

PACKAGES, DOCUMENTS & FREIGHT WORLDWIDE

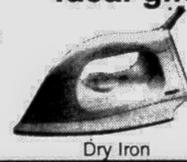


FedEx Federal Express

The World on Time



Rice Cooker



Dry Iron

Ideal gift for any occasion.

Instalment facility available only for purchases above Tk. 5,000

Transcom Electronics Limited
Dhaka: 815307, 819625-9 Ctg: 716353, 723578
Khulna: 720304, Bogra: 6215

Backed by Guarantee
Let's make things better
PHILIPS

People marooned in city areas allege

Local maastans extort toll from boatmen, passengers

By Gobinda Bar

While many poor people are ferrying marooned people to earn their livelihood, groups of local youths in different flood-hit areas of the city are extorting toll from them.

The mischief is rampant at various places in the submerged eastern part of the city where hundreds of country boats ply. The boats are engaged in transporting people to and from different points on the Bishwa Road. Many trawlers are also being operated between the city and some places of the adjoining districts as roads and highways are inundated.

During a visit to the city's Muggapara, Maniknagar and Manda areas under Sabujbagh thana and Iguria-Hasnabad on the south of the Buriganga Bridge yesterday and the day before, this correspondent found many youths forcibly collecting toll from boatmen. The boatmen were compelled to pay the toll in the face of threats from the youths branded as 'local maastans'.

A gang of maastans numbering around 20 collect Tk 10 for each passenger of mechanised boats plying in different routes from the capital to Maa, Sreenagar, Bandura, Joypara, Syedpur, Neemata, Nawabganj and Hashara, alleged the drivers and helpers of some

trawlers at Iguria-Hasnabad. At least 50 trawlers ply in the routes with 100 to 150 passengers in big ones and 50 to 70 in small ones.

A boatman has to pay a toll of Tk 40 each day at the Maniknagar-Bishwa Road ghat and Tk 10 at several other points.

The owner of a trawler said, "It would be possible for us to carry people for Tk 30 and Tk 20 each in the Maa and Sreenagar routes respectively, instead of Tk 40 and 30 now if we did not have to pay the illegal toll."

Requesting anonymity, he alleged, "Every trawler owner has also to pay Tk 50 to 100 every day to the agents who collect the toll for policemen at a nearby police box. Those concerned were informed of the matter but no action was taken. Trawler owners are afraid of doing anything more in this regard as they are from distant places like Sreenagar, Joypara, Dohar and Syedpur, he added.

One Jasim and his son Liton, who ply their boat in the Maniknagar-Biswa Road ghat and Manda Primary School route, alleged they have to pay Tk 40 to a gang of young men at the Biswa Road ghat each day.

"We have to pay Tk 10 at every other ghat if the gang is present there." Formerly a day labourer, Jasim said he has to pay a total of Tk 30 to at least three other gangs. "We earn Tk 300 to 400 from dawn-to-dusk every day," he said.

Another boatman, Ansar from Bholia, told this correspondent, "The extortionists have issued a 'token number' to each of the boats and they give us a 'ticket' when we pay the toll." He also showed a bi-colour printed ticket to justify his statement.

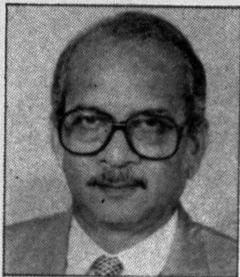
At Manda Primary School ground, Manda Bridge, Manda Bank Colony and Patary building of Maniknagar, the boatmen showed different gangs of youths involved in extortion.

Most of the boatmen said they did not dare to protest such illegal practice as they came from distant places.

When contacted, Sabujbagh police said they were aware of the matter and had deployed five patrol teams in the area.

Duty Officer at Keraniganj thana SI Mokhesur Rahman said they did not get any allegation of extortion.

The OCs of the two thanas, however, were not available for their comments.



Noorul Quader's body arrives today

By Staff Correspondent

The body of a heart attack victim, Noorul Quader, who died of a heart attack at a clinic in Brighton, UK, will arrive in the city by a flight of Bangladesh Biman this morning, his family said. He was 63.

The first Establishment Secretary of Bangladesh Government at Mujibnagar, Quader was a member of former CSP and a pioneer of garments industry in the country. His namaj-e-janaza was held at East London mosque yesterday.

