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Shahabuddin to visit Turkey in Nov

By Staff Correspondent

President Shahabuddin Ahmed will travel to Turkey in the first week of November on a three-day state visit, officials said.

This would be his first trip abroad since his election as titular head nearly three years ago.

The foreign ministry is taking preparations for the visit at the invitation of Turkish President Suleyman Demeril, military secretary Major General A M Siraj said.

The details of the trip will be worked out by the Turkish government and the Bangladesh mission in Ankara, a foreign ministry spokesman said.

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Transhipment

FBCCI demands representation in expert body

Star Report

Leading businessmen of the country yesterday called upon the government to adopt a "give and take policy" while expressing general support for transhipment.

They also demanded representation of the Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FBCCI) in the expert committee on transhipment to protect their interest.

They said before signing any contract Bangladesh should ensure that it gets its due facilities as per agreement. They also stressed the need for increasing the number of duty free goods to India and that India should be persuaded to give transit facility to Nepal and Bhutan.

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Inside Today

Article

ME Peace Process: Full Implementation of Wye Agreement or Not?

Column: Spotlight on Middle East by Muslemin Ahmad Page 4

Focus

Recovering bank advances; Waiting for a better tomorrow Page 5

Prayer Timings

August 10

Azan	Jamaat
4-10	4-15
John	1-25
Asr	5-00
Maghrib	6-55
Esha	7-00
	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh National Board of Revenue Dhaka

Notice

Sub: Collection of Foreign Travel Tax for Travels by Air.

This is for information of all concerned that the government has introduced the system of collection of foreign travel tax in case of air travel from Bangladesh by passengers holding Bangladeshi passports through air tickets at the time of issuance of tickets by the airlines/travel agents instead of the existing system of collection of the tax through the banks for all travels with effect from the 1st September, 1999 Vide SRO No 197-Law/99 dated, the 6th July, 1999. Those who have already purchased tickets for travels on or after the 1st September, 1999 are required to pay the tax either at the time of reconfirming the tickets or at the check-in counter of the airports. All concerned are requested to take necessary action in this regard. For further information, the undersigned may be contacted personally or on telephone.

Md Abul Kashem
Second Secretary (Taxes-18)
Phone: 838101-8/334.

The Daily Star

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Who looks after Buriganga?

By Morshed Ali Khan

Who is responsible for looking after the river Buriganga? The Inland Water Transport Authority (IWTA), Water Development Board (WDB) or the Ministry of Land?

Well, nobody seems to know this for sure. Officials of WDB, which has been entrusted with the task of building flood protection embankment along the river, said "maintenance of the river is the job of IWTA. One official even cited an instance that IWTA asked the WDB to show cause as to why they (WDB) were constructing a sluice gate at Pagla without their (IWTA) approval.

"In response, we wrote back about the indiscriminate encroachment on the river and asked them to clear the way for building flood protection embankment. We never heard from them again," said a senior engineer of WDB requesting anonymity.

Chairman of IWTA MA Karim said the Deputy Commissioner of Dhaka is the authority of the river. The river is

a khas property and the DC's office is responsible for looking after such property.

"IWTA has obtained a 30-year lease from the DC's office for Sadarghat launch terminal that included 500 yards on both

sides of the ghat, so the DC is the authority." For navigational purpose, IWTA maintained the river by dredging, installing markers and signal lights. The chairman said.

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An Appeal, again

The Daily Star appeals to the Prime Minister and to the citizens of Dhaka to save the river - Buriganga - that gives the city its water, its environment and its very life. We urge all that we take the following steps:

1. The Prime Minister should form an inter-ministerial committee to evict all illegal occupants from the river banks, prepare and execute a renovation and rehabilitation plan that will turn the two sides of the river into environment friendly commercial and public space.
2. The citizens of Dhaka should form a high profile citizens' body that will include all stakeholders to advise and monitor the government's work. This body should also initiate citizens' voluntary initiative - with full community participation - to beautify and renovate the river banks.
3. The business community should form its own body to look into possible investment opportunities, both to beautify and utilize the commercial potentials of the river banks.

