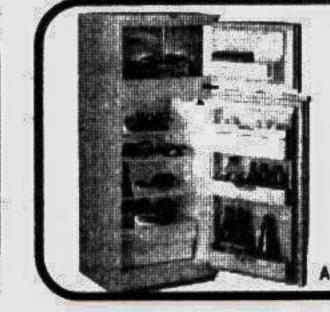
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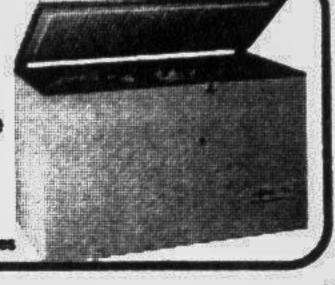


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# Bangabandhu Murder

# Shahriar Rashid confessed his involvement, IO tells court

Accused Lt. Col (retd) Sultan Shahriar Rashid Khan has already made a statement under Section 164 of CrPC before the magistrate during police custody confessing his involvement in the August 15, 1975, killings, the Investigation Officer (10) in the Bangabandhu murder case told the court yesterday, reports BSS.

During the cross-examina-tion by Advocate Abdur Razzak Khan, a defence counsel for accused Shahriar, ASP of CID Abdul Kahar Akand informed the court that he (Shahriar) was made accused in a series of murder cases under different thanas of the capital including the jail killings.

Akand said accused Shahriar, who was a major at that time, was arrested on August 13, 1996, on suspicion under Section 54 of CrPC and later he was detained under Special Powers Act and subsequently he was shown arrested in different murder cases.

He denied defence counsel's suggestion that accused Shahriar has made the confessional statement before the magistrate under duress and intimidation.

When asked by the defence counsel that the High Court had earlier declared illegal the detention of accused Shahriar. Akand said, "it was not my concern as an investigation officer in the case."

Replying to a defence question he told the court that during his investigation he could

Young man hacked

to death

in city

By Staff Correspondent

death by a gang of assailants in

Kalabagan Staff Quarter area

late Monday night, police said

24, a cable operator, was called

out of his father-in-law's flat at

the Staff Quarter by six persons

and hacked behind a building

police said quoting an FIR filed

by his mother. He was rushed to

Dhaka Medical College Hospi-

tal when doctors declared him

alleged that her son was killed

by the assailants due to a previ-

ous enmity. Imran, a resident of

Tolarbagh in Mirpur Section

One, was the son of late Zahirul

Huque. He had been staying in

that flat since the day before the

Imran's relatives after autopsy

at the DMCH morgue. The

mother filed a murder case with

Dhanmondi police accusing six

son, Abdul Motin, one of the six

PM

From page 1

Referring to various devel-

your district increased in many

opment programmes taken up

by her government, including

allowances for elderly people,

Employment Exchange Bank

and housing projects for low-

income people, she said all

these are meant for economic

welbeing of the general people

who had long been denied their

right to better livelihood and

that once Begum Zia had said if

Awami League was voted to

power, it would stop 'Azan' in

the mosques. "Now, she proved

lesser water flow in the Padma

after the Ganges water sharing

treaty with India, the Prime

Minister urged her "predecessor

to go and see for herself"

whether there is knee-deep wa-

Young professionals

From page 1

Among others Taneem Laila,

Bangladesh in the days to

Syeda Nasreen Akhter, Osama

Taseer, Shamim Akhter Ila,

Mamun Morshed, Khaled Ma-

sud, Kazi Mahmud Ahmed,

Mehedi Mahbub Hasan, Niaz

Rahman, Ahmed Jamil, Mukib

Rashid, Mohammad Golam

Nabi, Zahidul Hasan, Mamun

Akbar, Zakir Hossain, Abdul-

lah Al Faruk and Motasim Bil-

lah Faruki took part in the dis-

The next meeting of the

The first meeting of young

young entrepreneurs and pro-

fessionals will be held on Au-

professionals and en-

trepreneurs aged 25 to 35 was

held in December last year 'to

let the voice of the young be

Brushing aside reports of

Sheikh Hasina also recalled

their franchise"

a liar", said Hasina.

ter in Padma.

come," he said.

cussions.

gust 8.

heard.

named in the murder case.

Police arrested one per-

The body was handed over to

The mother, Kanij Rokeya,

Imran Hasan alias Sagar,

vesterday.

dead.

incident.

persons.

A young man was hacked to

not identify the police security guards on-duty on August 15, 1975, at the radio station at Shahbagh which was taken over by the army. "So I could

not make them prosecution witnesses (PWs) in the case." Akand said.

