

What's on today....

Seminar: A two-day international seminar on "Quaternary Development and Coastal Hydrodynamics of the Gangetic Delta in Bangladesh" will be inaugurated. Venue: Bangladesh Petroleum Institute (BPI) auditorium, Plot 5A, Sector 8, Uttara. Time: 9:30 am.

ICC workshop: International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), Bangladesh will organise the inaugural session of a workshop on "Letters at Credit in Practice with Associated Products". Venue: Hotel Sonargaon. Time: 10:00 am.

Loan distributions: Krishi Bank will begin the 4th phase of its loan distribution under slum-dwellers rehabilitation programme "Ghore Phera". Chief guest: SAMS Kibria, Minister for Finance. Venue: Krishi Bank Bhaban, 83-85, Motijheel. Time: 10:25 am.

Exhibition: The 1st solo art exhibition of Audri Quasim will be inaugurated. Chief guest: Obaidul Quader, Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs. Venue: Alliance Francaise. Time: 6:30 pm.

Weather

Moderate rain likely

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

Met Office said moderately heavy falls may occur at places over Barisal and Chittagong divisions during the period. Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged.

The country's highest temperature yesterday was recorded at 34.8 degree Celsius at Jessore and the lowest 23.5 degrees at Sakhrira.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:58 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:46 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	32.8	24.5	91	80
Chittagong	31.8	25.5	78	92
Rajshahi	32.6	25.0	84	-
Khulna	33.3	25.0	84	89
Barisal	32.6	26.0	83	89
Sylhet	33.5	25.0	96	81
Cox's Bazar	32.5	25.5	85	87

HERE and THERE

UNICEF

The award giving ceremony for the best Health Managers, Civil Surgeons and field workers on Oral Dehydration Therapy (ORT) Communication Campaign was held at the BCPS auditorium yesterday, reports UNB.

UNICEF, Director-General of Health Services and Control of Diarrhoea Disease Programme jointly organised the ceremony. Health and Family Welfare Minister Salah Uddin Yusuf addressing the function as chief guest said although Bangladesh has achieved a lot in the field of control of diarrhoea about 1.25 lakh babies still die of the disease.

Appreciating the role of UNICEF, the government of Netherlands in controlling diarrhoea, the Health Minister urged upon the all development partners to provide financial assistance and technical support to address this problem.

He called upon the field workers involving in ORT communication campaign to work with utmost sincerity and dedication for strengthening the mass awareness activities with a view to reducing the rate of child mortality caused by diarrhoeal diseases.

Later, the minister gave away the awards among the best field workers and health managers, says an official handout.

Pirates loot launch on Jamuna

Pirates looted valuables of the passengers of a Natarbari-bound launch on river Jamuna yesterday, reports UNB.

The police quoting passengers said the pirates numbering about 25 intercepted MV Salimabad at between Bara Golaunda Char and Khas Char. The pirates coming in a trawler looted cash and valuables of the passengers at gunpoint. The launch was carrying some 70 passengers.

Earlier, four pirates in guise of passengers boarded the launch from Aricha. They helped other pirates to board the launch in the midstream of the river. They then beat the passengers in which ten people including the Nagarbari ghat supervisor Abdul Majid, 32, received stab injuries when they tried to resist the pirates.

The launch owners association has expressed deep concern at the piracy and demanded strengthening of police patrol in river routes.

A case was filed with the Bera thana of Pabna.

Obituary

M Shahjial, Deputy General Manager of Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration Company Ltd (BAPLEX) died of kidney complications on Friday evening. He was 52, says a press release.

An amiable personality, late Shahjial served the organisation in different responsible position for a period of 30 years.

He was laid to rest at his village home in Begumganj thana under Noakhali district.

Dr M Ibrahim, a former professor of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) passed away yesterday afternoon. He was 77, says a press release.

His namaz-e-janaza will be held at the BUET playground at 9:00 am today.

Dr Ibrahim hailed from Nurnonpur village in Noakhali District.

(Admn) of Health Services Dr Wahid-ur-Rouf, the function was attended, among others, by Health Secretary MM Reza, Director of Primary Health Care Dr Shamsul Haq, Deputy Programme Manager of Control of Diarrhoea Disease Project Perveen Sultana Beauty, First Secretary of Netherlands embassy and UNICEF Representative in Bangladesh.

IUBAT

The Vice-Chancellor and President, Deakin University, Australia, Prof Geoff Wilson and the Founder & Vice-Chancellor of IUBAT-International University of Business Agriculture & Technology, Prof Dr M Alimullah Miyan have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on academic collaboration recently, says a press release.

