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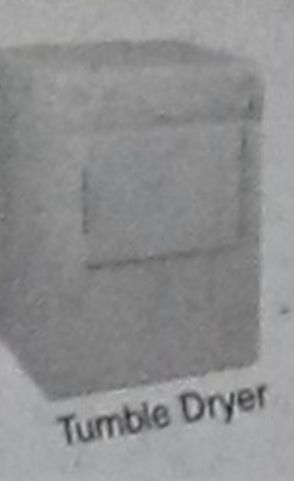
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Petrol tanker blast kills at least 200 in Nigeria

LAGOS, Nov 6 (AFP): At least 200 people in south-west Nigeria were killed at the weekend when a petrol tanker lost control and rammed into several vehicles before bursting into flames, police said Monday after being blamed for the tragedy, reports AFP.

The victims were burnt beyond recognition. The accident, which involved more than 10 vehicles, occurred on Saturday following heavy traffic on the Ife-Ibadan road in Osun State, the state police said.

A police spokesman said the tanker exploded shortly after discharging petrol on the road.

He said many people were seriously injured in the inferno, and had been taken to a nearby university teaching hospital for treatment.

The state governor and police commissioner visited the accident site Monday morning, the spokesman said.

Witnesses cited by Monday's newspapers blamed the police for the accident.

Two students from the nearby Obafemi Awolowo University told the Comet newspaper said some policemen were collecting bribes from motorists, causing heavy traffic on the road.

One student, Seun Ogunsele, said the traffic on the road was compounded by the police action.

The policemen complicated it (traffic) by stationing themselves there to collect money. This caused a

serious traffic jam.

"As you can see this is not a straight road. A tanker coming from Ibadan suddenly saw a long queue and when the driver tried to apply his brake, it failed," he said.

Another student and witness, Folu Bamisile, also blamed the police, saying "they are the cause of this tragedy."

The police denied the charge.

"It is not true that our men were collecting bribe on the road. In fact, there was no policeman on duty at the time of the accident. The accident was caused by the narrowness of the road and the impatience of motorists," Police spokesman Ayodeji Oluwale told AFP by telephone.

He said a police vehicle was destroyed by a mob at the scene shortly after the accident.

"They destroyed our van to protest our alleged cause of the accident. It is unfortunate," he said.

The police spokesman said around 96 bodies have been recovered from the wreckage.

The Vanguard newspaper, which put the death toll at over 200, reported Monday that hundreds of sympathisers rushed to the scene, weeping profusely after seeing the charred bodies littering the road.

Road safety officials late Sunday removed the bodies, confirming at least 96 corpses, the paper said.

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Jatiyatabadi Samajik Sangskritik Sangstha (JASAS), cultural front of BNP, brought out a colourful rally in the city yesterday to mark today's "National Revolution and Solidarity Day".

--Star photo

3 murdered in city

By Staff Correspondent

Three persons were murdered in separate incidents in the city yesterday.

Kazi Ataul Alam, 35, died from excessive bleeding as muggers chopped off his legs.

Son of Kazi Moazzam Hossain of Gulshan area, Alam was a peon at the Forest Department office at Mohakhali.

Muggers abducted him from near a market in Badda area when he was going to deposit telephone bill of his office to bank at about 1 pm, police said.

Local people took him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, where doctors declared him dead. The body was sent to the hospital morgue for autopsy.

In another incident, police recovered the body of housewife Honula Begum from her residence in Sabujbagh thana area in the early hours of yesterday. She was strangled, police said.

Her husband Dulal was arrested.

Police recovered the decomposed body of a middle-aged man from the bank of river Turag at Taltola under Uttara thana.

Police suspect that miscreants took the man there, killed him

and left the body. There were injury marks on the head. The body was sent to the DMCH morgue for autopsy.

A young man, Zakir Hossain Khan, shot by gunmen at his father-in-law's house at Pallabi, is in a critical condition at the DMCH, police and hospital sources said.

Quoting witnesses, police said a gang of five unidentified miscreants stormed into the house at about 1 pm and fired several shots on him, injuring him critically.

Son of one Kuddus Khan of Mirpur, Zakir was a contractor and fuel trader. He had left his house for his father-in-law's at about 11 am.

Rejoinder

BAGERHAT, Nov 6: The Deputy Commissioner and the Civil Surgeon of Satkhira were not stand released as erroneously reported by UNE on Sunday.

Protesting the news, Deputy Commissioner Abdul Aziz and Civil Surgeon Mustafa Kamal said the report was based on wrong information provided by some vested quarters.

JCD-BCL gunfight at Kushtia: 10 injured

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Nov 06: Ten people were injured, four of them by bullet, during a gunfight between ruling party-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and opposition BNP-supported Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) near the Kushtia Government University College campus yesterday.

Sajjadur Rahman, 22, Imtiaz, 22, Kamal Uddin, 21, Ferdous Rahman, 25 and Amirul Islam, 18 were admitted to Kushtia General Hospital with bullet injuries while the rest were given first aid.

