The Daily Star

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Rain water submerged the VIP road in front of Sheraton Hotel, causing suffering to commuters (left) and tornado-hit people rebuilding their damaged houses in the city's Adabar area yesterday. — Star photo

Depositors loot, ransack ITCL offices in 3 dists

RAJBARI, Sept 20: A group of depositors of Islamic Trade and Commerce Ltd (ITCL), allegedly looted valuables worth about Tk 5 lakh from its trade centre at Khalpatti here today, reports UNB.

Police said the depositors, demanding that ITCL return their deposits, looted 15 TV sets and six refrigerators from the trade centre.

Another report says: Police recovered two guns from the house of one Islam Mondal at Nadulia village in Pangsha upazila Tuesday night.

Another report adds: Angry depositors stormed and ransacked the ITCL offices in Manikganj town today after spreading news that it is doing clandestine banking.

Sources said the attackers aided by musclemen took away valuables including TV, fan worth about Tk 7 lakh from two offices at about 11 am.

Police said the angry depositors first entered the ITCL office on Shaheed Rafiq Road and looted 25 TV, 8 electric irons, 2 fans and 5 cycles worth about Tk 4.76 lakh and then stormed into another office on Bandutia area.

The local ITCL has 1,357 clients who deposited Tk 30 lakh so far, officials said.

Meanwhile in Narsingdi, hundreds of depositors of ITCL demonstrated in front of Monohardi branch demanding return of their money. They also broke the lock of the office but refrained from looting after police intervention.

The ITCL office remained closed during the demonstration.

Bangladesh Bank teams, on Monday, raided the head office of ITCL in Dhaka and seized documents following allegations that the business firm was mobilising deposits at high interest rates violating bank laws.

Former BUET VC Shahjahan dead

Prof Dr Mohammad Shahjahan, former Vice Chancellor of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, died of cardiac arrest at Suhrawardy Hospital in the city yesterday. He was 62, reports UNB.

He is survived by his wife, one son and a daughter. His son Dr Mohammad Iqbal Mahmood is a teacher of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology. His daughter Sharmin Zahan Tumpa is now studying in Arizona, USA.

He was buried at Banani graveyard after *namaj-e-janazas* at his residence at Kalabagan, BUET central mosque, Baitul Mukarram Mosque and Engineering Institution after Zohr prayers.

He was the Vice Chancellor of BUET from April 24, 1991 to November 27, 1996. Late Shahjahan was the President of Engineers Institution of Bangladesh.

Qulkhwani of the deceased will be held at his Kalabagan Lake Circus Road residence on Saturday after Asr prayers.

BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia yesterday expressed her deep shock at the death of Prof Shahjahan.

She also expressed her sympathy to the members of the bereaved family and prayed for salvation of the departed soul.

The incumbent Vice Chancellor of the University Prof

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22 TUs threaten strike at Ctg port Sept 26

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Sept 20: The alliance of 22 trade unions of Chittagong port threatened to enforce strike at the port for 8 hours from 8 am on September 26 if the process of signing an accord to install a private container port at Patenga, is not stopped, union sources said.

The alliance also threatened to shut Chittagong port for indefinite period if any agreement is signed with the American Company SSA in this regard.

Meanwhile, the State Minister for Port and Shipping Mofazzel Hossain Chowdhury Maya at a meeting here yesterday assured the alliance leaders of not taking any final decision in this regard without discussion with them.

The alliance frequently staged agitation at Chittagong port and enforced strike opposing the decision to install a private container port by the American Company at Patenga.

Tornado hits Mohammadpur, six districts: 2 killed

By Staff Correspondent

Two people were killed and 45 injured and over 500 houses damaged as tornado accompanied by gusty wind and rain lashed different parts of the country yesterday, and the day before.

The tornado hit the city's Mohammadpur area, some parts of Savar, Kaliakoir in Gazipur, Sirajganj Patuakhali, Rajbari, Satkhira and Bogra district.

Our Correspondent from Rajshahi reports: Kalu, 25 was electrocuted when he came in touch with a live electic wire snapped by gusty wind while Moijin, 26, wife of Barek died in wall collapse at Terokhada in sadar upazila yesterday.

The incessant rain has paralysed normal life in the district. The low-lying areas have been inundated and some areas in the city have gone under knee-deep water.

The Rajshahi University Authorities yesterday postponed all examinations for the next three days as water entered the campus.

Our Sirajganj Correspondent writes: Tornado hit some villages in Sirajganj yesterday damaging about 400 houses and injuring 10 people.