From the airport, his body will be taken to his residence at Gulshan Road Number 84, House Number 1 B, Block NE (L), Circle 2 where it would be kept until noon. Another namaj-e-janaza will be held at Gulshan Central Mosque after Zohr prayers today. He will be buried at the Mirpur graveyard for the freedom fighters.

See page 11

Woman arrested from MP Hostel was 'sex worker'

By Staff Correspondent

Police yesterday confirmed that the woman arrested while escaping from the MP Hostel room of a female MP of the ruling party Monday morning was a sex worker.

The woman identified as Sathi, 22, was also arrested several times by Tejgaon police earlier, police said.

Sathi, who was arrested on charges of stealing clothes from the MP's room, told police that she was "hired for the whole night" by Mihir Kumar Sarkar, husband of Bharati Nandi MP.

Investigation is continuing to find out whether she was actually hired by the MP's husband, police said adding that the clothes she was wearing during her arrest have been sent for chemical test to verify her claim.

Police quoted the woman as saying that she took those clothes and attempted to escape as the MP's husband refused to pay her. Police however said they are suspicious about her statement.

Police denied having recovered any salwar and kamiz from inside the bathroom of the MP's room. Sathi had earlier claimed that she left her salwar and kamiz in the bathroom.

"I have been with my husband for the last 22 years and it is beyond all doubts that he never took alcohol", Bharati Nandi told The Daily Star last night, denying the claim of the woman that Mihir along with his friend had taken alcohol at the MP's room that night.

Sathi, a resident of Shyamoli, was sent to the Dhaka Central Jail after being produced before the CMM's Court on Monday, police said.

Defence Counsel tells court Blood-stained clothes did not belong to Bangabandhu

Blood-stained clothes did not belong to Bangabandhu

The defence counsel in the Bangabandhu murder case challenged in the court yesterday that blood-stained and bullet-torn punjabi, lungi, spectacles and other materials exhibited in the court did not belong to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, reported agencies.

The blood-stained clothes exhibited in the court did not belong to Bangabandhu at Tungipara on August 16, was not made witness in the case.

Refuting the prosecution claim that Bazul Huda was promoted of the rank of Major

rooq Rahman, told the District and Sessions Judge's Court.

Continuing his argument on the fifth day yesterday, Khan said only DNA test could ascertain those were worn by them at the time of the tragic killing.

Moreover, the counsel contended, Sheikh Mannan who received the clothes and other materials of Bangabandhu at Tungipara on August 16, was not made witness in the case.

Refuting the prosecution claim that Bazul Huda was promoted of the rank of Major

by Col Farook on August 15 at Bangabandhu's residence, Khan Saifur said it is 'false and concocted'.

The defence counsel contended that Huda was promoted to the rank of Major before the August 15 incident and not by Col Farook soon after the carnage.

He produced relevant documents in support of his claim, and assured the court of submitting the gazette that notified promotion of Maj Huda.

See page 11

BRCT identifies 288 victims

Another story of torture by DB police

By Staff Correspondent

A total of about 288 persons have been identified as torture victims of different law enforcing agencies during the last nine months, according to the Bangladesh Rehabilitation Centre for Trauma Victims.

This was stated by BRCT Secretary General Akram Hussain Chowdhury while speaking about a victim of police torture at a press conference at the Jatya Press Club yesterday.

The victim, Sheikh Salahuddin Ahmed, was also present there.

Sheikh Salahuddin Ahmed and his companions Akbar and Moazzam were arrested by SI Mahub Morshed of Detective Branch near the Muktajuddha ghat on July 5. Chowdhury said Ahmed was taken to AC Akram Hussain at the DB office.

AC Akram is now in jail as the principal accused in the Rubel murder case.

The two DB personnel, even after queries from Ahmed, did not inform him whether he was arrested under any specific case or under Section 54. Chowdhury said adding that the victim was held in the custody of the DB police for about nine days.

The DB personnel also took Tk 138,000 from him and later implicated him in a false case of stealing nine vehicles, Chowdhury claimed. The nine vehicles were also seized by the DB, he alleged. He further claimed that the policemen also threatened Ahmed not to disclose anything about the incident.

The DB released Ahmed on bail after nine days and returned the nine vehicles, Chowdhury claimed.

Ahmed runs a motor driving school in the city, he said.

