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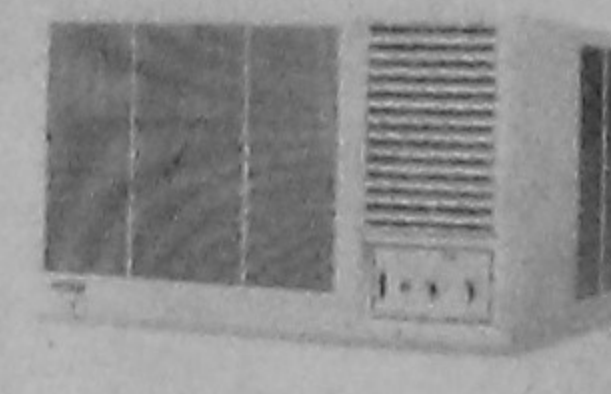
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50th birthday of painter Shahabuddin today

By Staff Correspondent
Shahabuddin Ahmed (committee) will accord a reception to the valiant freedom fighter and internationally renowned painter Shahabuddin Ahmed at 5:00 p.m. today at the main auditorium of the National Museum on the occasion of his 50th birth anniversary.

Noted poet Shamsur Rahman and eminent painter Mohammad Kibria will attend the function as chief and special guests respectively while Prof. Kabir Chowdhury, chairman of the committee will preside. The programme includes greetings to the artist, citation, handing over of mementoes and musical soiree.

To mark the occasion, a 12-day special solo painting exhibition by Shahabuddin Ahmed will also begin on September 15

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10 hurt as JCD, BCL clash at Barisal

From Staff Correspondent
BARISAL, Sept 10: At least ten people were injured in a gunfight between the activists of JCD and BCL in the town last night.

Of the injured, JCD activists - Mizan and Biplab - and BCL activist Iqbal were shifted to Dhaka from Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital as their condition deteriorated this morning.

The trouble began at around 10 pm following assault of a BCL worker by JCD activists at Barguna road in the town.

Both the groups traded gunshots and exploded bombs during the clash.

The BCL activists later ransacked a shop belonging to JCD activist Mizan.

Police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control. They also recovered a rifle, eight cartridges from the spot.

Police said the clash was a sequel to previous rivalry between the two rival student groups over illegal drug trading in the town.

Two shot in separate incidents

By Staff Correspondent
Two people were shot in two separate incidents in the city last night.

The victims - Mohammad Shaheen, 22, a rod mechanic and Hadikul Huq Sarker, 27, a trader of construction materials sustained bullet injuries in face and legs respectively, hospital sources said.

Shaheen was caught in the crossfire when two local groups led by Hader and Asfar, exchanged gunshots at Dayaganj rail crossing in the city. The victim received several pellets in his face when he reached the rail crossing at about 7 pm.

He was sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital in a critical condition.

In another incident, Hadikul was shot in both his legs for refusing to pay toll money to a gang at Nawabpur at about 8 pm last night.

The gang dragged him out of his shop, took him behind the Jinnat Market and shot him in both his legs.

He was rushed to the DMCH in a critical condition.

One stabbed to death in Ctg

From Our Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Sept 10: A young man was stabbed to death while trying to save a woman of a neighbouring house from torture and oppression of her husband at Betagi union under Rangunia thana here last night.

Shah Alam, 35, was stabbed by his neighbour Abul Fazal as he went to rescue the later's wife from torture. He succumbed to his injury on way to local thana health complex.

Abul Fazal was arrested.

Opposition's call to teacherscommunity Oust AL govt thru' agitation to realise demands

By Staff Correspondent

Leaders of the four-party opposition alliance have urged the teacher community to join the on-going movement to force Awami League out of office and realise their demands, including nationalisation of non-government primary schools.

Addressing a grand rally at the city's Osmani Uddyan yesterday, the alliance leaders also assured the non-government primary school teachers of inclusion of their demands into the election manifestos of the respective parties.

Bangladesh Non-Government Primary Teachers' Association (BNPTA) organised the rally to press home their demand for nationalisation of primary schools and full payment of salary from the gov-

ernment exchequer. BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in parliament Khaleda Zia was the chief guest at the function while Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad, Jamaa-e-Islami Amir Golam Azam and Islami Oikya Jote Chairman Azizul Huq attended it as special guests. BNPTA President M Shamsul Alam presided over the rally.

