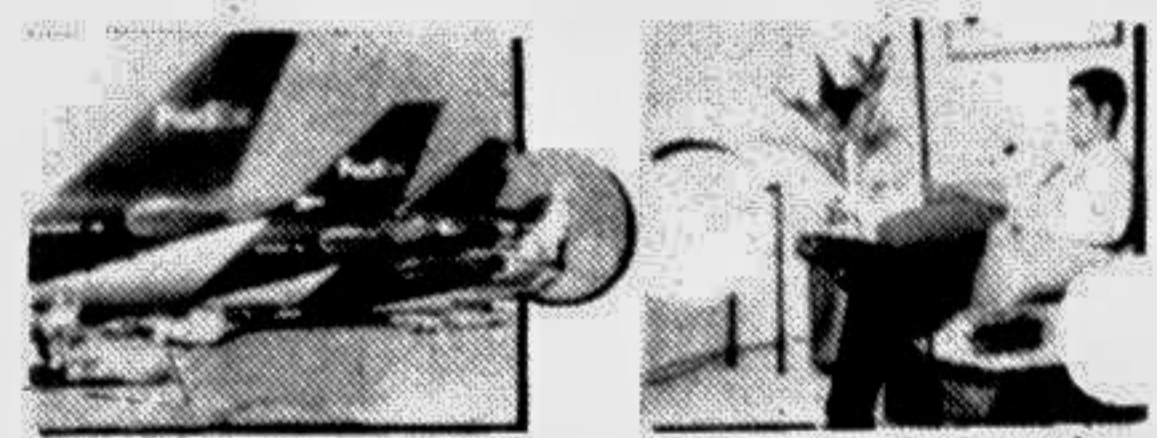


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Let's make things better

PHILIPS

BTV programmes

Abu Sayeed seeks suggestions to improve quality

By Staff Correspondent
Minister of State for Information Prof Abu Sayeed has sought suggestions from the BTV officials as to how to improve their production.

Prof Sayeed asked the top officials, producers, cameramen, engineers and others concerned of the state-run BTV to submit in writing their recommendations for improving the quality of programmes on the state-run medium, according to BTV sources.

The minister's move came after he, flanked by the officials, watched the BTV programmes for five hours from 3 pm yesterday at the conference room of the BTV Bhaban at Rampura in the city.

During the five-hour session, Prof Sayeed exchanged with the BTV men in a free and frank manner on the programmes they witnessed. He also requested the officials to feel free in their criticism.

Prof Sayeed also desired for similar arrangements in future for the sake of making things better.

NGOs ready

From Page 1
proved "special schemes" for post-flood rehabilitation work. They will provide Tk 4000, 2000 and 1000 to individual members of a samity to rehabilitate their poultry and sericulture projects depending on the requirement.

BRAC will give seeds worth Tk 171 to each of its samity members engaged in farming. "Supply of all logistics would be free of cost for the farmers," Sahara Banu added.

Regional Manager of ASA, Tariqul Islam, also made similar comments about loan disbursement saying, "The borrowers are yet to make requests for loans."

"We are willing to return the savings money of the individual (except 5% to enable members to continue transaction as a partner of the samity) whenever claimed. But so far we have not received any request," said Islam.

A source in the Grameen Bank also made similar observations saying, "We are about to introduce a micro-credit scheme involving about Tk 30 crore in the greater Rajshahi region. Unfortunately, individual samity members have not returned to their respective homes. As a result, samity members are yet to make requests for loans."

Meanwhile, some samity members who have already returned home from flood shelters said they have to wait until other members are back.

"This is another big problem," said a field worker of BRAC in Maharajpur union in Chapainawabganj.

He said, "Individual members are unable to withdraw money without the formal approval of other members of the samity."

Some small traders and professionals, when contacted said, they are not approaching for loans as there is hardly any scope for getting returns from investment.

Rezaul, a carpenter, said, "I can take loan but where would I invest the money? There is no dealer who would buy my products. So, it's better not to increase the burden of loan."

