

What's on today . . .

Discussion meet: A discussion meeting and a colourful rally will be held to mark the 10th founding anniversary of Bangladesh Chhatra-Jubo Oikya Parishad. Syed Hassan Imam, chairman, Muktiyuddher Chetona Bastobayon and Jatiyo Samonoy Committee, will be present as chief guest. Venue: TSC Road Island, Dhaka University campus. Time: 10 am.

Seminar: Neuro-Science Institute, a project of Prof B Chowdhury Welfare Trust, has organised a seminar on 'Gamma Knife Surgery'. Venue: Winter Garden, Sheraton Hotel. Time: 11:30 am.

Workshop: Power and Participation Research Centre has organised a day-long workshop on 'Local Government in the New Millennium'. Venue: PPRC office premises, House No: 19 (Ground Floor), Road No: 13A, Dhanmondi. Time: 9 am.

Clinical meet: Z H Sikder Cardiac Care and Research Centre has organised a clinical meeting on 'newer antipilelet drugs in heart disease'. Keynote speaker: Dr Hassan Sharif. Venue: Conference Hall of the centre, Monica estate, West Dhanmondi. Time: 9 am.

Inaugural ceremony: The inaugural ceremony of the operation of the TechnoVista Limited, an IT business firm and a business partner of Pentalour, the leading software exporter of India, will be held. Chief guest: Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria. Venue: Winter Garden, Dhaka Sheraton Hotel. Time: 7 pm.

Musical soiree: Lily Islam and Golam Sanowar Chowdhury will render Tagore songs on the rainy season. Venue: Main auditorium of the National Museum, Shahbagh. Time: 6:45 pm.

Discussion: On the occasion of Fatehaye Eyasdaham, a discussion meeting on Boro Pir Gousul Azam Abu Muhammad Mohiuddin Syed Abdul Kadir Zilani Rahamatulla Alahi and Kadiria Tarika, organised by Anzuman-E-Toazia, will be held today after Magrib prayers. Venue: Khankaya Toazia, 27, Siddheshwari Road.

Rotary News

Weekly meeting

The 744th regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka Central will be held today at 1:30 pm at "Family Lounge", Dhaka Club.

Rotarians are cordially invited to visit for make-up and fellowship", says a press release.

Projanmo '71 protests arrest of its member

The Projanmo '71, an organisation of the children of the martyrs of Liberation War, yesterday strongly protested the arrest of its central member and convenor of Rangpur unit Dev Das Ghosh Debu, reports BSS.

In a statement Shahin Rezanur and Farjana Chowdhury Nipa, president and general secretary respectively of Projanmo '71, expressed their dismay that Debu was being arrested and tortured repeatedly in a false case filed by anti-liberation elements.

They alleged that anti-liberation elements in the administration were out to destroy the pro-liberation forces.



Members of the Kabotakkah Theatre brought out a colourful procession in the city yesterday marking its 6th founding anniversary. — Star photo

Call for holding trial of killers of Bangabandhu, 4 leaders before polls

By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a discussion on Tajuddin Ahmed yesterday demanded that the trial of the killers of four national leaders and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman should be completed before the next general election.

"The common people are sorry to find that the process of trial of the killers of Bangabandhu and the four national leaders are going on at snail's pace. There should be efforts to expedite the trial of the cases and complete those immediately," said Prof Khan Sarwar Murshid who presided over the discussion on the occasion of 74th birth anniversary of Tajuddin Ahmed and publication of his diary.

"Trial of the killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib is underway but it should be completed as soon as possible and the killers should be punished immediately," Prof Murshid said.

Organised by Tajuddin Smriti Sangsad (Tajuddin Memorial Sangsad) at the Engineers' Institution, the discussion was addressed by Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui, Prof Mustafa

Nurul Islam, Prof Anisuzzaman and Dr Atiur Rahman. Justice Habibur Rahman, former Chief Justice and Adviser of Caretaker Government in 1996, was the chief guest.

