

New trust fund set up at DU

A new trust fund after the name of late Professor Dr ASM Nurul Haque Bhuiyan has been set up at the Dhaka University. The fund will be called "Bhasha Sainik Professor Dr A S M Nurul Haque Bhuiyan Trust Fund", says a press release. On the occasion of the second daughter of late Prof Bhuiyan Rabeya Kabir handed over a cheque for Tk 1,50,000 on behalf of their family to the Vice-Chancellor of the university Prof AK Azad Chowdhury at his office yesterday. Pro-Vice-Chancellor Prof M Shahid Uddin Ahmed, Treasurer Prof M Shamsul Haque, Chairman of the Chemistry Department Prof Md Muhibur Rahman, Syndicate Member Prof M Abdul Aziz, Registrar of the university Mohammad Selim, second son-in-law of the Prof Bhuiyan Dr A B M Zahurul Kabir, third daughter Mahmuda Siddiqua Babu and nephew Md Osman Gani Bhuiyan were present during the cheque hand-over ceremony.



Leader of the opposition and BNP chairperson Begum Khaleida Zia distributing relief materials at Shibalaya thana under Manikganj district yesterday. — Star photo

Smuggled Indian goods seized

SATKHIRA, Aug 24: The members of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) seized various kinds of smuggled Indian goods last week, reports BSS. The BDR members of 21 battalion of Satkhira raided the Toluigachi, Jhaudanga, Sonabaria, Hizoldi, Chanduria, and Satani border areas of the district and seized the Indian goods smuggled into Bangladesh.

Ghoraghat bridge in Gaibandha opens

Communications Minister Anwar Hossain inaugurated the Ghoraghat bridge over the river Korotoa on Polashbari-Ghoraghat road in Gaibandha district on Sunday, reports UNB. The 149-metre-long and 3-metre-wide Bailey bridge with four spans was constructed at a cost of Tk 2.50 crore. With the commissioning of the bridge, direct road link between Polashbari and Ghoraghat thana headquarters has been established and it also reduced the distance between Gaibandha and Dinajpur districts by 25 kilometres.

Speaking at a public meeting organised on the occasion, the Communications Minister said social and political stability is a precondition to the national development. Anwar Hossain called for building public opinion against those who pursue politics of hartal, strike and boycott, disrupting the elected government's development efforts.

Parliament members Abdur Rashid Sarkar, M Lutfur Rahman and Karimuddin Bharasha among others spoke on the occasion. Noor Mohammad Mondal MP, AKM Mustafizur Rahman MP and Ahsan Ahmed MP were present on the occasion. Earlier, the Communications Minister offered fatcha at Pirganj Bara Dargah, addressed two public meetings at Naya Madarganj and Tukuria and visited Khalshpur Bangabandhu College.

Netanyahu agrees for 1st time to 13 pc withdrawal from West Bank

JERUSALEM, Aug 24: Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has agreed in principle for the first time to a 13 per cent further withdrawal from the West Bank as demanded by the United States, his spokesman said today, reports AFP. The spokesman, David Bar-Ilan, said Netanyahu's proposal included limits on Palestinian powers in three per cent of land under offer and was conditional on Palestinians meeting a long list of security demands. He said Netanyahu announced for the first time his readiness to agree in principle to the 13 per cent further pull-back at a Cabinet meeting on Sunday.

Sanjoy murder 5 Shibir activists held in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Aug 24: A special team of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) arrested five Shibir activists in connection with the killing of Chittagong University student Sanjoy Talapatra from a mess at 'Ice-factory Road' Saturday night, reports BSS. Police sources said the team raided the mess at midnight and arrested five students of different educational institutions. The arrested are Abdullah al-Mannan and Md Iqbal Hossain, students of Chittagong Government College, Mohammad Yusuf and Jasim Uddin of Mohsin College, Abu Raihan Mohammad Delwar Hossain, an LLB student of Chittagong Law College, the sources said. The arrested were produced before the court today.

