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22 chargesheeted in Kalidas Boral Murder Case

BAGERHAT, Oct 31: Police submitted the chargesheet of Advocate Kalidas Boral Murder Case today against 22 people, reports UNB.

Most of them are cadres of Jubo League and Chhatra League.

The chargesheet, submitted before a Magistrate's Court 72 days after the murder, showed 17 of the accused, including expelled Jubo League President of Chitalmari thana Alamgir Siddique, as absconding.

Other accused are Abdur Rashid, Bablu Mollah, Kabir Dakua, Manik, Maruf alias Chhoto, Chand Mollah, Mukul Mondol, Tushar Mondol, Nasir Siddique, Shawkat Ali, Abul Basar alias Panna, Kamrul, Swapan, Jewel, Kuddus and Tushar.

There are two confessed

2294 murders in 9 months

By Shaikh Nazrul Islam

At least 2,294 people have been murdered in the first nine months of this year. According to police records, there have also been seven political killings and 259 deaths in riots in the same period.

Last year, during the first nine months, 2,814 people were killed.

This year, the highest number of murders took place in July when 310 people were killed, whereas the highest number of murder

Months	1999				2000				Difference			
	Political	Non-political	Riot	Total	Political	Non-political	Riot	Total	Political	Non-political	Riot	Total
January	0	276	32	308	2	219	26	247	2	-57	-6	-61
February	6	231	23	260	0	216	27	243	-15	-6	4	-17
March	1	289	32	322	0	255	30	285	-1	-34	-2	-37
April	2	291	49	342	1	252	45	298	-1	-39	-4	-44
May	1	301	37	339	0	261	27	288	-1	-40	-10	-51
June	0	278	28	306	2	275	33	310	2	-3	5	4
July	2	252	43	297	2	285	28	315	0	33	-15	18
August	2	279	29	309	0	274	25	299	-2	-4	-4	-10
September	0	303	28	331	0	257	18	275	0	-46	-10	-56
Total	14	2499	301	2814	7	2294	259	2560	-7	-205	-42	-254

Petrobangla rejects Unocal's claim of compensation payment

By Staff Correspondent

Petrobangla sent a letter to US oil company Unocal on Monday asking it to 'refrain from using any facts and figures' in its documents on payment of compensation for the Magurchhara blowout without consulting it first.

Sources said that the Petrobangla letter rejected Unocal's claim of compensation payment for the Magurchhara blowout and said the company should be 'cautious' about presenting any facts and figures in this regard as these have created misunderstanding among different government authorities.

The company last week said that it had paid Tk 332.32 crore as compensation for the Magurchhara blowout. Out of Tk 332.32 crore, it paid Tk 40 crore to the Railway authorities, tea states and local people and Tk 158 crore for remedial measures for the blowout. Tk 134 crore was projected as 'sacrifice' of profit from future gas production from

Ibrahim Khaled to join Pubali Bank as MD

Star Report

Former Deputy Governor of Bangladesh Bank Khandaker Ibrahim Khaled has agreed to join Pubali Bank as Managing Director from the second week of November.

Khaled was on a two-year extension after his retirement in 1998, which ended yesterday.

The Finance Ministry had earlier recommended that his service with the central bank be extended by another year, which the government agreed to in principle. But Khaled accepted the Pubali Bank offer while his extension was in the process of finalisation.

"I received a better offer from Pubali Bank and so, I am joining there," Khaled told the Daily Star yesterday. "On the other hand, I feel that the older generation should give way to the younger generation to take over the responsibilities."



A ride on brother's back... lest his school uniform get ruined in the stinkystagnantwater, this boy gives his younger brother a piggyback ride on way to school. It's been the same story for the people in Nahab Bagicha, a small neighbourhood in the city's Lalbagh area for two years now. Whenever there's heavy rain, the narrow lanes get waterlogged, thanks to a pathetic drainage system. Until the water dries out, the ordeal of some ten thousand residents continues. - Star photo by Anisur Rahman

Student leaders politicking for polls nominations

By Abul Kalam Azad

Inspired by the success of their predecessors in the 1991 and 1996 general elections and, at the same time, frustrated with the dismal state of politics on the campus, some prominent student leaders have decided to give a go at national politics.

According to sources, at least 20 leaders from different organisations are maintaining close contacts with top-ranking politicians to win nominations for the upcoming 2001 elections. Also, they are making frequent visits to the constituencies they plan to run from with a view to preparing solid popular base for the polls scheduled for September next year.

"They feel encouraged by the showing by their predecessors in the general elections of 1991 and 1996," said a source.

Transition to national politics, planned by these senior student leaders, has become a much talked-about issue on the Dhaka University campus, especially at the Madhu's canteen, the traditional hub of student politics in the country.

Speculations on the chances of these would-be contestants, between 30 and 40 years of age, in the national polls feature in almost every informal gathering of leaders and activists of different student bodies.

The aspirants, on the other hand, believe that the number of student leaders contesting the national polls may well increase, as the common voters want young generation to be elected to the Jatiya Sangsad.

Number of leaders willing to contest the JS elections could be more from Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), student front of main opposition BNP, than from the ruling party-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL).

In recent times, JCD has lost its appeal among the

Crackdown on Jamaat-Shibir in Ctg

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, Oct 31: Jamaat-Shibir politics faces an 'undeclared ban' in Chittagong while most of its activists were forced to go into hiding in the face of frequent raids by police, political circles said.

Police launched crackdown on the activists of Jamaat-Shibir after Bahaddarhat incident that left eight people, including six BCL activists killed on July 12.

Jamaat-Shibir activists were blamed for the carnage that triggered a massive protests in the port city amid an outrage against them. But Jamaat-Shibir denied the charge.

