

AEI

Bangladesh Air Express International Limited

PLEASE CONTACT:
Head Office Tel: 9565114, Logistics Office Tel: 9884851, Fax: (880-2) 9886531, E-mail: dac@aelligis.com
Chittagong Office Tel: (031) 721085, Fax: (880-31) 710106, Internet: fcdgcp@sptnet.com.smp.

Air and Ocean-Forwarding • Customs Brokerage • Warehousing and Distribution • Express • NVOCC

Quality Worldwide Logistics



Toaster Oven

Ideal gift for any occasion.



Conventional Kettle

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

Transcom Electronics Limited
Official Reseller of Philips Electronics in Bangladesh for lighting products, radio and TV sets
Dhaka: 815307-10, 819625-9 Ctg: 716953, 723578
Khulna: 720304, Bogra: 6215

Let's make things better.

PHILIPS

5 friends of Soheli questioned Police looking for some 'influential people'

By Staff Correspondent

Detective police have interrogated five friends of film actor Soheli Chowdhury who was gunned down in front of Tramps Club at Banani in the city Friday night.

They are Omar Chowdhury, Naimul Islam Chowdhury, Ahmed Saeed Tipu, Shipul and Nazrul Islam.

Earlier, Adnan and driver of Soheli's car Selim Khan were placed on two days' remand for interrogation. They will be produced before court today, police said adding they may pray for further remand of the arrested.

DB police on Sunday also interrogated two young women who claimed to be his wives and later released them on the same day.

Police said they were looking for 'some prominent industrialists' and directed different check posts to strengthen vigilance so that they cannot flee the country.

UNB also says, the DB investigators are looking for some influential people who might reveal the reasons behind the killing.

DB sources said Adnan Siddiqui and Selim have mentioned some names, but the police are yet to find any of them for questioning.

The sources said that while investigating the case, they will be looking into every aspect to see if the Tramps Club was in any way linked with the murder.

Bunty Islam, the owner of the club that continued its 'illegal' activities for last three years in the capital, is still absconding, they said.

Police, they added, are looking for Bunty Islam and some other people to unearth the mystery behind the killing and to verify the activities of Tramps Club.

The DB investigators visited the murder spot and the adjoining Tramps Club several times, but could not find the expected documents from the club.

The DB investigators visited the murder spot and the adjoining Tramps Club several times, but could not find the expected documents from the club.

"We couldn't even find the club register showing the names of its permanent members... possibly, this was removed by the club authority," a DB investigator said.

He, however, added that they have stumbled into names of some influential people having close connection with the club.

Five of a family killed in Manikganj road accident

MANIKGANJ, Dec 21: Six people, five of a family, were killed and some 38 injured in road accidents on the Dhaka-Aracha highway today, reports UNB.

Police said a passenger bus bound for Dhaka collided with a Manikganj-bound microbus and both fell into a roadside ditch at Gola in Satura thana at about 3.15 pm, killing all the five passengers of the microbus on the spot. Thirty-six passengers of the bus were injured in the collision.

The tragedy occurred when the five, inhabitants of Kalirvita village in Konabari union of Kaliakoir thana in Gazipur, were going to bridegroom's house at Balirtek in Manikganj to settle marriage of the daughter of one of the victims.

The dead were identified as Harun-or-Rashid Master, 40, Rajuddin, 36, Abdus Salam, 18, Abdul Barez, 45, UP member of Konabari union, and Belal Hossain, 60. Belal was driving the microbus.

The injured were rushed to Manikganj Sadar Hospital.

Schoolboy shot dead in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Dec 21: A school student was shot dead by some unknown assailants at village West Kharandip under Boalkhali thana here this noon, reports BSS.

Police and eyewitnesses said, the victim, Shamsuddoha Manik, 15, son of Musa Mia and a student of Class X of Gomdandi High School, was shot by the assailants while he was coming out of his house.

They left the place soon after the incident.

The critically injured Manik was rushed to Boalkhali Thana Health Complex where the doctors declared him dead.

A case was registered with Boalkhali thana in this connection.

Khaleda

From Page 1

misrule of the government.

She asked the government to take immediate steps to bring down the soaring prices of essentials, including rice, pulses, onion and edible oil in view of the holy month of Ramadan.

Begum Zia warned the government of tougher action programmes after Ramadan if it failed to meet the demands.

The ruling party leaders are busy making their fortunes plundering public wealth instead of removing sufferings of the people, she alleged.

Begum Zia said BNP is the people's party and it always stands beside them at the time of distress.

Case dismissed

From Page 1

cluding local AL leaders and government officials were served with show-cause notices as charges were brought against them.

