

We do our Piece so you can have your peace

Bangladesh Express Co. Ltd.
Licensee of Federal Express Corporation

For more information call-Dhaka, Tel: 9565114, 9883927, 9130647, 894213, 808003 DEPZ 9338931
Chittagong, Tel: (031) 712127, CEPZ (031) 740108
Khulna, Tel: (041) 725008, N.Ganj, Tel: 9714336

FedEx
The World On Time

Whirlpool
HOME APPLIANCES

Refrigerator & Freezer
Instalment facility available

Transcom Electronics Limited
Authorized distributor in Bangladesh for Whirlpool Appliances, USA
Dhaka : 815307-10, 819625-9 Ctg. : 714353, 723578
Khulna : 720304 Bogra : 4215 ART290 - 265 Litres



The five DB men arrested earlier in connection with the death of Rubel in custody. — Star photo

Akram sent to jail

From Page 1

Rather, he (Akram) was on leave for two days as the day following the incident was the death anniversary of his son, the lawyer argued.

There was commotion at the court room when Akram was brought in without handcuffs and carrying a mobile telephone. A large number of lawyers who gathered at the court along with people, shouted abuses at him and asked why he was not handcuffed.

Later police put a handcuff in his left hand and whisked him away to the court lockup before taking him to the Central Jail at 4:20 pm, with people staging demonstrations.

As he was being taken out, press photographers and reporters rushed but he showed his annoyance and raised his handcuffed hand. "Take as many photos as you like," he shouted at the lensmen.

Later police put a handcuff in his left hand and whisked him away to the court lockup before taking him to the Central Jail at 4:20 pm, with people staging demonstrations.

As he was being taken out, press photographers and reporters rushed but he showed his annoyance and raised his handcuffed hand. "Take as many photos as you like," he shouted at the lensmen.

Low over Bay likely to weaken

The "well marked low" over northwest Bay off Andhra-Orissa coast moved northwesterly and was lying over eastern Madhya Pradesh and adjoining Orissa, reports UNB.

It is likely to move further inland and weaken gradually, said a Met Office bulletin issued in the city last night.

It said strong monsoon under the influence of the low is likely to prevail over the north Bay.

Who is the boss?

From Page 1

When the home minister's attention was drawn to the deviation at his press briefing, he said that he had asked the department concerned the day before to supply the photos to the press. "The IGP is the appropriate person to explain the matter," the minister said and passed the microphone on to the IGP, Ismail Hossain, sitting next to him in uniform.

"Supplying those photographs was unnecessary... We cannot supply their photographs as they are members of police... They are government officials," the police chief said in a nonchalant manner.

The IGP's statement provoked a number of journalists to ask: who is the boss?

Isn't it a reflection of inherent arrogance of police in this country? some of the journalists asked the home minister.

The minister kept silent on the questions, but responded to the sentiment of the journalists by announcing immediately: "I order that all the photos be supplied to the press today."

Arrogance and alleged widespread corruption by police became issues of discussion at the press conference.

Hartal

From Page 1

cessionists with batons and lobbed tear gas shells. The processionists hurled brick bats at police. Two vehicles were damaged there.

For maintenance of law and order, the government has decided to deploy over 4000 police and BDR personnel in the city today. The police have identified 21 trouble spots including Siddeshwari area, police sources said.

Eight deputy commissioners and seven additional commissioners will supervise the police and BDR during the hartal hours under the leadership of DMP Commissioner Mahmud Al-Farid, the sources said.

UNB adds: A briefing was held at the DMP headquarters yesterday with Mahmud Al-Farid in the chair to review preparations for today's hartal.

The meeting opined that the hartal will be something different as people may spontaneously participate in the programme, a police official said.

"So every member will have to remain calm and quite in face of all sorts of provocation by the hartal supporters," ordered a high police official.

"But stern action will be taken against anti-disciplinary activities."

Nine platoons of BDR will be deployed at the strategic points of the city.

Home Minister

From Page 1

dered over tendering resignation, taking moral responsibility for the killing, the minister said. "My moral responsibility is to improve the situation. One has to combat the evils, instead of shying away from them."

In this regard, he admitted that it was high time for ensuring transparency and accountability of the police force. "Reforms in the police force would start after receiving recommendations of the parliamentary standing committee concerned and the judicial reform commission." He also invited suggestions from the journalists.

In response to a question, the minister said that the government would review the provisions of Section 54 of the CrPC under which police could arrest anyone without any specific allegation. "None can say that Section 54 is not abused."

