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Road accident in Ctg kills medical college student

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, June 7: A student of Feni Medical College, who came to visit Chittagong University, met with a tragic end of his life in a road accident at Hathazari Road here today, police said.

The dead was identified as Ruhul Amin 20. Two other students of the same college, accompanying him on board an autorickshaw, received serious injuries and admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital. Their autorickshaw was hit from behind by a speedy bus at Amanbazar point, police said. Police seized the bus while the driver fled the scene.

HC rule on DMP commissioner, OC Ramna, for threat to crime reporters

The High Court directed the DMP Commissioner and OC of Ramna thana yesterday to show cause within 4 weeks why they shall not be restrained from harassing 13 crime reporters of daily newspapers, reports UNB.

The division bench comprising Justice Mainur Reza Chowdhury and Justice Mohammad Mozammel Hossain issued the rule upon a writ petition filed by the crime reporters.

The petitioners are Parvez Khan of Prothom Alo, Fakrul Alam of Jugantar, Shah Monwar Jahan of Dinkal, Sheikh Nazrul Islam of Daily Star, Mohsinul Karim of Mukta Kanta, Mortuza Haider of Bhorer Kagoj, Mahmudur Rahman of Banglar Bani, Shamsul Salehin of Janata, Sankar Kumar Dey of Janakantha, Mesbah Ahmed and Azad Hossain of Aiker Kagoj, Harun-Rashid of Sangbad and Abu Saleh Akhand of Inqilab.

In the petition they said they were threatened by DMP officials to implicate them in criminal case under the Public Safety Act and humiliate them thereby curtailing fundamental rights of freedom of press and expression.

Barrister Maudud Ahmed
See page 11 col 5

Tower collapse

From page 1
"One of the two circuits of the old 132 KV transmission line may be restored tonight, reducing power crisis in that region. The other circuit would possibly be restored by peak hours tomorrow."

Our Staff Correspondent from Khulna adds: Khulna Metropolitan City experienced unprecedented loadsheddings from 2 pm till 7 pm.

"Normal life in the city was paralysed due to frequent power failure. It also seriously hampered production in mills and factories of the metropolitan city."

Khulna citizens' committee brought out a procession in the afternoon to protest loadshedding during final match of Asia Cup.

Biman's direct Ctg-Jeddah flight begins

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, June 7: Bangladesh Biman began direct flight between Chittagong and Jeddah of Saudi Arabia today, Biman sources said.

A flight of Biman carrying 138 passengers from Jeddah landed at Chittagong airport at 11:15 am today. Every Wednesday a direct flight from Jeddah will land at Chittagong airport.

A direct flight from Kuwait is scheduled to land at Chittagong airport every Thursday. Earlier, direct flight service was introduced to carry passengers from Muskat, Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Qatar to Chittagong to facilitate arrival of expatriates from Chittagong.

Taj suspended from PWD

The Public Works Department (PWD) suspended Aminur Rahman Taj, a sub-assistant engineer of the Project Division-2 yesterday for violating the government service rules, official sources said, reports BSS.

"The suspension order will be effective from May 29 when Taj was arrested by police following a press report published in the 'Aiker Kagoj'." A K M Mukit Rahman, Chief Engineer of PWD said.

Taj was released on bail the same evening. Despite being a government official, Taj has been working in the 'Aiker Kagoj' as a senior staff reporter for the last seven years violating the government service rule, the sources said.

The PWD also allotted to him a house in Motiheel AGB colony and he has been residing there for several years.



Latifur Rahman, Chairman and Managing Director of Transcom Beverages, gives away man-of-the-series award entailing a check worth 5,000 US dollars and a trophy to Yousuf Youhana (left), and the Pakistan supporters watch the match by putting miniature flags on their cheeks during the Pepsi Asia Cup final yesterday. —Star photos

PSI for all imports made mandatory

Star Report

The government has made pre-shipment inspection (PSI) for all imports mandatory, NBR sources said.

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) issued a statutory regulatory order (SRO) on May 30, withdrawing the lowest limit of 5,000 dollars for mandatory PSI. It issued a letter on June 1, making the previous letter effective from the date of issuance. The mandatory PSI was introduced in February this year.

