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Arrest of 3 leaders part of govt's evil design: BNP

The BNP Standing Committee at a meeting yesterday blasted the government for what it said continued filing of false cases and arrest of party leaders to realise political vengeance, reports UNB.

The meeting termed the arrest of BNP Standing Committee member K M Obaidur Rahman MP, party leader Nurul Islam Manjur and Jatiya Party leader Shah Moazzem Hossain as part of that evil design.

Mentioning the submission of charge-sheets against BNP leaders, including party Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia, the meeting said these are all designed to divert people's attention from the government's failure in facing the flood and in conducting relief and rehabilitation activities.

Other BNP leaders chargesheeted by police recently are Col (ret) Oli Ahmed MP, M Morshed Khan MP, Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury MP, Giasuddin Quader Chowdhury MP, Mir M Nasruddin and Dastagir Chowdhury.

The meeting said like Obaidur Rahman, Shah Moazzem Hossain and Nurul Islam Manjur, there are others who were also in both the cabinets before and after the 1975 changeover.

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Ibrahim Khalid's tenure extended

The tenure of service of Ibrahim Khalid, a Deputy Governor of Bangladesh Bank, has been extended on contract for a period of two years by the government, according to official sources.

Ibrahim Khalid was due to retire from service on September 30.

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Check smuggling of sugar, streamline market price; and Maize can compensate crop loss
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Obaid, Moazzem, Manjur held in Jail Killing Case

By Staff Correspondent

BNP leaders K M Obaidur Rahman and Nurul Islam Manjur and Jatiya Party leader Shah Moazzem Hossain were arrested yesterday in connection with the jail killings on November 3, 1975.

They were produced in the CMM's Court which placed them on four days' CID remand. The CID has collected sufficient information and evidence in support of their complicity in the killing of four national leaders at the Dhaka Central Jail, a CID official involved in the investigation of the case told The Daily Star yesterday.

"The charge sheet of the jail killing case is likely to be submitted within a fortnight," he said.

Obaid is an MP and a member of the BNP standing committee. Manjur had contested the last general election as a BNP nominee and Moazzem is co-chairman of a faction of the Jatiya Party.

All the three were state ministers in the government of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. They retained their positions in the government of Khandaker Mushaqq Ahmed, which took over following the

killing of Bangabandhu and his family members on August 15, 1975.

The plainclothesmen picked up Obaid, Moazzem and Manjur from their respective residences in the city at around 2:30 am yesterday, said police and family members of the arrested.

Shaheda Obaid, wife of Obaidur Rahman told The Daily Star last night that the way police arrested her husband was "just inhuman". Claiming that the police failed to produce any warrant of arrest, she said: "They did not even allow my husband to change his clothes."

The three leaders were detained at the CID headquarters at Mallbagh in the city till about 5:00 pm before being produced in the court.

Meanwhile, a large number of people turned up on the premises of the CID headquarters where they were detained.

The activists of BNP and Jatiya Party brought out processions in the city and near the CMM's Court yesterday protesting the arrests. The BNP procession near the court was led by party lawmakers Sadeq Hussain Khoka and Amanullah. See Page 12 Col 1



From left: Nurul Islam Manjur, Shah Moazzem Hossain and K M Obaidur Rahman at the CID office yesterday. They were arrested Monday night in connection with the Jail Killing Case. —Star photo

2700 out of 3000 hosiery units in N'gang affected by flood

By Rafiq Hasan, back from Narayanganj

Mohammad Elias of Elias Knitting at Nayamati in Narayanganj town started knitting fabrics again on Saturday after a break of about forty-five days.

His factory had been submerged under about two feet flood water. It took another 12 days to resume production even after recession of flood water from the town.

Before starting, I had to wash and clean the machines

properly as those got rusted in water," Elias said.

Around 2,700 hosiery units, out of a total of 3,000 in the district, have been affected by the recent flood. Condition of most of the units are more or less like that of Elias Knitting. Some units have started production partially and some are still being cleaned.

Hosiery production has slowed down and it will have an impact on the prices, industry

sources said. The units employ over one lakh people.

Most of the hosiery units are located at Nayamati and Ukilpara area of the town. Besides, 180 sweater knitting units and 25 dyeing and processing units were also severely affected by the flood.

According to Bangladesh Hosiery Association, the total loss suffered by these units due to the recent flood may be as

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Rape incidents JU authorities have no plan to file cases against 7 accused

By JU Correspondent

The Jahangirnagar University (JU) authorities have no plan to file criminal cases against the seven BCL leaders punished in connection with rape incidents on the campus.