The important aspect of this linkage is to facilitate exchanges and cooperative initiatives between the two universities in the areas of educational research, development, instruction, community service, student and staff exchanges.

The focus of this linkage is on exchange of faculty, students, researchers and exchange of scholarly and pedagogical materials, transfer of students, joint research, technical assistance and/or training and other cooperative efforts between IUBAT and DU.

The Chamber president said that the safety and security of all including export-oriented industries, multinational companies, traders and industrialists has become uncertain.

CCCI concerned over law and order situation

From Our Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Sept 19: Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) expressed deep concern over the deterioration of law and order with sharp rise in different criminal activities in the port city of Chittagong.

CCCI President Kamaluddin Ahmad in a written press statement today referred to the two mugging incidents yesterday in which a total of Tk. 7.51 lakh was snatched. The incidents took place under the same thana. No one had yet been arrested in this connection and the money had not been recovered either.

The Chamber president said that the safety and security of all including export-oriented industries, multinational companies, traders and industrialists has become uncertain.

Placing statistics Kamaluddin said that 97 mugging incidents, 30 abductions, 39 robberies and 89 incidents of ransacking had taken place in the port city in the last eight months alone. He called upon the concerned administration to take immediate measures to curb criminal and terrorist activities and improve law and order situation of the port city.

However, the chamber president appreciated the active and timely role of law enforcing agencies for resolving the crisis that prevailed at the Chittagong port due to labour unrest recently.

Robbery at Rajbari

RAJBARI, Sept 19: Armed robbers looted wealth from 3 houses in village Dakkhinpara of Sadar thana Saturday night, reports UNB.

The police said the robbers numbering 10 to 15 raided the houses of Parimal Kundu, Roman Kundu and Chanchal Kundu in the dead of night, beat the inmates indiscriminately and looted valuables, including gold ornaments and cash worth Tk one lakh.

Three people were injured during the robbery. A case was filed with the police.

Concern over rape by cop in Tangail

By Staff Correspondent

Ain O Salish Kendro (ASK) in a statement yesterday demanded judicial inquiry into the alleged rape of a young girl by a police constable at the premises of Bhuapur police station in Tangail on September 16.

ASK strongly condemned the incident and expressed deep concern over missing of the victim as reported in a section of the press.

The statement quoted newspaper reports saying that cop Walter Rahman took a young girl from the Bhuapur thana health complex where she came to visit a patient, to the police station premises and raped her there. Police did not take any step despite relatives of the victim informed them of the incident, it added.

972 arrested during combing operation

A total of 972 persons were arrested and 11 illegal weapons with nine rounds of bullets and three explosives were recovered during the 150th-day of the countrywide combing operation by police, Bangladesh Rifles and Ansar force yesterday, reports BSS.

The combined force arrested 487 in different cases from across the country including four metropolitan areas and seized the weapons, ammunition and explosives. They also arrested 484 wanted accused during the operation.

Of them, 156 persons including 25 warrantees were arrested from Dhaka Metropolitan area with two fire arms, five bullets and three explosives, 51 persons including a wanted person from Chittagong Metropolitan area with two firearms, 32 persons including nine wanted persons from Khulna Metropolitan area with one illegal weapon and three persons from Rajshahi Metropolitan area.

A total of 161 persons including 98 wanted accused were arrested from Dhaka Range with three illegal arms, 170 persons including 113 wanted persons from Chittagong range with two arms, 150 persons including 85 warrantees from Rajshahi range, 163 persons including 103 wanted persons from Khulna range and with a weapon and two bullets, 39 persons including 19 warrantees from Barisal range with two bullets and 47 persons including 31 wanted persons from Sylhet range.

Merchant bankers seek govt help for growth of capital market

Merchant bankers suggested listed companies should hold annual general meetings regularly and declare dividends on real profits to restore investors' shaken confidence in capital market, reports UNB.

During a meeting with Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria yesterday, a delegation of Bangladesh Merchant Bankers' Association also stressed strict adherence to stock market rules and concerted efforts of all concerned to win back the lost confidence of investors.

They assured the Finance Minister of their wholehearted assistance for the growth of capital market and sought cooperation from the government and Securities and Exchange Commission in the bailout move.

Kibria called for the merchant bankers to encourage investors to put their money in mid-term investments. He assured the financiers of allout cooperation from the government and the SEC.

