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#### CHITTAGONG

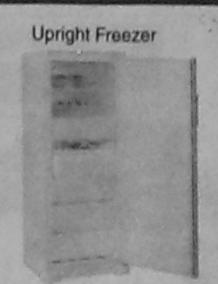
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### Bangabandhu Murder Case

### Trial court's verdict faulty, unacceptable: Defence

A defence lawyer yesterday called the verdict of Bangabandhu Murder Case an "omnibus judgement" and insisted that it is faulty and unacceptable, reports UNB.

Continuing his argument before the High Court for the second day. Advocate Abdur Razzaque Khan said: The trial court in an omnibus way decided the accused guilty. It didn't consider separate witnesses' accounts about involvement of

"It's an omnibus judgement, that's why faulty and unacceptable," he submitted.

He also argued that the judgement didn't have any narration or decision on confirmation of conspiracy and participation of the accused in the

"Even there was no witness account in support of the conspiracy in the judgement, except that of prof Khorshed Alam, said the counsel for condemnedaccused Lt Col (retd) Sultan

Shahriar Rashid Khan. Razzaque Khan resumed his argument that he started Tues-

day when the court of Justice Mohammad Ruhul Amin and Justice ABM Khairul Haque began its proceedings yesterday morning for the 15th day.

He particularly referred to the statements of four prosecution witnesses and termed those as hearsay and inadmissible and those were recorded with defence objections. Statements like "I came to know, I understood" etc suggest that those were hearsay, he said adding more such examples will be submitted.

tions 157 and 8 of the Evidence Act when the court asked why the statements of a witness who was present in Bangabhaban and himself learnt from the accused about the occurrence should not be considered.

He also focused on how the trial court avoided cross-examinations of the witnesses and asked why the confessional statements of the accused in this case should not be considered as substantive evidence.

Defending Col Shahriar, the lawyer told the HC that there

was room for something suspicious as four accused made confessional statements to magistrates after being held on police remand for a long time.

"This type of confessional statement should not be taken into consideration," he said referring to some examples in other cases of how the accused were compelled to make confessional statements under ille-

The court wanted to know from the prosecution how long Shahriar was on remand. The defence lawyer cited sec- "Twelve days," informed the prosecution.

The accused were sent not only on remand by judicial order, there is evidence that they were kept under CID custody also by the order of the government," the lawyer said.

The evidence, he said, shows Shahriar was kept under CID custody at the order of the government and Faruq by Home Ministry's order. "It was unprecedented. Crim-

inal Procedure Code doesn't allow sending an accused to police See page 11 col 8



Shanties along the embankment at Rayerbazar have appeared again, threatening the city's flood barrier.

- Star photo

#### Corruption case against Sharif: Judgement on Saturday

ATTOCK, Pakistan, July 19: The judge of a special court trying ousted Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on corruption charges said today he would announce a verdict on Saturday, reports Reuters.

Judge Farrukh Latif said at the conclusion of hearing the case that "the judgement will be on Saturday.

Sharif and his former top anti-corruption investigator, Saifur Rehman, are accused of failing to declare in their tax returns the money used to buy a Russian helicopter for an election campaign

On Monday, Sharlf, who was ousted in a bloodless army coup last October that brought army chief General Pervez Musharraf to power, refused to testify before what he called a hasty trial, being conducted in an ancient riverside fort at Attock. northwest of the capital Islam-

In April, Sharif was sentenced to two life terms after being convicted of hijacking and terrorism charges related to the day of the coup when a passenger plane containing Musharraf was briefly forbidden to land in Karachi on a flight from Sri Lanka.

Sharif has appealed against his conviction.

#### 3 more Shibir activists held at Rangpur

From Our Correspondent RANGPUR, July 19: Kotwali police arrested three more Shibir activists from the local Shibir office yesterday. With this, the total arrested

Shibir activists stands at 14. Police said the arrested belong to the armed cadre of Islami Chhatra Shibir.

Police acting upon secret information, raided Tetultala Shibir office and arrested them while other escaped. A huge quantity of bamboo sticks were seized from the office.

Earlier two motorcycles were seized from the Carmichael College campus which belonged to Shibir activists, but none was anested.