Talking to The Daily Star, top officials of the university yesterday said the issue of filing criminal cases against the accused was not even discussed at Sunday's Syndicate meeting. The meeting had decided the action against the seven accused BCL leaders.

Preferring anonymity, the officials said that the authorities did not consult any legal experts over the issue.

Meanwhile, students, teachers and student leaders of the university felt that the action taken by the authorities against the seven accused was inadequate.

See Page 12 Col 7

Chamber leaders reach consensus on vice president, 15 EC members

Country's leading businessmen yesterday reached a consensus for the post of vice president and 15 executive committee members of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) for the term 1998-2000, reports APB.

M A Munim, a former president of Sylhet Chamber, has been selected for the post of vice president following the withdrawal of Kamaluddin Ahmed, president of Chittagong Cham-

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Rescue deal to inject \$115 million in cash Shell to take bigger stake in ailing Cairn's business in Bangladesh

By Sharier Khan

Anglo-Dutch company Shell Oil will acquire 50 per cent stake of Cairn's business in Bangladesh under a deal that includes a cash boost of US\$ 115 million for the ailing British company, London-based newspapers The Times and Financial Times reported last month.

Sources in Petrobangla confirmed the news and said the financial health of Cairn in recent months had become very poor. Cairn's operational costs in the recent times were being borne by over-drafting from banks, sources added.

In another development, the

Joint Review Committee (JRC) consisting of Petrobangla and Cairn officials recently rejected Cairn's recent work programmes and budgets.

"Over-expenditure" and "careless spending" by Cairn, which discovered and developed the Sangu field, led the company to its current state, the sources said.

At the same time, its unsuccessful operation in offshore Sonadia, which cost the company US\$ 9 million, has seriously affected the bullish share prices of Cairn on London Stock Exchange in recent months.

Cairn's stocks soared after the Sangu field discovery in early 1996, shooting up by several times. The current share price has, however, dropped back to one pound sterling, a 30-month low.

Shell had previously bought roughly one third of the Cairn's interests in Bangladesh. Under the new deal, Shell will pay Cairn all previous costs relating to Sangu in exchange for transferring to Shell a third of the latter's remaining stakes in Bangladesh.

Shell entered into a partnership with Cairn in Bangladesh. See Page 12 Col 1

DESA-DESCO feud continues Residents of Mirpur bear the brunt

By Staff Correspondent

Power supply disruption in the city's Mirpur area continued for the second consecutive day yesterday due to a feud between the employees of DESA and the newly formed power distribution company, DESCO.

Different localities from Darus-Salam road to Pallabi remained without power from evening yesterday. Sources said the disruption was "not due to any loadshedding but due to problems in the local distribution system."

Neither the DESA nor the DESCO received any complaint or took any step to restore power supply, residents said.

As on Monday, DESA officials said that DESCO was in charge of the Mirpur Zone and so all complaints should be lodged with DESCO, the residents told this correspondent.

On the other hand, DESCO officials said that DESA had not yet transferred its responsibilities, control room and equipment to them and so it was unable to take any step, the residents said.

The disruption in power supply in Mirpur began on Sun-

day when the Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (DESA) officially started handing over the Mirpur Zone to the Dhaka Electric Supply Company (DESCO). Sources said that DESA employees were non-cooperating with DESCO from the beginning.

Mirpur Zone is one of the six power distribution zones under DESA. DESCO, a company owned by DESA, was formed in 1997 in view of the massive corruption by a section of DESA employees. DESA employees had been trying to resist formation of DESCO from the beginning.

The government decided to hand over the Mirpur Zone to DESCO from DESA to reduce the high rate of pilferage of power in the area.

As per an agreement between DESA and DESA, a 60-day process to transfer the responsibilities began yesterday. This include transferring the power distribution control room to DESCO.

The DESA chairman is trying to restore co-operation between DESA and DESCO. See Page 12 Col 7

Flood situation in remaining 5 dists improving

Flood situation has improved in 47 districts while the situation in the rest five is improving fast with the recession of flood waters, official sources said in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

As the people are leaving for homes from the flood-shelters it is expected that all the shelters across the country will be closed within a couple of days, a statement of the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief said.

