

FedEx Express The World On Time. PACKAGES, DOCUMENTS AND FREIGHT WORLDWIDE. Bangladesh Express Co. Ltd. Licensee of Federal Express Corporation. 95, Motijheel C.A, Dhaka; Tel: 9565114; Fax: 9565112

Whirlpool Home Appliances USA. Upright Freezer & Chest Freezer. Transcom Electronics Ltd. Authorized Distributor in Bangladesh for Whirlpool Appliances, USA. Dhaka: 8115307-10. CTG: 716353, 725578. Khulna: 723034. Bogra: 8215

Arms case BNP MP, 8 other party activists chargesheeted in Kushtia

UNB, Kushtia

Police yesterday submitted before the court a charge sheet against nine people, including Prof Shahidul Islam MP and local BNP activists, under the Arms Act accusing them of possessing unauthorised firearms. Two of them are in custody, Prof Islam is on a visit to Cuba and other remained fugitive. Police had chased BNP activists to Bheramara, residence of Prof Shahid during their clash with Awami League during hartal on April 1 and recovered five firearms and 16ammunitions. BNP district leaders Syed Mehedi Ahmed Rumi MP and Principal Sohrab Uddin said the case was cooked up by the government with a motive to harass the political opponents.

Tremors felt in Khulna, Satkhira

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A mild earthquake was felt in Khulna city at about 6 am yesterday. This was the fourth tremor in the last two months. Khulna Met office confirmed the report but could not give any detail. Tremor was also felt at Batiaghata upazila for 15 seconds where panic-stricken people came out of their houses. UNB from Satkhira adds: Tremor jolted the district for few seconds at 6:30 yesterday morning. Panic-stricken people came out in the open as houses shook. Water in rivers and canals suddenly swelled by several feet. This is for the third time residents of the district experienced tremor in last two months.

15 injured in CEPZ clash

UNB, Ctg

A clash between the workers and the owner of an export-oriented foreign garment factory at the Chittagong EPZ yesterday left 15 people, including five Chinese, injured. The clash ensued at 8 am following a labour unrest over salary hike at the 'Ling Son Garments (Pvt) Ltd'. Workers said the authority called some workers at the office room at 8 am as they started a sit-in demanding increased salary. They workers were kept confined in the room and allegedly beaten up severely. Hearing the news, the workers swooped on manager Wane Thang, chief of the finishing section Chung Ping Sim, operation manager Eland Young, floor in-charge Jur Lee and Mek, and rescued their 10 fellow workers with injuries at 9 am. The agitated workers then put the garment factory under lock and key. On information, police rushed to the spot and rescued the five Chinese officials and three garment workers Kamaluddin, Sumi Akhtar and Anwar Hossain and admitted them to the BEPZA Hospital. The situation became normal at 3 pm after the intervention by police and BEPZA authorities.

Jubo League activist shot dead in Kushtia

UNB, Kushtia

Unidentified gunmen shot dead Nayem Chowdhury, 27, a Jubo League activist, at Aruapara on Sunday night. Police said an accused of several criminal cases Nayem came out of jail few days ago. It is suspected that he was killed due to enmity. A young man was arrested in this connection. Residents of the area are apprehending retaliation of the killing.

Maid succumbs to burn injuries

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A domestic help who allegedly poured Kerosene on her body and set herself on fire died at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday. Monowara, 15, took her life after she was allegedly violated by a driver of her master's car. She worked at a house at New DOHS in the city. The driver was identified as Monir, police said. She was admitted to the DMCH on April 9 with fatal burn injuries.

PM's 'no' to legal sanction for decimation of Sundarbans

SHEHAB AHMED

A move by the Ministry of Forests and Environment (MOEF), spearheaded by its Secretary, to legally sanction decimation of the Sundarbans, a World Heritage Site, has been rejected by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at a Cabinet meeting. However, the Cabinet meeting, held recently, authorised the MOEF to grant permission for removal of 'dead' trees, if required. But sources concerned said the Forest Department had already been 'clearing' the 'dead' trees. But it did not do anything so far to prevent 'top dying' of Sundari trees, which gave poachers a chance to clear everything around freely in the name of 'clearing' dead trees. MOEF prepared the summary for the Cabinet meeting. To 'legalise' the illegal logging, strong arguments were made in it for 'felling sick trees'. Relevant sections of Integrated

Forest Management Plan for the Sundarbans Reserve Forest for 1998-2010 were cited in the summary, the sources said. Although the 'top dying' disease affects only Sundari trees, it sought permission for extraction of other trees and plants including Golpata to 'save hard board mills' and 'bawalis' (wood cutters and honey collectors). The sources said the Cabinet permission for 'piecemeal' extraction of 'dead trees' will encourage poachers further to go for decimation of the Sundarbans, the only surviving mangrove forest in the world. It was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO last year. It may be mentioned here that investigation is going on against a section of Forest Department officials for their alleged involvement in the depletion of forests in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) and in the plains in the past.