When asked if the government has any plan to probe alleged 'amassing of wealth' by police officials illegally, he said that he had already asked the officials to submit statement of wealth. "What I would do now is to fix a deadline for submitting the statements. It would be August 31 next."

Commenting on a suggestion that there should be an independent institution to probe criminal offences of police, the minister said "It is an important thing to ponder over."

Hasina-Vajpayee

From Page 1

payee responded positively to the views of Sheikh Hasina.

Later, the Bangladesh Prime Minister hosted a lunch at Regency Room of Hotel Taj where the SAARC leaders are staying.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, Foreign Secretary Mustafaizur Rahman, Indian State Minister for External Affairs Bashundhara Raje and high officials of the two sides joined the luncheon.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam
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: 966772-4. Commercial: 966771. Fax No: 88-02-963035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA. Internet edition address: http://www.dailystarnews.com and Email address: dstar@bangla.net

5 policemen

From Page 1

During the assault the Independent University undergraduate student reportedly suffered fatal head injuries.

Meanwhile, the five day remand of the five plainclothesmen ended yesterday. They will be produced before the CMM's court today, CID sources said.

"Sir, I did not see anything," "I did not beat Rubel," and "I don't know anything about the arrest" were some of the common answers of the remanded policemen during the five days of interrogation. Besides, they also said their team in-charge, assistant commissioner Akram Hossain, knew everything, according to CID sources.

Officials said they would decide today whether they would seek permission of the court for further questioning of the five arrested detective policemen — SI Taherul Islam Thakur, ASI Abdul Karim, Havildar Nuruz-zaman, constables Parvez and Faruq and DB Inspector Aminul, who was arrested last night. CID will produce Aminul before the CMM's court today.

Aminul is also one of the team members who took Rubel in an unconscious state to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors said he had already died.

Students of BUET Architecture Dept to begin fast unto death from Monday

By Staff Correspondent

Students of the Architecture Department of BUET yesterday announced that they would begin a fast unto death from Monday demanding return of the 13 teachers of the department to the campus.

The students announced the programme in the press release after the 13 teachers met the Vice-Chancellor of the University yesterday.

"Talks between the teachers with the VC failed as the teachers did not apologise, as demanded by the authorities," the press release said.

Students of the Architecture Department are abstaining from attending classes as the BUET authorities allegedly violated the five-point agreement and relieved the 13 teachers, the press release said.

On the other hand, a source who was present at the talks said, "The recent reconciliatory letter written by the 13 teachers to the authorities of the BUET is not satisfactory."

"Some syndicate members are not satisfied with our reconciliatory letter. They want us to apologise in writing, which is not possible," the source added.

The 13 teachers, in recent joint letter to the VC, withdrew some 'objectionable comments' in their earlier joint letter to the VC. Along with the recent joint letter, they also submitted individual letters to the VC for reconsideration of the authorities' acceptance of their resignation.

News item on Rina Sultana Kibria 'baseless'

By Staff Correspondent

The Bangladesh Press Council has said that the report published in the daily Bangladesher Patrika on April 7, 1997 implicating Rina Sultana Kibria in share market manipulations was baseless and fabricated and intended to malign her and her father-in-law, Finance Minister SAMS Kibria.

In a verdict, the Council observed that evidences did not conform with the allegations made in the report and that the report was published in violation of the journalistic code of conduct.

The Council also asked the newspaper to publish the verdict within two weeks of its pronouncement. The verdict was given last week.

The verdict was given by the Council's judicial committee comprising Justice Sultan Hossain, Advocate SS Halder, Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, Bazur Rahman, Kazi Shahed Ahmed, Nurul Islam Nahid and Mahbul Alam.

The Bangladesher Patrika in its report said that Rina Sultana had earned "a lot of money by manipulating the share market through different bank accounts". Her relationship with the finance minister was also mentioned in the report.

Rina Sultana had filed a case with the Press Council on April 23, 1997, against the then editor of the daily, Matur Rahman Chowdhury, and its publisher and printer Md Zakaria Khan.

She also filed a civil suit with the fourth Sub-Judge's Court, Dhaka, demanding compensation for damaging her image in the public eye.

In a statement to the press, Rina Sultana also alleged the "motivated" report was intended to give an impression to the people that she had made crores of taka when she share prices were high in 1996.

