by DCC officials, the Mayor welcomed the journalists to "meet him any time for any information."

Replying to a question whether he would contest the next mayoral election, Hanif said he did not yet think over it. "I still have a year to go and I will think over it later," he said. The Mayor presented a list of development works undertaken or being carried out in the city and said, "We are alleged to have done nothing but here we are, a lot has been done."

PM: Conspiracies

From Page 1

the country. "I asked some BNP lawmakers that if they are so convinced about a famine-like situation in the country, then why they were not opening gruel kitchens," she said, recalling that "we from the Opposition had opened gruel kitchens when a severe famine hit North Bengal during Khaleda Zia's rule."

Focusing on the recent 'artificial price hike' of salt in the country, the Prime Minister pondered, "why this ploy, who are being benefited out of it, we must identify them."

She pointed out that to discredit the government, some people made quick bucks taking money out of the poor people's pockets by selling salt at the rate of Tk 20 per kg.

"We have knowledge of such conspiracies to raise prices of some other essentials artificially. I'll not divulge names of those items, but I can assure that measures are being taken to stop this," she said.

Justice K M Sobhan, Prof Kabir Chowdhury and AL General Secretary Zillur Rahman also took part in the discussion. Eminent poets Nirmalendu Goon, Mahadev Saha and Syed Shamsul Haq and cultural activists Asaduzzaman Noor recited poems at the programme that ended with a cultural function.

Dhaka's call to set up Islamic Common Market OIC urged to provide funds for micro-credit in poor states

From Staff Correspondent

DOHA, Mar 16: Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad today called for early establishment of the Islamic Common Market to revive the fragile economies of the Least Developed Countries within OIC, reports UNB.

"Now is the time when we must forge ahead in establishing the Islamic Common Market as adopted by a resolution in the Tehran Summit," he said delivering his speech at the ICFM.

Azad said preferential trade arrangements and movement of labour in an Islamic Common Market would surely help revive the fragile economies of the 19 LDCs and provide an opportunity of shaping a decent and dignified life for their people.

The Bangladesh Foreign Minister said the least developed members of the OIC are steeped in poverty, malnutrition and many other vices.

"Bangladesh has experienced that providing small loan or micro-credit to poor people in rural areas have resulted in income generation and poverty alleviation," he said.

Azad suggested that due consideration be accorded to this innovative micro-credit concept and fund be made available through an OIC mechanism for encouraging and promoting micro-credit ventures in poverty-stricken areas of OIC member states.

The Foreign Minister said the process of globalisation and liberalisation has released new and unknown forces of great magnitude having far reaching impact on world economy.

"Unprepared to face this new and pervasive process, many weaker economies, even within the OIC, are getting marginalised."

Azad said "The most disadvantaged of these countries, the 19 LDCs within the OIC, eagerly look forward to receiving support and assistance from those among OIC family with bountiful resources in meeting the challenges."

The Foreign Minister said a complete agreement prevails among the member states that only a strong and united OIC can command the respect of countries outside its membership.

Referring to the Middle-East Peace process, he reiterated Bangladesh's wholehearted support to the inalienable rights of Palestinians in having a homeland of their own with Jerusalem as its capital.

"Our sincerity for the cause of Palestine was recently reflected in our efforts in the Edinburgh Summit of the Commonwealth where our Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina firmly pressed for the inclusion of Palestine as a member of the Commonwealth after gaining statehood."

About longstanding dispute over Jammu and Kashmir, Azad said Bangladesh is in favour of all initiatives aimed at resolving this volatile issue.

"We welcome dialogue between India and Pakistan as dialogue is the only means to solve issues that threaten peace and security in South Asia."

Verdict on repeal of indemnity: SC begins hearing of appeal petition

By SC Correspondent

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday began to hear the appeal petition against the High Court verdict declaring the Indemnity (Repeal) Act, 1996 as a valid law.

Barrister Qurban Ali, Counsel for the appellants Col (ret'd) Shahriar Rashid Khan and Mahmuda Rahman, mother of Col (ret'd) Syed Farukur Rahman, started to read out the HC judgment at the hearing yesterday.

The division bench of the HC vide a judgment on January 28, 1997 discharged the rule nisi issued upon the two writ petitions and declared the Indemnity (Repeal) Act as a valid law.

The Jatiya Sangsad passed the Indemnity (Repeal) Act on November 12, 1996 repealing the Indemnity Ordinance, 1975. The Indemnity Ordinance was proclaimed on August 27, 1975 by the then government headed by President Khandaker Mustaque Ahmed validating all action taken during the August 15, 1975 killings of Bangabandhu and his family and indemnifying the killers from all legal proceedings.

