

World Bank MD arrives today

Shengman Zhang, Managing Director of the World Bank Group, arrives in Dhaka today on a five-day visit to Bangladesh at the invitation of Finance Minister S A M S Kibria, reports UNB.

This will be his first visit to Bangladesh and is intended to further strengthen the partnership between Bangladesh and the World Bank Group in meeting the country's development challenges.

During his visit Zhang will hold discussions with Finance Minister S A M S Kibria and other senior government officials on matters of mutual interests.

He will visit Bank-supported projects of nutrition, micro finance, rural roads and markets, rural electrification and arsenic mitigation.

He will also exchange views with business leaders, civil See page 11 col 6

EU team arrives for pre-election groundwork

A European Union mission arrived here yesterday to set the scope and modality of monitoring the next general elections in Bangladesh by EU poll observers, reports UNB.

The Needs Assessment Mission from the EU headquarters in Brussels comprises three officials of the European Commission, three consultants, two of them election experts and one logistic expert and one representative of the Swedish presidency of EU.

Sandro Cerrato, principal administrator, EC, and Desk Officer for Bangladesh in Brussels is leading the team that will be staying here until February 6 doing groundwork for election monitoring by the EU members states.

During its stay, the mission would hold a series of meetings with major political parties like ruling Awami League, opposition BNP, Jatiya Party, Jamaat and PCJSS.

It would also hold meetings with the Election Commission, Ambassadors of EU countries, USA, Canada, Japan, Switzerland and Norway and representatives of international organisations.

The mission will also visit Pabna to see the by-election there on February 5 and visit Feni that is considered a typical remote election area where voting is fraught with risks.

On the basis of the mission's report, the EU will send election observers. The European Union, an important donor group for the country, has already expressed its interest in a fair and democratic election in Bangladesh.

Campus violence

7 students of Shahjalal Varsity sued

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Jan 27: Shahjalal University authorities have filed a case against seven students on charges of ransacking office rooms, library property and confining the vice-chancellor and employees of the university in the administrative building during their agitation on Tuesday and Wednesday, police said.

The Registrar of the Varsity filed the case with Kotwali Thana this afternoon accusing Abdul Basit, Shahidul Islam, Mohammad Abdur Rab, Ajbahar Munshi, Mahbubur Rahman, A T M Abdullah and Khaleedur Rahman.

The case has been lodged under Sections 143/153B/506 and 342 of the CrPC. 'It may be turned into a case under PSA if the charges brought against the students are proved during the preliminary investigation,' a police official said.

Terrorists clash at Agargaon slum: 3 hurt

By Staff Correspondent

Three people including policeman were injured when two local gangs of terrorists exchanged fire and exploded bombs in the city's Agargaon area yesterday.

The injured were identified as Tahmina, a teenaged girl, Abdul Aziz, a PWD employee and Shah Noor Alam, a police constable.

The clash erupted when Hanna-Manna group chased their rival Amir group at Agargaon slum at about 12:30 pm.

The victims received bomb injuries during the clash.

The gangs clashed over control of drug trade at the slam, police said.

A case was filed in this regard, but none was arrested till writing of this report last night.



Poet Shamsur Rahman, Professor Serajul Islam Chowdhury and other members of the Lalon Akhara Raksha Committee observed a token hunger strike at the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday, protesting attempts to destroy the mystic poet's shrine in Kushitia. --Star photo

'BNP again joined hands with razakars to capture power' People will not elect them; says Hasina

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Jan 27: Prime Sheikh Hasina today said the three evil powers, "razakars, vote-thieves and autocrats" had united to come to power again through anarchy in order to ruin democracy.

She was speaking as chief guest at Barisal divisional Freedom Fighter-People grand rally held at the Bangabandhu Udyan this afternoon.

Hasina said that General Zia had captured power at gunpoint and damaged the spirit of Liberation War and democracy by killing freedom fighters.

She said General Ershad also

occupied power in the same manner and stole people's votes.

But the defeated forces of 71, 90 and 96, she said, will not be able to capture power again as people will foil their conspiracy.

Criticising BNP Sheikh Hasina said that BNP, as before, did not have people's mandate. They are trying to go to power with the help of razakars and autocrats. But just as people had ousted them through a mass upsurge in the past, likewise this time also people will not vote for them, she added.

