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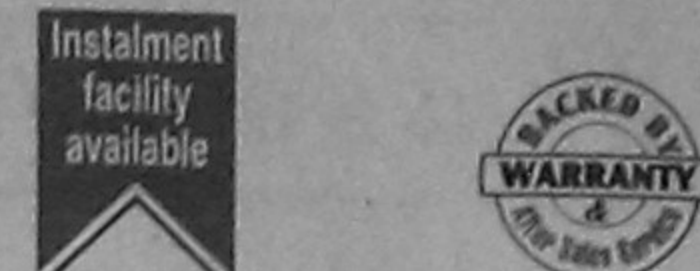
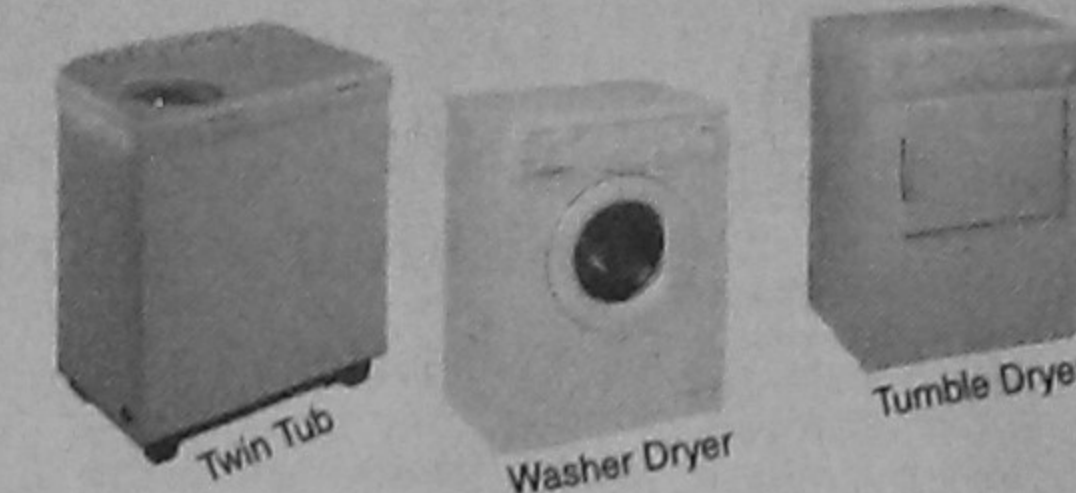
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S'Africa won't extradite Cronje to India

CAPE TOWN, Apr 12: South Africa will not extradite Hansie Cronje to India to face match-fixing and bribery charges until a full investigation by an independent commission of inquiry. Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Aziz Pahad said today, reports Reuters.

"Foreign Affairs cannot say that if a trial takes place then we'll extradite him," Pahad told a national radio station.

"I'm reluctant to speculate without the full facts but we'll continue to talk to the Indians as our relationship with them is very good."

Indian police charged Cronje and team mates Nicky Boje, Herschelle Gibbs and Pieter Strydom last Friday with "cheating, fraud and criminal conspiracy".

Cronje was sacked as national cricket captain on Tuesday after admitting taking money from a bookmaker. He has denied involvement in match-fixing.

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Road accidents kill 7 in Comilla

COMILLA, Apr 12: Seven people, including a medical officer were killed and 14 injured in two road accidents on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway in the district today, reports UNB.

Five of the victims were identified as Nazir Ahmed, 42, a medical officer of Choudhagram Thana Health Project, Radir, 28, Sheikh Khaled, 28, Munaf, 19, and Sheikh Ainal, 40.

Police said Nazir Ahmed and two unidentified people were killed and six others injured when an Ashugan-bound passenger bus was hit by another from behind and fell into a roadside ditch. Amanganga in Choudhagram thana at about 3 pm today.

The injured were admitted to the Choudhagram Thana Health Complex.

In another incident four people were killed and eight injured when a Dhaka-bound truck from Chittagong skidded off the road and plunged into a ditch at Gouripur in Daudkandi thana at about 11:15 pm Tuesday.

"The accident occurred as its driver was driving recklessly," a witness said.

The dead were identified as Kadir, Sheikh Khaled, Munaf and Sheikh Ainal.

Injured Maznu, 17, Rafiqul Islam, 25, Liton, 17, Babul, 25, Kismat, 20, Sabdul Islam, 22, Abdul Mazid, 42, and Kalachan, 30, were admitted to Daudkandi Thana Health Complex in "critical condition."