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National and party flags will be hoisted atop central Awami League office and Bangabandhu Bhaban at 5:30 am today.

The party will hold milad mahfils, discussions and rallies and play the recorded speeches of Bangabandhu through microphones across the country.

The Cultural Affairs Ministry, Bangla Academy, Shilpakala Academy, National Museum, Nazrul Institute and National Book Centre will jointly organise a discussion at Ramna Batumul at 4 pm today.

Dhaka University, Islamic Foundation and Bangabandhu Agricultural University, Salna have chalked out separate programmes to mark the day.

Chittagong City Corporation has undertaken various programmes in observance of the day.

Chittagong University unit of Bangabandhu Parishad has also undertaken a week-long programme.

Aged under-trial prisoner dies in Khulna

KHULNA, Mar 16: An aged under-trial prisoner of Khulna jail died at the General Hospital here today, reports UNB.

Police said Amar Biswas, 60, suddenly fell ill this morning inside the jail. He was rushed to General Hospital where he died at noon.

100 shanties gutted at city slum

By Staff Correspondent

At least 100 shanties were gutted as a fire broke out in a slum at Shampur area under city's Demra thana early yesterday.

Fire Brigade sources said the fire, originating from the flame of a kerosene lamp, broke out at the slum at Kadamtali at about 1 am.

The blaze engulfed over 100 huts in the slum within half-an-hour. However, there was no information about any casualty in the incident.

Bangladeshis have to post bonds to visit Singapore

SINGAPORE, Mar 16: As part of a crackdown on foreigners illegally staying in Singapore, visitors from Bangladesh and Myanmar will have to post bonds, according to a news report Monday, reports AP.

Quoting Home Affairs Minister Wong Kan Seng, The Straits Times reported that citizens of Bangladesh and Myanmar "can expect to post bonds... to discourage them from overstaying."

The bond amounts can vary between 3,000 and 5,000 Singapore dollars, and the money will be forfeited if they overstay their tourist visas," the paper said, quoting Wong.

Bangabandhu murder

From Page 1 cated papers of the Commonwealth Secretariat and editor of the Sunday Times for the copy of one of its issue carrying Farooq's statement.

"However, I got the authenticated papers after submitting the charge-sheet," he told the court.

As the prosecution witness was proceeding with his deposition, the defence lawyers raised objections.

"I talked to the plaintiff of the case and other people concerned about the incident. They included officials of army, navy, air force, BDR, Betar, Prosecution counsel Serajul Haq, Ramjan Ali Khan, Mosharraf Hossain Kajal, Sahara Khatun and Kamrul Islam and the defence lawyers Abdur Razzaq Khan, Khan Saifur Rahman, Sharfuddin Mukul and TM Akbar were present in the court."

The prosecution witness will be cross-examined by the defence when the hearing resumes on March 23.

700 'political cases'

From Page 1 minister on the list and if necessary, discuss the issue with the BNP. Nasim said he did not count the number of cases the BNP list contained but he added, it might be some 700 as mentioned by a BNP leader.

In reply to a question, Nasim, who played the key role in rehabilitating the AL-BNP agreement, said holding a meeting of the five-member parliamentary committee on political cases won't be required for withdrawal of the political cases mentioned in the list. "If needed, we'll consult the BNP leaders concerned on the matter."

Contacted over telephone, Rafiqul Islam told The Daily Star he would do the needful in the light of understanding reached with the BNP.

Asked on the process of withdrawal, the minister said: "We've just received the list... details are yet to be worked out."

When contacted, Hafizuddin Ahmed said that the list of some 700 cases against his party leaders and workers were of 'political nature.' The list almost covered the major 'political charges' while 'another list of the same kind was being prepared for submission soon.'

The large number of 'political cases' against BNP men were compiled in a book with the figures for 64 districts and 460 thanas, he mentioned.

"We've handed over the list in accordance with our agreement with the government and we now hope they would withdraw those by the March 31 deadline."

Ruling party sources said, the government will first scrutinise the BNP list of 'political cases' to prepare a short list of 'genuine' political charges and then discuss with the opposition party before deciding on their withdrawal.

Asked if they were told by the ministers concerned about the process of withdrawing the cases, Hafizuddin replied in the negative.

"It's up to the government as to how it will implement its commitment. We'll definitely attend the meeting of the parliamentary committee on political cases, if called," said Hafizuddin, also a member of the committee.

জাহাঙ্গীরনগর বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় সাভার, ঢাকা সিনেটে রেজিস্টার্ড গ্র্যাজুয়েট প্রতিনিধি নির্বাচন সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি

জাতির জনকের জন্ম বাধিকীতে আমাদের সশ্রদ্ধ সালাম সোনালী ব্যাংক