Witnesses said that the clash ensued at about 1 pm over sharing of admission quota into different honours courses of the college.

At least 20 rounds of bullets were fired during the half an hour encounter between the activists of the rival student bodies, witnesses said.

The college remained closed for the rest of the day as students gripped by panic ran for safety. Tension was prevailing on the college campus and in the surrounding area.

Later in the evening, JCD held a rally at Char-rasta-crossing and held BCL responsible for attacking them.

JCD leaders alleged that BCL

men were conspiring to drive them out from the college and were trying to capture whole admission quota for their party activists. They demanded stern action against the attackers.

Panic gripped the people again when several crackers exploded near the JCD rally. The streets were deserted as shops and other establishments were closed following the explosion.

None was arrested in connection with the incident.

Airbus Purchase Case: Proceedings stayed till Nov 22

The High Court yesterday stayed till November 22 the proceedings of a case filed against former prime minister Khaleda Zia on charge of graft in the purchase of two aircraft for Biman Bangladesh Airlines, reports BSS.

A High Court Division Bench comprising Justice Mohammad Nurul Islam and Justice Mohammad Mamtazuddin Ahmed fixed the date of hearing of Khaleda's quashment petition on November 21.

The court also issued a rule upon the government to show

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BNP, allies observe 'Solidarity Day' today

By Staff Correspondent

The BNP and some rightwing political parties will observe the "National Revolution and Solidarity Day" across the country today in a belittling manner.

Although successive governments from 1976 to 1995 officially observed the day as "National Revolution and Solidarity Day" and the day was a public holiday, the ruling Awami League since its comeback to power in 1996 cancelled the holiday and viewed that the day holds altogether a different meaning in the national life.

Some left-leaning political parties, including the Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal also have different viewpoint on November 7.

The day is not being observed officially since the AL came to power.

Various socio-cultural and political organisations have chalked out elaborate programmes to celebrate the day. The programmes include placing wreath at the mausoleum of late President Ziaur Rahman, hoisting of national and party flags, discussion meeting, mass procession, special prayers, airing of selected speeches of Zia and

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Mushtaq, Rashid plotted Aug 15 putsch, says SPP

The prosecution yesterday identified Khandkar Mushtaq Ahmed and Col Rashid as the masterminds of the putsch that killed Bangabandhu and most of his family members and planted Mushtaq in the presidency in the 1975 changeover, reports UNB.

"President Mushtaq (late) and Col (sacked) Rashid were the main initiators of the conspiracy to kill Bangabandhu and his family members that ended in takeover of the country's power by Mushtaq," special public prosecutor Advocate Serajul Haq said.

He made the submissions before the High Court browsing the depositions made by several prosecution witnesses in the Bangabandhu murder trial in the lower court.

Analysing the situation soon after the killing of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, along with his family members, the lawyer said the capture of the radio station thereafter, announcement of Bangabandhu killing, positioning the tanks in different strategic places, burial of the bodies in Banani and Tungipara were all preplanned.

"Eighteen bodies were buried at Banani while only the body of Bangabandhu was sent to Tungipara. Bangabandhu's body

was sent to Tungipara with the aim of averting people's agitation," Advocate Serajul Haq submitted before the court.

"Sending the body of Bangabandhu to Tungipara was part of their conspiracy," he contended carrying on his long-drawn argument in the appeal hearings on the death reference in the Bangabandhu murder case.

As the defence counsel in their submissions had argued that the assassination of the leader was not preplanned so did the government prosecution reiterate that pre-and post-incident activity of the killers proved that it was

KCC mayor gets anticipatory bail

KHULNA, Nov 6: A court here today granted anticipatory bail to Khulna City Corporation (KCC) Mayor Sheikh Tayebur Rahman and KCC's three officials when they appeared before the court, reports UNB.

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate PR Chakma granted the bail as per the order issued by the High Court Division of the Supreme Court on September 12 this year.

The High Court ordered the court to ensure anticipatory bail to the accused indicted in two separate cases.

"preplanned and consequence of their conspiracy".

"Soon after the killing, the killers executed every plan according to their design so quickly that the countrymen stood stunned with suddenness of the killers' acts."

Advocate Serajul Haq said immediately after the carnage, Major (sacked) Dalim and Lt Col (sacked) Shahrier Rashid Khan were very much active. They captured the radio station over-powering the army men who were guarding it and forced the recording of the proclamation of Bangabandhu's killing very quickly.

"Col Rashid brought Mushtaq to the radio station where he made an address and later Mushtaq took oath of office as per their blueprint everything was happening so quickly that the people did not know what to do," said the senior lawyer focusing on the pre-dawn putsch on August 15, 1975.

Submission of arguments will continue today before the death-reference bench of the HC, comprising Justice Ruhul Amin and ABM Khairul Haq.

Advocate Serajul Haq was assisted by DAJ Shamsuddin Ahmed Manik, Mosharaf Hossain Kajol and Advocate Anisul Haq.

