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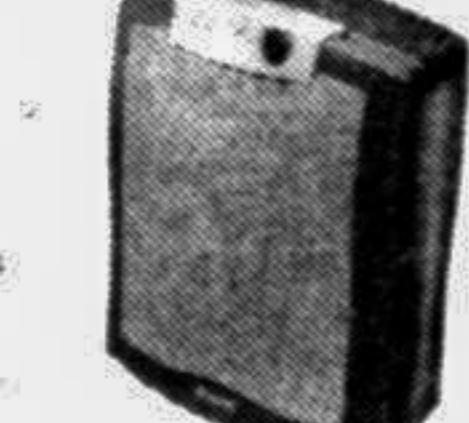
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Chief Justice for efficient justice-delivery system

Chief Justice Mostafa Kamal yesterday called upon the lawyers and judges to try to devise an efficient justice-delivery system to fulfil people's expectations and honour their trust, reports UNB.

"The profession of law and the institution of judiciary are at a crossroads of history. The new millennium begins with a universal trend of globalisation whose impact on the legal profession and the judiciary will be penetrating and pervasive," he said.

Delivering a farewell address at the Supreme Court auditorium, he said lawyers and judges have a role to play in the transition from the traditional administration of justice to a result-oriented, speedy and efficient justice-delivery system.

"The adversarial system has to be injected with doses of consensual and conciliatory system of adjudication of disputes," he said. "Over an increasingly large and varied type of Court cases, a legal culture of mediation and arbitration has to be devised, nurtured and developed under the caring hands of both the lawyers and the judges."

Referring to the power of judges, the outgoing Chief Justice said the powers exercised by them are not powers given to them by a divine hand. It is the people of Bangladesh who have the judicial power.

"Under a constitutional arrangement it is the judicial power of the people which is being exercised by the judges who for the time being are performing functions of judges in various Courts and Tribunals," he told the function, adding: "The people therefore, are the repository of all power and are central to our Constitutional scheme."

The Chief Justice said like other organs of the Government, the judiciary cannot remain oblivious of and non-responsive to the legitimate expectation of the people.

"If the people expect a quick and speedy trial of their cases, if they expect the cost of their litigation to be within tolerable limits, if they expect impartiality, neutrality and independence of judges and magistrates in the exercise of their judicial functions, if they expect freedom from vexatious and harassing litigation and prosecution, then not only the lawyers and judges, but also the Parliament and the Executive have a joint responsibility to adequately respond to these legitimate expectations. And if they fail to do so their failure will recoil upon the efficacy, relevance, trust and confidence of

the people in the entire system," he said.

Chief Justice Mostafa Kamal urged lawyers and Judges all over the country to realise the compelling necessity of an adequate response to the legitimate expectations of the people. This is their constitutional commitment.

In a pungent comment on condition of convicts, undertrial prisoners and security detainees in jails, the Chief Justice said the jails are overcrowded. "Sanitary arrangements are barbaric. Food is intolerable." Quoting Hobbes, he said life there is "solitary, brutish and short."

He said criminal justice system must take note of these objective conditions in the country's jails.

The Attorney General, members of the bench and the bar attended the meeting.

Convention

Siddique's supporters form 101-member preparatory body

By Staff Correspondent

Gader Siddique's supporters yesterday formed a 101-member convention preparatory committee with the objective to float a new political party soon.

Advocate Fazlur Rahman has been made convenor of the committee, which finalised to hold the convention on December 24 at Engineers' Institution, said a press release.

A meeting of the supporters of Gader Siddique was held yesterday with Anwar Hossain Pathari, BP in the chair. The meeting formed eight sub-committees for making the convention a success.

4 killed in Savar bus plunge

Savar, Dec 12: Four people were killed and 50 injured in a road accident at Almangar near Hemayetpur on Dhaka-Aricha highway today, reports UNB.

Survivors and police said a Dhaka bound night coach from Benapole fell into a roadside ditch at 5 am as the driver lost control over the vehicle.

People from nearby villages rushed to the spot and rescued the victims.

A young woman Raburani, 30, died on the spot while three others succumbed to their injuries on the way to hospital, survivors said.

100 injured as rival transport workers clash at Rajshahi

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Dec 12: At least 100 people were injured in clashes between two groups of transport workers at different places of the town today.

Police and witnesses said, the trouble began as a sequel to Thursday's incident in which a truck was damaged by Bus Sramik Union in Shaheb Bazar area.

