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Police seize 180-yr old coins at Nilphamari

NILPHAMARI, Oct 16: Police seized 180-year-old coins and border pillars and arrested five young men from Khanshama upazila today, who are suspected involved in an international ring of antiques smuggling, reports UNB.

A team headed by the Police Super on a secret information raided the house of Muzaffar in village Dhondanga and found some border pillars made of valuable minerals.

On his confidential statement, Safed Ali, Humyun, Alam and Aminul Islam were picked up from different villages and recovered from the pillars and two half-anna coins.

The pillars and the coins bear the year 1818. Police said Muzaffar and his associates admitted that they entered into an accord with a party to supply pillars and coins in exchange of Tk 20 million. The party based in Chittagong has paid them one million taka in advance.

PM's humanitarian gesture to heart patient

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina recently directed the authorities of the National Institute of Cardio-Vascular Diseases (NICVD) to provide medical facilities for implanting artificial valves in the heart of an ailing employee of Dhaka University free of cost, reports BSS.

Both the valves of the employee, Abdus Karim, a guard working on master role in the Fuller Road Residential Area of the university, have been totally damaged.

As directed by the Prime Minister, one of the directors of her office recently in a letter to the Pro-vice-chancellor Prof Shahadat Ali informed about the treatment of Abdus Karim, a university press release said.

The pro-vice-chancellor thanked Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina when he contacted the Office of the Prime Minister in this regard.

Abdus Karim has been asked to contact the Director of NICVD for his treatment.

Agrani Bank Lecture Series 2000 at DU today

By DU Correspondent
The Agrani Bank Lecture Series-2000 of the Dhaka University will be held today at 11.00 am in the Business Studies Faculty auditorium.

The Vice Chancellor of the university Prof AK Azad Chowdhury will attend the function as the chief guest while chairman of Agrani Bank Lecture Series Trustee Board Pro-VC Prof Md Shahadat Ali will preside over the programme.

Governor of Bangladesh Bank will present the keynote paper on 'Human Resources in the Banking Sector'.

Tawhidul Anwar, Ali Haider memorial scholarship

The Department of Mass Communication and Journalism of Dhaka University yesterday decided to launch 'Prof Tawhidul Anwar and Ali Haider memorial scholarship' for the poor but meritorious students, reports BSS.

The decision was taken at a memorial meeting marking the death of Prof Tawhidul Anwar. Chairperson of the department Prof Ahaduzzaman Mohammad Ali presided over the meeting held in the conference room of the department.

Prof QAIM Nuruddin, Prof Shakhawat Ali Khan, Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, Quazi Abul Mannan, journalist Mahfuzul Hoque Khan, Prof Selina Bahar Chowdhury, faculty member Robaet Ferdous and the students, among others, took part in the discussion.

The speakers recalled the contribution of Prof Anwar to the field of mass communication and journalism in the country. They expressed deep shock at the premature death of Prof Anwar who had profound love for music, cultural studies and spiritualism and prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul.

27 murdered in 8 southern dists last month

JESSORE, Oct 16: Twenty-seven people murdered in country's eight southwest districts during the last month, reports UNB.

According to police, of the total, four were murdered in Jessore, seven in Khulna, two each in Magura, Kushtia and Satkhira, one in Jhenidah, three in Chuadanga and six in Bagerhat.

Besides, 140 unnatural deaths were reported during the period in ten southwest districts. Twenty-two women were raped and two were killed after rape.

Int'l conference on regional cooperation October 22-24

The Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS) and the German Embassy in Dhaka are jointly organising a three-day international conference on Regional Cooperation in South Asia: Inter-facing New Dimensions and Perspectives from October 22-24 at the BISS auditorium, says a press release.

About 70 experts from both home and abroad will participate in the conference. Participants from abroad include experts from Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Germany, Indonesia and Belgium. The main objectives of the conference are to explore and project the shape of regional co-operation in South Asia in the light of existing realities and changing circumstances in the new millennium.

A total of 19 papers will be presented in five working sessions.

The conference will be inaugurated by Minister for Finance Shah AMS Kibria.

