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Chisty was a political Pir?

By Staff Correspondent

Pir Mujibur Rahman Chisty, who was killed by unidentified assailants on Thursday night, was a mysterious man in police records.

He drew more public attention when former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto went to Joypurhat to see him during her first visit to Bangladesh in late 80s.

Some say he was a political Pir and had followers from among members of ruling and opposition parties, Army officers and diplomats.

Some followers of Chisti claimed that he had forecast accurately the ups and downs in careers of many politicians in the subcontinent.

He had forecast that Benazir Bhutto would become the prime minister of Pakistan, which came true, they claimed.

No hartal in flood-hit areas on Oct 2

The flood-affected areas in eight districts will remain out of the purview of October 2 countrywide dawn-to-dusk hartal called by the 4-party opposition alliance, reports UNB.

The central liaison committee of the alliance at a meeting yesterday took the decision considering the plight of the people affected by flood in Chuadanga, Meherpur, Jhenidah, Jessore, Satkhira, Kushtia, Rajshahi and Chapainawabganj.

The meeting, held at 29 Minto Road, was presided over by BNP vice chairman M Shamul Islam, said a press release.

Dr. Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, Anwar Zahid and Mirza Abbas of BNP, Kazi Firoz Rashid of Jatiya Party and Mohammad Quamaruzzaman of Jamaat-e-Islami attended the meeting.

Fenchuganj power plant resumes partial operation

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Sept 29: The first unit of the 90 MW combined cycle power plant at Fenchuganj resumed operation yesterday.

The unit, which remained shut for over two years, is now supplying 32 MW power to the national grid. The third unit - Steam Turbine (ST) - is also likely to be put into operation within a week after a thorough

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Pir murdered, dumped in his bathroom



Police recovering the body of Pir Mujibur Rahman Chisty from the bathroom of his Mohammadpur residence yesterday.

By Staff Correspondent

A well known Pir (religious leader), Mujibur Rahman Chisty, was stabbed to death by unidentified assailants at his Sher Shah Suri Road residence in the city's Mohammadpur area Thursday night.

Chisty was found dead inside the bathroom attached to his bedroom on the top floor of the two-storied building.

Caretaker of the building Alamgir, who was out of the house on that night, returned yesterday morning and found the gate of the building open. He also found things in the dining room scattered and telephone line cut off.

Alamgir then looked for Razia Begum, the only other inmate of the house and a follower of the Pir. They informed the incident to another follower, Amanullah, who stayed nearby. Amanullah telephoned Mohammadpur police.

Police came to the spot and entered Chisty's bedroom by breaking open a door. They found his body lying inside the attached bathroom. It bore several stab marks.

There were blood stains in the bathroom and the basin was broken. Police suspected

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Admn in Laxmipur virtually hostage to Taher's gang

By Rezaul Karim, back from Laxmipur

"I have been passing the worst time of my 28 years of service. Before coming to Laxmipur, I was posted in different districts but I never faced such a bad time and so much difficulties."

The frank admission was made by AFM Mahbubul Alam DC of Laxmipur DC while talking to the 20 BNP MPs who went there on Thursday to inquire the administration to rescue local BNP leader advocate Nurul Islam, kidnapped allegedly by ruling party terrorists on September 18.

The DC told the lawmakers that it was not possible for him to reply to all their questions. "It will not be wise to make those public," he told them.

SP Irfan Ali Khan was also present during the talks at the Laxmipur Circuit House.

This correspondent also

talked to officials, professionals and local people. Seeking anonymity, most of them said the district administration has virtually collapsed as ruling party leader and municipal chairman Abu Taher is running a 'parallel administration' with his 300 member gang of armed terrorists.

The district administration and the people are virtually hostage to Taher's cadres, who dictate almost everything including running of educational institutions, transport terminals and the chamber body, they alleged.

The law and order deteriorated alarmingly since Abu Taher, general secretary of district Awami League, was elected unopposed chairman of Laxmipur municipality in February last year.

According to both official

and unofficial sources, 38 people were killed, 150 disabled, hundreds evicted from their homes and over 200 women assaulted and raped since then.

Officials and even the commonman are scared of Taher's cadres. They prefer to remain tight-lipped but want to get rid of this suffocating situation.

The armed gang is divided into eight groups including a 20-member 'detective wing'. Its members are directly involved in killing, kidnapping, extortion and eviction of opposition activists as well as people who earn their wrath, it was alleged.

The administration's helplessness was manifested in its failure to rescue Nurul Islam, organising secretary of district BNP and former Public Prosecutor.

The administration and the

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Residents of flood-hit Sharsha upazila in Jessore moving to safer places with their belongings. They say this is the worst flooding in the upazila in recent years.

