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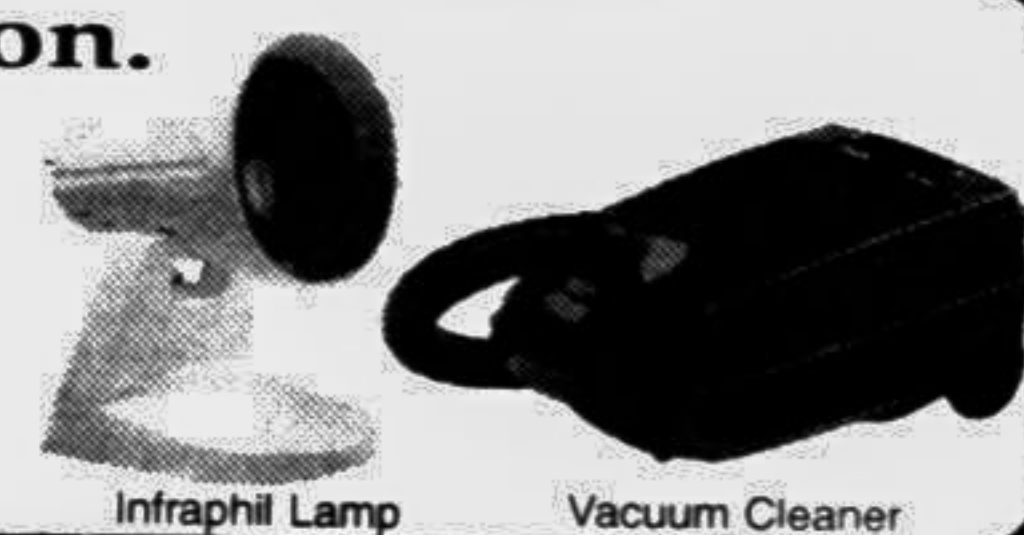
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One shot dead in city

By Staff Correspondent

A 34-year-old man was gunned down in front of the American Express Bank at Dilkusha adjacent to gate number four of Bangabhaban yesterday evening, police said.

The dead was identified as Din Islam alias Nishan, son of Danesh Sardar, a resident of KM Das Lane in Tikatuli, police and hospital sources said.

The incident took place when Nishan was sitting beside a road in front of the American Express Bank after taking lift at about 5:45 pm, sources said.

Two previously known persons of the victim — identified as Harun and Mukhes — called him and started talking with him in front of the bank.

The assailants, numbering about eight arrived on the spot on board a micro-bus and fired on Nishan indiscriminately. At least six bullets hit his body including eye, face and chest, hospital sources said.

He died on the spot and the killers drove off. Relatives of the dead identified seven of the alleged killers as Milon, Javed, Tipu, Nahid, Karim, Sardar Babu and Jahangir — all belongs to Asif group.

The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

HC rule on central bank

By Staff Correspondent

The High Court has issued a rule upon the central bank regarding its 'no objection' letter allowing loan rescheduling to Islam Brothers Properties Ltd.

The High Court also asked the Bangladesh Bank and others to explain why its no objection letter issued on November 17, 1999, shall not be declared to have been made and issued without any lawful authority, according to a press release of Huq and Company received by fax and signed by Barrister Rafique-ul-Huq said.

"On behalf of the petitioner it was submitted that as per BRPD circular No. 07 dated August 5, 1999, the period of repayment of loan of a borrower in which a director of the bank is involved in no case can be renewed, nor the period of repayment can be extended," the release said.

"Even the Bangladesh Bank has no discretion to extend the existing period of repayment," it said.

"Manzurul Islam is the chairman of the borrower company and also chairman of the said bank. On behalf of the borrower company he applied for re-scheduling, even without a deposit of 10 per cent in cash before applying for rescheduling, which is mandatory as per another circular of Bangladesh Bank," the release added.

DU convocation

Student bodies call hartal in city Saturday

By DU Correspondent

Opposition-backed student organisations have called an eight-hour hartal in the city on Saturday, protesting Dhaka University authorities' decision to confer Honorary Doctorate Degree on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at a general convocation of the University.

Honorary Doctorate degree will also be conferred on Nobel Laureate Prof. Amartya Sen at the convocation ceremony.

The decisions were taken by the DU authorities earlier.

The convocation will be the first at DU since independence.

JCD, student front of the opposition BNP, announced the hartal programme at a press conference at the BNP's central office yesterday.

We are going to enforce hartal as the DU authorities did not pay heed to our call to withdraw its decision to confer the degree on Hasina," JCD General Secretary Nasiruddin Ahmed Pinto said.

