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DESCO starts distribution of power in Mirpur area

By Staff Correspondent

DESCO has taken over the control of power distribution in 90 per cent areas of Mirpur in the city following strong warning by the higher authorities against any non-cooperation from any section of DESA officials and employees.

Officials of DESCO said yesterday they did not face any resistance from any quarter in restoring power supply in the area. But they had to enter two sub-stations breaking the locks.

DESA employees had locked Mirpur power sub-stations number one and two left the place protesting the hand over of responsibility of power distribution in the area to DESCO from DESA.

The process of hand over See Page 12 Col 8

Delimitation of wards of 4 city corpn ordered

The Election Commission has asked the nominated officials to start the work on delimitation of wards of the four city corporations for the polls to be held next year, reports UNB.

The government has already appointed deputy commissioners, additional district magistrates, additional deputy commissioners (general), additional deputy commissioners (revenue), additional deputy commissioners (LA) and district election officers of Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna and Rajshahi districts as Ward Delimitation Officers, said an official handout yesterday.

JS body unhappy over 'inadequate' supply of insecticides

By Staff Correspondent

Some members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Agriculture yesterday expressed their dissatisfaction over the 'inadequate' supply of insecticides in the northern region of the country.

See Page 12 Col 7

20 chargesheeted in SSC question leak cases

By Staff Correspondent

The CID yesterday chargesheeted 20 people, including nine employees of the BG Press. In two cases filed in connection with the leaking out of question papers of SSC examinations held in 1997 and 1998.

The principal accused in both the cases is Musa Mia alias Kamaluddin, a binder of the BG Press. The eight other accused employees of BG Press were also working as binders.

Of the accused, Abdul Qayum, a teacher of a primary school at Mirersharai in Chittagong, has been absconding since the incident while the rest 19 are detained at the Dhaka Central Jail, according to CID sources.

Controller of Dhaka Education Board filed a case with Uttara thana after a teacher of a

coaching centre at Uttara was arrested by police for leaking out question papers in March 1997.

Later, CID took over the investigation of the case and arrested eleven persons in this connection. But CID was not able to arrest any employees of BG Press at that time.

The CID restarted investigating the incident along with Special Branch of police after SSC question papers again leaked out in April this year.

The CID investigation revealed that Qayum, the primary school teacher of Chittagong, purchased those question papers from Musa for Tk 40,000.

Police arrested Musa Mia on April 22 and recovered documents that showed his in-

volvement in the incident. Being interrogated by police, Musa Mia confessed that he along with eight colleagues leaked out SSC question papers this year and also during last year.

Police arrested the eight other employees of BG Press and also Babul Kanti Paul, owner of medicine shop in Mirersharai, for abetting Qayum in the incident.

CID Inspector Nasiruddin Paik filed a case with Tejgaon thana in April this year accusing the nine BG Press employees, Babul and Qayum.

The accused 11 in the case filed with Tejgaon thana were chargesheeted while a total of 18 people were chargesheeted in the case filed with Uttara thana. The nine BG Press employees See Page 12 Col 6

14 drown in Netrokona trawler capsizes

From Our Correspondent

NETROKONA, Sept 30: At least 14 people drowned and three others remain missing following a trawler capsizing in the river Magra in Atpara thana yesterday.

Police said the trawler carrying about 150 passengers sank due to overloading near village Khilpara in Lunswar union of Atpara thana.

A police rescue team and local people recovered 14 dead bodies including that of six children drowned and three remained missing. Rest of the passengers managed to swim ashore.

The dead were identified as Jumki (2), Chumki (7), Unniti Rani Das (8), Alak Das (6), Bhutto (3), Gobinda Devnath (8 months), Shilpi (12), Taslima Pritoma (25), Rahma (30), Prolay Kumar Saha (32) and an unidentified boy aged about seven.



