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Pulin Dey  
dead

CHITTAGONG, Oct 11: Elderly politician and revolutionary Prof Pulin Dey died of old age complications at his Joynagar residence in the port city at 9 tonight. He was 91, reports UNB.

The nonagenarian leader, a presidium member of ruling Awami League, was a confirmed bachelor.

He will be cremated at his village Dhalghat in Patiya upazila tomorrow.

Pulin Dey took part in the anti-British movement before 1947 and was involved in Pakistan Socialist Party after partition.

An organiser of the War of Liberation, he stayed in India in 1971 and rendered his valuable services to the Bangladeshi refugees. After independence, he returned to Bangladesh and joined Awami League.

In his checkered political career, Pulin Dey suffered imprisonment several times before 1947, and also for about four years during the Ershad and Khaleda Zia regimes.

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Ctg double murder  
All accused asked  
to appear before  
court on Nov 23

CHITTAGONG, Oct 11: Shifting the hearing date of the charge of the double murder on Chittagong Medical College Hospital campus, a court here today ordered all accused, including four MPs of opposition BNP, to appear before it on November 23, reports UNB.

The Metropolitan Session Judge, Mohammad Ismail Mia, shifted the date as lawyers of Colonel (Rtd) Oli Ahmed and Giasuddin Kader Chowdhury prayed for fresh date in absence of their clients.

Some 23 BNP men were sued on charge of killing two people and injuring 30 others during a fierce clash on November 27, 1997 on Chittagong Medical College Hospital campus in presence BNP chief Khaleda Zia.

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Two killed in  
GrameenPhone  
tower collapse

From Staff Correspondent  
KHULNA, Oct 11: Two persons were electrocuted and seven injured when a tower of GrameenPhone collapsed and fell on them at Fakirhat this morning, police and witnesses said.

The tower suddenly fell at 10 am on the 33,000 volt electricity line at Phalti village under Fakirhat upazila of Bagerhat district.

As a result, Abdur Rashid, 30, and Nurul Amin, 35, died on the spot. They were working for the under-construction tower of the GrameenPhone.

The injured were identified as Sharifullah, 28, Ali Hossain, 32, Haroon, 24, Fazal Ali, 23, Nizam, 30, Sharifuzzaman, 35, and Nazrul Islam, 28. A UD case was filed with Fakirhat thana in this connection.

25 injured as  
villagers clash  
in C'nawabganj

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Oct 11: At least 25 people were injured, nine of them seriously, in a clash between two groups of villagers over boundary of a house at Char Mohanpur in Chapainawabganj Pourasava area yesterday noon.

Both the groups used homemade bombs during the clash, police sources said.

Seriously injured Moejuddin, 25, Emarul, 40, Salek Biswas, 55, Jhuri Biswas, 50, Ahdali Begum, 60, Tunu Biswas, 57, Mantu Biswas, 35, Asfa Begum, 60, and Fullara Begum, 25, were admitted to Chapainawabganj Sadar Hospital.

Police rushed to the spot and resorted to lathicharge to disperse the clashing groups.

Two separate cases were filed with sadar thana.

Four including Jubo League  
leader murdered in city

By Staff Correspondent

Four people including a Jubo League leader were murdered in separate incidents in the city within a span of 12 hours ending at 10 am yesterday.

The dead were identified as Jasim, 26, son of Alauddin, Sajjad Hossain Shamim, 23, son

of Motahar Hossain Sarder, Tipu, 24, son of Mohammad Shah Jahan and Amir Hossain, 40, son of Ashraf Hossain.

Jasim, a Jubo League leader of Shyampur thana unit and also a businessman of construction materials was stabbed to death



Fahim, a seven-month-old boy of Jasim (inset), sleeping on the shoulder of one of his relatives. Jasim, a Jubo League leader of Shyampur unit, was stabbed to death allegedly by his rivals yesterday.