But the sudden withdrawal of the lowest limit created problems for the small importers because many of them already opened huge letters of credit (L/Cs) without PSI provision after the government's order mainly due to their ignorance about the development.

The NBR officials told The Daily Star yesterday that the limit was withdrawn since importers were abusing the PSI. As import volume below 5,000 dollars was kept out of the PSI network, the importers split the volume and opened a number of L/Cs declaring their volume below 5,000 for avoiding PSI system, said an NBR official.

He said that the government took the decision following the recommendations from major

chamber bodies. The provision of the lowest limit was also introduced following recommendations from the business community, he added.

The NBR official said the government would pay the PSI companies the minimum charge of 175 dollars. However, it would charge only one per cent of the import value from the importers, irrespective of import volume. The small importers would benefit from this system, the official claimed.

The NBR sent copies of the SRO to FBCCI and Bangladesh Bank and all concerned to inform the importers, he said.

When his attention was drawn to the suffering of the small importers who have already opened L/C without PSI declaration after the date of order, the official said that it was the FBCCI's job to inform their member organisations and the business community.

Dewan Sultan Ahmed, a FBCCI director, admitted that the provision of the lowest limit was introduced following recommendations from the business community. He said the letter on the withdrawal of the limit may be sent to the FBCCI secretary, and it would take time to issue a circular

among the business people.

He, however, said the importers who opened L/Cs without PSI after the order should get some relief.

Bank branches at different business areas also did not know of the development and allowed opening L/Cs without PSI provisions till yesterday. An official of a commercial bank said they heard of the development but were yet to get any circular from the Bangladesh Bank.

Asked what would happen to those who already opened L/Cs without PSI provision, the bank official said they would be able to amend the L/Cs. The goods would not be shipped immediately after opening of the L/Cs and they have enough time, he observed.

"We would inform all our branches about the government order immediately after getting circular form the BB," the official said, adding that after that the bank would not allow any import order without PSI.

The official however said if the government gave time for the order to take effect, unscrupulous importers would have opened huge volume of L/Cs by this time.

30 hurt as BCL, Shibir clash in Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent
SYLHET, June 7: At least 30 people were injured during a clash between the activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League and Islami Chhatra Shibir on the Sylhet Government College campus today.

Among them, 20 received bullet wounds. Condition of three were stated to be critical. Sources informed, the clash followed a quarrel between two activists of BCL and Shibir over a trifling matter at about 11-30 am.

After about an hour, an armed group of BCL activists swooped on the rivals. Both the groups clashed on the campus for about an hour. About 60 gunshots were fired during the clash.

Later the two groups blamed each other for 'attack'. The Sylhet city unit of Shibir held a rally at Court Point in the afternoon protesting the 'attack by BCL activists'.

Parliamentary team of Assam due today

A 46-member parliamentary delegation of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association of the Indian state of Assam arrives in the city today on a four-day visit to Bangladesh, reports UNB.

Deputy Speaker Mohammad Abdul Hamid will receive the delegation at the airport.

Decision to raise power, water, gas rates worries chamber bodies

By Staff Correspondent

The Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (MCCI) and the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industries (DCCI) have expressed concern over reported raising of power tariff in the country and water and gas rates in the city.

The government recently raised power tariff by five paise per unit with retrospective effect from March this year and water and gas rates by five per cent from next month, some newspapers reported.

MCCI President Latifur Rahman and DCCI President Atahul Islam in a joint statement yesterday said they are "extremely concerned" at the decisions. They urged the government to rescind the decision on power tariff and defer that on water and gas rates till an appraisal by the agencies concerned, public representatives and trade bodies.

They said industrial units and business establishments are already reeling under adverse effects of unbridled smuggling of foreign goods, anomalies in duties and taxes, poor infrastructure, rampant corrup-

tion and widespread extortion and terrorism.

Enhancing power tariff with retrospective effect is totally opposed to all established norms of justice, fair play and prudent financial management.

Higher power tariff with retrospective effect will have a grossly unsettling impact on financial management of any industrial/commercial concern. "This runs counter to the laws of natural justice as well," they added.

The chamber leaders said, "This abrupt enhancement in power tariff is an attempt of the government to pass on the cost of inefficiency of power generation/distribution bodies to the people. This smacks of monopolistic high-handedness and is inconceivable in democratic practice."

