

Anti-piracy drive CPA will give 2 patrol ships to coastguards

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Nov 16: Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) will provide two patrol ships to coastguards to intensify patrol at the outer anchorage and coastal areas to stop piracy.

The steps were taken by CPA as per directive of the Prime Minister to step up coastguard patrol. An inter-ministerial meeting was held at 4 pm today at Chittagong port office with Secretary of Port and Shipping Sohel Ahmed in the chair.

The meeting was organised here against the backdrop of recent incidents of piracy, dacoity and theft in the ships during their stay at the outer anchorage of Chittagong port and its adjoining coast, port sources said.

The meeting reviewed records of piracy of last two months here and expressed grave concern over

looting of a fishing boat, death of five fishermen in a fishing boat, an attack on a ship of Shell oil co in which an Indonesian second officer received bullet wounds, port sources said.

However, circulars with guideline of International Maritime Organisation (IMO) were sent to all concerned to check piracy and armed dacoity in the ships.

The meeting suggested for activating the respective police stations in Chittagong and Mongla port as the pirates and dacoits escape after attacking and looting in the ships.

The meeting also suggested formation of a committee with the police stations and other organisations under Chittagong and Mongla ports to submit a report to the government after every two months.

Ex-JCD leader shot

From page 12

declared the victim dead yesterday afternoon, hospital sources said.

The two young men, who identified themselves as Sagar and Chandan, brought the body of the victim, who was shot five times in his head and chest, at the DMCH at about 2:10 p.m. yesterday.

According to hospital register, Rafiqul Islam, 32, former general secretary of JCD's ward no: 91 unit and a resident of the city's Pallabi area, was shot on the road adjacent to the north-east end of the US Embassy.

Sagar and Chandan, however, did not say anything about the killers or how the incident

occurred. Sagar informed the people at the emergency unit at DMCH that Rafiqul was a supervisor at a garment factory.

The US Embassy staff, when contacted over telephone last night, said they did not know of any such incident to have taken place around the embassy premises.

Besides, the ADC, north zone of DMP told the Daily Star last night that they visited the spot and investigated the reported incident. "But neither local people nor our policemen deployed in the area for the protection of the embassy could say anything about such incident," he said.

He suspected that the victim was shot at some other place but the road near the embassy was said to be the place of occurrence to mislead police investigation.

Police investigation last night revealed that addresses of Sagar and Chandan as recorded in the hospital register were false, the ADC said.

Meanwhile, a team of Pallabi police, which visited a house in the Pallabi area as per the address of Rafiqul Islam recorded in the hospital register, found that it was the residence of a different person by the same name, Pallabi police said.

None was arrested till 9 last night. Besides, no case in this regard was filed with police.

Bhasani's death

From page 1

Zia also paid tribute to Moulana Bhasani.

BNP formed a high-powered committee to observe the anniversary.

Meanwhile, various socio-cultural and political organisations in Tangal and Santosh have taken up different programmes to mark the occasion.

The programmes include mazar ziarat, Qurankhwani, milad mahfil, feeding of the destitute and discussion on the life and activities of the great leader who fought for the socio-economic emancipation of the downtrodden throughout his life.

The Trustee Board of the Santosh Islamic University, founded by the Moulana Bhasani, has taken up an eight-day programme to observe the day. The programme includes painting competition, discussion and cultural function, placing of wreaths at the mazar, blood and posthumous eye donation and handicrafts and publication show.

Bhasani Academy and Bidrohi Kantha Shahitya Sangsad of Tangal jointly organised a discussion on the life and work of Moulana Bhasani yesterday. Tangal Press Club also organised a similar function on the club premises yesterday.

occurred. Sagar informed the people at the emergency unit at DMCH that Rafiqul was a supervisor at a garment factory.

The US Embassy staff, when contacted over telephone last night, said they did not know of any such incident to have taken place around the embassy premises.

Besides, the ADC, north zone of DMP told the Daily Star last night that they visited the spot and investigated the reported incident. "But neither local people nor our policemen deployed in the area for the protection of the embassy could say anything about such incident," he said.

He suspected that the victim was shot at some other place but the road near the embassy was said to be the place of occurrence to mislead police investigation.

Police investigation last night revealed that addresses of Sagar and Chandan as recorded in the hospital register were false, the ADC said.

Meanwhile, a team of Pallabi police, which visited a house in the Pallabi area as per the address of Rafiqul Islam recorded in the hospital register, found that it was the residence of a different person by the same name, Pallabi police said.

None was arrested till 9 last night. Besides, no case in this regard was filed with police.

Mymensingh court

From page 12

filed the case on November 8.