Sanjoy Talapatra, a second year student of Fine Arts Department of Chittagong University, was severely beaten up allegedly by Shibir activists on Thursday morning at Chittagong railway station. He later succumbed to his injuries at Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

Malaysian navy chief visits Shikha Anirban

The visiting chief of the Royal Malaysian Navy (RMN), Vice Admiral Dato Seri Ahmad Ramli Bin Haji Mohammad Nor, visited the Shikha Anirban (The Eternal Flame) at the Dhaka Cantonment yesterday, an ISPR press release said, reports BSS. The Royal Malaysian Navy chief placed a wreath at the memorial and paid homage to the martyr of the armed forces during the War of Liberation in 1971. Vice Admiral Ramli then went to the Naval Headquarters at Banani where he was given guard of honour. He called on his Bangladesh counterpart, Chief of the Naval Staff Rear Admiral Mohammad Nurul Islam. He remained with the navy chief for some time and discussed matters of mutual interest. Senior officers of the Naval Headquarters were also present on the occasion.

Relief work in city

'Pragati Sangha', a social organisation of the city's Jatra-bari area, has taken an initiative to help the flood affected people of the area. The organisation has been providing 715 flood affected people in the 'Shabuj Biddypal' flood shelter centre and nearest area of North Jatra-bari, Ward No 84 of Dhaka City Corporation with one time meal (khichury), oral saline, water purifying tablets and free treatment and medicines everyday, said a press release. The Sangha is continuing its relief distribution activities without any government or political assistance. Only Dhaka City Corporation has donated some medicines. "Yesterday I took difficult

BDR-FBCCI joint meeting Cross-border smuggling affects economy

A joint meeting of the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and the Federation of the Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) yesterday agreed that the country's economy is seriously affected by cross-border smuggling, reports UNB. The meeting attended by FBCCI President Yusuf Abdullah Harun and Director General of BDR Maj Gen Azizur Rahman was held at the BDR headquarters. The meeting viewed that co-ordination committees that have been formed at national and union levels should be more representative to make them more effective and thus save the country's economy from the adverse impact of smuggling. It suggested that not only the business representatives but also other professionals should be included in the co-ordination committees. The meeting also viewed that certain contact cells should be set up in the border areas with local representatives to enable BDR combat smuggling within 5 km of the border. The meeting also held that manpower of the BDR and the number of BOPs should be increased to deal with the situation efficiently. It viewed that the government is deprived of huge amount of revenue because of corruption in the 22 border points which are manned by only the customs officials.

Director General of BDR said his institution always took punitive measures against its personnel found corrupt or indulged in any illegal activity. But, he said, he never heard that a customs official was punished for corruption. The FBCCI president informed the meeting that FBCCI has formed an anti-smuggling contact point which will receive complaints from sufferers and inform the authorities concerned for proper action. Chairman of FBCCI standing committee on law and order and anti-smuggling and president of the Chapainawabganj Chamber of Commerce and Industry Abdul Wahed briefed the meeting about FBCCI recommendations to check smuggling. FBCCI vice-president Kazi Shaiful Islam, MCCI president Laila Kabir, BCI president Sarif Fzal Hossain, BDR Director Operation Col Lenin Kamal and business leaders Mohammad Ali Sarkar, Dewan Sultan, Mir Nasir Hossain, Maleka Khan, Abdul Haq and Obaidur Rahman also spoke.

Chandra Shekhar says Divisions in Opposition to help BJP tide over difficulties

NEW DELHI, Aug 24: A former Indian Prime Minister said in remarks published today that the ruling Hindu nationalists could ride out their current problems thanks to the deep divisions within the opposition, reports AFP. Chandra Shekhar, Prime Minister in 1990-91, said opposition parties differed in their approach to the coalition government of the nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Indian People's Party. "An alternative to the BJP-led government has not been possible because the political parties are not of one mind," Shekhar was quoted as saying in the southern city of Bangalore. He also said Prime Minister Atal Behari Bajpayee appeared ready to accept "humiliation" from disgruntled allies to ensure his five-month-old government did not break up. Shekhar's comments marked the first admission by