We think the mass media, especially the print media, can play a vital role in saving our dear Buriganga. Let's all take up, collectively, the issue of saving the mother river, by consistently focusing on the issue to force both the government and the citizens to take action.



Workers at a dry cell recycle factory near Islambagh in the city. Wastes fill up a large portion of the river.

—Star photo

Cabinet approves new draft law

Death maximum penalty for child, women repression

The Cabinet yesterday approved a new draft law providing capital punishment at the maximum for child and women repression in a bid to rein in its perpetrators, says Star.

"The Woman and Child Repression Control Act 1999" will replace "The Woman and Child Repression (Special Provision) Act 1995," according to the Cabinet decision.

The approval was given in weekly meeting of the Council of Ministers at the PM Office with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

It was also learnt to have had discussion on ongoing anti-terrorism drives and slum eviction in the capital.

The new law has been formulated to effectively prevent repression on children and women with stern punitive measures," an official announcement said.

It will be placed as a bill before the Jatiya Sangsad in its session set to begin on August 29.

Law Minister Abdul Matin Khasru placed the draft, which is a rewritten version of an earlier bill brought before Parlia-

ment incorporating measures against terrorist activities.

Official sources said the bill proposed maximum punishment of death sentence along with pecuniary penalty for acid throwing, rapes and kidnappings.

Part of the proceeds from monetary fines will be awarded as financial compensation to the victims. The fines will be procured, if necessary, by confiscating movable and immovable property of a culprit.

Those who will supply acid will also be deemed as committing equal offence of inflicting acid burns and be awarded similar punishment.

A clause of the strong-arm law stipulates that the offender will have to take the responsibilities of the child to be born following a rape. "The child will also be heir to the offender."

It proposes recording statement of a victim in camera.

The long arm of the law even reaches the custodian if a woman becomes victim of rape or repression while under custody of anyone or authority.

The guilty custodian will be subject to punishment of 5-10

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Fresh agitation by JU students

'Expel all rapists and killers'

By JU Correspondent

Arms transhipment can't be resisted once accord signed

By Staff Correspondent

Khaleda tells public rally

was first of her planned programmes.

She said: "It would not be possible to resist carrying of arms and troops if the agreement is once signed." India will definitely send troops to occupy Bangladesh if we try to resist transhipment after signing of the agreement."

Referring to change in the names of Calcutta and West Bengal, she wondered the motive behind this change. Obviously there is an evil design behind change in the names, she said.

She said: "It would not be possible to resist carrying of arms and troops if the agreement is once signed." India will definitely send troops to occupy Bangladesh if we try to resist transhipment after signing of the agreement."

Addressing a huge public meeting at Upashahar Primary School ground under Mirpur section-1 yesterday, Khaleda, who is also the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, apprehended that India might tranship arms, ammunition and troops if the transit agreement is signed.

Mirpur, Pallabi and Kafrul

thana units of BNP jointly organised the meeting as part of party's plan to hold meetings in all the eight constituencies in the capital. Yesterday's meeting

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Murder at DB office: Charges against 4 framed

By Court Correspondent
The Fifth Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court yesterday framed charges against four accused in the Jalal Ahmed Shahi murder case.