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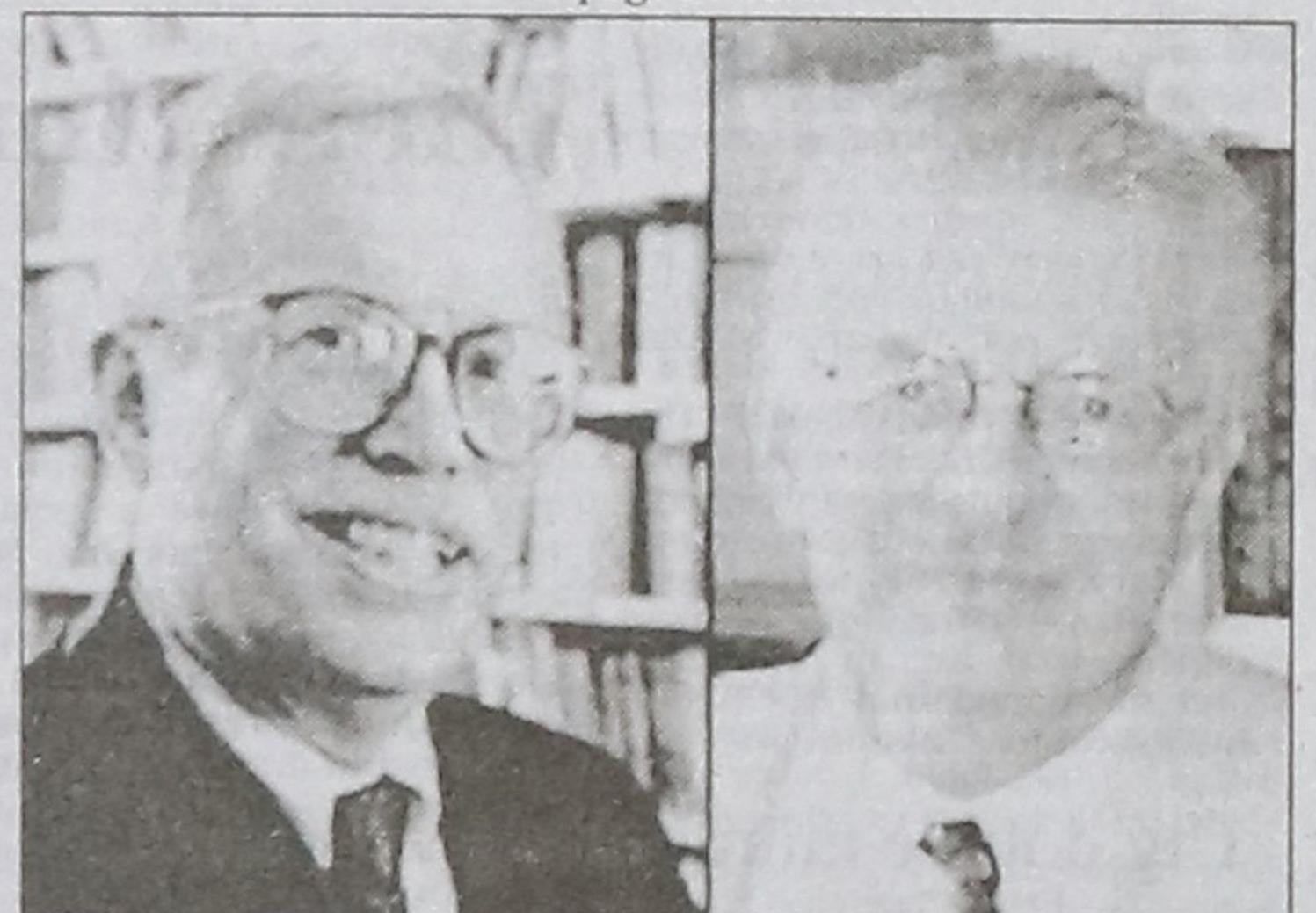
Two Americans share Nobel  
Prize in EconomicsLiterature Prize  
today

STOCKHOLM, Oct 11: The Swedish Academy said yesterday it would announce the winner of the first Nobel Literature Prize of the millennium tomorrow, giving its traditional tight two days' notice amid rigid secrecy, reports Reuters.