an opposition leader that disparate parties opposed to the Hindu Nationalists were finding it difficult to forge a United Front to bring down the government. The Times of India newspaper, however, quoted Shekhar as saying he was not opposed to Congress President Sonia Gandhi, the Italian-born widow of former premier Rajiv Gandhi, from heading a possible alternate government. "I have nothing against Gandhi," he said. "It does not matter who leads the country." Shekhar, who heads a small centrist party but enjoys good relations with National politicians, was earlier seen to be sympathetic to Congress members secretly opposed to Sonia Gandhi's leadership. India's ruling coalition has been fractured by endless infighting since taking power in March, particularly between the dominant Hindu Nationalists and a key regional ally.

Yeltsin presents Chernomyrdin as his apparent successor

MOSCOW, Aug 24: Russian President Boris Yeltsin today presented Interim Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin as his heir apparent for presidential elections due in 2000, reports AFP. In a nationwide broadcast Yeltsin said Chernomyrdin had been recalled because his experience was essential to ensure stability in a country ravaged by months of economic and financial crisis. The Kremlin chief made his comments as he explained why he had recalled Chernomyrdin as premier five months after sacking the former Gazprom chief in favour of the unknown and untested Sergei Kiriyenko. "Behind this nomination stands another important consideration, to ensure the succession of power in the year 2000," said Yeltsin. "Chernomyrdin has probity, honesty, and is responsible. I think that those will be the decisive factors in the presidential elections," he added. Yeltsin sacked the 36-year-old technocrat Kiriyenko on Sunday over his failure to quell an unprecedented economic and financial crisis which has brought the Russian Economy to its knees. "Yesterday I took difficult

decisions. I asked Viktor Chernomyrdin to lead the government of this country." "I ask deputies and regional leaders and all citizens of Russia to understand me and support my decision," Yeltsin said. "In the current situation there is no time for lengthy debate. The most important thing for us is the destiny of Russia, stability and normal living standards for Russians," he said. "In these conditions, the priority is to avoid a return to the past and to ensure stability," Yeltsin said. "Today we need what are known as heavyweights. The experience and gravity of Chernomyrdin are necessary." "He has not been spoiled by the exercise of power nor by his resignation," he added. Yeltsin also had a few words for Kiriyenko, saying he was "grateful to Sergei Kiriyenko for having tried bravely to rectify the situation." AP adds: Yeltsin asked the parliament to approve his candidate, but parliamentary leaders announced immediately that they would not convene a plenary session for at least a week and asked for more time to consider the appointment.

Hungry young man kills mother, sister

KISHOREGANJ, Aug 24: A hungry young man of a peasant family chopped to death his mother and sister and wounded old father in village Tetuipara, Katiadi, on Sunday, reports UNB. Sabdar Ali, 25 year old bachelor, was hungry. His mother Amana Khatun (50) could not give her son food he asked for. The hungry boy got furious and chopped by kitchen hook the mother, sister Rahima (30) and father Mutaruddin (60). The mother and sister died on the spot while the father was lying in Katiadi health complex in a critical condition, police said. Katiadi is one of the worst flood affected area in the district. Sabdar Ali fled the village after the incident.

Operation of Pakshi Paper Mills closed

PABNA, Aug 24: The authorities closed operation of North Bengal Paper Mills since this morning following incurring a continuous loss by the SOE and discontents among the workers, reports UNB. BCIC sources said the mills commonly known as Pakshi Paper Mills incurred a cumulative loss of Tk 188 crore in the last 22 years and about Tk 22 crore loss was incurred in last fiscal year alone. Workers sources say, in recent years the authorities utilize provident fund of the employees amounting to Tk 8 crore for payments of employees. Leakage of the news created a serious discontent among the workers. The authority having no other alternatives declared the closure of production in the mills. The closure of the production triggered an uncertainty and frustration among the workers, Mills sources said.

