

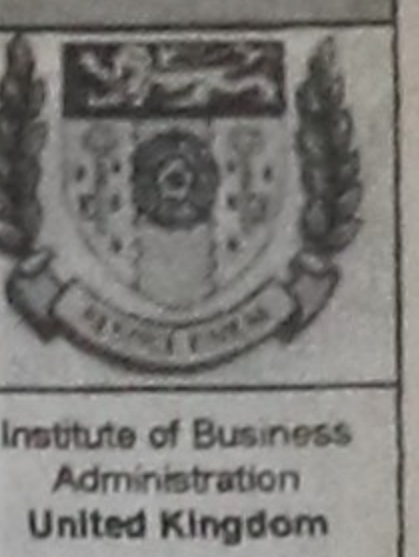
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3rd Millennium

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JAMADIUS SAANI 28, 1421 HIJRI

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Policeman held for assaulting army officer's wife

By Staff Correspondent

A police naik was arrested on charge of assaulting an army officer's wife at the premises of Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) in the city Tuesday night.

Nawshad Nishad Koli, wife of Major Nasir Uddin Ahmed posted at the Army Headquarters, went to PIB at about 8:15 p.m. on Tuesday to meet her husband who was attending a course there, sources said.

While she was waiting for her husband, naik Abdul Rauf, security-in-charge of the Department of Film and Publication, misbehaved with her and tried to harass her, witnesses said.

Major Nasir came out of the institute and found the naik assaulting his wife. The policeman also assaulted him when he came to the rescue of his wife, they added.

During the incident, an assistant sub-inspector of police, Shahjahan, joined the naik, sources said. Local people, who had gathered there, came to the rescue of the couple and beat

See page 11 col 2

Ershad vows to keep unity among allies

By Staff Correspondent

Jatiya Party Chairman H M Ershad yesterday vowed to keep unity among the allies in the four-party opposition combine to win the next general election and form a coalition government comprising all nationalist forces.

"AL will not be able to form government in the next election as the people have lost confidence in the present government," said the former president while addressing city JP council as chief guest at the Engineering Institution in the city. He said the people of the country have had enough of the misrule of the Awami League in the last four years.

"We are launching a potent movement together to topple the government and will also participate in the forthcoming election and form a coalition government," he said adding that the four-party is united to salvage the country and the new generation from the clutches of Sheikh Hasina. Ershad alleged that AL is conspiring to win the next election through rigging and urged the countrymen to remain alert.

See page 11 col 2

Hasina turns 54 today

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina turns 54 today. The eldest daughter of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Hasina was born this day in 1947 at Tungipara in Gopalganj.

Relatives, party colleagues and well-wishers are expected to wish the prime minister a happy birthday at her Gana Bhaban official residence in the morning and at his Tejgaon office later on.

There has been no arrangement for a ceremonial observance of Hasina's 54th birthday, sources close to her said, adding that the PM is due to attend office at 9 pm and go by the usual schedule.

See page 11 col 7

Inside Today

Article

Initiative towards an Asian Parliament

Column: Currents and Crosscurrents
By M M Rezaul Karim

Page 4

Supplement

One page supplement on the occasion of Seminar on BHP Steel Solution Olympic 2000 on

Page 9

	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Sept 28		5:49 pm
Sept 29	5:49 am	

Prayer Timings

September 28

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4:45	5:15
Zohr	12:45	1:15
Asr	4:30	4:45
Maghrib	5:54	6:00
Esha	7:45	8:15

Source: Islamic Foundation

Murder on court premises

Rivals gun down 'underworld don'

Star Report

Unidentified assailants gunned down an 'underworld don' -- Humayun Kabir known as Murgil Milan -- on the premises of the District and Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka, yesterday afternoon.

The court proceedings came to a halt soon after the incident at about 1:10 pm but later resumed partially.

The victim was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead. His body bore about 30 bullet wounds. Doctors recovered four bullets from the body and one from his pocket, DMCH sources said.

Underworld sources said Milan, 45 -- who was a member

of the infamous Five Star Group and a leader of a faction of Jubo League -- was perhaps killed by hired goons of rival Seven Star Group.

