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Khagrachhari Dist Council dissolved

From Our Correspondent
KHAGRACHHARI, Oct 13: The government has dissolved the Khagrachhari Local Government Council and nominated a five-member committee with Jyotindra Lal Tripura as its chairman.

Tripura, an Awami League leader, replaces Samiran Dewan for an interim period.

Dewan had been the chairman since the first election of the council in June 25, 1989.

Officials said that an order regarding the dissolution of the council was received today. But Dewan said he has not received it yet.

Tripura, who is also the editor of the Daily Parbati and president of Khagrachhari Press Club, is likely to take oath in a couple of days, the officials said.

The other four members are Zahidul Islam, Ulla Prue Chowdhury, Bindo Bihari Chakma and Rano Bikram Tripura.

They had earlier brought a no-confidence motion against Dewan.

Pakistan seeks \$200m Rabat funds to repatriate stranded Pakistanis

Islamabad is working on the repatriation of the stranded Pakistanis in Bangladesh, a top Pakistani leader said, reports BSS.

The Pakistan Foreign Minister, Sartaj Aziz, told Bangladesh High Commissioner Masum A Chowdhury in Islamabad yesterday that the government of Pakistan was already engaged in the project (the repatriation of stranded Pakistanis), Foreign Office sources here said today.

Chowdhury, who called on Aziz, referred to the outstanding issues like repatriation of stranded Pakistanis in Bangladesh and issue of division of assets and liabilities.

Aziz informed the Bangladesh envoy that the government of Pakistan was already engaged in the project and that they had approached the Rabat-Al-Alam-Al-Islam with a proposal to allocate 200 million US dollars which

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5th DC-10-30 on way to Biman fleet

By Special Correspondent
Bangladesh Biman is adding the fifth DC-10-30 aircraft to its fleet sometime in January in a bid to ease pressure on its long and mid haul planes operating in 25 international destinations.

Negotiations have nearly been completed with Chase Air of United States to have the aircraft on lease for three years, a Biman official said yesterday.

The national flag carrier has

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149-day hearing in Bangabandhu Murder Case ends Judge sets Nov 8 for verdict

The verdict of the trial of Bangabandhu Murder Case will be delivered on November 8, reports UNB.

Kazi Golam Rasul, the District and Sessions Judge, announced the date of judgement on conclusion yesterday of the lengthy hearings. The court heard for 149 working days.

Earlier, the judge said the verdict would come on November 3. Later, he changed the date in his chamber.

"Someone later in my chamber informed that November 3 coincides with a mourning day. That is why the date was changed to November 8," Kazi Golam Rasul told the news agency over telephone.

All the 19 persons accused of the murder of President Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman

man along with family members on August 15, 1975 in his Dhanmondi residence, except Taheruddin Thakur, are former army personnel. Five faced the trial while 14 others remained fugitives.

They were charged with conspiracy, murder and concealing evidence under Sections 302, 34, 120 (b) and 201 of the Penal Code.

The sections provide a maximum punishment of death.

Those faced the trial are: Lt Col Syed Feroq Rahman, Lt Col Sultan Shahriyar Rashid, Khan, Lt Col Muhiuddin Ahmed (artillery), Hony Capt Abdul Wahab Joardar and former state minister for information Taheruddin Thakur.

Abducting accused are Lt Col Khandokar Abdur Rashid,

Maj Bazul Huda, Maj Shariful Haq Dalim, Lt Col Rashed Chowdhury, Lt Col Noor Chowdhury, Lt Col Aziz Pasha, Maj Muhiuddin Ahmed, Maj Ahmed Sharful Hossain, Capt Md Kismat Hashem, Capt Nazmul Hossain Ansar, Capt Abdul Majed, Risaladar Moslemuddin, Dafadar Marfat Ali Shah and LD Md Abul Hashem Mridha.

The FIR of the case was filed with Dhanmondi thana on October 2, 1996, after 21 years of the tragic incident.

Muhtul Islam, a resident personal assistant of President Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, filed the FIR.

CID ASP Abdul Kahar Akhand who investigated the case accused 24 people including late Khandokar Mushtaq Ahmed who had assumed the presi-

dency after the killing of Bangabandhu. Three others dead are former Secretary Mahbul Alam Chashi, Capt Mustafa and Risaladar Sarwar. They were dropped from the charge sheet.

Six of the accused were arrested and the trial began with submission of the charge sheet on January 15, 1997.

As the trial was proceeding in the makeshift court in front of the Dhaka Central Jail for security reason, one of the accused Begum Zubaida Rashid, wife of absconding accused Col Rashid, was acquitted by the Supreme Court.