The District and Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka, resumed its hearing after a day's recess. Advocate Abdur Razzak Khan continued the cross-examination of IO Akand till the court rose for the day.

Akand, who is also the investigation officer in the jail killings of four national leaders, told the court that Shahriar was also an accused in the case filed with the Lalbagh thana on November 11, 1975. 'The investigation is going on," he added.

Asked by the defence counsel he had made anyone of the photographers sent by the army to take the snaps of the place of occurrence (PO) following the killings inside the Dhanmondi residence of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Akand said, "I interrogated one of the two photographers, but I did not consider him as a prosecution witness (PW).

He, however, said, "I made Major Ziauddin a PW in the case, who went to the place of occurrence taking the cameramen as directed by the Defence Forces Intelligence immediately after the incident."

Judge Kazi Golam Rasul adjourned the hearing till July 13 next.

# It's a goodwill mission, says Sharif's envoy

A special envoy of Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said here yesterday Pakistan had to undertake its nuclear tests in May to restore 'psychological and strategic security balance' in South Asia, reports

Senator M Akram Zaki who arrived here in the afternoon on a four-day visit said the region's security balance was disturbed by India's nuclear tests earlier in May. "India's nuclear explosions created a new security threat to the region," he

Talking to newsmen at his hotel suite shortly after his arrival in the city, Zaki described his visit to Bangladesh as a goodwill mission, a peace mission, in the wake of new development in the region.

During the visit, he will call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad and other government leaders. He will also meet with political personalities and opinion leaders.

Zaki, the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Senate in Pakistan, came here from Nepal as part of his four-nation tour of South Asia that will also take him to the Maldives and Sri Lanka.

He said he was asked to visit the four South Asian nations because of the very important development that has taken place in the region.

"India's nuclear detonations created a new security threat to the region and their language was changed subsequently ... Pakistan had to redress the issue to bring back psychological and strategic balance in the region," he said.

# BNP urges

From Page 1 to withdraw the ban.

BNP's Tangail district president Major Gen (retd) Mahmudul Hasan and BNP chairperson's press adviser Anwar Zahid were present at the news briefing.

"The action has exposed the government's fascist character. its anti-democratic and intolerant attitude to the political opponents.

The BNP leaders claimed that the government resorted to banning public meeting fearing that the credit for construction of the Jamuna bridge will go to BNP when the actual facts are unveiled to the people of the

Replying to a question, Shahjahan Siraj said they did not get any written order about the banning of the public meeting at Shamsoil. "The DC, Tangail, has verbally informed us

He told a correspondent that he would request the Home Minister to withdraw the ban.

Siraj said they had earlier informed the Communications Minister and the JMB authorities about the plan for holding public meeting. "They did not

raise any objection," he added. But, he said, DC Tangail verbally informed them on July 7 of the government decision.

# **Editor: Mahfuz Anam**

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# 7 JS standing committees reconstituted Seven parliamentary stand-

ing committees were reconsti-

tuted yesterday, reports BSS.

The House adopted unani-mously the proposals for the re-constitution of the standing. committees moved by Treasury Bench Whip Mizanur Rahman Manu. The reconstituted standing committees are: Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Planning, Par-liamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Agriculture. Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Textiles, Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Jute, Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Religious Affairs, Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Youth and Sports, and the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Labour and Man-

Under the reconstitution

Rezaul Karim Hira of Awami League has been included in the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Planning in place of Alhaj Syed Abul Hossain of the Awami League, M Anisul Huq Chowdhury of Awami League in the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Agriculture replaced late Ahmed Tafiz Uddin of Awami League, Advocate Moslemuddin of Awami League in the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Textile replaced Syed Masud Reza of Awami League, Dr S M Mokhlesur Rahman of Awami League in the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Jute has been included in place of Advocate M Musharraf Hossain of Awami League, Shahadat Hossain of Jativa Party in the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Religious Affairs replaced A K M Shamsul Huq of Awami League, A K M Shamsul Huq of Awami League in the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Youth and Sports was inducted in place of Bir Bahadur of Awami League and Fazlur Rahman Khan of Awami League in the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Labour and Manpower replaced Jahanara Khan of Awami League.

## Kabir Chowdhury made Nat'l Professor

The government yesterday announced the appointment of eminent educationist Kabir Chowdhury as National Professor for a five-year period, reports BSS.

Prof Chowdhury would get all the facilities to study and conduct research work on any subject being attached with any academic institutions of his choice. The institute will provide him with all academic and research facilities, including publication of books he would compose during his five-year tenure.

