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Unicef chief Carol Bellamy in city

United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) chief Ms Carol Bellamy arrived in the city yesterday on a three-day visit to review the UN organisation's activities in Bangladesh and to meet with government leaders and representatives of UN bodies, reports BSS.

Economic Relations Division Secretary Dr Mashur Rahman, foreign ministry officials and UNICEF representative in Dhaka Shahida Azfar received Ms Bellamy at Zia International Airport.

Later, she met leaders of leading non-governmental organisations at the UNICEF office where she was briefed on the latest situation and measures being carried out to fight arsenic contamination in Bangladesh.

The NGO representatives included Khaled Shams of Grameen Bank, Dr Mosharraf Chowdhury of BRAC and Dr Mahmudur Rahman of Dhaka Community Hospital.

Ms Bellamy is expected to launch UNICEF-sponsored Arsenic Communication Strategy prior to her departure on December 20.

Sohel, Pintu remanded

By Staff Correspondent

Top JCD leaders and activists, arrested during Friday's demonstration, were taken on remand.

JCD president Habibun Nabi Sohel and secretary Nasiruddin Pintu were charged with carrying explosives, ransacking public property and assaulting the police.

Motihel Police arrested them on Friday while they were holding demonstrations to protest against Dhaka University authority's decision to confer doctorate on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Police cracked down on the JCD procession and arrested 50 processionists including, Sohel and Pintu.

Sohel, Pintu and three senior leaders of the organisation were placed on two-day police remand, while 20 other arrested activists were taken on one-day remand.

JCD calls strike at BUET today

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), the student wing of BNP, has called a strike at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) today to protest arrest of its leaders on Friday, reports UNB.

JCD leaders and workers, including its president Habibun Nabi Sohel and general secretary Nasiruddin Ahmed Pinto, were arrested on Friday.

HOUSE RENT IN BARIDHARA

A THREE STORED, LUXURIOUS, HOUSE MEASURING 8,500 SFT WITH IN-HOUSE SWIMMING POOL, 5 BED ROOMS, HUGE OPEN SPACE, 2 GARAGES ACCOMMODATING 5 CARS, 2 MAID'S ROOMS AND A DRIVERS ROOM, IS READY FOR RENT. PLEASE VISIT AT SITE OR CONTACT OVER TELEPHONE NO. 9881903 / MOBILE # 017-522945. ADDRESS : 57, SUHRAWARDY AVENUE, BARIDHARA R/A, DHAKA.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

National Board of Revenue
Dhaka

Notice

Inviting List of Locally Produced/ Made Textile Machine Parts/ Implements

The present government is specially aware of protecting reasonable financial interest of local producers. In light of this policy the National Board of Revenue in the Budget of 1999-2000 financial year has fixed reasonable rate of tax on foreign imported & locally produced machine parts & implements used/to be used in textile industry. In giving full fledged form to the arrangement the National Board of Revenue requests the local producers to send information including documents of evidence in support of locally produced machineries, spares, accessories & various implements of Textile Sector to the undersigned by 31 December 1999.

Md Azam-e-Sadat
Second Secretary
(Tax Policy & Budget)
Room No 503
Dhaka
DFP-27811-10/12
G-2122
Phonc # 406374 (Office)

Portugal to hand Macau back to China tonight

MACAU, Dec 18: Macau, the first European colony on the Chinese coast and run by Portugal for more than 400 years, reverts to China at midnight tomorrow, report agencies.

Preparing to hand Portugal's oldest and last Asian possession back to China, President Jorge Sampaio said today that 500 years of history are flashing through his mind, and insisted the gambling enclave is ready for a bright future if it seizes the opportunity.

Sampaio defended Lisbon's legacy, rejecting suggestions that years of neglect had allowed Macau to deteriorate into a notorious casino center where gangland assassinations are commonplace. He pointed instead to a new airport, bridges and other infrastructure the Portuguese have built on their way out.

"We leave behind a reality which is well-equipped to deal with future problems," Sampaio said in an interview with Associated Press Television News, on the eve of the handover at midnight Sunday that will end 442 years of Portuguese governance.

"Of course it's a moment of mediation," Sampaio said. "You certainly will see a film of 500 years going in front of you. It gives you a sense of purpose, a sense of history."

The pomp thus far has been dampened by dreary weather. Sampaio and other dignitaries were expected to arrive in Macau today.

See page 11 col 7



Alleged incident of snatching Police, mob clash at Rajshahi: 20 injured

RAJSHAHI, Dec 18: At least 20 people were injured as police charged batons and fired tear gas shells and blank shots to disperse a mob enraged by robbing of a man of cash by policemen at Kaila in the city Friday night, reports UNB.