After examining their replies, the judges gave the verdict that there was insufficient proof of violation of election rules and dismissed the case.

Awami League has also complained about violations of electoral code of conduct by Khaleda Zia and some leaders of the BNP.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

Published by the Editor from City Publishing House Ltd., 90 Kakrail, Dhaka-1000 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motiheel 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



The 1998 Nobel Prize winner in Economics, Amartya Sen, left, is given the 'Deshikottama' award by Dilip Singha of Vishwa Bharati University at Santiniketan, yesterday. The award is presented by the University to outstanding Indians. Sen was born in Santiniketan and had his early education at the Vishwa Bharati University, set up by another Nobel laureate, Rabindranath Tagore.

Interview with BTV

Sen hopeful of economic development in S Asia

Nobel-winning economist Prof Amartya Sen is optimistic of economic development of the region during the next two decades, reports UNB.

"Like reading human palms, I don't believe in telling the future... But there are many things to hope, and we have the right to hope," he said in an interview with BTV telecast last night. Economist Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya interviewed him.

Prof Sen referred to changes taking place in social outlook in the regional countries, their growing concern about health, education and social progress.

"It can surely be stated that public awareness about the problems has risen in all the countries of the region," he said.

Prof Sen does not see any conflict of interests among the countries in the South Asian region. "I don't think the problem of globalisation will affect South Asian countries,"

He, however, said there are problems which have been created mainly by "ourselves." "The problems in the South Asia are internal, and their solution lie in our hands."

Sen, who was on a four-day visit to his ancestral home in Dhaka till December 19, does not believe that there is any short-cut or "one-line formula" for the economic progress of a

country. During the hour-long interview, the Nobel laureate recalled the boyhood memories in his ancestral home at Larnini Street, his journey from Shanti Niketan to Presidency College and to Cambridge, and the long history of his teaching and research works in India, USA and England.

Focusing on development models followed by different developing countries, he said they are not following the same method. "There are faults everywhere, but the faults are not same," he observed and stressed the need for finding out ways to avoid the errors on the basis of experiences of success and failures.

Khandakar takes oath

A K Khandakar, the newly elected member of the Jatiya Sangsad from Pabna-2 constituency, took oath yesterday.

Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury administered the oath at a simple ceremony at his office.

A K Khandakar won the December 10 by-election with an Awami League ticket by a wide margin of 20,000 votes over his rival Selim Reza Habib of BNP.

Still there are signs of development in the world economy, an optimistic Sen said referring to human development indicators showing low rates of mortality, fertility and illiteracy. "So, one shouldn't say nothing is improving and that poverty and hunger are not declining."

He, however, conceded that there were still acute poverty. It will take time to remove poverty, he said.

Prof Sen, who worked in details on 1974 Bangladesh famine, said famine is not a mere food crisis. It should be seen as an economic problem that is related with the people's employment opportunity and their purchasing capacity.

"Food stock is not enough, people must have the capacity to buy." The expatriate Indian professor of economics in the Cambridge University said he firmly believes that it is not difficult to avert famine if there exist political liberty and rights.

Policy planners should focus on people's choice in framing any social development decision, he said.

Sen recalled the works of his personal friend late Mahbubul Haq, a renowned Pakistani economist. "We were greatly influenced by each other."



Students staged a sit-in in front of the office of DMCH Director yesterday.

Evolve mechanism to protect domestic industries: Tofail

Commerce and Industries minister Tofail Ahmed has underlined the need for evolving a mechanism to protect domestic industries for their survival in the world market, reports APB.

"We will have to find out some mechanism to protect our industries... otherwise our home market will be swamped by products not only from India, but also from other countries," he cautioned addressing a roundtable in the city yesterday.

But in the same breath, Tofail also reiterated Bangladesh's Commitment to liberalisation and support for global integration.

He was speaking as chief guest at the roundtable on "Promoting Accelerated Economic Growth Through More Effective Participation by Bangladesh in the International Economy" at the LGED Bhawan yesterday evening.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury and FBCCI president Abdul

Awal Minto also participated in the discussions.

Referring to the proposed compensatory measures in the Uruguay Round Agreement, Tofail said products of LDCs should be given access to the markets of the developed countries to minimise the effects of the globalisation.

"If the stronger economies do not look into the grievances of the weaker economies, they will automatically lose their markets," he said.

Abul Hasan Chowdhury referred to the drastic fall in oil prices in the international market and warned that the trend could affect the country's promising gas sector. "Hence, we should use our gas resources judiciously," he observed.

