

News

Trekking down terror line

From page 1
Toward West Shahidnagar from Bapji's house most of the roads were waterlogged with sewer floating on the blackish water. The remaining roads were narrow and pot-holed. Surface rains were overflowing and the streets littered with rotten garbage. The rain had left the entire area muddy. Unplanned buildings stood haphazardly with hanging balconies over-casting the sky. At the extreme end of the road a big pile of rubbish blocked the passage.

Salaudinn's widowed mother Abeda inherited a plot of two kathas from her husband who died 11 years ago. She survived with her only son Salaudinn and daughter Saleha by renting seven makeshift houses on the plot. The family of three lived in a small room with a muddy floor and shared a large bed. Abeda said that Salaudinn had studied at the Rahmatullah School and failed in the SSC exams four years ago.

"He had tried to work at the factory of his stepbrother Zia. I do not know what happened to Salaudinn as to he would commit such a heinous crime. I want maximum punishment to my son," said Abeda.

"I shall never go to see him in the prison, neither shall I go to court when the case is heard. As I gather from newspapers, he has given details about the crime he committed. I pray to the government to give them exemplary punishment," added Abeda.

Please see page 8 for What's on today, Tomorrow, Weather and Here & There.

Neighbours said for about two months Salaudinn's stepbrother Zia had been seeing him regularly. They said they did not suspect any foul play, as the boy never discussed anything with them.

About 150 yards away from Salaudinn's house, Alamgir's father Iddris Ali and his mother, Nasima Akhtar sat on the second floor of their five storied apartment block situated on a plot of 0.5 kathas of land. The stairs were dark and steep and the rooms congested. Iddris and Nasima said they would never go to see their son again. They said what Alamgir did was unacceptable to them and one son and two girls.

"Alamgir failed in English in the SSC exams from Rahmatullah School two years ago. He was very fond of cricket and used to play cricket on the street in front of the house all day. I never thought he would become a killer," said Nasima.

Alamgir's father, a textile trader, said he had never gone to school himself, so he wanted his son Alamgir to do higher studies. Iddris said he had arranged to send Alamgir to Italy.

"I spent Tk 10,000 to send him to attend a computer course lately. On Wednesday we had been watching a Bangla film on the TV together. He left home after the film and never returned home," Iddris said.

Both Iddris and Nasima said Alamgir was 'recruited' because he was unknown to the Shamsi family. "We want all these killers to be punished for what they did," Iddris said.

I want to go to Ammar's father

and beg his pardon but I do not have that face any more," said Iddris.

Inside Alamgir's small room, cassettes were carefully stacked on the shelf. The collection included songs of Ushab.

At Dabi Angul Lane near the Bhat Mosque on Lalbagh road, which is hardly 100 yards away from Ammar's house, Zia's sister opened their first floor apartment door. She said her two brothers were out of the house and that Zia is the youngest of three brothers and one sister.

Zia's mother said Zia had attended primary school at the Little Angels in Azimpur. Then he studied up to intermediate level at the BDR Rifles School before getting admitted to Jagannath University. The family has a business in brassware and is quite affluent.

"His step brother Salaudinn spoilt him," said Zia's mother. "Zia was at home on the day the murder took place," she said, adding that Zia was wrongfully implicated by Tawsi Shamsi.

At the house of Ammar, an aggrieved Tawsi Shamsi said that he would never pursue the case with the courts. "I have got my son's dead body, we have a government and the police. Let them go to court. I will only pray to the almighty Allah," said Tawsi. Tawsi Shamsi accompanied the detectives and the police during all operations and helped the detectives arrest Alamgir, Bapji, Salaudinn and Zia.

"Let me thank the police and the detectives for helping me during my distress. I pray that no parents go through the sufferings that we have," he said.



W&W Grains Corporation, representative of world's largest agriculture products and fertiliser supplier Cargil Incorporated, USA, distributing relief materials among the flood-affected people in Jessore recently.

Child labour on way out

From page 12
businesses, factory owners began dismissing child workers en masse without compensating or rehabilitating them and their families. With so many potential bread earners suddenly left out in the cold, it was not surprising that many children in desperation took refuge in crime, finding no alternatives.

In October 1994, ILO and the UNICEF received a written submission from 53 Bangladesh children. In response, the organisation and a number of NGOs requested the BGMEA not to take any drastic measures against child workers until a proper educational system and other rehabilitative measures were introduced which would protect the interests of both the children and the entrepreneurs.

