

Bangabandhu murder

From Page 12
Claiming his client innocent, the counsel said many army personnel were involved in the killing. That does not mean the army was involved in it.

Making a pointed reference to a provision of law, he said involvement and participation must be inseparable.

He said during the trial in the lower court many circumstances prior to August 15, 1975 like crash of a helicopter, army coup and other disorders were not taken into account. Had the court considered those incidents, the situation would have been otherwise today, Tariq said.

Advocate Zahurul Islam Mukul, counsel for absconding accused Lt Col AM Rashid

Chowdhury, in his brief argument submitted that none of the prosecution witnesses said that Rashid was present at Bangabandhu's residence at the time of killing. This proved that he was not involved in the killing and hence cannot be punished in the case.

Advocate Abu Bakar Siddique, counsel for absconding accused Risaldar Moslemuddin, submitted that none of the prosecution witnesses said he (Moslem) was present in Bangabandhu's house at the time of the incident on August 15. Some of the witnesses however said he was seen at the residence of Sheikh Moni, another victim of the massacre on that day.

The court rose for the day before Siddique completed his argument. Hearing in the bench comprising Justice Ruhul Amin and Justice ABM Khairul Haq will resume this morning.

Tender snatchers of R & H directorate not yet held

By Staff Correspondent

Ramna police is yet to arrest anyone in connection with the snatching of tender bids from five representatives of two Chinese companies at the Roads and Highways Bhaban in the city on October 10.

Sources at the Ramna police said that none at the Roads and Highways Bhaban was willing to testify against the muggers who allegedly belong to the ruling party's front organisation, Jubo League.

The Chinese bidders gave written complaint to the Ramna thana on October 10. But Ramna police accepted the complaint as a simple general diary, although the case was a direct violation of Public Safety Act (PSA).

After the incident was reported by the Bangla daily, Prothom Alo next day, Ramna police, under pressure, accepted the complaint

under the PSA.

An official of the Ramna police told The Daily Star that in these circumstances they were supposed to do a 'test identification parade' with the victims and the alleged criminals.

"But the problem is, none at the Roads and Highways is opening up to tell us who those snatchers were, and unless there is a government order we cannot arrest those leaders without having witnesses," said a Ramna thana official.

The Chinese companies were bidding for a Tk 64 crore project under the RRMP-3 of the Roads and Highways Directorate.

The RRMP-3 director was released immediately after the complaints were made. Sources at the R&H said that the miscreants were acting with the direct help of insiders of the project.

Six jailed in dacoity case in Chittagong

CHITTAGONG, Oct 18: Assistant sessions judge of the fourth court Abdul Mannan on Monday sentenced six people to five years rigorous imprisonment (RI) each in a dacoity case, reports BSS.

The court also fined them Tk 1000 each in default, to suffer RI for three more months.

The judge acquitted an accused of the charges.

The convicts are M Shah Alam, Nur Alam, Mokbul Hossain, Abdul Awal, Mokbul Ahmed and Abdul Mannan.

The prosecution story in brief is that the accused committed dacoity at Hitachi Rashid Industries Ltd and Rashid Electronic Ltd at Nasirabad in the city on February 13, 1992. They took away goods worth Taka 12 lakh. A case was filed in this connection with Panchalaish police who later submitted charge sheet against the accused.

The judge examined six witnesses in the case and found the accused guilty.

Students, transport workers clash in Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Oct 18: Plying of bus and minibus on the Sylhet-Sunamganj and Sylhet-Chitahat and Sunamganj-Chitahat routes remained suspended since this morning following a clash between the students and transport workers at Govindganj.

Additional police men have been deployed at the Govindganj bazar to avoid further clashes.

The trouble erupted at about 10:30 am when a teacher of Govindganj College had an altercation with the conductor of a minibus over fare. The transport workers also misbehaved with him.

Hearing the news, students for the college rushed to the bus stand and put up a barricade on the road. In retaliation the transport workers also blocked the road with the vehicles then agitated students and villagers damaged six minibuses.

A minor boy, who sustained serious injuries during the incident has been admitted to the Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital.

Biman's flight

From Page 1
at 10:30 pm, when the flight took off, was given at 8:45 pm.

Asked if the passengers could understand what was meant by 'aircraft consequential', he said, "Please contact the public relations wing."

Flight delays in some routes due to trouble in a F-28 aircraft of Biman caused the consequential delay in the Calcutta flight, one source said.

