

AEL

Bangladesh Air Express International Limited

Quality Worldwide Logistics

PLEASE CONTACT:

Head Office Tel: 9565114, Logistics Office Tel: 9884851, Fax: (880-2) 9886531, E-mail: dac@aelogis.com

Chittagong Office Tel: (031) 721085, Fax: (880-31) 710106, Internet: fedcpg@spcnet.com.smt.

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



Please visit Transcom Pavilion No.1 at DTF

Ideal gift for any occasion.

Instalment facility available only for purchases above Tk. 7,500

Transcom Electronics Limited

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

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

Visit your nearest Philips Display Centre today

Let's make things better.

PHILIPS



Singing Tagore, living Tagore

Artists render a Tagore song at the inaugural ceremony of the 10th National Rabindra Sangeet Festival at the Shishu Academy auditorium yesterday. The festival ends on Saturday.

—Star photo

## CPB seeks left alliance

By Staff Correspondent

A three-day 7th congress of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) begins in the city on March 7 with the objective of establishing 'a left leaning democratic alliance' to forge a new polarisation of the third force in the country's political arena, party leaders said yesterday.

CPB has taken up an elaborate programme to hold the congress which coincides with its golden jubilee celebration. The programme includes reception to veteran party leaders,

ally, seminar and cultural functions.

"The fate of the people would not change until the prevailing imperialistic economic system is replaced. Now politics has become a culture of demoralisation and commercialisation," President of the golden jubilee celebration committee Monjurul Ahsan Khan told a press conference at the party office yesterday.

Convener of the committee M M Akash said "The ruling party is following an imperial-

ism-based capitalistic system and the main opposition is also agitating with an extreme rightist polarisation, ignoring hopes and aspirations the masses."

The press conference was also attended by party leader Muzahidul Islam Selim, Hena Das and Sunil Das.

Veteran communist leader of West Bengal, Ila Mitra will attend the CPB congress as a special guest.

The party will hold a golden jubilee rally tomorrow at 2:00 p.m. at Paltan Maidan.

## Contempt case against PM 'disposed of'

By Special Correspondent

The Supreme Court yesterday disposed of a petition seeking contempt proceedings against Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for her alleged remark against the judiciary for granting en masse bail by a High Court Division in August last year.

President of the Supreme Court Bar Association Habibul Islam Bhuiya had filed the petition on February 1 seeking contempt proceedings for alleged remarks made at a press conference on January 29.

Chief Justice A T M Afzal pronounced a brief judgement yesterday morning at a full bench of the Appellate Division with the remark: "The application is disposed of with observation."

Other judges of the Appellate Division, Justice Mustafa Kamal, Justice Latifur Rahman, Justice Bimalendu Bikash Roy Choudhury and Justice Mahmudur Rahman were present during delivery of the judgement.

Details of the judgement with the observation were not immediately available. The Chief Justice declined to receive journalists who wanted an audience after the judgement. Nor a copy of the Prime Ministers' statement submitted to the court was available.

The Chief Justice, after hearing the petition on February 3 had ordered the Attorney General to submit a statement from the Prime Minister on her alleged remark.

The statement was not made public despite demand from a senior counsel, Mahbubuddin Ahmed, assisting the petitioner.

Only the petitioner was given a copy by the Chief Justice for "transparency" when it was submitted on February 17. After perusing it, he returned the copy to the Chief Justice.

Habibul Islam Bhuiya filed the petition seeking contempt proceedings against the Prime Minister alleging that her remarks were against the judiciary.

The PM reportedly said that the High Court Division had granted bail to 1200 people in two days on August 25 and 26. But Bhuiya said the High Court had granted bail to only 367 people before it went on vacation.

Habibul Islam Bhuiya appeared in person while Attorney General Mahmudul Islam appeared for the Prime Minister.

## Beximco case embarrasses HC judge

By Special Correspondent

A High Court judge yesterday felt embarrassed to hear the case of AB Bank and the Bangladesh Bank against BEXIMCO group after defence lawyers said they would not get 'fair hearing', court sources said.