Finance Secretary Dr Akbar Ali Khan and SEC Chairman MA Syed were present while Association convenor Dr Mohammad Musa led the delegation.

Two killed in city

By Staff Correspondent

Two people were killed in separate incidents in the city. One of the dead was identified as Salauddin, 28, son of late Abdul Khalek Hawlader, and a resident of Tangra in Demra area while identity of the other victim could not be known.

A gang of three miscreants attacked Salahuddin, a cloth trader, in Nawabpur area at about 8:30 pm Saturday. They took him to Goanagar in Gandaria and cut off his tendon. The gang also fired on him.

Fatally injured Salahuddin was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where he died yesterday morning.

Hospital sources, quoting the victim, said that Salahuddin mentioned the names of the attackers-Mokter, Habib and Rashid.

Salahuddin's brother lodged a case with Sutarapur thana, but none was arrested till writing of this report late last night.

Meanwhile, Khilgaon police recovered the body of a young man from a jheel in F block of Banosri project area. The body was wrapped inside a sack and both the hands and legs of the victim were tied. Police suspected that the young man was killed two days ago.

The body was sent to DMCH for autopsy.

Foreign-born population in US on rise

More than 9 per cent of the US population is foreign-born, according to new estimates released September 17 by the Commerce Department's Census Bureau. Foreign-born residents made up 9.3 per cent of the US population on July 1, 1998, up from 8.0 per cent on April 1, 1990, says a USIS press release.

The estimates, available on the Internet, show that the proportion of foreign-born residents in the United States is midway between the peak of 14.7 per cent in the 1910 census and the low point of 4.7 per cent in the 1970 census.

Between 1990 and 1998, the latest estimates show that the growth in the foreign-born population (27.1 per cent) was nearly four times that of the native population (7.1 per cent). The number of foreign-born residents jumped from 19.8 million to 25.2 million, while native born residents increased from 228.9 million to 245.1 million.

The increase in the foreign-born population since 1990 underscores the need to make accurate census in history," said Census Bureau Director Kenneth Prewitt. "Virtually every program that helps new residents adapt to life in America is based on information collected in the decennial census."

Some other highlights: In 1998, foreign-born Asians and Pacific Islanders (an estimated 6.4 million) outnumbered the 4.1 million native Asians and Pacific Islanders. Foreign-born Asians and Pacific Islanders increased by 39.2 per cent, from the 4.6 million residing in the United States in 1990.

The African American foreign-born population increased by 42.4 per cent (from 1.7 million to 2.4 million) between 1990 and 1998.

The number of foreign-born Hispanics, who may be of any race, grew 34.1 per cent (from 8.0 million to 10.7 million) between 1990 and 1998.

These estimates are the first the Census Bureau has produced for the foreign-born population by updating census data with administrative estimates of population change (births, deaths and migration). The national nativity estimates cover the foreign-born and native resident populations by single year of age, sex, race and Hispanic origin.

The Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (CPS) uses a different method to estimate counts of foreign-born and native populations from those presented here.

The BCM leaders placed wreaths at the central Shaheed Minar in the morning. The also held a rally on the Shaheed Minar premises.