While all national trade bodies are continuously urging the government to take definite remedial steps for improvement of business environment, the rationale behind such decisions is not at all logically tenable, they said.

Ruling on JS attendance Only signing register not enough: Speaker

By Staff Correspondent

Speaker Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury yesterday ruled that a lawmaker would be considered present in parliament only if he takes his designated seat and spends some time in the House or participate in its proceedings.

"A member of the Jatiya Sangsad cannot be deemed present in the House only if s/he signs the attendance register at the lobby without attending the sitting of parliament," he said. "A lawmaker would be considered present in parliament only if s/he takes his or her designated seat and spends some time in the House or takes part in the parliamentary proceedings."

The Speaker gave the ruling in the House as a female lawmaker just signed the attendance register kept at the lobby on the first day of the current session of parliament on June 5.

"I have therefore made arrangements to keep the attendance registers at specific places inside the House, instead of the parliament lobby," the Speaker said. "From now on, names of the legislators present would be specifically mentioned in bulletins published daily by the parliament secretariat."

Chowdhury noted that Rule 180 of the JS Rules of Procedure which deals with attendance of the MPs is linked with a constitutional provision regulating membership of a lawmaker.

"The secretary shall cause a register to be maintained showing the attendance of each member at each sitting and shall make the register available for inspection of the members," says the Rule. On the other hand, Article 67(1)(b) of the Constitution says that a Member of Parliament vacates his seat, "if he is absent from Parliament, without the leave of Parliament, for ninety consecutive sitting days."

The provision of attendance register is there to fulfill the objective of Article 67(1)(b) to determine the presence of MPs, the Speaker observed. "But the Rule concerned does not speci-

cally say whether just signing of the attendance register would mean the presence or where the register would be kept for the MPs."

The Speaker then used his residuary power to define the presence of an MP in the House. Rule 316 says, "Any matter arising in connection with the business of the House, and its committees for which no specific provisions exist in these Rules shall be decided by the Speaker and his decision shall be final."

Later, Chowdhury told a group of newsmen at his parliament chamber. The ruling is effective from today (June 7). He also said that he was yet to make any decision about the Jatiya Party MP who signed the register on June 5.

The Speaker replied in the negative when asked if he gave the ruling at the dictate of the ruling party to trap or harass the boycotting Opposition.

Jatiya Party MP Prof Sabita Begum signed the attendance register kept at the parliament lobby on June 5 when the budget session began.

Sabita, who represents Kishoreganj women's seat, remained absent from the House 39 consecutive days since July 7, 1999.

BCS body threatens to hold protest rally on June 12

By Staff Correspondent

BCS Coordination Committee, an association of 26 grade services, has demanded of the government to stop the process of 'mass promotion' of administration cadre officials.

The Committee at a meeting yesterday also reiterated its plan to hold a protest rally in the city on June 12 if the government fails to meet its demands, says a press release. Its demands include the cancellation of 'mass promotion' and removal of inter-cadre anomalies.

Pakistan lift Cup

From page 1

Zoysa dropped Moin while he was on 16 and Chaminda Vaas again floored street smart Pakistan cricketer with the addition of one run to his name. The impact was devastating and the wily wicketkeeper batsman, better known for his improvisation during the end game, went on to clobber most of the 56 runs in the last 18 deliveries.

Moin hammered four massive sixes and three fours in his blazing undefeated knock. He also dominated a 104-run fifth wicket stand with Inzamamul Haq, who scored a beefy 66-ball 72 that included five fours and a sixer.

Inzamam also had his share of fortune after completing a breezy 50 off 52 balls. Let down by Sri Lankan captain Jayasuriya at cover while on 57, the big man had the left-arm spinner pay the price in the most ruthless way. He clobbered 15 runs from the first five deliveries of Jayasuriya in the final over that included a boundary through extra cover followed by a straight six.

To add to Jayasuriya's woes, Moin whacked the last ball of the innings for a six over long on and, in the process, took the score to somewhere that one stage looked beyond Pakistan's reach.