Navy, police fail to trace 'body' of Nurul Islam

LAXMIPUR, Sept 29: Failing to recover the abducted BNP leader's body from the Meghna,

Navy divers left here today while police looked puzzled as they could not rescue him even after 12 days of hectic search, reports UNB.

Police now suspect that advocate Nurul Islam was killed and the body concealed somewhere beyond their reach.

The divers of the Navy conducted operations for the last two days in Meghna at Megha Chowdhuryhat, trying to recover the body presumably thrown into the river.

Police Super (Circle) told visiting UNB Feni correspondent they had information that Nurul Islam was killed. So they conducted search operation in over 100 ponds, ditches and canals, apart from the Meghna.

District Police Super Irfan Ali Khan said: "We got the names involved in the incident

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Fresh areas flooded in three dists: Scarcity of food, water

By Staff Correspondent

Flood engulfed fresh areas in Sharsa, Jhikargachha, Chowgachha and Monirampur upazilas of Jessore and 12 villages in Jhenidah and two upazilas - Kalaroa and Sadar - in Satkhira districts yesterday due to onrush of waters from across the border.

In Jessore, eleven unions, including Navara, Halibagh, Bakra, Guadkhali, Shimulia and Shukpukuria of Jhikargachha and two unions each of Chowgachha and Monirampur upazilas have been inundated, according to report from our correspondent.

The situation in Sharsa has deteriorated further with inundation of all its 11 unions.

Road communications with the four upazilas and other parts of the country have been snapped.

"Export-import through

Benapole land port remained suspended as there was no sign of improvement in the flood situation there," said a port official.

Meanwhile, scarcity of food and drinking water was reported from all the 37 relief camps in the district.

PM to visit flood affected areas today
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will visit the flood-hit areas in the southwestern parts of the country today, reports UNB.

She will leave the capital early in the morning and visit the worst affected Jhenidah, Chuadanga and Meherpur districts.

Our Jhenidah correspondent writes: Twelve villages of two unions in Kutchandpur upazila were flooded in last 24 hours due to onrush of water from across the border.

Flood damaged crops on a vast tract of land in Dura and Suddarpur unions, official sources said.

In Maheshpur upazila, some 45,000 people in 206 villages still remained marooned.

Seven people drowned or died from snakebite in this upazila, official sources said. Unofficial sources put the figure at 16.

Our Satkhira correspondent reports: Flood engulfed fresh areas in Kalaroa and Sadar upazilas. The river Ichhamati swelled further due to onrush of water from across the border. About one lakh people in the

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	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Sept 30		5.59 pm
Oct 01	5:50 am	

Prayer Timings

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4:45	5:15
Zohr	12:45	1:15
Asr	4:30	4:45
Maghrib	6:03	6:08
Esha	7:45	8:15

Source: Islamic Foundation



Russian team performs in the free routine final of the synchronised swimming (team) competition at the Sydney International Aquatic Center yesterday. Russia won the gold medal, Japan took the silver and the bronze went to Canada.

— AFP photo

Jones' dream dies, nightmare of El Guerrouj on

SYDNEY, Sept 29: Marion Jones' Olympic dream died and Hicham El Guerrouj's Olympic nightmare continued at the Sydney Games today, reports AFP.

But the US basketball Dream Team avoided the same fate by a hair's breadth, fending off Lithuania in a semi-final that came down to the last shot.

Morocco's 1500m world record-holder El Guerrouj came into the Games keen to expunge the memory of Atlanta, where he crashed out of contention at the bell.

For four years - during which he was unbeaten at 1500m - the two-time world champion dreamed of Olympic redemption, but instead it was Noah Ngeny who crossed the line first.

Ngeny gave Kenya a golden double on the track, after Reuben Seroney's victory in the

3000m steeplechase. Jones, who came to her first Olympics determined to win an historic five gold medals, saw that dream evaporate as she finished third in the long jump.

The 24-year-old American, who sped unchallenged to victories in the 100m and 200m,

smiled ruefully and gave her fans a wistful thumbs-up sign after fouling on her last attempt.

Gold went to Heike Drechsler, the prolific 35-year-old German who won her first world title back in 1983 while

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CID team in Laxmipur

By Staff Correspondent

The CID yesterday sent a three-member team to Laxmipur to investigate the abduction of Nurul Islam, Organising Secretary of district unit of BNP, officials said.

Advocate Islam was kidnapped allegedly by terrorists belonging to the ruling Awami League at about 11:30 pm on September 18.

Victim's wife Shaheen Rasheda Islam filed a case with Laxmipur Sadar police station accusing 15 people, including Abu Taher, chairman of Laxmipur municipality and a leader of the ruling party.

The victim remained untraced till writing of this report last night.