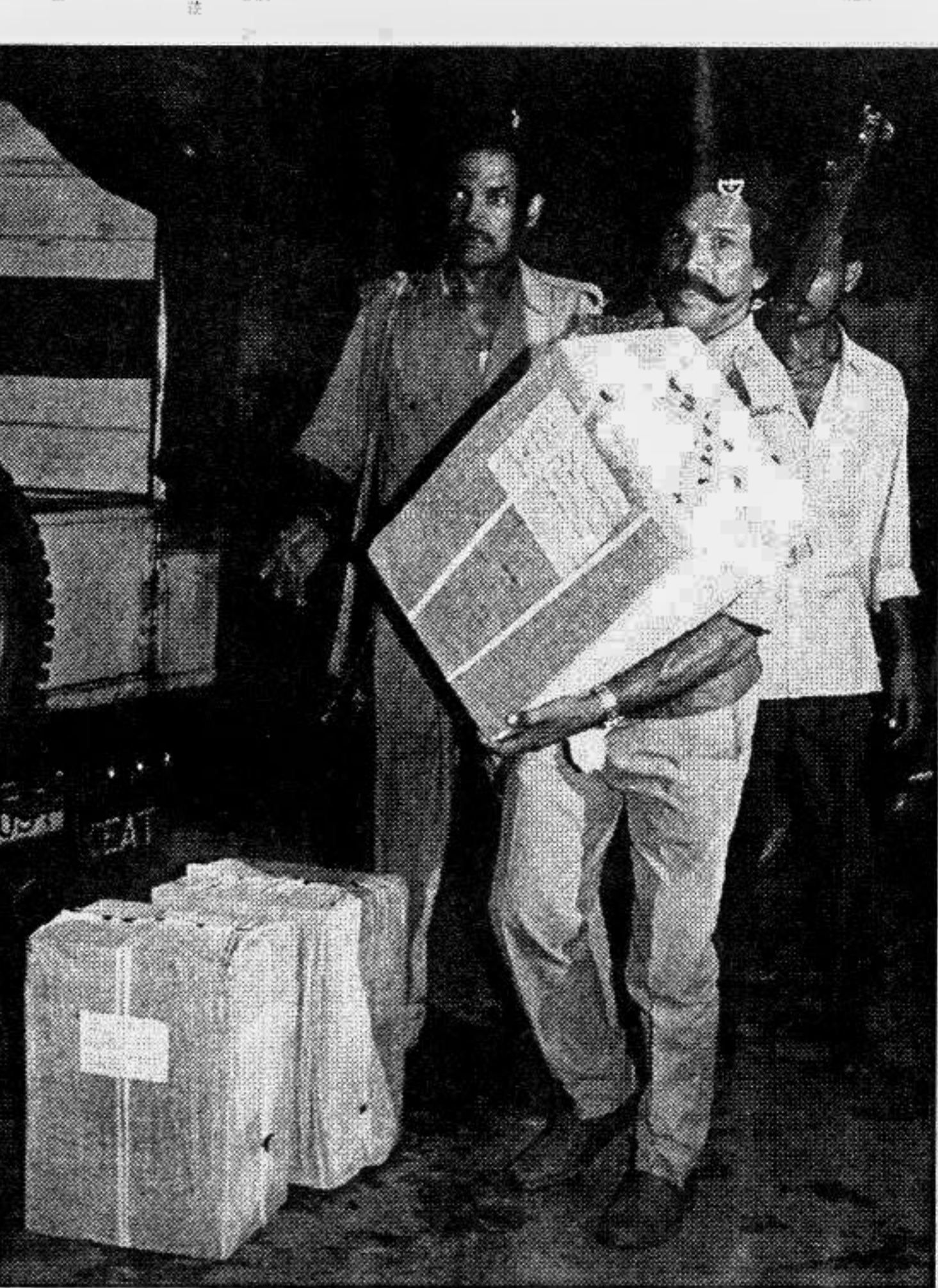
Later, the student organisation brought out a procession on the Dhaka University campus and held a rally at the afternoon.

Addressing the rally the leaders demanded immediate trial and exemplary punishment of the killers of Rimu. They also urged the students to be united to root out the religious fanatics, saying, "the Shibir activists are creating anarchy in the educational institutions across the country in the name of religion."

Presided over by Ziaul Haq Zia, the rally was addressed, among others, by Dipanker Saha Dipu, Abdul Ahad Miner, Sabbah Ali Khan Kolme, Zakir Hossain Milton, Anuja Rahman and Akber Khan.



Palestinian women demonstrate Saturday in Nablus in the West Bank against the unchanging policy of the Israeli government on the issue of Jewish settlement in the occupied Palestinian territories. Despite warnings from both Palestinians and the US that the policy endangers the fragile peace process, Prime Minister Ehud Barak has followed in the footsteps of his right-wing predecessor Benjamin Netanyahu on this sensitive issue.— AFP photo



Police carry sealed ballot boxes brought in from various polling booths after voting ended Saturday in Dhanabad in Bihar state. Dhanbad and various parts of Bihar went to polls Saturday as a part of the ongoing general elections in India to elect a new central government. — AFP photo

BNP leader held in Feni

FENI, Sept 19: The police today arrested local BNP leader Mustafizur Rahman suspecting his involvement in Friday's killing of the manager of an oil mill in the town, reports UNB.

The 60-year old Arabind Ghose was found dead inside Lakshminarayan Oil Mill on Saturday morning.

Police admitted that Mustafizur Rahman was not named in the case filed in connection with the killing, but he was held on grounds of suspicion.

The district BNP president Mosharrar Hossain MP and general secretary Prof Joyal Abedin, in a joint statement today strongly protested the arrest. They said a group of workers of the ruling party killed Ghose but their party leader was falsely implicated in the case.

