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Proposal to create salt buffer stock approved

The Cabinet has approved the proposal of Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) to create a buffer stock of 20,000 metric tons of salt, reports UNB.

Minister injured in road mishap

MADARIPUR, July 6: State Minister for Planning, Science and Technology Dr Muhiuddin Khan Alamgir injured in a road accident today, reports BSS.

The accident occurred when the jeep he was riding on skidded off the road due to heavy shower and collided with a tree near the Mustafapur Textile Mills, eight kilometres from Madaripur town, on way to Barisal town, police and hospital sources said.

The driver of the Pajero jeep Muhammad Babul Hossain and securityman Moinul Hossain were also injured in the mishap. They were given first aid in Madaripur General Hospital, doctors said.

The state minister left the hospital for Barisal after taking three hours' rest and necessary care, they said.

Meanwhile, sources in the Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital in Barisal said, "Dr Alamgir has been admitted into the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of the hospital" adding "he (Alamgir) received minor head and leg injuries from the accident."

The state minister is likely to leave Barisal for capital Dhaka tomorrow after thorough check-up, they added.

Saradindu Chakma made envoy to Bhutan

The government has appointed Saradindu Sekhar Chakma, a retired additional secretary, the ambassador of Bangladesh to the Kingdom of Bhutan, a Foreign Office release said yesterday, reports BSS.

Chakma, hailing from Perachara under Khagrachhari district, joined the government service as a deputy magistrate in 1961.

He was the first and only additional secretary from the tribal community.

Chakma is a member of the National Committee on Chittagong Hill Tracts and president of Parbatyia Bouddha Sangha.

Police constable

Jasimuddin had raped Rokeya Begum at a train compartment at the Kamalapur Railway Station on May 25, 1996.

Rokeya came to Dhaka with her husband. When her husband went outside leaving her in the station, Jasimuddin falsely arrested her after she refused to have sex with him. He then took her to the train compartment and raped her. Hearing her hue and cry, people came and rescued her and also handed over Jasimuddin to police.

Jasimuddin was in service with railway police at that time.

IMF loans

ment should address issues to strengthened the banking system for a larger saving and investment.

Describing as 'encouraging' the developments during 1997-98 fiscal year, she said the growth "was good. The budget was close to the target. The fiscal policy was prudent. The export performance was strong. Banks financing to the budget was restrained. Inflation was within the international standard.

The IMF officials said they suggested the government for vigorous efforts to strengthen macro-economic performance. It needs to build up international reserves, bring down inflation and leave room for expansion of the private sector.

Champen said they have noted problems widespread loan defaults and huge losses of state owned enterprises which could otherwise be devoted to development and poverty reduction.

She would not say if the IMF had suggested Bangladesh to export gas.

The IMF official told a correspondent that she has no ready information on whether external assistance have succeeded in reducing poverty in Bangladesh.

Champen also pleaded ignorance when a correspondent drew her attention to a recent report that of 89 developing countries who have received IMF help since 1965, more than half are no better off than they were before and 32 are actually worse off.

IO tells court during cross-examination Muhiuddin confessed he fired shells at Mujib's residence

Accused Lt. Col. (ret'd) Muhiuddin Ahmed had ordered troops under him to fall in during the night parade at Balurghat in Dhaka, a few hours before the August 15, 1975 carnage, the Investigation Officer (IO) in the Bangabandhu murder case told the court yesterday, reports BSS.

Abdul Kahar Akand, ASP of CID, during the cross-examination by the Defence Counsel accused Lt Col (ret'd) Muhiuddin Ahmed in the dock restated that he (Muhiuddin) had confessed his active involvement in the August 15 killings before him during interrogation on police remand on November 5, 1996.

Muhiuddin Ahmed, who was a major at that time and one of the battery commanders under Two Field Artillery Regiment, had fired gun shells aiming at

the Dhanmondi residence of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Akand recalled.

He said, during the investigation, he had examined nearly 140 persons who were under two field artillery regiment during the incident. Of them 13 to 14 persons were made prosecution witnesses (PWs), he added.

He denied the Defence Counsel's suggestion that during the investigation he had allured the accused of making confessional statement in the case.

Advocate T M Akbar yesterday concluded his cross-examination of the IO Akand who is also the 61st prosecution witness (PW) in the case.

The District and Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka, resumed the hearing yesterday after a five-day recess and with the

day's proceedings the trial crossed one year having 114 working days.

