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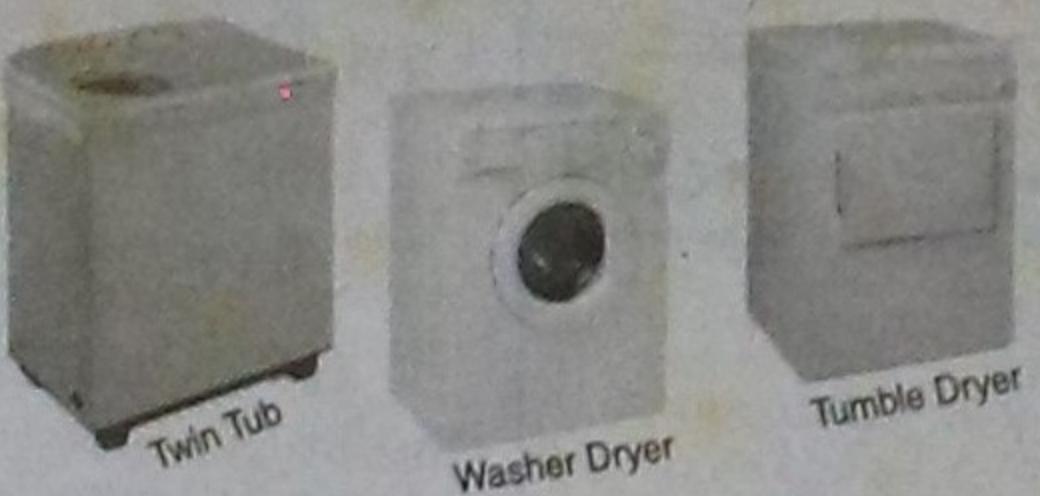
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Bhuiyan protests appointment of official ignoring EC views

By Staff Correspondent
BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan has sharply reacted at the recent transfer of an additional secretary from the Election Commission (EC) and appointment of another official in his place without consulting the EC.

In a statement issued yesterday the BNP secretary general said that the appointment of any official at the EC by the government without consulting the EC went against the Article 120 of the Constitution.

Referring to a news report regarding the appointment published in an English daily the day before, Mannan Bhuiyan also said, it is the Constitutional provision that any appointment to the EC would be done in consultation with the EC.

He said that BNP felt concerned at such a development particularly when the government, according to him, was busy in appointing the Chief Election Commissioner 'unilaterally' ignoring the views of the Opposition.

Blasts inside bus in Ctg : Death toll rises to 3

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, May 17: Another person injured in bomb blasts inside a passenger bus on Satkania-Bandarban road on Sunday died at Chittagong Medical College Hospital this morning, raising the death toll to 3.

The dead was identified as Abdur Rahman, 35.

At least 40 passengers were injured when bombs exploded inside the passenger bus bound for Bandarban from Satkania, police said.

Police suspected that the explosions took place while bombs were being carried by a passenger of the bus.

Investigation is going on, police said.

Mystery shrouds death of maid at Goran

By Staff Correspondent

Mystery shrouds the death of a minor housemaid whose body was recovered from her master's house at Uttar Goran under Khilgaon police station Monday.

The dead, identified as Roshana, 7, a housemaid was working at 255, Uttar Goran.

Meanwhile, the autopsy report indicated that there were injury marks on her body. The family sources, however, said that she died 'naturally'.

The victim died at the house at about 5 pm. Police recovered her body at about 5:30 am and sent it to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital for autopsy right away.

The post mortem of the body was carried out on Tuesday and the doctor found marks of injury on her body. The physicians suspect that she died from the injuries inflicted on her body.

When contacted, the Duty Officer of the Khilgaon police station said that a case had been filed in this regard, but they were yet to receive the autopsy report.

Four arrested in Barisal: Firearm recovered

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, May 17: Kotwali police arrested four alleged terrorists with a revolver from a computer centre at the eastern side of the Bibir Pukur in the town on Monday night.

Acting on a tip-off, a police team led by Kotwali thana OC Rabul Islam raided the Annesha Computer Centre at about 9:30 pm and arrested Saiful, Kalani, Mustafiz and Musa with a revolver.