Describing Tajuddin as a man of strict principles, Prof Khan Sarwar Murshid said it was the time to underscore the relevance of Tajuddin Ahmed, when crises have deepened in our political arena because of the lack principle and intellect. The first prime minister of the country and a key architect of the country's liberation, Tajuddin Ahmed is an example of self-sacrifice and honesty.

Dr Atiur Rahman described the political and personal life of Tajuddin Ahmed and underscored the need for proper realisation of his contribution to the nation.

Prof Mustafa Nurul Islam said the nation will be rootless as water-hyacinth if we are not conscious about the contribution of Tajuddin Ahmed and our debt to him.

Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui said Tajuddin Ahmed's diary reminds us of the profound relationship between politics and intellect.

Justice Habibur Rahman said Tajuddin's diary was a vivid and authentic picture of politics and society of his time.

The first part of Tajuddin Ahmed's diary containing a 9-month day-to-day description of 1947-48, was published by his daughter Simin Hossain Rimi on behalf of Protibhas.

Tajuddin Ahmed was born at village Dardaria in Kapashia thana on July 23, 1925. He was elected MLA as a Jukto Front (United Front) candidate in 1954. One of the founders of the then East-Pakistan Chhatra League, Tajuddin Ahmed was a key-member of the All Party Action Council on State Language. He was also among the main leaders who founded the Awami League in 1949.

Tajuddin Ahmed was elected Prime Minister of the Mujibnagar government in 1971 and led the country in absence of Bangabandhu during the Liberation War. He worked as Finance Minister of the liberated country till October 26, 1974.

Tajuddin Ahmed, was brutally killed by the agents of illegal power usurper on November 3, 75 inside the Dhaka Central Jail.

Savar-JU cable repair work moving at snail's pace

By Shamim Ashraf

It seems that nine months are not enough for repairing telephone-cables between Savar and Jahangirnagar University (JU).

During the last nine months, 12 thousand residents of the campus including students, teachers, officers and employees are often getting disconnected with the rest of the country as the university's telecommunication system frequently collapses as its once damaged cables never repaired later.

While talking to The Daily Star, Abu Bakar Siddique, a Deputy Registrar (Administration) of the university said that telephone cables between Savar and the university have been seriously affected due to the construction work of a new exchange at Bishmal near the university. "While setting new cables for the exchange, the cables of the university have been damaged in such a way that frequent disruptions occur," he said.

It has been a regular phenomenon that all the seven

PABX lines remain snapped for a couple of days. "During the earlier months, we got at best two or three lines operative at the PABX board," said an operator. "But now the situation has further deteriorated, the total system has collapsed," he said. "We get only one line operative with a regular disruption," he added.

But, students alleged that whenever they contacted the exchange from their dormitories to make a call outside the campus, operator answered negative saying all lines were out of order.

When asked about this allegation, an operator said, "When we have only one line operative at the PABX board, we cannot, obviously, provide all the students with that single line at a time." "We cannot throw lines to students' dormitories because, not only students, we have also to provide teachers and officers with the same line at the same time," he added.

The members of the campus have been facing serious difficulties due to frequent disrup-

tions at the university's exchange for about nine months. In case of emergency, none can make contact with anybody outside the campus as there is no phone-fax centre on the campus or nearby areas. They have to go to Savar to make a call to someone.

"We have made complaints with T&T, Savar sub-unit many times and asked them to repair the lines, but they did not pay heed at all," Abu Bakar Siddique said. "Though, while installing cables for the new exchange, T&T promised us that they would not damage university's older cables, but they could not keep their words," he alleged.

"We are getting connection from the newly established exchange at Bishmal instead of Savar exchange," Abu Bakar said. "The situation will not improve until connections are restored with the new exchange," he said.

Moreover, the lone card-phone of the university remains inoperative for long, it is learnt.

