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INSIDE TODAY

SOUTHASIA Page 4

Civil Society Should Bell the Cat

by Ekram Kabir

The Litmus Test of Democracy

by Mansoor Mamoon

Vapayee's Hour of Triumph

by M Abdul Haliz

PEOPLE Page 9

Consultant on Management Change Unit of the Ministry of Health Dr Enamul Karim talks to Naumul Haq on the progress of HPSP and ESP

COMMENT

Page 6

The ultimate solution to the problem of inequitable distribution of power arising from unequal economic status lies in evolving and promoting a third bloc with the countries of the South bound together within a web of collective economic interests. It is only when they are united in a common forum to pursue their special agenda that the South can negotiate and bargain with the North effectively and with credibility, writes **Hasnat Abdul Hye** in *The Only Kid on the Block*.

The rule of thumb of greatness is what people do with it. There are despots who crave power for its own sake. But great leaders want power for what they can do with it, writes **Mohammad Badrul Ahsan** in *The Crisis of Greatness*.



All too familiar a sight

Transport workers and rice traders have taken over the approach road of new Buriganga bridge and the nearby area at Babubazar, parking trucks and lorries and building warehouses.

After the river, the bridge being encroached upon

Tk 57.32 crore structure could be seriously damaged

By Staff Correspondent

With the new Buriganga bridge at Babubazar almost complete, the approach road and the entire area under the bridge have been illegally occupied by rice traders and transport workers.

The Roads and Highways Department and the engineers are now puzzled over the massive occupation of the bridge where several big rice traders have built structures for warehouses. Engineers fear that the illegal occupation would cause damage to the Tk 57.32 crore structure.

We have notified the police and the Deputy Commissioner several times asking them to

take steps to remove the encroachment, but nothing has happened," said an official of the bridge. He said the work on the bridge is likely to be completed by April and opened for public in June.

The work on the bridge started in September 1994.

The transport workers have turned the approach road of the bridge into a truck terminal with repair shops. Sources said that transport workers have refused to clear out of the bridge area and that fearing a 'big chaos' the police have kept mum.

The big rice traders of Babubazar have

taken over the area under the bridge and are storing thousands of tons of rice there," the official said.

Meanwhile, sources said although the bridge is nearing completion, the work on the road leading to Maoa Road in the south has yet to start. The whole concept of the bridge was to link the old part of the city to Keraniganj and the Maoa Road. Once completed, the bridge would not only help reduce traffic congestion at Jatrabari, but also enhance economic growth in the old part of the city.

Friends turn killers

Classmates strangled Amber Shamsi for money

By Staff Correspondent

The mastermind behind Amber Shamsi's abduction and murder for ransom was none other than one of his class friends, Mostafa Almas Bappi.

The abductors, namely Bappi, Alamgir, Salauddin and his step-brother Ziaur Rahman Zia had decided the fate of the young O-Level examinee of the Nalla Memorial Fleur Tutorial at Dhanmondi more than a month ago.

The startling story started surfacing as the Detective Branch (DB) men arrested the abductors and killers of Amber within hours after being handed over the case.

Bappi, Alamgir, Salauddin and Ziaur Rahman Zia of the old part of the city had contemplated a month before October 16 to kill Amber Shamsi (inadvertently reported Amber Shamsi earlier), realise the ransom worth Tk 10 lakh and slip away.

Accordingly, the abductors picked up Amber at around 3 p.m. They then took a bus to National Park in Gazipur. For Amber it was nothing but a ride with people he knew. Inside the park, the four men used a gamchha (a country made thin towel) to strangle Amber. Once Amber stopped breathing, the killers left the body and took another bus. The following day one of them telephoned the victim's family and asked for the ransom.

DB's Deputy Commissioner Md Abdul Mannan said yesterday that after being asked on Tuesday to investigate Amber's abduction, they tried to track down the criminals by tapping phones.

But the abductors were clever enough to use pre-paid GrameenPhone service to avoid detection. The DB then asked Amber's father Tawfiq Shamsi on Wednesday to agree to pay a ransom of Tk 5 lakh. The abductors asked Tawfiq to reach Azampur Tempo Stand with the money.

A young DB officer, Assistant Commissioner Akram Hossain led a team of detectives undercover and kept on waiting. As Alamgir, 20, of Lalbagh Shahidnagar area approached Tawfiq covering his face with a gamchha, Akram pounced on him making the first arrest.