Biman officials, consultants meet today to finalise IM

By Special Correspondent
Bangladesh Biman officials and the consultants from the Citibank of New York are meeting today to finalise a draft Information Memorandum (IM) for restructuring and commercialisation programme of the national carrier.

Biman sources said during the two-day meeting the IM will be finalised for approval by the authorities on off-loading 49 per cent shares of the Biman, nine percent of which will go to the airline employees and 40 per cent will to a Strategic Partner.

After finalisation, the IM will be posted on the Biman website on the Internet for perusal by the prospective strategic partners, barring airlines from South Asia.

Swedish envoy calls on Kibria

Swedish Ambassador to Bangladesh Anders Johnson yesterday called on Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria at his office here, an official handout said, reports BSS.

They discussed matters of mutual interest with special reference to the ongoing and pipeline projects under Swedish assistance in Bangladesh.

SM Ali

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He served as Managing Editor of the Bangkok Post, Managing Editor of Hong Kong Standard, Executive Director of Press Foundation of Asia and UNESCO Communication advisor for Asia and the Pacific.

He launched The Daily Star in January 1991.

Akhter's appeal

From page 12

"Our Army was established to protect the country from external attack and assist the government in national disaster and internal crisis. Army men should behave friendly with people."

They should remember that they are paid by the people, who expect a lot from them," the lawmaker said.

BBC reporter

From page 1

and the driver to open the door. As soon as the door was opened, five more people appeared on the scene and grabbed both of them.

"They held me and searched my pockets and threatened to kill me if I shouted. When I told them I had some local currency, they insisted that I hand over the dollars. I told them that I was not a passenger and I came to receive someone coming from New York," Moazzem said.

As the muggers left the scene, taking away Tk 1000, Moazzem sought help from the police patrol nearby. The policemen said to him that the driver of the car he was in was involved in the incident. The policemen then asked some people on the scene whether they had seen anything. When the people denied the policemen, led by Provisional Sub-inspector Azharul Islam, started to question if the incident had really taken place.

The policemen said they could not help him because nobody had seen the incident that had taken place a few minutes ago. According to sources at ZIA, law and order has deteriorated so much at the airport that passengers arriving in late night flights do not go out of the arrival lounge unless day breaks. Families with children wait on sofas for the night to be over.

Another source said the parking area of ZIA is the most crime prone zone of the airport. But policemen on duty at the ZIA deliberately remain away from the parking area and station themselves near the main road.

The duty officer of Cantonment police station said last night the Provisional Sub-inspector failed to realise the gravity of the situation. He said the PSI was a fresher and lacked experience. A general diary was lodged with cantonment police in this regard.



Leader of the Opposition in parliament and BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia addressing the biennial conference of Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) at the National Press Club yesterday. — Star photo

Five more unions flooded in Satkhira: 2 embankments cut

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Oct 16: Flood engulfed two more unions in Sadar upazila and three unions in Tala upazila in the district today.

The situation remained unchanged in Satkhira town and other affected areas of the district.

Gushing flood waters submerged vast areas in six villages in Brahmanbarpur and Dhulihar unions in the Sadar upazila as the authorities cut an embankment near Machchkhola yesterday for quick release of waters.

About five thousand people have been rendered homeless.

Authorities today cut another embankment at Bakal for quick release of water from the western part of Satkhira town and the Sadar upazila.

Earlier, an attempt to cut the same embankment was resisted by owners from shrimp enclosures.

The situation in the town remained unchanged the BDR

headquarters, judge's court and Satkhira Collectorate complex are still under knee-deep waters. Satkhira-Kaliganj and Satkhira-Jessore roads remained snapped for the eighth day today.

Activities at Bhomara land port remained suspended for about a fortnight now.

The situation in Kolaroa upazila, one of the worst-hit areas, is improving. People were returning to their homes.

Meanwhile flood victims who took shelter in camps and high lands are facing acute scarcity of food, drinking water and medicine.

Many in the remote areas are reportedly starving as no relief reached them.

Most of the flood victims in Ball and Labna unions in the Sadar upazila took shelter on embankment and roads. They are staying under the open sky due high price of polythene sheet.

UNB add: Although 203

medical teams are working round-the-clock in the district, 13 people have so far died and hundreds of others afflicted with diarrhoea and other waterborne diseases.

