



Federal Express

The World On Time

SIGNED, SEALED & DELIVERED

From documents to packages, FedEx delivers peace of mind reliably to over 212 countries worldwide.

For more information call-Dhaka, Tel: 965114, 988397, 9130647, 894213, 808803, 9345261 DEPT 9398931 Chittagong, Tel: (031) 712127, CEPZ (031) 740108, Khulna, Tel: (041) 725058, N.Ganj, Tel: 9714336

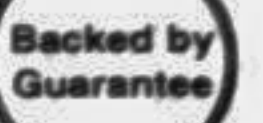
Ideal gift for any occasion.

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

Transcom Electronics Limited

Official licensee of Philips Electronics N.V. for lighting products, radio and TV sets

Dhaka: 815307-10, 819625-9 Ctg: 716353, 723578 Khulna: 720304, Bogra: 6215



Let's make things better



Tears are not enough

By Staff Correspondent

Ali Akbar, whose two sons were kidnapped one year ago, has now been left homeless by the gang of kidnappers, forcing him to flee with his two daughters.

A resident of village Chaldia of Kapasia thana of Gazipur district fired a gang of human traffickers because he had petitioned the home minister seeking justice for his missing sons, a sobbing Akbar told newsmen at the entrance of the Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

His two sons are still missing. But Fatema and Raju, two of the accused gang members who were arrested following instructions from the home minister, are out on bail.

Akbar alleged that he and his family members were forced out of their village home under Kapasia thana of Gazipur, four days back. Prior to this, the gang members ransacked his house and also threatened his life.

Akbar filed a case in connection with the kidnapping of his two sons at the Magistrate's court in Gazipur, identifying six members of a traffickers' gang, accusing them of taking away his sons.

On September 14, last year, Akbar informed the home minister of the members of traffickers' network and the threats he and his family were receiving to withdraw the case.

The next day, the home minister instructed the Gazipur DC to "personally investigate and send report after taking measures".

The two were taken into custody. They were soon released on bail and all hell broke loose thereafter. They swooped on the poor farmer sparing his life with a warning that he would not be spared next time and that they would also kidnap his daughters, Ali Akbar said.



"Keep all you took. Just give my babies back and don't take my daughters too," poor Akbar begs the kidnappers who he says are human traffickers and getting bails like an easy street.

—Star Photo By-Anisur Rahman

Sayed rebuts Khaleda Zia

State Minister for Information Abu Sayeed yesterday strongly protested and condemned the "untrue, inconsistent and impolitic" remarks of Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia at Tongi Tuesday, reports BSS.

In a statement, he said, "the language in which Khaleda Zia spoke Tuesday, has raised the question about his mental balance," and added that "the countrymen wonder why she becomes instable, frightened and imbalanced whenever she has to speak about the trial of the killings like that of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and assassinations of four leaders in the jail."

The state minister said that it is possible that Khaleda Zia is not aware of the supreme sacrifice made by countless leaders and workers of the Awami League during the 23 years of Pakistani rule for establishing today's independent and sovereign Bangladesh.

He said the entire nation had fought the Liberation War under the leadership and instructions of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

DU BCL unit formed

By DU Correspondent

A nine-member executive committee of the Dhaka University unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) was formed yesterday, said a press release.

Sajjad Hossain and AKM Azim have been made president and general secretary respectively of the DU unit. A 41-member full-fledged committee would be formed soon, said the newly elected president Sajjad Hossain while talking to the Daily Star last night.

He said he would fight for introducing a new trend in student politics to face the challenge of the 21st century.

"We sincerely want a terrorism-free university and I, with the help of my activists and leaders in the DU, will work to that end," he said.

Other members of the committee are: Vice presidents- Beg Shaheed Jahan, Mostafizur Rahman Biplob, and Shava; joint-secretaries- Shubash Ghose and Abu Toha, organising secretary, Delwar Hossain and cultural secretary, Arifa Rahman.

Sajjad Hossain was the organising secretary of the outgoing DU unit committee of the BCL.

Businessmen observe strike at Magura

MAGURA, Oct 14: Businessmen observed a 12-hour strike here today protesting terrorist activities in Notun Bazar area, reports UNB.

