



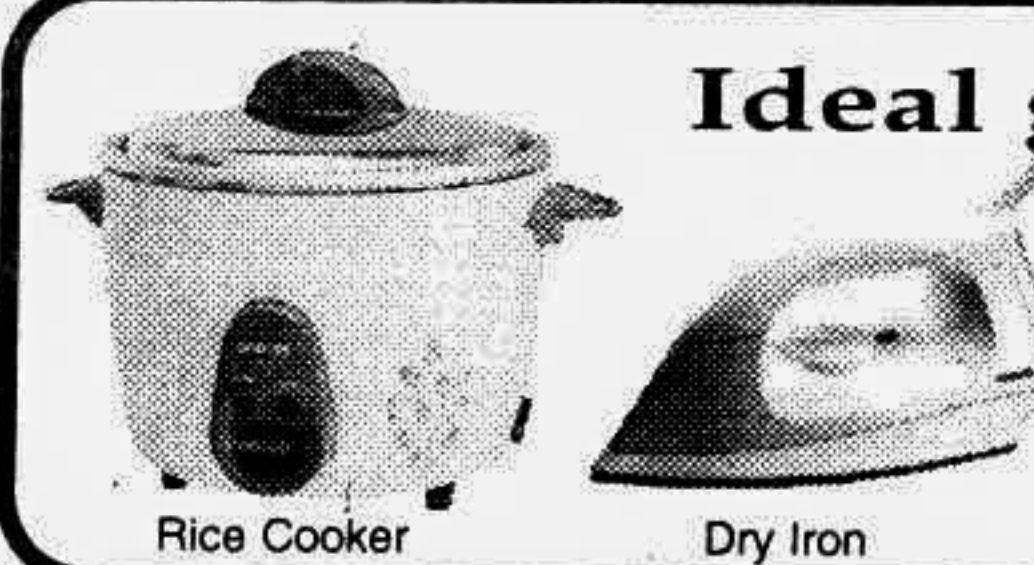
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Tribute

'Ahmed Sharif was a lone crusader'

By Staff Correspondent The National Committee for Paving Tribute to Dr Ahmed Sharif yesterday called for publishing his complete works and biography from Bangla Academy...

The National Committee at a condolence meeting at the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday made the call for 'realising the causes of the uncompromising scholar who devoted his life to fight against religious fanaticism, superstition and parochialism.'

Prof Serajul Islam Chowdhury described Dr Sharif as a man of rare species who never surrendered to or compromised with the ruling class in the face of pressure or for any privilege.

Poet Shamsur Rahman termed Dr Sharif as a lone crusader against custom and recalled his efforts to change the society.

Litterateur Ahmed Sofa called for showing due respect to one of the best sons of the soil and regretted that Bangla Department at DU and the Bangla Acad. had failed to accord him his due honour.

Recalling Dr Sharif's commitment to Bangalee nationalism and socialist idealism, Kamal Lohani said he died at a time when he started to organise a platform for left-leaning intellectuals.

Rashed Khan Menon said Dr Sharif was a sharp contrast to our mainstream intellectuals who cannot think of their existence without flattery of the people in power.

Among others, Badruddin Umar, Basir Al-Helal, Fayed Ahmed, Nirmal Sen, Abul Kashem Fazlul Haq, Dr Lalit Mohan Nath and Ahmed Sharif's son Dr Nehal Karim spoke at the condolence meeting.

Hasina-Sharif From Page 1 the hill district of Rangamati to see the natural beauty of that area. Rangamati is famous for its big natural lake surrounded by hills with lush green.

During his stay in the hill district town, the Pakistan Prime Minister enjoyed a cultural presentation by the tribal artists.

The Pakistan premier will return to Dhaka this morning and is scheduled to leave for home before noon, official sources said.

Ctg polytech From Page 1 Kader belonged to Tahir group of BCL polytechnic unit and both the groups backed by local Awami League leaders...

Police today arrested two activists of Sera Akbar group in connection with the killing. A large number of BCL activists belonging to Tahir group demonstrated in the premises of Chittagong Medical College Hospital last night after the death of Kader, witnesses said.

WB ban goes From Page 1 want security in food supply, better communications facilities and electricity. Tribal people are deprived for long of their basic demands, specially of electricity.

Tofail said the country got huge gas reserves, which is being utilised for power generation to give more value-added benefits to the people.

He told the WB team that the government was trying to make power sector efficient by reducing system loss and improving overall management.