The members of Truck Sramik Union today damaged at least 15 buses in Talmair Bus Terminal, Gourhanga and Kajla areas. At least 35 people were injured during the rampage by the members of Truck Sramik Union.

The Truck Sramik Union also put up a barricade on Rajshahi-Noaiganj road and set ablaze a bus belonging to Noaiganj Bus Sramik Union.

Both the groups — Bus Sramik Union and Truck Sramik Union — were locked in a violent clash at this place that

Tk 25 lakh gold seized at ZIA

By Staff Correspondent

The customs surveillance team at the Zia International Airport seized 37 gold bars worth about Tk 25 lakh from a Biman passenger from Dubai yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off, the team scanned the luggage of one Hasan Khan and recovered the gold weighing about 370 tolas by breaking a compressor, wrapped in carbon paper and hidden in it. Hasan Khan is the son of one Masuk Khan.

Sources in the customs said Hasan Khan was challenged when he attempted to pass through green channel.

He was handed over to Cantonment police and a case was filed.

2nd ODI

SL beat Zimbabwe

BULAWAYO, Dec 12: Sri Lanka beat Zimbabwe by 13 runs in the second one-day international today.

Scores: Sri Lanka 213 (Russel Arnold 103; Guy Whitall 4-35); Zimbabwe 200 (Alistair Campbell 56; Sanath Jayasuria 4-41).



—Star photo

Hartal

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when BNP was in power. Even there was no hartal in Ramadan during the 9-year rule by Ershad.

In the capital, the alliance partners — BNP, Jatiya Party, Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Olyka Jote — and some other smaller parties held separate rallies and brought out processions yesterday in support of today's hartal.

Main opposition BNP held rallies at eleven points in the city and brought out processions. Its main rally, held in front of the party's head office at Naya Paltan, was addressed by, among others, Dr Khandaqir Mosharraf Hossain, Abdus Salam, Amanullah Anam MP, Shamsuzzaman Dulu MP, Fazlul Haq Milon, Habibur Rahman Habib and Moazzem Hossain Alal.

Addressing the rally, they said the government forced them to call hartal in the holy month of Ramadan by announcing the CCC polls schedule "unilaterally". They said Chittagong city will be paralysed if the government does not cancel the polls schedule immediately. There is no emergency that the polls have to be arranged even in the month of Ramadhan, they said.

According to BNP officials, Ershad Shikdar was very critical of his youngest wife Shova saying, "It was the only blunder in my life to marry her." Shova has invited all problems for me, he said. My first wife Khodeja is a good lady. She is not that much bad as is being termed by the press, he said.

The team of CID officials headed by ASP Moksedul Islam today questioned Liaquat Lashkar and Idris Jama in

Meanwhile, the government has decided to deploy some 6,000 security forces in the capital to maintain law and order during the hartal, officials sources said.

SC procedures to be computerised

Law Minister Abdul Matin Khasru yesterday announced that all the systems, procedures and functions of the Supreme Court would be computerised and modernised to cope with the challenges of the next century, reports BSS.

The coming century will be highly competitive one and the nation with modern information technology is likely to fare ahead in all respect, the minister added.

The law minister was speaking on the occasion of handing of computer sets and fax machines to Bangladesh Supreme Court Bar Association at a simple ceremony. The equipment were given under a comprehensive modernisation programme of the Supreme Court Procedures.

The law minister said a worldwide web site with internet and e-mail connection will be provided with all the computers of the Supreme Court. He said categorisation of cases and litigation management system will be provided with the provision of electronic filing system (EFPS) in the Supreme Court Procedure.

Meanwhile, Sammiliti Sangskriti Jote has drawn up a four-day "Victory Festival" which starts today at different stages in and around the Dhaka

Advocate Fatik Murder

Shikdar denies involvement

From Staff Correspondent

the office of Khulna district Jail.

Both of them denied their involvement in the murder of Fatik.

The supplementary chargesheet in Fatik murder case is expected to be submitted within a week, said a source in CID office in Khulna.

Sharif Hannan given one month's detention

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Dec 12: Sharif Abdul Hannan, Labour Secretary of city Awami League, has been awarded detention for one month with effect from today.

He was arrested on Saturday morning from his residence on several criminal charges, including harbouring of Shikdar's accomplices.

Sharif, the arch rival of Shikdar, amassed nearly Taka one crore from different illegal sources after he captured leadership of handling workers at the Skid Ghat.