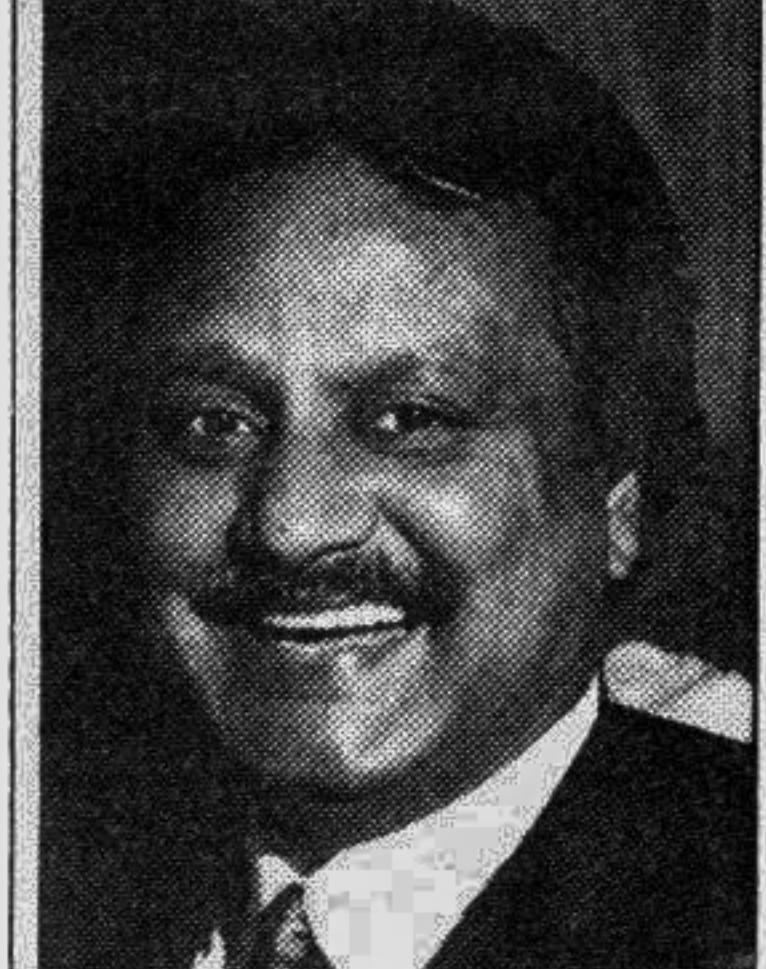
Decomposed body of Shahi, an informer of DB, was recovered from a roof-top water tank of DB office at Minto Road on March 25 morning. The body identified six days after its recovery.

Four charged accused — Inspector Ziaul Ahsan, havildar Billal Hossain, constable Abdur Rauf and canteen manager Anwar — were produced before the court at about 12 noon yesterday.

During the proceedings yesterday, the prosecution lawyers prayed before the court to frame charges against the four accused. The defence lawyers opposed the prosecution lawyers.

Rejecting the prayer of the defence lawyers for discharging the accused from the charges, the court framed charges against the four.

A bail petition was moved on behalf of havildar Billal and constable Abdur Rauf yesterday. Judge Munira Mahfuz, however, did not pass any order yesterday regarding the bail petition. The court fixed September 14, 15 and 16 for deposition.



Senate confirms Osman Siddique as US ambassador

By Staff Correspondent
The US Senate has confirmed the appointment of a Bangladeshi-American, Osman Siddique, as the nation's Ambassador to the Republic of Fiji.

He will also act concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Republic of Nauru, the Kingdom of Tonga and Tuvalu.

For the first time in US history, Bangladeshi born first generation immigrant Siddique will serve as ambassador of that country.

President Bill Clinton had earlier nominated Osman Siddique. The nomination was confirmed by the US Senate on August 5, according to Congressional Record made available to The Daily Star yesterday.

Osman Siddique of McLean, Virginia, is the first immigrant from the Sub-continent and also the first American Muslim to be appointed US ambassador. He is President and Chief

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Two MPs' joining Cabinet

EC readies for hearing

By Nurul Kabir

The Election Commission is likely to issue letters to BNP today asking it to substantiate claims that the two party MPs should lose their seats in Jatiya Sangsad.

Deputy opposition leader Professor Badruddoza Chowdhury and opposition chief whip Khandaker Delwar Hossain told The Daily Star last night.

The EC received a letter from Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury on the disputed matter on Sunday.

The Speaker said that he was still convinced that the BNP lawmakers by joining the government did not violate Article 70 that bars floor-crossing, EC sources said.

The Speaker also said that he referred