'Project true history of Liberation War'

Awami League president member Amir Hossain Amu yesterday urged all to build a happy and prosperous Bangladesh to implement the ideals of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, reports BSS. Amu was addressing a discussion as the chief guest at the BTMC building in the city. BTMC 'Sramik League' and BTMC Central Employees' League jointly organised the discussion in observance of the National Mourning Day. State Minister for Textiles A K M Jahangir attended the discussion as the special guest. In his speech, Amu said a distorted version of history of the great liberation war was being disseminated to our new generation during the last 21 years after the assassination of the Father of the Nation. He urged the authorities concerned to project the true history of the liberation war to the new generation. A K M Jahangir said the anti-liberation forces and killers of Bangabandhu are hatching conspiracy against the present government. He urged the pro-liberation forces to be united against the conspirators with a view to building "Sonar Bangla" that Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman dreamt of.

One run over by train in Ishurdi

ISHURDI, Aug 24: One railway officer was run over by a Khulna-bound express train from Sirajganj at the Muladuly station under Ishurdi thana on August 21, reports BSS. Police and railway sources said, the victim Mahbubur Hasan, 45, died on the spot. He tried to get down from the running train near the station. He went to Muladuly on board the intercity train to supervise the repair work of the railway track.

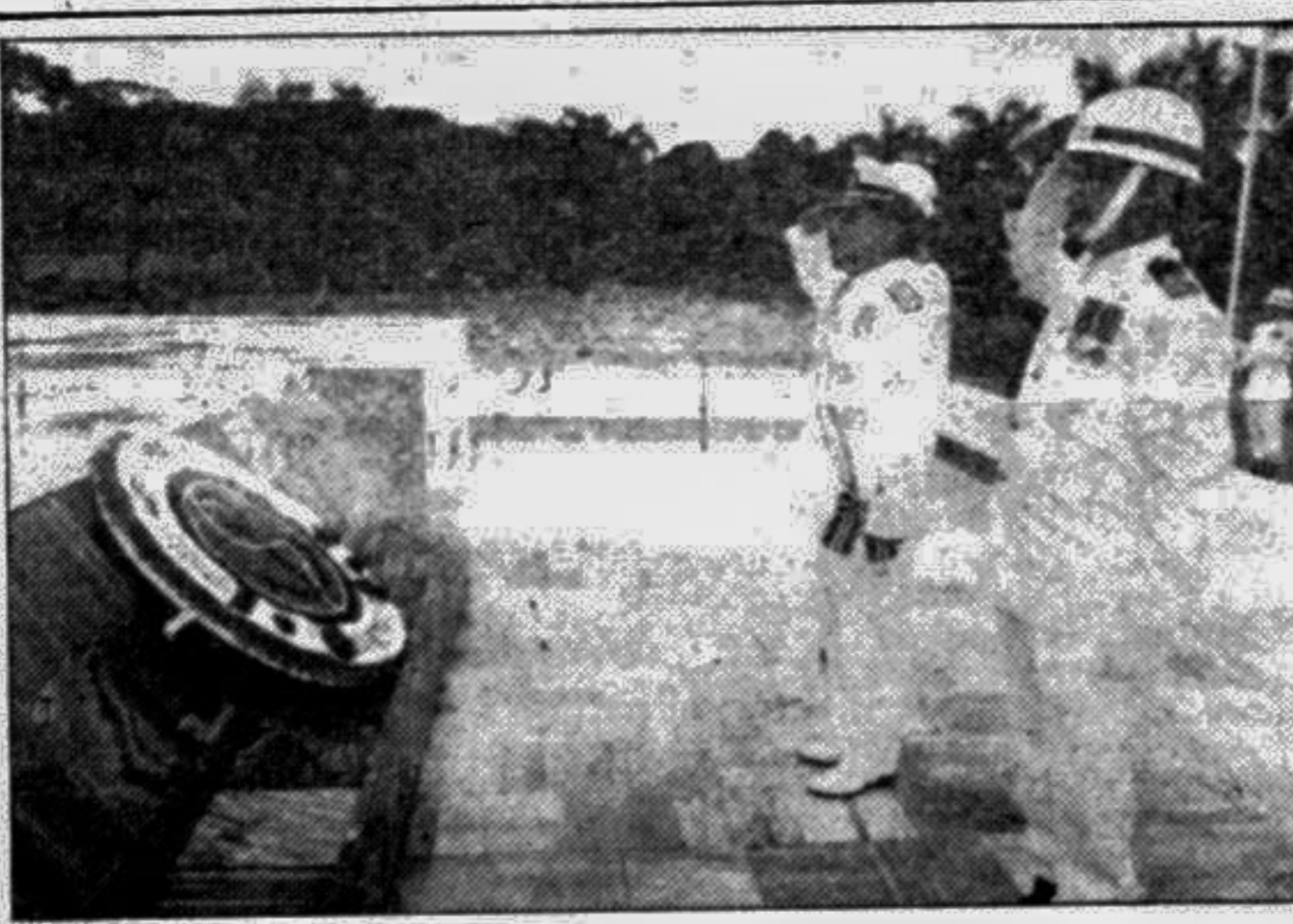
'Uganda, Rwanda must withdraw first' Congo rejects ceasefire proposal at summit

