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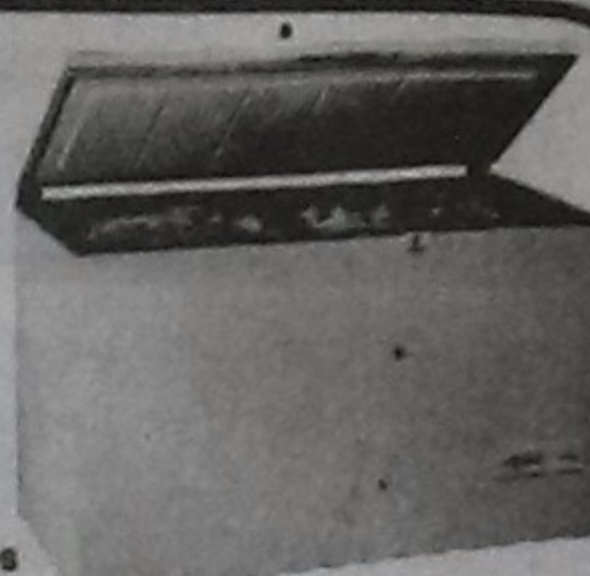
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CCCI drama
Move to file no-confidence against Kamal

CHITTAGONG, Mar 13: Two-thirds of the directors of the Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry decided today to vote the CCCI president down in a dispute over its leadership, reports UNB.

They will file a no-confidence motion against the president and field a nominee for the post for the next election.

A member of the five-member committee formed on May 29, 1999, to settle the dispute said the CCCI president, Kamaluddin Ahmed, was asked to tender his resignation or face a no-confidence motion.

Ahmed said, as per an article of the chamber's memorandum, he couldn't stand down until the next election was held.

"I will hand over power to a newly elected council," he said.

Meanwhile, the district administration sent a report on the situation to the Commerce Ministry on March 8 asking it to form an administrative body to solve the problem.

The dispute hasn't been resolved since Kamal Ahmed is still president, the chamber's while its vice-president, Saifuzzaman Chowdhury Javed, is demanding his resignation.

The skirmish led to the occupation of the chamber's office by Javed, son of industrialist and beleaguered Awami League leader Akhteruzzaman Chowdhury Babu.

Ahmed was elected president of the CCCI in 1998. He completed his tenure on December 31, 1999.

Meanwhile, the High Court directed the chamber in a verdict on March 5 to hold elections for 16 posts within 80 days.

Woman tenant beaten up by landlord's goon

By Staff Correspondent

A young woman tenant was beaten up by goons hired by her landlord at the new DOHS in the city yesterday, hospital sources said.

The woman identified as Jemmy, wife of Reinhert Ronga, a foreigner was beaten up in her bed room by the goons at about 2:30 pm yesterday.

Jemmy's landlord had earlier disconnected gas, water and electricity connections of her house since March 10, to realise two months' arrear house rent, sources added.

The goons were sent to the house soon after the landlord came to know that she had filed a general diary with the Gulshan police station in this regard.

The Kafurl police sent a team to the spot to investigate the incident.

PSA not against fundamental rights, two lawyers claim

By Staff Correspondent

Two lawyers have challenged the observations so far made by different quarters on the controversial Public Safety Act (PSA) saying that it neither infringes on fundamental human rights nor substitutes similar provisions in the Penal Code.

In a joint paper presented at a seminar in the city on Sunday, barristers Ishrat Mahmud and Azharul Haq said the PSA intends to ensure public safety while the Penal Code aims at protecting safety of individuals.

The paper focused on legal aspect of comments so far made by politicians, lawyers and human rights activists and analysed those remarks in the context of laws of the land.

Citing similar laws in England and some other countries, they said enactment of the PSA is the first ever move in the country to ensure safety in public life. The law has also acknowledged breach of public safety as a crime, they noted.

The two Supreme Court lawyers were critical of those who called the PSA unconstitutional before the SC pronounced such a judgement. They also did not find any merit in the statements that called the PSA a black law.

Bangladesh Cultural Troupe, a cultural body, organised the seminar on 'The Public Safety Act in the present socio-economic context of Bangladesh' at the Jatiya Press Club.

State Minister for Forest and Environment H N Ashiqur Rahman attended the seminar as chief guest. Justice K M Sobhan and Awami League leader Sudhansu Shekhar Halder

Drive against corruption
Pakistan seeks Interpol help to arrest 40

ISLAMABAD, Mar 13: Pakistan has asked Interpol to help with 40 arrest warrants as a key part of a major drive against corruption, a senior prosecutor said today.

Many names on the list are high-profile figures and more are likely to be added in the future, Farouk Adam Khan, Pakistan's prosecutor general for accountability, told AFP.