Suharto banned from leaving country

JAKARTA, Apr 12: Worried that ex-President Suharto might try to escape prosecution for massive corruption, state investigators Wednesday barred the former dictator from leaving Indonesia for six months, reports AP.

Chaerul Imam, a government lawyer who is heading the probe against the 78-year-old leader, said he had received reports that Suharto's wealthy children have been planning to get him out of the country.

"Based on these reports, we imposed the ban," he told reporters.

Suharto's defence lawyer Juan Felix Tampubolon denied his client, who claims he is too sick to face interrogation after suffering two strokes, planned to skip the nation that he had ruled for 32 years.

"Suharto does not want to go abroad. He wants to die in Indonesia," Tampubolon said.

Earlier, officials from the Attorney General's office said Suharto had been placed under "city arrest" — a legal procedure that would prevent him from leaving the capital.

Foreign woman pushed back

A foreign woman was sent back as she was "blacklisted" by the government for her alleged involvement in smuggling, reports UNB.

The young lady of Chinese stock, Chan Shek Ling, 25, who lives in Hong Kong, arrived in Dhaka on April 7 with British passport.

On inquiry, the Special Branch police yesterday "pushed her back" by a TG flight at 2 pm. Police sources said she was blacklisted by Bangladesh authority 5-6 months back.

Earlier on Sunday, another foreign national, Paul John Chening, who was also on the black list, was pushed back by a Singapore Airlines plane. Paul entered Bangladesh in 1997.

A source said two more blacklisted foreigners are in Bangladesh. One of them is American and another a Chinese woman.

Court's decision on appeals Monday Sharif's lawyer hopeful of getting verdict reversed

KARACHI, Apr 12: The lawyer for ousted prime minister Nawaz Sharif filed an appeal with the provincial Sindh High Court today seeking to overturn his client's conviction on hijacking and terrorism charges and current life sentences, reports AP.

"We have a good chance to get the decision reversed," said Azizullah Sheikh, Sharif's lawyer. "There are very serious flaws in the judgment. There is a definite lack of evidence."

An anti-terrorism court on April 6 found Sharif guilty of hijacking and terrorism and sentenced him to two concurrent life sentences. He was acquitted of attempted murder and kidnapping.

The court also fined Sharif 2 million rupees to be paid in compensation to the passengers and crew of the passenger air-

craft involved in the hijacking incident.

As well Sharif was fined another one million rupees and the court ordered his property confiscated.

Also today his lawyer filed a stay order with the Sindh High Court requesting the fines not be collected and the property not seized until the appeal process is completed. Should Sharif lose his High Court appeal, he can appeal to the federal Supreme Court.

Sharif's lawyer also has demanded more legible court documents, complaining that previous documents provided to the defense were not legible.

The Sindh High Court will decide on Monday about the stay order and whether to accept the appeal, said Sheikh. It's not known when the appeal

will be heard.

"I am very optimistic that we will get an acquittal," said Sheikh.

Sharif's six codefendants, including his younger brother Shahbaz, were acquitted of all charges. However, the army led government has since filed several corruption charges against the men, who have not been released from jail.

The prosecution also has said it will appeal the acquittals. It has another one week in which to file the appeal.

Sharif was charged in connection with an incident on Oct 12 — the day the army seized power in Pakistan. Sharif was said to have ordered a passenger jet returning from a military base to be diverted to another country.

Khalid murder Judgement by month-end likely

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Apr 12: Judgement in Khalid Murder Case is expected by the end of this month, said a source at Special Court formed to try all murder cases against Ershad Shikdar and his armed cadres.

Jubo League leader Khalid Hossain was murdered by top terrorist Ershad Shikdar. Nine out of 28 accused in the case, including Ershad Ali Shikdar were examined under Section 342.

A total of 34 prosecution witnesses deposed in the court in this murder case.

April 18 has been fixed as the date for argument of this case. The trial is expected to end by third week of this month, the source said.

Ershad Shikdar pleaded not guilty today. He said that he was not allowed to appoint senior lawyers to defend him in the court.

Khalid was killed as sequel to quarrel with his rivals over possession of Jalikhana ferryghat, Shikdar told the court.

BCL-backed panel sweeps CMC polls

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Apr 12: The Chittagong Medical College (CMC) students union election was held amid tight security today, CMC sources said.

A large number of police was deployed in and around the CMC as Shibir boycotted the election and called a students strike today protesting arrest of its leader Abdullah Kafi. Kafi was also contesting and accused Sharif of political victimisation.

Their appeals are pending at the Supreme Court in Islamabad.

Both Benazir and Zardari — who are imprisoned in the southern Pakistani port city of Karachi — denied the charges and accused Sharif of political victimisation.