Witnesses said, three plainclothes policemen snatched Tk 13,000 from a businessman at gun-point in front of the main gate of Rajshahi University at about 10:30 pm.

Local people chased the plainclothes policemen who brandished firearms to make their good escape. As people caught one of the three policemen, their colleagues in uniform came forward, leading to a clash with the public.

Police fired blank shots and tear gas shells after they failed to disperse the mob by baton charge.

They chased the agitated

Accused in 5 criminal cases hacked to death at Barisal

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Dec 18: One person was hacked to death by some unidentified terrorists at C&B road in the town this morning.

The victim was identified as Manik Howader, 30, of Islampur in the town.

According to police, Manik came under attack at 6 am near his house. The terrorists also severed his hands.

He died soon after admission to Barisal College Hospital.

Manik was an accused in five criminal cases, police said.

A case was filed with Barisal sadar thana, but none was arrested till filing of this report at 7 pm today.

Lanka clinch ODI series

HARARE, Dec 18: Sri Lanka have won the five-match one-day international series against Zimbabwe here 3-0 with one 'no result' due to rain and one match to play, reports AFP.

Zimbabwe set a useful target of 260-4 in their 50 overs but the tourists reached it with six wickets in hand and 5.2 overs to spare.

The day featured a dazzling 99 by the tiny opening batsman Ramesh Kaluwitharana and a maiden century by Zimbabwe's Stuart Carlisle, whose 121 enabled his side to lay down a challenge to the Sri Lankans.

Bus strike in Barisal called off

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Dec 18: Bus strike in greater Barisal was withdrawn this afternoon following a fruitful talks between bus owners and the district administration. The district administration assured the owners of arresting the terrorists involved in armed attack at the Nathulahad bus terminal.

For more than three hours, residents of women's dormitory Rokeya Hall were locked inside. The gate closed at about 9 am.

Witnesses said a group of female activists of BCL locked the entrance to Rokeya Hall from outside when their counterparts from pro-BNP Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and other Left-leaning organisations were preparing to bring out processions from inside the hall.

But a dormitory gatekeeper said police locked the gate when the activists were trying to bring out processions.

Gates of almost all other university dormitories had been closed by police before the ceremony began at 10 am.

Police also did not allow several leaders and activists of different left-leaning groups to come out of the Madhu's Canteen for about half-an-hour from 10 pm.

Some Left groups alleged that only BCL activists were allowed access to the campus.

These student organisations

Convocation Sen is the third

Prof Amartya Sen is the third Nobel laureate who received honorary Doctor of Science (D Sc) degree from the Dhaka University (DU), once called the 'Oxford of the East', reports BSS.

Ten scholars received D Sc Degree from the university since its inception in 1921.

Eminent scientist Sir Chandrasekhar Venkat Raman, one of the most celebrated Physicists of this century, received the first D Sc conferred by DU in 1932.

Distinguished scientist Professor Abdus Salam conferred the second D Sc in 1993.

Same side

An on-duty Assistant Commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) was injured when he was inadvertently hit by one Havildar at the Chankharpo intersection.

The incident took place when a pedestrian -- Atahar -- tried to escape as a policeman challenged him and asked to halt.

Atahar tried to flee dodging the policeman. Other policemen there tried to catch him. AC Toufique also came forward. At that moment, one havildar attempted to hit Atahar with the butt of a tear gas gun, but it hit the AC below his knee.

Toufique fell on the street and was taken to his car. He was later seen leaving the place for treatment.

Souvenir

By DU Correspondent

A large number graduates and guests who attended the convocation at Dhaka University returned home with a heavy heart as they did not get copies of the souvenir published to mark the occasion yesterday.

Participants at the convocation, particularly those attending the second session, expressed their dismay over the 'mismanagement' of the whole show.

Some of the graduates and guests were desperately looking for the souvenirs, complained to the newsmen at the venue about it all.

Guests and participants were even found asking the journalists for 'a copy of the souvenir', if they happened to have a spare one, since there was nobody to ask for a copy the same.

Dispute over baor One shot dead, 10 injured in Jessore

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Dec 18: One person was shot dead and 10 were injured in an armed attack over dispute of a baor at village Kulia under Chougachha thana here early this morning.

The incident occurred, when Sun Ali, a local UP member, along with his supporters equipped with fire arms at tacked Abdur Razzak, 40, Shahin, 17, Mopu, 20, and eight others while they were going to mosque to say their Fajr prayers, police said.