Sheikh Salahuddin Ahmed, with assistance of BRCT, later lodged a case in the court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate against SI Mahub Morshed under sections 324, 354, 380, 161, 501, 342 and 506 of the Penal Code.

Minister's guard hit by bullet of his own rifle

By Staff Correspondent

A police guard at the official residence of Rashed Mosharrar, Minister of State for Land was injured critically yesterday when a bullet went off his rifle "accidentally" and hit him while he was on duty at the house, police said.

The injured policeman, Hari Sankar Roy, 35, was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital in a critical condition. The bullet hit him in the waist and pierced through the stomach, our DMCH correspondent said.

When contacted over telephone last night, the state minister confirmed the incident and said that the police guard fell at the car porch of his official residence and was injured as a bullet went off his rifle.

"I was not present at the house, when the guard was injured," the minister said he came to know about it when he returned to the house at about 3:30 pm, he said.

When contacted Ramna police said that constable Hari Shankar Roy was injured by a bullet of his own rifle at the Minto Road residence of the state minister at about 10:00 am.

"It was an accident," remarked a senior police official. The trigger of the rifle got pressed when the constable fell at the car porch of the house, he said.

PM to visit Gournadi today

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Sept 15: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is scheduled to visit the flood affected areas of Gournadi in the district tomorrow, according to district administration sources.

She will visit Khanjapur union and distribute relief materials among the flood-affected people there and at the Gournadi thana headquarters.

Business leaders say Supply of essentials satisfactory

Business leaders in a meeting with the government yesterday resolved to maintain the tempo of development in the trade and industrial sector in spite of setbacks caused by devastating floods, reports APB.

They also pledged to ensure steady supply of essentials in the market.

Leaders of the essential goods merchant association said that supply of essentials including rice, onion, edible oil, are sufficient and satisfactory.

They said besides sufficient stock in the market, trucks laden with imported rice were coming to the market. With this huge import the price of rice would come down even lower than it was before the floods," they added.

The country's business leaders and exporters expressed the view in the meeting of the task-force on exports, Commerce and Industries Minister Toifal Ahmed presided over the meeting.

"With the prompt action of the government, we are confident that the nation could maintain the tempo of development in trade and industrial sector," said the President of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Yusuf Abdullah Haroon.

Among the business leaders, FBCCI president Yusuf Abdullah Haroon, BGMEA president Mostafa Golam Qudus, MCCI president Lalla Rahman Kabir, DCCI president Rashed M Khan, Frozen Foods Exporters' Association president M Golam Mostafa, BKMEA president Manzurul Alam, Employers' Association president Rokia A Rahman, Kaoranzar Be-bashayee Samity president M Pearuddin, Badamtali and Babubazar Chal Aratdar Samity general secretary Hazi M Shahjalal attended the meeting.

Hazi Mohammad Selim, MP, Bangladesh Bank governor Lutfur Rahman Sarkar, NBR

chairman Abdul Moyeed Chowdhury, Civil Aviation and Tourism Secretary Mohammad Omar Hadi, additional secretary in charge of Commerce Ministry G M Mondal and representatives of various business organisations and ministries were present in the meeting.

The business leaders and exporters expressed their gratitude to the government for taking prompt decisions for uninterrupted transportation of exports and foodgrains.

"It is for the first time in the history of Bangladesh that the government has taken some major decisions within 24 hours," they said.

The arrangements include special ferry service, airlift of exportables, three-month moratorium on industrial loans repayment and supports to the affected industries to reinforce trade and industries even in the wake of worst flood of the century.

Daily Star Roundtable

From Page 1

concentrated mainly on relief and post-flood rehabilitation, while the second session dealt with the ways of "rebuilding the economy".

The speakers, however, emphasised on looking into all the three issues together. According to them, the authorities concerned should take a comprehensive approach to tackle the calamity, by linking the relief and rehabilitation programmes with the task of economic reconstruction.

The national economy has received a big shock due to the flood, but the country is still poised for high growth," asserted Debapriya Bhattacharya, a BIDS researcher and newly appointed director of the Janata Bank. "But the government has to go ahead with its reform programmes. The flood affected people are supposed to be psychologically ready to adjust with a changed situation. The government should, therefore, use the present crisis rather as an opportunity to go for drastic reforms."

