

What's on today....

FEJB workshop: Forum of Environment Journalists, Bangladesh (FEJB) inaugurates a two-day long workshop on 'Environmental Reporting'...

FEJB exhibition: Forum of Environment Journalists, Bangladesh (FEJB) begins a two-day long workshop on 'Arsenic Contamination' and 'CHT environment'...

Condolence meeting: Institute of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh (IDEB), Dhaka unit will hold a condolence meeting as well as milad mahfil in memory of Aminul Kabir...

Andrei Tarkovsky retrospective: On the first day of the 4-day long retrospective of Russian filmmaker Andrei Tarkovsky, Zahir Raihan Film Society will screen 'Ivan's Childhood'...

Iranian film festival at JU: Zahir Raihan Film Society will screen 'The Apple' by Samira Makhmalbaf and 'Gabbah' by Mohsen Makhmalbaf...

Memorial meeting: Syed Nazamuddin Hashem Shuridmandal will hold a memorial meeting to mark the first death anniversary of Syed Nazamuddin Hashem, a veteran journalist...

..... and tomorrow

Andrei Tarkovsky retrospective: Zahir Raihan Film Society will screen Andrei Rublev on the second day of the Andrei Tarkovsky retrospective...

Iranian film festival at Jahangirnagar Varsity: Zahir Raihan Film Society will screen two films by celebrated Iranian filmmaker Abbas Kiarostami...

Weather

Rain likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at most places over Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions...

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period, Met office said.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 35.5 degree Celsius was recorded at Sylhet and the lowest of 24.8 degree Celsius at Teknaf.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6.48 pm and rises tomorrow at 5.22 am.

Maximum and minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Table with 4 columns: City/Town, Temperature in Celsius (Max, Min), Humidity in percentage (Morning, Evening). Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar.

HERE and THERE

Zonta Club II Prokrichi-BCS Central Coordination Council: The office bearers of Zonta Club II for the year 2000-2001 was held recently, says a press release...

Modern Sylhet rly station starts functioning

The modern Sylhet Railway Station is expected to begin functioning from next fiscal as the implementation of the re-modelling and modernisation works are progressing fast with an allocation of Taka 14.60 crore, reports BSS.

BCL, Shibir clash in Mymensingh: 15 injured

MYMENSINGH, July 17: At least 15 people were injured in a clash between Chhatra League and Chhatra Shibir activists at Fulbaria upazila here Sunday night, reports UNB.

Death anniversary

The second anniversary of death of Justice Zakir Ahmed was observed yesterday with due respect and solemnity.



BNP activists brought out a procession in the city yesterday protesting the ruling party's 'terrorist activities' across the country. — Star photo

315kg explosives seized in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, India, July 17: The Indian army said today it had seized 315 kilograms of plastic explosives in Kashmir -- the biggest single seizure since the start of a Muslim insurgency in the troubled northern state in 1989, reports AFP.

A defence spokesman said the RDX plastic explosive was recovered Sunday during an army raid in the Kashmiri summer capital Srinagar.

Based on specific information, the army raided the office of Kashmir Cargo Carrier, a private transport company, in Srinagar last night and recovered eight bags of RDX, the official said.

"It was meant to disrupt normal life and attack state officials," he said.

The spokesman said an additional 20 kilograms of RDX was recovered from railway tracks near the state winter capital Jammu on Sunday.

He said the cache was most probably intended for use against Hindus travelling by train to the city for an annual pilgrimage to a nearby temple.

Meanwhile, seven Muslim separatist militants died in violence overnight Sunday across the state, police said, while five civilians were kidnapped by rebels in the northern Kashmir district of Udhampur.

6 killed in separate incidents across the country

Six people were killed in separate incidents across the country yesterday.

Our correspondent from Narayanjan reports: Two people were killed in two different incidents in Shiddhirganj thana at Narayanjan on Monday morning.

According to police, a female construction worker Rokeya Begum, 45, was killed after she fell from the third floor of Shukkur market at Shiddhirganj Bridge area on Monday morning. She died after taken to Narayanjan Hospital.

In the other incident, Abul Hossain, 32, was electrocuted while working in ARE Re-rolling mill at Hajiganj under the same thana on Monday morning. The victim died on the spot. He was son of one Hayder Ali of Haluaghat in Mymensingh.

Two different cases were filed with Shiddhirganj thana. UNB adds from Tangail: Two unidentified men were killed in separate accidents at Pouli in Kalihati and Ashekpur in the town yesterday.