Consequently, a trilateral agreement was signed between the BGMEA, ILO and the UNICEF on the July 4, 1995, to phase out child labour from the industry by providing informal education to the sacked workers aged below 14.

Following the accord, 336 education centres were set up in Dhaka, Chittagong, Narayanganj, Gazipur and Savar. There are 240 schools in the capital, 49 in Chittagong and 47 in the other areas. At the start, some 9000 displaced garments workers were enrolled.

Every child, who regularly attends the centre, gets a stipend

of Tk. 300 per month. The BGMEA, UNICEF and the ILO are jointly sharing the expenses of the programme.

At present there are 75 such schools mostly in Dhaka, with around 1000 students. Majority of the factory-discards has completed their stint at the schools. On completion of education, they have found better jobs. Some have returned to their previous work.

Saju, 13, is a student of the Muhuripara learning centre, the only one of its kind remaining in Chittagong. She lost her job from a factory six months ago after the monitoring team had detected existence of child labour there.

Daughter of a rickshawpuller, Saju said that she used to draw Tk 700 per month from that factory as salary and contributed it to her family. Though she is earning far less, she is still happy and grateful for the education.

The BGMEA is constantly monitoring the situation in some 3000 garment industries of the country. If there is any violation in the rules, the monitoring and verification team instantly penalises the aberrant industry.

ILO's watch-team pays unexpected visits to category 'A' factories once every four months, category 'B' every two months and category 'C' once a month.

According to chief technical advisor of ILO in Dhaka, Christian von Mitzlaff, the rules set towards elimination of child

labour from garments factories are strictly maintained. The monitoring teams have been given full authority to penalise the factories on the spot if they find any irregularities.

"Discovery of even one child in any factory is justification enough to penalise and downgrade it," Mitzlaff said. "The garment owners are very much alert about the rules as they do not want unwarranted hazard by turning to child labour."

Saidul Islam, team leader of Child Labour Verification and Monitoring System in Garment Factories of ILO, said that they have taken actions against 30 factories in Chittagong for employing under-aged work force following the ban on child labour.

Recently, the BGMEA, UNICEF and ILO have signed another Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) designed to keep the garments factories free from child labour through continued efforts.

The one-year agreement encourages the continuation of the present monitoring and social assistance programme. Under the MoU2, the BGMEA will contribute 200,000 US dollars, ILO 400,000 dollars and UNICEF 100,000 dollars for child labour monitoring, skill training, cost of non-formal education and economic empowerment of children formerly working at the garments factories.

Power disruption, water crisis at JU

By JU Correspondent

JAHANGIRNAGAR UNIVERSITY, Oct 29: Resident students of Jahangirnagar University (JU) suffered much due to power disruption and acute scarcity of water for the last two days.

Not a single drop of drinking water was available at the water tanks of different student dormitories till this evening.

The crisis began on Saturday while power supply was snapped in the morning. Sixth semester students of the Department of Business Administration had to appear in the final examination in the dark exam hall yesterday.

Very few officers and employees came to office yesterday and most of the classrooms and administrative offices remained vacant due to inclement weather.

Meanwhile, as electricity went off in the morning, the student dormitories remained dark throughout the whole night. The first year honours admission seekers who are appearing in the admission tests from today had to face great difficulties due to power failure. They could hardly take preparation in the dim light of candlesticks last night.

The authorities could not provide supply of water in the student dormitories yesterday

and today. Resident students in different dormitories didn't get any water at all.

The hall authorities, however, managed some drinking water in the dining hall for some time. Water supply resumed in the evening though power supply was restored fully at 2 pm today.

Shazneen case

From page 12
domestic help Shahidul Islam alias Shahid.

Shahid is the principal accused in the case while contractor Hasan is the alleged mastermind.

All the accused Shahid, Hasan, Badal, carpenter Shaniram, and maids Minu and Parveen were produced before the court during the proceedings.

Special Public Prosecutors ABM Sharfuddin Khan Mukul and Mahbub Ahmed appeared for the complainant while Advocate Monjur Alam for the accused.

Shazneen Murder Case, pending with the First Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judges Court, Dhaka was earlier stayed following an order by the Supreme Court. The stay order would be valid till disposal of the rape case.

PM leaves

From page 1

The two prime ministers will hold talks on bilateral, regional and international issues.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on manpower export is likely to be signed between the two countries. Around two lakh Bangladeshis are now working in Kuwait.

Dhaka will seek increased manpower export to Kuwait and will also ask for Kuwait investment in agro-based industry, frozen foods, tourism, oil and gas, and power generation.