A case was filed against them under Public Safety Act (PSA). An arms case was also filed against Musa who was carrying the revolver.



BCL leaders presenting a crest to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at a reception at Paltan Maidan in the city yesterday.

— Star photo

Dhaka-Thimpu talks in July to renew trade, transit accords

Bangladesh and Bhutan agreed to hold bilateral trade negotiations here in July to renew Dhaka-Thimpu agreements on Trade and Transit that expires on September 7, reports UNB.

The trade talks will also include other related issues to facilitate more efficient flow of trade between the two close neighbours, said a joint Bangladesh-Bhutan statement yesterday.

In the statement they stressed the need for improvement of the infrastructure facilities for trade and speeding up the process of opening an additional trade route through Nakugon and Dhalu.

The decision on trade talks was taken during the 5-day visit of Bhutanese Foreign Minister Lyonpo Jigmi Y Thinley to Bangladesh.

In the joint communiqué they agreed that there was vast potential for enhancement of bilateral cooperation in economic, social and cultural

Present govt is most efficient & competent since '75: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who seeks a second term in office, said people's growing confidence in Awami League will enhance percentage of vote for the party because of her government's pro-people policies and efficiency in running the country, reports UNB.

Present government is the most efficient and competent government since 1975 (changeover) on all counts," she said while addressing a meeting of Awami League's front-ranking leaders and workers who came to Ganobhaban yesterday morning to greet Hasina on the occasion of her homecoming day.

She asked her workers to make further sacrifice for the cause of the people.

"My politics is for the people and all my decisions and actions are to ensure their welfare... And I hope people would recognise it and elect Awami League for the next term," she said amidst cheers.

Hasina, who returned to Dhaka on May 17, 1981 ending her six years' in exile in India, said: "On return home I tried to find out my kin and familiar faces, but I did not find any of them... all have left me."

Hasina said she had lost all of her family in one of the crudest episodes in human history and tried to find solace in Awami League: "It's like my family."

She left Dhaka for Germany on July 30, 1975 to stay with her scientist husband. Her two kids — Joy and Putul — and younger sister Sheikh Rehana accompanied her and incidentally escaped the massacre. It all happened just 15 days after her departure.

The Prime Minister said she did not know what she should do, where to go, after the August tragedy. She lived some days at the house of Speaker Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury who was then Bangladesh Ambassador to Germany.

Some world leaders, including Yugoslav President Tito and Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, offered her political asylum and she decided to stay in India to maintain contact with Dhaka.

About her taking over the responsibility of Awami League as president, she said she was not mentally prepared for it although she was actively involved in the law.

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FEMA said its recommendations to strengthen election process in Bangladesh

were based on a wide range of discussions with the people of all sections of the society and international participation.

It said since the ruling party chose the President, the working procedures of the people appointed by the President may not be considered as neutral and may not be accepted by the opposition political parties.

FEMA also suggested enactment of a law to provide state financing to the political parties for meeting election expenses with a precondition that the financing will be provided to the political parties who had representation in previous Parliament.

It said the political parties in Bangladesh mostly depend on the business community to meet their election expenditure.

As a result, it becomes a moral responsibility for the elected government to provide facilities to the business community for their business or other privileges, it added.

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FEMA recommendations for appointment of CEC, ECs

The Constitution should be amended providing for appointment of Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners by the President in consultation with major political parties, reports UNB.

This was recommended by the Fair Election Monitoring Alliance (FEMA) on invitation by the Election Commission to recommend reform measures for strengthening the election process in the country.

Clause 118 (1) of the Constitution provides for appointment of the CEC and other ECs by the President on advice from the Prime Minister.

The recommendations of FEMA were made available to the press yesterday said the President would appoint CEC and ECs in consultation with parties having representation in Parliament must be defined by the law.

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Just to express joy

By DU Correspondent

Activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) yesterday fired three gunshots in front of Madhu's Canteen on the Dhaka University campus.

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Asked about the reason behind, some BCL leaders said it was just to express joy.