Prof Chowdhury will get a monthly honorarium of Taka ten thousand.

Prof Chowdhury is a former professor of English of Dhaka University.

# Tk 832 cr goods

From page 1

The speakers said that despite liberalisation of trade with India to a great extend, informal trade or smuggling had been rising over the years, threatening the development of industrial sector in the country.

They observed that informal trade could be minimised through proper fiscal measures regular monitoring of prices and rationalisation of tariff structure.

The DCCI President said "Informal trade has been causing great harm to local production, depriving the government of huge revenue earning."

He alleged that law enforcing agencies were also linked with smuggling and said "They are the most beneficiaries of the smuggling.

"Low quality cement is being smuggled into the country from India which is threatening our constructions," he added.

Shah Abdul Hannan said informal trade is not helpful for our economy because it affects industry, government revenue and employment. He stressed the need for some

fiscal measures for curbing smuggling. "Local industry suffers a lot due to an uneven competition with smuggled items," Laila Rahman Kabir said. She held 'black money' re-

sponsible for increase in informal trade. "Black money is being used for smuggling as those doing it do not pay taxes for this whereas an importer pays several charges including fees and income tax, she said. Shamsuddin Ahmed ex-

pressed concern over low quality of smuggled items. "How a smuggled finished goods could be cheaper than the raw materials for that item," he wondered. He suggested that VAT

should be imposed on informal trade to increase revenue earning.



Visitors at the Thai Trade Fair that began at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel yesterday. - Star photo

# Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Agri Varsity Bill '98 passed

By Staff Correspondent

The Jatiya Sangsad yesterday passed the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agriculture University Bill, 1998, seeking renaming and upgradation of the Institute of Postgraduate Studies in Agriculture (IPSA) at Gazipur into a fullfledged agriculture university.

Agriculture Minister Motiya Chowdhury moved the bill, earlier amended by the JS Standing Committee on her ministry.

Opposition BNP lawmakers opposed the bill, especially renaming the institution after Bangabandhu while the Jatiya Party MPs demanded that the new agriculture university be shifted to the northern region

### Flood situation improves in Ctg, Cox's Bazar

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, July 8: The overall flood situation in Chittagong and Cox's Bazar districts improved today as water started receding

The death toll from the floods, triggered by incessant monsoon rains for the past few days, rose to 17 today with reports of 12 more deaths received from different areas of the two districts, official sources said There was no death today, they

The road link between Chittagong and Cox's Bazar was restored today after a suspension for three days with repair of a damaged culvert at Islamabad. the sources said.

In Chittagong, road communication resumed on Nazirhat-

Heyako road as flood waters re-

At least three lakh people were marooned in the low-lying areas of the two districts, the sources said.

Among the dead, ten persons including two minor girls were killed in boat capsize and landslide in Cox's Bazar. In Chittagong, five persons were killed in landslides and two drowned in flood waters. Aboutone lakh people were

moved to safety but all of them have gone back to their homes with the recession of flood wa-

where, they said, production of

crops was the highest. He House rejected the opposition members' proposals for dropping Bangabandhu's name from the new university, soliciting public opinion on the issue and sending the bill to the JS Select Committee.

Earlier, the House witnessed a lengthy debate between Agriculture Minister and the opposition lawmakers on the bill.

The BNP lawmakers bitterly criticised the minister for renaming an institution after Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman while upgrading it into a university and said it was intended to please the Prime Minister. They suggested setting up of a new institution to name it after Bangabanchu.

They also castigated the Awami League government for pursuing the "politics of naming everything after Bangabandhu to hide its failure in addressing any of the problems of

Some of the BNP MPs criticised the ruling party for making a great personality like Bangabandhu controversial by using his name in each and ev-They also made personal at-

tacks on Motiva Chou dhury for her political role before joining the AL and alleged that her move to rename the IPSA was to hide her previous role, opposing Bangabandhu's politics. The JP lawmakers de-

manded that the new agriculture university be set up in the northern region while one of them proposed the southern region as its new location.

Replying to the opposition legislators, the agriculture minister said that it was the IPSA authorities which proposed Bangabandhu's name for the new agriculture university.

She also blamed the BNP for renaming many things after Ziaur Rahman during its rule, including the Ashugani Fertiliser Factory, the Dhaka International Airport and the Chandrima Udyan after late President Ziaur Rahman. Also she mentioned that the party had named buses purchased with government money for clifferent educational institutions after Begum Khaleda Zia.