Police said a pedestrian was 'knocked down by a truck at Pouli on Tangail-Mymensingh road in the morning killing him on the spot while a bicycle rider was crushed under the wheels of a truck at Ashekpur at about 8 pm.

Another report from Mymensingh adds: Two people were crushed under the wheels of buses at Kanarampur in Nandail upazila and Beltail in Mymensingh Sadar yesterday.

Witnesses said Abul, 40, injured in the accident at Kanarampur on Mymensingh-Kishoreganj road in the morning succumbed to his injuries at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital. On the other hand Ripon, 16, died on the spot at Beltail on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway when a speeding bus hit him at about noon.

Separate cases were filed with the respective thanas.

Body recovered in city

Police recovered the body of a young man from his house in the city's Uttara area yesterday, reports UNB.

The victim was identified as Imran Hossain, 30. His body bore several marks of injury.

Police recovered the body from a house at Gaoai at around 2 pm.

Khaleda greets Bashar

BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia has greeted Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad on his assumption of office, reports UNB.

"We are confident that under your wise leadership the brotherly people of Syria will continue to achieve all round progress and make substantial contribution to the promotion of peace and stability in the trouble-torn region in Arab world," she said in a message yesterday.

In another message, the BNP chairperson has felicitated Iraqi president Saddam Hussein on the occasion of the 32nd anniversary of the 7th-30th July Revolution of Iraq.

"The relations between the two peoples have developed over centuries in the past, as they are bound by strong ties of history, culture and religion," she said, adding that "we are confident the relations will continue to flourish in the years to come."

Ban on politics of Jamaat, Shibir demanded

Some 88 members of the Supreme Court Bar Association and Dhaka Bar Association in a joint statement yesterday demanded of the government to ban the politics of Jamaat-Shibir, reports UNB.

They also condemned the killing of eight people, including six Bangladesh Chhatra League activists, by Jamaat-Shibir activists in Chittagong on July 12.

They also called upon the government to set up a special tribunal to try the defeated forces and the war criminals.

They also called upon the countrymen, including the professionals, to launch a united movement against the killers, said a press release.

The signatories to the statement included Abu Sayeed, Delwar Hossain, Abdul Quader, R N Sarkar, Shambhu Nath Shaha, Khizir Hayat M Lizu, S M Kamal Hossain and Abdur Rahman.

Protest rally

From page 1 They demanded exemplary punishment to the killers of Rahman and security of the working journalists. They also expressed deep sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

IFUJ President Amanullah Khan, Acting President G M Akbar, Secretary Generals Akter Ahmed, Hasan and M A Aziz, DUJ President Altaf Mahmud, Acting President Abu Saleh and General Secretary Abdul Jaliel Bhuiyan attended the meeting.

Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) leaders expressing their deep concern and grievance demanded immediate arrest of the killers of Shamsur Rahman.

In a statement, DRU President M Anwarul Haque and Acting General Secretary Saleh Shibli said, "It is really a matter of great concern for common people including the journalist community that Shamsur Rahman was killed inside his office at a time when the government is talking about strict steps against the terrorists at public meetings."

They said there is also confusion among the people about the law and order situation in the country. They added that the killing should be treated as a serious threat to freedom of the press as the whole journalist community has been suffering from insecurity.

Condemning the premature death of Rahman, Committee to Protect Journalists, Bangladesh (CPJB) urged the government to ensure the security and freedom of the journalists and to immediately bring the killers to book.

CPJB Acting Convenor Golam Fahaab and Member Secretary Shaikat Mahmood in a statement said that the outrageous killing was not only endangering the freedom of the press and right to expression but also challenging the growth of democracy in Bangladesh.

"The CPJB had repeatedly been stressing that the journalists are increasingly exposed to murder, intimidation and other physical and mental threats while discharging their professional duties," the statement said.

2 Baluch cabinet ministers resign

QUETTA, Pakistan, July 17: Two ministers in Pakistan's southwestern Baluchistan provincial Cabinet resigned today for "personal reasons," government officials said, reports AP.

Razia Babar, education minister and the only woman in the provincial Cabinet, as well as Agriculture Minister Wasir Ahmed Chakazai resigned.

The five-member Baluchistan Cabinet was established after the military seized power. It's not clear what was behind the resignations.

'Kala' Ripon

From page 12 same fate as that of Sajal, Omar, Shaheb Ali and Rab," police quoted the man who was threatened by Ripon over telephone.

Ripon murdered at least four people in last four months and shot another person, police said.

Plain-cloths policemen arrested Ripon when the man was handing over the 'ransom' at East Isdair yesterday morning.