Jail Killing Case

From Page 1

"I am a lawyer. I am not involved in any such act. I have been implicated for political victimisation," Manjur said.

"None could have killed my four leaders had I been aware of the blueprint beforehand," Moazzem said in the court.

The three leaders were brought to the court from the Dhaka Central Jail at about 12.15 pm yesterday in a white microbus under strong police protection.

They were surrounded by activists of their respective political parties when they came out of the court room. The activists chanted slogans demanding their release.

Coming out of the court room, Obaid also briefly addressed his party activists. "Fall of this government is imminent due to its misuse. Filing of cases against political opponents will not help it survive," he said.

At one stage there was a brief scuffle between the police and the activists. Shabada Obaid, wife of Obaid collapsed during that time and was immediately sent to hospital in an ambulance.

The jail killing incident took place on November 3, 1975 in which four national leaders—Tajuddin Ahmed, Syed Nazrul Islam, Mansur Ali and AHM Qamruzzaman—were killed in the Dhaka Central Jail. A case in connection with the killings was lodged with Lalbagh thana by the then DIG (Prisons) Abdul Awal on the next day.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

Published by the Editor from City Publishing House Ltd., 90 Kakrail, Dhaka-1000 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No. 11, Road No. 3, Dhanmandi RA, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 866772-4, Commercial: 866771, Fax No: 88-02-863035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA. Internet edition address: http://www.dailystarnews.com and Email address: datar@bangla.net



LET'S CARE A DAMN: Structures are being built on a pavement on Satmasjid Road in the city's Dhanmondi area allegedly without having any permission from the relevant authorities. —Star photo

In the name of bus passenger shed

By Staff Correspondent

Some people are encroaching on public property and hindering free movement by trying to erect a structure allegedly in the name of a 'Bus Passenger Shed' at Jigatola in the city.

The structure at the end of Dhanmondi Road No. 2A on the pavement of Satmasjid Road at Jigatola is allegedly being constructed by some people without the permission of authorities concerned.

People having residences around the under-construction structure have protested the construction, saying that it would infringe on their free movement and also pose ob-

struction to the residential buildings.

During a visit to the area yesterday, this correspondent found that the structure was being built on the pavement of the road and was located just in front of the gate of the house No. 60 in Dhanmondi Road No. 2A.

Owner of the house, Nazrul Islam, lodged a general diary with Dhanmondi thana Saturday urging the authorities to stop such unauthorised construction. He demanded to see DCC permission which was not produced by those putting up the so-called bus stand.

Family members of Nazrul Islam also alleged yesterday

that some 20 youngmen have been threatening them with dire consequences if they continue to protest the construction work.

When contacted, local Ward Commissioner MA Sattar Bhuiyan claimed that a company was making the shed and that it had taken lease of the pavement from the DCC to make some sheds for bus passengers in the area. He, however, failed to give any further details about the company and could not even give its name.

Talking to The Daily Star, local MP Ahaj Makbul Hossain said he was not aware of the matter.

A-21 TV to dish out Bangla programmes from October 9

A-21 Television, a satellite channel, is going to dish out Bangla programmes from 6 pm on October 9, reports UNB.

The A-21 Television signals will be received in seven SAARC countries, Thailand, Myanmar, Afghanistan, Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei and Indonesia. Modhumita Entertainment Limited (MEL) of Bangladesh will provide programmes to this channel, managed and operated by a Thai company named A-21 Television Company Limited, said MEL chairman Iftakhar Uddin Nawshad at a press conference in the city yesterday.

Ctg chamber

From Page 1

Bangladesh Navy and Joint Labour Director of Chittagong. The CCI sources said its proposals will be discussed at the next meeting of the advisory committee this month.

The Chamber leaders alleged that the port authorities have virtually no control over the workers, employees and users of the port.

They said the business community has become fed up with the growing tendency of using the port for group interest. The Chamber also alleged that the authority could not take any action in last 10 years against those who disrupted the activities of the port at different times.