The Academy always announces its decision at 1:00 pm (1100 GMT) on a Thursday in October outside its headquarters on Stockholm's medieval Old Town island.

Those tipped to win the prestigious prize, and pocket almost one million dollars, include Trinidad-born VS Naipaul, Nigerian Novelist Chinua Achebe, South Africa's JM Coetzee, Canadians Margaret Atwood and Alice Munro and exiled Chinese poet Bei Dao.

Swedish hopefuls Tomas Transtromer and Astrid Lindgren are seen as possible European candidates, as are Belgian author Hugo Claus, Cees Nooteboom of the Netherlands, Albania's Ismail Kadare and Zimbabwe-raised British octogenarian Doris Lessing.



James Heckman

Daniel McFadden

Annan's unscheduled meetings  
with Barak, Arafat

JERUSALEM, Oct 11: With tension easing somewhat, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan held unexpected talks today with the Israeli and Palestinian leaders in hopes of mediating a truce and paving the way for the

resumption of peace talks, reports AP.

As Annan shuttled between Jerusalem and Gaza City, a gun battle erupted between Palestinian gunmen and Israeli troops along a West Bank highway. Israeli troops fired tank machine guns toward the gunmen who weaved in and out of alleys of a Palestinian village. Four helicopters hovered above. The violence erupted as the funeral convoy of an American-born Jewish settler passed by the area.

Annan held separate, unscheduled meetings this morning with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

UN spokesman Fred Eckhard said Annan might extend his mission and delay a visit to Beirut, scheduled for later today. "We haven't finished our work here yet," Eckhard told The Associated Press.

Annan is trying to broker an Israeli-Palestinian truce and also help win the return of three Israeli soldiers captured by Lebano

nese guerrillas over the weekend. In parallel efforts, US President Bill Clinton is trying to convene a Mideast summit in the next few days in hopes of rescuing Israeli

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Published by the Editor from Transcraft Ltd, 229, Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd, 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1000, Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: 19 Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215, Telephone Numbers: 8124944, 8124955, 8124966, Fax: 8125155, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA. Internet edition address: <http://www.dailystarnews.com> and Email address: [dstars@bangla.net](mailto:dstars@bangla.net)

Order for framing  
charges in jail  
killing case today

The Metropolitan Session Judge of Dhaka will pass order today for framing charges against all accused of the jail killing case, reports BSS.

Judge Ahmed Jamil Mostafa will pass the order in the Special Court in front of Dhaka Central Jail.

Earlier, the judge heard arguments of both the prosecution and the defence lawyers on framing of charges in connection with the case.

Bangladeshi  
diplomat dies  
in New York

Abul Kalam Azad, Consul General in Bangladesh Mission in New York, died at his New York residence early hours of yesterday. He was 53, reports UNB.

The deceased, who actively took part in the War of Liberation in 1971, joined the Foreign Service in 1973 and performed diplomatic assignments in Beijing, Cairo, Bangkok, Dubai and Jeddah prior to his posting in New York. He also served as Consul General in Jeddah and Dubai missions.

BSS adds, the body of Azad will arrive in Dhaka today, External Publicity wing of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said.

His namaj-e-janaza was held on Tuesday at Jamaica Muslim Centre in New York, a message from New York said.

Few months ago another Consul General of New York Kamruwan Khan Sheikh died of ailments.

IJO working  
group agrees to  
float new body

By Staff Correspondent

The working group of the International Jute Organisation (IJO) at its meeting here yesterday agreed to float a new organisation, International Jute Study Group (IJS).

The IJO, formed in 1984, is now in the process of liquidation.

The draft agreement on IJS will be placed at the meeting of the International Jute Council (IJC), the highest decision-making body of IJO, today, sources in the working group told The Daily Star last night.

The IJC may approve the draft at today's meeting or may announce a fresh date for a final approval, the sources said.

The voting pattern, rules and regulations and the budget of the new body are yet to be finalised, they said.