Suggesting measures for rehabilitation, the speakers attached special importance to enhancing purchasing capacity of the flood-hit people by creating job opportunities.

They also stressed on imports of foods, fund generation for micro-credit, supply of pure drinking water and redress of health hazards for the flood affected citizens.

Mozammel Huq, a senior Gramen Bank official, attached special importance to providing the farmers with adequate credit facilities and seeds. According to him, the farmers would need some 50 tonnes of vegetable seeds and hundreds of tonnes of potato seeds as soon as the flood water starts receding.

Many speakers stressed on the need of Government-NGO co-operation in carrying out rehabilitation programmes. They said that the government and the NGOs should use each other's infrastructures to go ahead with their respective programmes.

Those who participated in the discussions included, among others, AZM Obaidullah Khan, a former minister and columnist, Dr Ataur Rahman, senior research fellow of BIDS, Dr Quazi Faruque Ahmed, head of both ADAB and Proshika, Dr Salahuddin Ahmed of BRAC and Prof Mir Mosharraf Ali of BUET.

The Daily Star editor Mahfuz Anam moderated discussions.

Suggestions

From Page 1

- 30/70 per cent ratio) while making ata.
- All tubewells which went under flood water have to be cleaned either with bleaching powder or continuously pumping for at least half-an-hour.
- At places, water-resistant late aman variety can be given a try.
- Cultivation of potato of small-variety along Bogra-Rangpur belt.
- Sweet potato and peanut can be cultivated at shoals.
- Vegetables of quick-grow varieties have chances in Bengali month of Ashwin.
- Additional resources need to be made available to NGOs to carry out extensive micro-credit programme.
- Damaged infrastructures must be rebuilt keeping the havoc wrought by 1998 flood in mind.
- Ensuring proper loss assessment.
- Ensuring availability of pure drinking water and proper sanitation.
- As flood is a quite frequent phenomenon in Bangladesh, rehabilitation must be planned on a longer term perspective.
- Formation of a 'Social Map' to help prioritise localised needs.
- Ensuring better GO-NGO co-ordination and try to reach comparatively inaccessible areas.
- Giving subsidy in building materials.
- Containing inflationary pressure.
- Increase in fund utilisation for capacity use of foreign assistance.
- Accelerating the rate of implementation of ADP projects and VGD programmes.
- Providing industries with operating capital.

Youngman hacked to death in city

By Staff Correspondent

A young man was hacked to death by a gang at Amirgola under Lalbagh thana in the city Monday night.

Police identified the dead as Mohammad Rafiq, 27, a resident of Raj Narayandhar Road.

The motive behind the killing could not be known immediately. Police so far arrested two persons identified as Rahman and Jashim as suspects in the murder.

The gang of about 12 men equipped with sharp weapons attacked Rafiq in front of a club at Amirgola at around 10:30 pm and hacked him indiscriminately.

Rafiq died on the spot and the killers escaped the scene running. The body was sent to Mitford Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Trader killed

From Page 1

The victim was immediately rushed to a hospital where he succumbed to his injuries, police added.

Police suspected that Rafiq, also a local of Jatya Party leader, was attacked due to previous enmity.

None was arrested in this connection. Meanwhile, local businessmen shut their shops and put up barricades on the roads and highways at Paharoli protesting the killing of Rafiq. Later police removed the barricades.

Rice traders launch OMS programme in Jessore

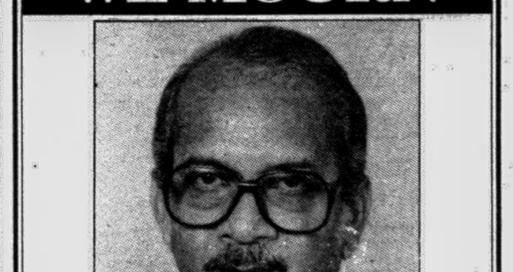
By Staff Correspondent

JESSORE, Sept 15: Open Market Sale (OMS) programme, organised by the local rice traders, to sell rice at the government rate to the flood victims was inaugurated here today, reports BSS.

Rice Dealers' Association and Rice Importers' Association of Jessore earlier decided to run the OMS programme in view of the sufferings of the flood affected people of the region.

State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Prof Rafiqul Islam today formally inaugurated the programme at a market in the town and at Avaynagar.