Another case was filed against Inqilab editor ANM Bahauddin, publisher ASM Bakibillah and writer of the parody AS Mosharrarf at Magura today.

Organising secretary of district Awami League Abu Nasir Bablu filed the case against them bringing treason charge.

However, Magistrate Mokhlesur Rahman recorded the statement of the plaintiff and sought sanction of the ministry concerned for taking necessary steps in this regard.

Israeli funds

From page 12

fighting at a stroke, we would use much more force," Barak said on Israel radio. "The opposite is true, and the state of Israel would then be in a much more complicated situation."

The overnight missile attacks on Fatah offices in the West Bank towns of Salfit, Tulkarem and Hebron, as well as an armory in Jericho, came in response to Palestinian shooting ambushes this week that killed two Israeli civilians and two soldiers.

Israeli troops also fired rockets and large-caliber machine guns at the West Bank town of Beit Jalla after Palestinian gunmen fired from Beit Jalla on the nearby Jerusalem neighborhood of Gilo. Israeli troops also fire the intense firelight raged for several hours.

Harald Fischer, 68, a German chiropractor, was killed in the Israeli attack on Beit Jalla. Fischer's home came under fire during the intense fighting, and his family sought shelter under the stairs. However, Fischer left his home at one point to try to help wounded neighbours, said his Palestinian wife, Norma.

Flora's papa

From page 12

tioners in the house. She failed to recognise a fire place or a central heating system which are common in houses in London.

Alena and other investigators now suspect that Flora might have been brought up by an English speaking couple who knew Bangla well. Alena Khan said Flora's statements suggest that her papa might be working in Bangladesh, outside Dhaka, from where they boarded the flight.

Flights from Sydney to Dhaka often stop at Rajshahi. The BSEHR intends to take Flora to different places in the country next week to unearth the mystery.

Another option may be that Flora came to Sylhet on a direct flight from London and from there her father availed a domestic flight to Dhaka.

The events at ZIA suggest that her papa engaged three persons to get rid of this innocent girl.

Meanwhile Alena Khan has appealed to all to help trace out the absconding father. Any one having any information has been requested to contact Alena on phone no. 018 221212.

Court takes Home

From page 1

court that if anyone cast any aspersions on court, it was unfortunate. "I am sorry for it," Huq told the court in an apologetic tone.

"I am an officer of this court. I will protect this court. What touches you, it touches me. But, I think nobody wants to undermine the court," the elderly lawyer said.

"Probably, he (Nasim) tried to say that why this unprecedented urgency has been shown by the court to grant bail to a person who is allegedly involved in derogating national anthem and talked about the Bangabandhu case."

Huq requested the court not to interpret the statement in a way that hampers his case.

Later, appearing before the court in the afternoon, Attorney General Mahmudul Islam sought time. He said he had contacted the parliament secretariat asking for the proceedings to find out whether the newspaper reported correctly or not.

The Attorney General said he would let the court know about the matter when it sits on Sunday.

Degree exams

From page 1

date has been shifted due to floods in the South-western districts.

In the Pass course, there will be 1,12,598 BA examinees; 83, 911 BSS; 19, 866 BSC; 34, 641 B.Com. 33 Bachelor of Music and 2, 797 certificate course examinees.

Examinations in the flood affected south-western districts will be held later. The schedule will be announced soon. But the academic year will remain the same for all, he added.

Stern action will be taken against those who will adopt unfair means or create any sort of disturbance in examination centre, he said.

KM Maudud Elahi, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Binoy Raton Baruiya, Controller of Examinations and senior official of the National University were present at the press conference.

Farooq was operation director of Aug 15 killings: SPP

Colonel Farooq was the 'operation director' of August 15 killings and tanks moved out of the cantonment at his command, prosecution said, reports UNB.

Showing documents on the retired army officer's involvement Special Public Prosecutor Advocate Serajul Huq told the High Court that Farooq had made the operational plan and deployment of forces in different strategic points to execute the plan for killing Bangabandhu.

The lawyer, on the 55th day yesterday of death reference and appeal hearings in the Bangabandhu Murder Case, said Col (ret) Farooqur Rahman had got involved in the plot since the (March 1974) meeting at BARD, where the seed of the conspiracy was sown.

Further reading out from different evidences given by 23 witnesses, he said it is beyond doubt that Farooq was the operation director of the August 15 carnage.

Farooq was seen along with Col Rashid in the BARD meeting, had meeting with Khandaker Mushtaque Ahmed there for 40 minutes. Although what discussion took place could not be known, now it can easily be guessed that it was linked with the August 15 killing.