Judge Kazi Golam Rasool adjourned the hearing till July 8 morning.

UNB adds: The probe into the killing in Dhaka Central Jail of four national leaders on November 3, 1975 is in progress, the IO Akand told the court.

"I am also an investigation officer of the jail killing case," he said replying to advocate Abdur Razzaq Khan, defence lawyer for Lt Col (ret'd) Sultan Shahriyar Rashid Khan, an accused in Bangabandhu murder case.

The number of the jail killing case filed with Lalbagh thana is 11 (1) 75, said the ASP of the Criminal Investigation Department.

BNP gherao programme

From Page 1 'OB-Van' (outdoor broadcast van) as examples.

He provided the newsmen with comparative statistics showing that there were 250 to 300 seconds of average visual coverage of the then president Ziaur Rahman in BTV news during his rule and 200 to 250 seconds of such coverage of Ershad during his rule. "There was an average visual coverage of Begum Zia for 90 to 150 seconds during her period while incumbent Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is allocated an average of only five to seven seconds of visual coverage," he claimed.

Replying to a question about BTV's coverage of opposition political parties at present, the state minister said, "Whenever any party - be it JSD or Communist Party - seeks coverage, we provide it."

As regards the main opposition party, Sayeed said, "They (BNP) did not allow BTV cameramen cover their programme on numerous occasions. Rather, they damaged BTV cameras several times."

He brushed aside the allegation that BTV is partisan in

news coverage and claimed that Zia, Ershad and Begum Zia had rather pursued 'partisan practices'.

Sayeed said that during the 5-year rule of the previous BNP government, the name of Bangabandhu was never pronounced on BTV. While referring to 'occupation forces' of 1971, he said BTV never used to term them 'Pakistanis' during that period. "So, it's very natural that this party would not find satisfactory the role BTV is now playing by projecting the true history of the country."

About autonomy of BTV and Bangladesh Betar, he said, "We're already one-step ahead by taking the decision to allow private Radio-TV channels in the country."

PM's press secy's tenure extended

The contractual appointment of Jawadul Karim, Press Secretary to the Prime Minister, has been extended for another two years with effect from July 10, 1998, said an official handout yesterday, reports UNB.

Thai deputy FM due tomorrow

Thailand's Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Sukhumbhand Paribatra arrives in the city tomorrow on a three-day official visit, reports UNB.

He will lead a delegation of Thai government officials and top business executives.

An extradition treaty between Bangladesh and Thailand will be signed during his visit.

Stating this at a press conference yesterday, Thai Ambassador in Dhaka Pithyaya Pookaman informed that Exchange of Notes on the convention of the avoidance of double taxation between Bangladesh and Thailand will also be signed.

Pookaman said during his stay in Dhaka, Paribatra will call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad.

He will also hold official discussion with his Bangladesh counterpart State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury.

The Thai minister, along with his business delegation, will visit Dhaka Export Processing Zone (DEPZ) on Thursday.



A colourful procession was brought out in the city yesterday on the occasion of holy Eid-e-Miladunnabi.

7 killed, 65 injured in road accidents

Seven people were killed and at least 65 injured in road accidents in four districts of the country yesterday, report agencies.

Two people were killed and five others injured in a road accident on Dhaka-Sylhet highway near Marzal in Roupura thana in Narsingdi.

A Bhairol-bound speeding bus crashed two fruit traders at about 12 noon killing them on the spot.

The identity of the dead could not be known immediately. The injured were sent to Roupura Thana Health Complex.

Police seized the bus but the driver managed to flee the scene.

Sect employees meet finance ministry officials

By Special Correspondent Leaders of the 'Sachibabaya Karmakarta-O-Karmachari Sanjukta Parishad' had a meeting with finance ministry officials on Sunday regarding their demands including implementation of the pay commission report.

According to Parishad leaders, they held more than two hours' meeting with finance ministry officials, led by Maniklal Samaddar, additional secretary, to resolve a number of demands.

Accords were reached on resolution of demands including easing of problems regarding payment of pension, gratuity, full benefit during LPR instead of six months, festival allowance at full rate and dress allowance for class four employees, a top leader of the Parishad said yesterday without giving details.

The officials told the employees that full benefits could not be given due to resource constraint that their other demands would be met gradually, the leader said.

They are going to review the outcome of the meeting on Wednesday, he said.

In Comilla, at least two persons were killed and some others injured when a Dhaka-bound car collided with a truck at Zinkatal on Dhaka-Chittagong highway, police said.

