



Clinton's visit
Pre-advance
team due
March 1

A 30-member US pre-advance team is expected to arrive here on March 1 to carry out its ground work for President Clinton's forthcoming visit to Dhaka. Foreign Office sources here said yesterday, reports UNB.

The team will visit the places that Clinton will visit, examine security measures and talk to Bangladeshi government officials.

This will be a follow-up of the visit by the US Site Survey Team on February 8.

Under the revised schedule, the US President will come to Dhaka on March 20 to begin his South Asian tour.

Both Dhaka and Washington are in consultation to set details of Clinton's maiden trip to Bangladesh.

According to reports available here, Clinton will arrive in New Delhi on March 19, stay there overnight and proceed to Dhaka the next day for a visit of about 12 hours or so before flying back to the Indian capital the same day.

About Dhaka's fresh approach to the White House to revise the itinerary of the President so that he arrives in Dhaka first, a Foreign Ministry official said, "We are discussing, nothing has been firmed up yet."

The official who asked not to be named said there would not be any accommodation problem to host the US President and his entourage for a night halt in Dhaka. There won't be any dearth of hospitality or accommodation if the President stays here overnight, he said.

JS body for export of gas-fired power

The Public Undertaking Committee of the Parliament favoured yesterday export of power as gas-based value added product, reports UNB.

Power Development Board officials, who attended the meeting, said they would welcome any initiatives to set up gas-based power plants. They said export of gas-fired power to neighbouring countries would be more feasible than export of raw gas.

Committee chairman Imran Ahmed presided over the meeting held at Sangsad Bhaban and attended by its members Dastul Islam, Abul Kalam Azad, AKM Moszharraf Hossain, Shah M Abul Hossain and Faruq Khan.

The meeting dwelt on the progress of recommendations made by the committee in its previous 18 meetings regarding operational responsibility of PDB, DESA, Titas Gas and Petrobangla.

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Prayer Timings

February 24		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5:30	6:00
Zohr	12:45	1:20
Ast	4:30	4:45
Maghrab	6:00	6:05
Esha	7:30	8:00

Source: Islamic Foundation

The Daily Star

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Shahjalal varsity closed sine die

Decision on naming of halls and buildings postponed: APAC demands withdrawal

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Feb 23: Shahjalal University of Science and Technology has been declared closed *sine die* in view of the tense situation prevailing on the campus for more than two months.

The decision was taken at an emergency meeting of the Syndicate today with Vice-Chancellor Prof Habibur Rahman in the chair.

The Syndicate also postponed the Academic Council and Finance Committee meetings scheduled for February 24. Syndicate meeting on February 29 and election of the teachers' representatives to the Senate on March 1.

The authorities of the university yesterday postponed the decision on naming halls and buildings of the university after Bangabandhu, Jahanara Imam.

He urged the leaders of All-

Party (Opposition) Action Committee to help end impasse on the campus for the sake of restoring congenial academic atmosphere.

In an instant reaction to the decision of the authorities, the All-Party (Opposition) Action Committee said it would continue movement until the decision on naming halls and buildings of the university was withdrawn.

BNP, Jamaat and pro-Islamic parties formed the All-Party Action Committee that enforced a series of hartals in Sylhet protesting the decision of the university authorities.

They urged the authorities to name the halls and building of the university after companions (Saints) of Hazrat Shahjalal (RA).

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Vice-Chancellor Prof Habibur Rahman yesterday sent separate letters to the leaders of All-Party (Opposition) Action Committee informing them about the postponement of decision on naming halls and buildings of the university was withdrawn.

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Khaleda, top party lawyers plan writ against PSA

By Staff Correspondent

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia discussed yesterday with senior party lawyers filing of a writ petition against the newly introduced Public Safety Act.

The two-hour meeting that started on 8 p.m. at 29 Minto Road contemplated filing a writ on some specific provisions of the Act after promulgation of the Act.

Meeting sources said Khaleda Zia asked the lawyers who are also party leaders to discuss the matter with the country's eminent jurists.

She told them that all political parties, eminent jurists, human rights organisations and others are against the Act and advised them to file the writ collectively, but not form a partisan perspective.

The lawyers agreed to dis-

cuss and examine the provisions of the Act collectively and take an initiative to file a writ.

They told the BNP chief that the government is planning to promulgate an Ordinance about the bail provision of the Act and were of the view of filing the writ after examining the Ordinance.

A leader, who wanted not to be named, told the Daily Star that they have already examined the Act and found some provisions, including the bail and the clause relating to witness, which are contrary to fundamental rights of the citizens.

He said the writ would be filed on the basis of the particular provisions of the Act, but not against the entire law.

Talking to newsmen after

the meeting, BNP Standing Committee member Moudud Ahmed said, "We are actively considering to file a writ against the Act. Prior to filing the writ, we will talk to eminent jurists, constitutional experts and other concerned. We will try to file the writ collectively."

He, however, denied to elaborate on their plans regarding the filing of writ. "We do not want to alert our enemies. I do not want to make it public before finalisation," he added.

Besides Moudud, it was attended by Khandaker Delwar Hossain MP, former Speaker Shaikh Razak Ali MP, Nazmul Huda MP, Anmol Haq MP and Jamiruddin Sircar MP. BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and M Shamsul Islam MP were also present.

