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Cabinet decision All utility bills to be collected at one place

By Special Correspondent

The Cabinet yesterday approved in principle a proposal to introduce collection of electricity, gas, water and telephone charges at one place - banks or post offices - to relieve the subscribers of harassment in payment.

The proposal, put forward by the Public Administration Reforms Commission (PARC) recently, is likely to be implemented in Dhaka city in January next year on a trial basis. It will be gradually introduced in other cities, sources said.

The Cabinet Secretary told the Cabinet meeting that necessary steps would be taken shortly so that the proposal could be implemented on trial basis in certain areas of the city latest by January.

Automation will be required so that the banks or post offices can give certificates of payment annually to subscribers paying the charges.

The subscribers will be allowed to pay the charges separately or together. They will have to pay fine if they fail to pay within a stipulated time.

Bill for a month will be sent to the subscriber by the 20th of the following month, to be paid by the 10th of next month, the sources said.

No restriction was imposed on any MP, says DGFI

By Staff Correspondent

No restriction was imposed on entry of any MP to Dhaka Cantonment area to attend the wedding ceremony of the youngest daughter of Deputy Leader of the Opposition in parliament Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury on August 12 at the Shenakunja, a DGFI statement has said.

But security clearance could not be given 83 guests as "it was not possible to process the clearance due to time constraint and other reasons," the statement said.

The statement released on Monday, four days after the incident, said many of the invited guests hailed from different areas including Rajshahi, Dinajpur, Bogra, Ishwardi, Natore, Nilphamari, Rangpur, Gaibandha, Khulna, Jhenidah, Barisal, Comilla, Brahmanbaria, Noakhali, Chittagong, Tangail, Jamalpur, Sherpur, Mymensingh, Gopalganj and Habiganj.

Security clearance of the invited guests was arranged in two phases (August 11 & August 12 during office time).

The statement signed by Acting Director of ISPR Muham-

Quake kills over 1100 in Turkey



Search for survivors
Rescue workers on top of a huge pile of rubble in capital Istanbul following the earthquake that struck north western Turkey early yesterday. — AFP photo

10000 hurt: Izmit worst hit, 40 killed in Istanbul

IZMIT (Turkey), Aug 17: An earthquake rocked Turkey today killing more than 1100 people and injuring about 10,000 as they slept in apartment blocks that crumbled in the most powerful tremor ever recorded in the region, reports Reuters.

Frantic survivors tore at mangled steel and concrete to free loved ones, and officials asked the international community to send sniffer dogs and lifting equipment to help in the rescue.

In Istanbul residents rushed into blacked-out streets to escape falling concrete after the quake, measured by Turkish seismologists at 6.7 on the Richter Scale.

"Tell me my children are alive," pleaded Muzaffar Yarla, grabbing the arm of a Reuters reporter.

Minutes later a pair of bare feet, clearly lifeless, poked through the tangle of steel and concrete and the search halted briefly before neighbours struck up a loud wail.

State-run TRT television, citing information from a crisis centre in Ankara, told Reuters the death toll by 1400 GMT was nearly 1000. Reports of flattened buildings across the region suggested the toll would rise further.

Authorities criticised builders for failing to protect homes against tremors last year after more than 140 people died in southern Turkey in an earthquake measuring 6.3 on the Richter scale.

Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit called the quake the worst natural disaster he had ever seen and said it would require gargantuan efforts to rebuild.

"The loss is huge," state television showed the 73-year-old premier saying in a trembling voice. "It is the biggest natural disaster I have witnessed... May Allah help our state and our people."

The quake, which struck at 3:02 am (0002 GMT), centred on the northwestern industrial city of Izmit, some 90-km east of Istanbul, Turkey's biggest city which links Europe and Asia.

TRT said the highest number of dead had been found in the province of Sakarya where more than 343 bodies were recovered.

Most of the dead were crushed in their sleep as the force of the earthquake destroyed apartment blocks across the Marmara Sea region, Turkey's most heavily populated and its industrial heart.

Officials said they needed dogs and technical support to rescue those trapped but crisis centre manager Ahmet Sagar told Reuters that Turkey had enough food and tents for the survivors.

At least 40 people died in Istanbul. Hundreds of others were injured there by falling masonry or by jumping from balconies.

There were no immediate reports of damage to the city's artery.

PM may visit US this year, meet Clinton

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is likely to visit Washington some time later this year. Foreign Secretary C M Shafi Sami indicated yesterday, reports BSS.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina may also visit Washington, DC, to meet President Clinton, he said, adding that "it has been agreed that President Clinton will visit Bangladesh soon".

