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Bid to stay close to policymakers

Most of Ctg businesses relocated in Dhaka

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, May 14: Most of the businesses in Chittagong, the country's commercial capital, have been relocated in Dhaka due to lack of pragmatic measures by successive governments for decentralisation of administrative network, business sources said.

Head offices of business firms including shipping agencies were relocated in Dhaka in a bid to stay close to the policymakers as well as to attend international bidding and business deals, the sources said.

Business leaders say the absence of decision-making bodies and infrastructure facilities in Chittagong forced most of the businesses to pack up and go to Dhaka.

Some of the top businessmen of the port city who had their start here spend most of the time in Dhaka, the sources said.

Even some multinational companies based here are following the suit to help their of-

ficials avoid shuttling between Chittagong and Dhaka for attending different meetings. GlaxoWellcome Bangladesh Ltd. has already shifted its head office to Dhaka while Lever Brothers Bangladesh Ltd. plans to do the same soon, company sources said.

Only the factory and a liaison office of Lever will be here, the sources added.

Jafirul Islam Chowdhury MP, former president of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industries and a leader of Khatungonj business community said: "The non-fulfilment of commitments by all the governments to develop Chittagong as a commercial capital prompted most of the businesses to migrate to Dhaka since all big purchase orders and major government decisions take place there."

The head office of BEPZA (Bangladesh Export Processing Zone Authority) has not yet

been shifted to Chittagong despite a government decision long before".

Chowdhury said although the head offices of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation and Bangladesh Tea Board were shifted to Chittagong, these had very limited power.

He said Khatungonj, which once used to control lion's share of the country's import business, is now like a ghost place.

Some tea stalls have replaced the trading firms at Khatungonj where several thousands brokers used to do business," said Chowdhury.

He also blamed deterioration of law and order in the port city also pushed the businesses to go to Dhaka.

A large number of warehouses at Majirhat, Strand road, Korbaniganj and Chakhtal are now being used for residential purpose, businessmen said.

Bangabandhu Communications Satellite to be launched

SAVAR, May 14: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the government would soon launch a geostationary satellite to have quick communication link with the world, reports UNB.

The room for setting satellite in the space is very limited. Already many countries have set up their own satellites along the equator. If we do not install our satellite immediately, we will lose the chance for ever," she said while laying the foundation of National Institute of Bio-technology at Ganakbari here in the morning.

The Prime Minister declared that the government has taken the epoch-making decision to install the "Bangabandhu

Communications Satellite-1" and the decision would be executed soon.

Hasina also announced the government plan to set up "Science City" near the Research Centre at Savar.

She called for extensive research and development of science and technology for improvement of national economy and socio-economic condition of the people.

"Our government has given priority to the science and technology sector and undertaken development plans to cope with the fast development of world science and technology," the Prime Minister said.

See page 11 col 3

3 killed as bus, tempo collide at Feni

From Our Correspondent

FENI, May 14: Three people were killed eight others injured when a tempo collided with a bus on Feni-Majidie Road near TB Hospital here this morning.

Of the dead, two were identified as Mohammad Chowdhury, 27, son of Abdul Matin of village Masumpur and Mosharrif Hossain, Howlader of Sonakhal, Bagerhat. The rest could not be identified immediately.

Of the injured, one identified as Mujibur Rahman, was admitted to Feni Sadar Hospital while others were undergoing treatment at private clinics.

Police seized both bus and tempo.

Kader Siddique asked to submit list of his assets

TANGAIL, May 14: The district Anti-Corruption Office has issued a notice to Abdul Kader Siddique, president of the Krishn-Sramik Janata League, to submit a list of his movable and immovable property, reports UNB.

Abu Mohammad Enayet Karim, vice-president of the party received the notice on behalf of Kader Siddique on Saturday.

Kader Siddique in his reaction told newsmen today that the government has the right to know about the assets of any citizen. But it is against the rule of law to issue such notice on a directive from the Prime Minister's Office.

It is learnt that the Bureau of Anti-Corruption referred to a letter of the PM's office of December 30, 1999 that asked it to serve notice on Siddique to submit a list of his assets to the Bureau within 45 days. It was asked to take legal action in case of non-compliance.

But the district anti-corruption office did not send the notice to Kader Siddique during the last few months. Finally it was sent through the police.

Temperature may fall today

By Staff Correspondent

Day temperature in the capital fell yesterday slightly and it is likely to fall further today, weather experts said yesterday.

Life had become quite unbearable in the city due to the heat wave during last few days, true to the earlier prediction by the meteorological office, that the intolerable heat would continue. It had caused anxiety among the city dwellers.

A slightly cool wind started blowing at around 1 pm in the city yesterday and illusive clouds appeared in the sky. But there was only few drops of rain in some parts of the capital which not only disappointed the city people, but also increased the humidity.

The highest temperature in Dhaka yesterday was recorded 34.5 degrees Celsius, about two degrees less than that of the day before. Meteorological office sources said last night that there was possibility of rain in the capital within next 24 hours (by this evening).