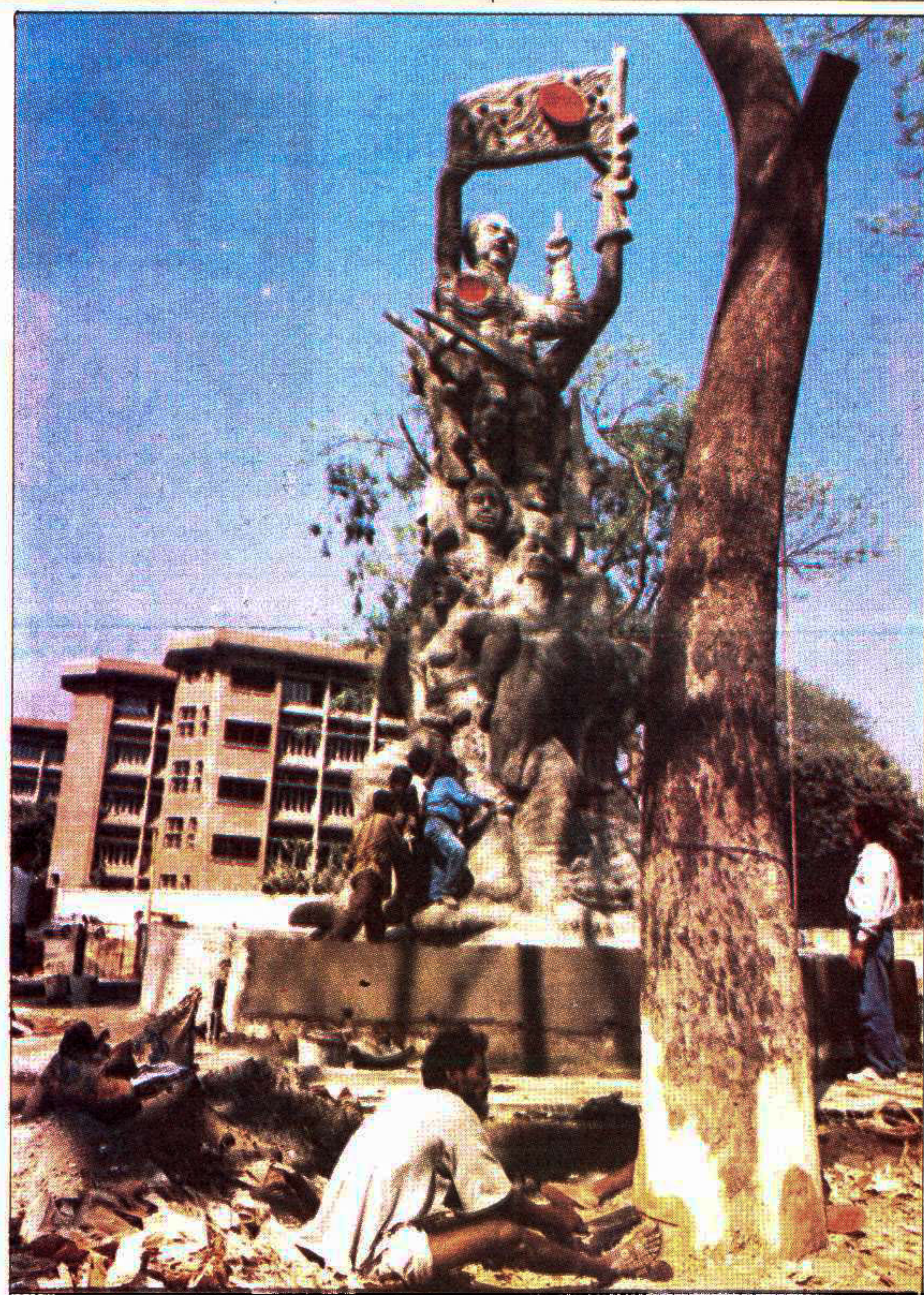
Justice Fazlul Huq of court no 23 of the High Court Division told an official of the Bangladesh Bank who submitted an affidavit yesterday for transfer of the court that he had already done so and that there was no need for such an affidavit.

It was preceded by an application by the Managing Director of the AB Bank praying for the transfer of the court saying he would not get a 'fair hearing'.

Injured tempo driver succumbs to his injuries

By Staff Correspondent

A tempo driver, who sustained critical burn injuries during a fire on February 23, succumbed at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) yesterday.



Monumental tribute

Workmen are busy chopping down a tree as sculptor Shamim Sikder puts the final touches to her 60-feet tall sculpture *Suadhinatar Sangram*. The monumental piece which took three months to sculpt and cost over one crore taka, depicts the nation's struggle for freedom from 1952, and the brutal killing of Bangabandhu in 1975. The sculpture, located on the Dhaka University campus, is expected to be inaugurated by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Mar 7.

—Star Photo: AKM Mohsin

## New feeding plan for the poorest

By Reaz Ahmad and Rafiq Hasan

The World Food Programme (WFP) wants to continue the ongoing VGF (vulnerable group feeding) programme in Bangladesh in a new form, targeting the 'poorest of the poor'.

WFP sources said they now plan to launch the VGR (vulnerable group rehabilitation) programme in collaboration with the government departments concerned.

The duration of VGF is linked with the 'lean period' that ends in April with the harvesting of Boro and other Rabi crops.

According to primary plan for VGR, some 74,000 'poorest of the poor' families would be chosen from 42 lakh families who have been provided with free food under VGF programme since September last following the devastating floods.

The rehabilitation programme would require 2,18,000 tonnes of wheat worth US dollars 55 million. Of this 75,000 tonnes have already been obtained and WFP is trying to persuade donors to provide the rest.

The sources said they had a meeting with officials from the relief ministry and women affairs ministry recently, mainly focusing on VGR.

Under VGR programme, be-

sides getting food the beneficiaries who would also receive training in the areas of literacy, skill development in seed management and agriculture, micro-credit investment and other income generating ventures.

WFP starts its post-flood rehabilitation work this month with 69,000 tonnes of wheat. The food will be used for repairing flood-ravaged bridges, embankments and drainage facilities. Water Development Board and Local Government Engineering Department are the two other parties in this effort.

The government had earlier launched the VGF programme in September last year, providing 16 kg of free foodgrain to each of the 13 lakh cardholders. The number of beneficiaries gradually rose to 42 lakh. Till December last year, WFP assisted the government programme with two lakh tonnes of foodgrain. It had a further reserve of 1,52,000 tonnes for this purpose.

Subsequently, the government halted the VGF programme and then restarted it in February with an increased quantity of 20 kg per head. The government requires another 2,52,000 tonnes of grain to continue the programme till April.

## 2,450 expelled on first day of SSC Exams

Some 2,450 examinees were expelled for adopting unfair means on the first day yesterday of the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) Examinations under five education boards, reports BSS.

No examinee was, however, expelled from the city centres, Dhaka Board sources said.

Dhaka Board sources said 1,037 examinees were expelled from 12 out of 18 districts under the board. Reports of the highest 298 expulsions came from Mymensingh district.

The district-wise figure of expelled students is: Narayan-ganj-31, Munshiganj-77, Manikganj-48, Tangail-208, Mymensingh-298, Sherpur-53, Netrakona-125, Faridpur-60, Gopalganj-28, Madaripur-51 and Shariatpur-58.

Rajshahi Board Control Room sources quoting reports from six out of 16 districts said 575 examinees were expelled.

The district-wise breakdown is: Chapinawabganj-112, Rajshahi-6, Pabna-92, Nilphamari-107, Thakurgaon-178 and Panachagar-80.

Jessore Board Control Room said that 347 examinees were expelled from different centres in 11 out of 16 districts under the board.

Reports from three out of 10 districts under the Comilla Board said that 332 examinees were expelled from different centres in Comilla, Chandpur and Sunamganj districts.

## PM delights in Sharif's CHT trip

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina now found an occasion for showing the humour of the situation with her political rival as she wanted to know from Khaleda Zia whether Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif stayed overnight in Rangamati or any part of India, reports UNB.

Sharif, who had been here to attend the D-8 summit, went to the Sundarbans and Rangamati and spent a night in the hill district town Wednesday before his departure for Pakistan yesterday.

She confuted Khaleda Zia's repeated public remarks that the territory from the CHT to Feni would be ceded to India after the signing of peace accord with the tribal leaders.

"Today, it is possible for a foreign dignitary to visit and make night halt in Rangamati following the signing of the peace accord," the Prime Minister said at a public meeting in the city.

And Nawaz Sharif did it in peace. "As a matter of fact, Nawaz Sharif was in Bangladesh, not in India, and I saw him off this morning," she said.

Referring to Khaleda's home constituency in Feni, Hasina further said: "Does BNP chairperson need Indian visa to visit Feni as she predicted that Feni will also be a part of India with the signing of the CHT peace accord?"

The Prime Minister said while in power BNP also had tried to strike peace deal with the PCJSS and formed a committee headed by former Communications Minister Col (Rtd) Oli Ahmad, "but failed."

"Khaleda failed to establish peace and that does not mean that others will not succeed."

Referring to Khaleda's election campaign that there would be no Azan from mosques if Awami League was voted to power, Hasina asked the people attending the rally whether they now hear prayer calls from the mosques.

"Yes, yes," shouted her audience responding to the Prime Minister's query.

Said Hasina: "It has become a habit of Khaleda to tell a lie."

## Rubel murder

### Top cop says sorry

Inspector general of police today suggested to raise the number of court with retired judges and legal experts for holding summary trial of special criminal cases, reports UNB.

He also suggested for enacting law to check illegal toll collection by musclemen as they easily secure release on bail due to loopholes in the existing law. The suggestion came from the head of the police force AYBI Siddiqui at a meeting with the press before the police rally March 8-11.

"We are trying to keep the law and order situation despite our limitations," said the IGP. But the situation could be improved much had there system of quick trial of the criminals, he added.

The IGP offered apology for the death of Rubel in police custody and harassment of innocent people including Nurul Absar.

He frankly admitted that there are lot of allegations against the police for indulging in excess. "We have taken some effective steps to improve our behaviour with the people to regain their confidence."

## Prayer Timings

March 5		
Fajr	Azan	Jamaat
5:30	5:30	5:35
Jumma	12:15	1:20
Asr	4:30	4:35
Maghrib	6:10	6:13
Esha	7:25	7:30

Source: Islamic Foundation

## Shazneen murder trial

### Cross-examination continues

By Staff Correspondent

Latifur Rahman, father of murdered teenager Shazneen, was cross examined by Mohammad Ali, lawyer of supervisor Badal, an accused in the Shazneen murder case, for the sixth day yesterday in the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court yesterday for more than two hours starting from 11 am.

All the six accused were produced before the court yesterday.

Shazneen Tasnim Rahman, 15, youngest daughter of Latifur Rahman, was raped and murdered at their Gulshan residence on April 23 last year. A murder case and another case under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act, 1995, was filed with Gulshan

thana regarding the brutal killing. During yesterday's proceedings, the defence lawyer quizzed a number of reports from national dailies regarding the killing of Shazneen asked the complainant if he had read those.

In reply to a question from the defence lawyer, Latifur Rahman said that he had never gone to the lower court in an air conditioned pajero (Dhaka Metro Gha-11-1543) taking with him the investigating officer of the case, other police officials and the accused in the case.

The judge AK Roy, fixed March 7 for further cross examination of Latifur Rahman.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

Published by the Editor from City Publishing House Ltd., 90 Kakrail, 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 address: http://www.dailystarnews.com and Email address: dstar@bangla.net