The leaders of the BNP-led alliance bitterly criticised Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for backing out of the commitment she had made with the primary teachers who are now getting 60 to 80 per cent of their basic salary from the public coffers.

Khaleda alleged that the AL government is advancing with a secret agenda to destroy the

country's education sector. It has not fulfilled the commitments it had made with the non-government primary school teachers before the last general election.

The BNP chief condemned the government for not allowing the teachers to hold rally at Paltan Maidan. "AL repeatedly claims to be a democratic government, but their autocratic and anti-people activities suggest otherwise."

Criticising the prime minister for her remarks about introduction of a common currency in Bangladesh and India during an interview with CNN, Khaleda said those were very objectionable and went against the country's sovereignty.

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BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia addressing the rally of non-government primary teachers at Osmani Uddyan in the city yesterday. The teachers are on strike demanding nationalisation of their institutions and full payment of their salaries from public exchequer.

- Star photo

Rab murder

Memo to PM demanding arrest of killers

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Sept 10: Shaheed SMA Rab Smriti Parishad today submitted a memorandum to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina through the police commissioner.

The memorandum containing 11 demands was received by additional police commissioner Mokhester Rahman as police commissioner Anwarul Iqbal was on leave.

The demands include immediate arrest of the killers of AL mayor candidate SMA Rab and their exemplary punishment keeping investigation of the case free from political influence, trial in the Special Tribunal, arrest of masterminds and financiers of the murder and declaring them politically unwanted, and expulsion of persons from the ruling party involved overtly and covertly in the murder conspiracy.

The eleven-point demand submitted to the Prime Minister also include stoppage of police operation against Asaduzzaman Litu and Mushfequr Rahman Hirok, two top terrorists of South-Western Zone wanted in several murder cases including Journalist Shamsur Rahman Murder Case.

Earlier at noon, over 1000 people belonging to Smriti Parishad and Whip-backed group of Awami League brought out a procession and laid siege to the KMP headquarters.

Led by city Awami League president Advocate Manzurul

Imam, the procession was also attended by BNP leader and former MP Abdul Gaffar Biswas.

Addressing the procession in front of the KMP headquarters, the city AL president said Rab was murdered as a result of conspiracy hatched by a group of leaders in the ruling party and financed by a rich man who opposed Rab's interest in Khulna Chamber politics.

3 bills on hill dist councils returned to JS after scrutiny

Three identical bills pertaining to the hill district councils of Rangamati, Khagrachhari and Bandarban, were returned to the Parliament yesterday after scrutiny by the Standing Committee on Law Ministry, reports UNB.

The bills, seeking amendment to the existing laws, propose that the hill district councils are entitled to plan, adopt and implement development projects with funds provided by the government.

The bills were introduced in Parliament and referred to the Committee on July 4. Committee Chairman Suranjit Sengupta brought the bills back after vetting for passage by the House.

Common currency

BNP statement motivated, distorted: AL

Awami League General Secretary and Local Government Minister Zillur Rahman yesterday protested and condemned BNP Secretary-General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan's "motivated, distorted and misleading" statement regarding Prime Minister's alleged response to a question on introduction of a common currency, reports BSS.

Zillur Rahman in a statement said, the question put forward by a CNN viewer from India was in the context of introducing a common currency in the region similar to that of European Union. "But unfortunately the BNP secretary general did not or chose deliberately not to understand or appreciate the difference between a common currency and an identical one," he added.

The AL general secretary said that deliberate and motivated attempts to mislead the nation by grossly distorting the truth is a hallmark of BNP and these have no credibility in the eyes of the common people.

The question of the Prime Minister being evasive as stated by Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan thus does not arise at all, he said.

The AL general secretary said that deliberate and motivated attempts to mislead the nation by grossly distorting the truth is a hallmark of BNP and these have no credibility in the eyes of the common people.

The question of the Prime Minister being evasive as stated by Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan thus does not arise at all, he said.

12 weighing devices to be installed to check trucks

By Staff Correspondent
At least a dozen weighing devices would be installed in the country to check overloaded trucks plying the highways, official sources said yesterday.

The decision was taken at a meeting between the Communication Ministry and transport sector representatives, sources said.

Roads were badly damaged because of trucks laden with goods much beyond their capacities.