Jatiya Party-backed Jatiya Chhatra Samaj and Jamaat-supported Islami Chhatra Shibir also called an eight hour hartal in the city on Saturday protesting the DU decision to confer degree on the Prime Minister.

Barisal attack

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"The naked attack by the government party terrorists on a discussion meeting on the martyred intellectuals is a betrayal to the bloods of the martyrs of Liberation War," she said.

Nominations

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for 41 Ward Commissioner posts were cancelled while four of the 42 nomination papers for the 14 reserved seats for women were found invalid.

Nine nomination papers were cancelled for failing to fill up them properly, said a source in the election office.

The last date for withdrawal of nomination papers is December 18.

Preferential access to US market Dhaka must open EPZs to unions, says Holzman

By Rafiq Hasan

Preferential access to US market will be a tough sell at home until Bangladesh opens its export processing zones to unions, the U.S. ambassador said Monday.

John C. Holzman made the statement during a meeting with Tofail Ahmed, minister of commerce and industry, according to sources.

The government decided recently not to allow trade union in the zones, bowing to investors' concerns.

Commerce ministry sources said the government will meet with zone investors next Sunday to discuss the issue. Holzman and Ahmed are also expected to attend.

The dispute over zone trade unions comes as the govern-

ment prepares to build four new zones in Mongla, Syedpur, Ishwardi and Comilla.

The government considered a plan to allow trade unions to operate in zone factories after mounting pressure from the International Labour Organisation and the American Federation of Labour and Congress of Industrial Organisations.

The AFL-CIO wants the U.S. government to cancel Bangladesh's preferential access to the market, granted by the Generalised System of Preference (GSP). The AFL-CIO said Bangladesh violated worker's rights when it suspended labour laws in the zones.

Before the government set up the Chittagong Export Processing Zone in 1980, the govern-

ment passed the Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority Act.

The act formed the Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority and suspended certain labour laws, including the worker's right to unionise, in zone factories.

The ILO and AFL-CIO argued the suspensions were a gross violation of a worker's fundamental right.

However, the Bangladesh government argued it had the best interests of zone employees at heart, even though it imposed restrictions on unions.

For example, the authority set the minimum wage of a non-skilled worker at \$20 per month and provided guidelines

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Three alleged smugglers shot dead

CHITTAGONG, Dec 14: Three alleged smugglers were killed and 17 others arrested after an hour-long exchange of fire between Coast Guards and smugglers near Sandip Coast on Monday night, reports UNB.

Contraband goods worth Tk 1.31 crore were recovered from three engine boats.

Sources said, with the approach of cost guards, smugglers from the engine boats opened indiscriminate fire. The smugglers were unloading contraband goods, including foreign cigarette, from a ship.

The Coast Guards returned fire in which three unidentified smugglers were killed.

Some 17 smugglers with 468 master carton cigarettes and three boats were taken to custody. They were handed over to the Port police.

A case was filed in this connection.

NICVD docs, nurses barred from overseas training

By Naimul Haq

Defying a directive from the Prime Minister, the Directorate of Health Services is not allowing doctors, nurses and technicians of the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases to go for overseas training, NICVD sources alleged.

Offers of free training for them in India were received from Madras Medical Mission, Escorts Heart Institute and Research Centre (Delhi) and Apollo Hospital in Chennai.

But about Tk 55,000 per head was needed for doctors and around Tk 42,000 for nurses and technicians to cover their travel and other expenses for a six-month training.

The offers came in September-November last year. Ten doctors, nurses and technicians could be trained each time.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, while visiting the NICVD last year, assured necessary funds for the training and asked officials concerned to release it immediately, the sources said.

Director of NICVD Prof M A Zaman said in this regard he wrote to Line Director of training service in health directorate Prof Shah Munir Hossain last year, but has not yet received any response.

Techniques of cardiac (heart) intervention and surgery are developing almost every week through research. We lack such facilities at home, so we badly need training abroad," Prof Zaman said.

He went on, "We have enough advanced equipment, required

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Death of Ruma Gulshan police ask Army EME Wing to hand over Maj Ashraf

By Staff Correspondent

Gulshan police yesterday asked the Commandant of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering (EME) wing of Bangladesh Army to hand over Major Ashraf Haider for questioning in connection with the alleged suicide of his wife Qamrunnihar Ruma.

The request was made after police gathered some important information about Qamrunnihar Ruma, who was earlier reported to have committed suicide. Autopsy report given by DMCH, however, revealed that it was a case of "provocative suicide."

