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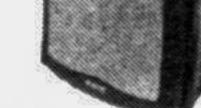
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Appointment of consultant soon

Sheraton to be expanded for NAM Summit

Star Report

The government will shortly announce appointment of a consultant for the Tk 42 crore 'expansion project' of the Dhaka Sheraton Hotel, to make it capable of meeting the demand of service and facilities for holding the summit of Non Aligned Movement (NAM) scheduled for 2001, officials told The Daily Star.

Dhaka Sheraton, owned by Bangladesh Services Ltd. is about to undertake the expansion project notwithstanding handicaps in matters of limitation of space and allied facilities required for the expansion

The hotel will be kept operational as it is given a facelift and the extension programme is implemented, as per the policy decision of the government, knowledgeable sources said.

According to the plan, the five top floors of the office block in eight-storied office building on the southern side of the Hotel Sheraton will be converted into 'guest rooms'. Some 150 economy 'guest rooms' are being planned for in those floors.

The two-storied extended structure of the existing hotel building on the western portion of the building will be demolished. The space will then be made available for the expan-

Guest houses

Showcause on

2 ministries

sion programme, which in-cludes facilities for parking, reception, lobby and kitchen.

The existing surface parking facilities along the western side will be relocated at the basement, as par the design, sources said. The design envisages creation of facilities for parking of

at least 250 cars, sources added. Asked whether the BSL would be able to finance the project from its own fund, a source in the company said, it will provide 'some of it', while the rest will be procured in the shape of bank loan and from the government.

Government had earlier formed a technical committee headed by the chief architect M Amir Hussain, for evaluation of the six companies that are bidding for the job, sources said. Prof M Shahidul Ameen and Prof AMM Shafiullah of BUET have also been included as expert-members of the technical committee.

The companies participating in the competition for the job are mainly joint venture ones, which are working in collaboration with their local representatives.

The foreign counter-parts belong to Malaysia, Australia, UK and India sources said without naming them.

Contempt petition against Nasim: HC to issue order Thursday

The High Court yesterday

Home Minister Mohammad

Nasim and set October 28 for is-

suing an order in this regard,

The Division Bench com-

prising Justice Mohammad

Mozammel Haque and Justice

Mohammad Abdur Rashid after

a full-day hearing of the peti-

tioner and the defence, set

Court, Mohammad Ataur

Rahman Khan, filed a contemp

petition against the home min-

ister for his alleged statement

in Parliament on the judiciary

Monir

From page 1

doctor to refer his son to nearby

Mitford Hospital in Old

System loss

institutions and industrial,

commercial and domestic con-

and less collection. DESA pre-

practically collects 70-80 per

also affects PDB with similar

collection to more than 120 per

cent to clear its backlog to PDB.

per cent is due to technical rea-

sons. "The rest is pure theft of revenue", another source said.

sector severely as DESA con-

sumes more than 45 per cent of

the total power generated in the

improvement, the government

may consider merging DESA with PDB," said another source.

"Such a measure can be imple-

mented easily as only a few

high officials will have to be re-

From page T

would be deployed to help civil

administration maintain the

has passed a "strict order" on all

including the officials, employ-

ees and law enforcing agency

men to ensure absolute neutral-

ity during the polling at any

stituency, which was vacated

following the death of Awami

League MP Mosharraf Hossain

in August 19, will start at 8 am

and continue until 4 pm with-

Officially five candidates

who are contesting the polls

are: Saleha Begum Mosharraf

(Awami League), Mostafa Amir

Faisal (Zaker Party),

Mohammad Moniruzzaman

Tito (Jatiya Party, M-M), Prof

Nasiruddin Ahmed Musa

(independent) and Krishak

Meanwhile, Zaker Party and

Jatiya Party (M-M) candidates

have announced the with-

drawal of their candidature.

Sadek

The elections to the con-

law and order.

out any break.

Mohammad

(independent).

It said one company of army

The Election Commission

The theft affects the power

"If DESA fails to make any

bill collection problems.

DESA's dues to PDB were ac-

"It was a definite case of

Dhaka," Ahmed said.

tonsillitis," he added.

and the judges on September 6.

An advocate of the Supreme

Thursday for the order.

report agencies.

By Staff Correspondent The High Court yesterday heard arguments on the contempt of court petition against

served showcause notices on two ministries and some relevant government agencies asking them why they would not be directed not to interfere in business of guest houses, otherwise than in due process of law, said a press release of the Guest House Owners Association (GHOA).