Two businessmen Tandu, 22, and Moktar, 24, owners of two shops in Notun Bazar, were critically injured in a series of clashes between two rival groups of Nijnandu Ali and Dowarpara areas over establishing supremacy in the bazar and adjacent red light area.

Of the injured, Tandu was being treated at Sadar Hospital but Moktar has been shifted to Dhaka in critical condition.

All shops in the town remained closed from 6 am to 6 pm.

Notun Bazar businessmen held a demonstration in the bazar and demanded immediate steps to stop terrorism in the area.

Additional police have been deployed in the area as tense situation is prevailing.

Dev plan to be taken up keeping natural disasters in mind: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government is planning to prepare and implement development programmes in such a way so as to cope with natural disasters, reports UNB.

"For this, we are going to prepare far-reaching programmes," she said while addressing the inaugural function on International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction Day '98 at Osmany Memorial Hall in the morning.

The Disaster Management and Relief Ministry organised the function to mark the International Natural Disaster Reduction Day with the theme: Natural Disaster Prevention and the Media.

This year's slogan is: Prevention Begins with Information.

State Minister for Disaster Management Talukder Abdul Khaliq, UNDP resident representative David Lockwood, Disaster Management Secretary Azad Ruhul Amin and Director General of the Disaster Management Bureau Sirajuddin Ahmed also addressed the function.

The prime minister said Bangladesh is prone to natural disasters. Quite often heavy loss

of life and damages to property are incurred owing to natural disasters like cyclone, tidal surge, flood, river erosion, drought and earthquake.

In order to avert such losses, she said, it is necessary to make the structural reform and development on one hand, and wide publicity about disaster on the other.

With coordination of these two, it is possible to reduce to a great extent the loss and damages caused by disaster. Side by side with the government initiatives, cooperation and all-out efforts of the mass media is of prime importance in this regard, Hasina said.

"We've ensured all-out and effective use of our mass media in reducing the havoc caused by natural disasters."

About the far-reaching programmes, she stressed the need for dredging of rivers and said "dredging will be made to our big rivers to reduce the probabilities of flood as well as increasing their navigability."

It will be possible to set up habitation and industries on both sides of the rivers by filling in the low lands with the soil available during the dredging, she said.

The prime minister said the

government is also considering how the huge water could be turned into resources and mentioned that the government had taken initiative to construct the Ganga barrage.

She also mentioned the government decision to construct an embankment from Tongi to Demra with the objective of keeping the city of Dhaka free of flooding.

From now on, she said, the roads and highways will be constructed above the flood level, and raised places and 'kilas' will be built in the villages for sheltering people and livestock during the floods.

The prime minister said the role of Space Research and Remote Sensing Organisation (SPARRSO) and Meteorological Department is also very important in combating natural disasters.

UNDP resident representatives David E Lockwood said Bangladesh's development partners, including the UN system, have already committed extensive assistance in support of the government's effort.

They are also ready to address rehabilitation needs by giving high priority to flood-affected areas in their assistance programmes, he said.

President's help sought to end campus violence

A delegation of eminent citizens called on President Shahabuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaba yesterday, reports UNB.

National Prof Kabir Chowdhury led the 5-member delegation, said a press release.

The members of the delegation expressed concern at the deteriorating situation on the university campuses and made particular reference to the recent incidents of harassment of girl students at the Jahangirnagar University.

They said that these incidents have shaken the trust of the people in the entire education system of the country.

They expressed the view that apart from any action by the law enforcing agencies, the authorities of the JU should have taken strong action under their own disciplinary rules in discharge of their proctorial duties.

The delegation suggested that the President as Chancellor of the universities may call a meeting of vice-chancellors of universities so that appropriate actions can be taken to restore congenial atmosphere in the educational institutions.

The President gave them a patient hearing and appreciated the suggestion for convening the proposed meeting of vice-chancellors. He also observed that leaders of the society, including intellectuals, should cooperate with the authorities in building up strong social resistance to such campus violence.

The members of the delegation include Dr Zillur Rahman Siddique, Dr Anisuzzaman, Dr Sufia Ahmed and Dr Muzaffar Ahmed.

Prof Nooruddin new BUET VC

Prof Nooruddin Ahmed yesterday took over as new Vice-Chancellor of BUET, accepted the resignation of Prof Mahmud following his repeated request, said a press release.