In the first phase, two devices would be installed at Aminbazar, a gateway to the capital Dhaka from different northern directions and at Foudzdarhat in port city Chittagong very soon.

Many villagers across India use boats as public transport in remote areas that are not connected to nearby towns by tarred roads. Scores of people are often crammed into large trawlers, and with lax safety laws, many accidents are reported each year.

Khaleda postpones Saudi visit

BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia has postponed her proposed visit to Saudi Arabia due to illness, party sources said last night, reports UNB.

She was scheduled to fly for Saudi Arabia today to perform Umrah at the invitation of the King of Saudi Arabia.



President Shahabuddin Ahmed addressing the three-day international conference on "Improving Oversight Function: Challenges in the New Millennium" in the city yesterday.

- PID photo (Story on page 1)

Tk 11 lakh fined CDA asks Diamond Cement Factory to submit its plan

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Sept 10: Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) asked the management of Diamond Cement Factory to submit plan of its second unit.

An accident occurred when under-construction roof of silo of the factory collapsed on August 27 claiming the lives of two engineers and 12 workers. At least 20 construction workers were also injured.

A letter was issued to the management of Diamond Cement Factory for submitting its plan immediately as the construction work at its second unit was done before approval of plan, CDA officials said.

The Diamond management will have to pay about Tk 11 lakh as penalty for starting construction works inside the factory without approval of the plan from CDA, they said.

Talking to this correspondent, Director of Diamond Cement Factory Mahub Ali said due to delay in obtaining approval of plan from CDA the construction work was started in advance.

"But we agreed to pay the penalty and fines as per provision of CDA," Mahub said.

Meanwhile, the probe committee blamed faulty construction at the site of the cement factory for the incident.

However, the factory management yesterday paid Tk 90,000 to each relatives of 8 victims out of 14 as compensation.

Straw for signing of memo on forced marriage

Bangladesh and Britain yesterday agreed to further strengthen bilateral relations between the two Commonwealth countries, reports BSS.

The agreement came during official talks held between visiting British Secretary of State for Home Affairs (Home Minister) Jack Straw MP and his Bangladesh counterpart Mohammad Nasim at Bangladesh Secretariat.

Straw informed Nasim that Britain would study the feasibility of setting up a visa centre at Sylhet to facilitate the immigrants. He said at the moment, an NGO, Sylhet Immigration Advisory Service, is providing assistance in this regard to the applicants.

The British Minister agreed, in principle, to the proposal made by Bangladesh Minister to form a working group with representatives of the two countries to resolve the problems faced by Bangladesh immigrants in UK.

Straw said Bangladesh Home Secretary and British High Commissioner in Dhaka would follow up the matter.

The British Home Minister raised the issue of forced marriage of Bangladesh immigrants and described it as "a very delicate matter."

He suggested the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the two countries to resolve the matter. He said the people of Britain and Bangladesh are practising democracies and that Britain is optimistic of political stability in Bangladesh.

He praised the Bangladesh immigrants in Britain, numbering three lakh, and said they contribute to UK's socio-economic development.

Observing that rule of law breaks down due to long military rule, he told Nasim of Britain's interest in the growth of a decent democratic system in Bangladesh.

Nasim thanked the British Minister for his maiden visit to Bangladesh and said it would usher in a new era in bilateral relations on the basis of mutual respect and understanding.

He informed Straw of the achievements of the present government in the past four years that included CHT Peace Accord, the Ganges Water Sharing Treaty with India, and formation of parliamentary standing committees to ensure transparency and accountability of the administration.

Home Secretary M Reza and Deputy Secretary for Women and Children Affairs Dr Tahmina Hossain assisted Nasim, while High Commissioner Dr David Carter and officials accompanying the Minister were with the visitor.



Leaders and activists of Srantik Karmachari Oikya Parishad (SKOP) took out a procession in the city yesterday. SKOP has called a 48-hour rail-road barricade programme beginning today demanding implementation of agreement signed with the government two years ago.

- Star photo

55 feared drowned in Bihar

PATNA, Sept 10: At least 55 people were feared drowned when their boat capsized in a flooded river in India's eastern state of Bihar yesterday, police said, reports AP.

Five people swam ashore in Mahadev Mathi, a village in Madhubani district, 200 kilometres northeast of Patna, the state capital, Deputy Superintendent of Police Sangeeta Kumari said.

