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Ctg port faces congestion due to rain

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, May 30: Chittagong port is facing congestion of ships due to disruption of cargo handling activities because of rain for the last one week, port sources said.

About 40 ships both at the jetties and at outer anchorage remained stranded.

During the rain 25 vessels anchored at the port jetties were forced to suspend cargo discharge, which caused their overstay, port sources said.

Besides, about 15 ships including 5 with container cargo, which arrived at the outer anchorage could not berth at the port jetties, port sources added.

The ships suffered demurrage of huge amount for unscheduled stay at Chittagong port.

The delivery of cargo from port sheds was also affected during the rain that caused space congestion inside jetty sheds and yards, port sources said.

However, situation started improving from today with the cessation of rain, port sources said.

Ship arrival declined several weeks ago at Chittagong port when there was no congestion at all, port sources said.

CPA to purchase high-powered tug

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, May 30: All formalities have been completed by Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) to purchase a high-powered multipurpose tug from a Dutch company at a cost of Tk 4.8 crore, port sources said.

CPA and the Dutch company Renwaal Shipyard signed an agreement in this regard yesterday.

The company is scheduled to supply the tug to Chittagong port within eight months after signing of the agreement, port sources informed The Daily Star.

The tug will be equipped to cover rescue, search, and offer fire fighting facilities.

Chittagong Port Authority will provide 75 per cent cost from its own fund while the remaining 25 per cent will be provided from grant money, port sources said. Chittagong port lacked a high powered tug for towing big size ships.

Gang leader of inter-district dacoits held in Khulna

From Staff Correspondent
KHULNA, May 30: Koiri thana police today arrested Mohiuddin Shama, 40, leader of an organised gang of inter-district dacoits based in the Sundarbans.

He was arrested from Amadi union, police said.

Mohiuddin admitted that he has rented seven guns to other dacoits of the forest, police said.

Police hoped the firearms will be recovered in a day or two.

Contractors won't supply food to CMCH from June 1

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, May 30: The contractors have decided not to supply food items to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) from June 1 protesting non-payment of their outstanding bills, hospital sources said.

The food contractors issued a notice to the hospital authority in this connection yesterday.

Meanwhile, the CMCH authorities have advised the patients through a circular to arrange their own diet. The hospital authorities recently requested the ministries concerned for a fund of over Tk 50 lakh for purchasing food items for the hospital patients, but the ministry is yet to be responded, sources said.

One gets 9-year RI for rape

JHALAKATHI, May 30: A court sentenced one person to nine years' rigorous imprisonment and a woman to seven years' in a rape case here today, reports UNB.

According to the prosecution, Mohammad Alam, 35, abducted a minor girl with the help of Parul Begum, 35, wife of Abdul Qader of village Taukati in Nalsity upazila on December 3 in 1999 and took her to Dhaka and violated her repeatedly.

A case was filed and police after investigation charge-sheeted them.

The District and Sessions Judge who is also the Special Judge of the Woman and Child Repression (Prevention) Court after examining the witnesses and records awarded the punishment.



Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and BNP chief Khaleda Zia along with senior party leaders placing wreaths on the grave of late president Ziaur Rahman yesterday. — Star photo

Six government hospitals Four out of six cancer treatment machines lying idle since '97

By Staff Correspondent

Four out of six cancer treatment machines at six government medical college hospitals in the country are lying unutilised since 1997.

Besides, a simulator and a brachytherapy machine used for treatment of cancer remain unused at one of the hospitals since then.

According to sources concerned, the Chinese machines that use cobalt-60 as source of radiation to destroy cancer cells were purchased at a cost of Tk 4.8 crore using a German grant.

The machines went into operation almost simultaneously at Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Barisal, Sylhet and Rangpur medical college hospitals. The machine at Sylhet continues to function and that at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) went out of order a couple of weeks ago.

Four of the machines and the simulator and brachytherapy machine at DMCH started giving trouble soon after installation those. Chinese technicians were called to repair the machines and those were set right by the end of 1997.