Of the absconding accused, Maj Bazul Huda is now in a Bangkok jail for shop lifting, while few others are said to

See Page 12 Col 3

Secret transmitter baffles authorities

By Staff Correspondent

Authorities are yet to detect a clandestine radio transmitter, reportedly now broadcasting religious speeches.

Bangladesh Betar, responsible for monitoring the air frequencies, also could not intercept or detect the point of transmission, being carried out by an FM transmitter baffling the authorities.

A Bengali daily reported on October 2 that a clandestine radio broadcast speeches of Moulana Delwar Hossain Saidee, an MP of Jamaat-e-Islami, for one and a half months. Ten days later, on Monday, a news agency report said that the clandestine radio mainly broadcast speeches of

Saidee on 104.5 mhz of FM and the monitoring department of Bangladesh Betar was transcribing the text of the secret transmission that takes place from 8 pm to 10:30 pm.

When contacted, State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed told The Daily Star that director general (DG) of Betar had been asked to detect the secret transmission immediately.

However, MI Chowdhury, the Betar DG, told The Daily Star yesterday that there was no reason why Bangladesh Betar would intercept or monitor what other people were transmitting. "We use 105 mhz of FM for BBC Bangla news broadcast but, we're not the owner of the

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Bangladesh retain ACC trophy

From Al-Amin

Kathmandu, Oct 13: Holders Bangladesh retained the ACC trophy with a thumping eight-wicket win over underdogs Malaysia in the final at the Tribhuvan University ground here today.

The resounding victory also means a berth for Bangladesh in the eight Asia Cup to be held in Dhaka next March.

Right-handed opener Shahriar Hossain hammered 51 as Bangladesh, chasing a paltry Malaysian total of 83 in 50 overs, went on to reach 85 in only 21.1 overs with the loss of only two wickets.

Earlier, electing to bat first, Malaysia could manage a meagre 83 all out in 37.2 overs in the face of some inspirational off spinners from skipper Aminul Islam. Aminul, who ripped through the Malaysian tail, finished with three for 22 in eight overs. He was well supported by his two new-ball bowlers Hasibul Hossain and Shafiqul Islam who evenly shared four wickets.

Shahriar Hossain was named player-of-the-final for hitting the only half century of the match, while Aminul was named player-of-the-tournament.

(See detail reports on page 13)



TURNING A DEAF EAR: Although the authorities ordered the mess in front of the AG Office in the city's Kakrail area to be fixed some two months back, the order is yet to be complied with.

Motivated, a clear abuse by owners

Rouf Chy pledges to sue Beximco papers

By Staff Correspondent

FBCCI presidential candidate M A Rouf Chowdhury has vowed to take publishers and reporters of two daily newspapers owned by the Beximco Group to court "for civil and criminal defamation".

In a statement, he charged that the two published a "baseless and motivated article" to smear his image ahead of the election to the national chamber scheduled for tomorrow.

"I hereby pledge to sue in the highest courts the publishers and reporters of the daily Muktakantha and The Independent for civil and criminal defamation and liabilities for publishing a baseless motivated article today ... with the sole purpose of damaging my reputation and as such negatively influencing the outcome of the election for president of FBCCI," the statement said yesterday.

"The article was written without naming any reporter. No specific sources were named nor was there any document of any kind referred to. Even the

minimum standard of journalism where I was to have been contacted to clarify and defend my position was not followed.

"I was never contacted by either newspaper. The two articles are almost identical and the publisher is the same person who is actively supporting my opponent," he said repeating his remarks at a press briefing earlier in the day.

At a press conference, Chowdhury angrily dismissed reports in the two newspapers, calling them results of "clear abuse of newspaper ethics by the owners."

They are completely "baseless," "motivated" and a reflection of "bad taste", Chowdhury said and threatened to go to the Press Council for justice.

"These reports have clearly violated ethics of journalism. I have never seen such abusive and irresponsible journalism in my life," he told journalists at National Press Club yesterday.

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Breakthrough in Kosovo crisis

BELGRADE, Oct 13: US envoy Richard Holbrooke proclaimed a breakthrough today in efforts to end the Kosovo crisis after week-long talks with President Slobodan Milosevic, reports AP.

But, he warned, "we're not out of the emergency yet." He said it's up to Milosevic's government to prove its commitment to international demands — especially on allowing an international verification force of 2,000 people into the Kosovo province.

In a rare national television address, Milosevic declared that the agreements "avert the danger of a military intervention against our country."