Organised by Sammilita Muktiyoddha Front, the grand

rally was also addressed among others by Chairman of Muktiyoddha Sangsad Central Command Council Abdul Ahad Chowdhury, State Minister for Shipping Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed, Food Minister Amir Hossain Amu, LGRD Minister Zillur Rahman, Fisheries and Livestock Minister ASM Abdur Rab, Chief Whip Abul Hasnat Abdullah and Syed Hasan Imam.

Earlier, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the newly built Shaheed Abdur Rab See page 11 col 1

Equip DOE for proper waste management Roundtable in city told

By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a discussion meeting in the city yesterday stressed strengthening of the Directorate of Environment (DOE) and said that it should be manned with technical professionals for proper waste management in the city.

The discussion on 'Waste Management: Dhaka City Action Programme', held at the Scout Bhaban, was jointly organised by The Daily Star, Bangladesh University of Science and Technology (BUET) and Bangladesh Scouts.

They also underscored the need for creating awareness among people and motivating them in management of solid, clinical and industrial waste.

The meeting identified more than 30 government and non-government organisations and the media and said these have to play more effective roles in this regard.

The organisations include WASA, Dhaka City Corporation (DCC), REHAB, RAJUK, DOE, BIWTC, Ministry of Science and Technology.

Political parties, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), educational institutions, community-based bodies, the civil society, religious institutions and research organisations can also contribute greatly to keeping the city clean.

The speakers said that government organisations are not working with success in this regard due to lack of co-ordination among them.

They praised the Ministry of Science and Technology for formulating the Bio-safety Act.

But the Act will not serve any purpose unless the government agencies mainly responsible for keeping the city clean perform their job properly, they observed.

Representatives from WASA, DCC, different environmental organisations and PARASH, an NGO, took part in the discussion.

The meeting decided to form a forum which will undertake various programmes including holding of seminars, discussion meetings with media people and formation of citizens' groups to motivate people.

Prof. Nizamuddin Ahmed of BUET moderated the discussion while Prof. Mojibur Rahman of the same institution gave an overview of previous meetings.

Rob murder Half-day hartal called in Khulna town today

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Jan 27: S M A Rob Smriti Parishad has called a half-day hartal in the city tomorrow demanding immediate arrest and punishment of his killers.

AL mayoral candidate Rob was gunned down on August 11 last year.

Tomorrow's hartal call is apart of several programmes of the Smriti Parishad to press home its demands which also includes transfer of the murder case from CID to KMP for impartial investigation.

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Members of the Fair Election Monitoring Alliance brought out a phaeton rally in the city yesterday with a call for non-partisan and neutral monitoring to ensure free and fair elections.

HC verdict creates scope for extradition of accused: Experts

By Special Correspondent

The High Court judgement in an extradition case concerning a British-Bangladeshi wanted on charge of murder in Britain has created scope for extradition of some of the accused in Bangabandhu Murder Case, now absconding in some Commonwealth countries, legal experts said.

The judgement by a Division Bench of the High Court (HC) in October last made it clear that a fugitive can be extradited to UK from Bangladesh under the Commonwealth Scheme for the 'rendition of fugitives' as amended in 1990, even though there is no extradition treaty between the two countries, they noted.

The scheme has been unani-

mously approved by all members of the Commonwealth including Bangladesh. It does not envisage any extradition treaty requirement.

The scheme is designed to enable a member-state of the Commonwealth to seek 'surrender' of an accused who, after committing an offence in that country, has fled to another member-state, one expert said.

Two of the accused in Bangabandhu Murder Case Kismet Hashem and Najmul Ahsan are reportedly in Canada, Aziz Pasha in Zimbabwe and Shariful Huq Dalim is believed to visit Pakistan. All the three countries are members of the Com See page 11 col 8

Blast at rally Probe body to take statement of Menon

By Staff Correspondent

A government formed probe body is now investigating whether a reported tussle over "control" of the Sarak Paribahan Sramik Federation was behind the bomb explosion at the CPB rally at Platan Maidan in the city on January 20.

The body constituted with home ministry officials will take the statement of Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon in this regard, sources concerned told The Daily Star yesterday. Menon had also addressed the CPB rally.

