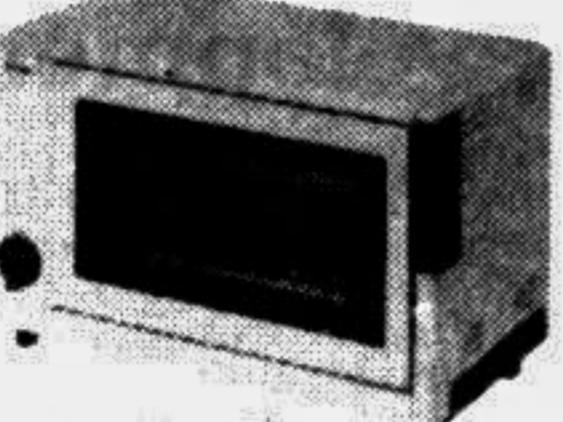




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PHILIPS

5 friends of Sohel questioned

Police looking for some 'influential people'

By Staff Correspondent

Detective police have interrogated five friends of film actor Sohel 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, Shilpi and Nazrul Islam.

Earlier, Adnan and driver of Sohel'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.

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-Aricha 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 Golra in Saturia 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 Balirte 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 Barek, 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 Gondandi 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.

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The 1998 Nobel Prize winner in Economics, Amartya Sen, left, is given the 'Deshikottama' award by Dilip Singh 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.

— AP/UNB photo

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 Larminji 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 Rasheed 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.

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

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

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 believed that it is not difficult to avert famine if there exists political liberty and rights.

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Interns 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.

The body was sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) morgue for autopsy.

Two persons — Salain Khan and Morjina Begum — were arrested in this connection. Police suspected the baby as their illegitimate son.

Body of 6-day-old baby recovered

By Staff Correspondent

Body of a six-day-old baby was recovered at Segunbagicha in the city Sunday evening.

Police and hospital sources said that the body of the newborn baby was recovered from a culvert at Segunbagicha at about 6 pm Sunday.

The body was sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) morgue for autopsy.

Awal Mintoo 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 loose their markets.

Bangladesh will earn US dollar 10 billion from exports in the next five years if its products are allowed zero-tariff access to the markets of developed and developing countries, including India, he observed.

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