The government refused to pay for the repair, saying repair is supposed to be free of cost for one year. But supplier of the machines, Mardel Agency, claimed that it was a violation of contract.

Meanwhile, the machines still remain unutilised due to technical faults. "Technicians from the manufacturer have to come and repair those. Without their help, we cannot repair," said Abdul Aziz, Managing Director of Mardel Agency.

He said, "The government still owes us more than Tk 30 lakh as repair charges and fees for the Chinese technicians. Till the bill is paid, we cannot request the manufacturer to send their technicians again."

Some sources however said that an agreement was signed in February this year between the government and the Agency and Chinese technicians would 'come any day' now.

Tributes paid to Zia

By Staff Correspondent

BNP and its front organisations yesterday paid tributes to party's founder late President Ziaur Rahman, marking his 19th anniversary of death.

Leaders and workers thronged the mazar of Zia, placed wreaths and offered feteah, seeking eternal peace of the departed soul.

Khaleda Zia first placed wreath and offered feteah at Zia's mazar at 10 am. Top BNP leaders including Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury, M Saifur Rahman, Khandaker Delwar Hossain, Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, Chowdhury Tanveer Ahmed Siddique, Dr RA Gani and Khandaker Mahbubuddin Ahmed accompanied the party Chairperson.

She was followed by city BNP and its front organisations, including Jatityabadi Chhatra Dal, Juba Dal, Sramik Dal, Krishak Dal, Mohila Dal, Secchashabak Dal, Jasas, Ulema Dal, Tanti Dal, Zia Shishu-Kishore Sangathan, Zia-Khaleda Research Council, Anjibi Parishad and Doctors Association of Bangladesh.

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Delhi to send envoy to Fiji to discuss Chaudhury's fate

NEW DELHI, May 30: India today decided to send a top diplomat to Fiji to discuss with the new military rulers the fate of toppled Prime Minister Mahendra Chaudhury, whose family is of Indian origin, reports AP.

ST Devare, a secretary in the external affairs ministry, will first visit Australia and New Zealand for consultations with the foreign ministry officials, said a press statement by the ministry. He will then proceed to Suva, the capital of Fiji.

The government took the decision as major political groups and relatives of Chaudhury mounted pressure that India's concern and responsibility increased manifold since 44 per cent of the Fijian population are of Indian origin.

Last week, Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee said any move to oust the legitimately elected government in Fiji would be unacceptable to India.

India has been in touch with the Commonwealth and the British government urgently to try to resolve the crisis.

Ousted Prime Minister Chaudhury's family hails from Rohtak in India's Haryana state, 75 kilometers northwest of New Delhi.

Outlying Fijian villages inhabited by minority ethnic Indians have been pillaged and burned by mobs of masked men. Chaudhury was Fiji's first prime minister from the island country's ethnic Indian minority. Since his election last year, tension between ethnic Indians, who control most of the island's commerce, and the majority indigenous Fijians has been growing.

Ethnic Indians make up about 44 per cent of Fiji's population of 813,000, while indigenous Fijians account for 51 per cent.

Reuters adds: State-owned Fiji Broadcasting Corporation said today the new military

government has named as interim prime minister Ratu Epeli Nailatikau, whose wife is among some 30 hostages held by coup leader George Speight.

Nailatikau is the son-in-law of President Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara who stood aside on Monday night to let the military rule the crisis-torn Pacific island nation.

"Army commander, Commodore Frank Bainimarama confirmed this (appointment) and says the full line-up of the ministers in the military government will be announced later..." the Fiji Broadcasting Corporation reported.

"He says those who have been invited are professionals with proven records in society and are not affiliated with any political parties."

Nailatikau's wife, Adi Nailatikau Mara, is among the hostages Speight is holding in the country's parliamentary complex.

BCRA deadline 'Withdraw 'false' cases, remove DMP chief by tonight'

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Crime Reporters' Association (BCRA) has asked the authorities to withdraw by midnight tonight all "false" cases against journalists and remove DMP commissioner Matur Rahman.