Further evidence shows how Farooq tried to agitate the soldiers at the parade ground in the early hours of August 15.

The convicted killer told the court that he had told the officers and soldiers that to protect the country and people, to resist BKSAL, the only key was Sheikh Mujib and he needed to be brought to Cantonment for making a proclamation.

"If there be any resistance, then he (Bangabandhu) will be executed," he told the court, quoting a witness, who again quoted Farooq as saying this while addressing the troops.

Farooq placed the tanks at Shahbag, Kalabagan, Dhanmondi and other strategic points to facilitate the killing of Bangabandhu, Huq told the court.

Furthermore, the convicted army officer in his confessional statement also had narrated his activities on August 15, how he made the deployment of tanks and how he reached near Bangabandhu's residence at about 7 in the morning.

He took a jeep from Kalabagan leaving his tank there to reach the

radio station hurriedly to make radio announcement immediately, which the prosecutor termed 'masterstroke.'

"By announcing the death of Bangabandhu the killers stopped any attempt of the people for building resistance or any such move," Huq submitted.

At this stage, the court, drawing a defence argument, wanted to know if Farooq was involved in the August 15 incident, then why he did not kill Bangabandhu when he was in charge of security of the President's House.

He, at that time, was not the Commanding Officer (CO) of Lancer Unit, and when he became Acting CO following absence of the CO, the operation plan was executed. Because without the order of the CO tanks cannot leave the cantonment area, the prosecutor argued.

About requirement of order of the Army Chief on movements of tanks, Huq told the court that Farooq ignored that and neither Gen Shauhullah nor the 46 Brigade Commander was informed about the tank movements on that night.

While making his address to the troops at the parade ground before leaving for the killing operation, Farooq also said 'if we can't do anything, then the country will be grabbed by India.'

Presenting this quote Huq submitted that this cheap slogan was used only to agitate the soldiers.

Further to show the complicity of Farooq with the conspiracy and killing, Huq said his confessional statement also said that he was an assistant of Khandaker Mushtaque.

"So, Farooq was not a stranger, he was very much involved in this case, which different witnesses and he (Farooq) himself also admitted.

The Chief Prosecution Counsel, Serajul Huq, was assisted by DAG Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik, AAG Anisul Huq, AAG Mosharrarf Hossain Kajol, AAG Haider Ali, AAG Towfiqa Karim and AAG Nurul Islam Sujon.

The death-reference bench comprising Justice Ruhul Amin and Justice ABM Khairul Huq will continue hearing on Sunday on the question of confirming the death sentences against 15 former army officers.

Hasina challenges Khaleda's claim of 63 per cent vote

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has challenged opposition leader Khaleda Zia's claim that the BNP-led alliance would secure 63 per cent vote in the next general elections.

"She must be dreaming... Since she is dreaming, why should she expect less?" Hasina quipped at a press conference at her office yesterday afternoon.

She said the opposition would never get such percentage of votes, for the people would frustrate her plan to rig the next polls.

"The calculation of votes for the four parties in the alliance is not realistic. Because, party-wise counting of votes and aggregate votes of the four parties would not match."

Every candidate has some reserved votes and a common candidate can never bag the votes of all others who support him, she explained. Besides, the prime minister alleged, the BNP had to step down for rigging elections in February 15, 1996.

She accused the BNP of getting majority by rigging the polls. "But such a practice will not be possible this time."

Hasina, also President of ruling Awami League, claimed that people wanted to see her party back to power for another term to enjoy the benefit of socio-economic programmes her government has initiated.

Referring to a 21-year long 'propaganda' against her party, the AL chief said the people are

Businessman shot, robbed of Tk 11 lakh

By Staff Correspondent

Muggers shot a businessman and took away Tk 11 lakh from him in the city's Noya Paltan area yesterday evening.

The businessman, identified as Arun Bhaumik, was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) with bullet injuries in his hand and leg.

Police and witnesses said a group of miscreants fired gunshots and exploded crackers when the businessman was walking on the road near Naya Paltan at about 5:30pm and snatched the money from him.

When contacted, Motijheel police could not confirm the amount but estimated it to be between Tk six and eight lakh.

A case has been filed with Motijheel thana in this connection.

Bank dacoity in Khulna

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Nov 16: Four armed men stormed into a branch of Agrani Bank at Shamsur road here today and looted a sum of Tk one lakh and six thousand from cash section keeping five officials confined in the locker room.

According to Manager of the branch, four masked armed youngmen looted the money at gunpoint and escaped by motor cycles exploding a grenade.

The incident occurred just at a time when 13 out of 18 official and employees were out of the bank for lunch.

US issues 'Eid Mubarak' stamp

By DU Correspondent

The United States Postal Service issued a stamp in Washington on November 13 on the occasion of holy Eid, said a USIS press release.

The 33-cent 'Eid Mubarak' stamp, which is gracefully executed in gold against a blue background, is reminiscent of many great works of Islamic calligraphy.

Designed by calligrapher Mohammad Zakariya, the stamp features the Arabic phrase 'Eid Mubarak.'

This year, the US Postal Service honoured three US holidays with stamps: Eid, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Usually most US postal stamps bear the pictures of late presidents, statesmen, sports figures, wildlife scenes, and inventors.

In November 1999, Representatives Dana Rohrabacher, California, and Thomas M. Davis, Virginia, introduced legislation that a US postage stamp should be issued recognising the Islamic holy month of Ramadan. The resolution noted that there are more than five million practising Muslims in the US, who represent one of the fastest growing segments of American society.

PM questions HC's intent

From page 1

Later in the afternoon, at a press conference at her office, she said that the HC event had stunned the whole nation.

"People of the country should now understand how the court is running... Had the court shown similar sincerity to ordinary citizens, there should not be so many pending cases. The trials should have also been speedier. And people would have got justice."

The prime minister commented that the higher court appeared too eager to act only when someone was charged with treason.

Meanwhile, back in the parliament, Sengupta blasted the judiciary and a section of lawyers in the Supreme Court for the midnight session.

He said nobody is above the Constitution, which has defined the terms of references and the authority of three state organs -- the legislature, the judiciary and the executive.

"Everybody has to abide by the Constitution and discharge his or her duties accordingly," he said. "Democracy cannot work without

integrated practices dictated by the Constitution."

A vicious circle of "several rejected politicians wearing black coats" is manipulating the judiciary with self-serving interpretation of the laws, Sengupta said.

The higher court cannot convene a midnight session to bail out a person, who dishonoured the national anthem, he said.

"The national anthem is the symbol of our hard-earned sovereignty and independence. We gained our national anthem at the expense of millions of people."

He urged the freedom fighters and people who believe in an independent and sovereign Bangladesh to resist the conspiracy of changing the national anthem by the vicious quartet.

"The nation wondered when the High Court sat at midnight to grant bail to the accused in a treason case," Sengupta told the House. "It must not happen in a sovereign state."

The nation also expected a suo moto from the High Court when the national anthem was undermined by the daily, Suranjit said.

"The judges felt embarrassed repeatedly to hear the

Frequent contempt

From page 1

not good for the judiciary. Newspaper reports on these events, we believe, assist the judiciary to maintain its high public image. By bringing to the notice of our highest state and judicial body we think we have assisted them in investigating these events and taking precipitous action so that our judiciary is cleansed of any tendency that hamper or damage its prestige and dignity. The newspapers in this case have only upheld People's Right to Know.

"We, the editors and publishers of national dailies, have always been fully committed to the independence of the judiciary. This commitment is rooted in the belief that an independent judiciary is a precondition for rule of law and the citizen's rights to justice. It is in pursuance of the same belief that the national dailies have also consistently and firmly upheld the cause of full independence of the judiciary from the executive branch of the state.

"Similarly, we are also committed to uphold freedom of press. We believe that a free and independent press ensures citizen's Constitutional rights of freedom of speech and freedom of expression. It is also a pre-condition for promotion and protection of the whole range of people's fundamental rights. Also, without a free and independent press, People's Right to Know cannot be ensured.

"The spread of democratic process in the present world has significantly changed the concept of contempt of court. People's Right to Know is given priority in all cases in the interest of democracy, accountability and trans-

Factional feuds fret AL

From page 1

So far, she held meetings with 33 out of 70 organisational district units of the party. "Her counselling has already earned some dividend for AL," one insider said.

Hasina's personal initiative resolved a long drawn rivalry between two party stalwarts Abdus Samad Azad and Suranjit Sengupta in Sunamganj, a move that ended disputes in party units in the district.

The rank and file in the district AL appreciated the move, insiders said.

Central leaders of the party will start touring districts and meeting party leaders at all levels to resolve disputes. The programme may begin from January, said sources.

The third strategy is to summon district leaders to Dhaka separately for 'counselling' at the AL Election Office at Dhanmondi.

The party is also considering a special extended meeting of its Central Working Committee sometime after the Ramadan.

Dispute over Malika College

From page 12

mises at Dhanmondi Road 7/A (House 72) with the help of local MP and Chairman of the College Governing Body Alhaj Mokbul Hossain.

She has also alleged that the college authorities on Tuesday evicted her along with family members from the building and the premises, which is also their home, violating a court injunction.