See Page 12 Col 2

Cause of Cessna crash remains a big puzzle

By Special Correspondent

The cause of the crash of Parabat Flying Academy's Cessna-150 aircraft on Sunday, killing two young pilots two minutes before landing at Tejgaon airport, remains a big puzzle.

A number of possibilities are being examined by the investigators who are sifting through the wreckage, documents, service history of the aircraft and

See Page 12 Col 3

A unique initiative

By Staff Correspondent

Some 500 children of flood affected families are being provided with elementary education and health care tips at a temporary school opened at a flood shelter in the city.

Clad in clean clothes, they were all smiles and frisky, taking light refreshment yesterday afternoon when this correspondent visited the school on the premises of Pogose School at Shankharibazar.

It has been named Apodkalin School by the organisers. Nagorik Shakti, a local voluntary organisation, PPRC, Sultan Foundation, Gramteen Trust, Haq's Bay, authorities of Pogose School and South Bridge School and local youths are jointly running the school voluntarily.

The school, under a huge pandal, was opened on August 26, a few days after about 1800 flood victims of 450 families

from Keraniganj took shelter at the Pogose School. The teachers also include some flood victims.

"The idea came from Nagorik Shakti," said Obhijit, one of the seven volunteers engaged in overall management of the flood shelter.

"While distributing food among the children, we thought how the distribution could be managed better and at the same time children could be informed about their health and hygiene," said Dr Hussain Zilur Rahman of the PPRC.

"Apodkalin School is not aimed at providing formal education," he said. "The basic thrust is to familiarise them with health care which is very important during post-flood period," he added.

"We are trying to engage the children in some activities so

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Children are being given informal education at the Apodkalin School opened at the Pogose School flood shelter in the city. —Star photo by Amran Hossain

অগ্রণী ব্যাংকের কৃষি ঋণ সংক্রান্ত অভিযোগ কেন্দ্র

- দেশের বন্যা কবলিত এলাকায় ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত কৃষক ভাইদের পুনর্বাসনের জন্য ইতিমধ্যে অগ্রণী ব্যাংক কৃষি ঋণ বিতরণে অস্বাভাবিক ভিত্তিতে বিশেষ কার্যক্রম শুরু করেছে।
- এ কার্যক্রমের আওতায় শস্য বাতের পাশাপাশি মস্যা চাষ, চিড়ি চাষ, হালের বলদ, হাঁস-মুরগী পালন, দারিদ্র বিমোচন কর্মসূচিতে বিশেষ ঋণ সুবিধা প্রদান করা হচ্ছে।
- বন্যার ক্ষতি কাটিয়ে ওঠা ও খাদ্য উৎপাদন বাড়ানোর জন্য ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত এলাকার কৃষক ভাইদের ও অন্যান্য গ্রামীণ পেশাজীবীদেরকে বিস্তারিত তথ্য ও ঋণ সুবিধা গ্রহণের জন্য অগ্রণী ব্যাংকের নিকটবর্তী শাখায় যোগাযোগ করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।
- ঋণ প্রাপ্তিতে কোন সমস্যা কিংবা অভিযোগ থাকলে তা নিম্নোক্ত অভিযোগ কেন্দ্র সমূহে সরাসরি কিংবা টেলিফোনে জানানোর জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে। এ ধরনের অভিযোগ সমূহ তৎক্ষণিকভাবে তদন্ত করে কার্যকরী পদক্ষেপ গ্রহণ করা হবে।

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- এ অবস্থা নিরসনকল্পে ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন প্রতিটি বন্যা আশ্রয় কেন্দ্র/মহানগরীর সকল ঘনবসতিপূর্ণ এলাকা এবং সিটি করপোরেশনের সকল টিকাদান কেন্দ্রে টিকা প্রদান এবং ভিটামিন-এ খাওয়ানোর কর্মসূচি গ্রহণ করেছে।
- সম্মানিত নগরবাসীকে তাদের ৯ হতে ৫৯ মাস বয়সের সকল শিশুকে হামের টিকা গ্রহণ এবং ০ হতে ৫৯ মাস বয়সের সকল শিশুকে পোলিও টিকা খাওয়ানোর জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।
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- ইতিপূর্বে এ ধরনের টিকা গ্রহণ করলেও এসব শিশুকে আবারও এই টিকা দিতে হবে এবং এই অতিরিক্ত ডোজ শিশুর শরীরে কোন বিরূপ প্রতিক্রিয়া সৃষ্টি করবে না।

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