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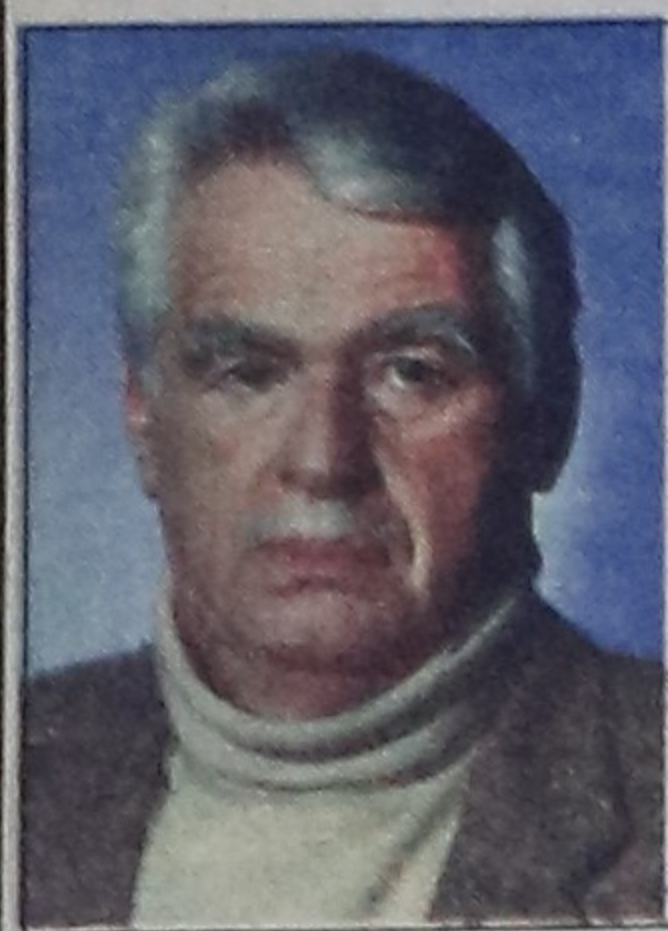
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Hankel keeps up

Frankfurt University professor Wilhelm Hankel is reportedly preparing again to lodge a complaint with Germany's high court aimed at abolishing the euro because he believed it is unstable. It is the second time the economist, with several other colleagues, is attempting to abolish the euro by court action. A complaint filed in January, 1998 was rejected in April of the same year, shortly before German parliament approved the euro's launch for January 1, 1999.

-- AFP photo

SC to hear Ershad's petitions today

By SC Correspondent

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court will hear today two separate petitions filed by former President HM Ershad in connection with Janata Tower Case.

Ershad filed one petition seeking further extension of time for surrender before the trial court.

The Ershad to serve out the remaining sentence.

The other petition was filed for exempting him from surrendering before the court.

Ershad's lawyers Barrister Rafiqul Haq and Khandker Mahub Hossain yesterday moved the two petitions.

Justice Mahmudul Amin Chowdhury fixed today for hearing of the petition by a full bench of Appellate Division.

19 senior police officers transferred

By Staff Correspondent

Nineteen senior officers of Bangladesh Police comprising Police Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner (DC), Superintendent of Police (SP) and Additional Inspector General (AIG) were transferred yesterday, sources said.

Police Commissioner of Khulna Anwarul Iqbal was transferred to the Police Headquarters as AIG.

Among others, DC (East) of DMP Mokhesur Rahman was transferred as SP to Gazipur, DC (West) Moshtak Ahmed as SP to Narshingdi, DC Abdul Jalil as SP to Gopalganj, SPs Amirul Islam of Narail as SP to Satkhira, Mosharraf Hossain of Satkhira as SP to Khulna, Sohrab Hossain of Sylhet as SP to Narail, Faruq Ahmed of Gazipur to SB headquarters, Mokhesur Rahman of Narshingdi to Sylhet, Abu Hanif of Sylhet to the Police Headquarters, Jasim Uddin of Gopalganj to Sarada Police Academy, Sajjad Hossain of Rajshahi to Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP), Mesbah Uddin of Noakhali as SP to Sherpur, Nawsher Ali and Nurul Awar of Police Headquarters as SP to Rajshahi and to the DMP respectively, deputy director of National Revenue Board Rowshan Ara as DC of Rajshahi Metropolitan Police and Abdul Wadud to Armed Police Battalion at Khulna, Khoda Baksh of Police Headquarters to Internal Affairs and Kamal Hossain as SP to Sunamganj.

It may be mentioned that the decision of transfer of the above mentioned officials was made earlier, but serious lobbying from different quarters delayed its implementation.