He hoped that the proposed reform programme would help the efforts. Secretary to power division GM Mandal, WB resident representative Frederick T Temple, WB energy and infrastructure team leader in Bangladesh Arun Banerjee and senior financial analyst of the WB S Vijay Iyer also took part in the discussion.



BNP chairperson Begum Khaleida Zia addressing a public meeting at Madhabpur stadium in Habiganj yesterday.

Khaleida pledges peaceful life if returned to power

MADHABPUR, Habiganj, Mar 3: BNP chairperson Begum Khaleida Zia has pledged to the nation that her party would ensure basic needs of the people and a peaceful life if it returned to power, reports UNB.

'Allah has endowed us with human and natural resources. If we can make their proper use, Inshallah we will be able to bring about a change and improve the fate of the common man,' she told a public meeting at Madhabpur stadium in the afternoon.

Khaleida said her party would ensure food for all, peace and prosperity of the nation and congenial atmosphere in Bangladesh.

Khaleida

From Page 1 Bangladeshi leader of the recent currency and consequential economic difficulties suffered by Malaysia and other ASEAN countries.

'Malaysia could successfully overcome these difficulties principally because of the fact that it has not been dependent upon foreign capital for economic progress, unlike many other developing nations,' the Malaysian premier was quoted to have told the BNP chairperson.

He informed her that Malaysia has a favourable balance of trade, huge foreign exchange reserves and is laying greater emphasis on sophisticated and high-tech industries like automobile and light aircraft.

The distinguished visitor expressed his wish that Bangladesh should be able to export more commodities and in greater volumes to balance its trade with Malaysia.

He explained reasons for on-going repatriation of surplus expatriate workers and said reduction in jobs in labour-intensive enterprises in his country prompted the measure.

Begum Zia stated that both sides should further encourage exchange of economic and business delegations and also hold and participate in trade fairs in each other's country to promote investment, trade and joint ventures.

She wished the people of Malaysia further progress and prosperity.

Nawaz Sharif: Biharis

Regarding terrorism in Karachi, Sharif said the actions taken by his government have brought peace in Karachi. The people in Karachi now feel more secure.

He stressed the need for more concrete measures to increase bilateral trade between Bangladesh and Pakistan. 'We hope both sides will identify more specific areas for expanding commercial cooperation.'

Asked why he was visiting Rangumati during his current tour, he said, 'I have been told that there are no facilities for overnight stay in the Sunderbans. Besides, I am sure, I would like the scenic spot.'

During the interview, Pakistan Foreign Minister Sartaj Aziz and Foreign Secretary Shamshad Ahmed were present.

AJM leaders' ultimatum to BJMC From Our Correspondent NARAYANGANJ, Mar 3: Leaders of Adamjee Jute Mills today gave an ultimatum to the Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) to accept their demands within the next 72 hours.

They threatened to put up barricade on Dhaka-Chittagong Highway, if their demands were not met.

Rehan Uddin, president of CBA of Adamjee Jute Mills handed over the memorandum to the chairman of the BJMC.

The demands include payment of all arrears salaries and festival bonus for coming Eid-ul Azha.

JS session to continue till first week of April

A meeting of the Business Advisory Committee yesterday discussed progress of the current session of the Jatiya Sangsad, reports UNB.

None of the six opposition members of the 15-member committee attended the meeting, chaired by Speaker Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury.

The committee decided to continue the current session of Parliament till the first week of April with recess for the Independence Day celebration and the Eid vacation.

Leader of the House and Deputy Leader of the House Zillur Rahman, Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed, Deputy Speaker Abdul Hamid, Chief Whip Abul Hasnat Abdullah and Rahmat Ali attended the meeting.

38 houses gutted in Rangamati

RANGAMATI, Mar 3: At least 38 houses were gutted in a fire in Debashish Nagar area of the town Tuesday night, reports UNB.

Fire Service sources said the fire originated from a kitchen and soon engulfed the entire area.



Police looking for arms yesterday near Mohsin Hall and A F Rahman Hall of Dhaka University following a confessional statement by an alleged terrorist arrested from city's Kalabagan area.

Opposition walks out of JS

From Page 1 the resolution was illegal as only one idea could be covered by the said article. The one moved by the Treasury bench dealt with at least three ideas, he argued.

Elaborating on his argument, he said the resolution congratulated the PM on her election as the new D-8 chairperson, expressed the hope for a better socio-economic condition of the member states and praised the PM's role in hosting the summit.