Jayasuriya's boys observed a one-minute silence before the match. But once Moin won the toss and decided to bat they looked panicky. Sri Lanka were so shaky on the field that they eventually allowed almost all the Pakistan batsmen to play a second or even a third innings despite the good work of left-arm pacer Nuwan Zoysa.

Zoysa struck early in the Pakistan innings when he had young sensation Imran Nazir caught and bowled for three. The southpaw also had Afridi caught at mid-wicket for 22 by Russel Arnold, the lone catch taken by a Sri Lankan fielder on the day. In-form Youhana scored a patient 54-ball 22 before being brilliantly taken by Upul Chandana off his own bowling.

Left-handed opener Saeed Anwar, dropped twice on 18 and 54, chanced his arm on his way to a 115-ball 82, studded with six fours and a six. Interestingly, he hammered his only six over mid wicket against

Zoysa the next ball he faced after being dropped by wicketkeeper Kaluwitharana.

And it was none other than their captain Jayasuriya who floored Afridi on 10, led the surprisingly agonising Sri Lankan catching.

After a demoralised display of fielding, Sri Lanka saw their ploy to promote Kaluwitharana and Vaas up in the batting order backfired when they were reduced to 46 for three in 7.4 overs. Opening the innings with his captain, Kaluwitharana departed without facing a single ball. He was run out by miles while chasing a non-existent third run.

Vaas saw his middle stick uprooted by Mohammad Akram after scoring 10. Jayasuriya became the second victim of young Akram after making a 25-ball 22.

Aravinda was a pale shadow of his brilliant self and was caught in the deep while attempting his first big hit.

Sri Lanka forced off the pace only when Arnold joined a composed Atapattu. Together they produced 79 runs for the fifth wicket. Arnold threw a caution to the wind with a breezy 41-off 44 balls, before being caught at deep fine leg.

Atapattu completed his fourth one-day century off 124 balls hitting 10 exquisitely timed boundaries. But his departure in the 43rd over effectively evaporated Sri Lanka's hopes of a turnaround.

Pakistan however needed the brilliance of marvelous Wasim Akram, considered the best bet in the world when it comes to picking up wickets at crucial moments.

Wasim was wicketless in his first spell, but showed his class by claiming two wickets when it mattered most. After successfully enticing Atapattu to edge an outswinger into the safe hand of Moin, he removed a menacing looking Chandana with a gem of a yorker.

Moin Khan was the natural choice for the man-of-the-match, pocketing 2000 US dollars while the man-of-the-series award went to Yousuf Youhana, who scored a staggering 295 runs in the tournament. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina handed over the coveted trophy to the delighted Pakistan skipper after the match.

Jail Killing Case: Hearing of charge-framing June 27

By Court Correspondent

The Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka, yesterday fixed June 27 for hearing of charge-framing in the Jail Killing Case.

Judge Ahmed Jamil Mostafa adjourned the proceedings of the case as the defence lawyers for the 13 absconding accused, appointed by the government, were not present at the court yesterday.

The eight accused — Taheruddin Thakur, Shah Moazzem Hossain, K M Obaidur Rahman, Nurul Islam Monzoor, Lt Col (sacked) Syed Ferozkur Rahman, Lt Col (Retd) Sultan Shahriar Rashid Khan, Major (Retd) Bazul Huda and Major (Retd) Khairuzzaman, now detained at the Dhaka Central Jail, were produced in the court.

Four national leaders — Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmed, A H M Qamruzzaman and Captain Mansur Ali — were brutally killed in the Dhaka Central Jail on November 3, 1975.

Then DIG prison Abdul Awal filed the Jail Killing Case on November 4, 1975 under Section 302/34 of the Penal Code.

The CID took up the case on September 10, 1996 and submitted a charge-sheet accusing 23 people after two years of investigation. Among them, 19 were charged in the Bangabandhu Murder Case.

Of those chargesheeted in the Jail Killing Case, eight are now at Dhaka Central Jail, two are dead and the rest 13 — all former military personnel — have been absconding.

The two dead are former president Khondaker Mustaque Ahmed and former secretary Mahbubul Alam Chashid.

Special public prosecutors Serajul Haque and metropolitan public prosecutor Quamrul Islam appeared for the state while advocates Abdul Majid Munshi, Sharfuddin Mukul, Hazi Nazrul Islam and Mahbubur Rahman for the accused.

