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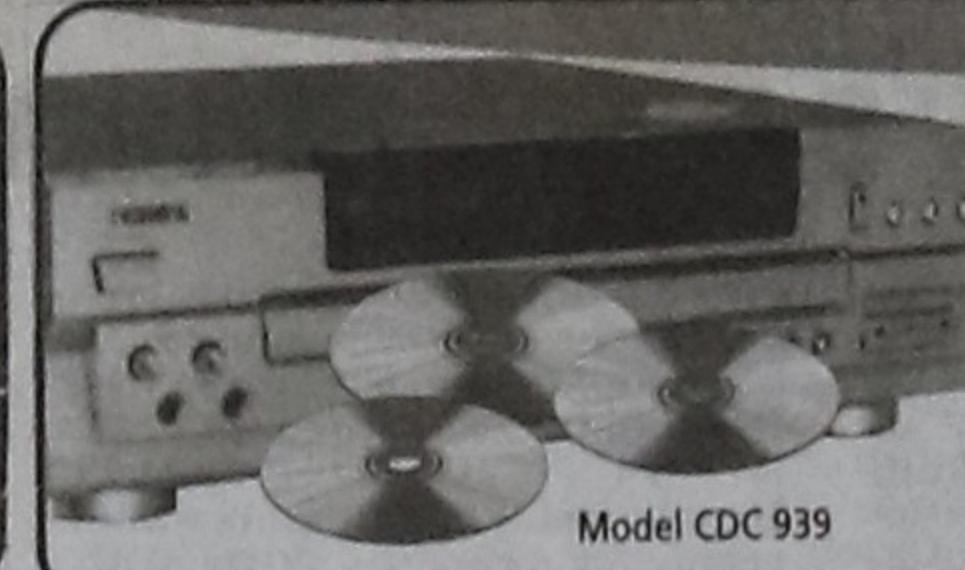
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**Body of housewife recovered, day labourer killed while digging earth**

By Staff Correspondent

Police recovered the body of a housewife from Khilgaon government staff quarter yesterday.

The victim was identified as Sahina Akther, 23, wife of Abdul Khair.

In another incident, a female day labourer was killed while digging earth at the Suhrawardy Uddyan yesterday morning.

Fatema, 30, was fatally injured when piled up earth fell on her. She died while being taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. The body was kept at the hospital morgue, hospital sources said.

Police recovered the body of Shahina when neighbours complained that foul odour was coming out from the room.

A gamcha (towel) was tied around the victim's neck and there were marks of injury in the chest, police said.

The victim's husband is absent.

Shahina and her husband shared a flat with one Lily Begum, a government employee. Lily said she found Shahina's room locked since late Sunday afternoon.

Shahina met Khair about a year ago in Qatar where she ran a phone-fax shop. Returning home, they got married and started family life, relatives said.

Three months ago, Shahina came to know that Khair had four other wives. She went to Qatar again but returned recently.

On Thursday, Shahina went to her sister Rekha and told her that Khair was forcing her to hand over her 32 tolas of gold ornaments and Tk 3.30 lakh, deposited with a bank at Comilla.

"Today, I went to my sisters residence and saw police bringing out her body", Rekha told this correspondent at DMCH.

The body was sent to the hospital morgue for autopsy.

**Dhaka-Thimpu trade talks today**

Bangladesh and Bhutan will hold trade talks today aimed at raising the present level of economic and commercial transactions for the mutual benefit of the two close neighbours, reported BSS.

Dasho Ugyen Tshering, Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bhutan, arrived here yesterday evening to lead an eight-member delegation to the talks.

A 13-member Bangladeshi delegation will be led by Commerce Secretary Golam Rahman, official sources said.

Rahman received the Bhutanese Foreign Secretary at the airport.

Bhutanese Ambassador Lhatu Wangchuk earlier said his country was going to propose free trade with Bangladesh during the talks and likely to ask for permission to use port facility along with opening of a second transit route.

**BTV chief cameraman falls from roof, dies**

The Chief Cameraman of Bangladesh Television (BTV), died as he fell from the roof of a three-storey building at Shantinagar in the city last night, police and hospital sources said, reported BSS.

They said Mohammad Mustafa, 45, mysteriously fell from the roof of his 40, Shantinagar residence at around 9.30 pm. He was immediately taken to Holy Family Hospital and later shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where doctors declared him dead.