The HC order followed a writ petition filed jointly by 18 owners of guest houses in the city. challenging government action against some of the guest houses.

The showcause notices were issued on the secretaries of the ministries of home affairs and civil aviation and tourism. Mayor Dhaka City Corporation, Chairman of Rajuk, DC DMP (North), Deputy Director of Narcotics Department, SP of Special Branch and the Commissioner of Taxes, Excise and VAT. Dhaka, the press release said.

A Division Bench comprising Justice Mainur Reja Chowdhury and Justice MA Aziz served the showcause notice, to be relied within four

A special team of the Department of Narcotics Control recently sealed six guest houses in some posh residential areas in the city and arrested two persons for alleged antisocial activities.

DV application GPO to remain open on Friday, Saturday

Some counters at the General Post Office (GPO) will remain open from 9am to 5 pm on Friday and Saturday (October 29 and 30) on special arrangements for sending the DV-2001 applications, a postal department press release said yesterday, reports BSS.

Bofors deal

From page 1

Scindia said Rajiv Gandhi was totally innocent of any involvement in the Bofors case and he (Rajiv) was not a beneficiary of the kickbacks in the gun purchase deal. The deputy leaders of the op-

position alleged that the government had brought in the name of Rajiv Gandhi in the chargesheet without a shade of

Scindia pleaded for the deletion of late Rajiv Gandhi's name from the chargesheet which, he said, would be a good gesture on the part of the government to ensure meaningful cooperation to the government in parliament.

The trouble erupted when Information and Broadcasting Minister Arun Jaitely said the name of any accused cannot be deleted under law.

The Congress members rose on their feet and shouted against the government and demanded a reply from the prime minister.

When the Treasury Bench did not relent the Congress and the AIADMK members staged a walk-out.

In the Rajya Sabha too. Congress leader Kapil Sibal raised the same issue but leader of the Rajya Sabha and External Affairs Minister Jaswant Singh said the government had no political animus against the accused but if it is "deleted or amended in the chargesheet, it will be an interference in the functioning of the investigating agencies."

DHANMONDI

KALYANPUR

Khwaja Super Market Kalyanpur, Dhaka

yesterday.

Proceedings of

Shafi Murder

Case adjourned

till Nov 17

By Court Correspondent

politan Sessions Judge's Court

yesterday adjourned the pro-

ceedings of Jalal Ahmed Shafi

Murder Case till November 17

following a time petition by the

an informer of DB, was recov-

ered from a roof-top water tank

of DB office at Minto Road on

accused, Inspector Ziaul Ahsan,

who was released on bail from

Dhaka Central Jail on Septem-

ber 12, appeared before the

tained accused - havildar Billal

Hossain, constable Abdur Rauf

and canteen manager Anwar –

were produced in the court at

ings, Mahbub Ahmed, the law-

ver for Anwar, filed a bail

petition. The judge Munira Mah-

Stabbed to death

fuza rejected the bail prayer.

From page

near the cotton factory at Mun-

shikhola. The victim had been

missing since Monday morning.

Delwar and Mohammed Ali re-

portedly called him out of his

pan's murder was a sequel to

enmity, police said. None of the

accused could be arrested, they

According to the FIR, Swa-

During yesterday's proceed-

Besides, the rest three de-

Of the four chargesheeted

Decomposed body of Shafi,

prosecution lawyers.

March 25.

court yesterday.

around 11 am.

The Fifth Additional Metro-

MIRPUR

Tel # 9010493

Dr H B M Iqbal MP, Chairman of the Premier Bank Ltd, presenting a crest to Prime

Minister Sheikh Hasina at the inaugural function of the bank at Sonargaon Hotel

Prime Minister Sheikh

Hasina yesterday called upon

the bankers to bring back dis-

cipline and healthy competi-

tion in banking sector to let the

banks make their due contribu-

tion to the country's economic

ing seen in the banking sector

despite massive steps for devel-

opment of financial and bank-

ing sectors. Amount of classi-

fied loans of some commercial

banks has reached an alarming

state," she said inaugurating yet

another private bank in the

rated the Premier Bank Limited

at a function at Sonargaon

Hotel in the morning with the

hope that the Premier Bank

will conduct its loan disburse-

ment process with care and will

be able to keep it free from de-

Finance Minister Shah AMS

Kibria, Bangladesh Bank

Governor Dr M Farashuddin,

Premier Bank Chairman Dr

HBM Iqbal, Bank advisor

Sahazada Syed Nizamuddin

Ahmed, Managing Director of

the Bank MA Yussouf Khan and

Vice-chairman Dr Arifur

Rahman also spoke on the oc-

The Prime Minister said.

even in some private banks the

amount of unrealised loans has

become a burden for them and

created obstacle to running the

maintaining the capital of cent, he said-

fault loan culture.

banks properly.