But the Customer Services, which offered passengers an apple and a piece of cake each, did not tell them what caused the delay.

The first schedule for departure of the flight was at 5:10 pm, the second at 7:15 pm, the third at 9:15 pm and the fourth at 10:30 pm.

Biman officials said the flight was rescheduled due to rains.

But it was not raining at 5:10 pm.

BCL leaders

From Page 1

Police (West) told the Daily Star last night that the incident took place when the landlord Shahabuddin along with his accomplices went to evict his tenant.

He, however, could not confirm the alleged involvement of leaders and activists belonging to the student wing of the ruling party.

Arshad Amin, a member of the evicted family lodged a case with Mohammadpur police station accusing Shahabuddin and about 35 others of ransacking and looting the house.

Cyclone

From Page 1

signal number three at the ports of Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and Khulna had been lowered to danger signal number 2.

But the sea remained rough and all boats have been asked to move with caution. Light rain is likely in the wake of the cyclone making the land fall, he said.

AP from Hyderabad, India adds: The cyclone weakened as it moved sluggishly toward India's southwestern coast yesterday but the army, air force and navy went on alert to evacuate poor villagers to higher ground if needed.

The storm was expected to hit the coast late Thursday, CV Bhadrar, director of the Indian Meteorological Department, said.

"It is moving very slowly," he said. "There are signs of its weakening because the eye of the storm is getting disintegrated."

Bhadrar had earlier said that the storm was expected to reach the coast on Wednesday night.

Biman IM

From Page 1

there had been a controversy over conversion of Biman into a Public Limited Company (PLC), approved initially by the Biman management in July following recommendations by the consultants.

They felt that it would be the best option to attract a potential SP. But the idea was replaced by two options following agitation by Biman employees, who opposed conversion of it into a PLC, fearing loss of jobs and benefits.

The consultants were then asked to prepare two sets of bid papers one providing for a tie up with a SP retaining the corporation status of Biman and the other its conversion into a PLC.

Then there were differences of opinion between Biman authorities and the consultants on valuation of the airline's assets.

The consultants put Biman's assets at only 100 million dollars but the authorities declined to accept, ordering a revaluation. But issue has not been settled. The IM would contain assessment by the consultants and also that by the Biman, sources said.

PM: Interview

From Page 1

She added that the poverty level has been reduced from 47 per cent to 44 per cent.

Hasina's visit to the United States is the first by a Bangladeshi leader. Clinton was the first US president to travel to Bangladesh, visiting there in March.



JSD-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) brought out a procession in the city yesterday protesting the Prime Minister's apparent silence on the police forces' failure to contain crime in the city.

-Star photo

10 more roads planned in city to ease traffic jam

In a major move to ease nagging traffic jams in the capital, the government has decided to construct and broaden ten roads across the city, reports UNB.

RAJUK (Rajdhani Unnayan Kartipakkh) will construct four roads, Dhaka City Corporation another four and Local Government Engineering Department two roads.

A meeting of the parliamentary standing committee on Housing and Public Works yesterday was apprised of the schemes. Held at Sangsad Bhaban, the meeting was presided over by Akhteruzzaman MP.

The city-dwellers are suffering from massive traffic congestion with the continuous increase in population. Keeping pace with the population growth, the numbers of legal and illegal vehicles also increased manifold.

To make the communications easier, one-way roads were introduced in the city, but that also contributed to jams on the other link roads due to the pressure on

those roads.

Meeting sources told UNB that as part of the new decision, some roads would be broadened to lessen the jams while new roads would be built in some areas to divert the pressure of traffic on packed roads.

As part of the decision, RAJUK will construct or widen Davaganj-Jurain link road, Tongi Diversion Road-Protogi Sarani, Ramna Stargate-Notre Dame College and Sempara Parbata-Roekya Sarani.

The other roads are Mirpur Stadium-Agargaon Radio Office, Malibagh Crossing-Janapath link road, Motijheel Shapla crossing-Kamalapur Railway Station, West Dhamond-Tannery crossing, Gulshan South crossing-Protogi Sarani link road, Malibagh Rail Gate-Tejgaon Rail Station road (parallel with the railway).

Meeting sources said the government earlier had acquired 60-foot area for the Stargate-Notre Dame College road but 30 feet were not under government

control. "Now those unused lands for the road will be taken for broadening the road," one source informed.