The injured were admitted to Belkuchi health complex.

UNB adds: Tornado lashed some villages of Delduar and Sadar upazilas, injuring at least 20 people and damaging 200 houses early today.

The affected villages are Elasin, Chaktail, Swalpa-Baratia, Maaithain of Delduar and Mahmudpur and Baruha of Sadar upazilas.

At least five people were injured and 20 homes damaged when a tornado hit the Sadar upazila of Patuakhali district at about 5 pm today.

Three of the injured were identified as Matleb Akan, Sitara Begum and Abdus Sobhan.

In Bogra, tornado hit Dhunat and Sadar upazilas of the district damaging over 100 houses in the morning on Tuesday.

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Nepal for early resumption of SAARC summit

KATHMANDU, Sept 20: Nepal yesterday stressed the need for an early resumption of stalled SAARC summit, saying the organisation has a greater role to play in South Asia.

We did not meet last year, 2000 is also nearing end it is high time the member countries of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) sit together to take up pending issues, Nepalese Finance Minister Mahesh Acharya told PTI in an interview.

The 11th summit of SAARC was scheduled to be held in Kathmandu last November. But it was postponed for indefinite period after military coup in Pakistan, which ousted Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's government.

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CID takes over Rab Murder Case

KHULNA, Sept 20: Detective police today handed over the investigation of SMA Rab Murder Case to the CID after 40 days of the killing despite opposition from the victim's family, reports UNB.

ASP of CID Khasrul Huq, assigned as the Investigation Officer of the case and SSP of CID Dr M Shamsuddoha Khandakar received the case documents from AC of Detective police Abdul Matin Bhuiyan this morning. DC (South) of KMP Nazmul Huq was also present.

Earlier, DB and CID officials discussed details of the case. The CID officials also talked to the eldest son of Rab.

Six policemen, 3 Ansars sued for assaulting naik

From Our Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Sept 20: An army unit today filed a case with Chittagong CMM's court accusing six police personnel and three battalion Ansars for assaulting a Naik on September 18.

The court directed the Double Mooring thana to take the case under PSA against the accused.

Commander of a unit of 28 East Bengal Regiment, Syed Md Asaduzzaman filed the case with the court of Metropolitan

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Ashraf Hossain to discharge Mannan's duties

By Staff Correspondent

BNP Joint Secretary General Ashraf Hossain has been given the responsibility of discharging duties of the party secretary general in the absence of Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan.

Bhuiyan was scheduled to leave for Singapore last night for treatment at Mount Elizabeth Hospital.

The decision to give the BNP secretary general's responsibility to the senior most joint secretary general, Ashraf Hossain, was taken at a meeting with Mannan Bhuiyan in the chair at his residence yesterday evening.

The meeting was attended by, among others, Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Anwar Zahid, Abdullah Al Noman, Mirza Abbas, Mahbubul Alam Tara, Sadek Hossain Khoka, Shamsuzzaman Dudu, Barkatullah

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BTA urges govt

Modify accord with non-govt teachers

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Teachers Association (BTA) has urged the government to modify some of the clauses of the agreement signed with non-government high school teachers on August 23.

The BTA leaders have asked the government to meet their demands by September 29 or face massive movement again.

"Come forward with realistic and proper steps to eliminate ambiguity and contradiction in the agreement to save the country's education system," M Selim Bhuiyan, Secretary-General of BTA told reporters at a press conference on Tuesday.

The press conference organised at the Jatiya Press Club was attended, among others, by M. Tayobur Rahman, Advisor, Poritosh Sarkar, Publication Secretary, and Mahbubur Rahman Mollah, Secretary, the Dhaka city chapter of BTA.

Bhuiyan termed the clause nine of the agreement 'destructive' and said about 20,000 teachers in the country's non-government high schools would lose job if the agreement is implemented.

According to clause nine, a person who has Third Division or Class in examinations from SSC to Bachelor's degree will not be appointed as teacher in any educational institution and s/he will not be considered for Monthly Payment Order (MPO).

Clause three of the agreement says each educational institution will have to maintain a certain teacher-student ratio. If the number of students falls, the number of teachers will be reduced accordingly.

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Threat to life

2 Khulna BNP & a JP leader seek police protection

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Sept 20: Two BNP leaders and a JP leader sought police protection fearing armed attacks by top terrorists who are still at large despite being suspects in SMA Rab Murder Case.

The vice president of Khulna city BNP Shahruzzan Martuza filed a general diary on Tuesday night with Khulna thana stating that a top terrorist of Chittagong and four others of Khulna may kill him any time for protesting murder of SMA Rab.