#### Rains paralyse life in Chittagong

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, July 19: Intermittent rain paralysed normal life in the port city and its surrounding areas today. Met office recorded 94 mm rainfall in the past 24 hours

ending at 3 pm today. Met office said the rain was continuing for the past two days due to a depression over West Bengal and adjoining Orissa.

It advised hoisting of local cautionary signal no. 3 for Chittagong port, Mongla port and Cox's Bazar. Cargo handling work at

Chittagong port was hampered due to the rain, port sources said. Rain also disrupted traffic

movement in the city. Most of the low-lying areas in the city and surrounding areas were waterlogged, causing suffering to the residents.

### Opposition patronising killers, terrorists: PM

CHITTAGONG, July 19: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today urged the people to build up resistance against "the killers and conspirators trying to grab power," reports UNB.

"They want to shed blood again and again to create an anarchic situation and capture power ... Let's build up resistance to foil their plot," she said.

Sheikh Hasina was addressing the grief-stricken relations of the eight victims of July 12 incident at the Circuit House here this afternoon.

On July 12, eight people, including six leaders and workers of Chhatra League were gnnned down at Bahaddarhat allegedly by Islami Chhatra Shibir activists.

The Prime Minister said there would be no compromise with the killers whoever they are. The killers would be brought to book and punished.

Hasina said, "The killers of '71 and '75 launched attacks repeatedly. The root of these killers has gone deep. Now time has come to retaliate and re-

She urged the people not to give shelter to the killers. She also referred to the killing of journalist Shamsur Rahman in Jessore and said he was killed for writing against

Accusing the opposition of patronising terrorists and killers to serve their political ends. Hasina said these quarters even threatened to stage another 15th August and nakedly supported the killers of Bangabandhu.

Consoling the members of the families who lost their kin

#### Humayun Zahir murder: Hearing of argument on July 25

By Court Correspondent The 8th Additional District and Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka yesterday fixed July 25 for hearing of argument in the sensational Humayun Zahir Murder Case.

Judge Mir Mohammad Awlad Hossain adjourned the proceedings of the case as he was ill yesterday.

Humayun Zahir, a leading businessman and the then chairman of United Commercial Bank Limited (UCBL) was shot dead by a group of assailants on the premises of his Dhanmondi residence on April

Zahurul Haq Khan, fatherin-law of Zahir, filed a murder case with Dhanmondi thana the same day accusing seven people.

submitted a charge-sheet day." DB officials said. against the seven, including Akhteruzzaman Chowdhury Babu after investigation.

#### Udichi From page 1

BDR Jawans were kept stand-by in the court area. This sort of security mea-

sures had to be taken in view of the mounting tension following brutal murder of Shamsur Rahman, special correspondent of the Janakantha, the SP of Jessore said.

#### Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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# in the July 12 massacre, the

Prime Minister said she also lost all her dearest ones in "I have no words to console you. I just came to you to share

> The Prime Minister assured the bereaved families of doing whatever possible to help them overcome their shock and get

your grief at this tragic hour.

the killers punished Home Minister Mohammad Nasim, Works Minister Eng. Mosharraf Hossain, Labour and Employment Minister M A Mannan and local Awami

League MPs were present. Hasina distributed cheques for Tk one lakh each among the families of the deceased and Tk 50,000 each for the injured.

#### Police raid city hotels, messes to arrest listed terrorists'

By Staff Correspondent

Police could not arrest any 'listed terrorists' during their raid at city residential hotels and messes on Tuesday.

The detectives and thana po lice jointly launched the drive,

The drive was conducted to arrest 'listed criminals' who took shelter in the residential hotels and messes in the capital from the south and western region of the country.