There was rain in Sylhet, Mymensingh, Comilla and some districts of Rajshahi division yesterday. The highest temperature in the country yesterday was 36.5 degree Celsius which was recorded at Khulna and Khepupara sources added.

Bangabhaban enquires about Humayun's condition

Bangabhaban yesterday enquired about the condition of writer Humayun Ahmed who is now recovering at National Institute for Cardiovascular Diseases and Hospital, reports UNB.

Sources at the hospital said the Presidential House rang up the section concerned at about 7:30 pm asking about the writer's health condition and his current treatment.

Doctors said Humayun Ahmed is improving. He will have to remain under intensive observation at the cabin for another two or three days," said a physician.

Humayun Ahmed was admitted to the hospital after he suffered an unstable angina, a pre-stage of heart attack early Friday morning.

Fatik Murder Case Shikdar, Jamai Faruque, Liaquat to die

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, May 14: Notorious criminal Ershad Shikdar, Jamal Faruque and Liaquat Lashkar have again been sentenced to death in Advocate Jahangir Kabir Fatik Murder Case.

The judgement in the case was delivered today by Additional District and Sessions Judge Hasan Imam in the special court.

The court also sentenced Abdus Sabur to transportation for life with a fine of Tk 5000. Two others — Idris Ali Talukdar and Ayub Ali Khan — were sentenced to seven years' RI and fined Tk 3000 each, in default to suffer RI for more than one year.

Noor-e-Alam and Shikdar's first wife Khodeja Begum were acquitted. Ayub Ali Khan, Khodeja Begum and six other accused are absconding since the murder case was recorded in Dhalupur thana.

Advocate Fatik was killed for having alleged illicit relations with Shikdar's wife. Shikdar called Fatik to his residence, "Swarnakomol", on April 7, 1998 and tortured him. Liaquat Lashkar and Jamal Faruque joined Shikdar in the torture while Khodeja was an onlooker.

After sunset, Fatik was taken to Skid Ghat with his mouth, hands and legs tied up with ropes. At about 10 pm, Noor-e-Alam, Sabur, Ayub Ali Khan and Idris Talukdar again tortured him. At one stage, Ershad and Jamal Faruque strangled Fatik in presence of Khodeja. She was brought there from Swarnakomol.

The body was dumped in river Bhairab at about 11:30 pm.

Confirmation of the brutal murder was obtained by police only after Shikdar's bodyguard said.

Noor-e-Alam who was Shikdar's chief bodyguard for over 15 years was acquitted in all the three murder cases for helping police investigate the cases as a government approver, the judgements said.

Obuchi passes away

TOKYO, May 14: Former Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi, an unassuming ruling party stalwart who defied early predictions of failure as premier, died of complications from a stroke today. He was 62, reports AP.

Obuchi died at 4:07 pm in Tokyo's Juntendo Hospital, where he had been hospitalised in a coma since last month, said Michiko Shimizu, an official in Obuchi's administrative office.

News reports earlier in the day said that Obuchi's blood pressure had dropped to a life-threatening level as he became increasingly unresponsive to treatment.

Obuchi became Japan's prime minister in July 1998 amid widespread expectations that his humble manner meant he lacked the nerve to handle the country's deepening economic problems.

Shikdar is yet to face trial in more 20 murder cases recorded with different police stations in the city and in the district.

Apart from recorded murder cases, Shikdar and his armed cadres will also be put on trial in 20 other criminal cases, sources in Khulna Metropolitan Police said.

Shikdar's chief bodyguard for over 15 years was acquitted in all the three murder cases for helping police investigate the cases as a government approver, the judgements said.

On Sunday, Mori praised the achievements of his predecessor and close friend.

Asma dies

By Staff Correspondent

Nineteen-year-old Asma who had a kidney transplantation about 16 months back died at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital last night.

She was admitted to the hospital on April 9 with various complications. She was also suffering from tuberculosis and jaundice.

On August 11, 1998, Asma underwent an operation at Dhaka Medical College Hospital for removal of her ovarian tumour.

But doctors mistakenly removed her only functioning kidney, endangering her life.

Triple murder: Arrested four sent to jail

By Staff Correspondent

Four people arrested in connection with the Triple Murder Case in the city's Rasulbagh area on April 5 were sent to Dhaka Central Jail yesterday.

The arrested are Abul Hosain, Shahi Akrum, Golam Mohammed Rafiqul Islam and AKM Khairul Alam Nantu.

They were produced in the CMM's Court yesterday after eight days police remand in three phases.

Three young men — Babar, Selim and Russel — were shot dead at Rasulbagh in Gulshan thana.

আপন ঠিকানা গড়ো

সোনালি সেহি সুযোগ, আরেকবার



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মাত্র ৪৫ দিনের জন্য

বিশেষ ছাড়

উপশহর

মায়াকানন কোথায় ?

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