The court directed the Additional Deputy Commissioner of DMP (South) to take action after an investigation.

The complainant said that on June 2, he along with his younger brother went to Asad Gate by a motorbike for some work. He then went to a nearby place keeping his brother there. But on return, he did not find his brother. He then went to Mohammadpur thana and found his brother there.

Zakaria was allegedly beaten by Sub-Inspector Bedarul Alam and confined at the thana. The SI also demanded Tk 50,000 for Zakaria's release. Finding no alternative, he paid the money to free Zakaria, the complainant said.

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Bangladeshi kidnapped by Indians still missing

KUSHTIA, June 7: Tension has been prevailing in the frontier Natan Bilagathia village of Daulatpur thana here as a Bangladeshi, abducted by the Indians, remained missing even after holding a flag meeting between BSF and BDR, reports UNB.

Local people said some Indian armed men alongwith BSF members abducted Monirul Islam Patol, 25, from his house at dead of night on June 1, by exploding bombs and firing several gunshots. Two villagers were injured during the attack.

Another boy Jewel, 10, was kidnapped by the terrorists group from village Mohiskundi the next day.

In retaliation, Bangladeshis crossed the border and picked up Indian citizen Narayan the following day.

Meanwhile, BDR and BSF held a flag meeting at Sikarpur in Karimpur thana of Nadia district in India on Monday to exchange their citizens.

BDR Sector Commander Col Hannan Sharif and 138 battalion Commander of BSF Dukhiram Chowdhury led the respective sides.

After the meeting, Bangladeshis freed Narayan and Indians Jewel, but Patol was still missing, creating panic among the villagers.

Karala enclave tense as flag meeting fails

KURIGRAM, June 7: Tension is still mounting in the Karala enclave here as a commander level flag meeting between BSF and BDR failed today, reports UNB.

During the five-hour meeting from 10:30 am, BSF denied killing or injuring the Bangladeshi nationals intruding into the enclave but they assured that they would not open fire on the Bangladeshi people in future.

Indian border guards dismissed the demands of giving compensation for injured people saying that they opened fire on smugglers at an Indian village when the villagers and people of Kishmat Karala enclave assaulted seven BSF men.

Gully

From page 1
total of 277 when suddenly they lost three quick wickets and the match went Pakistan's way. And, Moin Khan must be a proud captain holding the Asia Cup for the first time.

Pakistan were forced to get onto their backfoot at the quick dismissal of Imran Nazir, but the master batsman Saeed Anwar with a contrasting partner in Shahid Afridi on the other end continued to repair the innings with shots that were worth miles, nay hours, to see. Jayasuriya handled his limited attack with intelligence and his field placings and bowling changes were superb. The Pakistanis, aided by the sloppy fielding, the horrible catching to be precise, thrived on their good fortune and progressed in a workmanlike manner. Runs were not flowing in but they were not scarce either. When Saeed and Youhana negotiated well with the guile of Muralitharan the Lankans must have seen ominous signs. Yet when Youhana presented a return catch to Chandana, Pakistanis were far from a satisfactory position with even six wickets in hand. As the Sri Lankans saw their chances of containing the Pakistanis to a reasonable total, a plucky Moin and a burly Inzamam put the Sri Lankan bowling to the sword. Suddenly, the ground was on fire as the willow of the two batsmen chased after anything within its reach. When all the liberal calculations indicated a total around 250 or less, Moin and Inzamam delighted the full house smashing crackers all around the corner. In the last three overs, they plundered an astounding 56 runs without being separated.

Sri Lanka had a shock in the first over when Kaluwitharana fell to the machination of Saeed Anwar and the greed of his captain Jayasuriya for a third run. Atapattu tried to hold the innings together with the help of De Silva, Arnold and Chandana in the process. But as Wasim Akram returned for his second spell, a tired Atapattu snickered to the wicketkeeper but not before completing his enterprising hundred. And then Chandana's furniture was disturbed by the same bowler, whom he hit for a near-six with disdain earlier. The ratio of balls and runs became gradually interesting but Sri Lanka were left with fewer wickets. Wasim cleaned up the tail much to the relief of the Pakistani camp to wind up what was really an entertaining match.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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