"Our task is to accelerate the political process and economic

recovery of our country as a whole," Milosevic said. It was the first time the Yugoslav president had addressed the nation since the 1995 Dayton peace accords which ended the war in neighbouring Bosnia.

Today's developments capped dramatic efforts to force an end to Milosevic's crackdown against ethnic Albanian separatists in the southern province of Serbia, the dominant Yugoslav republic.

Yugoslavia expects that the verification mission, to be led by the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, will eliminate false, untrue and malicious reports about the situation in Kosovo," Milosevic said in his statement.

Shortly after NATO took its

final step, Clinton announced that Milosevic had agreed to withdraw his forces from Kosovo, initiate autonomy negotiations with the separatist ethnic Albanians and allow a force to verify compliance with UN demands.

Holbrooke, who noted that the deal will not affect existing sanctions against Yugoslavia, said the key to the accord was Milosevic's decision to let a 2,000-member "verification mission" and to permit "aerial verification" by non-combat aircraft that could begin as soon as the end of the week.

Holbrooke said Polish Foreign Minister Bronislaw Geremek, head of the OSCE, will soon come to Yugoslavia to sign the mission agreement.

Jail killing case

Charge sheet likely in a couple of days

By Staff Correspondent

Twenty-three people are likely to be chargesheeted in the Jail Killing Case.

They will be charged with murder and criminal conspiracy, sources close to the CID investigators said.

The charge sheet is expected to be submitted within a couple of days, the sources added.

Of the 23 accused likely to be chargesheeted in the case, two are dead, 14 are absconding and seven are detained in the Dhaka Central Jail. The two dead will not be sent up for trial, the CID

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Elections tomorrow

FBCCI tribunal evades verdict on voters' list dispute

By M Shamsur Rahman

Only a day before the national chamber elects its new 32-member committee, the FBCCI Election Arbitration Tribunal is yet to give its verdict on the dressmakers' dispute over voters' list, leaving scopes for controversies even after the elections.

The FBCCI tribunal committee yesterday failed to give a verdict on an appeal by Farukul Islam Shova who claimed to be the president of Bangladesh Dress Makers' Association.

Two persons — Farokul Islam Shova and Nematullah Sabu — are claiming to be president of the association and each submitted his own list of five voters.

The Election Board in its preliminary voters' list recognised Shova as president of the association but later accepted Sabu after a hearing.

Shova later appealed to the Tribunal, challenging the list of Sabu, a candidate for FBCCI executive committee member from the panel backed by Salman F Rahman.

Sources said that the committee has already prepared the draft verdict in favour of Farokul Islam Shova but is unlikely to declare it before the polling, scheduled for tomorrow.

Earlier, the tribunal in its second hearing on Thursday had failed to deliver a verdict on the issue.

The unresolved issue, many say, could create problems even

See Page 12 Col 7

BNP MP Alamgir Kabir arrested

Alamgir Kabir, a BNP MP, was arrested from his Naogaon residence early this morning, reports UNB.

He was later produced before the court at Naogaon and then sent to the district jail. No petition was moved seeking his bail, the Deputy Commissioner told the news agency over telephone.

The DC said Kabir was involved in three criminal cases, one filed in 1996 and the rest last year.

The wife of Kabir informed the BNP central office that her husband was picked up by police from the residence at 5:30 am today.

Kabir is a member of the BNP Central Committee and the party's education secretary.

Kabir's arrest sparked off protests by BNP activists in Naogaon town.

They brought out processions and put up barricade at a place called "Bridger More" on Naogaon-Santahar highway for

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Smokers & smugglers go together

By Staff Correspondent

Cigarettes worth about Tk 21 crore enter into the country illegally every month and the government is deprived of about Tk 13 crore in duties and taxes, an official of the British American Tobacco, Bangladesh, claimed here yesterday.

"Most of the cigarettes are brought in foreign ships through three major points, Anwara, Shitakunda and Potenga in Chittagong," Mahmudur Rahman, head of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs of the company, told newsmen at a city hotel.

He said the illegally brought cigarettes, mainly 'Benson and Hedges' and 'London,' are effecting the business of the company seriously.

Rahman said his company

BAT claims the state loses Tk 13 crore in revenue every month

imports Benson and Hedges but not more than one million such sticks are sold per month against the monthly sale of more than sixty million smug-

gled sticks of this brand.

Price difference is one of the main reasons for increase in smuggling of cigarettes," he said "Our price goes up due to higher duties and taxes. We cannot sell a packet of Benson at less than Tk 72 whereas smuggled Benson is available in the market at less than Tk 60."