JOHANNESBURG, Aug 24: Congo's delegate to an African peace summit rejected a ceasefire proposal Monday, saying Uganda and Rwanda must first withdraw their troops supporting a rebellion in Congo territory, reports AP. Buoyed by recent successes, the government rejected a weekend ceasefire proposal, insisting all Rwanda and Ugandan troops must first withdraw from Congolese territory. "Congo will refrain from attacking the withdrawing troops," said Congo's delegate, Justice Minister Mwenze Kngolo. Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni and Rwanda's President Pasteur Bizimungu, who deny charges that they are behind rebels seeking to unseat President Laurent Kabila, agreed to the ceasefire proposal at the summit. South Africa's Nelson Mandela formally proposed the ceasefire on Sunday at a summit he hastily convened as head of the 14-member Southern African Development Community.

The presidents of Zimbabwe and Angola, who have sent troops to help Kabila, did not attend the summit. The Congolese delegate defended Zimbabwe and Angola's intervention on the government's behalf, saying the Congo had the right to invite foreign troops as a signal to Rwanda and Uganda that "Congo is not alone and has friends." "They will think twice about their aggression," Kngolo said. Angolan troops drove rebel forces from a string of Atlantic coast towns in a reversal of rebel gains, a senior Congolese government advisor said Monday in Kinshasa. Kabila has ruled with an iron fist since ousting dictator Mobutu Sese Seko from the former Zaire last year, and has alienated ethnic groups —

One more held in Ctg in connection with looting of jewellery shops

CHITTAGONG, Aug 24: Detective branch of police in a raid yesterday arrested an alleged terrorist from Nasirabad area in connection with the looting of jewellery shops at Mimi Super Market that took place on Thursday. Sunil Dey, reportedly an activist of a student front, was already wanted by police in five other cases of terrorism, illegal toll collection and attempt to topple the government. The insurgents, who accuse Kabila of power-grabbing, tribalism and mismanagement, have pushed to within 30 kilometers (18 miles) of Kinshasa and still control the town of Mbanza-Ngungu, the last major obstacle before the capital. Police started interrogating Sunil regarding sophisticated arms illegally possessed by him. Police alleged that Sunil had created a reign of terror in the city. Meanwhile, supporters of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) brought out procession near MES College in the city today protesting the arrest of Sunil.



The visiting Chief of the Royal Malaysian Navy (RMN), Vice Admiral Dato Seri Ahmad Ramli bin Haji Mohd Nor placing a floral wreath at the Shikha Anirban (The Eternal Flame) at the Dhaka Cantonment yesterday to pay homage to the members of the Armed Forces martyred during the War of Liberation in 1971. —ISPR photo