In the meeting the lawmakers discussed progress of various plans taken for implementation by RAJUK to eliminate the much-needed traffic jams.

The meeting stressed uninterrupted movement of pedestrians and trouble-free plying of vehicles ripping up the illegal occupants from the footpaths and roads.

It also discussed maintenance, increased beautifying and ensuring tight security of the parks to the capital and recommended necessary allocation for upkeep and development.

Other committee members Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Engineer Mosharraf Hossain, Noor-E-Alam Chowdhury, Haji Mohammad Selim, Mustafizur Rahman, Rehana Akhter Hira, Shamsuzzaman Dudu, M Ahsanul Huq Mollah and Ziaul Huq Zia attended the meeting.

West Bank, Gaza

From Page 12

is to withdraw troops and tanks from friction areas and lift a military siege of Palestinian cities, while the Palestinians aims to cease shooting attacks on Israeli positions.

Israel's deputy defense minister, Ephraim Sneh, said the goal was total calm, but added that the truce would not be completely undermined due to sporadic unrest.

"What we look at first is the volume of opening fire against us," he told The Associated Press. "We are experienced enough to differentiate between sporadic events and a wave of violence directed by the Palestinian leadership."

Arafat's Palestinian Authority reaffirmed its commitment to the cease-fire.

In an announcement broadcast today on official TV and radio stations, it said it has issued strict orders to all Palestinians involved to follow through on the implementation of what has been agreed on at the Mideast summit in the resort of Sharm el-Sheik.

The appeal appeared aimed especially at Arafat's Fatah faction, whose armed militias have taken in a lead in shooting attacks on Israeli positions.

In the West Bank town of Nablus, a Fatah leader, Ali Farraj told a crowd of 4,000 cheering supporters that his faction would press on with the three-week uprising in which 102 people have been killed, most of them Palestinians.

"The uprising must continue," said Farraj, speaking during the funeral of a Fatah activist. After the burial, dozens of mourners marched to an Israeli checkpoint and threw stones, later to be joined by several gunmen who shot at Israeli soldiers, drawing Israeli return fire. Near the town of Jenin, shots were fired at an Israeli jeep, but there were no injuries.

Fatah leaders suggested privately that shootings would cease.

immediately if the order came from Arafat.

The Fatah leader in the West Bank, Marwan Barghout, softened his words Wednesday, saying "it's not easy to control the feelings of the people." On Tuesday, Barghout had said the uprising would continue, regardless of the truce.

Still, there were rock-throwing clashes across the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and more than two dozen Palestinians were injured by Israeli live fire and rubber bullets. An Israeli soldier was hurt by a firebomb in a clash near the Jewish settlement of Kfar Darom in the Gaza Strip.

The Israeli army said it has pulled back some tanks from the outskirts of Nablus in a symbolic gesture and would withdraw more heavy equipment from other friction points once it appeared the violence had ebbed.

In other developments today, Israel radio said the Israeli army has arrested eight Palestinians involved in the mob killing of two Israeli reserve soldiers last week in the West Bank town of Ramallah.

BNP leader assaulted in Barisal

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Oct 18: BNP central organising secretary (Barisal Division) Principal Abdur Rashid Khan and four others were beaten up by a group of BCL activists at Boalia Bazar under Bakerganj upazila of the district at noon today.

Four others are Akhteruzzaman Khan, 24, Maniruzzaman, 28, Samim Ahmed Joarder, 33, and Khokon 28.

Rashid came under attack while he was on a mass contract programme at the bazar. The BCL activists also ransacked Rashid's house at T&T road in Bakerganj town.

DMCH director

From Page 1

violating rules and without consulting the Defense Ministry officials.

Meanwhile, the Army Division confirmed posting order of Col. Nazmul Huda at the DMCH who is to take over from Brigadier Badrul Munir.

The army is yet to confirm the joining date of Col. Huda, but a source in the Army Medical Services said that Col. Huda who had earlier served as director of the hospital for a short period is likely to take over on Sunday.

Dr Babar in the meantime assembled people on the hospital premises yesterday morning to celebrate assuming that he was going to take over as director.

Meanwhile, Dr Babar asked many of his subordinates in the hospital yesterday including some doctors not to obey orders from Brigadier Badrul Munir any more.

He had earlier said to this correspondent he was engaged in politics and would continue to do so. He also said he enjoys political support from ruling party high-ups.