Otherwise, the association warned, it would go for tougher action programmes.

The ultimatum was announced at a meeting of the executive committee of the association at Dhaka Reporter's Union office yesterday.

Later, the association leaders met Inspector General of Police A.Y.B.I. Siddique and put forward their demands. They told the IGP that their movement would continue until the demands are met.

The IGP assured the leaders of taking necessary measures, a press release of the association said.

The ultimatum followed arrest of Aminur Rahman Taj, a senior reporter of Bengali daily Ajker Kagoj, without any warrant in the city on Monday.

Taj was arrested following a report titled "Bribery in transfer and appointment of police" with Ajker Kagoj on May 18.

Earlier, BCRA demanded on Monday that the DMP commissioner seek unconditional apology for 'the arrest without any lawful ground' and that for this he be removed immediately.

The association leaders said Taj went to the public relations office of DMP to perform his professional duty. He was detained and later a case was filed.

Presided over by association president Parvez Khan, secretary Fakrul Alam Kanchan, vice-presidents Samsus Salehin and Aminur Rahman Taj, organising secretary Shah Monwar Jaham, information and research secretary Shaikh Nazrul Islam, publicity secretary Mantazuddin were, among others, present at the meeting.

Earlier, leaders of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists and Dhaka Union of Journalists exchanged views with BCRA leaders and assured that the unions would take up separate programmes in support of the BCRA programmes.

The BCRA leaders also had a meeting with Dhaka Reporter's Union at DRU office. DRU vice-president Mahfuzur Rahman expressed solidarity with BCRA and assured continued support to their movement.

450 people sent back to Mashaldanga

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Rifles with the help local administration has sent back 450 people to Mashaldanga enclave, a BDR press release said yesterday.

Before their return, they were given rice, pulse, bread, saree, lungi, shirt and other clothes.

They had earlier left Mashaldanga, come to the mainland and had taken shelter in Kurigram due to insecurity in the enclave created by Indian intruders.

Additional BDR personnel were deployed along the border to ensure security of people of the area and they were in touch with the Indian border guards in this regard, the press release said.

The Indian intruders had burnt more than 50 houses, taken away valuables and cattle and held some enclave people hostage who, however, were released later.

PBCP cadres looted arms, murdered political leaders

Shimul was 'assigned' to kill 2 more in Khulna

From Staff Correspondent

his armed cadres.

Gonesh, who took the leading role in several murders including that of Kashem in 1995 and Panna last year, was also killed by Shimul due to inter-party feud, CID police said.

Khulna CID police said Shimul confessed that Jubo League leader Shajahan and his 70-year old father Hatem Ali of Boyra, Awami League leader Hasan Tarafdar and Jubo League leader Bikash Barhol of Daulatpur and BNP backed ward commissioner Ikhtiaruddin Bablu were among others murdered under his instruction in Khulna city during the last two years.

Police refused to divulge names of other professional killers and their godfathers in

Khulna city, as disclosed by Shimul during interrogation.

Shimul also disclosed names of masterminds of the murders Kashem and Bablu.

Shimul further told police that recently he came to Khulna from Dhaka on a party assignment to murder two influential persons.

The party ordered him to retaliate murder of Liton. Liton was gunned down in police custody by a group of armed men in front of Khulna Bar Association office in March this year.

Shimul also disclosed names of the persons who hired him in Khulna for committing these two murders. "These people who hired me are still making 'tadbir' (lobbying) for me," he told Khulna CID.



Asian illegal immigrants who camp out in the centre of Rome shout slogans to call for their status to be legalised yesterday. The demonstrators, up to 300, and mainly from Bangladesh, were among 80,000 foreign nationals in Italy whose applications for legal status were rejected last year. —AFP photo

2 agents of 'hundi bank' abducted in Jhenidah

JHENIDAH, May 30: Armed

terrorists have abducted two persons known as agents of the controversial 'hundi bank' that misappropriated crores of taka taken as deposit from the people, reports UNB.