Qamrunnihar Ruma, the wife of Major Ashraf Haider, had allegedly committed suicide inside a room of her army staff quarters residence at Banani in the city on December 6. Gulshan police recovered the body of Ruma and sent it to DMCH for autopsy the following day.

Effigies of 3 leaders burnt

By DU Correspondent

Three effigies of BNP chairman Khaleda Zia, Jatiya Party leader HM Ershad and Jamaat Amir Golam Azam were burnt at the Teacher-Students' Centre (TSC) of Dhaka University yesterday night.

Witnesses said a group of masked youths brought the effigies in front of the Milan Square at TSC and set them afire at about 7pm.

They identified themselves as "The Soldiers of Shaheed Zia, tortured during the Anti-Autocrat Movement," and said that the reason behind the burning of the effigies was the recent polarisation of Khaleda Zia with autocrat Ershad and Razakar Golam Azam.

The youths, however, left the spot quickly, witnesses said.

Constable murder:

Two arrested

By Staff Correspondent

Two persons were arrested for their alleged involvement in the killing of a police constable during hartal hours on Monday.

Constable Badruzzaman, 40, of Mirpur thana was killed when miscreants hurled a bomb on his head from a running minibus in front of an Ansar Camp on Darus Salam Road in Mirpur Section No One.

Police identified the arrested as Mustafizur Rahman and Tuhin.

Mustafiz was arrested from near the Ansar Camp on Monday night while Tuhin was arrested from Ahmad Nagar area yesterday.

A Sub-inspector of Mirpur thana filed a murder case accusing 18 people on Monday night. Mustafiz was produced before CMM's Court yesterday. Police prayed for a five-day remand, but the court granted only one day.

Nagar Bhaban

From page 1

has become a regular feature. "We had reports of corruption in tender awarding, but guns are new additions," said a top official of the DCC.

Many big tenders of the DCC were sent to the Divisional Commissioner's office for awarding because the terrorists can not show their muscle power there.

DCC officials said that some Ward Commissioners were 'directly or indirectly' responsible for terrorism at the Nagar Bhaban.

The Mayor could not be reached for his comment.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and senior ministers pray for the martyred intellectuals after unveiling the plaque at Rayerbazar mausoleum yesterday. —Star photo

Tribute to martyred intellectuals

By Staff Correspondent

A memorial to the intellectuals who died just days before the end of the Liberation War was unveiled yesterday as Bangladesh paid tribute to their supreme sacrifice.

All roads led to the Martyred Intellectual Memorial at Mirpur and the new mausoleum on the site of the Rayerbazar mass grave.

People in their thousands carrying flowers queued for hours to pay their respects to the martyrs.

The Prime Minister officiated the opening of the sombre, symbolic structure at Rayerbazar, the site where countless teachers, journalists and other professionals were massacred by Pakistani collaborators on Dec 14, 1971.

Earlier, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, flanked by senior party colleagues, garlanded the portrait of the nation's founding father Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman early yesterday morning at Bangabandhu Bhaban in the city.

The Prime Minister also placed wreaths at the Mirpur Memorial. Buglers played the last post and a military contingent gave a gun salute when she stood in solemn silence for a few minutes.

Hasina then went to Rayerbazar and unveiled the plaque of the new memorial.

BNP chief Khaleda Zia, accompanied by party leaders and activists, went to the Mirpur Memorial and placed wreaths.

In addition to the events at Rayerbazar and Mirpur, the Bangla academy organised a discussion meeting on "Martyred Intellectuals and Bangladesh Perspective" at its auditorium, chaired by Prof. Serajul Islam Chowdhury.

The participants said the spirit of the War of Liberation, symbolised by the intellectual martyrs, was now at stake.

Fatim murder Chargesheet likely within a week

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Dec 14: The ASP of CID, Dhaka left Khulna today after completing investigation in the sensational Advocate Fatim murder case.

The chargesheet in the murder case is expected to be submitted within a week, said a reliable source.

The team of CID officials interrogated Ershad and his two armed cadres Idris 'Jama' in connection with Fatim Murder Case. Ershad's chief body guard Noor Alam was also questioned by the team.

It is learnt from CID source that Ershad's first wife Khodeja will not be spared from being one of the chargesheeted accused in Fatim murder case.

There are evidences that Advocate Fatim was killed in her presence for having illicit connection. Ershad tortured Fatim in front of his wife Khodeja and then killed him which she did not protest.

PM: Mausoleum

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spoke on the occasion. Shyamoli Nasreen Chowdhury, wife of martyred intellectual Dr. Abdul Aleem also spoke on behalf of the families of martyred intellectuals.

Ministers, MPs, political leaders, intellectuals, members of the martyred families, representatives of professionals' groups, cultural activists, high officials and local people attended the function.

After the opening, Fateha and special munaajat were offered for eternal peace of the martyrs' souls.

The Prime Minister also placed wreaths at the foot of the 'mourning tower' and stood there in solemn silence for some times as a mark of respect to the memories of the martyred intellectuals.

Members of Projanma '71 also placed wreaths. Hasina also planted a sapling of Palash and signed the visitor's book, opened yesterday.

Earlier, members of Projanma '71 staged a brief demonstration protesting the sitting arrangement for the wives of martyred intellectuals and for not mentioning the name of Projanma '71 in the booklet published by the Ministry of Works on the occasion.

The Prime Minister said Bangabandhu had once said none would be able to suppress this nation. "That came true. The real history of the nation has been established again and people of this country have raised their heads again."

Referring to UNESCO's declaration of International Mother Language Day on February 21, she said the Bengalees are getting back their honour. Recognition of February 21, the great Language Day of the Bengalees, at the international level is the proof.

Violence marks hartal at Sherpur: 22 hurt

SHERPUR, Dec 14: The first day of indefinite hartal, called by opposition alliance in protest against Monday's clash, passed off peacefully here today, reports UNB.

At least 22 people, including five policemen, were injured in a clash between pro and anti-hartal activists at the bus station here.

Ruling party supporters allegedly ransacked and set fire to houses and shops of the opposition supporters.

Heavy vehicles did not ply while movement of rickshaws and other three-wheelers was normal. Most of the offices and shops remained closed.

Additional police were deployed on the main points of the district town to avert further clashes.

Advice for Indian visa seekers

The Indian High Commission in Dhaka has requested the Bangladesh nationals to apply for visa at least 4 to 5 days ahead of travelling to India, reports UNB.

Shahjalal varsity

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rally was addressed by district BNP president MA Haque. General Secretary Ariful Haque Chowdhury and district JP president Advocate Giasuddin Ahmed.

The speakers blamed VC for ignoring their demand for withdrawal of the names of halls and buildings of the university. They also threatened to paralyse the normal life by calling hartal.

The committee held another meeting at Court Point demanding release of the Shibir activists.

The outsiders also ransacked some rooms of the academic building which were unlocked by the police on Sunday night.

Meanwhile, a group of about 100 outsiders yesterday attacked Palace de Shahid, a building rented by some teacher of the university. They entered a room on the first floor of the building searched for Kazi Afzal, a teacher of the varsity.

They again locked the main gate of the university in presence of police and hurled bombs on the residence of Habibur Rahman.

The Shahjalal University Teachers Association held an emergency meeting immediately after the incident and condemned the attack on the teachers' residence.

The meeting also demanded arrest of the attackers within 24 hours. Police officials visited the spot and talked to the teachers in the afternoon.

Emergency police cell soon for RMG factories

By Staff Correspondent

An emergency police cell would be formed to ensure smooth transportation of garments, raw materials and maintain law and order in and around the ready-made garment (RMG) factories.

The decision was taken yesterday at a meeting between the government and the Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), said a BGMEA press release.

The meeting also discussed the BGMEA's demands of formation of a safety cell in Dhaka and Chittagong, strengthening police patrol on Dhaka-Chittagong highway and reduction of fire licence renewal fees.

Home secretary Shaifur Rahman led the government side while the BGMEA side was led by its president Anisur Rahman Sinha.

The BGMEA urged the government to reduce the fire licence fee to Tk 8,000 from existing Tk 20,000 and consider the condition of construction of alternative stair cases in garments factories by June 2000.

Inspector General of Police, director general of fire service and high officials of the home ministry were present at the meeting.

The meeting decided to form a committee under the leadership of DG, fire service, to recommend appropriate measures for ensuring fire safety in the RMG factories. The committee, comprising BGMEA representatives, will submit its recommendation to the home secretary by February 2000.

The secretary would take necessary actions by June, 2000, in this regard, the BGMEA press release added.

Udichi case

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protesting "implication" of Tariqul Islam and other BNP leaders in the case, BSS correspondent reported from Jessore.

They brought out processions in the town and paraded different streets yesterday protesting the indictment.

Jessore SP M A Rouf told BSS that the situation was under control and a huge number of police were deployed in the town.

Additional forces including BDR personnel will be deployed in the town today, if necessary, the SP added.

UNB adds: BNP and its allies brought out militant processions and exploded bombs in the town in the evening.

Rumours spread that Tariqul Islam was arrested from his Dhaka residence this evening. His arrest could not be confirmed till 8-15 pm.

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