FBCCI president Abdul Awal Minto said the battle for economic supremacy in the 21st century would be fought on the platform of the WTO. "The success and failure of a country in that battle will depend on its negotiating skills and power," he commented.

He suggested giving greater emphasis on raising awareness and bargaining strength. SAARC could act as an economic powerhouse to reinforce the negotiating strength of its member countries, he observed.

USIS director John Kincannon said trade relations between the United States and Bangladesh had grown immeasurably in the past 10 years.

In 1997, US investment in Bangladesh was a mere US dollar 25 million, he said. But today, he pointed out, it has been close to US dollar one billion.

"We hope to see it at the US dollar 2 billion mark within the next few years," said the upbeat US diplomat.

US, allies 'unpredictable' Moscow for closer military ties among CIS states

MOSCOW, Dec 21: Russian defence minister Marshal Igor Sergeyev called on the armed forces of former Soviet states today to cooperate more closely because the United States, with the bombing of Iraq, had become 'unpredictable', report agencies.

"At this moment, when the United States and their allies are unpredictable, it's essential we reach a common understanding of the military-political problems arising and work out common views on prospects for developing military cooperation," he said in televised comments at a Moscow meeting of defence ministers from the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

AP from New York adds: Chief UN weapons inspector Richard Butler, under fire from Security Council members Russia and China and others, acknowledged Sunday that the future of his UN Special Commission was uncertain following US and British airstrikes on Iraq.

In an interview with Associated Press Television News, Butler stressed that Iraq still needed to account for and destroy its weapons of mass destruction, as called for by Security Council resolutions that ended the 1991 Gulf War.

The past instrument for

that has been UNSCOM, as an organ of the council," Butler said. "UNSCOM is still here," he said, referring to his commission. "They're the world's experts in the field."

"But the Council are our masters. They will look into it all in the next few days."

His comments came amid increasing calls from around the world for a re-evaluation of the UN inspection regime following the strikes and criticism leveled against Butler himself, including calls for his ouster.

UN humanitarian staff who were evacuated from Baghdad during the strikes on Iraq will return on Tuesday, a UN official said today.

Another report says, America's European partners are looking to UN chief Kofi Annan to find a way to maintain arms controls against Baghdad.

In weekend speeches and television interviews, leaders of several European Union countries spoke of the need to ensure the Iraqis do not violate UN resolutions banning mass-destruction weapons now that Baghdad has declared UN weapons inspectors will not be allowed to return.

"We trust that a political dialogue can be undertaken as soon as possible, primarily with the involvement of UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan," Austrian

Chancellor Viktor Klima said. French Foreign Minister Hubert Vedrine today said that the international community needed to put in place a system of continuous control over Iraqi weapons.

Vedrine also said in an interview with RTL radio that a weapons control programme should be carried out by a modified version of UNSCOM, the UN weapons inspection commission.

The French Foreign Minister also repeated his country's long-standing call for a lifting of sanctions imposed against Iraq as a result of the Gulf War.

China is also looking to the United Nations to find long-term solutions to the Iraqi conflict.

"The question is what the Council will do next to solve the Iraqi crisis," the official Xinhua news agency said today in a commentary from the UN.

Meanwhile, a club for American expatriates in Singapore was evacuated and the US Embassy was searched today after a bomb threat. An embassy spokesman said, No bombs were found in either location.

The embassy received a non-specific threat against Americans by phone from an unidentified caller around noon, said the embassy spokesman, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Rangamati BNP protests Larma's statements

RANGAMATI, Dec 21: Local unit of BNP has asked PCJSS chairman Shantu Larma to refrain from making communal and provocative statements, reports APB.

It warned that the Bengali settlers in the Chittagong Hill Tracts were ready to make any sacrifice to protect their basic human rights.

The warning came in a statement issued jointly by Nasimuddin Ahmed, president of the BNP district unit, M Zahir Ahmed, secretary, Kazi Nazrul Islam, joint secretary, and Shah Alam, chairman of Rangamati municipality.

They vehemently protested against Shantu Larma's contention that Bengali settlers should be rehabilitated outside the Hill Tracts and that the development of the region was not possible without their eviction.

Shantu Larma came up with the demand at a seminar on development of CHT held here on December 18 and 19.

Mohammad Zahir Ahmed and Nazrul Islam underlined the need for uplift work which should take into account the basic rights of all communities.

DUTA polls: Candidates of 3 panels finalised

By DU Correspondent

The lists of candidates for election to executive committee of Dhaka University Teachers Association (DUTA) were finalised Sunday.

