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threat legal: Writ dismissed

By SC Correspondent

The High Court has declared that hartal without threat or warning is legal and dismissed a writ petition seeking a decree against calling of hartal.

The judgement on the writ petition was pronounced yesterday by a Division Bench comprising Justice Mainur Reza Chowdhury, Justice Syed JR Modassir Hossain and Justice MA Aziz.

The court in its judgement said hartal cannot be against the Constitution as it is one of the devices for ventilating demands of the political parties. See page 11 col 5

Airbus case

Khaleda indisposed, couldn't attend hearing

By Court Correspondent

The Special Court for Dhaka Division yesterday fixed November 9 for hearing on charge framing in a case against former prime minister Khaleda Zia and nine others for embezzlement of about Tk 175 crore in the purchase of two airbuses.

Judge Mohammad Fazlul Karim adjourned the proceedings of the case on the basis of a petition filed by Barrister Moudud Ahmed on behalf of Khaleda Zia stating that she has been suffering from dyspepsia. So she could

not appear in the court. Fresh bail petitions for former finance minister M Saifur Rahman and former state minister for civil aviation and tourism M A Mannan were submitted by their lawyers, while assistant PP Mohammad Nurul Islam and Faridul Alam Talukder opposed

the two petitions. After hearing both the sides, the court granted the petitions. All the accused except Khaleda were present in the court during

the proceedings. See page 11 col 3

Amber Shamsi murdered, say police

By Staff Correspondent Amber Shamsi (20), kidnapped

from the city's Lalbag area about 10 days ago, was killed by his abductors, police said last night. Three of the abductors. rounded up by the DB police vesterday, said Amber was killed

the day he was kidnapped. Amber, a student of Naila Memorial School at Dhanmondi and an 'O" level examine, was abducted on his way to a friend's

house on October 15. When contacted, DC of Detective Branch of police Abdul Hannan said a special DB squad arrested the three abductors Alamgir from New Market Tele See page 11 col 2

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Star Magazine



This week's cover story of the Weekend Magazine focuses on whether our reading habit will survive the onslaught of satellite TV and Internet entertainment.

Hartal without threat legal: Flood waters stagnant due

to illegal cross-dams

By Shehab Ahmed

The ferocity of floods is over in the South-west region of the country but the intensity of suffering of the people due to water logging may not be over for at least two more months.

Unless various 'man-made obstacles' like cross-dams built illegally for farming and raising shrimp and other fishes are removed, all the sluice gates are made operational and silted waterways are cleared immediately, the situation would remain 'complicated', experts said aftervisiting the region.

There are at least 170 cross-dams along with fisheries, rice fields and homesteads on the Betna river impeding natural drainage of water from Sarsha, Keshabpur, Kalaroa and Jhikargaccha upazilas," said a member of the expert team.

The team consisting of experts from the Water Development Board (WDB) extensively visited the areas last week to identify causes of the floods and suggest remedies.

The experts submitted their preliminary report to the authorities on Tuesday, recommending some immediate and long term measures to keep the areas free from floods in future. The report suggested that regulators on Satkhira Polders should be made operative, passage of water to the Betna and Kobadak rivers is be

ensured to relieve Sarsha of water logging and Jessore-Benapole road

should be cut at some points. Besides, rivers in the flood hit areas have to be excavated and dredged where necessary and a drainage management plan should be immediately formulated and implemented, it said suggesting immediate measures.

See page 11 col 7

SATKHIRA, Oct 25: Journalists of Satkhira today

urged Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to withdraw

State Minister for Social Welfare Dr Mozammel

Hossain from the responsibility of relief operations

the press club premises with its president Subhash

Speakers at the meeting criticised the State Min-

ister for his abusive remarks about the local jour

nalists at a meeting with Sadar upazila UP chairmen

who resigned en masse protesting the remarks

Satkhira tomorrow to see for herself the relief activi-

withdrew their resignation letters after a fruitful

discussion with the Minister for Social Welfare this

make any abusive remarks about journalists.

When contacted Dr Mozammel said he did not

The Prime Minister will visit flood affected areas in

Meanwhile, 12 UP chairmen in Sadar upazila

about them by State Minister Talukdar Khaleque.

Chowdhury in the chair today gave the call.

Satkhira journalists in an emergency meeting on

in the flood affected district.

ties there.

Ministers' 'abusive' remarks anger

journalists, UNO in Satkhira

From Our Correspondent

Armed Indians raid relief camp: 2 killed

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Oct 25: Two persons including a BDR jawan were gunned down allegedly by armed Indians on Tuesday at Raghunathpur border under Sharsha upazila of Jessore dis-

The dead were identified as Motaleb, a BDR jawan and Mashiar Rahman, 35, of Raghunathpur village.