**Clarification**

The American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) issued a clarification on a report published in The Daily Star on August 28 titled, "Leadership dispute 15 trade bodies kept out of FBCCI voter list".

AmCham clarified it could not become a voter in the FBCCI election due to a memo given by the Commerce Ministry to FBCCI and not due to outdated trade license. The memo stated that the AmCham had been operating as a legal trade organisation under the Trade Organisation Ordinance, but will not have voting rights as the Federation election since joint chambers have no voting rights at the Federation election.

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## 10000 tea workers protesting price cuts by big cos held in Assam

**GAUHATI**, Aug 29: At least 10,000 tea farmers protesting price cuts by larger competitors were detained today in Assam as police broke up highway blockades, injuring dozens of demonstrators in baton charges, officers said, reports AP.

The All Assam Small Tea Growers' Association, representing 25,000 tea planters, called for the highway blockades to protest an abrupt 50 per cent price cut for unprocessed green leaves by big tea companies, the primary buyers.

The small planters have been dumping their tea leaves on roadsides instead of selling to big companies at what they considered throwaway prices.

Gohain said the highway blockade was called to "see to it that the big companies are un-

able to sell their produce, and also put a halt to the tea auction" in the capital, Gauhati.

A police spokesman said protesters had tried to block traffic in four eastern districts of Assam—the tea growing areas of Tinsukia, Dibrugarh, Sibsagar, and Jorhat—where most of the 10,000 protesters were detained.

An increasing number of small entrepreneurs, with little cash but lots of will, have begun growing tea in Assam. After 100 years of domination by large plantations, green tea has become a small farmer's crop.

The small growers now account for nearly 100 million kilograms of Assam's total annual tea production of more than 450 million kilograms.

Assam, home to 800 big tea plantations, accounts for 55 per cent of India's tea production of 865,000 tons.

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able to sell their produce, and also put a halt to the tea auction" in the capital, Gauhati.

A police spokesman said protesters had tried to block traffic in four eastern districts of Assam—the tea growing areas of Tinsukia, Dibrugarh, Sibsagar, and Jorhat—where most of the 10,000 protesters were detained.

But two weeks ago, "some of the team majors decided to reduce the price of tea leaves by more than 50 per cent, resulting in heavy losses to the small planters," said Purno Bora, secretary of the small growers association, in a telephone interview from Dibrugarh district.

Traditionally, tea was only grown in Assam on large privately owned plantations, varying from 350 to 650 hectares (860 to 1,600 acres).

It is estimated that nearly 25,000 small farmers in Assam

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next week of the big and small growers to defuse the crisis.

The green tea leaves produced by small team growers had been selling to big companies at an average price of 10 rupees per kilogram (20 US cents).

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## Peace Corps men have already trained 1600 English language teachers

By Diplomatic Correspondent



Mark Schneider, Director of Peace Corps, speaks at a press conference in the city as John Kincannon, Director of USIS, looks on.

## Dengue: 33 more hospitalised in city

By Staff Correspondent

Thirty-three more people with dengue fever were admitted to different hospitals and private clinics in the city yesterday.

The Central Control Room at the Health Directorate yesterday said Dhaka Medical College Hospital admitted five patients while Mitford Hospital two.

Dhaka Shishu Hospital reported admitting two fresh cases, BIRDEM five, the Red Crescent Holy Family Hospital one, Bangladesh Medical College Hospital five, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital four, Police Hospital in Rajarbagh one and Shaheed Suhrawardy Hospital reported admitting two.

Central Hospital on Green Road and Samirita Hospital reported admitting one and four patients respectively and Al-Care Hospital reported admitting one with dengue fever.

The Central Control Room also reported admission of seven patients to the Khuina Medical College Hospital and one to Khuina Sadar Hospital.

## Bus fares on Dhaka-N'ganj route raised

From Our Correspondent

**NARAYANGANJ**, Aug 29: Bus fares on Dhaka-Narayanganj route has been increased by 43 per cent without any prior notice.

Karota Siting Service has increased its fare from Tk 7 to 10 while Shital Service from Tk 10 to 12.

The passengers have voiced their resentment over unilateral enhancement of bus fares on Dhaka-Narayanganj route.

Quarrels between bus workers and passengers over enhanced bus fares were also reported on Monday and today.