"We managed to arrest some criminals from the hotels and they were handed over to thana custody," a DB officer said yes terday

The detectives also said number of arrested was given to the police control room for supplying it to the press. When contacted police con-

trol room said they did not have any figures. But police officials from different thanas in the city said police could not arrest any

listed terrorists' for whom the drive was designed. Several people fell victim to the Tuesday's drive, one of them said. The plainclothes arrested them while they were simply passing the area and charged

them for carrying contraband. "The plainclothes stopped me when I was passing the area. Later they pulled out a bottle of phensidyle from one of them and said they recovered it from, me," said a victim, preferring anonymity. "Later police released me after taking money

from me," he added. Most police stations in the city said that "We failed to ar rest any listed criminals but some sex workers and their cus,

"The operation will continue The investigation officer (IO) in search of the criminals to-

#### Flash flood in Sirajganj

From Our Correspondent SIRAJGANJ, July 19: Lowlying land and char areas of five thanas of the district went under water due to flash floods caused by incessant rain and on rush of water from upper

About 12 thousand people of some 1200 families have been seriously affected by flood waters as the river Jamuna flowing through the district recorded a sharp rise in the last

24 hours till 6 pm today. The affected upazilas are Kazipur, Sirajganj sadar, Belkuchi and Chawhali. Many people of the areas left their houses and took shelter on the Water Development Board embankment.

#### BSMMUH super assaulted by angry employees

By Staff Correspondent The superintendent of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital (BSMMUH) was injured by the hospital employees yesterday.

The superintendent Dr Mujibur Rahman Bhuiyan came under attack at his office on the ground floor of Block-C building yesterday morning by at least ten employees of the hos-

Sources said that one of the angry attackers threw an ashtray and hit him at the back of his head.

It is learnt that the employ ees, earlier transferred to Mitford Hospital by an order by the Health Directorate, demanded that they be assigned work in the hospital and claimed that the directorate took a fresh decision in this regard recently. But the superintendent re-

portedly denied receiving copy of the order and asked the em ployees, class III and IV, to leave his office. Instead of complying, they

attacked him, witnesses said. Bhuiyan is hospitalised in the same hospital. He filed a case yesterday against 15 people in this connection.

#### Case against Shad: Final report submitted

By Court Correspondent The investigation officer (IO) submitted 'final report' of an

abduction case filed against Shad Ershad, son of former president H M Ershad, to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka on Tues

Sub-Inspector Sheikh Kamal, the IO of the case, submitted it after four months' inves-

tigation The CMM's Court directed the general recording officer (GRO) to send the file to the Special Court for Prevention of Women and Children Repression, Dhaka yesterday. Shad was arrested on the ba-

sis of a case filed by the victim's father on March 4, 2000. Shad was confined at the Cantonment police station for 10 days and granted ad-interim

bail by the Special Court on March 14. The IO in his report said that he did not find any allegation against Shad in connection with abduction of a teenage girl. He further said that no eyewitnesses were found during the

investigation.

#### G8 summit in Tokyo opens tomorrow

TOKYO, July 19: Japanese Foreign Minister Yohei Kono said today Tokyo hoped to issue a special statement to back dialogue between North and South Korean leaders during this week's Group of Eight summit "The two leaders dared to

hold talks and took a step to-

ward a favorable direction, Kono told a television interview. "The G8 members have agreed to back the move," Kono said. "If possible, we want to issue a special statement" at the July 21-23 summit in the southern Japanese island, he

talks in Miyazaki, southern Japan, G8 foreign ministers than that of other diseases. welcomed last month's first-ever summit between North Korean supreme leader Kim Jong-Il and South Korean President Kim Dae-Jung.

At the end of last week's

### FBCCI goes to polls Oct 12

## Aspirants seeking for 'blessings' from political camps

By Shahriar Karim

on October 12. The last date for As the election of the coun try's apex trade body FBCCI nears, aspirants for the top posts are busy in behind-thescene parleys to get the muchneeded blessings from political camps and power brokers in the business circle, sources said.

Meantime, Chief Election Commissioner of FBCCI or the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry Prof. Ali Ashraf has resigned all on a sudden Tuesday. Ashraf is also a ruling party lawmaker.

Sources close to Ali Ashraf, who is also the chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on finance ministry, said Ashraf resigned because he is going to run for the presidency. However, his candidature is subject to approval by

the party high-ups, they said. Meanwhile, the authorities finalised vesterday the schedule for the FBCCI election to be held

#### BNP units asked to check draft voter list

BNP instructed different units of the party across the country to check the draft voter lists whether their people were left out or any fake voters en-

listed, reports UNB. The Election Commission published the draft voter lists on Tuesday with a total of 7 crore 46 lakh 75 thousand and

749 voters. BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday issued letters instructing presidents, general secretaries, convenors in each district, city, thana and poura committee to go through the voter lists.