The Indians took the body of Mashiar to the Indian side after exchange of fire with BDR jawans, Jessore police super

An organised gang of Indians raided a relief centre at about 9 30 pm on Tuesday at the flood affected Raghunathpur village under Sharsha upazila, police said. The relief centre is adjacent to Raghunathpur BOP.

Mashiar was one of the distressed people who took shelter in the relief centre along with his family members. He was shot dead when he tried to resist the

Jawans of nearby BDR camp rushed to the spot hearing hue and cry of the distressed people. The Indians then fired on BDR jawans killing Motaleb on the

The Indians did not return body of Mashiar till this afternoon while body of BDR jawan was sent to his relatives.

The prime minister will distribute relief among

Our Staff Correspondent from Khulna adds:

Fourteen UP chairmen and the UNO of Satkhira

Sadar upazila submitted a letter to the Deputy Com-

missioner expressing their inability to involve them-

selves in relief operation in protest against unbe-

The state minister rebuked the UNO and UP

The DC of Satkhira said he could not convince

them till today to withdraw the letter. But the efforts

ter's second visit to Satkhira tomorrow, he told the

comment as he was in the flood affected areas to

The state minister could not be contacted for his

are going on to convince them in view of prime minis-

chairmen using objectionable words in public while

visiting some relief camps under Sadar upazila.

correspondent over telephone.

supervise relief operation.

the flood victims. She will also address a meeting at

Satkhira Government School Maidan at 11 am.

Sutrapur police play innocent! Sumon leads procession as masked men fire shots

By Staff Correspondent

While the main accused in the sensational Sutrapur double murder case, Sumon and Sujon, openly demonstrated in the area on Friday, local police and Detective Branch (DB) officials claimed that they did not know anything about the procession and just

heard about it later. According to a wide section of people in the area, a group of men and women, including relatives and friends of Sumon, brought out a procession in support of Sumon and others accused in the murder case at around 3-30 in the afternoon. Masked young men in motor bikes escorted the procession. On their arrival at Sutrapur bazaar, they fired several shots in the air and exploded cocktails before dispersing.

Shopkeepers at the bazaar and several other witnesses claimed that they had seen Sumon, his brother Sujon and several other 'notorious criminals' in the procession, brandishing firearms. Sumon sported dark sunglasses, they said.

Second Officer of the Sutrapur police station, Shahidul Islam Shahin, told The Daily Star yesterday that the police went to the spot after the processionists had dispersed.

See page 11 col 1

Hazari donates all property to municipality!

From Our Correspondent FENI, Oct 25: Ruling party MP Joynal Abedin Hazari has donated all his movable and immovable property and money in banks to Feni Pourasava (Municipality).

He formally handed over the deeds to pourasava chairman Mosharraf Hossain Hazari in presence of lawyers, poura commissioners, party leaders, local coming remarks made by Talukdar Abdul Khalegue Lelite and chairman and members of 45 union parishads of the district at Feni Government College auditorium at noon today.

The most influential leader of the frontier district of Feni, Hazari owns huge property worth several crores of taka.

A confirmed bachelor, Hazari said, "As I have no wife and children, there may be a trouble over the right of the property after my death. So, I have decided to donate it for the welfare of the poor."



Gruesome reminder... curious passersby flock to see a gruesome poster with a picture of the decapitated and decomposed bodies of Mohsin and Sayem, the hapless two who were brutally murdered in the city's Sutrapur on September 15 this year. The poster demands trial and punishment of Sumon and his men, accused in the sensational double murder case. - Star photo

Save the Buriganga

Protection plan caught in bureaucratic tangle

By Staff Correspondent

The Tk 68.22 crore project to protect the river Buriganga and develop its banks is caught in bureaucratic tangle, sources said.

After the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) under the shipping ministry and the district administration under the land ministry had done the groundwork, the government intervened and handed over the project to the ministry of water resources. The superintending engineer of the Water Development Board (WDB) has been made the disbursement of fund. project director.

The BIWTA, official custodian of the shore, foreelaborate survey and identified more than 200 for the project.

responsibility because it has already built several we would be able to start the work," the WDB engikilometres of embankment and roads along the neer said.

The project envisages construction of roads and some other structures along the bank to protect the Buriganga. Although the ECNEC approved the project con-

cept paper nearly two months back, the project proforma is yet to be finalised, said sources at the WDB. Once the proforma is worked out, the project would go to the Departmental Project Evaluation Committee for approval, which is mandatory for

Meanwhile, following an inter-ministerial meeting recently, the Planning Commission has been shore and the channel of the river, conducted an approached for immediate release of 20 crore taka

"We have conducted the land and morphological According to sources, the WDB has been given the surveys on the river and as soon as we get the money

See page 11 col 6

4 top forest officials face corruption charges Star Report

is investigating charges of corruption including venality and nepotism against four top officials of the Department of Forest, threatening his subordinates sources concerned said.

riverbank.

month following a complaint lodged with the Bureau by the then Secretary of the Ministry of Forest and Environment in July this year. The four officials are Chief ruption, nepotism, smuggling of

Conservator of Forest (CCF) M Nuruzzaman, former CCF Golam irregularities against Golam. Habib, now on LPR; Mosharraf Habib from Bangabhaban Hossain, Conservator of Forest in Chittagong range and Tapan Kumar Dey, Divisional Forest Officer of the Sundarbans.