Police said that Hannan became the new godfather of the accomplices of Ershad Shikdar who are trying to get back their last empire at the Skid Ghat.

The term of his detention has been extended till February 11, 2000.

V-Day: Festive mood

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Shadhinata, the Institute of Fine Arts, Sufia Kamal National Public Library and the Bangla Academy stand proudly.

At the library's Showkat Osman Auditorium, a huge turnout marked the third day of a six-day long cultural and film programme organised by the Information Ministry.

A discussion on "Sangrami Bangla" was held with Joint Secretary of Information Khandaqir Fazlur Rahman in the chair. The director general of the Department of Film and Publication gave the welcome address while State Minister for Foreign Affairs M. Abdul Hasan Chowdhury was the chief

Guest of Honour. The discussion was followed by a cultural function and film show. Two films "Stop Genocide" and "Ora Egarjan" were shown.

Another discussion on "Ranangan Bangladesh" will be held at 1:15 p.m. today with Golam Murtaza, managing director of the Bangladesh Film Development Corporation, in the chair. The discussion will be followed by a cultural function and film show.

Meanwhile, Sammiliti Sangskriti Jote has drawn up a four-day "Victory Festival" which starts today at different stages in and around the Dhaka

University Campus.

Sardar Fazlul Karim will inaugurate the programme at the Central Shaheed Minar. Prof. Amanuzzaman will be present as a special guest. Folk songs, dance and cultural functions for children will be staged.

Poetry recitals, discussion meetings, street dramas, an exhibition of liberation war documents, a folk fair and film shows will be held at six other stages.

Bangla Academy will also organise a cultural function on Victory Day. A discussion meeting on the martyrs will be held at the academy's auditorium tomorrow.

The discussion was followed by a cultural function and film show. Two films "Stop Genocide" and "Ora Egarjan" were shown.

Meanwhile, the Martyred Intellectuals Memorial in Rayerbazar will be opened for public after its formal inauguration tomorrow.

The construction work of the memorial began in December 1996 with a plan to complete the work within one and half year. But due to unavoidable circumstances it took the Works Ministry three years to complete the work.

claimed that he was supplying all necessary materials including the armament and combat system to the Daewoo Korea for building the frigate.

As the DGDP expressed his ignorance about the matter, the opposition lawmakers demanded a report on it within 24 hours, insisting that the top businessman of the country is involved in the deal.

However, the DGDP yesterday brought a copy of specifications in the meeting but it was not discussed for time constraint. He took it back as he said it is a secret.

An opposition member told UNB that there was nothing specifically mentioned about the frigate in the specification copy.

Akhataruzzaman said the 70 per cent money, which has already been paid, is at risk, because advance payment could only be made upon bank guarantee. The payment was made violating all existing laws and rules," he insisted.

The meeting was chaired by Maj Gen (Retd) KM Shafullah.

JS team to visit South Korea

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enquiry committee is found dissatisfied about manufacture of the frigate during the planned visit of Korea, he said.

Shafullah however told the meeting that as per documents available from the ministry, 80 per cent of the frigate's price had already been paid while only 58 per cent of the construction work was completed.

Yesterday's meeting also decided to discuss the defence policy of the country at its first meeting.

UNB adds: Opposition members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on defence staged a token walkout yesterday protesting presence of representative of the minister concerned in the JS body meeting that discussed a military purchase deal, reports UNB.

Science and Technology Minister Lt Gen (Retd) Nuruddin Khan attended the meeting as representative of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who holds the Defence portfolio.

The three opposition members who walked out of the

Dhanmondi: DCC yet to remove illegal fences

By Staff Correspondent
Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) hasn't removed the illegal fences blocking access to a Dhanmondi Lake walkway near Satmasjid Road.

The fences were built when a local resident, who claims to be a peer religious preacher, used his influence to alter the original lake development project without approval. The money spent for work came from the project's fund.

The fence, constructed near the peer's house, blocks a new walkway built as part of the lake development project. The Public Works Department identified the peer, known as Sher-e-Khawja, as an encroacher of the public land by the lake.

An official with the DCC's Engineering Section and the lake development project told the Daily Star they would remove the fences and restore public access to the walkway, as signified in the original project design.

9 shops gutted in B'baria

From Our Correspondent

BRAHMANBARIA, Dec 12: At least nine shops were gutted and five people injured in a fire at Radika Bazar, eight kilometres from Brahmanbaria district headquarters at around 6-30