"The truth is that I was a helpless investor, badly affected in the share market in 1996. The question of earning so much money does not arise," she added.

Sathkira clash: Death toll rises to 4

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, July 29: Abdus Sabur, 38, one of the landless severely hit by bullets during clash with police over possession of Baburabad Jalnahal succumbed to injuries at Khulna General Hospital on Tuesday night.

Condition of the two others who are undergoing treatment is still critical, doctors said.

With this death, the number of the people killed in the fierce clash now stands at four.

Meanwhile, two landless farmers named Ansar Ali and Noor Ahmed have claimed bodies of two minor boys as their sons. The boys were among those killed in the clash.

Tension is prevailing in Satkhira town today as people hailing from Baburabad brought out a procession.

Threat to blow up Thai embassy

From Page 1

the authorities concerned about the threat.

"Police protection around the embassy and the residence of Thai diplomats has been beefed up. The authorities concerned are looking into the security aspect," he said.

In reply to a question, the ambassador said that the letter contained a Bangladesh post-mark.

When contacted, a senior police official said, the matter is being handled by the ministries

Stabbed to death

From Page 1

Kamrul was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where the attending doctors declared him dead.

The body was sent to DMCH morgue for autopsy. Shabujah police, however, could not confirm the incident till filing of this report at about 9:30 pm last night.



BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia addressing a public meeting at Palltan Maidan in the city yesterday, organised to protest the killing of Rubel. — Star photo

Magistrate's chamber ransacked 20 hurt as mob, police clash at Kushtia

KUSHTIA, July 29: At least 20 persons were injured, including a magistrate, when a mob attacked and ransacked the chamber of the magistrate, leading to a clash with the police in the court compound today, reports UNB.

A number of lawyers appeared in the court of first class Magistrate to seek bail for 2 JSD leaders Abdul Mannan and Joydev Biswas who were arrested on July 27 on charge of a murder. But the magistrate rejected the bail petitions and placed the accused on police remand.

Soon the JSD supporters who assembled in the court compound turned unruly. They attacked the Magistrate's chamber, pelted stones and ransacked the chamber.

Advocate Azizur Rahman Akkas, president of Kushtia Bar Association, and magistrate Mohammad Ishaq were injured in the attack.

Police brought the situation under control and drove them away from the court compound.

Later, lawyers, district administration and the District Judge reached a negotiation to avert further trouble. The judge, later, rescinded his order.

Stop promotions on basis of 'quota system'

By Staff Correspondent

A meeting of BCS (taxation and customs) officials yesterday deeply resented the promotions at deputy secretary and joint secretary levels at the Secretariat on the basis of "discriminatory quota system."

The meeting, held at the office of the BCS (Taxation) Association, was presided over by the acting president of the association, Asim Kumar Roy.

The meeting demanded annulment of the guidelines on the basis of which the promotions were made. The meeting noted that if further promotions are made on the basis of these guidelines, BCS taxation and customs officials would be compelled to go for tough action programme like abstention from work, said a press release.

It urged the authorities concerned to prepare a "fair and just" guideline for promotion on the basis of merit and efficiency through an "open competition" among all cadre services under the aegis of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Establishment Ministry.

3 electrocuted in city

By Staff Correspondent

Three persons, including a couple, were electrocuted in flood affected areas, in the city yesterday.

Police said Shahidur Rahman, 32, and his wife Sheuli Begum, 23, were electrocuted inside their makeshift house at Bagichar Tek slum in West Rampura, at about 11:30 am.

The incident took place when Shahid, a rickshawpuller, was repairing an electricity line inside their house submerged by flood water.

Hearing Shahid's scream Sheuli, who was then cooking inside the house, came to help her husband and she was also electrocuted. Both of them died on the spot, police added.

In another incident, Taslim Uddin, 20, was fatally injured as he tried to keep aside an electric wire floating in the flood water while he was traveling by a boat at Khapara in Khilkhet area at about 1:30 pm, police said.

In a fatally wounded condition, Taslim was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where the doctors declared him dead.

The bodies were sent to DMCH morgue for autopsy. Two separate unnatural death cases were filed with police.

Tuition fee hike JCD enforces strike at CU

From CU Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, July 29: Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) enforced a day-long strike at Chittagong University today protesting the authorities' decision to raise tuition fees and other charges.

No classes were held although the offices at the administrative building remained open during the strike.

The JCD activists brought out a procession and held a rally on the campus.