The Prime Minister inaugu-

"Some irregularities are be-

development, reports UNB.

Premier Bank inaugurated

Bring back discipline

in banking sector: PM

some private banks also created

problem for bank management.

remain alert about all these.

she said asking all concerned to

She also stressed the impor-

tance of ensuring a corruption-

free environment in the bank-

ing sector, saying that corrup-

tion destroys the social and

economic system of a country.

"Economic development will be

possible if we can free all finan-

cial institutions from corrup-

amended Bankruptcy Act 1997

and Arthareen Adalat Ain

are also implementing the rec-

ommendations of bank reforms

committee and law reforms

commission for restoring dis-

taken against the loan default-

ers, she said adding "we have

realised bigger amount of de-

fault loans in comparison to

Kibria said corruption will not

be tolerated in the financial in-

stitutions and reforms will be

carried out for more compe-

Dr Farashuddin said percentage

of local earning as well as earn-

ing through remittances have

increased in recent times

Reserve in the country is now

fied loans have been brought

In the private banks, classi-

171 crore dollars, he added.

Finance Minister Shah AMS

Bangladesh Bank Governor

any other time.

Besides, reluctance in down to 28 per cent from 33 per

Proper actions are being

cipline in the banking sector."

(Financial Loan Court Act). We

Hasina said, "We have



PHILIPS

Journalists protest police action

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ). Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) and Bangladesh Photojournalists Association (BPA) jointly held a rally in front of the BPA office yesterday morning protesting police action on photojour-nalists on Friday.

Addressing the rally, jour-nalist leaders demanded resignation of the home minister for his failure to take action against the policemen respon-sible for "atrocities" on innocent people as well as journal-ists. The leaders also demanded formation of a judicial committee to probe the police action on photojournalists during Friday's rally.

They also blamed the police for harassing the journalists and involving some of them with charges of hatching a conspiracy for killing the Prime Minister.

Presided over by BFUJ President Amanullah Kabir, the rally was addressed by BFUJ Secretary General MA Aziz, DUJ acting president Abu Saleh, General Secretary Ruhul Amin Gazi, Masud Nizami, M Salahuddin, Shamsuddin Salehin.

Mansingh new Indian FS

NEW DELHI, Oct 26: India's ambassador to Britain, Lalit Mansingh, will be the new foreign secretary, the government announced today, reports AP.

Mansingh will become the highest official in the foreign ministry on December 1 following the retirement of K Raghunath, said a statement issued in New Delhi.

Records From page 1 were elected from more than

one constituencies in the 1996 general elections. A court injunction has withheld election in the Bhola-1 constituency.

So far, eight MPs have died necessitating by-polls. One such is the Faridpur-4 constituency where voting will take place today. In another such case, Kishoreganj-2, the Election Commission has not yet declared a date for polling.

In a unique case, the Tangail-8 seat fell vacant because the incumbent MP resigned but is seeking re-election as a nonparty candidate. The by-poll is due on November 15.

Abdul Kader Siddiqui quit his parliamentary seat after a long-drawn dispute with the leadership of then ruling party. on whose ticket he was elected in 1996.

A recent EC ruling stripping two former BNP MPs of their parliamentary seats will require two more by-polls. The EC will soon announce sates for Sirajganj-7 and Rajshahi-5 seats -- held by Hasibur Rahman Swapan and Dr. Mohammad Alauddin.

The EC said that the two lost their seats for joining the gov-ernment against the decision of the party (BNP) which nominated them for the 1996 general elections.

Records show that the pre-sent parliament is followed by the fifth one as regards the number of by-elections. Bypolls were held to 16 seats of the Fifth Jatiya Sangsad.

The shortest-lived sixth had no by-election. The by-poll records of the first four are nowhere near the current Jatiya Sangsad.

Dislodge this puppet govt: Khaleda

KULIARCHAR, Kishoreganj. Oct 26: Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia today appealed to the nation to fulfill her only desire to dislodge the subservient government before it crippled the nation compromising sovereignty, reports UNB.

"I have nothing more to ask from you. You have bestowed on me lot of respect and honour. My only desire, you must throw out this puppet government through mass movement." Khaleda said in a passionate appeal to the nation. She was addressing a huge

public meeting at Pilot High School ground here this after-"I'm ready to lay down my

life, but shall not leave the street. We shall not give an inch of our territory to anyone. Fall of the government is a must." she said.