Earlier on October 11, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, also Chancellor of BUET, accepted the resignation of Prof Mahmud following his repeated request, said a press release.

The government also accepted Prof Mahmud's decision to return to his previous post of Professor of Chemical Engineering.

Truant teachers

From Page 1
ers are on leave for research purposes.

A good many of the teachers including 14 from DU, six from RU, eight from BAU, two from BUET, three from CU and four from JU are employed abroad, UGC says in a report.

A total of 54 university teachers -- 22 of DU, 14 of RU, five of BAU, one of BUET, five of CU, five of JU and one each of IU and SUST -- have been out of teaching on deputation to different organisations.

Amartya Sen wins Nobel

From Page 1

His best-known work, detailed in his 1981 book "Poverty and Famines: An Essay on Entitlement and Deprivation," challenges the common view that the shortage of food is the most important explanation of famines.

Looking at several catastrophes, Sen has shown that "famines have occurred even when the supply of food was not significantly lower than during previous years" without famines, the citation said.

Part of his explanation of the 1974 Bangladesh famine is that flooding throughout the country significantly raised food prices, while work opportunities for agricultural workers declined. Due to these factors, the real incomes of agricultural workers declined so much that they were disproportionately stricken by starvation.

His work undertakes hard economic analysis and broader questions about the best ways to determine whether poverty is increasing or decreasing.

"Sen's research has practical use in every collective decision-making process," said Robert Eriksson, professor of sociology at the University of Stockholm. "He cares about the poorest in society."

Sen's award highlights an underappreciated area of study, said Scott Brown, chief economist at Raymond James and Associates, an investment firm in St Petersburg, Florida.

"Developmental economics has never really gotten a whole lot of attention in the academic world, and certainly the magnitude of the problem and type of issues it deals with is obviously very significant," Brown said.

The prize was worth about 963,000 dollars at today's exchange rate.

It is the second year in a row that the prize has gone to work

with a clear connection to day-to-day lives, rather than to highly theoretical work.

The Long-Term Capital debacle inevitably tainted a prize that many have criticised. It's not clear whether the theories of Merton and Scholes were misapplied, by the giant fund, which catered to wealthy investors, or whether the theories themselves were faulty.

This honour is the only Nobel not established in the will of Swedish industrialist Alfred Nobel, who invented dynamite. It was created in 1968 to mark the tercentenary of Sweden's central bank.

On Tuesday, Robert B Laughlin of Stanford University, Horst L Stomer of Columbia University and Daniel C Tsui of Princeton University won the Nobel Physics Prize for discovering how electrons can change behaviour and act more like fluid than particles.

The Chemistry Prize went to Walter Kohn of the University of California at Santa Barbara and John A Pople of Northwestern University for developing ways of analysing molecules in chemical reactions.

On Monday, the Medicine Prize was given to three Americans -- Robert Furchgott, Louis Ignarro and Ferid Murad -- for their work on discovering properties of nitric oxide, a common air pollutant but also a lifesaver because of its capacity to dilate blood vessels.

The literature prize was awarded last week to Portuguese novelist Jose Saramago.

The Peace Prize, the last in this year's series, is to be announced Friday.

The prizes are presented on December 10, the anniversary of the death of Nobel.

DMP DC (East) closed

By Staff Correspondent

The Deputy Commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (East), who was to provide security during the FBCCI elections today, was closed yesterday.

The decision to 'close' the DC, Mukhlisur Rahman, was taken following a complaint lodged against him by Ali Ashraf MP, who is also chairman of the FBCCI Election Board, official sources said last night.

The order probably was issued from the Prime Minister's Office late yesterday afternoon, an official of the home ministry told The Daily Star without explaining.

Some top officials of DMP also said that they had heard about the incident but could not confirm on what grounds the DC (East) was closed.

They, however, said the DC (West), Serajul Islam, has been assigned additional responsibilities of the DC (East) and asked to ensure security during the FBCCI elections.

"I had informed the higher authorities about the misbehaviour of the DC and his failure to ensure security measures for the FBCCI elections," Ali Ashraf told this correspondent over telephone last night.

A letter from the FBCCI secretariat was sent to the DC (East) on October 6 requesting him to ensure security during the FBCCI elections, he said.