BNP brought out a procession in the city yesterday protesting arrests of its leaders K M Obaidur Rahman and Nurul Islam Manjur in connection with the Jail Killing Case. — Star photo

Jail Killing Case CID interrogating 3 arrested leaders

By Staff Correspondent

CID officials continued interrogation of BNP leaders K M Obaidur Rahman MP and Nurul Islam Manjur and Jatiya Party leader Shah Moazzem Hussain in connection with the Jail Killing Case, official sources said last night.

Obaid, an MP and a member of BNP standing committee, Manjur, a leader of Barisal BNP and Moazzem, co-chairman of a faction of Jatiya Party were arrested from their respective residences in the city early Tuesday.

The arrest of the three had its origin in the material that surfaced during investigation into the Bangabandhu murder case, an official investigating the case said.

"On the basis of the outcome of CID interrogation now, it will be decided whether they will be charged also in some other related cases," another official said.

The CID had submitted charge sheet in the Bangabandhu murder case last year

and trial of the case in the District and Session Judge's Court, Dhaka is now almost at its final stage.

CID is also investigating the cases concerning the killings of Abdur Rab Serniabat and Sheikh Fazlul Huq Mani, both relatives of Bangabandhu and influential leaders of the Awami League. They were also killed on August 15, 1975, the day Bangabandhu and his family members were killed.

Investigation into the two cases is in progress, CID sources said.

The three leaders now on a four-day CID remand may also be interrogated in connection with other related cases already under investigation by the agency, an official said.

They will be produced before the CMM's Court on Sunday on expiry of their remand.

Four national leaders — Tajuddin Ahmed, Syed Nazrul Islam, Mansur Ali and A H M Kamruzzaman — were killed See Page 12 Col 8

50 hurt as BNP activists clash with police in city

By Staff Correspondent

At least 50 people were injured in a clash between the BNP activists and police at Bijoynagar in the city yesterday evening, reports UNB.

The processionists chanted slogans demanding release of party leaders and ouster of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

The clash ensued at about 5:45 pm when BNP workers hurled brick-bats from a procession in the police near the Bijoynagar water tank. It spread to surrounding areas as police and the processionists

See Page 12 Col 6

BNP protest programmes

BNP has announced fresh agitation programmes to protest the filing of false cases against party chief Begum Khaleda Zia and other leaders and the arrest of three opposition leaders including the party's standing committee member K M Obaidur Rahman, MP, implicating them in the jail killing case.

The programmes include holding of rallies and demonstrations and a public meeting in the capital. The agitation is also aimed at protesting government's 'failure' in tackling the devastating flood and 'misappropriation' of relief materials.

According to a BNP press release issued last night, the party will organise demonstrations and processions at the divisional towns on October 4 and similar programmes at the district headquarters on October 8. The party will also hold a public meeting in the capital but its date will be announced later.

Razzak refutes statement by Farooq's lawyer

Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak yesterday refuted a statement by the lawyer of Farooq Rahman in the Bangabandhu murder case which was printed in a section of the press. In a statement, Abdur Razzak said "During cross-examination, the lawyer of Farooq Rahman quoted me as saying 'third party including CIA were involved in Bangabandhu murder', which has been published in different dailies today (30 September, 1998). I have not made any such statement."



A flood-godown collapsed in flood and erosion in Ghoradour Union under Lohajang thana. — Star photo

Anisuzzaman tells The Daily Star Challenge now is to ensure proper food distribution

By Reaz Ahmad

The biggest challenge before the flood-ravaged country now is to ensure proper management of food distribution, said M Anisuzzaman, Advisor to the Prime Minister on Food and Agriculture.

"Proper management means timely availability of food, quick transportation, maintaining a disciplined distribution network and reaching the stock at right place to the people in need," said Anisuzzaman while talking to The Daily Star at his office in the Prime Minister's Secretariat yesterday. He disagreed that the process of VGF (vulnerable group feeding) card distribution was slow

but admitted some reported irregularities in the distribution of 16-kg monthly allotment of foodgrains against each VGF card. The Prime Minister has ordered "immediate inspection at grassroots levels so that none can get away with food-related irregularities," he said.