A private sector group from jute producing and consuming countries will be incorporated in the new body, to be headquartered in Dhaka.

Kotalipara bomb  
Close associate  
of Mufti  
Hannan held

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Oct 11: CID police today arrested Moulana Kazi Md Abdul Kasem, 50, Peshi Imam of Manikitala Darus Salam mosque under Daulatpur thana.

He was arrested from his bedroom attached to the mosque. A lot of booklets, audio cassettes and some documents relating to Taliban were also recovered from the bedroom.

Moulana Kasem is one of the close associates of Mufti Abdul Hannan of Harkatul Jihad and a suspect in Kotalipara bomb planting case, CID police said.

The raid in the mosque was conducted jointly by CID and Daulatpur police under ATAR Rahman of CID who is IO of the case filed with Kotalipara thana on July 20 this year.

OC hurt in clashes  
with miscreants  
in Sunamganj

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Oct 11: The Officer-in-Charge and a constable of Biswambarpur thana under Sunamganj were injured by miscreants who also snatched an arrested man from police custody.

The Israeli prime minister today accused the Palestinian Authority of encouraging possible terror attacks in Israel, noting that Arafat has released several Islamic militants from prison in recent days.

Police arrested Abdur Rahim from Shaktiarkhola Bazaar on charge of running business of porno movies at a shop in the bazaar for a long time and seized 29 cassettes, one VCP and a TV from his possession at 9:30 p.m. yesterday.

When they were on their way back to the thana on a boat, Zillur Rahman who is the uncle of the accused and also the Chairman of Dakshin Badalgat UP, asked the OC to release Abdur Rahim. When the OC refused, the companion of the chairman swooped on the police and freed the

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The Saudi Arabian executive jet made a heavy landing at ZIA after its wheels caught fire yesterday.

—Star photo

## Saudi plane catches fire at ZIA

By Special Correspondent

A Saudi Arabian executive Jet made a heavy landing at Zia International Airport yesterday as its wheels caught fire, aviation sources said.

There was no passenger in the Gulf Stream aircraft which made the landing at 6:11 am for refueling on its way to Hong Kong from Jeddah. The crew were unhurt.

Petrobangla arranging payment  
of \$7.8m to Unocal

By Sharier Khan

Petrobangla yesterday made arrangements to pay US oil company Unocal 7.8 million US dollars, half of its pending gas bills totalling about 16 million dollars, sources said.

Petrobangla was pressurised by US energy official Kelvin Humphrey to pay the bills on an urgent basis. Humphrey surprised all here by making an air dash to Dhaka on Sunday, two days after his six-day official visit, to discuss the oil companies' problems with high officials.

To speed up the payment, Petrobangla, now facing cash crisis, undertook a special drive and realised outstanding bills from its gas distributing affiliates which owe it around Tk 850 crore.

Petrobangla purchases around 90 million cubic feet of gas per

day (mmcfd) from Unocal, extracted from Jalalabad gas field under a Gas Purchase Sales Agreement (GPSA), and is committed to pay the monthly bill within 30 days.

Petrobangla also owes Shell Oil around 50 million US dollars. It purchases around 130 mmcfd of gas from Shell, extracted from offshore Sangu gas field, and is to pay the bills within 45 days of purchase.

Though the GPSA-dictated gas price is forcing Petrobangla to incur heavy loss every year, it had regularly paid for the Sangu and Jalalabad gas from mid-98 till late last year.

Despite earning a net annual profit of around Tk 1000 crore, the state owned oil and gas company then ran into a cash crisis as bills for an average of five and a half months were due from all its sales outlets. This affected Petrobangla's payments.

Now, at the pressure of the US energy official, the government has decided to pay Unocal immediately its pending gas bill. The government has also decided to clear all the dues of Shell-Unocal by March next year.

The point is, had the government been serious about improving the financial management at the sales and revenue level, there would not have been any problem," observed a source.

"It was a disgrace that the government took the special drive after being pressurised by an US energy official