Syed Mahmudul Islam, Lecturer of Kotchandpur Poura Mahila College, was abducted at 10 am today. Five armed men held Mahmud at Naidaga on his way to Kotchandpur from his home at Raniarpur. The terrorists took him away at gunpoint to an unknown destination.

Residents said Mahmud was an agent of the 'hundi bank' who had collected deposits from the people and now allegedly holding Tk 3.85 crore.

Abdul Mannan, another agent of the hundi bank was picked up by a group of armed terrorists from his house at Thanapara on Saturday night. His family received a letter today (Tuesday) from the terrorists demanding Tk 2 lakh in ransom for his release.

Meanwhile, the committee formed to assess the deposits and realisation of the money today met with Farooq Ahmed Kajol, chief of the hundi bank, in Jhenidah jail today. Their

discussion with him ended in a failure, said a member of the committee.

Farooq was arrested and thrown in jail today about a fortnight ago following widespread allegation against him of misappropriation of money.

Students, police clash in Mymensingh

MYMENSINGH, May 30:

Some 20 people were injured in clashes between police and agitating students of Anandamoh College here today, reports UNB.

The third year students of the college put up barricade on the railway track suspending rail communications between Mymensingh and Northern districts for over six hours.

Witnesses said the students waging movement to force the National University authority to shift the honours third part examinations, laid the siege to the railway track at Sankipara level crossing and damaged a Mymensingh-bound local train at noon.

They also attacked another inter-city train at 3 pm.

Police rushed to the spot and lobbed 16 tear gas shells to disperse the agitating students.

Cargo handling suspended for 4 hrs at Ctg port

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, May 30: Cargo handling at Chittagong port was suspended for four hours until midnight last night following a scuffle between sweepers and booking clerks on the dock management board premises, port sources said.

The cargo handling resumed at about 12 last night when port authority assured of sorting out the dispute.

Current JS has lost 10 MPs in four years

The current 7th Jatiya

Sangshidha was elected in June, 1996, lost ten of its members in less than four years of its five-year term, reports BSS.

The toll reached ten on Monday night with the sudden death of Jatiya Party (Mizan-Manju) member of parliament Mohammad Zulfikar Ali Bhutto elected from the Jhalakathi-2 constituency.

Of the dead, six belonged to the ruling Awami League and three to opposition BNP. Bhutto was the lone MP from JP.

Sharifuddin an Awami League MP from Habiganj, died within a few weeks of the election which was held on June 12, 1996 and the party lost another lawmaker, Khadimul Islam from Thakurgaon, the same year.

Advocate Nizamuddin Khan was the first lawmaker from the main opposition BNP who died in April, 1997.

Three MPs died in last year while there was one death in 1997 and two in the following year.

This year Bhutto was the second MP who died on Monday. Dr Mohammad Alaaddin of Awami League from Rajshahi died on February 26.

Others who died in the last four years included Dr Ehtashamul Haq Nasim Biswas (Barisal-BNP), Tafiz Uddin (Pabna-AL), Ahmed Ali (Maherpur-BNP), Advocate Mosharraf Hossain (Faridpur-AL) and A K M Shamsul Haq (Kishoreganj-AL).

Contractor killed in accident

CHITTAGONG, May 30: A shipyard contractor was killed at Madanhat under Sitakunda thana here today when a speeding van knocked down the motor cycle he was riding on, police said, reports BSS.

Mohammad Yusuf, 45, died on the spot.

Local people caught the drive of the van and handed him over to police.

A case was filed with Sitakunda thana in this connection.



Ten-year-old white tigress 'Gayatri' poses with her two new-born cubs at the Calcutta Zoo yesterday. The father of the cubs is a zoo-bred tiger named 'Tilok' who carried the gene for whiteness. With this birth, Gayatri's fourth litter, the zoo's white tiger population leaped to fifteen of which six are pure whiteness. —AFP photo

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