The victims were returning to their villages after buying food and vegetables from across the river, Kumari said. Most

rivers in Bihar state have been flooded by heavy monsoon rains.

Many villagers across India use boats as public transport in remote areas that are not connected to nearby towns by tarred roads. Scores of people are often crammed into large trawlers, and with lax safety laws, many accidents are reported each year.

Jail Killing Case

Next hearing on framing of charges Sept 24

By Court Correspondent

The Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka yesterday fixed September 24 for next hearing on framing of charges in the Jail Killing Case.

Judge Ahmed Jamil Mostafa adjourned the proceedings of the case after hearing on charge framing against Major (retd) Bazlul Huda, one of the accused in the case.

A F M Mahabub Rahman, lawyer for Bazlul Huda, submitted that statements of 40 out of 46 prosecution witnesses were not properly recorded under Section 161 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPc).

He further said the original copy of "Ezhar" was lost but the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court did not take any legal action against the persons responsible.

So, the copy of Ezhar would not be acceptable for trial of the case.

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

Then DIG (Prison) Abdul Awal filed the jail killing case on November 4, 1975 under Sec-

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Hasina makes stop over in London

LONDON, Sept 10: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina made a brief stop over here this morning on her way back home after attending the UN Millennium Summit in New York, reports BSS.

She is travelling by a New York-Dhaka commercial flight of Bangladesh Biman, which is scheduled to reach Dhaka tomorrow morning.

Shawar Sadeque, a British-Bangladeshi and the representative of Robbin Cook, Secretary of State for FCO, AH Mahmood Ali, Bangladesh High Commissioner and Brig MA Yusuf Farazi, Defence Adviser of the High Commission, received the Prime Minister at Heathrow Airport.

Ashrafur Islam, the visiting State Minister for Civil Aviation, Sheikh Rehana, younger daughter of Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, officials of the Bangladesh High Commission and leaders of UK Awami League were also present at the VIP Lounge of Heathrow Airport to receive and see off the Prime Minister.

During her brief stay of one-and-a-half hours, Hasina exchanged views with the leaders of UK Awami League. She apprised them of her successful meetings with the world leaders who attended the Millennium Summit in the United Nations, including US President Bill Clinton, British Prime Minister Tony Blair and Palestine President Yasser Arafat.

The Prime Minister urged the Bangladesh expatriates to come forward to avail the investment opportunities in Bangladesh and assured them of all possible government support and assistance in setting up industries.

The UK Awami League leaders expressed their gratitude to the Prime Minister for increasing Biman's London-Sylhet weekly flights to three from the existing two from next October.

Awami League leaders Alhaj Shamsuddin Khan, Prof. Abul Hashem, M A Goni, Shafiqur Rahman, Syed Faruque and Jalal Uddin were present during the unscheduled meeting with the Prime Minister.

Air Commodore Khasrul new MD of Biman

By Special Correspondent

Air Commodore M Khasrul Alam, has joined Bangladesh Biman as Managing Director yesterday.

He replaced Air Commodore Rafiqul Islam who returned to Bangladesh Air Force Headquarters with a new assignment.

Air Commodore Alam had been the commander of BAE Base Bashur.

Goods worth Tk 3.5 lakh looted

By Staff Correspondent

Muggers looted cash and valuables worth about Tk 3.5 lakh breaking open door of a car parked in front of a restaurant at Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue in the city yesterday afternoon.

A gang of muggers looted Tk 10,000 and the video tape and other valuables worth about Tk 3.5 lakh, police said quoting an FIR. The gang broke open the rear door of the car at about 2 pm, and fled with the valuables, police said.

The incident occurred when complainant Kawser Chowdhury of Crescent Road went to the restaurant along with his driver to take lunch.

A case was filed with Tejgaon police station in this connection.

Mufti Ezhar remanded

From Our Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Sept 10: Mufti Ezharul Islam Chowdhury, president of Islami Oikya Jote (IOJ), Ctg city unit, has been remanded today.

The CMMs court of Chittagong granted one day's remand when DB police prayed for 7-day remand. Ezhar was arrested for his alleged involvement in anti-state activities on September 5.

Mufti Ezhar is also the Joint-Member Secretary of APAC (All Party Action Committee), Chittagong.

Later, he was detained for one month in connection with two cases.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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