The transfer orders were finalized after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina approved them on Sunday.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

Published by the Editor from Transcraft Ltd., 229, Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motiheel C.A., Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: 19 Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215. Telephone Numbers: 8124044, 8124955, 8124966. Fax: 8125155, GPO Box No: 3257. Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA. Internet edition address: http://www.dailystarnews.com and Email address: dstar@bangla.net

Sharif loses appeal on hijacking conviction

KARACHI, Oct 30: The provincial Sindh High Court today upheld former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's conviction on a hijacking charge and accompanying life sentence, but over turned the guilty verdict on a charge of terrorism, reports AP.

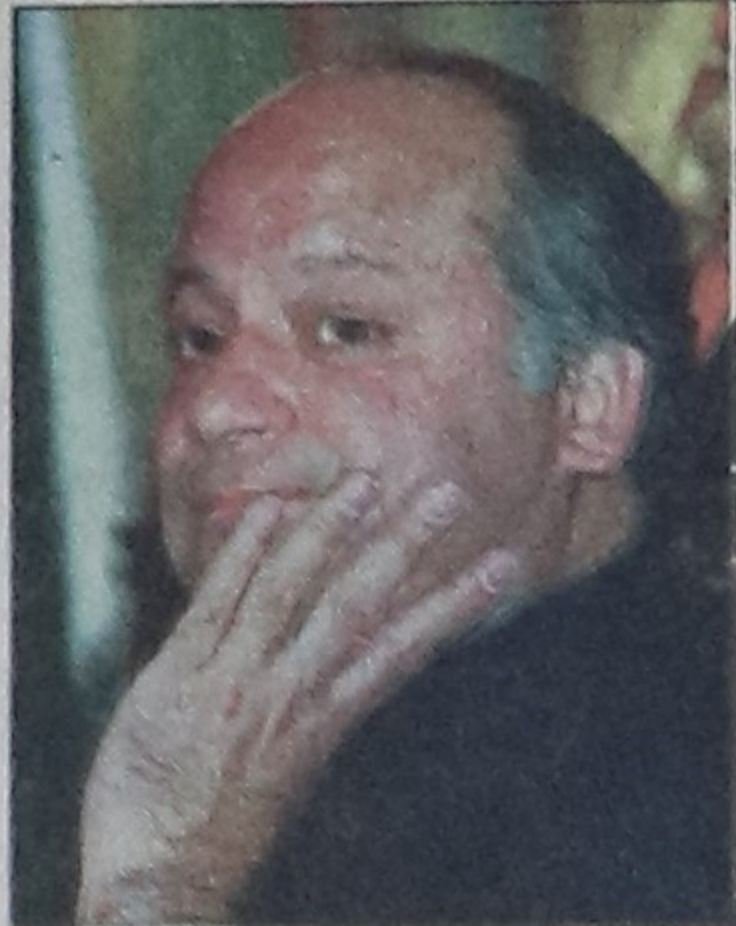
The panel of three judges also denied a prosecution appeal which sought the death penalty for Sharif rather than the life sentence.

Sharif will appeal to the Supreme Court, his last avenue of appeal, said his wife, Kulsoom Sharif, who has been crisscrossing the country championing her husband's cause.

Her head covered in the traditional headscarf, Kulsoom said the unsuccessful appeal was not a surprise.

"We don't expect justice," said Kulsoom. "The judges are helpless in the present situation," a reference to the military rule in Pakistan.

The judges were divided in their ruling, with one of the three, Judge Seramat Jalal Usmani, ruling in favour of Sharif. But the



Nawaz Sharif majority upheld Sharif's hijacking conviction and life sentence, which is sufficient under Pakistani law.

In his ruling Usmani said there was evidence only of abduction which would carry a three-year jail term.

The majority ruling also upheld the 500 million rupee fine against Sharif, as well as the loss of all his property.

Sharif was convicted on April 6 of terrorism and hijacking charges and sentenced by a special anti-terrorist court, set up during his regime, to two concurrent life terms. One of the two terms was overturned by the provincial Sindh High Court.

A life sentence in Pakistan is a minimum of 25 years in jail.

Meanwhile the prosecution had appealed the jail term demanding the death penalty, which is allowed under the law.

Prosecution lawyer Raja Qureshi said no decision has been taken on whether to appeal to the Supreme Court.

The charges against Sharif stem from an incident last October 12 the day the army seized power in Pakistan, throwing out Sharif's elected government and putting the former prime minister in jail.

Sharif was charged with refusing to allow the commercial airliner returning Pakistan's army chief Gen Pervez Musharraf to land in southern Karachi. The aircraft, with more than 200

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Status of tax registration

JS body under fire for not disclosing report on MPs

By Inam Ahmed

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Finance Ministry yesterday came under criticism from an opposition legislator for not disclosing a report on the status of tax registration of the lawmakers.