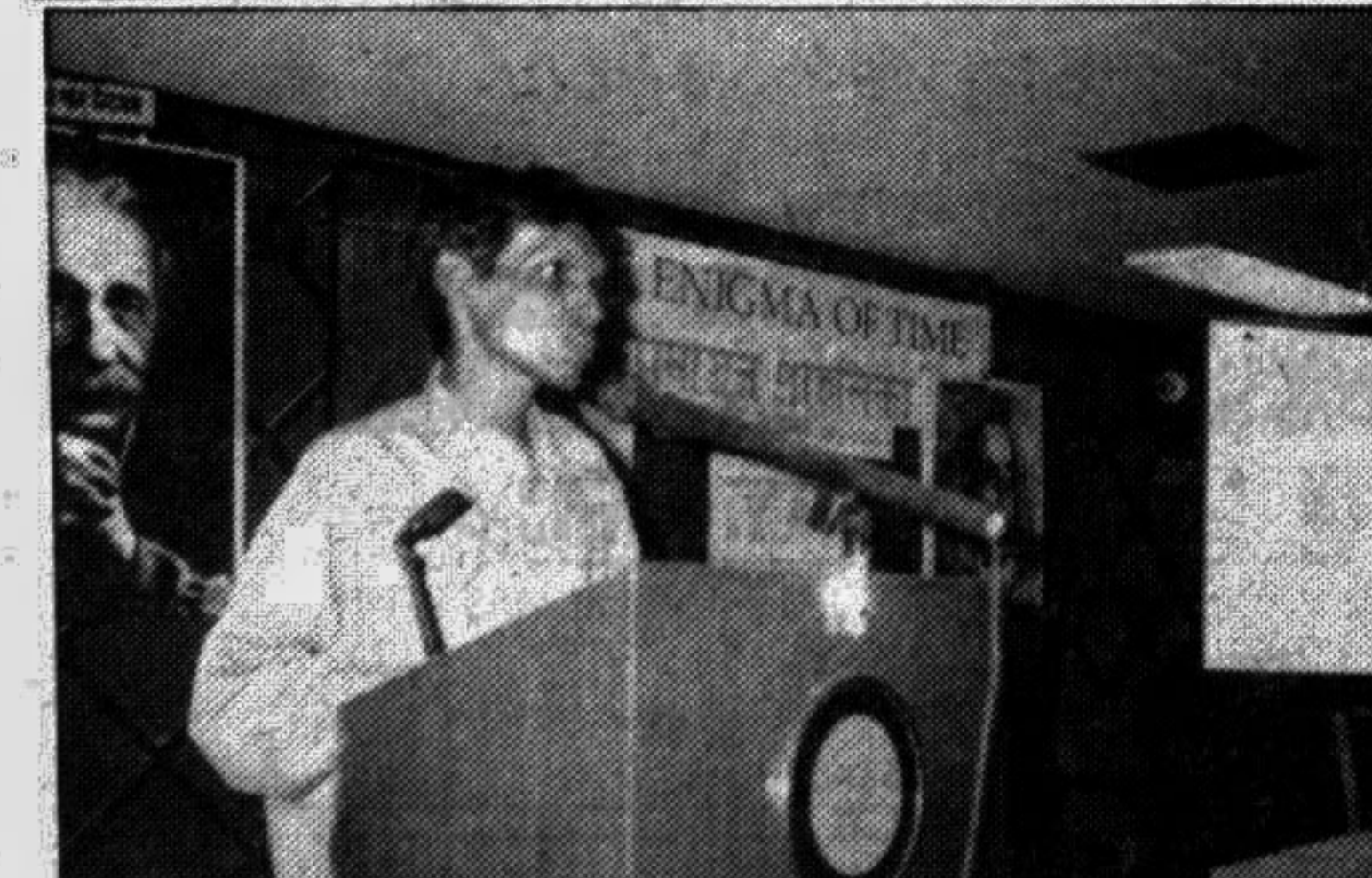
Bangabandhu Murder Case

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went to him, he (Bangabandhu) asked us, 'why have you come here? Where is Shafiqullah? And he pushed me and I fell down. Then we fired at him.' Advocate Serajul Huq said: "They took shelter of lies. Was it so simple? No one will believe it." About the killing of Begum Mujib and other females, Huda was quoted to have said that the "soldiers went out of control and killed them." The prosecutor said the defence even dared to say that the killing was done to save 12 crore countrymen. Going back to history, Huq said Nathuram Godse, who killed Mahatma Gandhi, had the courage of conviction that he killed Gandhi as he wanted a Hindu state and did not like Gandhi's relation with the Muslims. "They are the meanest of the mean," he said pointing to the killers of Bangabandhu. Refuting a defence suggestion that the August 15 killing was the outcome of a mutiny, Huq said: "It can no way be termed as a mutiny." "Involvement of some officers is neither a revolution, nor can be termed as mutiny. The