Razzak was shot dead on the spot. Shahin and Monu were rushed to Jessore General Hospital in a critical condition while eight were admitted to local thana health complex.

The miscreants also went on the rampage and damaged a number of houses, a mosque and a madrasah at village Kulia, witnesses said.

Two people were arrested in this connection and a case was lodged in this connection, police said.

Meanwhile, police recovered four single barrel guns and two double barrel guns and a rifle stolen from the shops of the Abdul Hamid & Co at Daratana in the town last night.

Barisal OC stand released

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Dec 18: Sheikh Abdul Mannan, officer-in-charge Kotwali thana here was stand released this afternoon, police sources said.

The OC had arrested the Janakantha Staff Reporter Shaukat Milton here without issuing any warrant last night. Second officer of Kotwali will take over the charge until further order.

BCL, forces guard campus

From page 1

party-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists kept vigil. They brought out several processions on the campus, shouting slogans and beating drums to celebrate the award of an honorary degree to the prime minister.

For more than three hours, residents of women's dormitory Rokeya Hall were locked inside. The gate closed at about 9 am.

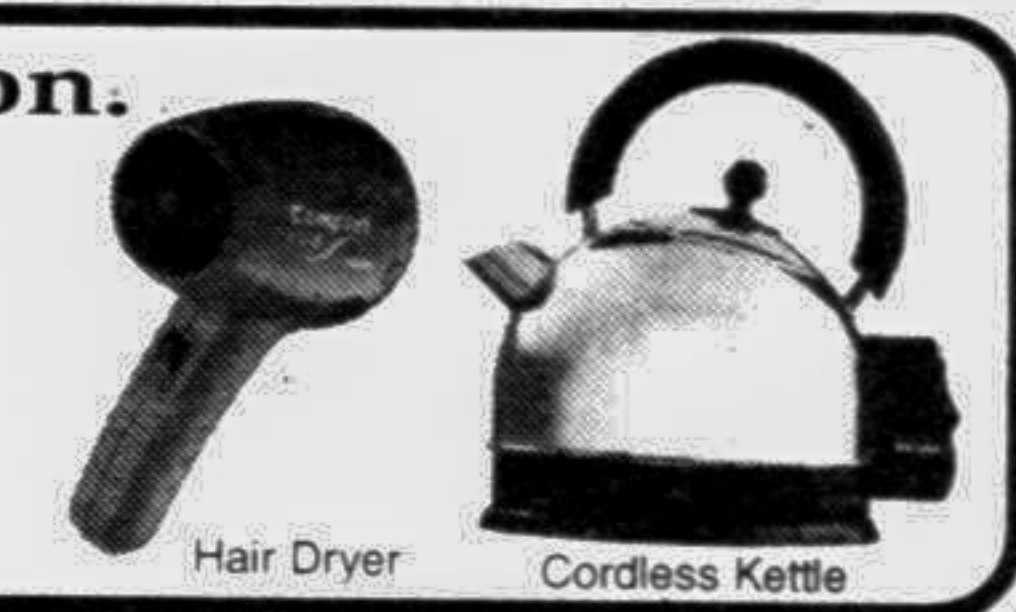
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Shikdar, 37 others to be chargesheeted today

From Staff Correspondent

one stage of talks Shikdar suddenly jumped upon Siraj and hacked him to death on the spot.

Later his body was dumped into Bhairab river along fish landing ghat.

A case in this connection was recorded with Khulna thana on September 5, 1997 accusing 24 people for killing Siraj. Twenty-three people have been named prosecution witnesses in this murder case.

Insaf, Kamal and Khaleque were killed on May 27 last year at Skid ghat for opposing illegal drug business.

A case was recorded in this connection on May 30 with Sonadanga thana.

Nine people including Shikdar were named as accused.

Later, five more people were named in the chargesheet as per

Two murder cases

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confessional statement of Noor-e-Alam, bodyguard of Shikdar.

Meanwhile, police arrested two more accomplices of Shikdar today. They have been identified as Ekram and Selim Muni. Police said they know about illegal firearms of Ershad Shikdar.

In another incident, Aji Kumar Das, Field Officer of the Land Division of Railway Department has been officially charged for conniving illegal occupation of railway land by Ershad Shikdar.

According to a report of railway department's audit team, Aji Das helped Shikdar grab railway land worth Taka four lakh. Legal action will be taken against him soon, said a member of the audit team.

Talks with Khaleda Business leaders stress political stability

By Staff Correspondent

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday had a meeting with business leaders and discussed the country's political and economic situation and the state of law and order.