WE MOURN



Renowned freedom fighter, First Establishment Secretary of the Bangladesh Mujibnagar Government, founder of the Garment Industry, Chairman of Desh Group of Companies Mr M Noorul Quader Khan breathed his last at Bangladesh time 7:30 PM on 13th September, 1998, in London, due to a massive heart attack. Inna Lillaha Wa Inna Elahe Rajeeun.

He left behind his wife, a daughter and son, relatives and countless friends and admirers. We pray *Magferat* for the departed soul.

His mortal remains will arrive in Dhaka by Bangladesh Biman at 7:00 AM, 16th September, Wednesday, 1998. His Namaj-e-Janaja will be held at Gulshan 2, Azad Mosque after Johar prayers at 1:15 PM. His burial will then immediately take place at the Mirpur National Muktajuddha Graveyard. His Kulkhani will be held on 18th September, Friday after Asar prayers at 5:00 PM at his residence (Road No 84, House No 1/B, Block No NE(L), Gulshan-2).

Please pray for the eternal soul

From his Family

বাংলাদেশ পোশাক প্রস্তুতকারক ও রপ্তানিকারক সমিতি (বিজিএমইএ)

বিটিএমসি ভবন, ৭-৯ কাওরান বাজার, ঢাকা-১২১৫

বার্ষিক সাধারণ সভা

প্রতি : সকল সম্মানিত সদস্য

বিজিএমইএ'র ১৯৯৮ সালের ১৫ তম বার্ষিক সাধারণ সভা আজ ১৬ সেপ্টেম্বর, ১৯৯৮ তারিখে বিকেল ৪.৩০ ঘটিকায় প্যান প্যাসিফিক সোনারগাঁও হোটেলের বলরুমে অনুষ্ঠিত হতে যাচ্ছে।

যথা সময়ে অনুষ্ঠান শুরু করার জন্য সম্মানিত সদস্যবৃন্দকে বিকেল ৪ ঘটিকার মধ্যে উক্ত সভাহলে উপস্থিত থাকার জন্য সর্বিনয় অনুরোধ জানানো যাচ্ছে।

ভারস্বাধ সচিব

Editor : Mahfuz Anam

Mobile telephone sets seized at ZIA

Customs claims 'original', importers say 'dummy'

By Raziur Rahman

A row has broken out between the Customs authorities at the Zia International Airport (ZIA) and officials of a private company, Ericsson Sound Systems, over 'import of 120 mobile telephone sets' which the importers claim are 'only dummy sets', exempted from any import duty.

Biplob Basu, an inspector of the air freight surveillance team, when contacted last night said, "To the best of our knowledge, the sets are not dummy but real."

A press release signed by Basu and released Sunday night had said that the importers tried to get the sets released by declaring those as "documents" to evade import duty of about Tk 15.20 lakh.

The surveillance team seized the 120 pieces of 'mobile telephone sets' worth about Tk 2.80 lakh, from inside a courier bag of DHL World Wide Express on Sunday, the press release had said.

"DHL attempted to release the mobile sets declaring those as essential documents," Basu said last night.

When contacted over telephone, sales and marketing manager of DHL in Dhaka, Shawkat Hossain, denied the allegations saying, "The mobile sets were sent by Ericsson's Singapore office which might have made a mistake in declaring it as a document while availing our services."

Shawkat said that the whole incident might have been a result of putting the tick mark on the spot earmarked for 'document' instead of 'package'.

"The sender-of the mobile sets was Ericsson in Singapore and the receiver is also Ericsson in Bangladesh. We were just the carrier of those things," Shawkat Hossain claimed.

In a clarification on Monday, DHL claimed that those were dummy sets which have no commercial value.

According to sources in the air freight surveillance team, the courier bag of DHL was brought to Dhaka by a flight of Thai Airways on Friday.

Employees of DHL tried to get the bags released as "essential documents". The on-duty surveillance team and Customs officials refused to release the bag, the sources said.

The bag was opened on Sunday in presence of DHL officials and the mobile sets were discovered wrapped inside three paper cartons. A departmental case was filed in this regard, the sources added.

Animesh Kumar, Logistics Manager of Ericsson Radio Systems AB in Dhaka, when contacted said that the sets were "dummy plastic handsets". Those were imported for local display and do not contain any electric parts.

"I admit that the clerical mistake was done by our Singapore office, but there was no bad intention behind this," he said.