Mudslide

From page 12 sides unable to trap rainfall. The deluge last week knocked out power to 10 towns in Ziyang county, wrecked 40 bridges and washed out 350 miles of roads, the state-owned Shanghai newspaper Wenhui Bao reported.

The government spokesman had no details on losses, but said the newspaper account should be correct.

In another part of Shaanxi, at least eight people were killed on Friday by a rain-triggered landslide in Huxian county, according to the official Xinhua News Agency. It said four people were missing and presumed dead.



Pepsi has started distributing prizes among the winners of its Scratch and Win promotional campaign. Pepsi officials yesterday distributed radios and electric irons among winners. The company will gradually distribute other prizes among winners. The offer will remain valid until the stock ends.

Biman TUs boycott

From page 1 identity while finding a 'strategic partner'.

Speaking at the briefing session, Civil Aviation Secretary Chowdhury Mohamamd Mohsin gave an assurance that restructuring and commercialisation would help create more jobs in a better environment.

"The fear of job cut is baseless and untrue, if the airline is converted into a PLC," he said.

"We are implementing this programme as per a government decision and our role here is only to implement it," Biman Managing Director Air Commodore Rafiqul Islam told the briefing session, sources said.

The Biman executives raised a number of questions on the proposed conversion of the airline into a PLC. The discussions concentrated on the consultants' recommendations, the sources said.

CBA General Secretary Humayun Kabir told The Daily Star last night that the steering committee was formed to lead the agitation programme. The steering committee is headed by CBA President Mohiuddin Ahmed. Leaders of CBA, Biman Sramik Union, Biman Employees Union, Biman Engineering Association and Biman Cabin Crew Association attended the meeting, he said.

Uli Baur, leader of the consultant team told the meeting that the Sri Lankan Airlines became profitable and increased its number of employees after restructuring and privatisation as per their plan.

Baur said, Biman itself should work out the privatisation programme, retaining its

Border confce Hartal

From page 1 Klian are taking part in talks from Bangladesh side.

IG V S Shirohi is leading the Indian delegation that includes V K Gour, DIG Ashoke Kumar, DIG Brigadier I J Singh, DIG S Bashumatri, DIG R F Debes, DIG Raghuraj Singh, Addl. IG M C Mahapatra, Ajit Singh and PS Chahal.

Our Staff Correspondent adds from Chittagong: After yesterday's talks, the Indian team left for Cox's Bazar to pass time in the tourist resort. BDR sources said.

The talks will resume on Wednesday.

BDR officials from Khagrachhari, Rangamati, Sylhet, Comilla and Mymensingh sectors attended the talks.

Indian Boeing

From page 1 was on fire before it hit the house.

Another, Anil Kumar, said, "The plane was on fire. Then it crashed."

"I saw the aircraft wrapped in smoke, wobbling in the sky at a low altitude for a few seconds before its left wing was torn off after grazing a neem tree," the United News of India quoted witness Ullas Mandal as saying.

Jung said there was ideal visibility, but a little haze, when the plane approached Patna, at 4,000 meters and crashed at 7:30 am. The pilot asked to go around again, which is not unusual, Jung said. When he came in for a second landing, the plane crashed two kilometers southwest of the airport, hitting two houses, Jung said.

He said the plane was in "perfect condition" and had received all its normal checks. Capt Pal had 4,300 flying hours, Jung said.

Jamaat

From page 1 cial inquiry. He also warned the government against dire consequences if it tries to cash in on the incident.

Jamaat representatives at the meeting argued that the killing in Chittagong is the result of factional clashes in Chhatra League. They said it was part of a government strategy to keep pressure on the opposition by launching attack on the Jamaat.

However, BNP leaders said being a responsible and the main opposition party BNP cannot take a bold stand in favour of the Jamaat right now. They assured that they would issue more statements protesting the government 'atrocities' on leaders and activists of Jamaat and Shibir across the country following the Chittagong killing.

The meeting, however, was unanimous that it was a government strategy to accuse Jamaat of the killing and by so doing keep the opposition under pressure.

The meeting decided that the alliance partners will react against the "repression" on Jamaat by issuing separate press statements and will think of taking a united stance later on.

Sharif accuses military govt of fabricating charges

ATTOCK FORT, Pakistan, July 17: Ousted prime minister Nawaz Sharif accused the military government today of fabricating charges against him in an attempt to end his political career, reports AP.

On trial on a tax evasion charge in connection with the purchase of a helicopter, Sharif told a special anti-corruption court that the military had overthrown his government last year "only wants to see me disqualified from politics."