### found dead in abandoned car By Staff Correspondent A former MP of Jatiya Party,

Former JP MP

Lutfar Rahman alias Faruk. was found dead in the luggage compartment of an abandoned said vesterday.

lawmaker from Bhanga constituency in Faridpur district in the 1986 general election. After preliminary investi-

gation, police suspected that Faruk, son of Abdur Rob Bhuyan, was strangulated to

Faruk's partially decomposed body after local people informed them that a car was lying abandoned for the hole day beside the highway. The motive behind the

killing could not be ascertained immediately, police said. The owner of the ash coloured car, in which the body was found, is Flora, Faruk's second wife, they Police said, being informed,

they rushed to the spot and found car beside the road at about 10 pm Tuesday. Police broke open the lug-

and legs were tied up with ropes. police said.

Hospital morgue for autopsy. None could be arrested in

this connection till filing of this report last night. Police field a murder case with Keraniganj thana yesterday in

# JS adopts

new era of social and economic

submitted it's list of participants to the Chair, staged the walkout following the Chair's refusal to entertain a few amendments to the proposed resolution.

amendments from two BNP legislators.

amendments.

Arguing against the Chair's hers submitted the amendments the secretariat office today.

also requested the chair to use his discretion to entertain the amendments. But the Deputy Speaker, who was willing to give 45 minutes time to the Opposition for discussion, refused. Disappointed at the incident, the Opposition members staged the walkout at 10:35 last

nigh t. After the BNP lawmakers went out of the House, Shawkat Ali of AL, a member of the panel of chairmen for the current session, replaced the Deputy Speaker and began the general

Tele communications Minister Mohammad Nasim, State Minister for Information Abu Sayeed and Communication Minister Anwar Hossain Manju, Jatiya Party MPs Fazle Rabbi and N K Alam Chowdhury and AL legislator Shamim Osman took part in the discus-

The sension was adjourned at 11:47 pn/1.

# Only 12pc of births registered in country

By Staff Correspondent

Less than 12 per cent of the total births in Bangladesh are registered. This was revealed in a study by UNICEF published in its report on 'The Progress of Nations' yesterday.

While recognising the low percentage, it was resolved that birth registration would be made a priority in all union parishads, pourashavas and city corporations. The Ministry of Local Government will be responsible for actions. The nation-wide launching

of the report was presented at its conference room yesterday by Dr Monica Sharma, Officerin-Charge of UNICEF, Bangladesh and Quazi Shamsul Alam, member of the Planning Commission. The 'Progress of Nations

1998', a global flagship publication, serves as a yardstick on progress made towards achieving key goals and standards set

# Govt okays plan to construct Padma Bridge

ports BSS. Replying to a call attention

notice by Col. (retd) Showkat Ali of Treasury Bench, the minister said that the Prime Minister had also expressed her commitment for the construction of the Padma Bridge while inaugurating the Bangabandhu Bridge on June 23 last.

The communications minister said that the government had taken some steps for construction of the Padma Bridge at Mawa. He said that Taka 4.27 crore technical assistance project for the construction of the bridge had already been approved. Besides, a Taka 3643.50 crore project summary had also been prepared.

### Business leaders From page 1

Chamber of Commerce and In-

dustry, Mostafa Golam Quddus, President of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association, Md Shahjahan, Chairman of Bangladesh Textile Mills Association, and Md Golam Mostafa, President of Bangladesh Frozen Foods Exporters Association.

for children and women for the year 2000 and beyond. This main theme of this year's edition is birth registration. The report also focused on three other themes — immuni-

sation, adolescence (focus on

girls) and lack of shelter. In his presentation to a packed conference room. largely attended by newsmen as well as representatives from other organisations, Dr Aung Tun Thet, Officer-in-Charge of UNICEF, Bangladesh said, "This year's report is a little different from the previous ones, because it goes back to the beginning and focuses on child rights from the day a baby is

The report shows that the importance of birth registration is still not appreciated in many countries. About 40 million of the new-born babies worldwide are not registered, he

A birth certificate is a ticket to citizenship. Without it, an individual does not officially exist and therefore lacks access to state privileges and protec-

Civil registration is also the basic tool by which the government counts its citizens, and plans basic needs like schools, healthcare and other services.

In reply to a question from The Daily Star on how birth registration will become successful when about 95 per cent of the deliveries in the country take place at home, B Gopal of UNICEF said. "We have recommended for motivating parents toward registration."