Some 78,243 dwelling houses and standing crops on 76,481 acres of land were damaged by the swirling flood waters, according to the officials.

They said nearly 2,271 kms of kutch roads, 172.91 kms of pucca roads, 205 bridges and culverts, 150 kms of cross-dams, 1,790 tubewells, 113 mosques and 13 temples were damaged.

In Jessore, several hundred people have been attacked by water-borne diseases including diarrhoea.

According to the Flood Information Centre set up at Civil Surgeon office, 2,718 people were attacked with diarrhoea and another 4,619 with other diseases till October 12. Most of the victims are children.

Kazi Aref murder

Hearing shifted for sixth time

KUSHTIA, Oct 16: Hearing of the murder case of five JSD leaders including Kazi Aref has been shifted to October 29, court sources said here today, reports UNB.

With this, the date of hearing has been shifted for the sixth time.

The date of hearing was scheduled on October 4. The defence lawyers prayed for shifting of the date on the ground of non-receipt of High Court judgement relating to the accused Bachchu Molla and non-availability of the statement given under Section 164.

Accused of the case Jhantu, Elach and Habi gave a statement before the Magistrate's court under Section 164 in connection with Aref Murder Case.

Abduction case Shad Ershad discharged

By Court Correspondent
The Special Court for Prevention of Women and Children Repression, Dhaka yesterday discharged Shad Ershad, son of former President H M Ershad, from the case, filed on charge of abducting a minor girl.

Shad was arrested on March 3 by Gulshan police on the basis of a petition filed under the Act for Prevention of Women and Children Repression, 2000.

Mohammad Moinul Islam, father of the victim, Nomela filed an FIR with Gulshan thana accusing three unidentified boys on charge of abducting his minor daughter on March 2.

After confinement of 10 days at the Cantonment thana, Shad was granted ad-interim bail by the Special Court on March 14.

Middle East Summit

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weeks," he said. Barak was first to arrive for the emergency summit at this Egyptian Red Sea spa, followed by Clinton and Arafat.

After a 10-hour flight from Washington, Clinton was followed down the steps of Albricht. Arafat, Barak and Clinton each met separately with Mubarak before the summit gathering.

Barak told Mubarak that he would not pull back Israeli forces or reopen Palestinian areas until Arafat re-arrests dozens of militants released from Palestinian jails in recent days and tells security forces to stop shooting and participating in street rioting, according to a senior Israeli official.

Arafat, while agreeing reluctantly to the summit, showed no indication, publicly at least, of curbing his demands.

"We are on the way to Jerusalem until a Palestinian child raises the Palestinian flag on the walls of Jerusalem," he said Sunday.

Arafat's top adviser, Nabil Aburdenah, said the two sides were now at a crossroads. "Either we return back to the way of peace or we continue this dead-

lock."

Israeli Foreign Minister Shlomo Ben-Ami said it would be hard to bridge the gap between the two sides. "I think there is a wide divide of misunderstanding, hostility and frustration," he told Israel Army radio.

Ziad Abu Amr, a Palestinian legislator and political analyst, agreed. "I don't expect this summit to produce any breakthroughs," he said. "If there is any success, it will be extremely minimal, and there's no guarantee that it's going to put an end to the tense situation."

"The Palestinians are tired of doing the same things repeatedly without any results," he said in a telephone interview with the Associated Press in Israel. "I don't think anyone among the Palestinians is keen to go back to the same style of negotiations."

Clinton hopes to return home in time for a memorial service Wednesday in Norfolk, Virginia, to honour the 17 US sailors killed in an attack Thursday on a US destroyer at the southern tip of the Arabian peninsula.

Setting the tone for the United States, Albricht said Sunday that the peace process was the "only road" away from violence.

Responding to a query from the court, the defence lawyer said law and order situation was not normal when top brasses of the Army and senior civil officials were present at the oath taking ceremony at Bangabandhu.

He contended that only one of the prosecution witnesses had stated that Noor fired at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman but other did not corroborate it.

Advocate Saifuddin who was appointed not adequately prepared with his brief will continue his argument when the hearing resumes today.