Sharif's tax evasion hearing is being held at the 16th century Attock Fort, which the deposed prime minister called "horrible."

Sharif is currently serving two concurrent life sentences on charges of terrorism and kidnapping. He has appealed the charges and sentence.

Sharif, whose statement was recorded today, slammed the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) ordinance under which he is being tried. The ordinance gives the anti-corruption bureau sweeping powers of investigation and arrest.

Bashar told reporters that the government formed wage commission after a long struggle by the workers but the file is gathering dust at the Prime Minister's Office.

He asked the government to declare and implement the recommendations of the wage commission immediately. The new wage commission fixed Tk 1550 as the minimum basic salary of a worker.

Responding to a question, Bashar said the state-owned mills and factories has been incurring huge losses over the years because of mismanagement by the authorities.

He believes that if the mills and factories were handed over to the workers, there would not be any loss. The government is planning to hand over nine textile mills to the workers.

Jute-textile workers

From page 1 "After getting the responsibility, we would show how the factories can profit," Bashar said.

Bangladesh Jatiyatobadi Sramik Dal, the labour front of the BNP, expressed solidarity with the programme declared by the council. It would also bring out processions on July 30 demanding implementation of their demands including implementation of the wage commission award, 50 per cent dearness allowance and allowing trade union activities in export processing zones (EPZs).

They will also hold a rally at Muktagong on July 31.

'Kala' Ripon

From page 12 same fate as that of Sajal, Omar, Shaheb Ali and Rab," police quoted the man who was threatened by Ripon over telephone.

Ripon murdered at least four people in last four months and shot another person, police said.

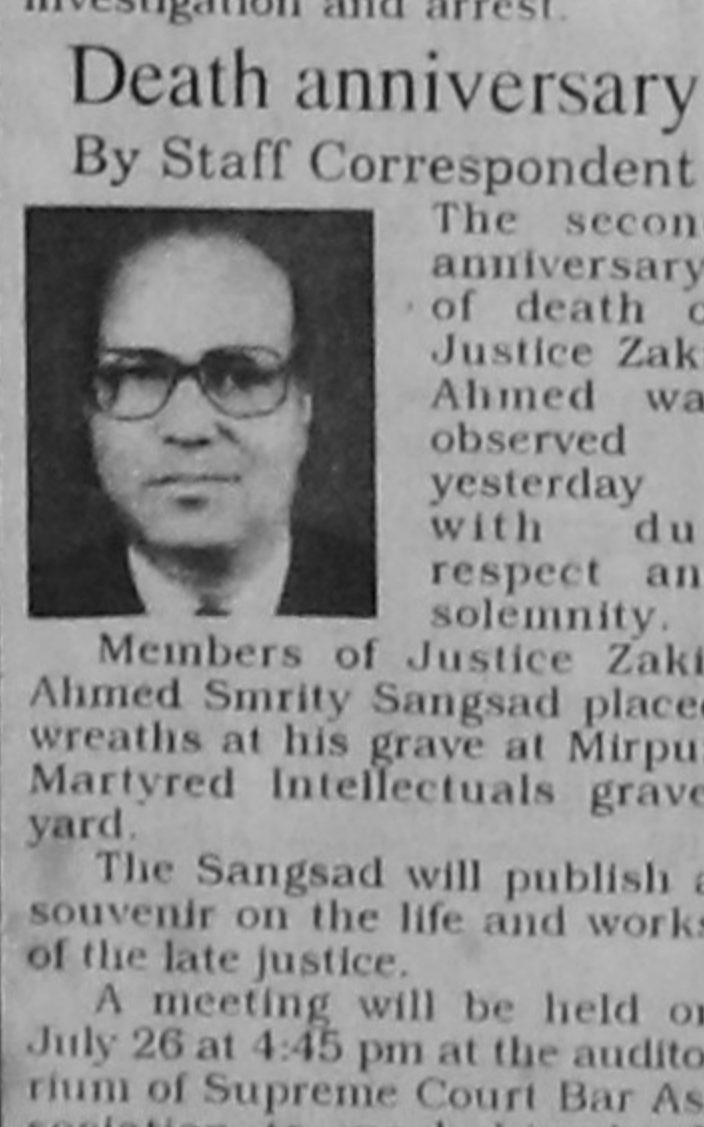
Plain-cloths policemen arrested Ripon when the man was handing over the 'ransom' at East Isdair yesterday morning.