Dhaka-Calcutta bus service generates enthusiasm

Dhaka-Calcutta direct bus service already generated great enthusiasm among the middle class people, but some problems still persist, reports BSS.

From the experience of the service which began to roll on a commercial basis from July 9, it has been found that minimum time taken by the buses are twelve hours to reach one city from the other. The duration of the journey even went up to 15 hours causing much dissatisfaction and inconvenience to the passengers.

All the seats of the two Bangladesh buses under the service have already been reserved till August 2 as growing enthusiasms have gripped the travellers of the route for having a smooth return journey to the next door neighbouring country.

"If you want a ticket before August 2, we are sorry to say that our answer would be negative," a sales officer of Shamoly Paribahan, the first authorised private bus operators for the direct service said at the ticket counter.

Since the beginning of direct commercial bus service between the two cities early this month, over 800 passengers belonging to both Bangladesh and India used the new facility from here to travel to Calcutta until last Thursday. Most of the passengers have already returned while some stayed back. Two air-conditioned luxury buses, one belonging to state-owned Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) and the other Shamoly Paribahan, ferried the passengers on the 400 KM route, officials of the Inter-

national Bus Terminal at Kamapur said.

In the last 14 days, the service operated for 12 days as because of weekly holiday on Sundays, BRTC and Shamoly each had 12 trips equally divided into two directions.

Two other buses of the West Bengal Surface Transportation Corporation (WBSTC) named "Sauhara" were being operated on the route every day except Sundays.

Talking to BSS, Chairman of BRTC Azmol Chowdhury said the initial phase of the commercial bus service could be termed "good" as no obstacle or problem has arisen so far. He said "we are monitoring the operation of the service and after three months the whole things will be reviewed."

He said BRTC authorities are planning to introduce night coach service on the route on completion of three months time to avoid day-time hassles and also to shorten the duration of the journey. He said their counterpart WBSTC had on principle agreed with the proposal.

Some of the passengers of the direct bus service, on their arrival at the International Bus Terminal on July 20, said the overall journey was good except the hazards of customs and immigration checking at the border points of both sides. "I thought immigration and customs formalities would be done at the starting point. Had it been possible, then the journey would be really fine," Merdha D Costa, an Indian national (student) who came here for the first time, opined.

Bangladeshi national Darshy Bakul Baidya, 50, who travels Calcutta several times in a year said despite some flaws, the direct bus service is certainly much comfortable than the ordinary one in which one has to change vehicle after crossing the border.

"It's a great opportunity for the people of mid income group to travel to Calcutta by direct bus service as the air fair is too high for them," she observed.

However, some of the passengers expressed their dissatisfactions and annoyance over the much trumpeted direct bus service as it took more than 12 hours to reach Dhaka from Calcutta.

Some of the travellers who have already used direct bus service several times to visit Calcutta said if the immigration and customs formalities could be done at the starting points, the duration of journey could be reduced at least three hours.

A businessman Kazi Mizanur Rahman Khokon alleged that more than two hours were spent for the border formalities and some more time are also spoiled due to "unnecessary checking" conducted by officials at the Salt Lake Bus Terminal.

Ships disappear

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ance of MV Zoom Ocean, port sources said.

Sources in the shipping circles attributed the disappearance of many foreign vessels to delay in providing berthing facilities and poor port services as well as negligence of custom officials in checking ships.

But Harbour Master of Chittagong port Qamrul Islam, when contacted, denied that delay in providing berthing facilities made the ships flee. Dispute among the ships owners, chatters and consignees was the cause, he claimed.

He said it is not possible to check disappearance of vessels without developing better surveillance through introduction of a 'vessel traffic control system,' supported by combat boats.

Such a system, new in use in ports in developed countries, involves huge amount of money, he said.

Commissioner of Chittagong Customs House Abul Kasem said showcase notices are being issued on custom officers and shipping agents concerned

in connection with disappearance of two foreign cargo vessels.

Passports and other documents of the crew of those ships were seized by customs and the ships would be detained if found at Chittagong port next time, he said.