Some other sources however said Milan might have killed by members of his own group. They also mentioned that he was one four Jubo League who were barred from entering the Prime Minister's Office about two years ago.

Our Court Correspondent reported that 16 spent bullets were recovered from the spot where Milan was killed.

Two others -- Ashraf Ali, a vendor and Mohammad Ali, an auto-rickshaw driver -- were injured in indiscriminate firing

by the gang. They were treated at the DMCH.

Police carrying rifles remained inactive when the incident took place, witnesses alleged.

Some of the policemen, however, claimed that they had fired tear gas shells on the gang members. Asked why they did not open fire, one of them said, "The gang was firing towards us."

The incident created a panic in the court area. Litigants and visitors ran for shelter, women and children were screamed for help and doors and windows of the court rooms were closed.

Milan came to the court in

See page 11 col 1

Judge feels insecure, DMP DC defends cops

By Staff Correspondent

District and Sessions Judge of Dhaka Abdul Matin, following yesterday's killing of one person on the court premises, said such an incident is 'unthinkable'.

"I along with my colleagues feel very much insecure. In my 30-year career in the judiciary, I have never come across any such incident," the judge said giving his instant reaction on the incident.

Asked whether he would constitute any special inquiry committee to probe the incident, he said, "It is the duty of the government to investigate it."

Pressed on the issue, he however said, "I am yet to take any decision in this regard."

In reply to a question if security in the court was inadequate and the strength of police insufficient the judge said, "Po-

See page 11 col 6



Unidentified gunmen shot and killed underworld gang leader Humayun Kabir, known as 'Murgil' Milan, on the premises of Court of Dhaka District and Sessions Judge. Pictures show relatives (left) wailing over his body, Milan's inconsolable sister (middle) holding his feet as she cries out her grief and police (right) displaying the pistol recovered from the deceased's car on court premises.

— Star photo

Nurul Islam still untraced: BNP team leaves for Laxmipur today

By Staff Correspondent

BNP lawmakers led by Deputy Leader of the Opposition in parliament Prof. AQM Badruddin Chowdhury will leave for Laxmipur this morning to know the fate of Nurul Islam, district unit leader of the party, who was kidnapped nine days ago.

The organising secretary of Laxmipur district BNP and former Public Prosecutor, Nurul Islam was kidnapped allegedly by local Awami League activists from his residence at about 11:30 p.m. on September 18. He has remained missing since then.

Party sources said BNP MPs who are now staying in the city have been asked to reach the official residence of the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament at 29 Minto Road by 7 a.m. The lawmakers will start travel in a motorcade.

Meanwhile, a delegation of BNP lawmakers led by Chief Whip of the Opposition Khan-

daker Delwar Hossain met Home Secretary MM Reza and asked him to take effective measures immediately for the release of Islam. They also told him that local unit of the ruling Awami League has threatened to resist the visit of the BNP MPs to Laxmipur and asked him to ensure security of the lawmakers.

Sources said the BNP MPs are due to meet the DC, the SP and other officials at Laxmipur. They will also meet with the family members of the kidnapped party leader. More than 50 MPs and top ranking leaders of the party are expected to join today's march towards Laxmipur.

Earlier, BNP at a press conference yesterday criticised the government and the police for failing to secure the release of Nurul Islam even after nine days. Police have started releasing circulating "false" news to the press to mislead the na-

tion and hide their failure, said BNP joint secretary general Ashraf Hossain.

Ashraf, who is now the party's acting secretary-general, said the Awami League-sponsored terrorists had attacked and severely injured Nurul Islam two years ago. They also issued threats on his life on several occasions before the kidnapping, he alleged.

Ashraf said that the family members of Nurul Islam have long been staying in Dhaka after his elder daughter was paralysed and referred to child specialist SR Khan in Dhaka.

Islam rented a house in Dhaka and his wife and three children have been in the house since then. However, Islam had been staying in Laxmipur because of his profession and political involvement, the BNP leader added.

Islam himself had been sick since the AL terrorists beat him

See page 11 col 4

Arrest of 2 youths Sunamganj rally gives BDR 7-day deadline

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Sept 27: Speakers at a big rally in Sunamganj have given the BDR a 7-day ultimatum for the release of two young men whom they had arrested from a remote village of Doarabazar police station a few days ago.