Within minutes Alamgir told the names of Mostafa Almas Bappi 20, of Lalbagh Khajee Dewan and Salauddin. As the detectives picked up Bappi and Salauddin within hours, they revealed that Zia, a gang leader, had gone to preach Islam with a group of preachers from Kakrail Mosque.

The DB team led by DC Mannan soon learnt from the Kakrail mosque authorities that a group of preachers had left for Nachol in Chapal Nawabganj on October 23. Chapal Nawabganj police quickly raided a mosque and arrested Zia. A DB team was on way to Chapal Nawabganj to bring back Zia to Dhaka.

At the DB office in the city yesterday, Bappi, Alamgir and Salauddin kept their poise. They explained in details how they killed Amber, left the body and returned to Dhaka and then demanded the ransom sometimes copying Amber's voice to his father on the phone. Detectives said Bappi's father Mostak Ahmed is quite well off.

Bappi said that the plan to kill and realise the ransom had been worked out at least four weeks ago with the help of Zia. He said he had studied for four years in the Nalla Memorial and before that he had been a student of St Julian School in Lalbagh.

DC Mannan said that after Tawfiq Shamsi filed a case, Lalbagh police arrested Bappi on October 17. But Tawfiq Shamsi told the police that Bappi could not be a suspect as he was a class friend of Amber. Lalbagh police released Bappi on his request.

DB officials said the statements of the three killers matched one another by "even punctuation".

The decomposed body of Amber was recovered by the detectives yesterday after the three killers led them to the spot. The DB was yet to decide whether to book the killers under the Special Powers Act or other penal code.



Killers in the guise of friends

The Detective Branch arrested (from left to right) Salahuddin, Bappi and Alamgir in connection with the abduction and killing of Amber Shamsi (inset). The other accused, Amber's step-brother Ziaur Rahman is still at large.

Army discards British legacy

Brigadier now Brigadier General

By Special Correspondent

Bangladesh Army has decided to re-designate a Brigadier as a Brigadier General.

Besides, it would also re-designate non-commissioned officers and others below.

The change has been approved by the Prime Minister, who is also in charge of the Defence Ministry. However, the changes will take effect after a gazette notification is published.

The changes are being done to make ranks in Bangladesh Army at par with those in US some other western countries, discarding the colonial legacy inherited from the British.

After the change, nearly 100 Brigadiers in Bangladesh Army will be called Brigadier General. Brigadiers are already enjoying the facilities of One-Star General but are denied the privilege of

See page 11 col 1

Fresh voters' list announced

Star Report

With nearly 1.88 crore new voters enrolled in the fresh list, the country presently has some 7.48 crore voters, accounting for nearly 57.5 per cent of the country's population, according to the latest voters' list announced by the Election Commission yesterday.

The EC came up with the new voters' list, ending its six-month-long drive to enroll eligible voters ahead of the next general election.

According to the fresh list, the total number of voters in the country is 7,48,23,855, comprising 3,85,30,414 male and 3,62,93,441 female.

There were 5,59,66,384 voters in the previous list announced in 1995. But, the number rose to 6 crore in the revised list in 1998.

From today (Thursday), any election in the country will take place under this new voters' list, said a senior EC official yesterday, adding that the previous list will be automatically void as per the provision of law.

The highest number of voters, totaling 2,36,81,407, have been

See page 11 col 2

Japan gets tough on aid

By Diplomatic Correspondence

Japan has adopted a new aid strategy for Bangladesh, which is expected to lead to newer and stricter method of evaluation and scrutiny relating to disbursement of financial assistance.

Bangladesh, which is the sixth largest recipient of Japanese assistance under ODA, is however the first country to be singled out to be put under the monitoring and scrutiny process as part

of a pilot programme.

The study for introducing the new strategy for Bangladesh in aid monitoring is expected to be completed by December.

This was disclosed to a group of newsmen yesterday by a visiting Japanese delegation led by Mitsunori Shirakawa, Director, Evaluation Division, Economic Cooperation Bureau of the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Other members include Nobuhiro Mori and Yukihiko Terada, Yutaka Nakamura and Yasuhiko Tanaka of the Japanese Embassy in Dhaka were also present.

Recently, the Japanese government dispatched a 14-member private ODA monitoring team to see the projects 'extended to Bangladesh'.