Mohammad Masud Rahman of Finance and Banking Department, vying for the post of treasurer from the left-leaning Pink Panel, has withdrawn his nomination paper on Sunday, the last day for withdrawal of nominations.

Three panels-- Awami League-backed Blue Panel, BNP-backed White Panel and Pink Panel are battling it out for the DUTA polls due on December 30 at DU Club.

The Blue Panel with Dr Md Shabbad Ali and AAMS Arefin Siddique as president and general secretary respectively announced its candidates earlier.

The other candidates of the panel are: Dr Mesbah Uddin Ahmed for the post of Vice President.

The contenders from the Pink Panel are, President-- Dr Kazi Nurul Islam, Vice President-- Md Inadul Haq, General Secretary-- Dr. Nehal Karim, Joint Secretary-- Dr AKM Saleh Uddin and Members-- A.K.M. Saad Uddin, Dr Aminul Islam, Dr AH Moinuddin Ahmed, Mohammad Abu Zafar, Dr AK Monwar Uddin Ahmed, Dr A.I. Mahbub Uddin Ahmed, Dr Faqirul Alam, Rawshan Ara, Abdus Sakur Shah and Dr Azizunnahar Islam.

The contenders from the White Panel are, President-- Dr Kazi Nurul Islam, Vice President-- Md Inadul Haq, General Secretary-- Dr. Nehal Karim, Joint Secretary-- Dr AKM Saleh Uddin and Members-- A.K.M. Saad Uddin, Dr Aminul Islam, Dr AH Moinuddin Ahmed, Mohammad Abu Zafar, Dr AK Monwar Uddin Ahmed, Dr A.I. Mahbub Uddin Ahmed, Dr Faqirul Alam, Rawshan Ara, Abdus Sakur Shah and Dr Azizunnahar Islam.

PCJSS strongly protested police action on the tribal people attending a police recruitment test at Khagrachhari Police Lines yesterday, reports UNB.

In a statement, PCJSS vice-president Ushaton Talukder said the trouble started when police prevented some candidates from appearing in the test saying that they had failed to turn up in time.

He alleged that police swung on action charging baton and firing teargas shells on the candidates. "They also declared many tribal candidates unqualified without examining their physical fitness properly."

Ushaton said the government had issued a circular to recruit 500 police constables from the Chittagong Hill Tracts, including 200 from Khagrachhari, 166 from Rangamati and 134 from Bandarban.

He said some 100 Morong, two Marma, three Chakma, two Thachongga, one Bom, 23 Bengali were recruited from Bandarban on Sunday.

Meanwhile, angry tribal candidates brought out a procession and submitted a memorandum to the Khagrachhari deputy commissioner protesting the incident.

PCJSS also called for canceling yesterday's recruitment and announcing a new date for fresh recruitment.

Koirala

From Page 1

reduced King Birendra to a figurehead. Nepal has been politically unstable since, with five prime ministers in the last four years.

On Sunday, Koirala persuaded the communist group to back him so the two parties could lead Nepal into general elections early next year.

The two parties will now have to prove their majority in a confidence vote in the legislature.

Koirala's Nepali Congress has 87 lawmakers. He now has the support of 49 members from the communist group—a clear majority in the 205-member House of Representatives.

Nepal's lower house of Parliament.

Indian national held in Gazipur

GAZIPUR, Dec 21: Police arrested an Indian national from a house at village Sachiani in Kaliganj thana today, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip-off, police raided the house at about 2 pm and arrested Anita, 16, daughter of Aji Biswakarma of Benaras Deuri in West Bengal, on charge of her illegal stay in Bangladesh.

After her arrest, one Shaymol, who reportedly brought Anita here from India, went into hiding.

Meghnaghat

From Page 1

cost of Tk 141 crores. However, the CWHEC proposal did not include 7.5 per cent tax related to the site development and suggested that the government should take care of the taxes.

CWHEC's nearest competitor Hyundai proposed development of 90 hectares of land at a cost of 149 crores and included related taxes. Hyundai has unofficially protested PDB's decision.

China Harbour and Kumpulan proposed to develop 87 hectares and 98 hectares of land respectively. But their proposed costs are much higher, 253 crores and 238 crores respectively.

"As far as CWHEC and Hyundai are concerned, PDB should make proper calculation before making a final decision," said an official.

This is the second time that the PDB floated tender for selection of a land developer for the Meghnaghat Power Plant, the country's biggest power project which involves the private sector and the Asian Development Bank. The PDB is providing land for the project and it will own 10 per cent of the project.

The first bid was cancelled because of "lack of participation".

The BPDB is also negotiating with AES to set up the 450 MW Meghnaghat plant.

— Star photo