Mudslide

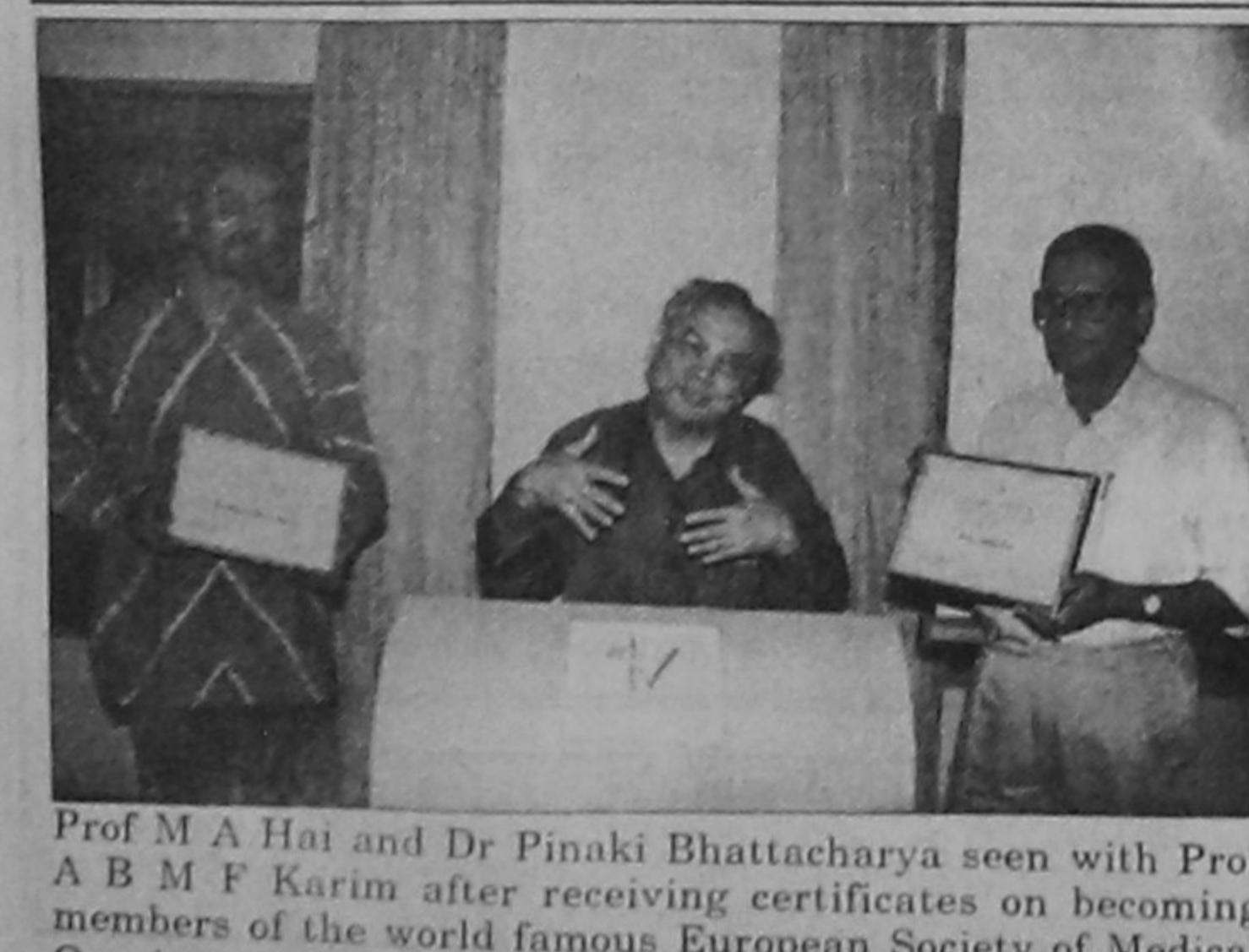
From page 12 sides unable to trap rainfall. The deluge last week knocked out power to 10 towns in Ziyang county, wrecked 40 bridges and washed out 350 miles of roads, the state-owned Shanghai newspaper Wenhui Bao reported.

The government spokesman had no details on losses, but said the newspaper account should be correct.

In another part of Shaanxi, at least eight people were killed on Friday by a rain-triggered landslide in Huxian county, according to the official Xinhua News Agency. It said four people were missing and presumed dead.



Members of Justice Zakir Ahmed Smriti Sangsad placed wreaths at his grave at Mirpur Martyred Intellectuals graveyard.



Prof M A Hai and Dr Pinaki Bhattacharya seen with Prof A B M F Karim after receiving certificates on becoming members of the world famous European Society of Medical Oncology (ESMO).