Ashraf alleged, "when he contacted the DC over telephone, he not only denied having received any such letter but also behaved rudely."

A dirty game

From Page 1
letter bearing the name of MA Qudus by courier service narrating some "false" stories about the personal life of MA Rouf Chowdhury.

Through the press I want to inform each and every voter that I have nothing to do with the letter and it has no connection with me. It's a dirty game at the last minute..." he told journalists.

Demanding an inquiry into the matter, Qudus said he would launch a formal complaint with the Election Board seeking justice.

"I have no word to condemn the letter. It's dirty, filthy... I demand justice and an inquiry," he said. "I deny any such letter carrying my name. I request the voters not to pay heed to propaganda and rumours. Cast your vote for the person you feel eligible."

Talking to The Daily Star MA Rouf Chowdhury said he also received several phone calls from voters informing him of the letter.

"I have noted with sadness and concern that my opponents can stoop so low and think so vile in spreading malicious propaganda."

They used name of a person namely MA Qudus with voter no 330 who upon being contacted denied having any knowledge of the dirty letter under circulation.

"Upon my request, he has gone to the Press Club. In presence of the national press, he agreed to openly declare that the dirty paper with his name and voter number is totally false and fabricated."

"I deplore such tactic and call upon the voters to make their judgement on the election date," he said.

Businessmen observe strike at Magura

MAGURA, Oct 14: Businessmen observed a 12-hour strike here today protesting terrorist activities in Notun Bazar area, reports UNB.

Two businessmen Tandu, 22, and Moktar, 24, owners of two shops in Notun Bazar, were critically injured in a series of clashes between two rival groups of Nijnandu Ali and Dowarpara areas over establishing supremacy in the bazar and adjacent red light area.

Of the injured, Tandu was being treated at Sadar Hospital but Moktar has been shifted to Dhaka in critical condition.

All shops in the town remained closed from 6 am to 6 pm.

Notun Bazar businessmen held a demonstration in the bazar and demanded immediate steps to stop terrorism in the area.

Additional police have been deployed in the area as tense situation is prevailing.

Death of Bay fish: Probe body begins work

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, Oct 14: The five-member committee formed by the government to probe the death of fish in the Bay of Bengal particularly in Cox's Bazar coast began its work today.

The committee headed by Ali Azam Khan, Principal Scientific Officer of the Marine Fisheries Survey and Management Unit at Chittagong, will submit its report within 15 days, sources said.

Talking to this correspondent Ali Azam said that his committee would identify the causes of death of fish and the area affected in the Bay.

There were press reports earlier that fish were dying in the Bay since October one allegedly due to dumping of rotten imported rice from ships at the deep sea.

AL wants to reintroduce one-party rule: Khaleda

BNP chief Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday castigated the ruling Awami League for its alleged plan to reintroduce one party rule by eliminating BNP, reports UNB.

She protested the arrest of BNP's education affairs secretary Alamgir Kabir MP and demanded his immediate release.

In a statement, Begum Zia alleged that Awami League has failed to run the country for more than two years.

The opposition leader described the arrest of BNP MP Alamgir Kabir as manifestation of the government's fascist character.

She said, "I've no knowledge about any precedence that a member of parliament was arrested in false case under a parliamentary democracy for his uncompromising role in Parliament."

She said Awami League would not be able to retain power by political repression as they could not do it in the past.

Khaleda Zia said her party would launch a greater movement to oust the government.

Abducted girl gangraped for month

By Staff Correspondent

A teenaged girl, who was abducted on August 28 from the city's Azimpur area, was detained at several houses in Sayedabad area for about a month and gangraped, police said yesterday.

An uncle of the victim yesterday filed a case with Lalbagh thana under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act 1995, police added. The girl has returned to her uncle's house at Azimpur from where she was abducted.

None was arrested in connection with the incident.

According to police, the 16-year-old girl used to live at her uncle's house at Azimpur. Khaleque, a neighbour, in collaboration with Rukhsana, a maid of her uncle's house, abducted her on August 28 and took her to a house at Syedabad, Khaleque, along with his friend, whose name was also Khaleque, raped her there.

They confined her in different houses in the area for about a month and raped her repeatedly.