"The Japanese people want

See page 11 col 1

Two murdered in city

Mugger's body found on DU campus

By Staff Correspondent

Two persons including a student of Dhaka University were murdered in separate incidents in the city yesterday, hospital and police sources said.

Musfiqur Alam Mintu, 25, a 4th year student of mathematics was called out of his R K Mission Road residence at about 9:30 am and shot fatally. He died at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). He ran a branch of E-Haq Coaching Centre at his house.

He was called out by one Biltu, his elder brother Monir claimed. Dhaka University authorities however said they did not know whether any student was gunned down yesterday.

Sutrapur police who took critically injured to the DMCH told this correspondent that

Musfiqur was arrested several times earlier. The Duty Officer of Sutrapur thana said that a warrant was issued against him recently.

Musfiqur was the youngest of four sons and four sisters of Firoz Amal, family sources said.

In another incident, Abul Kashem alias Kaisha, 38, allegedly a member of 'Kohi group' involved in mugging on the Dhaka University campus, was chopped to death by miscreants near the IBA Bhaban in the early hours of yesterday.

The group was involved in the killing of Njunja Bihari Debnath, Joint Secretary of LGRD ministry, on the campus on January 11, police said earlier.

See page 11 col 8

BNP now plans 'grand' rally at Manik Mia Ave

Delegation meets the Mayor

By Staff Correspondent

In a bid to avoid a confrontation, BNP continued negotiations with the ruling party about the venue of its scheduled 'grand' public meeting in the city on November 7 in observance of the National Revolution and Solidarity Day, party sources said.

A delegation led by acting Secretary General of City BNP Chowdhury Alam yesterday met City Awami League President and DCC Mayor Mohammad Hanif and discussed holding the public meeting at Manik Mia Avenue.

BNP had planned to hold the meeting at Paltan Maidan but later agreed to shift the venue as the National Sports Council (NSC) expressed its inability to give permission to use Paltan Maidan for the meeting due to Bangladesh-India Cricket Test.

City BNP President Sadek Hossain Khokha had earlier talked separately with State Minister for Sports Obaidul Qader and Deputy Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives, and President of Bangladesh Cricket Board Saber Hossain Chowdhury about holding the November 7 meet-

See page 11 col 6

Depression heads northwest

By Special Correspondent

The depression over east central Bay of Bengal and the adjoining south east bay was moving in a northwesterly direction, Meteorological Department said last night.

It said that the depression that remained stationary during the day gained strength and started moving in a northwesterly direction, remaining 840 km, 760 km and 850 km southwest of Chittagong and Cox's Bazar ports and Khulna town at 9 pm yesterday, respectively.

The maximum sustained wind within 44 kms of the depression centre is 40 kph rising to 50 kph in gust/squalls. The bay will remain choppy.

Maritime ports of Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and Mongla have been advised to keep hoisted distant warning signal number 2. All fishing boats have been asked to move with caution staying close the shore.

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক
বিজ্ঞপ্তি

“বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক পুরস্কার” ১৯৯৯ এর জন্য
আবেদন/মনোনয়ন পত্র গ্রহণের সময়সীমা বর্ধিতকরণ পূর্বস্বে।

অর্থনৈতিক বিষয়ে উল্লেখযোগ্য অবদানের জন্য প্রকৃত বাংলাদেশী নাগরিকগণের নিকট থেকে “বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক পুরস্কার” ১৯৯৯ এর জন্য আবেদন/মনোনয়ন পত্র গ্রহণের সময়সীমা ৩১শে ডিসেম্বর, ২০০০ পর্যন্ত বর্ধিত করা হলো। পুরস্কারের জন্য অর্থনীতির যে কোন শাখার গবেষণা কর্ম বিবেচনা করা হবে। তবে বাংলাদেশের অর্থনীতি বিষয়ক গবেষণাকে এবং বাংলাদেশে কর্মরত গবেষকদের গবেষণাকে বিশেষ গুরুত্ব দেয়া হবে। সম্প্রতিকালে প্রকাশিত একটি নির্দিষ্ট গবেষণা কর্ম বা একক কোন বিষয়ে একাধিক গবেষণা কর্মের উৎকর্ষের মানদণ্ডে প্রার্থী নির্বাচন করা হবে। বিশেষ ক্ষেত্রে জীবনব্যাপী গবেষণামূলক অবদানও বিবেচনায় নেয়া হবে। গবেষণা কর্ম জার্নালের প্রবন্ধ, পুস্তক বা পুস্তকের অধ্যায় আকারে হতে পারে।