There are allegations that Dr

Babar is now using the house, transport and furniture without any authorisation whatsoever. The house is not allotted for him and same is the case with the vehicles.

Flood situation in Satkhira static

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Oct 18: Flood situation in Satkhira town, Tala, Assasuni, Debbatia and Sadar upazilas remained static.

The situation, however, improved in Kolaroa Upazila with recession of floodwaters.

Flood water remained stagnant in the affected areas as rivers in the southwestern region can not discharge it quickly with a net work of roads, embankments and polders, obstructing natural flow.

With recession of floodwaters, various diseases like diarrhoea and dysentery have been broken out in the affected areas.

Our Jessore Correspondent adds: Nearly 12,000 flood-hit people in five upazilas of the district have been attacked with various diseases.

Clinton's interview

From Page 1

together on the problem of arsenic in Bangladesh.

Asked about his maiden visit to Dhaka in March this year, Clinton appeared all-praise about the visit and his interaction with common people. "It was an unforgettable trip," he said.

"My most vivid impression of Bangladesh is the Bangladeshi people... I was inspired during my visit to see what the Bangladeshis have accomplished in one generation. Thanks to their industry and vision."

US Economic Policy

To a question about his ideas for narrowing down the North-South divide and reducing the tension that subsists between the have and the have-nots, Clinton said objective of US foreign policy is to better integrate poor countries (the 'have-nots') into the global economy.

Quoting his remarks at the World Economic Forum in Davos recently, he said: "A few of us live on the cutting edge of the new economy, too many of us live on the bare edge of survival, without the means to move up."

He said trade is essential to ensure sustained growth in developing countries. But sustained growth requires investment in 'people' education, healthcare, technology, and infrastructure.

As part of American interest in strengthening education in developing countries, President Clinton has asked Congress for a 50 per cent increase in US international assistance for education.

In reply to a question about what should be the agenda and priorities that LDCs might pursue to free them from the debt burden and poverty trap, he said the best method to alleviate poverty is to pursue policies that promote economic growth and attract private investment.

This, said Clinton, produces by far the best results: private capital flow to developing countries already exceeds the annual flow of official assistance. Productive investment is the quickest way to generate economic growth and new jobs.

World Bank and IMF

About policy reforms the World Bank should undertake to enable it to address more appropriately the special needs of the least

developed and developing countries, Clinton said the international community in the context of the Okinawa G-8 meetings, the UN Millennium Summit, and the World Bank-IMF meetings earlier this year, is making a strong commitment to support development and poverty reduction, and better integration of poor countries into the world economy.

The Bank's activities in countries like Bangladesh should focus on doing what private markets cannot do: expanding basic health and educational opportunities for the poor, building infrastructure, strong and open financial systems, better legal systems, and stronger democratic institutions.

Clinton said developing nations have much to gain from the rules-based system established by the WTO, which levels the playing field for smaller countries.

Citing an example, he said since the WTO agreement on Textiles and Clothing concluded in 1994, "we have seen growth of 71.7 per cent in global textile imports by the United States." And during that same period, US textile imports from Bangladesh have more than doubled in dollar value.

Last year, he said, United States and Bangladesh joined four developing countries to introduce a WTO proposal that would improve the technical assistance and capacity-building programmes for developing countries and also to help developing countries build the domestic institutions they need to make the most of trade opportunities in the WTO system.

The proposal is a good starting point for addressing these kinds of issues, the US President said. "Moreover, we must work to build consensus for the launch of a new WTO round that promotes sustainable development."

Globalisation

Asked about the implications of globalisation and the impediments to achieving it, Clinton said globalisation is not new: it is a complex process that has been going on for centuries, since the advent of large-scale international trade and rapid communications.

"As a force that links people around the world in increased trade, investment, technology,

education, information, and communication, globalisation is a positive development, but it requires governments and the private sector to take steps to ensure that its benefits are spread as widely as possible among nations and their populations."

To benefit from the global economy, governments and the private sector will need to invest in people, especially in health, education, and building democracy, he said.

New World Order

The US President was asked about his vision of a brave new world in the post-cold war era and his prognosis about the course of human history that will take in the next generation.

Asked whether we are nearer to creating a world that guarantees peace, security, and prosperity than at any time in the past, Clinton said: "It's true, the Cold War is a relic of the past, but as the last decade has shown us, conflicts regional, ethnic, religious have increased worldwide."