They met after an Iftar party, hosted by the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament at her 29 Minto Road official residence.

FBCCI president Abdul Awal Mintoo, Latifur Rahman, Mahbubur Rahman, Salman F. Rahman, AmCham President Forest E. Cookson, former diplomat Faruq Chowdhury, BGMEA president Anisur Rahman Sinha, DCCI president MH Rahman, Met Benazir Ahmed were among others who discussed wide ranging issues with Khaleda Zia.

The BNP Chairperson apprised them of the Opposition's current one-point movement, government's repression on BNP and other parties, Chittagong City Corporation polls, deteriorating law and order, government's economic policies and other issues.

On the GCC section, she said the elections in the four city corporations should be held simultaneously. But the gov-

ernment is holding only the CCC polls. There is some 'evil design' behind this, she added.

Meeting sources said the businessmen and industrialists stressed the need for political stability for economic development.

The two major parties should reach an understanding for peaceful solution of all problems.

Khaleda Zia said responsibility of the government was much more than that of the opposition in removing problems and crises in political and economic fields.

She told the businessmen that BNP believed in democracy, political stability, economic development and peace in the country. But the government launched an 'undeclared war' against the BNP and resorted to all sorts of repression to destroy the mainstream opposition.

Emerging from the meeting, the FBCCI president told newsmen that they suggested reduction of the 'five-year tenure of the government to three or four years'.

Opposition plans formation of steering body to gear up movement

Opposition plans formation of a steering committee, which will be a supra body of the present liaison committee of their alliance, for stepping up the anti-government movement, reports UNB.

Deposed president and Jatiya Party chairman HM Ershad said this yesterday a day after he had a second opposition summit on a mini scale with two other leaders of the four-party alliance.

Secretaries and other senior leaders from BNP, Jatiya Party, Jamaat and IOJ might be inducted in the proposed committee, he told a group of journalists in the city yesterday evening.

Ershad said that Khaleda Zia gave initial consent to the proposed 'steering committee' or 'action committee' at the centre that will have ramifications countrywide.

Jubo League calls hartal in Bagerhat town today

BAGERHAT, Dec 18: The Jubo League, youth wing of ruling Awami League, has called a half-day hartal in the town tomorrow protesting arrest of its local leader, reports UNB.

Detective Branch of police arrested district Jubo League leader Nakib Najibul Haq Najju from the municipal area tonight on charge of buying a stolen microbus.

Jubo League and Chhatra League brought out a procession in the town protesting the arrest and announced half-day hartal from 6 am to 12 noon demanding his immediate release.

Aziz Bidi Factory staff robbed of Tk 7.5 lakh in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Dec 18: Muggers snatched away Tk 7.50 lakh from an employee of Aziz Bidi Factory near Chittagong Medical College Hospital gate in the city today, reports UNB.

Police said the muggers came in an autorickshaw and waylaid a minibus in which the employee was going to deposit the money to CMCH branch of Agrani Bank at 11 am. They snatched the money at gun-point.

A case was filed with Panchlaish police in this connection.

Minor girl raped, murdered in Khulna

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Dec 18: A minor girl, Shila, 7, was allegedly raped and then killed at Hajigram village under Digholia thana in Khulna district on the night of December 16.

Police recovered her body from a fish enclosure in the same village.

Police quoting eye witnesses said the girl was called out of her father's house by an unidentified man on that night. Since then she had been missing. Police recovered her half pant and footwear from a classroom of a high school at Hajigram.

A UD case has been lodged pending further investigation. Hunt for the alleged rapist is also going on, police said.

A regular case will be recorded after receiving autopsy report, police added.

Bangladesh Madrassah Education Board

Bakshibazar, Dhaka-1211

No-Exam/844/2/99 Dated: 8/12/99

Notice

This is for information of all concerned that the results of the following 23 Dakhil examinees for the year 1999 of Nururdi Faezia Alim Madrassah of the Nururdi Madrassah Examination Centre under Sadar thana of Jamalpur district have been cancelled under clause 3 of Public Examination Offence Rule 42 of 1980 for appearing at the examinations with fake registrations.

The roll numbers which have been cancelled are:

121145, 121146, 121147, 121148, 121149, 121150, 121151, 121152, 121154, 121156, 121157, 121158, 121159, 121160, 121161, 121162, 121163, 121164, 121165, 303107, 303111, 303113, 303119 = 23 persons

Professor Md Motiur Rahman
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G-2124 Phone No-500654

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