One person was admitted to Gouripur health complex with injuries, police said.

Police, however, could not identify the bodies found inside the car.

A head-on-collision between two buses on Jessore-Satkhira highway in Sadar thana of Jessore left two people dead and 50 others injured.

The dead were identified as Ruhul Amin, 25, of Bejroyampur village in Monirampur thana and Fir Ali, 45, of Mongal Court village in Keshabpur thana.

Police said the accident occurred near Rajarhat Cold Storage when a bus from Satkhira rammed into another bus coming from opposite direction.

Fifteen of the injured, including a minor boy and three women, were admitted to General Hospital.

Of them, 13 were identified as Abtus Sattar, 35, Shamim, 21, Ata, 35, Sahabuddin, 25, Abdus Samad, 30, Paran, 35, Akbar Ali, 35, Milan, 20, Bikash, 28, Rabeya, 30, Jahan Ara, 35, Achhia, 25, and Poresh Chandra Mandal, 45.

Meanwhile, a young girl was killed and 10 people were injured in a road mishap on Pularsh-Mongla road in Rupsha thana in Khulna.

The victim was identified as Parul, 23. She succumbed to her injuries in the district General Hospital.

Police said the accident occurred at about 8:00 am when a bus from Mongla tumbled into a roadside ditch when the driver tried to save a bicycle rider.

Three of the injured - Sekander Ali, 45, Habin, 30, and Ali, 25 - were admitted to the hospital.

Police seized the bus, but the driver and his helper managed to escape. A case was filed with Rupsha thana.

Eid-e-Miladunnabi

From Page 1 separate messages, paying glowing tributes to the great Prophet.

On the occasion, national flag will be hoisted atop all government and non-government buildings. Some streets of the city will be decorated with colourful flags and banners inscribed with 'Kalima Tayyeba'.

BTV and Bangladesh Betar will broadcast special programmes while the national dailies will publish special supplements highlighting the significance of the day.

The Islamic Foundation has taken up a fortnight-long programme which was inaugurated by Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury yesterday.

Other programmes of the foundation include book fair and discussions on the life and contributions of Prophet Muhammad (SM).

The Ministry for Religious Affairs will hold a milad mahfil at the Secretariat mosque after Zohr prayers on Thursday. A discussion on the life of the prophet will also be held on the day.

Islamic Mission, Islamic Cultural Centre, Waqf Administration and various educational institutions have also drawn up elaborate programmes to mark the day.

Meanwhile, City Awami League will hold a milad mahfil at its central office today. Besides, Dewanbag Darbar Sharif will arrange a conference on Asheke-e-Rasul (SM) at its premises on the occasion.

One shot dead as BCL factions clash in Jamalpur

JAMALPUR, July 6: A rickshawpuller was killed during a gunfight between two factions of pro-Awami League Chhatra League at Melandaha Govt College today, reports UNB.

Police said the rickshawpuller Mujibur Rahman, 25, was shot in his head during the gunfight. The clash erupted at about 3 pm following a dispute over the construction of a boundary wall of the college.

He was rushed to Meandah Thana Health Complex where the doctors declared him dead.

During the clash, the rival groups traded some 15 rounds of gunshots.

Additional police force have been deployed in the area as tension was mounting over the incident.

Battle for WC finale today

In doing that the Dutch have to deal with Zagallo who has won the World Cup in 1958 and 1962 as a player and again as coach in 1970 and as assistant coach in the last World Cup.

His reluctance to watch future opponents is considered 'imprudent' and so the late induction of Zico as technical coordinator in his team.

But that must be a stigma he collected as a successful 'boss'. For Zagallo admits: "My experience of playing at the highest levels gives me an advantage when it comes to seeing beneath the surface of the action."

The Brazilians have talent and so do the Dutch. While both teams have players with European experience, Holland's home-based players will have a distinct advantage over the Brazilians playing in South America. For Brazil have never won the Cup in Europe.

In the earlier rounds Brazil have scored seven goals and conceded three while the Dutch have a for and against tally of 4-2.

So both teams know that the opposite defence is not impregnable. Both also know they can score. But while Brazil have done so against Chile and Denmark, it will do no harm to Holland's confidence that they scored twice against the might of Argentina.

Winners of tomorrow's match will wait for the victors of the July 8 clash between hosts France and Croatia, a cracker of an encounter, for a meeting at Stade de France at St Denis on July 12 in the final, the last day of the thirty-three day contest.