For practical reason we have proposed to set up a high powered umpiring committee for the better management of the sea port. CCI leaders said.

Sycophancy didn't pay

From Page 1

involvement in the destruction of those rare photographs and video tapes on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, said an official at the Ministry of Information. Additional Secretary BN Bepari is heading the inquiry.

Maqbul's involvement in destroying similar documents about late President Ziaur Rahman was also alleged and another probe body, headed by Dr. Hannan, was formed towards the end of BNP's days in power. But the investigation did not proceed after the change of government.

Maqbul, who heads the association of the civil servants belonging to the BCS Information Cadre, issued the statement jointly with the association's General Secretary, Shamim Ahmed.

Such an instant reaction purely of political nature by the government officials angered the PM, according to a source in the PMO.

The statement, rare of its kind by public servants, was issued on the same day police arrested the three opposition leaders. It said: "We, along with the whole nation, congratulate the government for arresting and putting in the dock the con-

Demonstration

From Page 1

On the day, BNP and its allies would hold separate rallies and bring out processions in the city. The parties would also announce identical programmes from their respective rallies.

The alliance is likely to go for a 12-day mass contact programme from Friday. A meeting of the alliance held at the Minto Road official residence of the Leader of the Opposition planned the programme, to be carried out across the country, meeting sources said.

Meanwhile, BNP has also planned to stage demonstrations at district headquarters tomorrow to press withdrawal of "false" cases against party chief Begum Khaleda Zia and other leaders.

DU probe

From Page 1

quoting the probe report said. Two of the accused were found involved directly in the incident while seven others indirectly, the report said. The names of the accused could not be known.

When contacted the provost of the Urya Sen Hall who headed the probe body said that the report was submitted to the VC and action would be taken against those responsible as per rules.

Harun-Or-Rashid, the businessman, was abducted from near his residence at Madhubag on September 17 and was held at a ground floor room of Surya Sen Hall. The abductors demanded Tk 1.5 lakh as ransom from his family.

Plaintiff's lawyer later arrested two young men including a DU student from the Shahbag area in the city on September 19 and rescued the businessman when the abductors went there to collect the ransom from his wife as per an earlier arrangement.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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Hectic parleys mark FBCCI electioneering

All eyes are set on the presidential candidates of two mainstream parties for the FBCCI elections, scheduled for October 15, reports UNB.

Abdul Awal Mintoo backed by the Textile Mills Association and MA Rouf Chowdhury by the Vegetable Oil Association are now to fight it out for the chief functionary of the apex body of the business community.

With only nine days left for the polls, both the candidates embarked on hectic parleys to win support of the voters.

According to the FBCCI provision, president will be elected from Association group and Chamber group for every alternative term. For the next term (1998-2000), president will be from the Association group while the vice-president from the Chamber group.

Kamaluddin Ahmed of Chittagong Chamber and MA Mintoo from Sylhet Chamber are vying for the post of vice-president.

Police question 10 traffickers

By Staff Correspondent

Ten people who were arrested on charge of women and children trafficking were being interrogated by police to find out the network of traffickers.

Police officials told The Daily Star that certain vital information were disclosed by the arrested gang members regarding the route followed to send those women and children to middle eastern countries.

Police suspect involvement of international racketeer in the business of woman and child trafficking who are also using Bangladesh as a route.

Six persons arrested from Nawabpur on charges of women and children trafficking were taken to a two-day police remand yesterday.

Four other traffickers, arrested earlier were also taken to a two-day CID remand on Monday.

JU authorities urged to expel the rapists for life

By JU Correspondent

The ruling party-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) at Jahangirnagar University (JU) brought out a procession on the campus yesterday demanding severe punishment to those accused of raping some students.

The BCL urged the authorities to expel all the accused BCL leaders from the university for life and cancel all certificates given by the university.

The procession started from the central cafeteria and ended at the Arts Faculty premises after parading the campus.