During a meeting of the committee, Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury of the BNP wanted to know the report on how many MPs pay tax and have tax identification number (TIN) has not been given to the members as yet.

"We, the members of the parliament, talk about others' accountability. What has happened to our accountability report?" asked Khasru.

However, Chairman of the committee Dr Ali Ashraf did not give any clear-cut answer and rather started talking about the need for accountability of the legislators.

According to sources, the National Board of Revenue (NBR) sent the report to the committee after it asked the Board to pre-

pare the report about four months ago. It reportedly contains a long list of tax-dodging parliamentarians.

Yesterday's standing committee meeting also witnessed some debates on the pre-shipment inspection (PSI) system as some members stated that there are controversies about integrity of some PSI companies.

"We have already paid the PSI agents some Tk 18 crore in foreign currency for doing the job," one member reportedly said. "PSI is a temporary system and it cannot go on for ever. We need to build our own in-house capacity."

Many of the members also agreed and pointed out that because of Internet facility all types of price information are available on the net. If properly trained, the customs officials can easily figure out the prices and estimate tariff.

Meanwhile, a NBR report on PSI, which was presented in the meeting, said the introduction of

the system has reduced consignments release time, improved efficiency of the port and reduced harassment of importers.

The report, however, mentioned that the customs authorities have found some discrepancies in the classification, value and volume of products in the clear report of finding certified by PSI companies.

These companies have been served with show-cause notices, the report mentioned.

UNB adds: The NBR collected Tk 3845.88 crore during July-September period of the current fiscal (2000-2001), which is 1.66 per cent up the target of Tk 3782 crore. The growth is 18.05 per cent higher than that of the first quarter of the previous fiscal.

Revenue target for the current fiscal is Tk 18,000 crore.

The meeting discussed appointment, transfer and training of revenue officials as per the new law enacted by the parliament.

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Relatives of Mominur Rahman Shimul and residents of Uttara formed a human chain in front of the Jatiya Press Club yesterday, demanding arrest and trial of the Jubo League leader's killers. Shimul was gunned down in front of Uttara Friends Club on October 30 last year as he protested against toll collection and other immoral activities in the area.

-- Star photo

Death of nurse Situation tense at KMCH

From Staff Correspondent
KHULNA, Oct 30: Situation at the Khulna Medical College Hospital (KMCH) remained tense after death of senior staff nurse Rahela Khatoun while giving birth to a child.

Nurses and employees blamed female gynaecologists Dr. Razia Sultana and Dr. Afroza Khatoun's negligence for untimely death of Rahela.

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BGMEA reiterates demand Resolve trade union issue in EPZs without delay

By Staff Correspondent

BGMEA President Anisur Rahman Sinha has reiterated his call for an immediate solution to the trade union issue in Export Processing Zones (EPZs) for the greater interest of Bangladesh's export business.

"Duty-free and quota-free access of goods to the US market will be very difficult without solving the issue," he told a press conference at the BGMEA office here.

Describing the outcome of his meetings with US officials and law makers during his recent visit to Washington, Sinha said the

issue is still unresolved although the government earlier claimed that an understanding was reached on it.

"So far we know, the EPZ problem is a major hindrance to improvement of trade relation with US," he added.

Sinha led a 16-member BGMEA team to Washington this month, which was part of the Prime minister's entourage during her visit to the US.

During the visit, the BGMEA delegation discussed with a number of members of US Congress

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PM asks for Rly land to build DU women's hall

By DU Correspondent

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has directed the authorities concerned to allocate unused land of the railway to Dhaka University authorities to construct a dormitory for the female students of the university.

The PM directed the authorities to take proper step to hand over the land besides the Curzon Hall to the university immediately, said a press release yesterday.

She also asked the DU authorities to start construction of the hall immediately after receiving the land to reduce acute accommodation problem of the female students.

DU Vice-chancellor Prof. AK Azad Chowdhury told The Daily Star yesterday that they were planning to construct a 500-seat modern dormitory for the female students at a cost of Tk 12 crore.

Female students, who constitute about 50 per cent of the total students, are suffering a lot due to the acute accommodation problem.

Gold worth Tk 40 lakh seized in Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent
SYLHET, Oct 30: Sixty-two goldbars worth about Tk 40 lakh were seized by DB police of Sylhet last night.

Two persons were arrested during the raid.

Acting on a tip-off, a police squad led by Additional SP MA Gani, raided the 2nd floor of the house at 23 Mouban Residential Area in the town at Suphanighat area. Police followed the gold-carriers when they have just entered the house.

The gold was brought by some one who came by an Airbus Flight of Biman that arrived Sylhet Osmani Airport last night from Dubai, police informed.