Anisuzzaman, who enjoys the status of a cabinet minister, said as of now the food gap is estimated at 43 lakh metric tons (MT). "However, in case of further widening of food gap after a second-phase assessment by mid October, the government would have to alter its post-flood food distribution operation accordingly." When complete data on Aman output is available, the food gap would be re-assessed, he said.

To narrow down the huge food gap, said the media-shy former bureaucrat, special thrust would be given on agricultural rehabilitation in three phases — firstly, re-planning,

secondly, going for early Robi crops like pulses and vegetables and thirdly, intensive cultivation of Boro, wheat and maize.

Brushing aside any possibility of famine in the country, Anisuzzaman told this correspondent that import of rice was going on in full swing and a high-level government team had just returned home after visiting India and Pakistan, exploring the food markets there.

According to information received at the monitoring cell at his office, the Advisor said, over 7.5 lakh MT of foodgrains were imported through private channels over the last three months and another 67,670 MT by the government till yesterday.

Referring to the longest ever flooding in the country, he said the people became "victorious" once again, none died of starvation and diarrhoea could not See Page 12 Col 6

Arrest AL leaders involved in Mujib killing for fair trial: Khoka

By Staff Correspondent

City BNP convenor Sadek Hossain Khoka MP yesterday demanded arrest of the Awami League leaders involved in the killing of President Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on August 15 1975 and four other leaders in the Dhaka Central Jail on November 3, reports UNB.

He named the ruling party leaders Tofael Ahmed, Gen Shafulah, Abdul Mannan, Farid Gazi and Abdul Momen. They must be brought to book for the sake of fair trial of the killings," Khoka said.

Khoka demanded AL leaders' arrest at a brief rally protesting arrest of two BNP leaders K M Obaidur Rahman, Nurul Islam Manjur and Jatiya Party leader Shah Moazzem Hossain in connection with the November 3, 1975 jail killing. He addressed the gathering before leading a procession in the city.

The BNP leader warned of a vigorous movement against the arrest of the party leaders on return to the capital of chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia who is visiting the flood affected areas of Rajshahi and Pabna.

He referred to a book written See Page 12 Col 5

Clinton's visit postponed US investment may go up to \$2b next year

American private investment in Bangladesh is likely to go up to 2 billion dollars, US Ambassador John C Holzman said here yesterday, reports UNB.

Replying to a question at OCAE press briefing, he said that American private investment in power and gas sector is good and "I like to see more American investment here."

Alleged US hand in Bangabandhu murder refuted

US Ambassador John C Holzman has dismissed as 'baseless and incorrect' an allegation that CIA and the then Secretary of State Henry Kissinger had a hand in the assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, reports APB.

"The allegation is not correct. There is no basis of it," See Page 12 Col 6

Holzman said the volume of US investment in this country was 25 million dollars three years back and it has now become 20 times bigger. "I hope that it would go up to 2 billion dollar this time next year."

In reply to a question about the BGMEA's plea to raise Bangladesh's garments quota to 30 per cent in the US market, the Ambassador said there are arguments and counter-arguments on this matter which has not yet been addressed by the US government.

About controversies over SOFA and HANA, Holzman said SOFA was proposed to determine the status of US forces during the joint military exercise in Bangladesh.

Although US, Bangladesh had conducted 27 joint military exercises since 1991 their status was not well defined. However, the SOFA was not signed due to reservation from the Bangladesh side.

About HANA, he said the project is designed to respond to See Page 12 Col 4

Inside Today Article

Edict of fatwa on Salman Rushdie lifted

Beginning of a Thaw in Iran's Relations with the West?