Today's DU exams postponed

By DU Correspondent

All the examinations of Dhaka University scheduled for today has been postponed due to unavoidable reasons, said a DU press release last night.

From Page 1

hill basin it is improving. It may improve in Meghna basin as most rivers receded there.

Sources at the Relief Ministry control room said the flood situation deteriorated in Dhaka, Mymensingh, Narsingdi, Manikganj, Rajbari, Madaripur, Shariatpur, Munsiganj, Pabna, Chandpur, Brahmanbaria, Habiganj and Gaibandha districts.

The districts where the flood is improving are Jamalpur, Netrokona, Sherpur, Sirajganj, Kurigram, Naogaon, Nilphamari, Feni, Moulvibazar and Sunamganj.

In Tangail, Bogra, Chaprainawabganj, Comilla and Faridpur districts, the situation remained unchanged.

Officials at the control room said the ongoing flood hit 2,162 unions in 246 thanas of 37 districts. Some 1,70,51,073 people of 22,75,240 families have been affected by the flood.

According to them, 31 more deaths were reported from across the country yesterday raising the total number of casualties to 171.

They said of the fresh deaths, nine was reported from Manikganj, seven from Tangail, four from Narayanganj, two from Dhaka, two from Brahmanbaria, two from Sunamganj, one from Mymensingh, one from Jamalpur, one from Bogra, one from Nilphamari and one from Habiganj.

Flood

Asked if there was any discussion future testing, Vajpayee said, "Both India and Pakistan have already declared a moratorium on conducting further nuclear tests."

In his speech earlier, Vajpayee discussed the nuclear question, even though it was not on the summit agenda. He reasserted India's commitment to a nuclear free world. India has said it will not give up its own right to develop nuclear weapons unless all other countries do.

The Vajpayee-Sharif talks overshadowed the broader summit topic of economic cooperation in South Asia, a region that is home to one-fifth of humanity and 40 per cent of its poorest people.

Other leaders at the summit voiced concern over the rising threat from India and Pakistan.

The recent nuclear tests in our region is a development that, we all wish, could have been avoided," Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina of Bangladesh said. Nepal's Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala spoke of "the fear of an arms race in the region."

Although the nuclear issue was excluded from the agenda of the formal summit, president Chandrika Kumaratunga of Sri Lanka admitted the nuclear competition was hanging over the conference.

"It cannot be denied that such an ambiance could be affected by the recent developments in South Asia," she said in an opening address.

The seaside capital of Sri Lanka was partially shut down by the police on guard against

Hasina: Settle N-issue

From Page 1

Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and the host Sri Lanka.

Hasina said, "problems, however complex, can surely be resolved through peaceful means. Indeed, there is no alternative to peaceful resolution of disputes or differences between states."

Reposing Bangladesh's renewed commitment to the SAARC, she said: "Nothing should be allowed to detract us from our main focus — combating the widespread problems of poverty, hunger, disease and illiteracy in the region."

Referring to her exclusive talks with Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee in New Delhi and Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in Islamabad on nuclear issue, she said her Indian and Pakistani colleagues assured her of their commitment to peaceful negotiation and dialogue.

The Bangladesh Prime Minister expressed satisfaction over the moratorium declared by the two countries on future nuclear tests and hoped "We will see further progress towards a constructive dialogue" to defuse tension.

In her 11-page written speech Hasina made several observations as well as some proposals to inject new momentum to the seven-member forum and achieve economic progress of 1.2 billion impoverished people in South Asia.

She said since the economies of the most of the SAARC members are vulnerable to withstand any shock "We need to formulate a coordinated approach to defend ourselves."

She said, "We have to resolutely face any challenges from any quarter and be better equipped to halt the process of marginalisation of our economies which may come as a result of the developmental trading regime."

Referring to the impact of WTO and special facilities for the members of the SAARC particularly the LDC category for promoting intra-SAARC trade, the Prime Minister sought a commitment to exploit the tremendous trade potentials

Vajpayee-Sharif agree

From Page 1

Sharif said, speaking to reporters after Vajpayee left. But he said India needed to show more flexibility on the question of Kashmir, the disputed Himalayan territory over which the two countries have fought two of their three wars.

Kashmir is the core issue. The sooner it is resolved, it is better for the two countries," he said, repeating his call for third-party mediation.

It was also the first meeting between the two leaders since Vajpayee's Hindu nationalist government took office in March.

Earlier, Sharif and Vajpayee sounded conciliatory as they spoke at the summit inauguration of the South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation.

"The inescapable reality that confronts us today is that South Asia is now nuclearized," said Sharif. "It is for us to steer away from the gathering storm."

Sharif suggested a resumption of the talks in his speech, and the agreement was tied up during the private talks.

It was the Kashmir issue over which the talks broke down last September between the foreign ministry officials.

The Indian leader said his talks with Sharif today were "wide ranging and covered many issues, including Kashmir and terrorism."

Asked if there was any discussion future testing, Vajpayee said, "Both India and Pakistan have already declared a moratorium on conducting further nuclear tests."

In his speech earlier, Vajpayee discussed the nuclear question, even though it was not on the summit agenda. He reasserted India's commitment to a nuclear free world. India has said it will not give up its own right to develop nuclear weapons unless all other countries do.

The Vajpayee-Sharif talks overshadowed the broader summit topic of economic cooperation in South Asia, a region that is home to one-fifth of humanity and 40 per cent of its poorest people.

Other leaders at the summit voiced concern over the rising threat from India and Pakistan.

The recent nuclear tests in our region is a development that, we all wish, could have been avoided," Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina of Bangladesh said. Nepal's Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala spoke of "the fear of an arms race in the region."

Although the nuclear issue was excluded from the agenda of the formal summit, president Chandrika Kumaratunga of Sri Lanka admitted the nuclear competition was hanging over the conference.

"It cannot be denied that such an ambiance could be affected by the recent developments in South Asia," she said in an opening address.

The seaside capital of Sri Lanka was partially shut down by the police on guard against

Amongst the member states.

About the apparent controversy of implementation of SAPTA and SAFTA, Hasina favoured a delayed implementation of the SAFTA (South Asia Free Trade Area).

Hasina contended that even the limited scope of SAFTA and the progress achieved in negotiations has been negligible.

About liberal economic policies, the Prime Minister said that the SAARC member countries have already liberalised their industrial policies with attractive incentive packages and freed the markets from government intervention creating a congenial atmosphere for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).

But, she said, "The problem is that all of us are in competition to attract FDI in the sectors we are competitive to each other," she suggested streamlining of regional priorities and identifying the key sectors to establish complementarity.

"This would certainly contribute to augment regional trading for our mutual benefit," Hasina said, adding that the lucrative packages of an individual country may not attract FDI. Rather, a large regional market of 1.2 billion people would effectively ensure the growth of intra-SAARC investment and FDI flows.

About the formation of the South Asia growth quadrangle with Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan and northeastern states of India, she said it would be able to attract foreign investors for some mega-projects linked to the huge hydel resource potential of this region in particular.

"Together we could develop the infrastructures, communication networks, sea ports, gas and energy," she said. The philosophy behind this proposition is to obtain tangible benefits for the peoples of this region in the shortest possible time.

Hasina formally proposed the establishment of a fund for the disabled called SAARC Disability Fund (SDF) to mitigate the sufferings of the 100 million people with disability in South Asia.

After her speech, the outgoing Chairman took up the agenda of the summit and proposed the name of Kumaratunga as the chairperson of the 10th summit which was accepted by all the leaders.

Gayoom in his speech said, "one of the principal aims of SAARC enshrined in the charter is to promote mutual trust, understanding and harmonious relations among our seven nations. We have always been trying to do so, we meet now at a testing time for SAARC. We can not afford to allow cooperation in core economic areas be hamstrung by disputes besetting the region. Unless new mindsets are chosen, old problems will persist."

Kumaratunga, mentioning the nuclear tests, said the circumstances that led to the steps taken by India and Pakistan were bilaterally explained to each of us in the SAARC. "None of us in SAARC has rushed to judgements," she said adding "each state in South Asia has taken its own measures of the nuclear tests. Their concerns have already been expressed on record and do not need repetition here. Although these concerns are not on the agenda of the summit, they can not be ignored."

Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala of Nepal said "the challenge of geo-economics is a compelling factor calling upon us to rise above the legacy of mistrust and to foster economic cooperation." "We have to live with the neighbourhood realities, sharing space with neighbours," he said.

Jigmi Yoeser Thinley of Bhutan who is attending the summit for the first time, said that the recent events in South Asia have attracted considerable international attention. He said, "In our view every nation has the right to protect its national interest and uphold its national dignity. We are aware that there are differences between member states of our association. We must take full advantage of our annual summit meetings which provide excellent opportunities for bilateral meetings at the highest levels."