Ershad may seek extension of time for surrender

By Staff Correspondent
Former President H M Ershad's lawyers are likely to file an appeal to the Supreme Court for extension of time for his surrender before the trial court, which sentenced him to five-year imprisonment in the Janata Tower corruption case.

"We are going to submit a time-prayer to the court for extension of time for surrender," Ershad's lawyer Advocate Khandaker Mahbub Hossain told the Daily Star last night. The filing may take place either today or tomorrow, he said.

On an appeal by the former President's lawyer, a High Court bench handed down a five-year jail sentence on him and compensation of Tk 5.5 crore for his conviction on August 24.

A vacation bench allowed Ershad to surrender before the trial court by October 21.

According to law, a convict reserves the right to file an appeal against the trial court's verdict. But the appeal against the High Court judgement regarding the same will not be considered as the right of the convict's, said a senior prosecution lawyer. "It depends on the desecration of the judge."

Dengue : 19 more hospitalised

By staff correspondent
Nineteen more people with dengue haemorrhagic fever were admitted to different hospitals across the county yesterday. Of them, four were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital and one each to BIRDEM, Dhaka Shishu Hospital and Red Crescent Holy Family Hospital while two each to Chittagong Medical College Hospital, Bangladesh Medical College Hospital and Khulna Sadar Hospital.

Besides, six patients were admitted to Khulna Medical College Hospital.

Rubel murder

Recording officer cross-examined

By Court Correspondent
Sub-inspector Sirajul Islam, the 25th prosecution witness as well as the recording officer of Shamim Reza Rubel Murder case was cross-examined in the third Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judges Court Dhaka yesterday.

Judge Mollah Mostafa Kamal adjourned the proceedings of the case till October 25.

Sirajul Islam in his statement said he was on duty at Ramna thana since 8 pm, on July 23, to 8 am on July 24, 1998. He recorded an unnatural death case of Rubel filed by the Sub-Inspector Hayatul Islam Thakur, the main accused in the case at above 8 am on July 23, 1998.

He also told the court that he recorded a murder case in the registration khata of Ramna thana filed by victim's father Abdur Rob on July 24, 1998.

Fish trader chopped to death

By Staff Correspondent
Miscreants chopped a fish trader to death with a billhook in front of a tea stall at the Bawani Jute Mills staff quarters in Demra yesterday afternoon.

Liton, 28, son of Abdur Rakib and a resident of the staff quarters was chopped allegedly by one Akhter Hossain and his accomplices.

The incident took place at 2.30 pm when Akhter and Monir demanded toll from Liton. They dragged him near a tea stall and chopped with a billhook when he refused to pay them toll. Liton received injuries in his chest, hand and leg.

Crisis in EC

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The EC officials believe that the CEC's absence may also hamper some very important jobs they are due to do in the next three weeks. The issues are: finalisation of the new voters' list, holding of by-election to the Khulna-5 constituency that fell vacant due to death of the minister without portfolio Salauddin Yusuf, and re-elections at two centres in the Comilla municipality and the dispute over parliament membership of BNP's expelled MP Akhteruzzaman.

"But, the absence of the CEC may hamper the process in many ways," said one official. The CEC is expected to return home on November 12.

The US government invited 24 representatives from different countries across the world to participate in the US political system study and the presidential election observation.

Countries such as Mexico, South Korea, Italy, United Kingdom, Congo, Belize, Malaysia, Israel and Sri Lanka will participate in the trip sponsored by the US government.

The CEC is expected to share views with the politicians of the US and representatives from the other developing countries and observe the US election scheduled for November 4.

CMCH

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Tk 50, brought by one alya from outside.

"At the gynae ward on the 5th floor, one has to pay Tk 10 to an alya for water for a mouth wash when WASA supply fails" Banu said.

The director said a shallow pump has been installed on the hospital premises and more will be added shortly to solve water crisis.

Road accident kills 11 in Sunamganj

SUNAMGANJ, Oct 16: At least 11 people were killed and 40 injured as a bus crashed down into a ditch after falling off a bridge on Sylhet-Sunamganj road today, reports UNB.

Police and hospital sources said the accident took place when a Chhatak-bound bus from Sylhet tumbled down breaking the railings of the small bridge in Muktirgaon area in Chhatak upazila at about 11.40 am.