# Brazil

From page 1 gentina. We did our best, but the

dream is over, its a pity." Overmars said: "It's unfortunate, it's such a shame. It was such a close thing. We were so close to the final and I think we had more chances than they did. It could have gone either

"We had the feeling we were going to beat them today. And if we were going to do it, we had to grab this moment. Now we have to wait four years for another

In Sunday's final Brazil will play either Croatia of France. who meet in their semi-final

Wednesday. Rivaldo commented: "Croatia are not an easy side to beat. They are very difficult. "France will have to prove themselves on the field against Croatia before they can meet us in the fi-

# হলিউডেও পৌছে গেছে সাপ্তাহিক ২০০০



বৃহস্পতিবার কিন্ত

বাজারে বের হয়নি ২০০০ বের হচ্ছে বিশ্বকাপের খবর নিয়ে

আপনার হকারকে বলে রাখুন এবং এক মগ চা নিয়ে দেখতে বসুন

বিশ্বকাপের ফাইনাল

৯৬/৯৭ নিউ ইন্ধাটন, ঢাকা-১০০০ টেनिकान : निविविवा : ১৩৫০১৫১, ১৩৫০১৫২, ১৩৫০১৫৩ क्यांच : ५०००५८८

# Moshood Abiola dead From Page 1

fury in the streets, throwing rocks and burning debris in the roads. A former backer of Nigeria's military regime who later ran on his own for president on an anti-poverty platform, Abiola became a hero of prodemocracy activists. A US State Department offi-

cial said Abiola began coughing and wheezing during a meeting with a delegation led by US Undersecretary of State Thomas Pickering. Pickering said Abiola be-

their meeting and asked for a "We all helped to put him in a car. There was no ambulance immediately available," Pickering said in an interview with

came ill in the early stages of

Abiola had been drinking tea and chatting before he fell ill, said Jim Callahan, a spokesman for the US Embassy in Nigeria. In Washington, US President

Bill Clinton said US officials

watched Nigerian doctors' last-

ditch efforts to save Abiola's

life at a government clinic. Clinton expressed regret at the "sudden and untimely" death. A Nigerian government statement said the cause of death was a heart attack, and the State Department said there was no reason to believe that the death was not the result of natural causes. Abiola's family had repeatedly warned that his health had been failing after years in detention under harsh

conditions, but cast doubt on

the official explanation of his

death.

His daughter, Hafsat, said in an interview with CNN that the timing was suspicious. "It was too convenient," she said. "All of a sudden at the eve

of his release, he dies." Abiola was the apparent winner of the 1993 presidential elections that were cancelled by the military. He was jailed the following year and accused of treason by dictator Gen Sani

Abacha, who died last month of

a heart attack. Dissidents also have complained that UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and other diplomats refused to stand up for Abiola - and said the secre tary-general pressured Abiola into renouncing his claim to the presidency.

Annan also was criticized for not going to Lagos, Nigeria's commercial center where much of the country's opposition movement is centered. Annan did meet with opposition groups in Abuja, the capital. An unlikely hero for democ-

racy. Abiola became a rallying point for Nigeria's disparate opposition groups during his years of imprisonment. Grief and sorrow swept the country as news of his death spread among his supporters.

In the commercial capital of

Lagos, news of Abiola's death

was met with isolated incidents

of stone throwing. Just north of Lagos, however, in the university town of Ibadan, students took to the streets in a show of outrage over Abiola's death while still in military custody. There were no immediate reports of arrests or injuries linked to the protests.

car at Bhawar Bhiti in Keraniganj beside the Dhaka-Mawa highway Tuesday night, police Faruk, 38, was elected a

Keraniganj police recovered

gage compartment as bad smell was coming out from there and recovered the body. The hands

Police also recovered a mobile telephone set, a bottle of whisky, a number of magazines and letters from inside the car The body was sent to Mitford

connection with the incident.

ing of the bridge has opened a progress for the people. The opposition BNP which

Deputy Speaker Abdul Hamid told the House at 10:30 pm that he could not entertain the proposed amendments as they did not reach the Sangsad secretariat in time. He said the secretariat had received eight

"Seven, moved by Mashiur Rahman, reached the secretariat after 9:00 in the morning. while another - moved by Shahidul Islam — reached after 4:00 in the afternoon", said Hamid. He argued that the lawmakers were late in submitting

position. Opposition Chief Whip Khandaker Delwar Hossain said: "We were informed about the resolution Monday afternoon. Tuesday was a public holiday, while one of our memimmediately after opening of The opposition chief whip

discussion.

### at Mawa Communications Minister Anwar Hossain said in Dhaka vesterday that the government had accepted in principle the plan for the construction of the Padma Bridge at Mawa on Dhaka-Khulna highway, re-