"We cannot go for any other measure as we have lost such logistics to check the disappearance of ships from here," he added.

A source in Bangladesh Navy said it is difficult to interfere in the movement of merchant ships due to some legal barriers. Navy personnel are not authorised to fire on such vessels to check disappearance without port clearance.

In spite of that the Navy keeps surveillance on any merchant ship whenever requested by the port or the customs authorities or asked by the government, the source said.

But Navy patrol ships can fire on ships engaged in smuggling or in case of attack by pirates on any ship at the outer anchorage, he said.

Ahmed Humayun dead

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has been kept at his Uttara residence. The *namaj-e-janaza* of the deceased will be held at Uttara Sector 3 mosque after Zohr prayer today. He will be laid to rest at the Uttara graveyard.

Syed Ahmed Humayun, popularly known as Ahmed Humayun, was born on May 18 1936 in a respectable Muslim family of village Shahbapur, Nabinagar under Brahmanbaria district.

Graduating in physics from Dhaka University, he started his journalistic career with the Dhaka Times in early 60s. He was also a lecturer of physics at Jagannath College and a guest teacher of Mass Communications and Journalism at Dhaka University. In late 60s, he finally became a full-time journalist.

He became editor of the now defunct Dainik Bangla and worked in that capacity till 1997. He was also director general of the Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB).

Humayun was president of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) for two terms and a member of the First Wage Board Commission for journalists.

He was awarded the prestigious Ekushey Padak in 1987 for journalism.

He wrote a number of books, including 'Single Column Double Column', 'Alef Mar Prithibi' and 'Biporit Srotay Rabinadrath'.

Meanwhile, BNP chairperson and opposition leader

DU convocation deferred

By DU Correspondent
Dhaka University authorities have deferred the first ever general convocation programme of the university after the independence.

The date for the convocation programme was earlier fixed on August 6, will now be held in late November. DU Vice-Chancellor Prof A K Azad Chowdhury told this yesterday.

The VC said that the date was changed due to time constraint. "We need more time to hold the convocation ceremony because it's a big event for the university and the country," he added.

The VC, however, told that the university authorities were trying hard to hold the convocation within the month of November. He said that the date of the function would also be finalised soon.

The VC said that the President and Chancellor of the DU Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed consented to the programme when he informed him the matter recently.

"The President had advised me to invite all the eminent personalities of the country, including the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleida Zia," the VC added.

President Shahabuddin will be the chief guest of the function while Nobel laureate Amartya Sen is expected to attend the ceremony as special guest of honour.

Private banks

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proved private bank.

Some of the new banks are also trying to hire efficient bankers from abroad.

Rouf Chowdhury, Chairman of the newly approved Bank of Asia, had told The Daily Star earlier that he was looking for a managing director having long experience in corporate banking abroad.

Former governor of Bangladesh Bank Lutfur Rahman Sarkar has joined Marcetile Bank as chief adviser. The bank was formally opened last month.

The Bank One Limited just launched had hired a former managing director of Dhaka Bank Ashfaq Uddin Chowdhury as its chief executive.

Farid Uddin Ahmed, who has joined the newly opened Standard Bank as managing director, was managing director of NCCBL earlier.

Officials of nationalised commercial banks (NCBs), however, are not showing much interest in joining the new banks for what they say 'lack of job security' in the private ventures. "Only a few lower level NCB officials are joining the new banks," a senior official said.

The private banks in the offing include Premier Bank Limited, First Securities Bank Limited, Bengal Export Import Bank Ltd, BRAC Bank Ltd and Mutual Trust Bank Ltd.

Khaleida Zia has expressed profound shock at the death of Ahmed Humayun.

In a message of condolence yesterday, she said late Ahmed Humayun was a brilliant and patriotic journalist and also an organiser of writers and newsmen.

"His sharp writings, courageous presentation and tireless struggle for freedom of press will remain forever as glaring example in our national life," she said.

