



Teachers in the streets: Bangladesh Primary (School) Teachers' Association (left) took out a procession in the city and Bangladesh Government Primary School Teachers' Association held a rally in front of the High Court yesterday in support of their one-point and 15-point demands, respectively. — Star photo



Petition to quash case against Khaleda

By S C Correspondent
 Lawyers of Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday filed a petition with the High Court praying for quashing the corruption case filed against her and nine others.

The High Court fixed Monday for hearing of the petition. In the case, Khaleda Zia and the others have been charged with embezzlement of Tk 175 crore in purchase of two aircraft when she was prime minister.

Barrister Moudud Ahmed filed the petition before a Vacation Bench comprising Justice Nurul Islam and Justice Latifur Rahman. He pleaded that the case had no legal base.

The nine others include former

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Pakistan should apologise for war crimes: Hasina



Ties to remain unchanged

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina feels that Pakistan should apologise for the atrocities committed by its army in Bangladesh during the War of Independence.

"I personally feel they should apologise... the Pakistani people should ask their conscience whether they should do so after reading the (Hamoodur Rahman Commission) report," she told a crowded press conference at the Prime Minister's Office yesterday afternoon.

She also felt that public opinion should be moulded in the country for demanding Pakistan's apology.

Replies to a question, the prime minister said Pakistan should publish the full text of Hamoodur Rahman Commission report so that the atrocities of Pakistan army in Bangladesh in 1971 could be known.

"We've already asked in writing for the report. But they're dilly-dallying in giving the report... Publication of the report will unveil Pakistan's real face to the world," she said.

Hasina also said the cancellation of her scheduled meeting with Pakistan's chief executive General Pervez Musharraf at the UN head-

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By Staff Correspondent

Transport owners realising bus fares at their will

By Staff Correspondent

Transport owners have increased bus and minibus fares indiscriminately in different inter-district routes following government's enhancement of the rates.

The government on Sunday increased bus and minibus fares by 50 per cent against enhancement of fuel prices by 15 per cent on an average recently.

During a visit to different bus terminals in the city yesterday, passengers were seen protesting the new rates of fare, terming those illogical and disproportionate to the government fixed rates.

"The fare they are charging is too much compared to the price hike of fuel," said a passenger at Sayedabad terminal.

Bus fares from Dhaka to northern and south-western districts have been raised by Tk 20 to Tk 30. Operators of non-AC buses are now realising Tk 190 and Tk 200 for trips to Rajshahi and Chapainawabganj respectively against Tk 170 and Tk 180 earlier.

They are realising Tk 310 against Tk 280 earlier for a trip to Jessor on AC bus and Tk 190 against Tk 170 in case of non-AC bus.

Fares for different destinations in the Dhaka-Chittagong route have also been raised disproportionately, passengers alleged.

At Fulbaria bus terminal in Gulistan, it was found that bus

fares were raised by Tk five to 10 in routes connecting the city with nearby district towns. A driver of a Homna-bound bus said the fare has been increased to Tk 40 from 35 earlier.

Bus fare in Dhaka-Companiganj route is Tk 60 now, which was Tk 50 a couple of days ago, some passengers at Sayedabad bus terminal said.

BNP, Jamaat-e-Islami and Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal in separate statements yesterday protested the increased transport fare.

BNP Secretary General Abul Mannan Bhuiyan in a statement said the enhancement is illogical and it proves that the

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Kapil quits as cricket coach

NEW DELHI, Sept 12: Cricketing legend Kapil Dev, who faces match-fixing and corruption charges, has resigned as coach of the Indian team, an official said today, reports AP.

"Mr Kapil Dev has sent in his resignation today to Board President (AC Muthiah). We are now trying to persuade (Dev's predecessor) Anshuman Gaekwad to take charge of the team at a short notice," Jaywant Lele of India's cricket board told the Press Trust of India.

Four 'police informers' who were instrumental in recovery of drugs and arrest of criminals in the city were shot dead by unidentified people in the last two months.

But police not only denied that the victims were their informers but also failed to arrest any of the killers so far.