The victim escaped when the rapists took her to Sayedabad bus terminal on September 25 to send her outside Dhaka, police said.

One killed while making bombs in Khulna

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Oct 14: One person was killed and two others were injured in bomb blasts at Sheikhpara village in Terokhaha thana of the district last night.

Police identified the dead as Sujon, 25, while the injured were identified as Jahangir Sikder, 30, and Shehat Ali, 46.

Police said the incident occurred when the bombs they were allegedly making in a house suddenly exploded. Both hands of Sujon and Jahangir were blown off.

Local people rushed them to Khulna Medical College Hospital where Sujon succumbed to his injuries.

When contacted, Terokhaha police said Sujon and Jahangir belonged to an outlawed party while another injured Shehat Ali, 46, is the owner of the house.

The injured are being treated at KMCH under police guard.

Kidnapped businessman rescued

Police yesterday rescued a kidnapped businessman from a house in city's Jatrabari area, reports BSS.

Police raided the house and rescued Mohammad Shamsuzzaman alias Babul. Babul is a businessman of Dogair area and was kidnapped by a group of miscreants in front of the regional office of the Dhaka City Corporation on Tuesday afternoon. The kidnapers took him to Jatrabari and demanded Tk 50 lakh from his family members as ransom.

'Try killers of 13 FF army officers'

By Staff Correspondent

Participants at a discussion meeting in the city yesterday demanded trial of the killing of 13 freedom fighter Army officers who were hanged on September 23, 1981, after a 18-day summary trial by Court Martial.

They also demanded re-examination of the Court Martial's verdict.

An organisation named, '23rd September Smriti Sangsad' organised the discussion meeting at the National Museum auditorium, commemorating the day.

The 13 officers were: Brig Mohsin, Col Nowazesh, Col MA Rashid, Lt Col Mahfuzur Rahman, Lt Col Delwar Hossain, Lt Col Fazole Hossain, Major AZ Giasuddin, Major Kazi Moinal Haq, Major Rowshan, Major Mujibur Rahman, Capt Abdus Sattar, Capt Jamil Haq and Lieutenant Rafiqur Khan. Besides, a good many others in uniform were given marching orders and awarded imprisonments of various terms on charges of mutiny.

"23rd September Smriti Sangsad" mainly comprises those who were members of the army officers. Nurjahan Delwar, President of the Sangsad chaired the discussion.

Major (Rtd) ASM Shamsul Arefin, a sub-sector commander of Mukti Bahini, said that there were 219 freedom fighter officers in Bangladesh Army after the War of Liberation. Of

them, 130 were "eliminated" within a decade through various ploys. "Today, there are only 22 freedom fighter officers in Bangladesh Army," he said.

Col (Rtd) Shawkat Ali, MP, said that trial of the killings of 13 freedom fighter Army officers has to be taken up along with the trial of other political killings including those of Zia, Manzur and Taher.

Advocate Gaziul Haq claimed that the verdict awarded capital punishment to 13 freedom fighters was prepared when the process of trial was still in progress. "One Howlader, a staff of the Supreme Court, typed the verdict at his East Hajipara residence in Dhaka, dictated by an advocate five days before the trial was ended," he claimed.

MR Akhtar Mukul alleged that Ershad tried to "eliminate" those who could be prospective witnesses to the Zia killing case. Mukul, known for his active role in Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra, also claimed that in every post '75 political turmoil, Ershad was a 'common character' and despite Zia's order, Ershad returned home from Deradun, India, on August 24, 1975 and had meetings with political leadership.

Barrister Amir-ul Islam said he wondered why Begum Khaleda Zia and her party did not demand trial of Zia killing. "Willingly or unwillingly, as they (BNP) taking a stand in

Advertisement for '2000' magazine. Includes text: 'সময়ের সঙ্গে চলুন', 'সাপ্তাহিক ২০০০ পড়ুন', '২০০০', '৯/৯/৯৭ নিউ ইকটন, ঢাকা-১০০০', 'ফোন: ১ পিবিএস ১ ৯০২০১২-৩', 'Editor: Mahfuz Anam', 'Published by the Editor from City Publishing House Ltd., 90 Kairail, Dhaka-1000 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmandi R/A, 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: dstar@bangla.net'