The prime minister is likely to address a contingent of Bangladesh troops posted in Kuwait under UN auspices in UNIKOM. About 5000 Bangladeshi soldiers are engaged in peacekeeping mission in Kuwait.

The trade balance between the two countries is heavily tilted towards Kuwait. In 1999-2000, goods worth only US \$ 2.41 were exported to Kuwait as against imports of US \$ 26.29 million.

Azad told reporters that during the visit Dhaka may propose holding of a joint commission meeting to give a boost to trade and investment.

Hasina is due to return home on November 1.

Prisoner dies

From page 1

Sadar Hospital. A UD case was recorded with Khulna thana in this connection.

This is the second incidence of death of prisoner in Khulna jail within two days. The other prisoner died on October 27. He was later identified as Hasibur Rahman Shohag. Jail authority said Shohag died of jaundice on the night of October 27. He was also declared dead after being taken to Sadar Hospital. Police said Shohag was an under-trial prisoner.

The two deaths have caused sensation in the district jail where security measures have been tightened apprehending violence. Movement of prisoners has further been brought under strict vigilance. Because, Khulna district jail has lodged over a hundred armed cadres and notorious criminals including Ershad Shikdar and his accomplices.

Ammar Shamsi

From page 1

garden and Zia fastened a gamchha (a towel) to Ammar's neck. Zia and Salaudinn pulled both the sides of the gamchha and strangled Ammar to death. Alamgir tied his hands so that he can't escape.

When the four became sure that the Ammar died, they left him at the park and returned to the city. Then the gang called the victim's father over telephone to realise ransom.

The two said they had no intention other than realising ransom. Another accused, Ziaur Rahman, is being interrogated by Detective Branch of police at Minto Road in the city. He was arrested at Chapai Nawabganj, brought to the city on Friday and taken on remand on Saturday.

Another accused, Alamgir, arrested from his Old Dhaka residence, in his confessional statement before the CMM's court on Saturday said that he along with the three others strangled Ammar just to realise ransom. He also said that they called Ammar out of his house and took him to the National Garden at Gazipur.

He was sent to the Dhaka Central Jail on Saturday.

JCD

From page 12

get elected to top posts in the central committee because most of the councilors under the present structure are non-student.

One JCD leader said sometimes bribery plays the crucial role in the elections of committees at ward, thana and district levels. "It is not possible for a student to offer bribe and thus non-students are taking the helm by bribing the councilors," he added.

Shell

From page 1

PSC by two more years. "But if there was enough time under the current PSC, Shell would have gone for it," he added.

After signing the PSC in 1995, the block's original operator, Cairn conducted seismic survey covering some 1500 kilometres in straight lines. Later, the British oil company drilled an exploratory well in Semutang at CHT. The gas reserve found in Semutang was 'too little' to justify the field's development.

In early 1998, Cairn undertook drilling of the offshore Hadda exploratory well with a budget of 12 million US dollars. But it ended without any positive result.

Meanwhile, the PSC for block 15 was extended for the first time as per contract and Shell took over Cairn's two blocks -- 15 and 16. After a break in the exploration activities in block 15, Shell started drilling in Sandwip.

Cairn and Shell have spent over 40 million US dollars in this block, noted a Petrobangla source.

This once again proves that Bangladesh should be on guard against over-optimism about its gas reserves," he said. "And we are actually not floating on gas. We need more exploration and drilling for our future needs."

Sonali Bank CBA

From page 1
promotion", independent pay scale, cancellation of the bank's organogram, incentive bonus, regularisation of temporary appointments and reintroduction of motor cycle loan for low-salaried employees.

"These are demands which are matters to be decided by the bank's management. Fulfilment of any of these demands would involve major policy decisions and money," said a board member of Sonali Bank.

"It is highly unethical to invite politicians and then raise these illogical demands. They are trying to hold the bank hostage to political pressure," he said.

When contacted, a high official of Bangladesh Bank said, "If the politicians attend the CBA meeting, then it will be an unfortunate thing to happen."

"We have been trying to keep CBA activities under control and any political insinuation would

frustrate our effort to establish discipline in the banking system."

Talking to this correspondent, former minister and Joint Secretary General of BNP Abdullah Al-Noman said, "BNP has its workers' organisations in different banks and supports their activities."

Noman who is also president of Sramik Dal, BNP's labour front, however did not agree to the demand for mass promotion and said BNP supports 'rightful' promotion.

"Some facilities of employees were curtailed in the last few years, which should be restored," he said. He stated that his party supports reforms in the banking sector and that if BNP comes to power, it will give the central bank more control over nationalised commercial banks.