Police followed the persons arrested from the house along with the gold. The arrested are: Haripada Dey of village Uttar Golapnagar under Golapganj thana and Kamal Ahmed of Barsala under Kotwali thana.

7 held, arms seized in Ctg

From Our Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Oct 30: Seven people including an accused of a murder case were arrested and three fire-arms recovered in separate incidents in the port city today.

Double Mooring police in a special raid at Rawshan Mashjid Lane of Kodomtoli arrested a criminal identified as Zakir Hossain Ratan, 30, and recovered 1 cut rifle and eight rounds of bullets from his possession at around 2 pm.

Ratan, reportedly a BCL cadre belonging to AZM Nasir group, was arrested in connection with six criminal cases including two murders.

Earlier two accomplices of Ratan Md. Humayun, 30, and Delwar, 30, were also arrested from the same area at around 10:30 in the morning.

In another incident, Chaudgon police in a pre-dawn raid at Sultan Textile Mills in Kalurghat BSIC area, arrested four persons with 1 LG and 2 cartridges.

The miscreants identified as Lokman, 28, Md. Nazim Uddin, 25, Md. Nasir, 22, and Nurul Abser, 24 were preparing to commit crime.

Meanwhile, Bondor police recovered a home made LG which was in front of Dock Samrak Union Office at around 1:30 am.

Yusuf killing 3 accused refuse to give judicial statement

By Court Correspondent

Three accused, arrested in connection with the killing of Yusuf, a trader of telephone and fax at Tallabagh under Mohammadpur thana refused to give judicial statements before the CMM's court, Dhaka yesterday.

Mohammadpur police brought the accused Hira, Abdul Mannan and Jakir Hossain alias Murgi Jakir before the court of Metropolitan Magistrate Abdus Salam Miah for recording their judicial statements. But they refused to give statements. Later, the court sent them to the Dhaka Central Jail.

Another accused in the case Zahir was produced before the court with a prayer for seven-day remand.

After hearing both the sides, the court granted him two days.

Sohel, the principal accused in the case gave a judicial statement on October 21 involving Hira, Mannan and Jakir Hossain.

Mohammad Yusuf of Rajabazar was killed by a group of assailants on October 13.

An intimate moment



West Bengal Home Minister Buddhadev Bhattacharya (R) gestures as he speaks to Chief Minister Jyoti Basu at a Left Front rally in Calcutta yesterday. Bhattacharya will replace Jyoti as the new Chief Minister from November 6 after the latter retires from the post next month on health reasons.

-- AFP photo

PCJSS threatens to take recourse

BANDARBAN, Oct 30: CHT Regional Council Chairman Shantu Lama today said the members of PCJSS were ready to take recourse to their previous move, if necessary, to establish the Juma people's rights, reports UNB.

He sounded the caution addressing as chief guest a grand rally of hill people organised by Parbatya Chattagram Jano Sanghati Samity here to protest what they said illegal leasing of lands in the three hill districts.

Jyotirindra Bodhipriyo Lama alias Shantu Lama alleged that the Prime Minister's commitment to rehabilitate 4 lakh outsider Bengalees to the plains with due honour was not fulfilled for reasons not known.

"The public representatives from the three hill districts taking vote from Juma people, on the other hand, are now leading luxurious life betraying the hill people," said Lama who struck peace agreement with the government in 1997 to end over two

decades of tribal insurgency. "Collaborators are enjoying the fruits of the peace treaty depriving the Juma people," he said clobbering the privileged elite of the indigenous communities.

The PCJSS supreme alleged the government, violating the clause of peace treaty regarding withdrawal of army camps from the region, is trying to establish three full-fledged cantonments in three hill districts.

PCJSS leaders alleged that the peace deal signed between the government and them was violated by giving lease of 36,231 acres of land in the hill tracts.

Meanwhile, a report published by the Hill Tracts Affairs Ministry said the government had formed a land commission headed by a retired justice to settle the land disputes in the hills.

Measures have been undertaken to allocate two acres of khas land each to the landless tribal families, it added.

Besides, 70 army camps have already been pulled out from the hill districts.

India, Pakistan trade mortar fire over Kashmir border

JAMMU, India, Oct 30: India and Pakistan traded heavy mortar fire over their disputed Kashmir border for the third straight day today, following weekend clashes that reportedly left 17 soldiers from both sides dead, reports AFP.

Indian Army spokesman Maj Sanjay Khanna said Pakistani mortar units fired 1,200 shells on Indian positions in four districts of the southern Kashmiri border

region of Poonch.

"Our own mortar units retaliated, and destroyed at least six Pakistani bunkers," Khanna told reporters. No casualties were reported on either side.

The mortar exchanges began in earnest on Saturday, when the Indian army said up to 12 Pakistani soldiers were killed after troops repulsed a Pakistani raid in the border district of Rajouri.

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