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PHILIPS

Death of student

From Page 1

The minibus driver, identified as Mosharaf Hossain, escaped but police seized the vehicle.

The students also brought out a procession on the campus and gheraoed the Vice Chancellor's office demanding a ban on playing of all types of heavy vehicles on roads running through the campus.

Dhaka university students, under the banner of 'Sadharan Chhatra-Chhatry Parishad (SCCP)', had also staged demonstrations on Saturday and submitted a memorandum to the VC on the same demand.

Talking to The Daily Star last night DU VC Prof. A K Azad Chowdhury expressed deep sorrow over the incident and said that speed breakers and road dividers would be raised and more traffic posts set up on the roads running through the campus to stop recurrence of such incidents.

He also said, the university authorities will hold a meeting today with the Police Commissioner, DC (Traffic), DC (South) and other high officials in this regard.

The bodies were handed over to the family members after autopsy at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital, hospital sources said.

AB Bank

From Page 1

Khan and three directors — Golam Halim, Jashimuddin Khan and Ashgar Karim — were served with notices under Section 17 of the Bank Company Act as requested by the IFIC Bank.

When asked, Managing Director Abdur Rahim Chowdhury said neither Khan nor any of the above mentioned directors had any irregular or defaulted loan with the bank.

He also said the bank's vice chairman, Ramzul Siraj, also does not have defaulted loans.

Morshed Khan, Chairman of Pacific Group, told The Daily Star that he does not have any overdue loan with AB Bank. He said IFIC has suddenly recalled all the loans given to him which were repayable by the year 2002. IFIC also did not mention any overdue amount in its letter to him.

Tajuddin

From Page 1

The then prime minister, the undisputed leader of Bangladesh and the supreme commander of the War, failed to make Tajuddin support his plans about the one-party system.

On at least two occasions in October 1974, the Bangabandhu tried, unsuccessfully, to convince Tajuddin whose arguments lay in his belief that the one-party state and the centralisation of powers in one hand were going to do more harm than good to the nation.

But the nation and the national interests were being defined in wholly different terms. The two failed to come to terms with each other on how to define the national interests.

Now that the man, who carried forward the tasks of the founding father in his absence during those nine months in 1971, is being remembered with respect, we see reasons to raise at least one question.

This nation had long neglected the founding father, but came back to recover from the nonchalance. Why not the other person, who in the absence of the Bangabandhu held everything together? Tajuddin, who led the Liberation War as the head of a helpless government in exile to Victory, should now be given his due.

Tajuddin definitely deserves not to be rated as just another among many other actors in national history. He is — surely and undisputedly — one who towers all others save only Bangabandhu.

A mere Independence Day medal — remember, winners include anti-heroes in those years of distortions — for Tajuddin may have glorified the award itself but not the man who made Bangladesh possible in the absence of the supreme leader.



A partial view of the groin of Rajshahi Town Protection Embankment, damaged by the floods last year. — Star photo

Flood protection dam unrepaired

Rajshahi city to remain under threat for another year

By Nurul Kabir, back from Rajshahi

The flood-damaged Rajshahi Town Protection Dam, presently the prime concern of Rajshahi city dwellers, is not going to be repaired completely before the next rainy season.

However, repair work of the "most vulnerable parts" of the more than half century old Dam, which was affected severely by last year's flood, is expected to be done before the rainy season.

During the last flood, river Padma was flowing 2 meters above the level of Rajshahi city, protected by the dam. In case of a flood of the last year's scale, the city will go under two metre

water, if the dam is not repaired. The city has a population of about seven lakh.

Superintendent Engineer of Rajshahi WDB (Water Development Board) Anwar Hossain says the repair work will begin on May 7 and the "most vulnerable" parts of the 17 km dam will be partially repaired by June 30 this year. "By March 2000, the dam will be repaired completely."

The WDB has already floated 33 tenders and final decisions will be taken on the tenders on April 7, 1999, he said.

The WDB recently managed to get a Tk 28 crore project ap-

proved to repair certain parts of the embankment. The government earlier this month allocated Tk 10 crore for the project, which will be disbursed by June this year. Of the amount, Tk 8 crore will come from the World Bank as project aid and Tk 2 crore from the government.