The procession was arranged by the rival BCL faction led by Shamsud Touhid Kakor that captured all the five male residential halls of the university after driving out their rivals on September 28.

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Prosecution has suppressed facts in the Bangabandhu murder case to hide the third force which was involved in the August 15 killings, a defence lawyer said yesterday, reports UNB.

TM Akbar, counsel for Lt Col (ret) Muhiuddin Ahmed, stated this before the District and Sessions Judge's court on the first day of his argument in line with the argument of Khan Saifur Rahman, counsel for Lt Col Farooq.

"It is the burden of the prosecution to prove their own case and they can't shift it," Akbar told the court quoting relevant laws.

Citing a judgement, the counsel said public prosecutor should bring all relevant materials and evidence even if it mitigates the offence, but they deliberately suppressed facts to save the real culprits.

The prosecution should not hide anything of the case that came up for trial after a lapse of 21 years, he said.

Even if we term the FIR just as a piece of paper, it has got some importance and there remains scope for fabrication in a belated FIR, but truth should not be omitted, he said.

Citing judgements, he said shifting of place of occurrence, time, date and manner made the allegation suspicious which is very much visible in this case.

He said the name of Lt Col Muhiuddin Ahmed was not in the FIR. Muhiuddin Ahmed of Lancer was in the FIR. So, the present accused was in no way in the case. Moreover, there was nothing about artillery gun in the FIR, he added.

Pointing to the allegation against Lt Col (ret) Muhiuddin Ahmed, the lawyer said in fact, no artillery gun was installed on the south of the lake near Bangabandhu's house and no shell was fired on August 15, 1975.

Air pollution in city Heated debate over autorickshaw import

By Special Correspondent

The Department of Environment (DOE) will launch another drive against the smoke emitting vehicles in a renewed bid to check air pollution in the city.

Its earlier drive from June 6 came to a halt in the face of an alleged lack of co-operation from police and vehicle owners.

The decision to restart the programme was taken at a meeting, attended by representatives from different government agencies and NGOs at the ministry of environment and forests yesterday, with minister Sajeda Choudhury in the chair.

The meeting reviewed the situation posed by the unfit vehicles, especially the ones using two-stroke engines, and decided to gear up the drive with co-operation from all quarters. Meeting sources said there had been a heated debate on recent import of 3,500 auto-rickshaws, despite recommendations of the DOE and the World Bank not to issue route permits for them.

Director General of DOE A.R. Khan told the Star last night that the proposal for not to allow these auto-rickshaws on the streets of Dhaka and Chittagong would be sent to the National Environment Council.

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Recovery plan for 12 BCIC enterprises

A recovery plan for all 21 enterprises under BCIC was submitted to the government yesterday for immediate implementation as a step towards re-vamping them, reports APB.

Chairman of the Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation M Anwarul Haq submitted the plan in an inter-ministerial meeting on the recovery of BCIC enterprises, officials said.

Addressing the meeting Commerce and Industries Minister, Tofiqul Islam asked the officials to take initiatives for implementation of the plan in support of a long-term restructuring plan.

The programme is likely to begin from October 20, he said. The previous drive beginning in June ended two months later because of inability of police to provide adequate manpower.

The meeting was told that 11,000 vehicles were warned and 415 vehicles were prosecuted at a cost of Tk 9050 for emission of black smoke during that programme.

Meeting sources said that police came under fire for "deliberately" foiling the drive that was opened by Sajeda Choudhury at Manik Mia Avenue.

The meeting also decided to encourage the motorists to use catalytic converters and promote conversion to compressed natural gas fired engines to cut air pollution.

Police arrested two youths for violating a housewife at village Jimkhana under Sadar thana in the early hours of today.

Police arrested Anis, 22, and Salam, 24, from the victim's residence while they were committing the crime at around 12:30 am.

The culprits entered the house by breaking open the door while she was alone. The victim has lodged a case with Sadar thana today.