Khaleda said leaders of this government would have no place to hide. They will bow down to the people and seek apology as they did before the election for their misdeeds and misrule 25 years ago.

The former prime minister said, "The conspiracy to give road and railway transit to India will be thwarted at any "It's conspiracy to merge

Bangladesh with India, reduce the country to another state of India. That is why the masters of the government had helped secure the power," she added. The BNP chairperson regret-

ted that villagers along the border had to flee their homes and hearth in fear of Indian aggres-"They (India) have set up

phensdyl factories across the border and pushing the prod-

ucts to Bangladesh in a planned way to ruin our youths. They are forging Bangladesh currency notes and foreign currencies and smuggling those across the border to destroy our economy," she added. Begum Zia cautioned the

people about smuggling of firearms from across the border. The arms, she said were being handed over to the ruling party terrorists to annihilate the opposition.

Referring to Monday's ransacking of the Dhaka Medical College Hospital, she blamed the ruling party terrorists for the incident.

Death of BCL leader sparks violence at Nalitabari

SHERPUR, Oct 26: A Chhatra League leader was killed and two other activists were injured in an attack by the activists of their rival faction at Venaibazar in Nalitabari thana on Monday night.

The death of BCL leader sparked violence at Nalitabari thana headquarters today. At least a dozen houses, shops and vehicles were set on

fire and the municipal office was ransacked. Witnesses said the factional fight raged through the entire thana town with the rivals chasing each other.

A group of local people last night laid a siege to the house of Food and Agriculture Minister Motia Chowdhury and tried to prevent her from going to see the body of Yusuf.

BNP vows to foil 'conspiracy' against judiciary, press

By Staff Correspondent

BNP leaders at a protest rally in the city vesterday accused the ruling Awami League of hatching a deep rooted conspiracy to curb independence of the judiciary and freedom of press and vowed to foil the conspiracy "at any cost" They said the Prime Minis-

ter and other government leaders have "nakedly attacked" the judiciary and the press with a motive to make the two important institutions subservient. The AL has no respect for the

judiciary and the press as it does not believe in democracy. rule of law and free press, they claimed. Recent statements of the PM and others clearly reflected the mindset of AL leaders during the post-independence period when the judiciary was made "subservient to the executive" and all newspapers were closed, they observed.

They were addressing a rally at Muktangan, organised by the city BNP to protest the PM's "naked attack" on independence of the judiciary and the press and police action on photo journalists on October 21 in the city.

They strongly condemned the indiscriminate lathi charge on photo-journalists during a political party's programme on Oct 21. They demanded an impartial inquiry and exemplary punishment of those responsi ble for the "attack" on news-

Presided over by city BNP convenor Sadek Hossain Khoka MP, it was addressed by, among others, Moudud Ahmed, Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Tarigul Islam, Mirza Abbas, Abdus Salam, Kazi Abul Bashar and Chowdhury Alam. Abdul Matin Chowdhury ac-

cused AL of destroying democratic institutions in the country and its economy, industry and agriculture and said it is now plotting to curb independence of the judiciary and the

JCD-BCL clash in Barisal jail: 10 injured BARISAL, Oct 26: The BCL

and JCD activists clashed inside the Barisal district jail this morning, injuring at least 10 on both sides, reports UNB.

Jailor Zahiruddin Mohammad Babar said the clash ensued between the detained activists of BNP's student front Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and Awami League backed Chhatra League at about 9 am. They clashed over a quarrel between two rival leaders at the jail medical centre. As Moni and Suhad engaged

in hot exchange triggering a violent clash assembling their supporters when they saw each other at the centre.

demands

placed for this purpose". By Staff Correspondent Faridpur-4

> tee of the Prokrichi-BCS Central Coordination Council has renewed its call to the government to accept its demands without further delay.

hold a meeting on November to prepare its future course of action which will be announced on November 2 at a news conference. It was decided at a meeting

Institution of Engineers on Monday with Engr Nurul Huda in the chair. The Prokrichi had earlier urged the government to accept its demands by October

of the steering committee had urged the government to accept its 17-point charter of demands of which it said six points could be implemented by October 31.

its demand to cancel the government order2to upgrade 321 posts of the BCS (Admn) cadre saying that it would only further increase the intra-cadre disparity, said a press release yester-