According to the Superintendent Engineer, the devastating flood severely damaged both the "heads" of the T-shaped groin and its I-shaped shank and partially damaged seven kilometres of the 17 km dam.

Due to emergence of more

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BMS identifies 'real' FFs, rivals call it 'conspiracy'

By Staff Correspondent

The Central Command Council of Bangladesh Mukti-joddha Sangsad (BMS) has identified a total of 1,17,160 'real' freedom fighters across the country in the first phase of its scrutinising programme.

This was disclosed yesterday at a press conference at the National Press Club. The BMS also said the programme taken up last year is likely to be completed before March 26. It aims to cross out 'rajakars' and fake freedom fighters from the existing list.

"In the existing list, there are more than 30 lakh freedom fighters. But of them, nearly 2,76,216 would be real freedom fighters and the rest are forged certificate holders," chairman of the council Abdul Ahad Chowdhury said.

He said those who have failed to include themselves in the list can appeal within April 26. The Appeal Board will consider their cases. The board has so far received 22,000 appeals, he added.

The chairman also said that about 100 'rajakars' were identified during programme and that the list of 'rajakars' would also be prepared.

Dr. ABM Zafarullah, MA Rashed, Shah Alam Talukder, Md Anwar Hossain and Ismat Qadir Gama were among others who were present at the press briefing.

Meanwhile, Kendriya Samannaya Parishad (KSP), a rival faction of the BMS, yesterday rejected the programme and said it was a conspiracy to divide the freedom fighters.

At a press conference at the same venue just after the conference of the Central Command Council (CCC), it strongly demanded that the CCC's initiative to prepare the list of freedom fighters be stopped. "There is no need to prepare the list of

freedom fighters after 27 years of independence. What is necessary is to prepare a list of the killers and collaborators in 1971," said Sadek Ahmed Khan, Chief Coordinator of CCC.

To unite the freedom fighters, the KSP placed a nine-point demand to the government. They also announced that a rally would be held on April 10 at the Central Shaheed Minar, to press home their demand.

The demands included establishment of a ministry of freedom fighters to look after rehabilitation of families of the martyred, setting up of a Special tribunal to try Golam Azam and other war criminals, execution of the verdict of the People's Court (Gana Adalat), cancellation of political rights of all parties and persons opposed to the Liberation War and election of the Central Command Council through the elected councillors from the ward, village, union, thana and district units of BMS.

Sadek Ahmad Khan read out the written statement while Istiaq Aziz Ulfat, Nasir Uddin Ahmed, Syed Rafiqul Islam (Bir Pratik) and Amir Hossain Molla was present, among others, at the conference.

Dacoity

By Staff Correspondent

Dacoits looted valuables and cash worth about Tk Four lakh from a residence at Noorjahan Road under Mohammadpur thana in the city yesterday morning.

The incident took place at the residence of AT Mostafa Kamal Hinda of house number T2 at Noorjahan road.

According to police, a gang of dacoits numbering seven to eight entered the house at about 10:30 am and tied up the inmates at gun point.

Khaleda tells Manikganj rally
AL terrorists using arms smuggled from India

By Staff Correspondent

Manikganj, Mar 24: Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia today alleged that the ruling party terrorists are using illegal arms being smuggled into the country from India.

"Illegal arms are coming from India on a large scale in sugar bags loaded in trucks carrying cattle. These arms are also directly going into hands of the Awami League terrorists and they are using those in terrorist activities across the country," she said.

Addressing a huge public meeting at Debendra Government College ground here in the afternoon, the BNP chairperson also accused the ruling party of maintaining contact with the so-called Swadhin Bangabandhu terrorists, engaged in major terrorist activities in Bangladesh.

The former prime minister said that after the Chittagong Hill Tracts, conspirators sitting in Delhi are now trying to isolate from Bangladesh 10 south and western districts including the home district of the prime minister.

Khaleda said two leaders of the so-called Bangabandhu — Chittaranjan Sutar and Kalipada Baidya — have links with the ruling party men. Sutar was once an Awami League leader, she pointed out.

She demanded of the Indian government to immediately hand over the 'Bangabandhu criminals' to Dhaka because they are conspiring against the independence and sovereignty of Bangladesh. They were involved in major incidents, including the killings in Kushtia and Jessore.

She asked the government to

start diplomatic efforts to bring the Bangabandhu terrorists and arrange trial as per the laws of the country.

Khaleda expressed her deep concern at government silence over the most 'sensitive' issue after the Bangabandhu men threatened to declare independence on March 26 and form government-in-exile in New Delhi.

She said though the threat

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Mujibur's death
Police yet to receive autopsy report

By Staff Correspondent

Police were yet to receive the autopsy report of the body of Mujibur till yesterday though the Forensic Department of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) sent the report by post on Friday last.

Mujibur was allegedly drowned by police in a Bashabo jheel (lake) on March 14 and his body was found floating in the jheel on March 16.

Meanwhile, the three-member inquiry committee to probe the death of Mujibur Rahman, formed by the government on Sunday, is likely to submit its report today.

The committee, headed by Joint Secretary (Political) of the Home Ministry Mohammad Janibul Huq, recorded statements of the victim's relatives, neighbours, witnesses of the incident and policemen of Shabujbagh thana during last three days.

Regional seminar sets agenda for civil society

By Staff Correspondent

Nepal and representatives of the civil society from India and Sri Lanka and those of some international agencies.

Following are the key recommendations made in different areas.

Parliament

- Parliament should raise issues and put them on the national agenda.
- Debate and discuss corruption issues more frequently in the parliament.
- Draft a code of conduct for the MPs.
- The Speaker should be impartial in conducting the business of parliament, ensuring fair and balanced access to the media.
- Separate the parliamentary secretariat from the public service and ensure its political neutrality.
- Provide intra-regional training for MPs.
- Provide orientation to new MPs.
- Make the parliamentary committee meetings gradually open and transparent.
- Insist that all legislation be sent to committees prior to debate in the House.
- Televising parliamentary proceedings for better understanding of the people about the role of MPs.
- Secure separate declaration from MPs on their assets and criminal records and cancel their election for falsified statement.
- Strengthen local government bodies to free MPs from many local responsibilities.
- Involve parliamentarians in a more comprehensive way in the budget planning process.
- Establish consultative committees comprising MPs and headed by concerned ministers to allow continuous input to the budget.
- Discourage excessive delega-

tion of authority and use of ordinances relating to tax bills.

- Train up MPs on financial matters.
- Demystify the budget by gradually reducing secrecy and increasing transparency.
- Simplify budget documents in terms of language for greater access and understanding.

Civil Society
• Civil society organisations should involve themselves in the work of the parliamentary committees and the business of the parliament

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Nasim

From Page 1

dent by police, Nasim told reporters after David met him at his office.

The minister informed the British diplomat that IGP denied receiving any such letter.

Nasim said after hearing such news, he ordered an investigation. But it could not proceed as the British High Commission failed to provide the name of the victim, place of occurrence and the time.

He said the British High Commissioner made a courtesy call on him. During their discussion, the envoy told him that the High Commission did not supply anything to BBC Dhaka office, anything about the news that was broadcast.

"I still believe that the news was broadcast by BBC purposefully with a motive," the home minister said and questioned veracity of the report when no official complaint was lodged.

Mentioning Britain as a good friend of Bangladesh since long, Nasim said, he had told the British High Commissioner that no isolated incident or matter would influence the existing friendly relations of the two countries.

Police, musclemen stop cattle traders on roads to collect tolls

By Staff Correspondent

With the Eid-ul-Azha round the corner, cattle traders across the country prepare to take their cattle to markets in the capital. But police and local musclemen have started collecting tolls putting up road barriers on their way, alleged some traders who arrived in the city from northern parts of the country yesterday.

A trader who came to Gatabali from Bogra with five bulls said he had to give tolls at every thana boundary on his way. His lorry was stopped by musclemen at three places and he was forced to pay tolls between Tk 20-50 per head. He also said that he had been rearing the bulls for two years to sell them at a city market.

Cattle traders at Gatabali said thousands of traders from the northern districts were on their way to the capital. They alleged truck and boat fares have soared by 20 per cent. Many farmers who took up the cow fattening programmes had to buy cattle feed like hey and fodder at 'unusually' higher prices. The recent flood had destroyed the cattle feeds, they said.

Chief Estate Officer of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) Ehsanul Fatah said this year 17

cattle markets would be set up in the city. The Corporation is expected to earn around Tk three lakh less than last year's earnings. In addition to the market fees, the DCC has also realised Tk 1.5 lakh as conservancy charges in the 17 cattle markets.

Meanwhile, DCC has withdrawn Eid cattle markets from Dhanmondi Club and Brothers Union fields and Dayaganj this year. Fatah said the withdrawal came following complaints from local residents.

Fatah also said as all the zonal officers of the DCC are now empowered with magistracy, they will lead patrol teams to maintain law and order at the Eid markets.

According to DCC list provided by the Chief Estate Officer, the markets will be set up at Nayabazar, Zigatola-Haziribagh, Khilkhet-Tanpara, Azimpur Road, Hosni Dalan Road, Dhupkhola Road, Rayer Bazar, Merul Kacha Bazar, Kawanbazar, Golap Bagh, Dholai Khal, Mughdapa, Playing Field, Postagola, Lalbagh Shoshan Ghat, Uttara (Azampur), Bangladesh Bank Colony and Rahmatganj Playing Field.

Newspapers

From Page 1

A BSP press release said the decision was taken to avoid 'unexpected disputes' arising out of earlier announcement on reducing newspaper holidays to six days a year.

Meanwhile, leaders of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) yesterday said that the journalists and other employees and workers of the newspaper industry would not work on any public holiday including Independence Day.

Rejecting the BSP decision they further said any move to force the journalists to work on public holidays would be resisted at any cost.

The leaders called upon all journalists to make March 26 protest rally at the Jatiya Press Club a success.

Power crisis

From Page 1

to low water level and non-functioning of the cooling tower.

The three units of 450 MW Ashuganj power station are generating only 165 MW due to mechanical trouble.

Amid such a gloomy situation of power generation, only two barge-mounted plants of 110 MW each are likely to start power generation to supply to the national grid.

The lowest power generation was recorded at 1477 MW Tuesday against the demand of 2450 MW. The highest generation on the day was 1977 MW at 5 pm and 1569 MW during peak hour.

Air strike

From Page 1

World War II. In Belgrade, there were long lines for gas, and newspapers and television instructed citizens on what to do in the event of bombings.

Media published instructions from the Belgrade City Council warning citizens to prepare food and necessities to take to bomb shelters in the event of an air raid and how to signal rescuers from the debris of bombed buildings.

Amid a sense that military action was inevitable, remaining foreign embassy personnel evacuated the Yugoslav capital today. Children attended school and workers went to their offices as usual but an armored personnel carrier was seen driving down a central street.

Pristina, the capital of Kosovo, was quiet today until the air sirens, which turned out to be a test, sounded briefly. Several hundred frightened Albanians left Pristina on Tuesday, tugging children and a few hastily packed possessions.

Notice

It is hereby notified for general information that on the occasion of the ensuing Eid-ul-Azha, special arrangement for ferry movement has been made at Tulsikhali & Moricha Ferryghats on Linjira-Keraniganj-Dohar road and Mukartpur Ferryghat on Fatulla Munshiganj-Louhajang road for the convenience of the general passengers. The ferry movement will remain suspended only for 2 (two) hours on Eid day for Eid prayers. The passengers are specially requested to get down from vehicles while loading on ferry.

Besides, general passengers are specially requested to cooperate with the staff on ferry and maintain discipline while getting on & down the ferry.

Fakhrul Alam Talukder

Executive Engineer (R&H)

Munshiganj Road Division

DFP-5366-16/3

G-496

Munshiganj

Watch history repeat itself tomorrow...

Editor: Mahfuz Anam