He added: "At the same time, technology and globalisation have made it possible for people in far-flung corners of the globe to communicate, to share scientific and medical discoveries and to cooperate for peace."

Bangladesh for Peace

The US President said Bangladesh is one of the premier contributors to peacekeeping missions worldwide, and Bangladeshis have distinguished themselves by their service.

In South Asia, he said, Bangladesh played a tireless and much appreciated role in trying to help resolve regional conflicts that could escalate dangerously.

Clinton said Bangladesh also stepped forward to be the first South Asian country to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).

"Are we nearer to creating a world that guarantees peace, security, and prosperity? If we learn the lessons of the past, we have a better chance than ever to change the future for our children, but we must believe the simple things: that everywhere, in every land, people of every station matter. Everyone counts, everyone has a role to play. And we all do better when we help each other."

Massive fraud

From Page 1

Corporation Ltd.

The survey was conducted as per terms of the contracts. The survey team comprised representatives of the local agent, project consultants DDC and departmental heads at the hospitals and institutions concerned.

The contract for package - 3 was signed in January 1998 and that for package - 1 in June. The supply was supposed to be completed by September 30, 1999.

However the time limit was extended till December 31, 1999. As per contracts, ESAOTE was to supply the equipment and Natasa was responsible for survey, installation, warranty maintenance and four years' post warranty maintenance.

According to sources in the Central Medical Stores Department, an inspection company-Bureau Veritas- made pre and post shipment inspection of the goods and issued certificate stating that all medical equipment and accessories were supplied as per the contract.

Natasa's representatives did not turn up at the time of inspection at Chittagong port when the goods arrived, the sources pointed out.

"The contract papers contained a lot of errors," probably ignored by the consultant of the Project Management Unit (PMU) which controlled the project," said an official of the health ministry.

He alleged that a senior official of the then PMU, Kamrul Huda, was involved in the corrupt practices. Huda denied the allegation. But the official said, "Without PMU's approval, nothing moved. So how could these happen remains a big question."

The local agent informed ESAOTE as soon as the 'discrepancies' were detected and requested it to take necessary steps immediately. The then Line

Director and Director of CMSD also reminded them several times.

The Chief Executive of Natasa M Nurul Alam when contacted said, "Until today the supplier did not correct the discrepancies. Surprisingly enough, ESAOTE adopted a 'go slow' tactics even today."

In a move to resolve the problem, the health directorate arranged a meeting of those concerned on December 21, 1999.

ESAOTE's representative assured at the meeting that all discrepancies would be removed and all equipment would be made operational within one month. It was also decided that Provisional Acceptance Certificate (PAC) against the equipment will be issued when supply is completed as per contract and all the equipment are made operational.

"But the company failed to keep those commitments," an official pointed out.

Some sources alleged that the Italian company is now trying to influence relevant quarters in the health ministry for obtaining PAC without meeting its 'contractual obligations'. The company also saked its local agent because of refusal to cooperate in its 'illegal acts'.

ESAOTE also submitted some 'false documents' and applied to the Line Director and Director of CMSD to issue PAC.

The sources also mentioned that the then Line Director and Director of CMSD had issued a 'conditional' PAC allegedly without properly checking relevant documents.

"Meanwhile, the supplier has received all the money in advance, including four years' maintenance cost," one source said.

ZIA: 22 held

From Page 1

from western countries are usually 'victimised' either by the ZIA's luggage handling section or by the notorious customs officials.

One passenger coming from London said for the last three years he had been coming to Dhaka every six months. He said on his first visit he protested the behavior of the customs officials involving his personal luggage and landed himself in trouble. He requested anonymity and said that the customs officials even went to the extent of putting levy on toothpaste.

"But I soon learnt the trick and nowadays I have no problem at all," said the passenger, hinting at underhand deals.

But ZIA sources said the reason why most passengers from western countries are not victimised out on the parking lot is that they do not take chances.

"The only passengers arriving at ZIA on a night flight who go out are the ones who have relatives waiting outside with a vehicle, others simply do not take any chance and sleep on the sofas and chairs to pass the night and go home in the morning," said a ZIA official.

Gazi, Mannan elected DUJ president, secy

By Staff Correspondent

Ruhul Amin Gazi, special correspondent of Daily Sangram and Munshi Abdul Mannan, assistant editor of Daily Inqilab have been elected the president and general secretary respectively of Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ).