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PHILIPS

9 killed in Manikganj road accident

MANIKGANJ, July 30: At least nine persons were killed and 15 others injured in a road accident on the Dhaka-Aracha highway at Mushuria in Shivalaya thana in the early hours of today, reports UNB. Police said the accident took place at about 2:30 am when a Dhaka-bound night coach coming from Benapole fell into a road side canal while overtaking a speeding truck. Of the dead, four were identified as Amena, 50, Kanta, 45, Buju, 3, Sankar Nandi, 50, Joy Nandi, 7, Sheikh Lutfar Rahman, 48, and Demor, 22. Fire fighters rushed to the spot and recovered the bodies. Of the injured, five were admitted to Uthuli Thana Health Complex. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, in a message from Colombo, has expressed deep shock at the death of nine people. She prayed for the salvation of the departed souls and conveyed her sympathy to the members of the bereaved families. UNB adds: Three young women were killed and two others, including a minor boy, injured in a road accident on Pabna-Iswardi road yesterday. Medical sources said the accident occurred when a rickshaw van, in which victims were traveling, run over by a goods-laden truck near Dasuria in Iswardi thana at about 4 pm. The dead were identified as Rubi 32, Tara 30, and Paru 20 of Musuriapara in Iswardi town. The injured were Rubel 3 and rickshaw van puller Abu 25. The truck driver, however, managed to flee the scene with his vehicle.



From L to R: Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, President of the Maldives Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga, Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee, Nepalese Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala, Bhutan's representative Jingme Thinley and Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina pose for a photo call outside the hotel at Bentota resorts in Sri Lanka yesterday. — AFP photo

Khaleda asks govt Ensure fair trial of killings in police custody

BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia has congratulated the people of Dhaka city for observing the hartal as a mark of protest against the death of Rubel in police custody, reports UNB. "Observance of hartal spontaneously has manifested the agony of the city dwellers and their hate toward the government for killing Rubel," Begum Zia said in a statement yesterday. "People's demand for forming a judicial inquiry commission with a sitting judge of the Supreme Court as well as trial of the killing in a special tribunal was also reflected in observance of the hartal," she added. The opposition leader said the ruling party by politicising the police department has unleashed the force against the innocent people. "The government has turned the country into a police state by resorting to killing, repression and oppression on the political leaders and workers and innocent people as well," she alleged. Begum Zia said Rubel, a meritorious student of the Independent University, is an addition to the list of brutal killings by the police of Awami League government. She asked the government to ensure fair and speedy trial of all the killings in police custody including Shamim Reza Rubel. "Otherwise the government will have to face the consequences."

Two young men murdered in city

By Staff Correspondent Two young men were killed in separate incidents in the city in last two days. Police said Sayedur Rahman Babu, 28, a resident of Khilgaon Tilpapara, was hacked to death allegedly by a gang of youths at Ambagan in the city's Moghbazar area yesterday afternoon. Eight persons have so far been picked up for interrogation in this connection. The motive behind the killing could not be ascertained immediately. Police said a gang of about six unidentified men hacked Babu at about 5 pm. With fatal wounds at his abdomen, Babu was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where doctors declared him dead. The body was sent to DMCH morgue for autopsy. Police were preparing to file a murder case in this regard till filing of this report last night. In another incident, Hafizur Rahman Kanak, 25, reportedly a final year student of Dhaka Polytechnic Institute, was stabbed to death by a gang of about five persons at the city's West Shewrapara at about 8 pm Wednesday. Kanak, son of Noor Mohammed Dhall of the city's Moghbazar area, was attacked when he went to visit a friend's residence at Shewrapara along with two other friends. Kanak and his friends had an altercation with the gang and at one stage Kanak was stabbed at the back with a knife. The miscreants fled the scene quickly. Kanak was rushed to Holy Family hospital only to be declared dead. The body was sent to DMCH morgue for autopsy. Saiful Islam, brother of the victim, lodged a murder case with Mirpur thana in this regard yesterday.

Hartal: Sporadic clashes

From Page 1 Earlier pickets were seen chasing police vehicles in and around the area. An anti-hartal procession led by Habibur Rahman Mollah MP came under attack by pro-hartal BNP activists at Sayedabad at about noon. The two groups chased each other and hurled bricks. The MP suffered minor injuries. Police said, adding that a number of crackers were also exploded during the clash that lasted about half-an-hour. At least 10 motor vehicles were damaged there. Earlier, two brothers, both staff of a tempo, suffered bomb injuries when pro-hartal activists hurled bombs at their vehicle in the area at about 8 am. At Ray Saheb Bazar crossing, pickets hurled bricks at a police truck at about 1:00 pm. Two policemen, a Sub-Inspector and a constable, were injured. Intermittent clashes took place around North South Road and Nayabazar area starting from 11:00 am in which some policemen were also brickbatted. Police picked up three persons. Police lobbed at least 50 rounds of tear gas shells and fired rubber bullets to disperse the pickets. Clashes between police and JAGPA activists took place at Bijnayagar at about 10:20 am. Tear gas shells were fired to disperse the activists. Besides, police and Jamaat activists clashed in Paltan area. The Jamaat activists exploded crackers. Police swung into action, firing tear gas shells and chased them away.

Thai courts

From Page 1 rests with the competent Thai courts and neither the Thai government nor the Thai embassy in Dhaka can interfere with the judicial proceedings of the decisions. Major Huda's legal rights, including his right of appeal, are fully guaranteed under the Thai judicial system," the press release stated. The embassy also said, "The extradition treaty between Thailand and Bangladesh is universal in scope and does not in any way refer to or meant for any person in particular." The press release was issued in the backdrop of news reports in the media that the embassy in Dhaka had received a letter threatening to blow it up for signing an extradition treaty with Bangladesh on July 9. The treaty is likely to enable the extradition of Major (ret) Bazul Huda, an absconding accused in the Bangabandhu murder case. Huda is currently being held in a Thai jail for shoplifting. The embassy press release further said: "From July 26 to 28, the Royal Thai embassy received two letters signed by Bazul Huda, freedom fighter, threatening reprisals against the embassy, the Thai ambassador and his diplomatic personnel if the Thai government were to hand over Major Bazul Huda to the Bangladesh government and opposing the extradition treaty signed between the two governments as a prelude to the handing over of Major Huda."

Injured Laksam BCL activist dies at BMUH

COMILLA, July 30: A Chhatra League worker of Laksam thana succumbed to his injuries at Bangabandhu Medical University Hospital Wednesday night, reports UNB. Police said the victim Abdul Ahad Hannan, 22, was among 30 people, who were injured in a clash between the activists of Chhatra League and Chhatra Shibir at Nawab Fayzunnisa Government College here Wednesday afternoon. Four of the injured including Hannan were sent to Dhaka in critical condition while others were admitted to different local hospitals.

Female students gherao CU VC for 18 hours

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, July 30: Vice Chancellor of Chittagong University Prof Abdul Mannan was gheraoed for 18 hours till 4 am today by resident female students of Prilata Hall, campus sources said. The students gheraoed his office at 10 am yesterday demanding withdrawal of the order cancelling seats of four students and showcase notices issued against eight others. The gherao was withdrawn at 4 am today after the university authorities agreed to reconsider the demands of the agitating students. The Vice Chancellor stayed inside his office during the gherao programme, the sources said.

Indo-Pak talks

From Page 1 tary level talks, but decided to continue discussions tomorrow. Highly placed sources said Raghunath held parleys with Ahmed for 90 minutes from midnight last night and continued the discussions today. Indian High Commissioner to Sri Lanka Shivshankar Menon and Pakistani envoy Abdul Basit Haqqani were also present. Prime Ministers Nawaz Sharif of Pakistan and Atal Behari Vajpayee of India met for more than an hour at a sea-front hotel in Colombo on Wednesday and agreed to resume official-level talks, hoping to ease tensions that worsened after the nuclear explosions. "Kashmir is the core issue. The sooner it is resolved, the better it is for the two countries," Sharif said after meeting Vajpayee. Three rounds of talks were held last year between the foreign ministry officials, but were stalled after their meeting last September over the question of priority while dealing with other problems. India wanted to move quickly on easier issues — separation of forces, a boundary demarcation and economic relations — but Pakistan insisted on parallel movement on Kashmir.

BAU issues showcase notices on 6 BCL leaders

MYMENSINGH, July 30: The Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) authorities have issued showcase notices upon six leaders of Chhatra League (S-P) for their alleged involvement in terrorist acts, reports UNB. The students were given August 10 deadline to reply the notices. After that, the authorities will take decision, officials at the BAU said today. The accused Chhatra League leaders are MA Ratan, Alamgir Mohiuddin Kabir, Zahid Hossain, Imran Hossain, Mizanur Rahman and Siddhartha Shankar Roy.

BNP briefing

From Page 1 activists and police attacked the BNP supporters at different parts of the city, in which six persons received bullet wounds. He said the gunmen backed by police opened fire at Mouchak area where they terrorised the people of the locality in the afternoon. "Police also attacked our supporters and people at Bangshai and Naya Bazar where clashes were going on late in the evening," he said bringing a litany of charges against the police. He alleged that police fired tear gas and used batons at Naya Paltan, near the BNP office while AL activists attacked picketers at Mirpur Section-10 and at Badda, where they opened fire. But people caught hold of a gangster, Munir, with a hand gun and handed him over to police, he said. Sadek Hossain alleged that similar attacks were carried out at Dhalpur, where the BNP office was ransacked. Police also attacked pickets at Motijheel, Rampara and Shamoli. Referring to the death of Rubel in custody, he said if the government had conducted a judicial enquiry into the death in police custody of Jubo Dal leader Tuhin in 1996, Rubel would not have died. Sadek Hossain accused the government of using the police for partisan purposes, allowing the Detective Branch of Police to deviate from its duty, torture its opponents and indulge in extortion. "Some 500 of our supporters had been tortured by the detectives," he alleged. He said police is an institution and it should be run accordingly. But the government had failed to run the police properly and the home minister should resign for the failure, he added.

Hasina, Sharif

From Page 1 ever tripartite business summit in Dhaka early this year, where Nawaz Sharif and the then Indian Prime Minister I.K. Gujral attended. Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee, who attended a luncheon hosted by Sheikh Hasina yesterday, also responded in affirmative to her proposal. The Pakistani prime minister apprised Hasina of the discussion between Sharif and Vajpayee held yesterday. He also referred to Hasina's visit to Pakistan and India following the nuclear tests by the two countries in May. "Your genuine quest for peace have moved us," Sharif told her Bangladesh counterpart. Sheikh Hasina expressed her concern about peace and stability in the region, saying, "It was vital for the welfare of the people living there." She stressed for raising the living standard of the peoples of this region. She observed that both India and Pakistan should resume dialogue to defuse tension. She said once the discussions start, many issues could be resolved.

Terminal: TUs

From Page 1 The coalition leaders today held a meeting with BNP's city committee here to exchange views and to draw their support, union and party sources said. The coalition leaders also held a meeting with the committee of south Chittagong unit of Awami League on Wednesday. The coalition will also hold meetings with Chittagong chapters of Jamaat-e-Islami, Jatiya Party, Left Front, city committee of Awami League, SKOP, lawyers and cultural groups in the next few days to draw support, coalition sources said. Besides, the coalition will organise rallies of workers here and announce an agitation programme on August 5, the sources added. Chittagong Port authority recently formed a committee to review the overall situation, port sources said.

Flood

From Page 1 gail and Dhaka. The upstream of the Ganges basin that covers Dinajpur, Rajshahi, Pabna, Kushtia, Jessore, Khulna, Faridpur and Barisal may also improve. But the districts along the Padma from Rajshahi to downstream may remain unchanged. The flood situation in upper part of the Meghna basin covering Sylhet, Mymensingh, Comilla and Dhaka is likely to improve, but from Bhairab Bazar to downstream may remain unchanged. In the Southeastern Hill basin, which covers Noakhali, Chittagong and the Chittagong Hill Tracts, the situation will continue to improve further. Officials at the relief ministry control room said the flood hit 2,187 unions in 247 thanas of 37 districts. Till yesterday the number of unions was 2,162 in 246 thanas.

Obuchi Japanese PM

From Page 1 Obuchi won the LDP presidency last week only after a bruising battle with party reformists, and the party could split or see its popularity plummet even further if he fails. Most key posts in the new Cabinet went to ruling party veterans instead of reformers. Longtime Liberal Democratic Party politician Nonaka, 72, was named chief cabinet secretary. Kaoru Yosano, 59, a former education minister, became minister of international trade and industry. State Foreign Secretary Masahiko Komura, 56, replaced Obuchi as foreign minister. One non-party veteran, Taichi Sakaiya, a writer and former bureaucrat, was named director-general of the Economic Planning Agency. The Cabinet included one woman: Seiko Noda, who was named as post and telecommunications minister. A former hotel employee, she entered politics at age 26 after inheriting the campaign support group of her grandfather, who was a noted lawmaker. The 37-year-old becomes the youngest Cabinet minister in Japanese history.

8 policemen suspended in Jhenaidah

JHENAI DAH, July 30: Eight policemen were suspended here today following escape of three under-trial prisoners from their possession, reports UNB. The suspended policemen were habildars Rais Uddin and Amir Ali, and constables Abu Salek, Lutfar, Liakat, Afzal, Enamul and Shawkat. An official source said three prisoners brought to the magistrate court Wednesday for hearing managed to flee the scene due to negligence of the policemen.



Low-lying areas in the city's Gulshan thana have been submerged by flood waters. — Star photo

Health for All

From Page 1 eases. Countries of all levels of development should ensure that these services are performed at least to minimum standards and their implementation should be monitored by government agencies. An expert said, "There is lack of coordination to attain the goals of HFA by 2000. There is hardly any coordination among the sectors like agriculture, finance, education, trade, transport, environment, water supply and sanitation. He said, "Directly or indirectly these sectors affect global indicators that determine the status of the goals of HFA." Indicators like percentage of national budget spent for healthcare, gross national product, mass literacy, safe delivery practices, infant mortality rate, immunisation and communicable disease control are some of the major factors that directly determine HFA goals. According to official sources, a very small percentage of the national budget is allocated for the health sector. Per head annual expenditure in the sector is equivalent to 3 US dollar against the minimum requirement of 12 dollars, the sources said.

Six DB men placed on remand

From Page 1 ers. But those were rejected by the court. CID officials said last night that they are likely to interrogate a few more DB men including the two SIs who were duty officers at the DB office on July 23. Another CID official said they did not find any document showing that Rubel was taken to the DB office for the second time. At the DB office register, three entries were found relating to Rubel's arrest. The first entry in the register showed that the DB men took Rubel into custody, the second noted that he was taken to his home and the third one noted that he was taken to the hospital. Mysteriously, 22 pages of the register recording the arrests by DB including that of Rubel, were missing. However, police are yet to dig out the mystery of Rubel's arrest on July 23 even after one week of the death of the young university student in police custody. Meanwhile, a chit with the address of Rubel's house in Sideswari area was recovered from the almira of Hayatul Islam Thakur 'surrounded the mystery' as to who wrote down the address. AC Akram, SI Aminul Islam and Hayatul Islam Thakur who were arrested in connection with the killing denied having written the address. The person who had written the address on the chit only knows the reason behind Rubel's arrest, said a CID official. Aminul Islam, who was arrested Wednesday night, admitted that he was in the DB team that went to Rubel's house for the second time along with Rubel to recover the so-called arms.

Crab export banned

From Page 1 catching the crabs during their breeding season, the government decided to act. It form a committee with experts, officials and a representative from the Bangladesh Live Crabs and Turtle Exporters Association (BLCTEA) in 1996, which submitted a string of recommendations in November 1997. The committee recommended further study on the crabs and their life cycle to clearly determine their breeding season, keeping the ban on catching crabs from the sanctuaries in the Sundarbans and forest areas. But it allowed export of farmed crabs, adhering to the guidelines. "We also suggested a strict monitoring of the export and its impact on nature, to review the situation periodically," said Rashiduddin Ahmed, a committee member from the International Union of Conservation of Nature (IUCN). A policy guideline on the crab export has also been forwarded to the government, suggesting that only genuine farmers having properly equipped farms would be allowed to raise and export crabs. The catching and export of crabs having the requisite weight, the males weighing not less than 200 grams and females not less than 130 grams, would be permitted, an official said. The decision to halt the export came only to finalise the guideline and help conserve the crabs during their breeding season, he added. By Mahmudul Hasan Khan Chowdhury, who represented the BLCTEA on the committee, said typical bureaucratic red

NCBs

From Page 1 has to be formed in each bank, which will formulate action plan to do this. Expressing concern over unions in NCBs, BRC said the banks are facing an extreme form of mismanagement because of unwarranted intervention in their administrative and business functions. It said the unions intervene in loan sanctioning and realising defaulted loans. Union members do not attend offices. In addition, some associations in NCBs are functioning like unions. The activities of such unions and associations must be stopped immediately. In this regard, the BRC urged the government to take action on the recommendations contained in the earlier submitted report of the task force on unions.