BNP lawmaker Saifur Rahman could not be contacted for comments as he was in Sylhet.

Lankan lesson

From page 12

knock also helped him to cross the 6000 runs in one-day internationals. Besides, it was also the highest individual score at the desert venue.

India, on the other hand, miserably failed to put up anything resembling a fight since their star opening pair of Sachin Tendulkar and Ganguly fell with only ten runs on the board.

Eventually they were shot out for 54 in 26.3 overs thanks mainly to a telling spell by left-arm seamer Vaas, who finished with five for 14.

The irrepressible off spinner Muttiah Muralitharan followed up his world record exploits of seven for 30 in the previous game against the same opposition, returned with three for six from six overs.

Interesting, India's total ranks as the third lowest in the history

one-day cricket. Their arch-rivals Pakistan with 43 all out against West Indies own that unpleasant record.

Extortion: Two held in Barisal

From Staff Correspondent
BARISAL, Oct 29: Barisal Kotwali police arrested two associates of a ruling party leader from a residential hotel in the town last night on charges of collecting tolls.

According to police, Karan, 28, and Jewel, 26, were collecting tolls from the boarders of Hotel Bahadur. When resisted, they damaged some rooms and furniture, including the cash counter of the hotel.

Later, police intervened to bring the situation under control and arrested both the toll collectors.

A case was filed against them in this connection under the Public Safety Act (PSA), police said.

Bangabandhu

From page 12

Eleven others sentenced to death are on the run abroad. They are Col Khondokar Abdur Rashid, Lt Col Shariful Haq Dalim, Lt Col Am Rashed Chowdhury, Lt Col Mohiuddin Ahmed (lancer), Maj Noor Chowdhury, Lt Col Abdul Aziz Pasha, Maj Shariful Hossain, Capt Kismat Hashem, Capt Nazmul Hossain Ansari and Capt Abdul Majed and Risalder Moslem Uddin.

Then why did her husband not appoint her as a Cabinet member? "It was my party leader, and not my husband, who decided that I should stay out of the Cabinet," Dybbkjaer, who was first elected to the parliament back in 1973, said. "And I think it was a correct decision."

"If you are married to the Prime Minister, it sometimes makes things difficult," she added.

How does she feel about the fact that both the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition in Bangladesh are women?

"Your country has immense and untapped possibilities. It is not just enough to have women leaders."

Waterlogged

From page 1

uprooted a large number of trees and pruned as many.

Meanwhile, residents and officials in many areas said a large number of household electronic goods and office equipment were damaged due to fluctuation in voltage and frequent disruption in power supply during and after the storm.

DESA officials said that at one stage during the storm, they supplied only 100 MW of power when supply lines in most parts of the city tripped. As consumption was very low in some areas, voltage was high in some other areas, which might have caused the damage, they said.

Sources in DESA said their engineers and technicians were repairing the damaged lines. Supply was restored on temporary basis through 'affected lines' in some areas, which might have caused disruption yesterday, they said.

However, DESA control room claimed last night that power supply was restored in nearly ninety percent of its command area in the city.

7 shot in Feni

From page 1

Awami League activists at Bhuiyarchat at 1 pm.

Karimul Haq, village police of Charshah, said he had informed OC Abdul Wahed of Sonagazi thana about the death of Ismail at 3 pm Saturday. Wahed asked him to go and bury the body. But later at 8 pm (Saturday) OC and SP had told newsmen that they were not certain about the death of Ismail.

BNP activists Abdus Shukur, Dulal, Abdul Kader, Azizul Haq and Mozammel Haq arrested following Saturday's clash, were sent to jail hajot when produced before the court today.

BNP brought out a procession here this afternoon to protest the killing of Ismail and police harassment.

Jalaluddin Sentu, Sonagazi BNP secretary, told reporters that the police launched its drive taking with them ruling party's armed cadres. He claimed armed cadres accompanying the police, shot dead Ismail and injured others. But additional SP refuted the allegation.

A senior official requesting anonymity said, youngsters as "police sources" were in two minibuses during the police raid against terrorists.

Met office, SPARSO

From page 1

Research and Scientific Organisation (SPARSO) for their 'failure' in giving proper warning about the storm.

It quoted Hiralal Bala, Secretary of Disaster Management, as saying that the two organisations were asked to work more closely on weather forecast.

Bala also admitted that the authorities failed to evacuate people from the coastal areas because there was no early warning.

But Met office sources said that they had been monitoring its movement when the low in the Bay turned into a deep depression on October 26.