The complaint said the then his one-year tenure as CCF from

The Bureau of Anti-Corruption CCF used to collect money from officials and employees of the Department in the name of the minister. He was also accused of with transfer unless they bribed The probe began early this him, smuggling forest resources particularly timber and misappropriating public money show-

> The forest ministry received four specific complaints of corforest resources and financial sources. Besides, four such complaints were made from the Ministry of Home Affairs and the

ing fake expenditure.

January 14 last year.

Sources in the forest ministry said as the complaints were not handled properly, the then Secretary Syeed Margub Morshed filed those with the Bureau of Anticorruption for legal action.

Referring to the Mazid Committee Report on irregularities in the forest department, the complaint said, "Allegations of corruption and nepotism are very common against M Nuruzzaman, the acting CCF. In 1998, in the light of the Committee recommendations, the authorities were asked to take punitive measures against him",

Nuruzzaman was made CCF Ministry of Establishment during on August 2 this year, See page 11 col 8

Mole under the nose... the fruit market on the pavement near the recently inaugurated Gulistan Police Box makes a mockery of the police drive to reclaim the footpaths in the city from the grips of hawkers. -- Star photo

Barak's secret envoy to Arafat Clinton, Putin renew efforts to revive peace process JERUSALEM, Oct 25: Efforts to halt businessman, has maintained close contacts agreed last week, Clinton contacted Arafat on clashes in the Palestinian territories gained with Arafat over the years and is used by

pace today, amid news that Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak had sent a secret emissary to meet with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat overnight, reports AFP. At the same time, the Israeli army

announced a meeting with Palestinian security officials today in an attempt "to reduce the violence" in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, where few incidents were reported early in the

of anonymity confirmed an Israeli public radio report that Barak had dispatched Yossi Ginossar to establish contacts with Arafat Tuesday night. Barak has declared a "time out" from the

Ginossar, a former senior official of the Shin clashes Beth domestic security service who is now a

Middle East peace process until fighting sub-

Barak for delicate or secret missions.

The source gave no details on the two-hour ton. meeting, except to say that the first hour was a one-on-one encounter between Arafat and Ginossar. Gaza Strip security chief Mohammad Dahlan sat in on the remainder of

Eitan and Yom Tov Samia, the commanders with responsibility for the West Bank and A Palestinian source speaking on condition Gaza Strip respectively, would meet Wednesday with top, unidentified Palestinians to mit in Egypt, the White House said. discuss security.

Middle East peace process, in tatters after four weeks of bloody Israeli-Palestinian

In a bid to revive the Sharm el-Sheikh truce

Tuesday night, proposing that Arafat and Barak meet separately with him in Washing-

Over the weekend Arafat had told the Israeli prime minister to "go to hell" for putting a freeze on the peace process and embarking on talks with hawkish right-wing leader Ariel Sharon to set up an emergency The Israeli army said Generals Yitzhak governmentThe Washington meetings might be possible once progress had been made in implementing the Sharm el-Sheikh accord, agreed on October 17 at a US-brokered sum-

Spokesman P J Crowley said Clinton had For their parts, US President Bill Clinton spoken with Arafat by phone for around half and Russian President Vladimir Putin have an hour and "focused on encouraging (Arafat) renewed international efforts to revive the to do all they could to fully implement the

If progress were made on "concrete steps to improve surity, a formula for a fact-finding See page 11 col 4

INT'L TURKISH HOPE SCHOOL

PROUD TO CELEBRATE THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS FOUNDATION

EVERLASTING STORY: ADMISSION GOING ON

Nowadays, we are all fed up with the banners, wallpapers, leaflets, signboards, handouts, TV ads etc. Whenever we open the newspaper, we are most likely to see a handout of a school claiming it is the best in the town. Wherever we look around in the street, most probably we will see at least 2 or 3 school banners claiming that they are the most well established school in the city. Whenever we watch TV, it is quite certain that we will be observing the same type of admission announcements.

SO, IT IS VERY DIFFICULT FOR THE GUARDIANS TO TAKE DECISION UNDER THIS MUCH OF CHALLENGING ANNOUNCEMENTS. AS TURKISH HOPE SCHOOL, WE WISH THOSE GUARDIANS TO MAKE

A WISE DECISION. May be it is the proper way to take decision through the reliable sources. Why don't you discuss with one of the Hope school parents?

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