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Triple murder 3 cases filed accusing 11

By Court Correspondent

The mothers of Russel and Selim filed separate cases yesterday with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Court of Dhaka accusing 11 people of the triple murder in Rashulbagh on April 4.

The court directed the officer-in-charge of Gulshan police station to act on both cases.

The accused are Muthaheer, son of Absar Uddin, Bacchu, son of Motiur Rahman, Abul Swapon, son of Saladdin, Akram and Jinnah. They are all residents of Gulbagh. Kala Monir, Jasim Uddin, alias Jasu, Farhad, Shish and Sumon are resident of Khilgaon and Motijheel.

Sajeda Harun and Sajeda Begum said the accused called them to their residence between 10 p.m. and 11 p.m. the night of the murder and asked to meet them.

When their sons did not return, the mothers went looking for them. The next day heard three young men had been shot dead in Balurmath of Rasulbagh and the bodies were in the DMCH morgue.

The mothers went to the DMCH morgue and identified the three young men, including their sons, Russel and Selim. The other victim was identified as Babar.

Jail Killing Case Quashment petition of Obaid, Manzoor rejected

The High Court rejected the quashment petition of accused Nurul Islam Manzoor and K M Obaidur Rahman in the Jail Killing Case, reports BSS.

A High Court Division Bench comprising Justice Mohammad Hamidul Haque and Justice ABM Khairul Haque, while dismissing the rule, ordered the trial court to further make inquiry into the loopholes and irregularities in the copying section of the trial court.

The country discharged the rule issued earlier following the petition filed by Nurul Islam Manzoor and K M Obaidur Rahman in which they sought that the statements of witnesses and confessional statement of Taheruddin Thakur in the case be expunged.

Four national leaders — Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmed, Captain Mansoor Ali and A H M Kamruzzaman — were killed in Dhaka Central Jail on November 3, 1975. An FIR was lodged on November 4, 1975 with Lalbagh police under section 302, 109 and 120B of the Penal Code in this connection. The case is now under trial in the Metropolitan Sessions Judge, Dhaka.

Nurul Islam Manzoor, K M Obaidur Rahman and Shah Moazzem Hossain were arrested on September 29, 1998 and detained in Dhaka Central Jail. Khandker Mahbubuddin Ahmed moved the petition on behalf of the accused while Deputy Attorney General Mohammad Farooque appeared for the state.

GMG aircraft mishap 'Black box' to be taken to Singapore for decoding

By Special Correspondent

The Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) yesterday seized the Flight Data Recorder (FDR) and Cockpit Voice Recorder (CVR) of the GMG Airlines' Dash-8 aircraft, grounded after a flight back from Chittagong following damage to its tail wheel while landing at Zia International Airport on Sunday night.

The FDR and CVR known as 'black box' would be taken to Singapore today for decoding to help determine what had happened, CAAB sources said yesterday.

An official of the CAAB, who is in the three-member probe body formed by CAAB following the incident, would take the 'black box' to Singapore. He returns on Saturday.

Meanwhile, GMG airlines authorities have applied to the ministries of Civil Aviation and Home to withdraw suspension of the two Bangladeshi pilots who were in the cockpit of the aircraft now grounded.

Managing Director of GMG Shahab Sattar denied to reporters on Tuesday that the aircraft had its nose landing gear broken. Rather, it had suffered damage to its lock strap indicator, he said, adding that CAAB was duly notified of this and spares were expected in the next 48 hours to resume operation.

Grounding of one of the two Dash-8 aircraft has led to drastic cut in GMG schedules. Out of 28 flights, 14 flights are being operated. Sattar said at a press briefing at GMG head office.

He said although nothing serious had happened and the matter was reported to CAAB, it demanded that flight data recorder and black box be

US team collecting evidence to prepare final report to prepare final report Visa forgery issue discussed at EPB

By Rafiq Hasan

A powerful international syndicate is using forged visas and quota documents to export clothes to the United States, say garment sector sources.

A U.S. team arrived in Dhaka Saturday to investigate the allegations. They discussed the issue with the Export Promotion Bureau and collected sign and paper samples.

The team also visited several garment factories. The team carried copies of forged documents. It will prepare a final report once it finishes its investigation.

Government officials said they've known about the problem for a long time but haven't been able to catch the culprits due to a lack of logistical support. They said certain buying

houses and local partners of joint ventures could be involved in the scam.

An official in the Ministry of Commerce said several hundred buying houses have opened across the country over the years. The houses are approved by the Ministry of Industry, but they are not accountable to the government.