"Examine the voter lists and also confirm whether party workers, supporters and wellwishers have been enrolled with correct particulars," the letter states.

In case any faults are found, the party deputies have been asked to appeal to the Election Commission by August 3.

He also suggested submitting one copy of the application to BNP central office.

filing nomination papers is August 14 while publication of the voter list is August 17. The new executive committee is scheduled to take over at the annual general meeting on October 21. Sources said Yusuf Abdullah

Haroon and Salman F Rahman, former FBCCI presidents, are also keen to vie again for the presidency. One of them will have to give way to the other as both of them are likely to seek blessings of the ruling party high-ups, they said. Both of them enjoyed ruling party support when during their previous

Both Haroon and Rahman had a meeting in the presence of that some aspirants have American company and a an influential business leader vesterday to decide who would run for the election. But the meeting was indecisive, the sources said.

Sources also said three influential business leaders had a meeting with ruling party highups on Monday night to decide whom the ruling party would Haroon and Salman told the

have not decided on running for the presidency. "I haven't decided anything. However, I want to see a new face at the top post of country's apex trade body," said Haroon. He will decide soon after discussing the matter with "like

Daily Star vesterday that they

minded people. Salman Rahman also said he is yet to decide whether to contest the upcoming FBCCI election

MA Rouf Chowdhury, who ran for the presidency on the previous occasion, has already declared that he would gun for the top post this time, too. He has already become a member of Gazipur Chamber.

Mohammad Ali, a Narayanganj-based businessman representing the Edible Oil Association, will fight for the vice-president slot. Three others including Shafiullah Chowdhury of the Corrugated Sheet and Packaging Association and Dastagir Gazi of Plastic and Rubber Product Manufacturing Association have already declared their candidature for the post.

There is also a move by some influential chambers and businessmen to have a candidate with good credentials who would work for the business community without any political bias.

There are others who want to see a businessman from the opposition camp. But they are yet to find one.

But the biennial FBCCI elections will as usual draw top politicians and power brokers into the fray, said business sources, adding that the race has become a 'dirty game' where money and political connection

started buying votes. Meanwhile, sources said

Bangladesh Bank has taken a move to have bank loan defaulters barred from contesting elections of business, chambers and trade associations including the FBCCI. The central bank will send its suggestion to the Finance Ministry soon, the sources said.

However, a move by a section of incumbent executive members of FBCCI to ban the bank loan defaulters from taking part in the election hit the rock at a board meeting. Instead, the board said that a person can be barred from contesting the polls only if he is convicted by the court for defaulting bank

### More chocolate bomb seized at Magura

From Our Correspondent MAGURA, July 19: Antismuggling task-force of Magura district seized 5,760 Indian chocolate bombs and 14 sacks of sugar from a Faridpur bound bus of Modhumoti Paribahan near the police line area in the town at around 6 pm today.

Acting on a tip-off the members of the task-force led by a magistrate raided the vehicle and recovered the contraband. Apurba Kumar Biswas, the supervisor of the bus was arrested in this connection.

### Tannery workers exposed to serious diseases

6pc suffer from five diseases at a time

Star Report

mechanised and semi-mecha-

1,000 people in the country. The workers of leather in-Of the 270 registered leather dustry in the city are exposed to factories in the country, 90 per a number of serious ailments cent are located in a small area health hazards, according to a of 25 hectares in the city's Hazsurvey conducted by the Society aribagh area. During the peak for Environment and Human season, 12000 to 15000 workers Development (SEHD), an NGO. are engaged in those factories. About three per cent of the Most of the factories are nonworkers are suffering from six

diseases at a time and six per cent from five diseases, the surnised. SEHD conducted a sample vey report revealed. survey of workers from six fac-The tannery workers are suftories at Hazaribagh. It revealed ing. fering from gastric ulcer. that about 58 per cent of the asthma, skin diseases. tannery workers were suffering rheumatic fever, kidney probfrom gastric ulcer and about 87 lem, jaundice, tuberculosis, dysentery and other physical attacked with the disease after problems in various degrees. joining the tanneries. The incidence of gastric ulcer