Those wanted include Rehman Malik, the former chief of Pakistan's Federal Investigation Agency, Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao, former chief minister of North West Frontier Province, and Salman Farooqui, a senior bureaucrat under the past government.

But Khan denied a report that the list included former prime minister Benazir Bhutto and the head of the ethnic group Muttahida Quami Movement Altaf Hussain, both of whom now live in London.

Some names on the list are new, others were sent to Inter-

pol under the previous government, he said.

The senior corruption investigator "has just returned from a two-week visit to Europe, where he met officials in Britain, Switzerland and France."

He had talks with the secretary general of Interpol, Raymond Kendall, he said.

"We went to Interpol to see by what manner and form they could assist us in matters concerning all those people who had absconded from due process of law in Pakistan," Khan said.

The National Accountability Bureau, under which Khan works, was set up in November, a month after the military seized power in a coup.

But Khan insisted his investigations were not politically biased.

"We have made it a basic policy that none of our prosecutions are going to be politically motivated," he said.

The bureau has already reg-

istered two corruption cases against former prime minister Nawaz Sharif and more will follow, he said.

Sharif is now on trial for his life in Karachi charged with attempted murder, hijacking, kidnapping and terrorism. He denies the charges but faces the death penalty if convicted.

Pakistan's military regime has already arrested some 50 people in the first wave of an anti-corruption drive. Many were wanted for defaulting on bank loans taken out with little or no collateral.

At least 12 cases are now pending before the accountability courts for defaulting on bank loans, he said.

"We are not taking chances. We are show because we are trying to follow the law," he said. "We arrested only some of the biggest offenders."

More arrests would follow soon, he warned. "We are intending to really go for it."

Invisible financing of political parties generates corruption

WB mission chief tells workshop in city

By Staff Correspondent

World Bank Country Director Frederick T Temple has said the way the "political system" is financed in Bangladesh "generates pressure for corruption."

In Bangladesh, the political parties' sources of income and their expenditures should begin to be made transparent," Temple said in his introductory remarks at a workshop in the city.

The two-day workshop on "Public Administration Reforms Commission draft report" ended on Sunday. PARC Chairman Dr ATM Shamsul Haque chaired the inaugural

session.

Temple said, "The parties should be required to keep accounts, have them audited and published. Similarly, although the Election Commission has set legal limits on personal campaign expenses, they are unreasonably low and are disregarded by most candidates."

He said the financing of political parties and elections needs to be reformed. As long as these finances are invisible, pressure for corruption would continue.

The WB mission chief advocated restricting the scope of the public sector to appropriate

roles. "If the public sector is not involved in an activity, there cannot be any corruption. This is a strong argument for privatisation of many state enterprises and for the private provision of infrastructure."

He suggested three principles to curb opportunities for corruption. These are reduction of bureaucrats' discretion, searching for opportunities to provide alternative channels to citizens in their interaction with public officials and greater use of information technology for wider transparency.

Temple said corruption in Bangladesh is 'quite pervasive'. He felt that PARC should put an anti-corruption programme at the top of its future agenda.

"Corruption is impeding Bangladesh's efforts to reduce its massive poverty by reducing economic growth and lowering the achievement of social objectives. It destroys citizens' faith in their government. It deters the foreign and domestic investment which Bangladesh needs so badly."

Referring to long delay in the award of contracts, Temple quoted a World Bank study that suggested, among other things, creation of an independent division for public procurement policy, passage of a public procurement law and publication of award of contracts involving more than 20,000 US dollars.



Saudi sappers from the Hajj special forces parade during a ceremony attended by Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayef bin Abdel Aziz on Sunday in the holy city of Makkah. Prince Nayef said "the Saudi police are ready to handle any action that would disturb the flow of the pilgrimage" but added that he hoped no such action would take place. —AFP photo

Today's strike at Ctg port called off

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Mar 13: The 22 trade unions of Chittagong port have called off their planned 24-hour strike tomorrow at the port.

The strike was called to protest a government move to allow a foreign company — Stevedoring Services of America (SSA) — to set up a private container terminal at Patenga.

The strike was called off after a one-hour talks between Chittagong Port Authority and leaders of the trade unions, held at the port office, sources said.

The trade union leaders said tomorrow's strike has been

withdrawn according to the decision of today's meeting with the Port Authority and at the request of port users.

Port sources said that the port authority held the meeting with trade union leaders at the instruction of the minister concerned.

Meanwhile, about 10,000 dock workers staged demonstration on the Chittagong port premises and held rallies demanding cancellation of a government permission to American company SSA for installing a private terminal.

Activities at the port were disrupted for about three hours from 9 am today following the agitation, port sources said.

The rally was addressed by trade union leaders Mahfuzur Rahman Khan, Nurullah Bahar, Sirajul Islam, Shamsul Huq Shaif, Haji Yunus, Golam Md Chowdhury and Abu Jafar Azad.