The losers will have yet another chance to play for the third prize the day before. With tension and excitement at a boiling point, one can only hope that football will be the ultimate winner.

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Liton, a security guard of the embassy, was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital with stab injuries in his chest and stomach, police and hospital sources said.

Israel, who was accompanying Liton, however, managed to escape from the attackers.

A case was filed with Gulshan police in this regard. Nulshan was arrested in connection with the incident till late last night.

Defaulted loans

BNP lawmakers. "Banking rules are now being strictly applied and it will also be done in this case", he announced.

Responding to another question, Kibria said defaulted loans affect the national economy in a number of ways. These limit money circulation, create liquidity crisis in the banks, reduce mobility in bank transactions and investment opportunities, bring down profit of the banks and discourage the borrowers who are not defaulters.

Flash flood

From Page 1 dated the road near Fatikchhari.

District administration sources said most of the areas in Paltas, Satkania, Chandanail, Boalkhal and Rangunia thanas were flooded.

The rivers Shrimati Khal, Shankha, Karnaphuli and Halda were flowing near their respective danger levels.

A Cox's Bazar report says: Rivers Matamuhuri and Bakkhali in the district were flowing near their danger level inundating several parts of the Cox's Bazar-Chittagong highway and Cox's Bazar-Teknaf road.

The onrush of water eroded certain portion of the Cox's Bazar highway near Edgong area. Water was also flowing over the road at Harbang Barattail and Naibila areas.

The flood water inundated the Cox's Bazar-Teknaf road at Chandina.

They're now agitated seeing the outcome of their misdeeds", the minister told the shouting

Housewife found dead in city

By Staff Correspondent A housewife was found dead in her bedroom at Free School Street under Dhanshadhi thana in the city yesterday morning.

Police said Rafiqul Islam found his wife, Fahmida Islam, 45, dead when he came to their flat on the second floor from Barisal at about 8:30 am.

Fahmida was lying on the bed with the door of the flat locked from inside. None responded as Rafiqul, an officer of the BSCIC in Barisal, knocked the door several times.

Later, Rafiqul with the help of some neighbours broke open the door and found Fahmida dead. The couple did not have any child.

Dhanmondi police sent the body to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

The reason behind the death could not be known immediately. Family members said Fahmida was a diabetic patient. Police lodged an unnatural death case.

Pak special envoy arrives tomorrow

ISLAMABAD, July 6: Senator Mohammad Akram Zaki will visit Bangladesh on Wednesday as a special envoy of Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif to explain Pakistan's position on South Asian security, following nuclear tests, reports AFP.

CSE turnover

From Page 1 from three major cities - Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet. The volume of trading had since been going up under the screen-based automated trading system.

A total of 3.19 lakh shares and debentures worth Tk 1.80 crore changed hands on CSE against 1.79 lakh shares and debentures valued at Tk 1.64 crore on DSE.

Market analysts say it was very much expected since "investors would go to a place where they feel confident". "Trading under screen-based system is more transparent," said one.

BJMB

From Page 1 study, the source noted. "Load rating (load capacity) of the BJMB is needed to be assessed so that maximum combined stress of road and railway load on the bridge is known," said an expert involved in the planned study.

Khan said, "Possibility of reducing dead load on the bridge and introduction of certain traffic regulations over it will be also assessed during the study." He however said there is no constraint for passenger trains to cross the bridge.

"Most of the Bangladeshi freight wagons can ply with capacity load under the permissible level of load on the bridge," he said.

Other sources in the BR said, additional packing of stone chips may be required on the newly laid rail track on both sides of the BJMB.

"Packing is a routine matter for any new rail track," said an official.

Seventeen kilometre new rail track has been laid from Jamalati to Ibrahimabad, connecting the western and eastern zones of BR through the BJMB. Of the new rail track, five km has been laid on the bridge and the rest is on its both sides.

The inter-city Padma Express is now plying between Rajshahi and Bangabandhu East Station through the BJMB six days a week except on Sunday.

NOTICE Subject: Notice of Closure of Registers of ICB Mutual Fund Certificates Notice is hereby given that the Registers of Transfer of Certificates of all ICB Mutual Funds will remain closed from 15th July, 1998 to 30th July, 1998 (both days inclusive). By order of the Board Md Fayekuzzaman Secretary INVESTMENT CORPORATION OF BANGLADESH 8, DIT Avenue, Dhaka

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