On the other hand, Principal of the college Mohammad Ishaq alleged that the adopted daughters and their relatives are trying to misappropriate the college property taking advantage of hospitalisation of Dr Malika. He denied that Maksud Akhter Quale, her two sisters and their children were evicted.

The principal said that the three sisters were trying to draw peoples' sympathy and destroy the image of the college authorities by saying that they were not giving any financial assistance to 90-year-old Dr Malika, hospitalised on Tuesday. He claimed that the college authorities gave her Tk 88,000 as house rent (accumulated for some period) in last two days. We also employed two women to take care of her," he added.

This correspondent, while visiting the college yesterday, saw one of the adopted daughters and some children there.

A childless Dr Malika, known as the first woman in the country with a doctorate degree, adopted several daughters including three sisters during their childhood decades ago. They grew up on the college premises.

Dr Malika decided to turn her residence into an educational institution in 1982. She set up Dr Malika Science Institute in that year and became its principal. The institution was recognised by Dhaka Board and Dhaka University in 1984 and 1986 respectively. Dr Malika donated her house and wealth to it through a trust in 1990.

There are about 400 students in the college now. The number was about 900 some three years ago.

Ishaq claimed that a certain quarter is trying to 'capture the college' while the college authorities are trying to 'protect' it.

Sabiha Saleh Uddin, head of English department at the college, said they are victims of a deep rooted conspiracy by those sheltered at the building by Dr Malika.

Shafiqul Islam, a teacher of Botany department, said there were about 900 students at the college three years back but the number began to decrease following conspiracy by the sisters and their accomplices.

Tofazzal Hossain, a teacher of English department, said that they were continuing their academic activities despite an unhealthy situation created by 'people at the college.'

Maksud Akhter Quale, in a statement, alleged that following a news report in a Bangla daily on Wednesday, the college authorities and Alhaj Mokbul Hossain were issuing threat to Dr Malika to hand over the ground floor of the building to the authorities.

The college authorities alleged that Dr Malika's adopted daughter and Vice Principal of the college Suraiya Akhter, assistant accountant Mahfuz Dali, her sister and office assistant Tahmina Dali and another employee are trying to 'grab the college.'

BNP goes solo on grand rally

From page 12

participation at the Paltan rally.

They said the rally has been part of a massive showdown before the Ramadan. BNP leaders said the party is not depending on its allies as long as holding the rally is concerned as its previous experiences were not pleasant. Even the participation of the allies in the November 7 mass procession was not at all satisfactory, said a BNP leader.

The leader said the BNP is doing everything to make the rally a 'complete success.'

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia will address the gathering as chief guest. Chiefs of other parties are scheduled to attend the gathering although there still is uncertainty over whether Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad would attend it. The High Court has ordered Ershad to surrender before the trial court by November 23. The deposed president has already announced that he

will appear before the lower court on November 20.


BNP Secretary-General Abdur Mannan Bhuiyan and City BNP President Sadek Hossain Khoka have already held a series of meetings with party's different units and front organisations and took up massive programmes in favour of the November 23 rally.

Bhuiyan is expected to sit with district leaders soon and ask them to participate in the public rally.

He told The Daily Star that efforts have been taken to make the November 23 grand public meeting a complete success. He said the current street agitation would be expedited through holding the planned meeting.

However, there is allegation that the BNP hardliners are not actively participating in the party programmes and have refrained from making any efforts to hold the scheduled

Eating Out



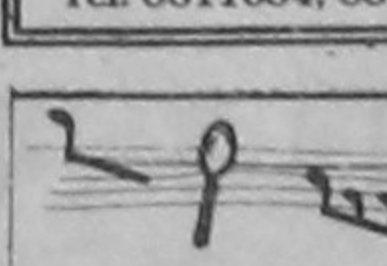
Pearl RESTAURANT

SERVING THAI, CHINESE, CONTINENTAL & INDIAN DISHES
*CONFERENCE * PARTY * OUTSIDE CATERING
FOR RESERVATION TEL: 89167 22, 011-862062. FAX: 8928802.
House # NE(11), Road # 92, North Avenue Gulshan - 2.



Sajana An Exclusive Restaurant

Serving full range of Indian dishes. Also available
*OUTSIDE CATERING *TAKEAWAY *PARTY FACILITIES
House # 10, South Avenue, Gulshan-1, Dhaka-1212
Tel: 8811684, 8812458 Fax: 880-2-8828802. E-mail:sajana@ctcnet.com



SANTOOR
Symphony of Dining

House No. 2, Road No. 11 (New), Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1209, Telephone: 9128737

Call for outside catering