Bangladesh introduced the Electronic Visa Delivery System for garment exports to the United States in January to stop visa forgery. However, the syndicate sent large shipments of garments to the U.S. in November and December before the system could be implemented.

The United States Customs Department seized garments

sent by 23 factories, since the documents were forged. The department sent the documents to the Export Promotion Bureau and asked it to check whether it issued the visas. After conducting a preliminary investigation, the bureau said it did not issue the visas.

Between 1997 and 1999, the bureau uncovered 63 garment factories involved in visa and quota forgery. They exported more than 3 lakh dozen dresses with fake documents.

The government temporarily suspended the operation of the factories after conducting an investigation. Some factories resumed operations after paying a fine, while others closed down for good.

Environment MOEF suggestions to be discussed with Kibria

By Special Correspondent

The recommendations by the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MOEF) to protect the environment will come up at a meeting with Finance Minister S A M S Kibria on April 19. The MOEF gave the suggestions in a letter to the National Board of Revenue on Tuesday.

Secretary Syed Marghub Muehsel will represent the MOEF at the meeting with the finance minister.

The letter pointed out the effect of two stroke petrol engine auto-rickshaws and four stroke diesel engine vehicles on air pollution level in the capital and other urban areas. Import of these should be banned or a 300 per cent duty should be imposed on the import from the next fiscal year, it said.

The MOEF recommendations include steps to discourage import of diesel with high sulphur content and increased duty on Eva foam, plastic compound/polymer, rubber products and polythene.

The ministry suggested import of petrol engine motor vehicles with catalytic converters to keep the air free of CO and SO2 substances as the country now imports lead free petrol. Import of Diesel engine vehicles without Diesel Particulate Filter should be banned, it said.

The MOEF recommended zero tariff on the import of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) engine and CNG equipment to encourage environment friendly vehicles on the streets and imposition of indirect taxes on raw materials for polythene and plastic as their use is causing serious damage to the environment.

Bomb injured housewife dies at DMCH

By Staff Correspondent

A housewife who received bomb injuries during a waz mahfil on Monday at North Shahjahanpur Railway colony ground, died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) yesterday.

The dead was identified as Salma Khatun, 30, wife of Atabuddin of North Shahjahanpur in the city.

Hospital sources said the victim received bomb injuries when some unidentified miscreants exploded bomb at waz mahfil venue.

She was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital where she succumbed to bomb injuries yesterday morning.

The body was sent to hospital morgue for autopsy.

No hartal in Chandpur today

CHANDPUR, Apr 12: In response to a request from businessmen, All-Party Action Council (APAC) here has decided not to observe dawn-to-dusk hartal in the district tomorrow, reports UNB.

The decision came from a meeting of the Action Committee on Tuesday night.

Local businessmen requested the opposition leaders to withdraw hartal programme in the district as the day coincides with the last day of the Bengali month of Chaitra, which is important for them to clear their ledgers.

Chaired by committee joint convenor Advocate Mahbubul Haq Patwari, the meeting was attended, among others, by another joint convenor of the Action Council Mohammad Khan Delwar Hossain and member secretary Moulana Abdur Rahim.

Dhaka can play role in promoting peace in S Asia: Rajmohan

Rajmohan Gandhi, a noted Indian historian and grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, said he believes Bangladesh can play an effective role to promote ties between countries whose relations are bedeviled by different disputes, reports BSS.

"This country enjoys the goodwill of regional countries and Dhaka can be helpful in furthering dialogue and reconciliation for South Asia," he told a group of newsmen prior to his departure for New Delhi, ending a four-day visit to Bangladesh.

Gandhi, also a former member of parliament and known as a leading voice for peace in South Asia, said his talks here led him to believe that Bangladesh wants peace and expects India and Pakistan to work to strengthen SAARC and other cooperative ventures.

Gandhi lauded Dhaka's role in reducing tension in the wake of nuclear explosions by India and Pakistan in early 1998.

He visited Noakhali, which his grandfather visited in early 1947 to help quell communal tensions. He said the elderly still remember Mahatma's untiring efforts at that time to maintain secular sentiment.

"The love and affection that we have received from locals are precious assets for us," said Gandhi, who was accompanied by his wife.

Gandhi said he believed the situation between India and Pakistan will change because there is no alternative to peace in the region. He said factors like "Kargil", the hijacking of an Indian plane and the change of government in Pakistan were responsible for the current state of affairs.

We are bound by many common factors and it is the duty of all to protect and promote their

well-being through peace efforts," said Gandhi.

Asked about a remark by former Indian Army Chief Field Marshal S A M Manekshaw that one day India, Pakistan and Bangladesh will have no international borders, Gandhi said he neither shares the view, nor welcomes the prediction.