They demanded immediate release of Mustafizur Rahman. A Magistrate Court today refused Mustafiz's bail and sent him to the police remand for 3 days when he was produced before the court.

CAB survey Markets flooded with adulterated food items

City markets are going awry with adulterated food items causing intestinal and other complex diseases. This was revealed by the Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB) after a survey of the markets, reports UNB.

A group of unscrupulous traders are doing brisk business using attractive packets and advertisements to deceive consumers and sell adulterated food items," it said. The items include butter, cheese, butter oil, edible oil, packed milk, chocolate and fruit juice. Medical specialists in the city said they were receiving increased number of patients with intestinal complaints mostly caused by impure foods.

CAB said its repeated appeals for reexamining the BSTI-marked food items fell on deaf ears of Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institute (BSTI) and the Institute of Public Health (IPH).

Reiterating its demand for further test of the samples of various food items available in the market, the consumer-rights group called for strengthening government supervision on markets and raising public awareness.

Road mishaps Three killed in Comilla

COMILLA, Sept 19: Three people were killed and 15 injured in two accidents on Dhaka-Chittagong highway here today, reports UNB.

Police said a truck collided with a Dhaka-bound bus from Lakshimpur at Jamtala in Sadar thana leaving seven passengers injured. Two of them died in Comilla Medical College Hospital. Their identity could not be known immediately.

In another road mishap at Daulatpur area of Maidkandi thana, a Comilla-bound bus from Homna turned turtle at 11:30 am killing Riqul Islam, 25, and leaving 10 others injured.

44 debaters protest news item

By DU Correspondent

Forty four debaters of 13 residential halls of Dhaka University yesterday refuted a news item relating to former debater and director of BTV's debate programme Prashanta Bhushon Barua. The news was published in a section of the press recently.

In a joint statement, they said "this is a fabricated propaganda and we urged all concerned to refrain from such activities."

The signatories include Dem Bahumudul Haq Dipu, SM Rafiqullah, Magfur Rahman, Nur Alam Siddique, Sarmin Sultana Joya, Mahub Alam Khan, Zillur Rahman Sohel, Abul Hasnat Monjurul Kabir, Hazrat Khan, Rajib Dey, Nahid Fatema Khan, Abu Saleh Md Sayem, Taimur Hossain and Sheul Afser.

Donors urged to restart financing Gana Sahajya Sangstha

By Staff Correspondent

The GSS Karmi Sammiton Parishad, a forum of the workers of now suspended Gana Sahajya Sangstha (GSS), at a meeting yesterday asked the donors to restart financing the NGO so that it could resume functioning.

Held at Teigaon office of the Parishad, the meeting decided that the GSS authorities pay the GSS workers their salaries on time, as directed by the court. It also demanded punishment to Alauddin Mollah, Emdadul Haque Anu and their associates whom it accused of pushing the organisation on the brink of destruction in liaison with a section of corrupt, ambitious and opportunist workers.

Tigers

From page 1

Her rapidly deteriorating condition also caused doubts about the 'tranquillisers used for anaesthesia on the cat family. The visiting IUCN veterinary doctor had told The Daily Star on Saturday that the currently used tranquiliser, Catamine was not proper for a large animal like the tiger.

Dr Arshad Haroon Toosey, a visiting vet had told The Daily Star that the infection was 'under control' with the administration of the medicines. He said the parasite might have been brought from the African continent. It might have been spread at the zoo through biting flies or through beef given to the tigers as feed.

Sources at the zoo told this correspondent that officials removed Sharmila by a car at about 9:30 pm on Saturday from the cage No. 306 of the zoo. A visibly traumatised Raja was seen in the cage yesterday evening, which had been cordoned off by a safety rope to keep the visitors away.

Officials could not confirm whether the protozoan disease could affect humans. There was no pre-cautionary sign near the cage of Raja. Innocent visitors continued to cross the safety ropes and go near the cage.

The initial autopsy report presumed that Sharmila died of typhlopanosoma. But sources said more tests would be conducted in the United Kingdom to determine what had endangered the entire cat family.

Majority

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First corruption in South Asia often distorts government decisions and priorities. Corruption money often goes abroad and is not recycled within the region to encourage investment and production. "The sad truth is that the ruling elite in South Asia is often too powerful to face an honest process of accountability," the report said.

Dhaka protests

From page 1

appropriate authorities. "But the people are being killed in one pretext or the other, which is unacceptable, Mohiuddin added.