Sources in CID also said they are now investigating whether transport politics was behind the

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UNB's Feni correspondent operated upon, condition critical

Tipu Sultan, Feni correspondent of UNB, was brought to Dhaka and operated upon at the Orthopaedic (Pangu) Hospital yesterday afternoon, reports UNB.

The young journalist, who won the UNB best correspondent's award last year, was mercilessly beaten up by masked men allegedly belonging to the group of Feni's godfather Zainal Hazari MP.

Dr Mainuddin, one of the doctors who operated upon Tipu for nearly three hours, said the condition of Tipu was 'critical'.

"We are not sure if we can save his hands," he said indicating

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Work is on in full swing to convert the Banani Park and Playground at Kemal Ataturk Avenue into a 'green park with walkways and seasonal plants.' Rajuk has undertaken the scheme to protect the open space from possible illegal occupation. --Star photo

Rajuk's move to 'salvage' Banani Park

By Staff Correspondent

Rajuk is converting the Banani Park and Playground at Kemal Ataturk Avenue into a 'green park with walkways and seasonal plants'.

Rajuk officials said the Tk 7 lakh scheme had to be taken up to protect the park from possible illegal occupation. They said everyday they are pressurised by influential youths to rent out the open space for trade fair or other commercial activities.

A Rajuk source said Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) had been using the park for cattle markets See page 11 col 6

Give CPA autonomy, abolish dock workers board

Speakers at seminar in Ctg suggest From Our Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Jan 27: Speakers at a seminar here today expressed concern over the dismal performance of Chittagong Port and unanimously identified five most important factors responsible for it.

The factors are: lack of developed inland transport system and logistics, complex custom and port clearance procedure, ministry's control and interference, delay in decision-making process at the port and the dubious role of Dock Workers Management Board (DWMB).

In order to keep pace with globalisation, the speakers put forth a few suggestions at the seminar.

Firstly, Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) should be given complete autonomy including financial autonomy as soon as possible.

Secondly, CPA itself should give up the bureaucratic-style management and introduce corporate-style management.

Thirdly, DWMB should be abolished to deregulate dock workers. All types of labour should be under a single pool. All types of labourers, equipment operators and other personnel concerned must work under the guidance and direction of the employer, whoever it may be.

In the daylong seminar held at the conference room of Engineers Institute, Chittagong Centre today, two keynote papers on 'Globalisation and Chittagong Port: Problems and Prospects' and 'Globalisation and South Asia' were presented respectively by Dr Belayet Hossain, Prof of

Department of Economics, University of Chittagong and Prof Wahidul Haque of Mathematics and Political Economy, Toronto University, Canada who is also a visiting Professor at IUB, Dhaka. The seminar was jointly organised by BIDS and Chittagong University.

In his paper, Dr Belayet Hossain said, due to escalation of costs in Chittagong Port, our country is losing competitive edge over other countries. The amount of formal and informal rent turns out to be between Tk 650 to Tk 770 per ton of cargo handled. The total rent collected at Chittagong See page 11 col 3