MPA chairman's property attached for defying court order

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Sept 29: All official furniture, car and half of one month's salary of the Chairman of Mongla Port Authority have been attached for defying a court order.

The order was passed by Sarder A Rahman, Senior Sub-Judge, Bagerhat on Wednesday.

The court had ordered the MPA Chairman to reinstate Md Fazlul Huq as deputy manager with all facilities and benefits from the date of his suspension on September 14, 1993.

Fazlul Huq was suspended by Port Authority on charge of corruption. He filed a case with the Sub-Judge Court against the suspension order.

The court, however, delivered the judgement issuing a decree upon the Chairman of MPA. But the complainant again filed another case with the same court against the chairman for not carrying out the order passed earlier.

Commodore Ahmed could not be contacted for his comment on the judgement which is first of its kind in the history of Mongla Port Authority.

An appeal to the higher court against the court order will be made very soon, said an official of Mongla Port Authority.

Markets of unregistered drugs mushrooming in city, dists

Doctors prescribe smuggled substandard drugs

By Naimul Haq

Renowned physicians are sometimes prescribing unregistered and sub-standard drugs smuggled into the country mainly by road.

Sources said they get commission from 'local agents' working to promote Indian drugs in Bangladesh. "At least a dozen 'agents' are engaged in such promotional job," said a leader of the Chemist and Druggist Association of Bangladesh, preferring to remain unnamed.

The agents target renowned local physicians to popularise Indian drugs among patients who have not tried these before."

As a result, underground markets are mushrooming in Old City and also in Mirpur, Rampura and Malibagh areas and in Khulna, Comilla and Chittagong districts.

Such illegal trading, worth millions of taka every month, has been taking place for a long time under the very nose of Drug Administration, the central drug control authority, land customs and the law-enforcing agencies, but no action was taken although written complaints were lodged.

The Daily Star investigations found that at least 100 small and large shops, mostly set up illegally in Babu Bazar and Mitford areas in the city, two of the biggest wholesale drug markets in the country, were selling and buying such drugs.

The unregistered drugs include Tenormin, Adrocut, Peri Actin, Netrophil, Zocor, Depometrol, Tobacin, Epsyrin, Viagra, Gestin, Primolut-N, Primarin, Neumador, Neurobin and Activan.

In recent times, there has

been a phenomenal rise in the demand for the drugs, mostly from local patients who visit India for better treatment and carry home prescriptions that advise for drugs manufactured in India.

In 1990, a few shops used to secretly buy and sell such drugs, but now the numbers of shops, mostly located in Mitford areas, stands at over 300. The Chemist and Druggist Association estimates the annual trade to be worth about Tk 450 crore. Most of the drugs are used for treating cancer (chemotherapy), skin and sexually transmitted diseases and acute pain. These drugs are mostly manufactured in India followed by Switzerland, England, Germany and Hungary.

"Most of our clients are patients who went to India for

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Bacterial germs detected EU warns 7 frozen shrimp exporters

From Quazi Amanullah

KHULNA, Sept 29: Some buyers of European Union countries have sent warning letters to proprietors of seven fish processing plants in Khulna charging them with exporting frozen shrimps containing bacterial germs and asked two of them to withdraw their consignments.

The buyers warned owners of the seven processing plants to stop exporting bacterial frozen shrimps or to face 'consequence', said an official of the Fisheries Department (FD).

The plants include Lockpur Fish Processing, Jahanabad Sea Foods, Delta Sea Foods, Sigma Sea Foods, Zemini Sea Foods, Southern Sea Foods and National Sea Foods Ltd, according to sources in the Fish-

eries Department (FD). The plants also face the allegation that they increased the weight of cartons by injecting water and other liquid things into the heads of shrimps, particularly those of Galda, the sources said.

Drastic action against two of the seven plants is under process for 'cheating' some EU buyers, the sources said.

Sources in Bangladesh Frozen Foods Exporters' Association (BFFEA) said owners of some fish depots injected water into shrimps and decided not to buy shrimps from them tomorrow.

Sources in FD said the seven plants violated the terms and conditions of EU buyers.

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Bombay student wins crorepati jackpot

BOMBAY, Sept 29: A 26-year-old Bombay student has become the first winner of the jackpot - 10-million rupee (220,000 dollar) prize in India's most popular television game show, *Kaun Banega Crorepati* (KBC: Who Wants to be a Millionaire?), reports AFP.

Harshvardhan Nawathe, who is currently studying for exams to enter the Indian civil service, won the top prize during an episode of the show taped on Thursday, his family and television sources said.

"He told us he has made it," Nawathe's mother told AFP by telephone from their home in the north Bombay suburb of Ghatkopar.

"We cannot talk to you. We are bound by the rules of the show," his father added.

The taped episode is only due to be broadcast in mid October.

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