

Posting, promotion guideline for APBn formulated

A high-level meeting in the city yesterday formulated a guideline for posting and promotion of the Armed Police Battalion (APBn), reports UNB.

The new guideline will facilitate transfer of APBn rank and file to other branches of police — constable after 14 years service, Nayeek after 16 years, Havildar after 18 years and Subedar after 24 years.

Home Minister Mohammad Nasim was present at the meeting at the police headquarters, IGP AYBI Siddiqui and other senior police officials, including DIG of APBn Moinuddin Chisti, attended the meeting.

During the last 10-12 years, promotion of some Havildars and Subedars were held up due to administrative complexity. The meeting decided to promote them according to seniority.

Promotion and inter-posting facilities are a long-cherished aspiration of APBn members. Last week, they vented their resentment over the matter.

British animation film week begins July 24

The British Council, with co-sponsorship from DHL, will organise the British animation film week in Dhaka and Chittagong, reports UNB.

In Dhaka, the week will be held on July 24-28 at the British Council auditorium.

In Chittagong, the screening of the films will be held from July 31 to August 4 at the Zia Memorial Hall, said a press release Wednesday.

Admission cards are available free of charge at the reception of the British Council Library at 5 Fuller Road, Dhaka, and at the Engineers' Institution Building, SS Khaled Road, Chittagong.



Dr Anwarul Islam conferred FRC (Path) degree

Dr Anwarul Islam, a Bangladeshi physician, has been conferred FRC (Path) degree recently by the Royal College of Surgeons, England for his invaluable contribution to the field of medical science, says a press release.

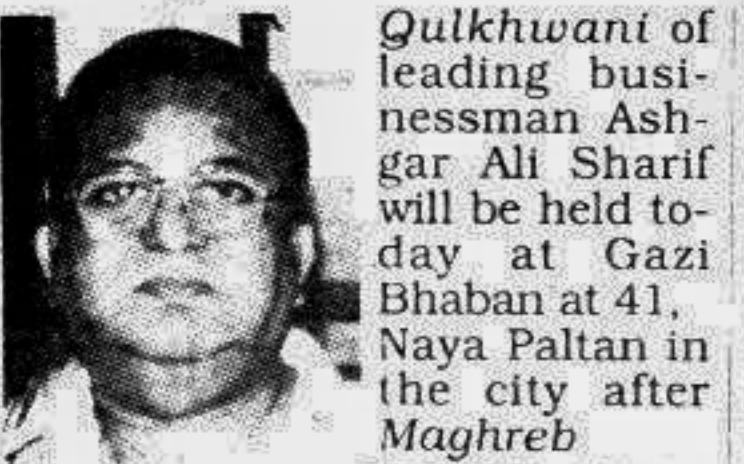
He invented Bone Marrow Biopsy and Aspiration Needle which is being used all over the world.

Earlier, he was conferred PhD degree by the Hammer Smith Hospital, England. In Bangladesh, he obtained MBBS degree from Dhaka Medical College in 1970.

He is now serving as a physician in Roswell Park Memorial Hospital in USA.

Dr Anwarul Islam is the youngest son of noted scouts organiser Bhuiyan Bhai.

Qulkhwani



Qulkhwani of leading businessman Ashgar Ali Sharif will be held today at Gazi Bhaban at 41, Naya Paltan in the city after Maghreb prayers, says a press release.

Late Ashgar, husband of noted beautician Zerina Ashgar died in an Indian hospital on Sunday last. He left behind his wife, two sons, a daughter and host of relatives to mourn his death.



Acid-burn victims returned home yesterday from Spain after having treatment there.

— Star photo

Rangpur Tech University foundation stone laying July 24

RANGPUR, July 21: The foundation stone of the Science and Technology University in Rangpur town will be laid on July 24, reports BSS.

According to the district administration, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to lay the foundation stone of the university at a function to be held at the site of the proposed university. Earlier Sheikh Hasina committed to establish a university in this district town.

The Carmichael College authority, meanwhile, handed over the deeds of 75 acres of barren land owned by the college to Meshbah Uddin Ahmed, project director of the Science and Technology University last month.

Analogue phones in Sunamganj goes digital

All analogue telephones of Sunamganj district will be converted into digital lines from tomorrow, reports UNB.

Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board said the work to convert the telephone exchange and its expansion are going on in full swing to provide subscribers of the district with modern telecommunication service.

After conversion, all three-digit telephone numbers will be changed into five digits and the subscribers will have to dial "55" before their existing analogue number.



Acting British High Commissioner to Bangladesh, Stephen Turner (centre), and his wife, Maureen Turner, with this year's selected Chevening scholars at a reception in the city on Tuesday. Turner hosted the reception in honour of Chevening scholars who have completed their courses in the United Kingdom and returned to Bangladesh and those who will begin their UK studies in September.