The owners of the buses have deployed a number of mastaans at many points on Dhaka-Narayanganj road to face any protest from the passengers. A large number of police were also deployed at Narayanganj on this morning.

The regular passengers alleged that the mastaans beat up some passengers when they refused to give extra fare.

When contacted the Bus Owners Association has admitted increase in fares and attributed it to the price hike of petrol and diesel.

However, the fares of AC buses have not been increased.

## FBCCI polls: 240 trade bodies to exercise franchise

By Staff Correspondent

A total of 1186 voters of 240 trade bodies will exercise their franchise in the upcoming election of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) scheduled for October 12.

According to the final voter list yesterday, 391 voters of 78 chambers and 795 of 162 associations will elect FBCCI president, vice president, and members of its executive committee for the next two years.

Eight chambers could not qualify as voter due to leadership dispute and late submission of their names while 15 associations were kept out of the list due to similar reasons.

It is the same brigade whose staff had been changed from the Prime Minister House a few months before the coup, he added.

Sharif was given life sentence for trying to stop a jet carrying then-army chief General Musharraf and some 200 passengers from landing in Pakistan on the night of the coup, he said.

"I will prove that Sharif has not committed any hijacking or terrorism. The plane was kept in air for 48 minutes on the orders of Musharraf who did not allow the plane to land until his coup succeeded," he said.

Syed Saeed Ashhad, who is heading a three-judge Sindh High Court bench, asked Sharif's lawyer not to politicise his case.

## 8 killed, 40 injured in Bogra road accident

The identity of the dead, however, could not be known immediately.

The bodies were sent to the Mohammad Ali Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Most of the injured were from Thakurgaon and Panchagarh, police said.

UNB from Chandpur adds: A septuagenarian was killed and 15 others were injured, six critically, in a road accident at Kumardungi on Chandpur-Comilla highway this morning.

Witnesses said the accident occurred at about 7 am when a Chittagong bound bus with about 50 passengers on board plunged into a roadside pond while giving side to another bus.

Six of the injured—Asfar, 30, Abdul Jalil, 55, Helal Hossain, 40, Kamal Hossain, 25, Harun, 20, Joynal, 25—were admitted to Chandpur Sadar Hospital.

However, the fares of AC buses have not been increased.

## Appeal against Sharif's conviction

## Gen Musharraf did not allow plane to land : Defence

By Staff Correspondent

KARACHI, Aug 29: Pakistan's secret agency Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) had informed prime minister Nawaz Sharif of a plot to overthrow his government well before the October coup, a court today, reports AFP.

This agency plays an important role in Pakistan from time to time. They were well aware of the coup and had informed Sharif about it much before October," Sharif's lawyer Azizullah Sheikh said.

Sharif was arguing in Sharif's appeal against his conviction for hijacking and terrorism by a court which sen-

tenced him to life term in April.

He said the record showed that three army generals—namely Pervez Musharraf, Mohammad Aziz and Mahmood Ahmed Khan—were "responsible for the mutiny, coup or whatever you call it against the elected government."

"They want to hang Sharif through this false case in order to cover up their illegal and unconstitutional action of October 12. Whatever witnesses prosecutors had produced contradicted each other," Sheikh said.

"I will prove that Sharif has not committed any hijacking or terrorism. The plane was kept in air for 48 minutes on the orders of Musharraf who did not allow the plane to land until his coup succeeded," he said.

Syed Saeed Ashhad, who is heading a three-judge Sindh High Court bench, asked Sharif's lawyer not to politicise his case.

"I am not politicising the

case but only referring to the material available on record of the case," Sheikh said.

It is a matter of record that on October 12 army brigade-111 stationed at Rawalpindi took control of state television station at Islamabad and the prime minister's official residence.

Eight chambers could not qualify as voter due to leadership dispute and late submission of their names while 15 associations were kept out of the list due to similar reasons.

It is the same brigade whose staff had been changed from the Prime Minister House a few months before the coup, he added.

Sharif was given life sentence for trying to stop a jet carrying then-army chief General Musharraf and some 200 passengers from landing in Pakistan on the night of the coup.

The hearing continues Wednesday.

The prosecution has also filed an appeal seeking the death penalty for Sharif and reversal of the acquittal of six co-accused, including Sharif's brother Shahbaz Sharif.