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Hillary wins first battle

Democratic convention nominates her for Senate race

ALBANY, May 17: With thousands of supporters, including her husband, cheering in a packed sports arena, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton was nominated for the Senate at the Democratic Party convention in her adopted state, reports AP.

The nomination by the 352 delegates of the only first lady to run for public office was unanimous Tuesday night.

"Make no mistake, this election is not about me or my Republican opponent," Clinton said in a 38-minute address that ended with the triumphant theme from the movie "Charlottes Web." "It's about the people of New York and our common mission."

The first lady said the mission was to improve the lives of New York's families and children.

"We are producing countless new fortunes, yet we have the second-highest rate of poverty in the country, and the biggest gap between the rich and the poor," she said.

Still uncertain was whether Clinton would face Republican Rudolph Giuliani, the New York City mayor whose candidacy was expected to make the Senate race a clash of political titans. Three weeks ago, the mayor announced he had prostate cancer and said he was uncertain if he could continue in the race.

The Republican state convention in Buffalo is on May 30.

Shaking hands with supporters, signing autographs and posing for photographs with admirers at the arena in downtown Albany before the convention began, the first lady predicted she would be "victorious" in November.

In a last-minute addition to the festivities, President Bill Clinton changed his schedule Tuesday in order to join the crowd of about 10,000 people at the convention.

I just decided I ought to be

there," Clinton said before leaving Washington. "It's a big deal for her, a big night for her and I want to be there with her. I just want to be there to support her."

Giuliani told supporters at a fund-raiser Monday night that to stay in the race, but still had to determine his course of medical treatment before he could decide on the Senate contest.

Democrats tried to keep the focus on their convention and on the first lady. There was no mention of Giuliani in the speeches.

The delegates didn't seem to care, cheering lustily for speaker after speaker.

"This is the kind of excitement we haven't seen since Bobby Kennedy," state Democratic Chairman Judith Hope said on the eve of they convention.

One hundred and thirty-five states parties as well as some observer states are taking part in the four-day session.

The convention on the prohibition of development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and on the destruction is aimed at total elimination of whole range of poisonous and harmful chemical weapons from the face of the world.

Gyash Uddin, the Bangladesh Ambassador to the Netherlands and Permanent Representative to the OPCW, while participating in the conference urged all involved for universal participation in the CWC in order to maintain world peace and security.

He underscored use of chemicals for peaceful purpose and urged the need for regional/sub-regional framework for cooperation among the developing countries, which are parties to the convention.

He said the developing countries need greater cooperation to pay more attention and cooperation in organising more sponsorship of CWC related training courses, seminars and workshops to educate the technical and policy making personnel of national authorities involved.

He also reiterated Bangladesh's full support to successful implementation of the CWC for noble cause of humanity.

DB men allegedly misbehave with Evidence staff

By Staff Correspondent

Plainclothes policemen on Tuesday allegedly entered the office of the English weekly "Evidence" and misbehaved with members of the staff of the weekly.

A press release of the weekly yesterday said that five armed men, who introduced themselves as DB police entered the office at about 2pm and wanted to know about the office of Evidence Editor Major (Retd) Manjur Qader, who is also a central leader of BNP, from the security guards and the telephone operator.

The DB men allegedly abused the security guards when they were refused to see the Editor. They, according to the press release, also threatened the female telephone operator when she failed to provide the editor's mobile phone number.

The press release said that the DB personnel entered the office in violation of a High Court order issued in January this year. The Evidence Editor had filed a writ petition seeking a court order to stop frequent raid by police at his house and business place.

The HC order had said "pending hearing of the rule, the respondents are restrained from making entry into his house, place of business, search or seizure except in due process of law."

A general dairy has been lodged with Mohammadpur thana police regarding Tuesday's incident, the release added.

Angry students damage shops, houses

By Staff Correspondent

Angry students damaged more than 50 thatched houses and shops after a student of the Sher-e-Bangla Krishi Institute was stabbed by a local young man at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Pakka Market in the city yesterday morning.

The victim was identified as Mainul Sohel.

The incident occurred at about 11 am when Sohel