Fire at garments factory at Uttara

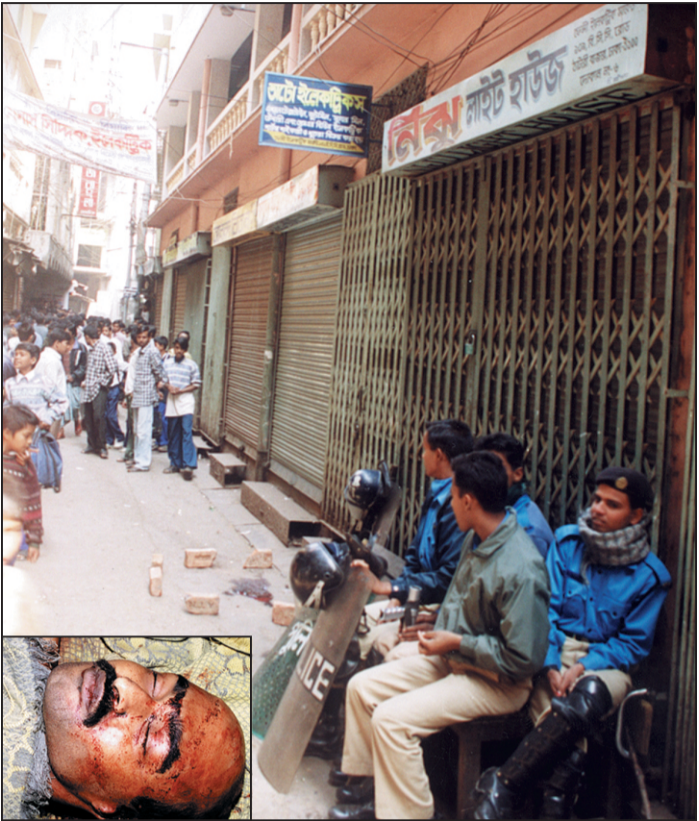
By Staff Correspondent

Fire gutted a huge quantity of cut piece fabric of a garment factory at Dhakkin Khan in the city's Uttara area late Friday night.

The fire originated from an electric short circuit at Tina Knitting Factory at Chairman Bazar of Dhakkin Khan at about 12:27 am and gutted cut piece fabric worth about Tk two lakh, Fire Brigade sources said.

Four fire fighting units from Tongi and Kurmitola rushed to the spot and extinguished the blaze at about 2:30 am.

Fire fighters rescued goods worth about Tk 70 lakh from the flame, Fire Brigade sources said.



A small group of riot police looks on as traders of the BCC Road in the city's Nawabpur area agitate, demanding trial and punishment of the killers of fellow businessman Alamgir Hossain (inset), who was gunned down a hundred yards off his residence yesterday. --Star photo

Businessman gunned down at Nawabpur

By Staff Correspondent

A businessman was gunned down about 100 yards from of his residence at Nawabpur in the city in the early hours of yesterday.

S M Alamgir, 30, an importer of hardware goods, was killed by a local gang for protesting prostitution in some local hotels, relatives of the victim and some local people alleged.

Alamgir, a resident at BCC Road, was also the acting president of a local hawkers market Janata Bazar City Market.

Most of the shops in the area remained shut yesterday in protest against the murder.

Alamgir had gone to Shabujbangla residential hotel adjacent to Abhishek hotel at about 1 am to arrange accommodation for some of his relatives, the relatives and local people said.

While he was talking with his relatives on the first floor of the hotel, Sattar, an employee of the hotel called Alamgir outside at about 2 am. About half an hour later, gun shots were heard.

Hearing gun shots, Alamgir's younger brother Arif and a number of local people rushed out of their residences and found the body in front of the collapsible gate of an electronics goods market at BCC road. There were marks of bullet in his head and abdomen, they said.

Blood stains on the BCC Road, which could be seen till yesterday morning, proved that the killers dragged the body to the collapsible gate from in front of Abhishek hotel, about 50 yards away.

Shutrapur police recovered the body in the morning and sent it to Mitford Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Local people alleged that Abhishek hotel and some other hotels in the area were known for prostitution and that Alamgir was killed as had long been protesting this.

They alleged that he was killed by one Jewel and his accomplices. Jewel is the son of a partner of Abhishek hotel, they said.

Police said Jewel is an accused in a number of cases filed in connection with terrorism and extortion in the area. He was released from jail on bail about a month ago.

The local people also suspected that Russel, son of

another partner of Abhishek hotel, had accompanied the killers.

Police arrested one Sattar and five others as suspects but failed to arrest Jewel and Russel till last night.

No case was filed in connection with the murder till filing of this report last night.

Double murder

Sumon placed on 5-day remand

By Staff Correspondent

Rabid Hasan Sumon, principal accused in the sensational Sutrapur double murder case, was placed on a five-day remand yesterday.

Detectives produced Sumon before the CMM's court with a prayer for ten days' remand, but the court granted a five-day remand.

Sumon was arrested by Comilla police from a residential hotel in the town at about 3 am Friday. A squad of detectives brought him to the capital from Comilla town on Friday night.

Sumon is charged with killing two teenaged boys at Rifle Club in Sutrapur area of the Capital on September 15 last year. Mutilated bodies of the victims Saem, 19 and Mohsin 18 were recovered from a manhole at nearby Loharpool on the next day.

Sumon is the son of Nasibun Ahmed, president of Dhaka City Mahila Awami League and a ward commissioner of Dhaka City Corporation. He was absconding since the killings.

	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Jan 28		5.43 pm
Jan 29	6-41 am	

Prayer Timings

January 28		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fazr	5-30	6-10
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-015	4-30
Maghrib	5-40	5-45
Esha	7-15	7-45

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