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International Bodyguard Association's
country chief Anwar Kamal Yuree face to
face with Ekram Kabir
Popular novelist Imdadul Haq Milon
talks about his teenage life to Ziaul
Karim

COMMENT

There is no way that a wholesale ban can be
announced on satellite based cable channels. The
local film industry can hardly argue from a moral
high ground as most of the films produced in Ban-
gladesh bear the worst of foreign films hollow in
terms of obscenities, violence and outrageous
fantasy. Hasnat Abdul Hye writes in *Circling the
Wagon*

A national dream is therefore important, which
lodged in the hearts of every citizen, must run
like a thread from the heart of the father to that of
his son, writes *Mohammad Badrul Ahsan* in *Why
Do the Poor Want to Live?*

Speakers calls for full House Winter JS session on

By Staff Correspondent

The winter session of Jatiya Sangsad began yesterday with the Speaker repeating his call for all MPs to attend the proceedings of parliament.

Legislators belonging to main opposition BNP and its allies are continuing their abstention from the House.

However, lawmakers of a faction of Jatiya Party and the Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, both loyal to the Awami League government, and rebel BNP MP Major (ret) Akhtaruzzaman joined the session with the Treasury Bench members.

"I hope all the members of parliament will join the session regularly and carry out their duties considering the welfare of the nation," Speaker Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury said in his introductory speech.

He also reminded the lawmakers of their constitutional obligation to participate in the business of parliament.

Beginning at 11 a.m., the one-and-a-half-hour opening sitting of the 20th session ended with adoption of separate obituary references on Salahuddin Yusuf, a minister and a member of the present parliament, and eight other former lawmakers, who died since the previous session was prorogued.

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Unocal sticks to 'ghost' payment claims

US company's reply to Petrobangla warning leaves JS body bewildered

By Nazrul Islam

Unocal has once again reiterated that Petrobangla has been fully compensated for the Magurghara blowout through the Supplemental Agreement to Blocks 13 and 14 Production Sharing Contract (PSC), dated November 25, 1998.

In a meeting of the parliamentary subcommittee on Energy yesterday, officials discussed a Unocal reply to Petrobangla's recent warning letter on the Magurghara issue, sources said.

In its November 2 letter, the US company wrote: "Cash was paid to some individuals and business that had proven damage claims; repairs were made by OBL (Occidental Bangladesh Limited) to mitigate damage in other instances."

"In the case of Petrobangla, contractual changes were made for compensation. All cost details had previously been sent to Petrobangla and the contractual changes were well-known."

Yesterday's meeting observed that the Supplemental Agreement of Occidental -- now owned by Unocal -- had proved to be a 'reward'.

Occidental's PSC for blocks 13 and 14 had expired on January 10, 1998 due to its failure to fulfill the minimum work commitment that included drilling of one exploratory well. The Supplemental Agreement was signed through an understanding that the Occidental would gradually pay all compensation.

At the meeting yesterday, one of the investigators of the Magurghara blowout said that the disaster had happened due to negligence of Occidental.

The investigator was invited to the meeting as the

committee members wanted to know who was actually responsible for the blowout. The original probe committee report still remains under wraps.

"It was an incident, not an accident," a member of a parliamentary sub-committee told The Daily Star yesterday following the meeting with the officials from the energy and mineral resources ministry and Petrobangla.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources recently formed the sub-committee to look into the Magurghara incident and its compensation issues, which has been virtually shelved by certain high-level government officials.

The committee in its meeting asked the ministry officials to submit the probe report on the Magurghara blast, which is still missing after its preparation in June 1997. The 500-page report is not available to any of the officials of the ministry and Petrobangla, and nobody knows where it is.

The ministry officials are still looking for the report. If found, they would submit it before the committee immediately.

One of the members of the 1997 probe committee, who attended yesterday's meeting, informed the subcommittee the report was submitted to the then secretary of the ministry.

According to the member, the probe committee found the Occidental responsible for having failed to maintain the standard in its work as per the plan they had submitted to the Petrobangla.

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The odyssey begins

Cricket Test against India from today

By Syed Ashfaquul Haque and Al-Amin

Bangladesh write a new page in their sporting history when a 24-carat gold coin will be flicked up in the air to decide the toss of the historic Test match against India at the Bangabandhu National Stadium today.

No matter who wins the toss, Bangladesh captain Naimur Rahman and his Indian counterpart Saurav Ganguly would be dying

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The colours of cricket: Tiny tots engrossed in drawing during a competition at the National Museum premises yesterday on the occasion of Bangladesh's Test baptism.

SKIPPERS



Saurav Ganguly



Naimur Rahman



ICC's Asia Confce begins today

Star Report

The first Asia Conference of International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) will start in the city today with a hope of attracting foreign investors to the region and eliminating disparity in the flow of global investment.