When she will be in the US capital, the prime minister will open the Bangladesh Chancery building, now under construction in the diplomatic hub in Washington, DC, Sami said.

The foreign secretary was talking to journalists about his recent visit to the United States.

He said the US officials appreciated the role of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for promoting peace and stability in South Asia and spurring economic cooperation among the countries in the region.

Salam Talukdar still in coma

By Staff Correspondent

BNP leader Salam Talukdar, who was admitted to the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD) Sunday evening, is still in critical condition, a senior doctor at the hospital said.

The Director of NICVD Prof M A Zaman, when contacted yesterday evening, told The Daily Star, "Talukdar was without ventilator last night (Monday). He is now breathing on his own. But a new problem has developed. A bedside X-ray image showed that he developed lung infection which may lead to other complications."

He said, "We have transferred him from Coronary Care Unit to Intensive Care Unit this evening for better care. But the lung infection problem worries us much. He is still in coma and not out of danger."

His heart function and blood pressure were stated to be

'A fake birthday on mourning day earns only hatred'

PM lashes out at Khaleda Zia

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday lashed out at Opposition leader Khaleda Zia for celebrating birthday on the National Mourning Day.

"It is not surprising that the patrons of Bangabandhu's killers will celebrate birthday in a festive manner on the day (Bangabandhu was killed)... They (the BNP men) have earned hatred of the people by observing a fake birthday," Hasina told a discussion meeting at Paltan Maidan in the city.

Awami League organised the discussion as part of its three-day programme marking the 24th anniversary of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's assassination.

The prime minister put the governments of late Ziaur Rahman, H M Ershad and Khaleda Zia in the same bracket for protecting and rewarding Mujib's killers whom she branded as defeated forces of 1971.

"Rewarded by all the three governments, the killers be-

Khulna dist JP vice president shot dead

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Aug 17: A senior vice president of the Khulna district Jatiya Party was gunned down by the unidentified miscreants in the Brickfield Workers Union office at Falerhat here at 8 pm yesterday.

The gunman sprayed bullet on Abul Hossain Hawladar, 50, also chairman of Srifaltala union under Rupsha thana. Abul Hossain died on the spot and seven of his associates were injured seriously. The injured were admitted to Sadar Hospital in a critical condition.

Abul Hossain led a huge procession of brickfield workers and fishermen protesting rowdism by Whip Bahini in Rupsha thana before six hours of his killing. He also submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner, Khulna demanding immediate arrest of the armed cadres of the outlawed parties in his union.

Armed cadres of outlawed parties were not happy with Abul Hossain as he helped police to enforce surrender of the outlaws, police said. The motive behind the killing yet to be known.

Developing reserve gasfield Nico-BAPEX joint venture ordered

By Sharier Khan

The Energy Ministry has instructed Petrobangla to formulate a framework of understanding to initiate a joint venture process between the country's lone oil and gas exploration company BAPEX and a Canadian firm Nico Resources.

The Energy Ministry had taken special interest in involving Nico Resources with BAPEX to develop the reserved gasfields of the country. The Canadian company - originally disqualified in the Second Round Bidding because of its financial and technical weakness - has been pursuing this proposal since May last.

When Nico's offer was made in May, it did not promise its own financing for the joint venture. It said that it would seek a CIDA credit for the initial studies required for development of these gas fields. The Energy Ministry accordingly suggested Petrobangla to work out a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between BAPEX and Nico Resources and to under-

Opposition lays siege to DC offices today

By Staff Correspondent

The BNP-led opposition alliance will lay siege to the offices of Deputy Commissioners across the country to press the government for withdrawal of its decision to provide transshipment facility to India.

The BNP, Jatiya Party, Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Oikya Jote (IOJ) will hold separate public rallies in Dhaka and district headquarters and submit memorandum to the DCs in support of their demand.

Main opposition BNP will

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Prayer Timings
August 17

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-10	4-15
Johr	12-50	1-25
Asr	5-00	5-10
Maghrib	6-40	6-45
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

EC likely to meet today, discuss 'floor-crossing'

By Staff Correspondent

The Election Commission is likely to meet today to review developments in the controversial case of alleged floor-crossing by two BNP legislators, EC sources said.

Meanwhile, responding to instruction, the contending parties in the case have made written communication to the EC within the deadline. The deadline ended yesterday.

Two BNP lawmakers - Mohammad Alauddin and Hasibur Rahman Swapan - joined the Awami League government in February last year against their party decision.

Since then, the BNP has been claiming that conduct of the two MPs amounted in violation of constitutional provision that bars floor-crossing, and so they should lose their seats in parliament.