Series of protest rallies were held even with the attendance of Home Minister Mohammad Nasim where demand for banning the politics of Jamaat-Shibir was voiced.

Since then, Jamaat-Shibir activists have been facing a tough time to do politics openly, sources said, adding that most of their activists went underground.

They can hardly hold rally in front of Jam-e-Mosque at traditional place for Jamaat-Shibir in the city to organise meeting, sources said.

An attempt of holding such a meeting in front of this mosque was foiled recently by police.

A senior police official on condition of anonymity said "We would not allow Jamaat-Shibir to do politics on the streets until and unless the killers involved in Bahaddarhat carnage are handed over to us". "We are ready to deal with them," he said.

Police have already set up camps in front of Chittagong government college, a stronghold of Shibir activists. Besides, police arrested over 60 activists of Jamaat-Shibir.

Police sources said a seven-member gang was involved in Bahaddarhat incident. One of the gang members was arrested while six others are still at large.

Police sources said hunt for the killers is still going on.

Police even keep watch on

Accord with Kuwait on export of more manpower

From Nazmul Ashraf

BAYAN PALACE (Kuwait City), Oct 31: Bangladesh and Kuwait today signed a Technical Cooperation Agreement paving the way for export of skilled manpower to Kuwait.

The agreement also provides for some specific guidelines for employment of such manpower.

PM returns today

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will return home this evening ending her three-day official visit to Kuwait, reports BSS.

During her stay in Kuwait, the Prime Minister met with the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmed Al Jaber Al Sabah.

She held official talks with Acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabha Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah on Monday.

The Prime Minister also addressed the member of the Bangladesh contingent stationed in Kuwait as UN peace keepers.

Bangladesh's Labour and Employment Minister M A Mannan and Labour and Social Affairs Minister of Kuwait Abdul Wahab Al Wazzan signed the nine-point agreement at the Bayan Palace, a state guest house.

A joint committee of the two countries will work for implementation of the new deal. The committee will meet once every two years or whenever necessary, alternately in the two countries.

The agreement will come into force after ratification as per procedures in the two countries. It will remain valid for four years and will be automatically renewed unless one of the parties demand in writing its termination. The demand has to be made three months prior to the date of expiry.

Under the agreement, Bangladesh and Kuwait will also exchange experience and expertise in different fields related to manpower.

S'pore Airlines plane with 179 crashes

TAIPEI, Oct 31: A Singapore Airlines SIAL-SI plane bound for Los Angeles crashed during a typhoon at Taiwan's international airport on Tuesday, an airport police official said, reports Reuters.

It was not immediately known how many of the 159 passengers and 20 crew were killed or injured, Civil Aeronautics Administration deputy director Chang Kuo-cheng told reporters.

"The plane burst into flames and exploded shortly after take-off," an airport police official told reporters.

Local television reported that over 120 injured had been taken to hospital.

The SIA Boeing BA.N 747-400 was taking off during a storm and was hit by strong winds. It hit two other planes on the tarmac, including a China Airlines 2601-TW plane, police said.

A Taiwan vice transport minister said no one was on board the other two planes.

The injured were rushed to hospital. No other details were immediately available.

It was the first major crash in Taiwan since 1998. In February that year, 202 people were killed in the island's worst aviation disaster when a China Airlines Airbus A300-600R crashed.

Kibria for tough laws to bar loan defaulters from polls

Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria yesterday warned that legal frameworks would be tightened further to bar bank loan defaulters from elections, reports UNB.

If necessary, their luxurious houses and cars would also be confiscated, he said at the launching of Janata Bank's website (www.janatabank-bd.com) at Hotel Sheraton yesterday morning.

He said there is a noticeably significant change in the overall situation of defaulted loans and said, "the defaulters are socially unwelcome. Now they can't go around boldly."

The minister sought statements from banks on loan cases dismissed by Bankruptcy Courts and said if necessary, laws would be amended to make those courts more effective.

"Not civil prosecution alone, go for criminal prosecution also if any fraud practice is detected in the loan process," Kibria asked the banks, criticising bankers for being reluctant to realise loans.

Janata Bank Chairman Dr Atiar Rahman, managing director SA Chowdhury and general manager Nurul Islam Mollah also spoke at the function.

The minister proposed that bank management give proper incentives to the bank people for better recovery to help bring down the average rate of classified loans in NCBs below 30 per cent.

He appreciated Janata Bank's success in bringing down the percentage of classified loans to 37.12 from 40.66 per cent last year.

Janata Bank is the first nationalised commercial bank to open the web page to add its name to global e-banking network.

The finance minister hoped other NCBs will also do the same to widen their services worldwide.

He advised NCBs to modernise their operations and bring about qualitative changes to compete with foreign banks that attract clients away from NCBs by offering improved services. "Identify the reasons that make clients go to foreign banks and improve your own services accordingly. You must not like to lose your business to them," Kibria said.

The finance minister described the overall economic state as "good" with 23 per cent growth in export, 19 per cent in revenue, an average of 4 per cent in agriculture and 5.5 per cent in GDP while inflation remains lower than 3 per cent.

"But many are hesitant to admit the success we achieved in macroeconomic management," Kibria said, indirectly referring to political critics of the state of the economy.

Very few countries could maintain a stable growth in agriculture for four consecutive years, he said, expecting a good growth this year even after floods that damaged crops in some districts.

GDP growth rate could be even higher if economic activities were not slowed down by artificial political problems, he said.

He said high growth is a must for alleviating poverty and cited South East Asian countries where many other economic indicators automatically turned out positive just after they achieved high economic growth.

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	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Nov 1		5.19 pm
Nov 2	6-05 am	

Prayer Timings
November

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-00	5-35
Zohr	12-45	1-25
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-25	5-30
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

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