An investment guide to Bangladesh prepared by ICC and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) will also be released at the close of the conference.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan in a message to the conference has mentioned the joint role of the UN and the ICC in promoting free and fair trade as one of the ways to overcome poverty and promote investment in the Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

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Dr S Panitchpakdi



Tadao Chino



Kim Hak-Su



Maria L Cattai

Dr. Supachai Panitchpakdi, Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand, will take over from Mike Moore as Director General of the World Trade Organisation in October 2002. He will continue in the post till

Tadao Chino, formerly Chairman of the Board of Counselors of Nomura Research Institute Ltd, took over as the President of ADB on 16 January, 1999 after being unanimously elected by the Board of

Kim Hak-Su of the Republic of Korea assumed the post of Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) on 1 July 2000.

Maria Livanos Cattai assumed office of the Secretary General of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) the World Business Organisation, recently. The new chief executive was elected by unanimous

Profiles continued on page 11 col 7

BT and satellite channel T a ill provide lie courage of the Test from the ig ol

Noor Hossain Day today

Shaheed Noor Hossain Day will be observed in the country today, reports UNB.

On this day in 1987, Noor Hossain sacrificed his life for democracy.

During an anti-autocracy demonstration in the city, he was killed in police firing near Zero Point.

With slogans "Down with Autocracy and Let Democracy be Unchained" painted in his chest and back, Noor Hossain was participating in a procession when a bullet pierced through his body.

Ashik's arrest on PM's order?

By Staff Correspondent

Had the Prime Minister not ordered arrest of Chief Whip's son Ashik Abdullah and his accomplices on Tuesday, police would not have made any move to arrest the gang which had long terrorised residents of Dhanmondi and Lalmatia areas, various sources said.

Ashik Abdullah, Wasim Islam and Wahidul Haq Rajan were sent to jail on Wednesday after allegedly forcing their way into a house at Dhanmondi, beating up inmates and demanding money. They also threatened to kill the inmates including two young brothers, it was alleged.

When Yasmin Yakub, mother of the two young men, complained in writing to Dhanmondi police, the incident was relayed to the Prime Minister and she ordered arrest of the accused.

Parents of several victims of this gang said that they (gang) frequently moved about in the area and committed various crimes in front of police. In some cases, police even turned people away when they wanted to lodge complaints.

"When the gang pounced on my son taking away something expen-

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Sumon's father taken on remand

By Staff Correspondent

Sultan Ahmed, father of Sumon, the main accused in Sutrapur double murder case, was placed on a one-day remand yesterday. The Detective Branch in connection with the double murder case arrested him on Wednesday.

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For more on Bangladesh's first cricket Test read our special supplement on pages 17-20



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BCL leader gunned down in city

Followers go on rampage

By Staff Correspondent

General secretary of Dhaka city unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League (North) was gunned down and four others were injured when some unidentified gunmen opened fire on them at Road No 108 of Gulshan-2 in the city last night.

The slain BCL leader was identified as Akkashur Rahman Akhi, 30. The injured are Shawkat Ali, 24, Sohel Parvej Pallab, 26, Delwar Hossain, 22, and Abid Hasan Biplob, 32. They were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) with bullet injuries.

Of them, Biplob is an employee of a nearby dental clinic while the rest three are Akhi's associates.

DMCH sources said the incident took place when Akhi along with his associates were gossiping in front of a dental clinic at about 7.30 pm.

About eight unidentified gunmen on board a white microbus arrived at the scene and fired on Akhi and his associates. Akhi was hit by bul-

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Recount trims Bush's lead

Allegations of improprieties surface

TALLAHASSEE, Florida, Nov 9: The recount of presidential balloting in Florida was to resume Thursday just hours after disputed Palm Beach County results came in and helped Al Gore trim 843 votes off George W Bush's lead in the presidential race, reports AP.

Vice President Gore gained 1,189 votes Wednesday, compared with 346 votes gained for Bush. With 32 of the state's 67 counties finished with their recounts Wednesday, that meant Gore cut Bush's lead by more than half, leaving Gore 941 votes behind the Texas governor.

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	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Nov 10		5.15 pm
Nov 11	6-11 am	

Prayer Timings		
November 10		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-00	5-35
Juma	12-30	1-30
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-25	5-30
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

Roller-coaster ride for media

By Raffat Binte Rashid in Houston, Texas

This has been the most exciting election for the Americans since they elected John F Kennedy in 40 years back. This scrambled egg of an election left the American people as well as the media in bewildered.

The roller-coaster US presidential race forced television networks to retract their fore

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Congratulations

to the

Bangladesh Cricket Team

on their First Test Match

against India

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