Another brand namely 'London,' produced by world famous Rothmans company, is coming through land routes via Myanmar and affecting the business of the company's popular

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Another Pak general quits

ISLAMABAD, Oct 13: A Pakistani general has resigned after being passed over by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif for new army chief, reports said today, according to AFP.

Lieutenant General Ali Quli Khan submitted his resignation yesterday Dawn newspaper and other national dailies quoted officials as saying.

Earlier, reports had said Khan and another lieutenant general, Khalid Nawaz, resigned the day after Sharif last Wednesday installed General Parvez Musharraf as new army chief.

Dhaka-Calcutta bus service

SOON

CALCUTTA, Oct 13: Bus service between Calcutta and Dhaka is likely to start very soon, according to the Bangladesh High Commissioner in India, Shafi Sami, reports PTI.

Sami, who called on the West Bengal Chief Minister, Jyoti Basu at his Writers' Buildings chamber yesterday, said today that a memorandum of understanding in this regard was signed between the two countries. All barriers would be removed in implementing the scheme, he added.

Formalities, he said, are likely to be finalised at a meeting in Delhi soon.

It will take eight to ten hours to reach Dhaka from Calcutta by bus.

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Cairn, Unocal chiefs see prime minister

By Sharier Khan

In a surprising move, top executives of British oil company Cairn and American oil company Unocal yesterday met Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, sources said.

Outcome of the meeting could not be known.

Cairn and Unocal are both aspiring to get Block 10 under the on-going second round block bidding for oil and gas exploration. Cairn and its partner Shell Oil were offered Block 10 by the government's negotiation committee in October last year.

But earlier this year, the negotiation committee allowed Unocal to modify its proposal for the block and held talks with the American company. Finally, when the government announced the result of the second round bidding, it put Block 10 aside. Then, again, Unocal itself told the press that it would be given Block 10.

On several occasions earlier, Cairn's high officials told this correspondent that if Block 10 was given to any other company, it would protest. Accordingly, the British company raised voice against the second round bidding process and claimed that the process was 'not transparent'. This had 'disturbed' the government and the issue became one of the reasons why the relationship with Cairn had recently deteriorated.

But yesterday, the chiefs of the two rival companies together met the Prime Minister. Some Petrobangla officials and other high officials were present at the Prime Minister's secretariat at that time, but they did not attend the meeting, the sources said.

"They might have met the Prime Minister together coincidentally. But there is a possibility

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FROM TOMORROW

On the occasion of the International Cup cricket being held at Dhaka from Oct 24-Nov1, 1998.

The Daily Star - Standard Chartered Cricket Quiz '98

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

- Only the residents of Bangladesh are eligible to participate in The Daily Star - Standard Chartered Cricket Quiz '98. The employees of Standard Chartered Bank, The Daily Star and their respective advertisement agencies shall not be eligible for the contest.
- All entries must be submitted in the original form printed in The Daily Star. Photocopies or reproductions in any form will not be accepted.
- Entries must be cut along the dotted lines.
- Participants will put a tick (X) mark in the box alongside their chosen answer to each question.
- A participant may send more than one entry.
- Entry forms should be completed with a ballpoint pen.
- Name, address, father's name and other particulars of participants must be clearly written. Each entry form must also bear the signature of the participant and date.
- Incomplete entry forms will not be accepted.
- Envelopes of entries must be clearly marked 'Cricket Quiz '98' along with the Round number.
- Entries may be hand-delivered or posted to The Daily Star, House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka 1205.
- Entries will be placed in a sealed box for the draw to be held on the notified date in presence of invited guests and quiz participants, if any.
- Winners will be decided on the basis of the correct entries drawn out from the box.
- By entering the quiz contest, each participant will agree to be bound by the rules, and guidelines which may be issued by the Standard Chartered Bank and The Daily Star.
- Any decision of the Standard Chartered and The Daily Star in the conduct of the quiz contest including the answers selected as correct shall be deemed final and binding on all participants and shall not be called in question and/or challenged in any manner.
- Standard Chartered Bank and The Daily Star, in their absolute discretion, reserve the right to amend, modify or substitute any of the above rules and/or change or rescind any and all dates of the quiz contest under any circumstances.

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ROUND	STARTS	ENDS	ANSWERS MUST REACH BY	LUCKY DRAW FOR PRIZES
QUIZ 1	15 Oct. '98	21 Oct. '98	21 Oct. '98	22 Oct. '98
QUIZ 2	23 Oct. '98	29 Oct. '98	29 Oct. '98	30 Oct. '98

Watch out for details on Thursday, Oct 15, 1998 in The Daily Star