A Jatiya Party leader and former MP Abul Hossain and BNP leader and former MP Abdul Gaffar Biswas also informed police fearing attempt on their lives by armed terrors, said a KMP source.

Khulna AL leader fears attempt on life by Shanu

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Sept 20: A top Awami League leader and former Mayor Kazi Aminul Haq filed a general diary this soon fearing attempt on his life by some armed cadres including Golam Mowla Shanu.

Shanu is a professional killer and prime suspect in SMA Rab Murder Case. He is a most wanted criminals by KMP and one of the chargesheeted accused in Jubo League leader Liton Murder Case.

Shanu recently wrote a letter to police commissioner saying former Mayor Kazi Amin as the main mastermind in the conspiracy.

2 more dacoities within 48 hrs of double murder in Khulna city

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Sept 20: Two more dacoities were committed in the city within 48 hours of the double murder.

An armed gang of dacoits looted nearly Tk 3 lakh from some businessmen early this morning, police said.

The businessmen were bound for Bogra from Khulna by a bus that left Khulna ferryghat bus stand at 7 am.

The alleged dacoits boarded the bus in the guise of passengers. They stopped the bus at Goolkhali area and looted money from the businessmen at gun point.

The dacoits fled by two autorickshaws firing shots, witnesses and some victims said. They alleged inaction of patrol

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Residents of Sutrapur in Old Dhaka took out a procession in the city yesterday demanding trial of the killers of two teenage boys. Mohsin, 18 and Saem, 19, were tortured to death inside Gandaria Rifle Club on Friday and later slashed into six pieces each. — Star photo

Digital phone exchange opens at Lalbagh in city

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday inaugurated a 2000-line digital telephone exchange at Lalbagh in the city, reports UNB.

The Prime Minister inaugurated the exchange from his office by talking over phone with Home and Post and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim at Lalbagh.

She also talked with State Minister for Telecommunications Abdur Rouf Chowdhury, and parliament members Kamal Ahmed Majumder and Haji Selim who were with the Home Minister at Lalbagh.

Congratulating the local people, the Prime Minister said the modern digital telephone system would ease telecommunications between the people living in distant places and help flourish trade and industry in the area.

The exchange was inaugurated as part of Greater Dhaka Telephone Project, under which a total of 240 analogue numbers beginning with '23' and '24' digits have been converted into digital and another 1760 new digital lines will be connected.

The Daily Star
Award Presentation Ceremony 2000
Attention: Private Candidates of 'O' & 'A' Level Examinations

The Daily Star is proud to host the Second Award Presentation Ceremony on October 7, 2000 to honour students who achieved outstanding results in O and A level examinations in the sessions **June 1999 to June 2000.**

We invite private candidates who sat for the examinations to directly register their names at The Daily Star office. **In order to avoid duplication, those who appeared from schools are requested not to contact The Daily Star office. Instead, they should contact their respective schools and register their names through them.** Participating schools will send the list of successful candidates directly to The Daily Star office by **25th September, 2000.**

The criteria required to qualify for registration are as follows:

(1) **For 'O' Level:**
Six 'A's or above in one or two consecutive sittings
(June 1999 to June 2000)

(2) **For 'A' Level:**
Three 'A's or above in one or two sittings
(June 1999 to June 2000)

Eligible private candidates are requested to contact Lavina A. Ahmed at The Daily Star office with their original individual candidate statement of results (along with photocopy) on September 20, 21 and 23 between 10 am to 2 pm.

Crude bombs hurled at USTC bldg

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Sept 20: Three crude bombs were hurled at the office building of University of Science and Technology of Chittagong (USTC) at 10.30 am today.

Two of the bombs damaged some window panes, police said.

No casualty was reported. One unexploded crude bomb was later recovered, police added.

Police arrested an outsider identified as Hamidur Rahman Shakil from the spot suspecting his involvement in the blast.

One to die for murder in Sirajganj

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Sept 20: One person was awarded death sentence for killing BDR Jawan Golam Mustafa in Sadar thana of the district in 1998.

District and Sessions Judge Mohammad Rafiqul Islam yesterday pronounced the judgement in the case in which one Rafiul Islam killed his brother-in-law Mustafa.

Three others – Wife of Mustafa Laila Begum, his brother Shaheb Ali and father Sanaullah were given life term in the same case.

Golam Mostafa, 35, was chopped to death inside the Judge Court on September 2 while appearing the court as a witness in a case filed by his wife against him over family feud.

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