The accident occurred just when driver Kantol Mia was drinking wine while driving the bus," witnesses said.

Eight people died on the spot while three others succumbed to their injuries at Sylhet Osmani Medical College Hospital.

Three of the victims were identified as Abdus Shahid, 28, of Chhatak, Sundar Ali, 38, of Doarabazar and Subodh Chandra Roy, 50, of Jawabazar. Some of the injured were

admitted to the local health complex and 27 others sent to Osmani Medical College Hospital.

Bodies of the victims who died on the spot were sent to Sunamganj Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Another report from Chandpur says, one person was killed and at least 17 people were injured in a collision between a coaster and a bus at Madhkhola in the town today.

Police and witnesses said the accident took place at about 1 pm when a coaster bound for Faridganj collided with a Comilla-bound bus after it ran over an unidentified man.

Eight of the injured were admitted to Chandpur Sadar Hospital in critical condition.

Road communication of Chandpur with other districts remained suspended for an hour following the accident.

Seminar on clinic-based essential services

By Staff Correspondent

In the transition from door to door family planning services to clinic-based essential services, some non-government organisations have demonstrated the potential of new programme strategies - Essential Services Package (ESP).

"There is enough evidence that there is a demand for static clinic services if they are of good quality," said Dr M Alauddin, Country Representative of Pathfinder International yesterday while addressing a dissemination seminar on 'From the home to the clinic: The next Chapter in Bangladesh's Family Planning Success Story - Rural Sites'.

The government has adopted Essential Services Package approach under Health and Population Sector Programme (HPSF).

The government has abandoned the door-to-door contraceptive distribution service and shifted to more effective 'one stop' ESP services which aims at client-focus services and also cost-recovery.

Services are now being offered through such clinics called community clinic in 175 such clinics in 171 thanas across the country run by Pathfinder International.

The government has also started a significant number of the clinics across the country.

Presenting the findings of a research conducted in two thana community clinics, Dr Sidney

Ruth Schuler of John Snow research and training Institute, said "Our study upholds the assumption that the demand for family planning is not too fragile" to withstand the withdrawal of home-supply and the norms related to 'purdah' would not prevent women from utilising services outside home."

The study by Dr Schuler, Dr Md Alauddin, Dr M Khairul Islam and Lisa Bates between November 1999 and June 2000 also suggested that NGOs should strengthen focus on men and providing integrated essential health services and not just family planning.

The study pointed out that clients need to be informed about the clinics and the services which are available.

It also pointed out that high quality services now provided at more than 170 such community clinics undertaken by Pathfinder International under its rural family health services since 1997 was reflected in the study.

Schuler said that NGOs should maintain these standards and reinforce staff to treat clients with kindness and respect.

Referring to the study, she also mentioned that outreach efforts should distinguish the NGO clinics from the ones run by the government and educate potential customers about the referral system.

World Food Day

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rather marginally. The root cause of this is lack of employment and income generation, he thought.

Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury, who was the main speaker on the day, appreciated the concern for the hardcore poor's access to food and said "We never consider food availability as synonymous with access to food. That is why we gave as much stress on food management as on augmentation of production."

He referred to allowances given to elderly citizens and VGF programme as state-sponsored 'safety-net' measures against food insecurity and said, "Our government allocates 40 per cent of the annual development budget to alleviate poverty."

Prof Rezaul Karim proposed adequate 'safety-net

measures' specially for the hardcore poor.

Food Minister Amir Hossain Amu also spoke of 'inequality' in the distribution of food. "If an equitable distribution of food grown in the world could be ensured, none would have remained hungry."

FAO representative in Dhaka KB Shrestha said food insecurity is equally a big problem as inadequacy of food itself. Reading out a brief Food Day message from the FAO Director General, he said strategies have to be developed to ensure that people can either produce enough food or earn enough to buy it.

Fisheries and Livestock Minister ASM Abdur Rob said that increased production of meat and egg was meeting the demand for those, doubled in the last two decades. He, however, did not mention the issue of huge import of livestock and poultry products from India.

Agriculture Secretary Dr AMM Shawkat Ali stressed management of production surplus.

Eating Out

Shikara is a Gourmet Restaurant that serves Indian and Thai dishes on the city's new skyline.

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