Amanullah Kabir and MA Aziz, president and general secretary respectively of BFUJ and Abu Saleh and Ruhul Amin Gazi, acting president and general secretary respectively of Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) in a statement mourned the death of veteran journalist Ahmed Humayun.

The leaders said his death was an irreparable loss to the nation.

Boy held

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costs more than Tk 20,000.

While giving statement to the police, Ujjal said he found the gun abandoned in a vegetable garden near the rail station.

But SI Sujat Huq, the investigating officer of the case, suspected that the local hoodlums were grooming the boy up so that he could later become a member of their band.

Ujjal was produced before the CMM's Court yesterday and later taken to the Dhaka Central Jail. A case was filed under Arms Act with GRP thana in this regard.

Biman's plane

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landing on foam. But the request was denied. He then radioed a similar request to Heathrow, London, which was also turned down. Both airports said they had a busy schedule.

Finally, the pilot decided to land at Dhaka.

He managed to land at 7-45 a.m. yesterday using extreme caution and skill. He kept most of the load on the back wheels before lowering the nose wheel without much pressure, bringing the aircraft slowly on the taxiway, the source said.

It was a textbook landing under such a situation, a Biman flight commander said.

700 outlaws

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"The remaining terrorists will be rooted out through a massive joint operation. The operation will start immediately after the midnight of July 30," he said, once again urging the remaining terrorists to avail the opportunity.

He however reiterated the government's assurance that those who surrendered would be rehabilitated.

Home Secretary Saifur Rahman said at the function that recruitment of former outlaws in Ansar will continue.

IGP A Y B Siddiqui also addressed the function, presided over by Deputy Commissioner of Kushtia Abdus Salam.

The organisations whose members surrendered today are Biplobi Communist Party, Purba Banglar Communist Party, Gonobahini, Krishak Samgram Samity and Sramajibi Mukti Andolon.

The firearms include 2 stenguns, six 303 rifles, 45 foreign-made guns, 130 home-made guns, 1 foreign pistol, 35 home-made pistols, 4 foreign revolvers, 22 home-made revolvers, 26 Indian rifles, 137 shutter-guns and 154 pigeons.

So far, some 1290 outlaws surrendered to the government.