Later, a memorandum was also handed over to the deputy commissioner of Sunamganj.

The rally was addressed, among others, by Muhiur Rahman Manik MP, Abdul Majid, a former MP, district Awami League vice-president Aftabuddin and General Secretary Ayub Bakht. They also demanded for the immediate withdrawal of the 'false' case lodged against the villagers.

Sabuj, 13, of village Bagambari had an altercation with a BDR sepoy when the boy was returning home along with his bullock from near the no man's land on September 18. Later at

See page 11 col 8



A family breaks through waist-deep floodwater in search of a safer place in Mujibnagar upazila, Meherpur yesterday. Residents say this is the worst flooding in the area in recent memories.

— Star photo by Ashraf Islam

Much of Calcutta flooded

CALCUTTA, Sept 27: Flood waters fed by late monsoon rains gushed over the banks of the Hooghly River, shoved aside sandbag barriers and inundated much of the 300-year-old city of Calcutta today, reports AP.

More rain and a high tide are predicted tomorrow which could submerge most of the city and wipe out next week's celebrations of the region's main Hindu religious festival -- Durga Puja.

Policemen in jeeps patrolled the crowded shanty clusters alongside the river, warning impoverished residents over

See page 11 col 4

Flood halts import, export through Benapole

By Staff Correspondent

Export-import through Benapole land post has been stopped as flood situation worsened in Sharsha upazila of Jessore district yesterday.

All the 11 unions in the upazila have been inundated due to onrush of waters from across the border.

The direct goods train service between Bangladesh and India on Benapole-Petrapole route scheduled to start today has been postponed.

Our Jessore correspondent reports: About five lakh people

in 11 unions of Sharsha upazila have been marooned. Several hundred villagers have already been evacuated to the district headquarters by army personnel.

The worst hit unions are Benapole, Bahadurpur, Dehi, Nizampur, Kaiba, Bugan Chhara and Loksmampur. The low-lying areas of Jhikargacha upazila are likely to be inundated by tomorrow, said our correspondent.

The situation in Meherpur

See page 11 col 1

Hundreds of Indian flood victims fleeing into Bangladesh

Hundreds of Indian flood victims were fleeing submerged homes in West Bengal state yesterday into Bangladesh, where officials say nearly two million people have now also been affected by the rising waters, reports AFP.

Officials in Bangladesh's western Meherpur district said they had registered more than 300 Indians from Nadia district in West Bengal who have taken

shelter across the border. "We are registering their names and addresses," Akhtarul Haq told the news agency by telephone from Meherpur.

Two days ago 300 Indian families from Maldah, nearby Nadia, crossed the border, official said.

An AFP photographer saw more Indian flood victims crossing into Bangladesh in Meherpur's Mujibnagar area as

the waters washed away border markings. In some parts of Mujibnagar the waters have reached the height of a man and have washed away rice paddies and farms.

"I first travelled on a boat and then crossed the barbed wire fence to reach here because I need food and medicine," one of those from Nadia.

See page 11 col 6

Drug scandals drag on in Sydney



Mahub breaks down

SYDNEY, Sept 27: Bangladesh's Olympics campaign ended on a dismal note as athlete Mahub Alam could not even finish the men's 200-metre sprint in heat number one at the Olympic Stadium here today, reports UNB.

Mahub, who won the 200-metre gold in the Madras SAF Games in 1995, ran in lane number two and made a good start and was maintaining fifth position among the eight contestants. Suddenly he fell on the track after crossing about 25 metres.

Immediately two volunteers

See page 11 col 6

SYDNEY, Sept 27: The United States again shone on the Olympic track today but their athletes could not shake off the cloud of doping, reports Reuters.

The Olympics anti-drugs chief accused shot putter C J Hunter, husband of would be five-times gold medalist Marion Jones, of providing a "cheap excuse" for a test showing 1,000 times more than the permitted level of a performance enhancing steroid.

The White House drug chief Barry McCaffrey called for US sports authorities to name and shame drugs cheats.

But Craig Masback, head of USA Track and Field, refused.

Jones, seeking to become the first woman to win five athletics golds at the same Games, said she had survived the toughest day of her Olympic

See page 11 col 7

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