B Choudhury sharply reacted to the comments passed from the Treasury bench during his deliberation. 'As a lawmaker, I'm speaking on laws and I'm not here to be disturbed, an angry Choudhury said.

He threatened to put up barricade on Dhaka-Chittagong Highway, if their demands were not met.

Choudhury also said 'there is nothing new in the resolution, except congratulation for the prime minister'. All other issues had meantime been discussed about by the ministers (on different occasions), he added.

He also opposed the very idea of moving such a resolution, saying 'this is well understood that the host country will automatically become the new chief.'

Blasting the shouting Treasury benches, Choudhury further said, 'You don't need to be so boisterous in your celebration... We did not do so when former prime minister Khaleida Zia became the Saarc chairperson...'

Before concluding, the BNP leader also announced that his party would not participate in the discussion on the 'illegal' resolution.

Contradicting Choudhury's argument, Commerce and Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed said the resolution is based on a specific idea that is holding of the second D-8 summit in Dhaka. 'Therefore, article 147 has not been violated in any way.'

Tofail expressed his satisfaction over the successful summit, but castigated Leader of the Opposition Khaleida Zia and her party leaders for their absence in the event.

'Bangladesh's image could be further improved had the Opposition leader participated,' the minister said and blamed her for asking BNP leaders not to go to the summit.

HC judge, defence lawyers

The plaintiffs, all directors of the AB Bank, had been served with removal notices under section 17 of the Bank Companies Act, 1991. Unless they repaid their default loans to AB Bank within two months of the notice, they would face the removal. But the plaintiff filed a case with the HC and obtained a stay order on February 16, 1998.

All bank directors' cases were listed with the court number 6 of Justice Kazi Ebadul Hoque on February 17 this year and the hearings started on February 22 and on February 23, February 23 being a hartal day, the hearing was not held and the next hearing was scheduled for February 28.

On February 28, AB Bank lawyer Barrister Rokonuddin Mahmud mentioned in the court 6 two more cases of bank directors to be included along with other such cases for hearing. These two cases included one by the four AB Bank directors - Salman and Sohel Rahman, MA Quashem and Iqbal Ahmed.

Accordingly, this case appeared in the court 6 list on March 1 for hearing along with other cases of bank directors.

On this day, Barrister Rafique-Ul Huq prayed for the matter to be taken out of list of court 6 citing that the case was also in the list of court 23. But the judge refused to do so since all other similar cases were being heard at court 6 as it was a senior court.

On March 2, Barrister Huq made a written petition to delist the case from court 6. But the judge once again refused to do so and said since court 23 is a junior bench, it can not raise any objection against a senior court.

It may be mentioned that the case was not listed with court 23 on both March 1 and 2. However, the case file for unknown reasons was not in court 6 despite the case being on its list, which many experts said was unusual.

It transpired that the case file was retained in court 23.

The case was finally listed with court 23 yesterday and Barrister Huq requested the bench to give priority to the case since the Bangladesh Bank was also wanting a quick disposal of the case.

But Barrister Rokonuddin Mahmud on behalf of AB Bank said since this case was also listed with court 6, it should be delisted that if all other similar cases could be handled by court 6, then why this single case be heard at a different court. The BB lawyer Barrister Tania Ameer also expressed the same view and added that since the bank directors' cases were in the process of being heard, the hearing by court 6 will ensure early disposal as desired by the BB.

But the Justice Fazlul Hoque insisted on hearing the case as it was under his jurisdiction. At this point, Barrister Mahmud said he and his client had objections to the hearing of the case at court 23 and also expressed the fear that AB Bank may not get a fair hearing. He also argued that he and his client are all the more apprehensive about the hearing because of the insistence of Justice Fazlul Hoque to hear the case despite objections.

He also wondered why all Beximco cases are being held at court 23 and Beximco lawyer prefers this court to any other court for hearing of the case. He drew the attention of the court to the list which included a few Beximco cases. The junior judge Justice MA Matin at this point observed that since the defence lawyers wanted not to hold hearing of the case at court 23, this should be delisted and should not be heard over their objections.

But he was overruled by the senior presiding judge. The defence lawyers then wanted an order rejecting their plea for delisting the case. But this was also turned down by Justice Fazlul Hoque. The defence lawyers then said that they would be compelled to file a written petition not to have the hearing held in court 23.