One shot dead in Chittagong

From Our Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Mar 13: A young man was shot dead today at his house at Ghasiarpara under Chandgaon thana here.

The victim was identified as Md Bakhtiar alias Bakker, 26. The miscreants opened fire on Bakhtiar when he was taking his meal, hospital sources said.

Bakhtiar succumbed to his injuries at the Chittagong Medical College Hospital at around 1 pm.

BNP to protest govt 'atrocities' in Feni today

The BNP will bring out procession from its central office this afternoon to protest the government's 'atrocities' in Feni and to demand the release of its leaders and workers, including Joynal Abedin, reports UNB.

It was decided at a joint meeting of the central leaders of the party and its front organisations. Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan presided

SC Bar polls begin today

By Staff Correspondent

The annual election of Bangladesh Supreme Court Bar Association begins today.

A total of 1828 lawyers will cast their votes today and tomorrow from 10 am to 5 pm to elect the executive committee of the association for the year 2000-2001.

Candidates for the election have completed their publicity campaign.

As part of the electioneering a projection meeting of the candidates was held yesterday at the auditorium of the association.

From Blythe to Clinton

US President Bill Clinton adopted his last name from his step-parents in his boyhood, reports UNB.

Clinton was born William Jefferson Blythe III on August 19, 1946, in the small town of Hope, Arkansas.

According to his biography, he was christened after his father's name, William Jefferson Blythe II, who was killed in a car accident just three months before his son was born.

Bill Clinton's mother, Virginia Cassidy Blythe, moved to New Orleans, Louisiana, to study nursing in order to support herself and her new child.

Clinton stayed with his mother's parents in Hope. He was surrounded by many relatives who gave him love and support and played a significant role in his upbringing.

His mother returned from New Orleans with her nursing degree in 1950, when Clinton was four years old.

Later that same year, she married an automobile salesman named Roger Clinton.

When Bill Clinton was seven years old, the family moved to Hot Springs, Arkansas, known for its natural mineral hot springs, its scenic beauty and racetrack.

In 1956, Bill Clinton's half-brother, Roger Clinton Jr, was born. When his brother was old enough to enter school, young Bill had his last name legally changed from Blythe to Clinton.

Clinton's visit Shanties along Panthapath demolished

By Staff Correspondent

The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) yesterday demolished shanties along Panthapath ahead of the visit of US President Bill Clinton to Dhaka, police and witnesses said.

The construction material of several firms lying on a stretch of the road at Panthapath, however, was still there till yesterday.

DCC officials when contacted said that they had sent notice to all these firms and asked them to immediately remove their materials from the road.

"We expect that they would remove the construction material from the road by March 15," an official said.

Regarding the unauthorised furniture shop along either side of Panthapath, the DCC officials said that those would remain closed on March 20, the day Clinton visits Dhaka.

"There will be no encroachers anywhere on the road when Clinton moves around in the city," said an official, pointing at some of the big encroachers of Chairmanbari, Mahakhali Crossing, Farm Gate Crossing, Farm Gate overbridge and Gulistan.

DCC Mayor Mohammad Hanif along with some officials visited the different sites yesterday to see development works carried out by the corporation prior to Clinton's visit.

CU JCD leader shot in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Mar 13: A Chittagong University JCD leader was shot by his rivals at Kajhat in Hathajari thana today, reports UNB.

Armed terrorists of Eshkan-dhar group of pro-Awami League Chhatra League fired on Noor Siddiqui Uzzal at about 4.30 pm, JCD sources said.

Delhi won't use Clinton's stopover to clarify Pak policies: Singh

NEW DELHI, Mar 13: India will not use President Bill Clinton's stopover in Pakistan to clarify the policies of its military leader, the foreign minister said today, reports AP.

Five days before Clinton begins a tour of South Asia, Foreign Minister Jaswant Singh cautioned against expecting major policy announcements, such as the lifting of US economic sanctions or progress on nonproliferation.

The visit, he said in an interview with The Associated Press, "will set in motion a process which will end the sterility of the last five decades" in US-Indian relations.

"If the direction is achieved, the details will follow," he said, referring to specific policy issues.

Washington imposed sanctions on India and Pakistan after each conducted nuclear tests in May 1998, and India declared itself a nuclear-armed state.

Singh made it clear India distrusted third-party involvement in its dispute with Pakistan, even though Clinton had stepped in last July to persuade the then Pakistani prime minister to withdraw forces occupying mountain peaks in Indian-ruled Kashmir.

"We have to examine whether all such interventions are necessarily positive. In South Asia we bring to this question a considerable degree of historical experience," he said, referring to failed efforts to mediate an end to Afghanistan's civil war.