"Dhaka registered protest at the highest level to the Indian side here in recent weeks. In recent weeks representatives of the Indian High Commission including acting high commissioner were summoned to the Foreign Office to lodge protest over the Muhuri Char and other border incidents.

CU science research centre founding anniversary

From CU Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Sept 19: CU VC Professor Abdul Mannan called for a boarder outlook of the Ministry of Science and Technology of the government to encourage the series of increasing development of Mathematics and Physical Science Research Centre of Chittagong University.

The VC was addressing the 10th founding anniversary of the Mathematics and Physical Science Research Centre of Chittagong University (CU) today.

While addressing the ceremony as the chief guest Prof Mannan lauded the personal and sincere efforts of Professor Jamal Nazrul Islam by saying that "he (Prof Islam) had turned the research centre into one of international standard."

Presided over by Prof Jamal Nazrul Islam the ceremony was addressed among others by former CU VC Prof Alamgir Md Sirajuddin, Dean of science faculty Dr Abdul Mazid.

7 Kurdish rebels killed in clashes with Turkish army

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey, Sept 19: Seven rebels of the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) have been killed in fresh clashes with Turkish troops in the southeast of the country, officials said Sunday, reports AFP.

Emergency rule headquarters here said the fighting broke out during routine operations in rural ground in Diyarbakir, Hakkari and Batman provinces in southeastern Anatolia and in the eastern province of Bitlis.

Two PKK rebels were captured, it added.

Officials did not say when the fighting took place and mentioned no Turkish army losses.

More than 31,000 people have been killed since the PKK took up arms in 1984 for Kurdish self-rule in southeastern Turkey.

Hopes for an end to the war rose after Turkey captured PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan earlier this year.

Ocalan, jailed on a high-security prison island in north-west Turkey, was sentenced to death for treason by a Turkish court on June 29 and is awaiting an appeals decision on his conviction.

Following his arrest, Ocalan appealed for a democratic solution to the 15-year-old conflict and in late August the rebel group said it was withdrawing from Turkey and would lay down its arms.

The Turkish army, which has deployed thousands of troops in the southeast to quash the rebels, has snubbed the PKK's pledges, calling on the guerrillas to simply surrender.

Cabinet

From page 1

As part of this effort, Energy Ministry late last year decided to send a proposal to the Purchase Committee seeking green signal in favour of Marubeni. At that time, the contract for the first phase itself was not signed. The effort failed as the finance minister was not convinced about the justification of the project.

However, this time, pressure from the highest level of the government compelled the Purchase Committee to approve the project, the sources said.

Earlier, instructed by the higher authorities, the Energy Ministry had framed the proposal in favour of Marubeni saying that the huge power needs projected for 2005 justified the second phase of Meghnaghat.

The Energy Ministry argued that the Sirajganj 300-MW government power project was being delayed and the four power plants with a total capacity of 400 MW proposed by Unocal had become uncertain. As a result, there would be a demand-supply shortfall after 2005. Therefore, it would be wise to pursue the second phase of 450 MW Meghnaghat project, it argued.

It added, the second phase of the project could not be awarded to AES though the project design remains in the line of that more tests would be conducted in the United Kingdom to determine what had endangered the entire cat family.

But government experts believe that the project could be pursued after a couple of years. "This should be pursued through competitive bidding for a better and lower power tariff," commented one expert. "Besides, we should not pursue private power projects right now. Rather, we should go for some government to government projects under suppliers credit. This would lessen our future cash payment problem with the private power plant builders and operators."

UCBL

From page 1

run the offices of chairman and directors on the basis of a High Court order following a writ petition and a letter issued by the central bank on September 5, addressing Zafar Chowdhury as chairman of the UCBL.

Appearing for the appellants, Dr Kamal Hossain prayed for stay of the *ad interim* injunction till disposal of the appeal. He contended that Zafar Chowdhury and the other defendants were running the offices of chairman and directors of the UCBL and should not be disturbed by an injunction.

Barrister Shafiq Ahmed, appearing for Akhteruzzaman Chowdhury Babu and others, sought early disposal of the appeal "if possible by a day" and opposed the appeal for stay saying "irreparable loss and there will be no scope for them to substantiate their case in any way if the interim order was stayed."

Going through the central bank's letter and the High Court order, the judge observed "There were sufficient reason to stay the operation of the impugned order for the cause of justice, because it will not be possible on the part of the court to dispose of the appeal by one or two days since there are other respondents who have not yet appeared."

"So without causing service of notice to them, it will not be, at all possible to dispose of this appeal," the judge said while staying the *ad interim* order.