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Cases filed to realise over Tk 33cr from Rahman Group

Star Report

Sonali Bank (SB) yesterday filed two cases against two enterprises of the Rahman Group, a top loan defaulter in the country, with the Artha Rin Adalat for realising over Tk 33 crore.

The companies against which cases were filed are Olympia Knitting and Rahman Hosiery Dying and Finishing Mills Ltd.

Barrister Abdullah Al Mamun filed the case on behalf of SB against Olympia for realising Tk 18.18 crore. The SB also sued Rahman Hosiery in Artha Rin Adalat 1 for Tk 15.92 crore.

SB will file two more cases tomorrow against the Rahman Group owned by Fazlur Rahman of Narayanganj for realising over Tk 70 crore loans. Of the companies owned by the group, JC Hosiery Garments Pvt Ltd will be sued for Tk 17.01 crore and Rahman Spinning Mills Ltd for Tk 55.14 crore.

The SB, after giving multiple rescheduling facilities to the group, had finally served it with a final notice to make down payment by February 22, 2000. The group, however, failed to make the payment.

Body to probe 'irregularities' in Drug Admin Department

The government has formed a high level committee led by additional secretary of the Ministry of Health Dhiraj Kumar Nath to investigate "irregularities" in Drug Administration Department, an official handout said here yesterday.

The committee will prepare a report if any irregularities are found in registration of unregistered and manufactured drugs.

The committee will submit a report with recommendations to the ministry concerned within one month, the handout said.

Other members of the committee are: Director General of Health Directorate Professor A B M Ahsanullah Director of Drug Administration Professor Mohammad Zahurul Huq and Professor of the Pharmacology Department of Dhaka Medical College Abdul Malek.

Senior Assistant Secretary of the Ministry of Health Mohammad Raisul Alam Mondal will act as the member secretary of the committee, the handout added.

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Mewa Lal knows how filth fetches huge money

By Morshed Ali Khan

Born in a farmer family in Lucknow, India, Mewa Lal spent most of his childhood helping his father in fields. Besides studies at school, Lal demonstrated a keen interest in learning skills from his father who converted organic waste into compost and pesticide through use of earthworms.

During a regional seminar on Community Based Solid Waste Management in Dhaka recently, Lal explained how he began door-to-door waste collection in Lucknow and successfully ran composting and vermiculture projects.

Within six years of starting waste collection with three men and few wheel-barrow, Lal has an annual turnover of more than 5 crore rupees now.

In 1980, Lal left farming and

needed for setting up composting and fertiliser plants.

In 1998, one land development corporation allocated Lal 10 acres of land on the outskirts of Lucknow. He immediately set up plants. Within four years, Lal was covering 21,000 households with his door-to-door waste collection network and waste collection network for chemical fertiliser.

The idea is to feed earthworms one metabolic product. The worms in turn produce a waste which is a valuable nutrient.

Meanwhile, BSMMU authorities sent one of the four prison-ers back to jail on Saturday last. The remaining three are still at the prison wing of the hospital.

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A woman injured in police action during demolition of a slum near Tejgaon railgate in the city yesterday is being taken to hospital. — Star photo

Two alleged muggers beaten to death

By Staff Correspondent

Two alleged muggers were beaten to death by mob at the Kadamtali Lake at Golambazar under Keraniganj police station yesterday.

Police identified the dead as Iqbal and Farooq. Babul, who was injured and later shifted to DMCH from Mitford Hospital for treatment, managed to escape last night.

Police sources said that a gang of three muggers at Golambazar snatched money from an unidentified person at about 5:30 pm. When the victim cried for help, people along with businessmen chased the gang. They started fleeing away from the area and at one stage got on

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Demolition drive Police, slum dwellers clash at Tejgaon railgate: 30 hurt

By Staff Correspondent

At least 30 people were injured in clashes between police and slum dwellers at Tejgaon railgate slum in the city yesterday.

Five on-duty press photographers were also injured as police charged baton on them.

Police said more than 10 police personnel including the officer in-charge of the police station were injured during the clash. A policeman who was critically injured was admitted to Rajarbagh Police Lines Hospital.

Earlier, the slum was demolished in August last year.

Police fired rubber bullets and teargas canisters to disperse the angry mob. Those who sustained pellet injury were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital. They are, Ayesha, 40, Momtaj, 38, Jahan-

ara, 35, Belal, 22, Jamila, 40, Anis, 18 and Hamidul Islam.

Five on-duty press photogra-

phers were also injured as police charged baton on them.

Defective branch of police,

recovered the rotten rice from a godown of Hamidia Oil Mill at Nasirabad under Panchaishana.

One Zakir Ahmed was caught red handed from the spot for his alleged involvement in it.

Police sealed the godown with the rotten rice reportedly imported from Pakistan and filed a case under Special Power Act in this connection.

Meanwhile, Chandgaon police arrested two persons accused in Chandgaon rotten rice hoarding case from Agrabad in the early hours of today.

They were identified as Nazrul Islam, 38, proprietor of a trading company and Abul Hossain, 30. They were arrested from the office of one Ocean Enterprise.