'We are surprised to learn that you are appearing as the senior counsel in a writ petition filed by Messrs. A S F Rahman, Iqbal Salunian F Rahman, Iqbal Ahmed and M A Quashem challenging the legality of our notices to them under Section 17 of the Bank Company Act,' the court said.

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Arrested stranded Pakistanis placed on remand

By Staff Correspondent Fifteen stranded Pakistanis, who were arrested for attempting to commit suicide in front of Hotel Sheraton Tuesday, were placed on a seven-day remand yesterday.

Police produced them before the CMM's Court and prayed for a 10-day remand for interrogation, but the court granted a seven-day remand.

Ten killed, 75 hurt in 3 road accidents

By Staff Correspondent Ten people were killed and 75 others injured in separate road accidents yesterday.

Of them, six were killed in Natore, three in Savar and the rest was killed in the city. Our Correspondent from Natore writes: Six people were killed and 25 injured, 10 of them seriously, when a Pabna bound bus collided with a local passenger bus at Haibatpur on the Dhaka-Natore road around 7 pm yesterday.

The dead were identified as Zakaria, 50, Abdul Hamid, 50, Osman Ali, 40, Intaz, 27 and Ibrahim 27. Another 28-year-old man could not be identified immediately. The injured were rushed to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital, Natore Sadar Hospital, and Natore Mission Hospital.

UNB adds: At least three people were killed and 50 injured when a bus skidded off the road and fell into a ditch at Hemayetpur on Dhaka-Aricha highway yesterday. Of the injured, condition of the injured, condition of the injured, condition of the injured.

Three passengers who were on roof of the coach died instantly.

Next FS

From Page 1 and was later absorbed in the foreign service while Ali is an ex-PFS officer.

Samir retired earlier this year and was re-appointed on contract as high commissioner in Delhi, a position he has been holding since April, 1995. He had previously served as high commissioner to Pakistan and ambassador to China and Saudi Arabia. He was also chief coordinator of the first SAARC summit in Dhaka in 1985.

Ali, also an experienced diplomat, had earlier served as ambassador to Germany, Nepal and Bhutan.

Awat Karim Chowdhury belonging to the 1967 PFS batch and Muzzem Ali of the 1968 batch are also being considered for appointment.

Meanwhile, two other senior most diplomats, Kazi Anwar Masud and Mustafa Faruk Mahmud, are due to retire this year.

Acting foreign secretary Mohiuddin Ahmed is tipped to become the country's new envoy to Russia, the sources said.

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Dacoits tie up journalist, loot cash & valuables

By Staff Correspondent A dacoity was committed at the residence of a journalist at Sher Shah Suri Road under Mohammadpur thana in the city yesterday.

Police said a gang of about seven dacoits entered the residence of Kikobad Milan, a senior Sub-editor of The Daily Ittefaq, at about 11:45 am.

They tied up Milan at gunpoint and took away Tk 25 thousand in cash and valuables worth about Tk 1.27 lakh. According to the FIR lodged with Mohammadpur thana, Milan was alone in the house while his domestic help went to the market at the time of incident.

When contacted last night, the duty officer at the Mohammadpur thana said none was arrested in this connection.

But the DMCH lacks facilities for sophisticated investigations like CT Scan. All head injury patients requiring CT Scan are referred to private diagnostic centres from DMCH.

On being requested by this correspondent, a private diagnostic centre, Medinova Medical Services Ltd, did the job free of cost for Parvez. The investigations would have normally cost the patient Tk 4600.

The Computed Tomography (CT Scan) investigation done at the diagnostic centre at around 4 pm yesterday revealed that Parvez had almost the same clots he had prior to his operation on Friday. He may need a second surgery to remove the oedema and clots.

Corrigendum

The Industries Minister, Tofail Ahmed, has called a meeting of Kalco shareholders on March 7 apparently to discuss the issues after the government's refusal to approve the plant acceptance deal under a so-called commercial settlement proposed by the general contractor. A Daily Star report yesterday said it would be a meeting between the finance minister and the shareholders.

The March 7 meeting will take place at the industries ministry conference at 11:00am, the ministry sources said.

Parvez

From Page 1 reasons for increasing the patient's unconsciousness.

He went on, 'Parvez suffered rupture of his brain membrane. This is one aspect we are looking at and this has improved following a surgery Friday. But what is more serious is that since Sunday, he is not responding to 'vocal command' which is an indication of the patient's critical condition.'

About three yesterday afternoon, realising that Parvez's condition deteriorated further, doctors decided that he must have more medical investigations.

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