Shia-Sunni clash in India: 13 killed

LUCKNOW, India, AP: Thirteen people were killed and more than 40 injured in eastern India when a mob of Sunnis attacked Shi'ites in a market city known for age-old conflicts between the two factions of Islam, police said today, reports AP.

Paramilitary troops were deployed on the streets of Mubarakpur after the bombings, shootings and looting Sunday night and a curfew was imposed by the Sunnis to take revenge of the five Sunnis killed in a Shia attack in January, he said.

"A series of blasts rocked the market place during closing time and that was followed by gunshots and looting, which killed more than a dozen people on the spot," Sinha said. "The Mubarakpur police station reacted late, causing increased death toll. The local police station even failed to inform the district headquarters in time," the minister alleged.

Correction

In a news item published in the November 5 issue of The Daily Star, it was inadvertently mentioned that 10 Eastern Bank directors had taken loans from their own banks. We regret the mistake.

Anuj Bishnoi, secretary in the home affairs department in Lucknow, also said he believed the violence was a retaliation by Sunnis for the January killings.

Poor FFs to get monthly allowance

The Cabinet yesterday endorsed a decision to give monthly allowance to poor freedom fighters, reports BSS.

According to the decision, each poor freedom fighter will receive Tk 300 per month, an official release said.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina presided over the meeting at PM's secretariat here.

Members of the cabinet and state ministers in charge of different ministries attended the meeting. Cabinet Secretary, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister and other concerned secretaries were present.

The meeting, in principle, approved the draft of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Amendment) Act 2000 and the draft of amendment to the Hindu Dharmiya Kalyan Trust Ordinance of 1983.

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Chittagong Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Chamber House, Agrabad C/A, Chittagong Cancellation of CCCI Election Schedule Issued on 13th August, 2000 and Election Polling Date on 9th November, 2000

This is for information of all concerned that the meeting of the Board of Directors of CCCI held on 5th November, 2000 unanimously resolved to cancelled the Election Schedule issued on 13th August, 2000 for the election of the Board of Directors for the term 2001-2003 violating the order of the hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh in the matter No. 100 of 1998 wherein it was clearly ordered to hold election for the year 1998 & 1999 only but not for the year 2000. Therefore, the said Election Schedule and polling date on 9th November, 2000 is hereby declared cancelled.

The hon'ble Division Bench of the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh on 1st November, 2000 to Writ Petition No. 2682 of 2000 passed an order stating the impugned order of the Ministry of Commerce vide Memo No. M.S/TOC-24/90(Part-1)/83 dated 18.5.2000 superseding the Executive Committee of the Chittagong Chamber of Commerce & Industry and appointing the Director of Trade Organization (DTO) as the defacto Administrator of the Chamber is declared to have been passed without lawful authority and is of no legal effect making the Rule absolute.

The Board of Directors of the CCCI in a meeting held on 5th November, 2000 further unanimously resolved to announce the new Schedule of Election for the year 1998 & 1999 immediately in compliance with the judgement given by the hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh (Special Statutory Jurisdiction) in the matter No. 100 of 1998.

By order of the Board of Directors
Secretary

D-787

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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STATUTORY DECLARATION
"CONSENT OF THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION HAS BEEN OBTAINED TO THE ISSUE / OFFER OF THESE SECURITIES UNDER THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE ORDINANCE, 1969, AND PUBLIC ISSUE RULES, 1998. IT MUST BE DISTINCTLY UNDERSTOOD THAT IN GIVING THIS CONSENT THE COMMISSION DOES NOT TAKE ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE FINANCIAL SOUNDNESS OF THE COMPANY, ANY OF ITS PROJECTS OR THE ISSUE PRICE OF ITS SHARE OR FOR THE CORRECTNESS OF ANY OF THE STATEMENTS MADE OR OPINION EXPRESSED WITH REGARD TO THEM. RESPONSIBILITY FOR WHICH LIES WITH THE ISSUER, ITS DIRECTORS, INVESTMENT ADVISER, ISSUE MANAGER, VALUER AND/OR AUDITOR. IT IS, HOWEVER, THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION'S RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE THAT FULL AND FAIR DISCLOSURES ARE MADE IN THE PROSPECTUS IN TERMS OF THE PUBLIC ISSUE RULES, 1998, SO THAT THE INVESTORS CAN MAKE INFORMED INVESTMENT DECISIONS."

DECLARATION ABOUT THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS OF THE COMPANY "RASPI DATA MANAGEMENT & TELECOMMUNICATIONS LIMITED" IN RESPECT OF PROSPECTUS
This prospectus has been prepared, seen and approved by us and we collectively and individually accept full responsibility for the authenticity and accuracy of the statement, information given in the prospectus, documents, financial statement exhibits, annexures, papers submitted to the Commission in support thereof, and confirm, after making all reasonable inquiries, that all conditions and requirements concerning this public issue and prospectus have been met, and that there is no other information or documents the omission of which may make any information or statements therein misleading, for which the Commission may take any civil, criminal or administrative action against us as it may deem fit. We also confirm that full and fair disclosures have been made in this prospectus to enable the investors to make an informed decision for investment.

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