Police sent her to Narayanganj General Hospital for medical test.

Cairn faces growing questions

From Page 1

Petrobangla says that Gilachari is located in Block 16 where Cairn has made a discovery at the Sangu field. As per the PSC's provision, Cairn has to drill at least one more exploratory well in the block by December next. At the same time, the cost of any exploratory work in a block where Cairn has already made a discovery would be considered recoverable from a developed gas field in this case, it is Sangu field. If Cairn fails to drill an exploratory well by December next, it will have to relinquish 25 per cent area of Block 16 as per the PSC.

"In other words, Cairn is trying hard to initiate a work somewhere in the block before December next so that it does not have to relinquish 25 per cent of the block," said a Petrobangla official.

Defending Cairn's position, a source in the company said that the company was going by the provisions of the PSC to drill an exploratory well in Gilachari which was not a very high risk zone. The source said that Cairn mobilised a rig in Gilachari because it thought the work programme would be approved. "Cairn submitted the programme long ago but Petrobangla did not respond until recently. Since time is running out fast, Cairn mobilised the rig so that it can start prompt operation there," the source said.

The Cairn source also defended the company's position regarding the two failed operations in Sonadia and Halda saying that Petrobangla did not provide any guideline to Cairn regarding the two wells when it came to know about its failure. "Instead of co-operating now, Petrobangla is blasting Cairn regarding these wells."

To accommodate provisions for selling Cairn's concerns in Bangladesh to Shell, the Production Sharing Contract (PSC) would require modification. "This would mean that, if Petrobangla is satisfied with Cairn's explanation regarding the sale, Cairn's PSC would be sent to the Energy Ministry and Law Ministry for modification and approval," said a source.

The Production Sharing Contract (PSC) signed with Cairn and Holland Sea Search for blocks 15 and 16 does not allow Cairn to sell out its equity in these blocks without Petrobangla's approval," said a Petrobangla official.

"Therefore, Cairn will have to answer to Petrobangla under which clause of the PSC it sold half of its concerns in Bangladesh to another oil company and why it did not inform Petrobangla about the deal beforehand."

Cairn, on the other hand, says that it had taken a permission from the Ministry of Industries for selling the blocks to Shell and that it did not violate the PSC.

Bureaucrats claim that the PSC has room for Cairn to assign a certain company to work

on a portion of its blocks as per its wish. "Even in assigning a third party, Cairn must inform Petrobangla about the involvement," said a source. The government must know what is going on.

After discovering the Sangu field in 1996, Cairn assigned 25 per cent of the Sangu Development Project to American company Brown and Roots. Brown and Roots have, in exchange, invested about 200 million dollars.

But it had, at the same time, involved Shell Oil as its partner in blocks 15 and 16 without proper procedure.

Cairn and Holland Sea Search of Holland signed the PSC with the government in 1994 and the joint venture merged later. After Cairn struck the Sangu gas field in early 1996, it started looking for a big partner for investment. At that time, Dutch company Shell Oil purchased the shares of Holland Sea Search and became a partner of Cairn in these blocks. Shell held a little more than a quarter of Cairn's concerns in Bangladesh till recent months.

Recently, following a drastic fall of Cairn's share price in London Stock Exchange, the British Company struck a package deal as per a previous understanding with Shell Oil. Under this deal, Cairn will receive a huge financial boost and will share its concerns in Bangladesh with the Royal Dutch company.

Police investigating the unnatural death case filed in connection with the building collapse yesterday said that they would take necessary steps against the owner if he was found responsible for negligence during the construction of the building.

Kulsum and her mother were frequent visitors to the residence of Noor Mohammad. They used the gas burner in that house for cooking purposes, neighbours and witnesses said.

On the day of the incident, Kulsum's mother took her to the owner's house and went out of the building little before it had collapsed leaving the child there.

Fire service sources said they had resumed rescue operation at 12 noon yesterday and recovered the body from the reinforced concrete roof of the building at about 4 pm yesterday.

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