All Hossain, 32, was shot dead at Argaoon on September 4 following recovery of over 13,000 bottles of phenylid at Argaoon slum by the Detective Branch.

All's brother Saldur Rahman told journalists that the victim was an informer of Moham-

madpur police and also worked for DB police. But police denied this and said All might have been killed in a sequel to rivalry with some miscreants.

All's wife filed a case with Mohammadpur police. Sources claimed that All was killed allegedly by Sentu and Azad but police arrested none, saying he was killed by unidentified miscreants.

Another 'police informer' Ramzan Ali was shot dead at Kazimuddin Siddiqui Lane at Malibari Tuli under Kotwali Police on June 29, only two days after recovery of one kg of

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4 police informers shot dead in 2 months

By Shaikh Nazrul Islam

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Khagrachhari hostage drama ends

Gunman gives in after long 25 hrs, taken to army hqs

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Sept 12: The hostage drama at the office of the DC of Khagrachhari ended at 5:30 pm today with the surrender of the armed young man who kept 14 persons including the DC, SP and three army officers confined for about 25 hours, official sources said.

One of the hostages, commanding officer of armed police Abdullah Al Azad, was freed at 7:30 am today as he was ill.

The armed man, Abul Kalam Azad, surrendered after a marathon negotiation conducted by the GOC of 24 Infantry Division, DIG of Chittagong Range and Divisional Commissioner of Chittagong, who flew to Khagrachhari by helicopter this morning, the

sources said.

The man was then taken into custody and his latest model revolver and briefcase containing explosive were being checked.

Azad entered the office of DC Ashraful Mokhul at 5 pm yesterday and kept him hostage, threatening to kill him with his revolver and to blow off his office with the bomb he was carrying in his briefcase. He then forced the DC to call others over telephone and the result is the SP of Khagrachhari, Sheikh Hemayet Hossain, Major Mahbub, Major Ashish, Major Faruk, some other officials, a local journalist and some political leaders including Samiron Dewan arrived there. He con-

fined all of them. He had entered the DC's office on a prior appointment to give some information on CHT, the sources mentioned.

The gunman initially gave false identity and later during the negotiation, identified himself as Abul Kalam Azad, hailing from Fulgazi in Feni district. He used to do timber business at Dighinali in Khagrachhari earlier, police sources said.

It could not yet be known as yet how he got the revolver and the explosive and what was the motive behind his staging such a hostage drama.

He, however, placed a seven-point demand including enhancement of salaries of police

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JS passes 3 identical bills

CHT councils empowered to utilise govt funds for local dev projects

By Staff Correspondent

The Jatiya Sangsad yesterday passed three identical bills making the Rangamati, Khagrachhari and Bandarban hill district council acts consistent with the CHT Peace Agreement.

The bills are Rangamati Hill District Council (Amendment) Bill 2000, Khagrachhari Hill District Council (Amendment) Bill 2000 and Bandarban Hill District Council (Amendment) Bill 2000.

The amendments empower the three hill district councils to prepare local development projects on "referred subjects" and implement those with funds received from the government.

Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs

Minister Kalpa Ranjan Chakma proposed passage of the Bills as recommended by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs. The bills were passed by voice vote.

The amendments to Rangamati Hill District Council Act also gave the Chakma Circle Chief and the Bomong Circle Chief the right to attend district council meetings in place of the Chakma chief.

Dissident BNP lawmaker Major (Retd) Akhteruzzaman brought some amendments to the bills, but those were rejected by the House.

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BNP leader may have hand in journalist murder: Nasim

By Staff Correspondent
 Home Minister Mohammad Nasim told the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday that a BNP leader and former minister was suspected to be involved in the killing of journalist Shamsur Rahman at Jessor.

Nasim said it was written in the diary of the late journalist that the main accused in the Udichi killing case, who is a BNP leader and a former minister, had threatened him over telephone.

The minister said he would hand over the diary to the Speaker today.

Nasim was responding to dissident BNP lawmaker Maj (retd) Akhteruzzaman's criticism of his poor performance as home minister.

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it's about our future.