But the MPs have been

Arrest after bus dacoity Transport workers put up barricade

By Staff Correspondent

A group of transport workers from Fulbaria bus stand yesterday put up a barricade on Mirpur Road near Dhanmondi thana protesting the reported arrest of two staff of a bus on charge of cooperating with bus dacoits.

Police said that the Dhanraibound minibus left Fulbaria bus stand at about 8 pm. A gang of about six dacoits in guise of passengers got on the bus in the city's Polishi stoppage.

Brandishing arms, dacoits robbed the passengers and got down from the bus at Shyamoli. Suspecting involvement of the bus staff in the dacoity, the passengers took the bus to Mohammadpur thana.

As the alleged dacoity took place in Dhanmondi thana area, Mohammadpur police handed over bus driver, Mosharraf and helper Monwar Hossain, to Dhanmondi police. Dhanmondi police detained the two and interrogated them. When the news reached at Fulbaria bus stand, a group of transport workers rushed to Dhanmondi area and put up a barricade on Mirpur Road, disrupting traffic for about an hour from 10:30 am.

Police told the agitating workers that the two were not arrested. They were detained for interrogation as suspects in the incident.

NAMAZ-E-ZANAZA & KULKHANI

Namaz-e-Zanaza and Kulkhani of Late Mr. Mukhlesur Rahman, Chairman & Managing Director of Uttara Group of Companies and Industries will be held today (Wednesday) & Friday respectively. Namaz-e-Zanaza will be held on August 18, Wednesday, 1999 after Asar at Banani Bazar Mosque (DMC Market and Iqbal Centre Area) and Kulkhani will be held on August 20th Friday, 1999, after Magrib at House # 11, Road # 08, Gulshan-01, Dhaka.

Relatives, colleagues, well-wishers, Friends and the officers and staffs of Uttara Group of Companies & Industries have been requested to attend the Namaz-e-Zanaza and Kulkhani and Pray for the Salvation of the departed soul.

Executive Director
Uttara Group of Companies & Industries
39, Dilkusha Commercial Area Dhaka-1000.

Three share scam cases Transfer order stayed

By M Shamsur Rahman

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday stayed a High Court order which had allowed transfer of three share scam cases from the court of Third Additional Metropolitan Sessions Court to the Second Additional Metropolitan Sessions Court.

The Appellate Division also granted leave to appeal against the judgement and order passed by a High Court Division Bench comprising Justice Golam Rabbani and Justice Latifur Rahman.

The Division Bench on June 15, 1999 approved petitions by Shinepukur Holdings, Beximco Pharmaceuticals and Doha Securities for transfer of the cases from the third to second metro court.

These are three of the 15 complaint cases filed by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) accusing 42 directors

সাফল্যের বিশ্বস্ত সিঁড়ি—
অগ্রণী ব্যাংক
শিল্প উন্নয়ন বন্ড

বিনিয়োগে নিশ্চিত মুনাফা পেতে হলে এখনই
অগ্রণী ব্যাংক শিল্প উন্নয়ন বন্ড কিনুন।
এতে রয়েছে অনেক সুবিধা—
এ যেন সাফল্যের একটি বিশ্বস্ত সিঁড়ি।

- বন্ডের মূল্যমান ৫০ হাজার, ১ লক্ষ ও ৫ লক্ষ টাকা।
- বন্ডের মেয়াদকাল হবে ৫ এবং ৭ বছর।
- ৫ বছর মেয়াদী বন্ডের সুদ ১০%
- ৭ বছর মেয়াদী বন্ডের সুদ ১১%
- মেয়াদ পূর্তির আগেও লাভসহ বন্ড ভাঙ্গাটা যাবে।
- বিনিয়োগকৃত অর্থ ও সর্ব সাকুল্যে ২৫ হাজার টাকার সুদ আয়কর মুক্ত।
- বন্ড বিক্রয় লব্ধ অর্থ দেশের শিল্পায়নে বিনিয়োগ করা হবে।
- ক্রেতা তার নোমিনি নিয়োগ করতে পারবেন।
- যে কোন ব্যক্তি ও প্রতিষ্ঠান বন্ড ক্রয় করতে পারবেন।
- অগ্রণী ব্যাংক শিল্প উন্নয়ন বন্ড রাস্ট্রীয় গ্যারান্টি বহন করবে।
- কোন ক্রেতা যে কোন সংখ্যক বন্ড কিনতে পারবেন।
- ক্রেতাকে তার অর্থের উৎস জানাতে হবে না।

বিস্তারিত তথ্যের জন্য ব্যাংকের শাখায় যোগাযোগ করুন

অগ্রণী ব্যাংক
দেশ ও জাতির সেবায় প্রতিশ্রুতিবদ্ধ