"We issued 14 special bulletins since then and also said that the deep depression was probably turning into a cyclonic storm," one source at the Met office told the Daily Star last night. The warnings were broadcast by the

radio and the TV, he added. Anwarul Kabir, the new Director of the Met office was not available for comments.

Both the Met office and the SPARSO receive satellite pictures from three satellites including the American NOAA which covers Bangladesh twice a day.

The storm hit Mongla port and Khulna city with a maximum speed of 85 km per hour. By the time it hit central areas of the country including Dhaka city, its core speed was 35 kmph, reaching up to 48 kmph in gust, the Met office said.

The warning signals at Chittagong and Mongla ports and at Cox's Bazar were lowered at 3-30 pm yesterday, they said.

The sky remained overcast with clouds yesterday and the temperature in the city dropped to 19.9 degree Celsius.

Sylhet recorded the lowest temperature of 16.2 C.

Storm death

From page 1

and drinking water. The army and district administration have started rescue operations to take the trapped people to safer places.

Meanwhile, the overall flood situation in Kalara, Tala, Debbata and Sadar upazilas remained stable due to water logging. Heavy rainfall also contributed to a rise in water level during the last two days.

Bagerhat Dist Judge dead

BAGERHAT, Oct 29: District and Sessions Judge of Bagerhat Muhammad Nurul Wadud died early this morning at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BBSMU) hospital, family sources said. He was 55, reports BSS.

Wadud had been suffering from blood cancer for a long time. He leaves behind wife and three sons to mourn his death.

Subhash Bose was alive till 1946!

NEW DELHI, Oct 29: Three Indian researchers have claimed that they found evidence that legendary freedom fighter Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose was very much alive till at least 1946 and that he did not die in a plane crash in 1945, reports BSS.

The new findings are based on declassified documents in the Russian military archives in Paddolsk, and from the British Archives. These were discovered by researchers Purabi Ray, Hari Vasudevan and Shobhanlal Dutta Gupta working on the history of the Communist movement in India, leading English daily 'The Hindustan Times' reported today.

Adding to the mystery, the report said, the three researchers received anonymous calls asking them to suspend all further inquiries and end the government-funded research.

When the Hindustan Times contacted Purabi Ray, she said, "I would like to first depose before the Mukherjee Commission (the three expert panel so

far), then give out details."

The report said the Russian archives yielded two precious documents. One was about a discussion Joseph Stalin had with his Defence Minister Voroshilov and Foreign Minister Molotov in 1946. The other was a report filed by a Soviet field agent stationed in India, also in 1946.

The first document quotes Stalin and others discussing plans for the Communist movement in India vis-a-vis Bose. And records available in the British archives show that on August 17, 1945 (the plane crash was reported the next day), Bose had expressed a keen desire to teach the Soviet Union to continue the struggle against the British, the paper said.

Another British archive document, states that the entire theory of the plane crash, in Taihuku (Japan), was 'pre-planned and contrived.' Subsequently, a Japanese newspaper as late as December 20, 1945 reported that Bose was on his

way to the Soviet Union and passed through Tokyo.

Just a few days before Stalin and his colleagues discussed Bose, a Soviet agent named V.G. Sayadants reported home that "the Soviet Union cannot possibly work with either Nehru or Gandhi and that the Communist movement in India is in disarray." "Bose is the only hope for Soviet Russia," he concluded in his report.

Further, the two death reports one from M12 (a wing of British military intelligence) and the other from British embassy in Japan, which lent credence to the story that Bose had died of severe burns in the plane crash have major discrepancies, the paper added.

While the British embassy report claimed to have clearly identified Bose's body, the M12 report was 'not sure,' the Hindustan Times report said.

Natural disasters

From page 12
Some reports have indicated that cyclone and flood-battered coastal districts and scores of low-lying off-shore fishing and farming islands, home to one-quarter of the nation's population, were being slowly swamped

by sea water.

Alam said it was universally agreed that Bangladesh was extremely vulnerable to climate change and stood eventually to lose 17 per cent of its land mass.

"So far there has been no comprehensive study on the effects of global warming in Bangladesh and thus it is difficult to pin-point a visible example, but floods in southwestern Bangladesh in September-October were very odd and could be linked to this weather phenomenon," he said.

Alam suggested global warming could thaw the icy mountain-tops of the Himalayas, from where the melted waters flow down through Bangladesh to the sea.

Despite little scientific evidence linking global warming to floods, what was noticeable, Alam said was "the propensity, intensity and increase in the frequency of natural calamities."

"There is also an impact on health