Pakistani Gen Pervez

Musharraf was quoted last week as saying that even if India opposed US mediation of the Kashmir conflict, Clinton could facilitate a dialogue.

But Singh said the Pakistani leader was playing with "synonyms and euphemisms... They do not hold good."

Asked if India would ask Clinton to clarify Pakistan's position on respecting the cease-fire line in Kashmir, Singh snapped, "No. We would not be asking President Clinton any of this."

But he refrained from criticising Clinton's decision to add Pakistan to the itinerary of the trip to India and Bangladesh beginning Saturday.

"There's a saying in Sanskrit, 'Treat every guest like a god,'" he said.

Khalid Murder Case 2 BCL leaders give deposition

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Mar 13: Two Chhatra League leaders, Hanif and Asit Baran Biswas, today gave deposition against Ershad Shikdar and some of his armed cadres in the special court in connection with Khalid Murder Case.

These two student leaders of the ruling party are eye witnesses of how Shikdar and his armed cadres launched attack on the night of May 16 last year in which Khalid Hossain died and Syed Munir was severely injured.

Pointing at Ershad Shikdar, Nasir, "Jamal" Farook, Iddris "Jamal" and Liaquat Lashkar, Asit Baran Biswas said that they were among others who had launched the armed attack.

Asit told the court that Ayub Munshi and Ashraf Mia were also among the attackers who are still absconding.

He said about 30 people armed with deadly weapons attacked them at the Skid Ghat at about 10-30 pm on May 16 last year.

Shikdar was among the attackers and he was the first to fire two shots from his revolver.

Ershad Shikdar ordered his armed cadres to finish me, Syed Munir, Chayan, Khalid, Hanif

and Ali Akbar, Asit told the Special Court.

All Akbar Tipu, Hanif and I managed to escape from the place of occurrence the moment electricity went off from the Skid Ghat, he said.

Khaleda Rahman, mother of Khalid and one of the prosecution witnesses, also appeared in the court.

But the court did not allow her to depose as she started weeping at the court soon after seeing Ershad Shikdar and other accused.

Court proceedings remained suspended for a few minutes as she wept loudly.

Trial of his case will resume tomorrow, where Khaleda Khanam will again be produced for her deposition.

18 more held in Feni

From Our Correspondent

FENI, Mar 13: At least 18 more people were arrested today as police continued its combing operation in the district.

Of them, 15 were arrested at Feni Sadar, two at Sonagazi and one at Chhagalnaiya.

A total of 133 people have so far been arrested in the district since the combing operation began on March 8.

Meanwhile, four young men carrying firearms and sharp weapons in a micro-bus were caught here by the local people and handed over them to the police.

One revolver, one pipe gun, knives and crackers were recovered from their possession, police said.

Export, import thru' Benapole suspended

BENAPOLE, Mar 13: All sorts of export and import through Benapole land port to and from India remained suspended after two Bangladeshi truck workers were assaulted by BSF personnel here today, reports BSS.

BSF men beat up truck workers Rafiqul and Mazed while they were unloading jute in no-man's land.

Tension was prevailing in the bordering area following the incident.

Ctg cattle markets flooded with sacrificial animals

From Our Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Mar 13: The cattle markets in Chittagong have already been flooded with sacrificial animals.

Around one lakh cattle, including a huge number of goats and some 50 camels have been put on sale at the CDA Market at Sagorika Road in Pahartoli—the largest cattle market in the port city—and at Bibirhut Market.

The markets are generally held twice a week each—CDA Market on Thursday and Monday while Bibirhut on Saturday and Tuesday.

However, sacrificial animals will be available at CDA market five days a week before the Eid-ul-Azha.

But selling of sacrificial animals is yet to get momentum as the cattle traders, known as bepari, are asking for higher price, observing the market situation.

Yet the price of animals seems to be the same as that of last year.

A visit to the CDA market today revealed that most of the cows came from India. When asked, Mohammed Babul, a member of the market committee, said more than 95 per cent of the cows are from India while the rest is mainly from Eliot-gang of Comilla, Satkania of Chittagong and northern districts of the country.

Babul said some cattle have been brought from Myanmar through Teknaf of Cox's Bazar, but the number is meagre.

Another market committee member said the customs this year is allowing import of around two lakh cattle from India, almost one and a half times that of the previous year.

About one lakh has arrived in the city while another 30 to 40 thousand is expected before the Eid.

Around 50 camels also arrived in the CDA market for the first time this year.

Abdul Khaleq, an agent of trader in Pahartoli, said import of camels through Godagari from India was allowed only this year, but its demand is yet to be assessed.

Khaleq brought 15 camels and so far sold four at an average price Tk 45,000 each.



Sacrificial animals have started arriving in the city through Mill Barrack after travelling by river. —Star photo