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক থেকে প্রাপ্ত আবেদন পত্র/মনোনয়ন পত্র এর ছকে প্রার্থী ব্যক্তিগতভাবে সরাসরি আবেদন করতে পারবেন কিংবা কোন ব্যক্তি বা প্রতিষ্ঠান কোন প্রার্থীকে মনোনয়ন দিতে পারবেন। আবেদন পত্রের সাথে প্রার্থীর জীবন বৃত্তান্ত (Curriculum Vitae) এবং যে বিশেষ অবদানের জন্য প্রার্থী বা তাঁর মনোনয়ন দাতা ব্যক্তি বা প্রতিষ্ঠান “বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক পুরস্কার” এর উপযুক্ত বলে মনে করেন তার উপর একটি সংক্ষেপের পাঁচ কপি আবেদনের সাথে পাঠাতে হবে। এই পুরস্কারের আর্থিক মূল্য হবে নগদ দুই লক্ষ টাকা। সেই সাথে বহিঃ ক্যারেট মানের দুই তোলা ওজনের একটি স্বর্ণ পদক এবং বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের একটি জেট।

আবেদন/মনোনয়নপত্র ৩১শে ডিসেম্বর, ২০০০ তারিখে বা তার আগে নির্বাহী পরিচালক, প্রশাসন বিভাগ এর নিকট পৌঁছাতে হবে। যারা ইতোপূর্বে আবেদন/মনোনয়ন পত্র জমা দিয়েছেন তাঁদের পুনঃ আবেদন/মনোনয়নের প্রয়োজন নেই। অসম্পূর্ণ আবেদন পত্র এবং উক্ত তারিখের পরে কোন আবেদন পত্র পেলে তা বিবেচনা করা হবেনা। আবেদন পত্র ও প্রাসঙ্গিক অন্যান্য তথ্যের জন্য অফিস সময়ে নির্বাহী পরিচালক, প্রশাসন বিভাগ, বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক, প্রধান কার্যালয়, ঢাকা-এর কার্যালয়ের সাথে যোগাযোগ করতে অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

মোঃ রবিউল ইসলাম
নির্বাহী পরিচালক
বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক
ফোন : ৯১২০৬৮৫

জসওপ্রঃ/১৩/২০০০- ২৩৪৮
তারিখ : ২৫-১০-২০০০
GD-989

Biman refixes RP date for aircraft deal

By Shehab Ahmed

Bangladesh Biman has re-fixed November 15 for opening of bids for procurement of four Airbus A 340 or four Boeing 777-200 ER aircraft by swapping its four DC 10-30 aircraft under a trade deal.

The bids on Request for Proposal (RP) for procurement of the four aircraft through operating lease/ lease purchase or purchase were scheduled to be opened on October 10. The date was rescheduled for October 25 earlier.

Nineteen companies including Boeing and Airbus participated in the pre-bid talks on the RP, held in August, Biman sources said.

Opening of the bids has been deferred again as there has been 'intense lobbying by powerful groups' on behalf of the bidders, they said.

Payments for purchase of three of the four DC-10-30 aircraft have been made. Payments for the other will be completed in November.

The price of each of the DC-10-30 aircraft has been fixed at 15 million dollars. The price of each of the new aircraft is estimated to be 60 million dollars.

Biman will get the new generation aircraft but not brand new ones. The deal will burden Biman with a credit of about 54 million dollars, the sources said.

The deal is taking place at a time when Biman has almost finalised its Information Memorandum to off-load 49 per cent of its shares, giving 40 per cent to a 'strategic partner' and nine per cent to its employees.

But Biman officials and employees have raised a number of questions about the deal. They maintain that the DC-10-30 aircraft should

See page 11 col 1

WE MOURN

The Directors and all Officers & Employees of United Commercial Bank Ltd. are deeply shocked at the sad demise of **Alhaj Abul Khair Chowdhury** Sponsor Director who breathed his last at a clinic in Dhaka on 26th October, 2000 (Innallilaha.....Rajeeun).

We pray to the Almighty Allah for salvation and eternal peace of his departed soul.

We also express our heartfelt condolence and sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

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