Tayebi murder

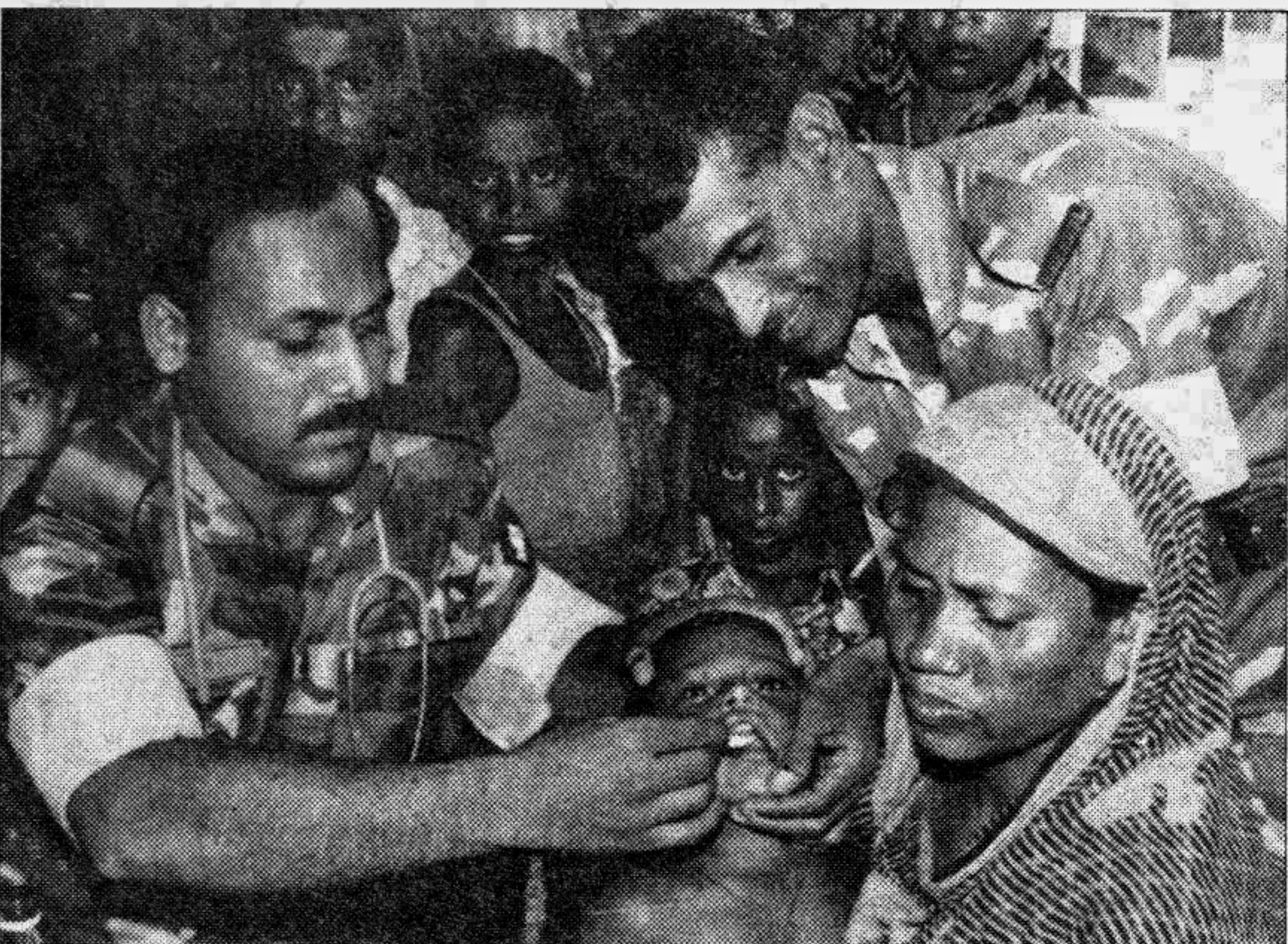
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don't like to disclose everything now as we are waiting to arrest 'the big shots' behind this gruesome murder."

"We have already arrested three persons who were hired to kill Jibran, son of West Bengal IGP, and two of them, identified as Ali Akbar and Zillur Rahman, yesterday gave their confessional statements before the court" CID ASP said. The another person, identified as Kiron, is expected to give confessional statement soon, he added.

Jibran, 28, was shot dead by unidentified assailants in Agrabad commercial area on June 9 while returning to his residence at Kulshi by driving his own car.

The case was handed over to CID police for investigation.



Bangladesh Army medical team rendering services at a centre in flood affected Devpur in Comilla district yesterday. — Star photo

Weather

Thundershowers likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over Chittagong, Barisal, Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Dhaka and Khulna divisions till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Met office expected moderately heavy falls at places over Barisal and Chittagong divisions during the period.

The country's highest temperature 33.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and the lowest 23.8 degrees at Satkhira.

The sun sets today at 6.46 pm and rises tomorrow at 6.24 am.

Maximum and minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	32.2	26.5	75	85
Chittagong	32.0	25.4	80	89
Rajshahi	32.8	25.8	88	83
Khulna	32.7	25.5	81	81
Barisal	31.2	25.0	81	88
Sylhet	32.0	25.7	86	78
Cox's Bazar	32.0	25.0	85	86



An 11-member children delegation left for Japan yesterday to take part in the Asia-Pacific children's conference.



Residents of the city's Kalabagan area brought out a procession in the city yesterday protesting the arrest of Shafiqul Alam Firoz, vice president of Kalabagan Krira Chakra and a businessman. — Star photo