Congenial atmosphere at CHT for development: Kibria

RANGAMATI, July 21: Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria said here today that a very congenial atmosphere has been prevailing in the Chittagong Hill Tracts region for implementing development programmes for socio-economic upliftment of the people there, reports BSS.

The minister pointed out that it was the sincere efforts of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and cooperation of the Chittagong Hill Tracts people which helped create the suitable situation for execution of development programmes in the region.

Addressing chairman and the members of CHT Regional Council at the council auditorium here, the minister said that CHT had remained neglected for many years in the past and as such desired development could not be achieved. The present government, he said, is eager to develop the region so that the people can enjoy the benefits.

The meeting was also addressed by CHT Affairs Minister Kalpa Ranjan Chakma, chairman of CHT regional council Jyotindra Bodhipriyo Chakma, chairman of CHT Development Board Bir Bahadur MP, regional council member Gautam Kumar Chakma, Khagrachhari Hill District Council chairman Jyotindra Lal Tripura and member K S Mom, chairman of CHT refugee affairs taskforce Dipankar Talukdar MP, economic affairs division secretary Dr Mashiur Rahman, acting secretary of CHT Affairs Ministry Shakhawat Hussain and heads of different departments were present on the occasion.

Leaders of CHT regional council said that the CHT peace accord had ensured peace and created opportunities for implementing development programmes in the area. They called for rehabilitation of tribal refugees, settlement of land disputes, raising of forests and coordination for development activities.

Six injured in Lalmonirhat

LALMONIRHAT, July 21: A fierce clash between two rival groups in the town today left six people injured, two of them critically, reports UNB.

Seriously injured Alam, 22, and Shahjahan, 24, were rushed to Rangpur Medical College Hospital. Police arrested one Masud in this connection.

The clash was the sequel to Tuesday night's attack on the office of Delta Life Insurance (DLI) at Saptan by some unruly youths.

According to police and witnesses, some youths of Kalibari in the town ransacked DLI office at Saptan for refusing to lend them a motorcycle.

Youths of Kalibari and Saptan, armed with lethal weapons, clashed throughout the day today. One group set ablaze the house of a DLI officer and motorcycle of the company. Riot police were deployed to avert further clashes. Shops and business establishments in the town remained closed since morning.

Bank CEOs

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sider lending and weak management.

According to his report, 33 per cent of loans given by the private commercial banks (PCBs) had turned classified by the end of 1998. For some banks, the figure was as high as 46 per cent.

On the other hand, the PCBs had a total Tk 1028 crore shortfall in loan provisioning, which showed how vulnerable these banks are in case of emergency, he said.

The governor observed that insider lending was a major problem for the PCBs. The central bank inspection teams have already unearthed a number of such cases in which the directors took loans violating laws, he said.

Most of these loans were taken without adequate collateral and by flouting banking rules, he said. Such practices have weakened the positions of the banks and resulted in loan classification and capital inadequacy, he said.

Of the nine PCBs which were given permission during the 1980s, six became 'trouble banks' as rated by CAMEL rating, the governor said. This rating is based on capital adequacy, management, equity and liquidity situation of a bank.

Although the banks have improved their situation to some extent, most are still suffering from weaknesses, he said.

The governor suggested that at least two more money loan courts be set up in Dhaka for quick disposal of loan default cases.

BSS adds: The Standing Committee suggested division of function between board of directors and chief executive of the private banks.

The committee laid stress on the reforms of banking laws and their proper application.

Presided over by the chairman of the committee Prof Mohammad Ali Ashraf the committee called for expanding the banking services in the light of the free market economy.

The committee stressed the need for regular auditing of the banks to ensure transparency and accountability.

29 chargesheeted

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FM Firoz Shafi, General Secretary of the People's Jute Mills Workers' Union and uncle of the deceased, was co-prosecutor of the case recorded with Chittagong thana. Shafi was also killed early this year during an intra-party clash at Khalishpur industrial area.

The chargesheeted accused include central vice president of Jatiya Samik League Sarder Motahar Uddin, former Joint Secretary of city Awami League Khan Ibne Zaman, General Secretary of Ward No-13 unit of AL Moshir Ali Moni, convenor of Khalishpur thana unit of Chhahra League Saifur Rahman Saeed, Juba League leaders Azizur Rahman Akram and Habibur Rahman and Chhahra League leaders Kazi Talat Hosain and his younger brother Kazi Hasanat Comet. The rest of the accused are 'armed cadres' of the party.

The IO of the case SI Nuruz-zaman submitted the chargesheet.

Floods

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people were homeless due to erosion of Ghagot river, the agency added.

Erosion by southern rivers in Pirojpur also devoured ten villages, leaving hundreds homeless. The Kaliganga, Kocha, Balleswar, Sandhya and Madhumati rivers during the past two weeks eroding a two km wide area, washing away homes, businesses and threatened a fertiliser and a food godown and BIWTA signal hut at Kaukhali river port, UNB said.

Obituary

RANGAMATI, July 21: Councillor of Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council Mohammad Shafi died of cardiac arrest yesterday at a clinic in Chittagong. He was 58, reports BSS.

One of the dominating member of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Liaison Committee, which served as a bridge between Government and the Parbaty Chhattagram Jana Sanghati Samity for settlement of insurgency crisis, Shafi left behind his wife, five sons, one daughter and a host of friends and relatives to mourn his death.

Different organisations and individuals expressed their heart-felt condolence on the sudden demise of Shafi.

Mohammad Ali, a renowned social worker and educationist, died of old age ailment, at his village residence at Narinda in Monohordi thana of Narsingdi district recently. He was 85, reports UNB.

A veteran politician Mohammad Ali, who passed entrance from Calcutta University in 1934, was elected president of the local union parishad for four times.

Meanwhile, Monohordi Samity, Dhaka has condoled the death of Mohammad Ali and prayed for salvation of the departed soul.

Chehlum

The Chehlum of Dr A H Sahadatullah, an eminent economist of the country and former member of the Planning Commission will be held tomorrow after Asr prayers at his residence House 5A, Road 13, Sector 3, Uttara, Dhaka, says a press release.

All friends, relatives and well-wishers of Dr Shahadatullah have been requested to attend the Chehlum and pray for the departed soul.

July 25 road march

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Bhaluka, Trishal, Mymensingh thana headquarters and Muktagachha under Mymensingh district; Madhupur and Dhanbari under Tangail district; and Shariatshahi and Jamalpur sadar.

On the second day, she will address public gatherings at Tarakanda Bazar, Fulpur sadar in Sherpur, Halaughat, Nakla thana sadar, Sherpur sadar, Nalitabari thana sadar, Jhenaigati thana sadar and Sherpur district headquarters.

While on the concluding day, the BNP chief will address rallies at Shamganj Bazar under Kishoreganj, Netrokona district headquarters, Madanpur Bazar, Kalitabazar under Gouripur thana sadar, Chhowrashta, Kishoreganj district headquarters, Katiadi thana sadar and Pirojpur under Bajitpur thana in Kishoreganj district.

A BNP press release said the party chairperson will not address any other rally except the scheduled ones and all concerned have been instructed not to arrange any programme outside those listed.

Meanwhile, the Road March Central Co-ordination Committee and different sub-committees have been working to make the march a complete success.

Central and local leaders and MPs of the seven districts concerned are now visiting their respective district areas and taking preparation for the march, the release added.

Meanwhile, the BNP Standing Committee members, vice chairmen, advisors, MPs, National Executive Committee office-bearers and members, leaders of front organisations and other participants have been asked to collect serial numbers of their vehicles between July 22 and 24 from the BNP central office. The office will remain open from 10 am to 9 pm on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

Even President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed made a request to the visiting minister to hasten the process of repatriation when Win Aung made a courtesy call on him, sources said. In reply, the sources said, the Myanmar minister had reportedly told the Bangladesh President that the Rohingya would be taken back by the end of this year. "One day I will come myself and take them all."

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Kennedy

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Bessette Kennedy or Lauren Bessette.

Kennedy family aides and friends were planning a memorial service for all three victims, perhaps on Saturday, said government sources.

Kennedy Jr, 38, was relatively inexperienced in flying the Piper he bought in April. May have lost control of the aircraft in bad visibility.

Investigators with the National Transportation Safety Board have said radar information indicated the plane may have fallen faster than 1,500 metres (5,000 feet) per minute, more than 10 times faster than a normal descent.

Kennedy Jr flew his plane without a co-pilot Friday because a day earlier he had a cast removed from his ankle and was eager to pilot solo again. The Washington Post said today.

The daily said an exhilarated Kennedy told acquaintances he would take the controls of his single-engine, six-seater Piper Saratoga for the first time since he had broken his ankle in a paraglider crash three weeks earlier.

With only 100 hours of flying experience and not licenced for instrument landings, Kennedy took off at nightfall from a New Jersey airport Friday.

Kyle Bailey, a more experienced pilot at the same airport said he refused to fly the same route that afternoon fearing that darkness and haze while flying over the open sea might be dangerous.

Kennedy flew by visual rules until he was engulfed by haze surrounding Martha's Vineyard, where he was to land to drop off his sister-in-law on his way to the Kennedy compound at Hyannis Port, also in Massachusetts.

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