Column: Currents and Crosscurrents by M M Rezaul Karim Page 4

Supplement

Special supplement on the 'National Day of China' Pages 10 & 11

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Daily Star has redesigned its Stock Market page and is introducing its own STAR 50 Index. Designed for a more reader-friendly presentation of market data and relevant information, it also includes market Price Earning Ratio (P/E x) and Dividend Yield. We are proud to point out that The Daily Star becomes the first institution in Bangladesh to introduce presentation of P/E x on a daily basis.

For details about how the Index, P/E x and Dividend Yield are calculated, please see the Business Pages today.

BGMEA chief alleges Officials of NCBs, police & customs take bribes

The BGMEA has brought serious allegation of bribery against public sector banks, police, customs, T&T and port personnel, reports UNB.

BGMEA president Mostafa Golam Quddus brought the allegations at a meeting with Board of Investment Executive Chairman Farooq Sobhan in the city yesterday. The meeting was designed to focus on post-flood situation.

Each of the public bank officers dealing with LCs and foreign exchange earns Tk 50,000 to 100,000 per day," alleged the chief of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association.

As Farooq Sobhan wondered how the bank officials claim money from garment exporters, Quddus cited several examples.

One common plea of the officials of Sonali, Janata and Agrani banks is: "You can't open an LC with a bank headquartered in Israel with which Bangladesh has no diplomatic

or economic relations. "But that can be managed by cash money and we have to do that to continue operation of our factories and business," Quddus said.

Similarly, he said, empty bags of customs officials at Zia International Airport are filled with money and valuables every day.

He, however, appreciated the dealings and attitude of private sector bank officials who are very cooperative.

Naming several private sector banks, another BGMEA leader said those can open an LC within five minutes. "In one bank, factory people can do it through computer without going to the bank."

The BGMEA president also accused the port personnel engaged in loading and unloading process of taking bribes from the exporters and importers. "It stopped after army were deployed."

See Page 12 Col 7

FBCCI elections Eight chamber leaders protest consensus panel

Star Business Report

A group of eight chamber candidates yesterday denied having withdrawn from the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) election.

The eight alleged that "a vested group was propagating that 15 members of the executive committee and the vice-president from the Chamber Group have been selected on the basis of consensus."

"The so-called panel of consensus does not have approval of the President of the Council of Chambers," said a press release signed by them.

However, Yussuf Abdullah Harun, the FBCCI president and the head of the Council of Chambers, said he had approved the consensus team.

Talking to The Daily Star, Harun said he was "a little bit surprised" by the reaction of the eight candidates. "The eight were among those who requested me to choose the consensus panel."

"There was no scope for withdrawal since the last date of withdrawal had passed. I See Page 12 Col 3

ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন, ঢাকা

আপনার পরিবেশ সুন্দর ও পরিষ্কার রাখুন
আপনার শিশুকে টিকা দিন

করপোরেশনের হোল্ডিং করের রিবেট সংক্রান্ত জরুরী বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সম্মানিত করদাতাগণের অবগতির জন্য জানান যাইতেছে যে, ঢাকা মহানগরীতে নজিরবিহীন দীর্ঘস্থায়ী বন্যাজনিত কারণে চলতি আর্থিক বৎসরের (১৯৯৮-৯৯) চার কিস্তির কর একত্রে পরিশোধের উপর শতকরা ১০% রিবেটের সময়সীমা ৩০শে সেপ্টেম্বর '৯৮ হইতে বর্ধিত করিয়া আগামী ২৯শে অক্টোবর '৯৮ পুনঃ নির্ধারণ করা হইল।

২। সম্মানিত করদাতাগণকে এই বর্ধিত সময়সীমার মধ্যে বকেয়াসহ হাল সনের সমুদয় কর পরিশোধ করিয়া চলতি আর্থিক বৎসরের ৪ (চার) কিস্তির করের শতকরা ১০% রিবেটের সুযোগ গ্রহণ করিয়া মহানগরীর উন্নয়নমূলক কর্মকাণ্ডে সহযোগিতা প্রদান করার জন্য বিশেষভাবে অনুরোধ করা যাইতেছে।

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