"All these countries must remain with their own identity but with close and friendly ties with each other,"

Extortion Arrested police sub-inspectors placed on remand

By Court Correspondent

Three probationary police sub-inspectors arrested in connection with toll collection were placed on a two-day police remand.

They were produced before the CMM's court yesterday with a prayer for ten-day police remand, but the court granted two days.

The arrested are Fakhruddin Azad, Sakil and Borhanuddin. According to police, the three went to a garments factory owner named Morshed at North Sahajapur and collected Tk 30,000 from him.

The three allegedly threatened the owner, asking for another Tk 50,000.

When they frequently demanded money from the owner, he informed the DB office. After a primary investigation, DB officials confirmed the charges against the three.

They were arrested by the DB and handed over to Motijheel police.

Nor'westers

From page 1

Kazipur, Sirajganj, Sadar, Rajganj, Ullapara, Shahjapur and Chowhat thanas on Tuesday night.

At least 27 people were injured and hundreds of houses were damaged by nor'wester in six thanas of the district.

Power supply in the affected areas was disrupted during the storm that continued for at least 45 minutes.

District officials visited the affected areas and assured all possible help for the victims.

In Jamalpur, nor'wester lashed Jamalpur pourashava and eight unions of Sadar thana Tuesday night, killing a man and injuring 15 others, according to UNB. Hundreds of houses were also damaged by the storm.

The deceased, identified as Ainal Huq Khan, 50, of Dari Hamipur village, was killed in house collapse.

The nor'wester accompanied by hailstorm began at 8.30 pm and lasted 30 minutes uprooting trees and a number of electric poles. It caused extensive damage to standing Irri-Boro and other crops. There was no electricity in the town for 14 hours.

Two barracks of Valuka Asrayan project in Siripur union were also damaged.



প্রকৃত বকেয়া বিদ্যুৎ বিল নিরূপণে সহায়তা করুন

দীর্ঘদিন যাবত লক্ষ্য করা যাইতেছে যে, কোন কোন সম্মানিত বিদ্যুৎ গ্রাহকের বকেয়া বিদ্যুৎ বিলের হিসাবে ভিন্নমত রহিয়াছে। এই বিভ্রান্তি নিরসনসহ যুগোপযোগী বকেয়াধারী গ্রাহক সার্ভেই লক্ষ্যে উন্নয়ন বোর্ডের চেয়ারম্যান জনাব কামরুল ইসলাম সিদ্দিক এর বলিষ্ঠ পদক্ষেপে বোর্ড সারাদেশব্যাপী বকেয়া বিলের সঠিক হিসাব নিরূপণ ও বকেয়াধারী গ্রাহক সার্ভের জন্য ১২টি চার্টার্ড একাউন্টেন্ট ফার্মকে নিরীক্ষক হিসাবে নিয়োগ করিয়াছে।

এই সকল ফার্মের প্রতিনিধিগণ ১লা এপ্রিল, ২০০০ তারিখ হইতে প্রতিটি বকেয়াধারী বিদ্যুৎ গ্রাহকের আদিনা সবেজমিনে পরিদর্শনপূর্বক গ্রাহক বা তাহার প্রতিনিধির সংগে সাক্ষাৎ করিয়া সঠিক বকেয়া নির্ধারণ ও সার্ভের কাজ শুরু করিয়াছেন। নিরীক্ষকগণ যাহাতে তাহাদের উপর অর্পিত দায়িত্ব নিবিষ্টে, সঠিকভাবে ও সময়মত সম্পন্ন করিতে পারেন সেই লক্ষ্যে প্রয়োজনীয় সহায়তা প্রদানের জন্য সম্মানিত গ্রাহক, সচেতন নাগরিক ও সর্বাধিকারকে অনুরোধ করা যাইতেছে।

এই কাজটির সূচী বাস্তবায়ন বোর্ড এবং সম্মানিত গ্রাহকদের মধ্যে সম্পর্ক উন্নয়নে সহায়ক হইবে এবং জাতীয় উন্নয়নে অবদান রাখিবে।

উন্নত গ্রাহক সেবাই বোর্ডের মূল লক্ষ্য।

আদেশক্রমে

মোঃ আফতাব উদ্দিন খান
এফসিএ, এআইসিএস, এলএলবি
নিয়ন্ত্রক, হিসাব ও অর্থ
ও
আহবায়ক, মনিটরিং কমিটি।
বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড।

বিদ্যুৎ/জন-১৩০৮/৯৯-২০০০

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