whole army was not behind it," he said. He said, "The whole army cannot be blamed for the involvement of a few person in the killing. By no stretch of imagination can it be called a revolution." Huq said every revolution has got a history. French Revolution was not done in a day and intellectuals like Rousseau and Voltaire were there. The French Revolution was not done by arms alone, but by the intellectuals. Referring to a book "Three Military Coup and Some Untold Stories," written by Col MA Hamid where it was written quoting Col Faruq and Col Rashid that they went to bring Bangabandhu to cantonment by arresting him and had no intention to kill him, the prosecutor said: "The killers were not that idiots that they would arrest Bangabandhu." "These killers are not that foolish to think that Bangabandhu can be carried away for their purpose," he said and termed the defence suggestion as an "unexpected defence theory. It is the outcome of fertile brain of the defence lawyers." He said: "If we look into the man, it can be easily said when

Pakistan could not make him (Mujib) bow then what these people (killers) could do by arresting him." Refuting another defence suggestion that the army man who went there started firing after the inmates had fired on them, Huq said it has been proved that no abandoned arms were found in that house. Referring to the cross-examination of PW-9 Col Hamid, the SPP said Major Aziz Pasha took Hamid near the guard shed on the southern side of the house and showed him a huge number of arms which, Pasha said, were recovered from the house. The fact shows that the arms shown by Maj Pasha 30 yards from the house were only given an idea that they were compelled to use their guns only after they were fired at," Huq argued. Referring to another suggestion, he said tanks moved through 46 brigade and many of the army personnel residing nearby heard the sound, but could not imagine those were moving to kill Bangabandhu. Quoting PW-8 Major Shahadat, the prosecutor said that on August 15 morning Maj Dalim took Army Chief General Shafiqullah to Radio station at gun point and the oath of allegiance was broadcast at about 10 am. The oath of allegiance of the chiefs of the armed forces and chiefs of BDR and Police was to show immediate surrender of all the officers and that was the master stroke of the conspirators," he said. Refuting the defence suggestion that General Shafiqullah knew everything, Huq said: "There is always a distinction between negligence and criminality."

"Shafiqullah, rightly or wrongly, whatever is the comment, did not know what happened at Dhanmondi. It may be his negligence, but the whole army was not behind the incident." A day after Bangabandhu was killed, his body was flown to Tungipara burying the other bodies at the Banani graveyard. At Tungipara, quoting the deposition of another witness,



Asif Hossain giving his keynote speech at a seminar on 'Enigma of Time and Einstein' at the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission recently. The seminar was sponsored by the Discussion Project, and organisation devoted to popularising science.

Bus dacoity on Dhaka-Barisal highway

A bus dacoity was committed at Chaturpara on Dhaka-Barisal highway in Madaripur sadar thana recently, reports BSS. A passenger bus bound for Dhaka was stopped at Chaturpara by a gang of armed dacoits who were in the bus in the guise of passengers. The dacoits robbed cash and valuables from the passengers at gun-point and left the bus. A case was filed with Madaripur thana.

Death condoled

Former President Abdur Rahman Biswas and Begum Biswas have condoled the death of Mahfuza Begum Mahbubunnesa, wife of former President of Supreme Court Aljibi Samity Khandakar Mahbubuddin Ahmed, reports UNB. In a message of condolence yesterday, they expressed deep shock at the death and prayed for salvation of the departed soul.



The residents at Lalbagh Fort area have set up a unique example of collective efforts by creating a barrier with own expenses to stop flood water entering into the locality. — Star photo