Around 31 per cent of the and skin diseases is higher workers were suffering from various skin diseases, about The report said morbidity 11.7 per cent from low or high rate of tannery workers in blood pressure, about 10.6 per Dhaka is 893.85 per 1,000 cent from rheumatic fever, 3.35 whereas this rate is 150.85 per

per cent from asthma, .55 per cent from tuberculosis and 19 per cent were suffering from jaundice time and again. Besides, about 38 per cent of

the workers met with accidents like cutting of their hands or fingers, burns and falling from roof while on duty. Many of them become unconscious due to direct exposure to toxic gas formed in drums during different phases of leather possess-

The survey report said the technologies used in the tanneries are considerably old and inper cent of them said they were ferior. On the other hand, almost all the solid and liquid waste generated in the factories are dumped untreated in violation of environmental laws.

The worst affected are the workers who are directly and constantly exposed to these waste, it said.

#### Rajuk for parking facilities on Elephant Road

By Staff Correspondent

Rajuk is taking measures to ensure parking facilities on the busy Elephant Road as per a recent directive from the Prime Minister's Secretariat, Rajuk sources said.

Rajuk Chairman M Azizul

Haque told The Daily Star ground work has already started in the busy commercial area to 'extract' parking facili-He said commercial structures which got the building

plans approved with adequate parking provisions but did not comply with the plans will have to make parking facilities on their premises. But there are buildings the approved plans for which did

not have parking provisions.

For these, a parking lot would be built. A Rajuk source who is working on the scheme said a survey is now being conducted to assess the situation. He admitted that except one or two cases, the shopping centres have not com-

plied with the legal provisions. The owners of these would be asked to convert the ground floor of their structures into parking lots. The scheme would be completed in the next three

months, he said. "Similar schemes would be taken up for other areas of the

city soon," he added. Some of the busiest shopping centres in the city are on Elephant Road. Too inadequate parking facilities cause frequent traffic congestions there.

#### Labour unrest Production at

### towel factory in CEPZ suspended

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, July 19: Labour unrest forced suspension of production for the last three days in a joint venture towel factory at Chittagong Export. Processing Zone (CEPZ),

Dismissal of a worker in Al Hamidi Textile triggered the labour unrest. About 200 workers of the Business people also alleged | factory jointly owned by an

CEPZ sources said.

Bangladeshi entrepreneur, abstained from their duties protesting the dismissal. They also demanded wages as per1993 circular which was kept in abeyance by BEPZA. The workers in CEPZ were be-

ing paid as per 1989 circular.

#### Ctg killings Microbus driver yet to be arrested

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, July 19: CID police could not trace the driver of the seized microbus used in the Bahaddarhat incident that left eight people including six BCL activists killed on July 12. CID team investigating the incident raided the residence of

sconding since the incident. Earlier, CID team picked up the owner of the microbus, Nizamuddin. Meanwhile, hunt for the Shibir activists accused of the

The driver remained ab-

driver Babul last night.

killing of eight people is going on, CID officials said Chittagong district police raided some strongholds of Shibir activists at Raozan last night. But none was arrested

### Transport strike in Bagerhat

during the raid, police said.

BAGERHAT, July 19: The Inter-district Transport Owners Association will observe a halfday strike tomorrow demanding ban of shallow engine propelled tempo, reports UNB.

They claimed over 500 such environment unfriendly tempos are plying on eight routes of the district defying ban. Mati Mia, general secretary

of the association said they would go for a day-long strike on July 24 if their demand was not met by July 23.

#### leaders meet Jam aat chief today The liaison committee lead-

Liaison committee

ers of opposition 4-party alliance will meet Jamaat chief Golam Azam today, reports They will meet Azam proba-

bly at his residence at 7:15 pm. A R M Abdul Matin, who represents IOJ on the central liaison committee, told UNB that their current move is to consolidate their unity in their fight against the government.