From page 1

connection with five murder cases is scheduled to expire on November 7. He will be taken on remand again after the middle of next month for questioning in other murder charges, the DC

evidences of 14 murder cases,

charge sheets of which are ex-

pected to be submitted by the

with the murders of Siraj. 'Teko' Aziz, Akimul, Kalu, Dhakaiya Aziz , Jahangir, Panna, Shajahan, Advocate

and Kamal Sof ar, 17 murder cases have been recorded with different police stations in the city and in the district. Shikdar has been named the principal accused in the cases.

that at least 24 people were murdered by Shikdar and his accomplices from February 26. 1995 to August 10 this year. The victims include six

The source said that a total of 60 cases were filed against him and his associates since 1997.

dences. Some of those cases

placed on five days' remand today for interrogation in the Jahangir murder case. The court ordered her interrogation in presence of a female police official. But till writing

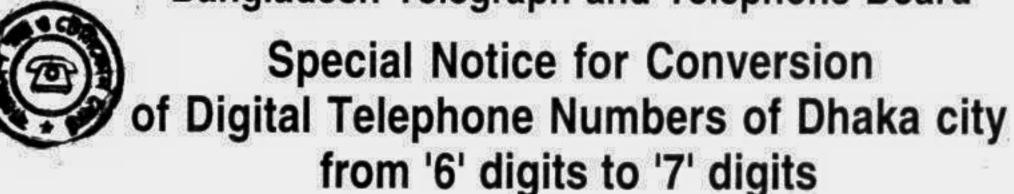
sent there fearing victimisation by Shikdar. Today, a rickshawpuller, Sohrab Bepari gave a statement

Alam, one of his accomplices. Akimul and Shikdar's first wife Khodeja allegedly used to

G-1887

committee, headed by the Additional Commissioner of Income Tax, has been formed to probe alleged evasion of taxes by Shikdar.

Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board



This is for kind information of the valued Telephone Subscribers that the countrywide telephone expansion programme is now under progress. Due to technical reason the present all '6' digit Digital Telephones of Dhaka city starting with number '8' will be converted into '7' digit. The conversion work will start from 11:55 Friday night, 29th October, 1999.

In this process all present Digital Telephones of Dhaka city starting with number '8' will be changed. But the last four digits of all present telephone numbers will remain the same. The first two digits will be converted into three digits as shown in the chart below:

Name of the telephone exchange First two digits of present First three digits of new number number Mirpur exchange 801xxxx 80xxxx Sher-e-Bangla Nagar 81xxxx 811xxxx exchange 82xxxx 812xxxx Gazipur exchange (TSC) 82xxxx 821xxxx Mogbazar exchange 83xxxx 831xxxx 84xxxx 832xxxx Nilkhet exchange 86xxxx 861xxxx Gulshan exchange 87xxxx 881xxxx 88xxxx 882xxxx Uttara exchange 89xxxx 891xxxx

During the conversion process, the subscribers may face temporary problems. T&T Board regrets for the inconvenience caused to the valued Subscribers. DFP-23835-25/10 We are at your service

Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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diphtheria. Otherwise, there is no reason why Monir should die even though he had acute From page 1 defaulters include government cumulated due to irregular payment. DESA is incurring a loss of around Tk 20 crore per month because of under-billing pares bills for 75 to 80 per cent of the total power sold. Again, it cent of the amount billed. This DESA needs to increase its It now has a system loss of 24.8 per cent, of which only 10 to 12

Whizkids do some brainstorming at the Intra BUET Computer Programming Contest '99 at CSE Computer Lab at BUET yesterday. -Star photo

Prokrichi-BCS Council renews call to accept

The central steering commit-

The Coordination Council will

of the steering committee at the Earlier on Sunday a meeting

The meeting also reiterated

Shikdar, his men

Police have so far procured

second week of next month, he The cases are in connection Fatik, Khalid, Insaf, Khaleque

A source in the KMP said

smugglers of Jessore, named by Shikdar. They were killed on the same night in his Ice factory at Skid Ghat

But they were acquitted in all these case due to lack of evihave been revived, the source Meanwhile, Farida Begum, mother-in-law of Shikdar, was

this report Farida was not interrogated as no female police official agreed to remain pre-

to First Class Magistrate Kazi Mizanur Rahman under Section 164. He was a witness to kidnapping of Akimul by Shik-dar and his accomplices from KDA avenue on February 25. 1998. Akimul was murdered at Skid Ghat on the same night, according to the judicial statement given earlier by Noor-e-

go out from 'Swarnakamol', Shikdar's residence, in a rickshaw pulled by Sohrab of Milky Dearha village under Rupsha Meanwhile, a three-member