The MOEF also proposed lifting of the moratorium on felling of trees in reserve forests. The Cabinet rejected the proposal. Encouraged by the 'partial victory' in the case of the Sundarbans, there is a move for official sanction for 'piecemeal' extraction of trees from reserve forests specially those in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT). The legal cover is being sought on the pretext of 'cutting mature trees', the sources said. The MOEF is also moving ahead with a proposal to put on sale the Raikhiang, Pabla Khali and Fasiakhali reserve forests in Rangamati, South Chittagong and Cox's Bazar. Once the forests are sold out to clear 'matured' trees, it will open a floodgate. The poachers will reuse the same permits again and again to deal a final blow to these forests, said to be the pride of Forest

PM urges newsmen to raise voice against anti-liberation forces

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged newsmen to raise their voice against the anti-liberation forces and their patrons engaged in heinous acts against the entity, culture and heritage of the Bengali nation. "We can't accept it, we can't tolerate it," she said denouncing the terrible bomb attack on Bengali New Year function of Chhayanaut at Ramna Batamul on Saturday. "Time has come for retaliation against these forces. Remain alert about their conspiracy against democracy, voting right, our entity and culture," Hasina told a delegation of the newly elected office bearers of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) at her office. The Prime Minister urged the

journalists to write objective news based on facts to help institutionalise democracy and gain economic freedom frustrating ominous designs of anti-liberation and undemocratic forces. Newspapers should not project any news that might create unrest and push the nation towards confrontation, she told the BFUJ leaders. BFUJ President Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury and Secretary General Akhtar Ahmed Khan led the delegation comprising office bearers of the new and old executive committees. DUJ President Alif Mahmud and General Secretary Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan were among others who spoke on the occasion. Hasina expressed deep concern over the recent bomb explosions at Udichi function in Jessore, CPB rally

CMH refuses to inform about blast victims

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Authorities of the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) in Dhaka Cantonment yesterday refused to provide any information about the condition of Saturday's bomb blast victims at Ramna Batamul who were admitted there. Police suspect that some of the injured admitted to CMH are members of the gang that was involved in the incident. Relatives of the injured persons went to know about their condition at the CMH, but they were refused entry. Even entry into the premises was restricted. At least three army personnel were on guard at the entry of ICU-1 and ICU-2. "We cannot let any one in. Any one willing to go inside to visit a patient must take permission from the office of the Adjutant," one relative quoted one of the guards as saying. Alzal Hossain, 15, is undergoing treatment at ICU-1. His sister-in-law Selina alleged that she repeatedly tried to convince officials to let her see Alzal, but to no effect. "I contacted all officials concerned who could let me go inside the ICU.1 also tried to know about his condition over telephone but the authorities refused to give me any information," Selina said. Some other relative waiting outside the CMH building also made similar allegations. "We have the right to know about the condition of our relatives," said another relative with tears in his eyes. This correspondent went to collect information about the injured but the CMH authorities refused to give any, even names of the injured.

Court orders release of 5 Shibir activists, arrest of 5 others

UNB, Ctg

A court here yesterday ordered the release of five detained activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir and arrest of five others in a case under the Public Safety Act. The 10 are among the 43 Shibir activists charged with an attack on police at Andarkilla in the port city on November 10 last year leaving 38 people injured. Thirty-eight of the 43 were detained and five were absconding. Judge ANM Bashirullah of Public Safety Act court issued the order acquitting five Shibir activists from the charge. They are: Abu Shahriar, Jobaidul Islam, Mohammad Ujjal, Rashid Mostafa and Harunur Rashid. The court issued the order while accepting the charge-sheet after a hearing on admissibility of the case.



BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan addresses a rally of the four-party opposition alliance at Muktangan in the city yesterday on the occasion of "Prisoners Release Day."

AL govt will meet dreadful end if it clings to power

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Opposition leaders at a rally in the city yesterday observed that the fate of the Awami League government would be dreadful and the ruling party leaders might not be able to escape people's wrath if it did not resign right at the moment. They said each and every family that do not actively support Awami League have been subjected to repression, harassment, killing, hijacking, extortion and forcible occupation by the government and the Awami League men in its nearly five-year rule. The leaders were addressing a rally at Muktangan which was organised by the All-Party Action Council (APAC) on the occasion of four-party opposition alliance's "Prisoners Release Day." They said the nation has now stood up against the misuse of the AL government and no more wants to see it in power. The opposition leaders said the AL is aware of the people's sentiment and that's why it is plotting to stay in power to save itself from the people's wrath. They said the people may forgive the AL government if it resigned

right now. APAC Convenor and BNP's city unit President Sadeque Hossain Khoka MP presided over the rally. Speaking at the rally, BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan alleged that the AL government so far have filed false cases against some 80,000 leaders and activists of BNP and its different front organisations. It has also arrested leaders and workers of Jatiya Party, Jamaat-e-Islami, Islami Oikya Jote and other opposition parties. He further alleged that the government has killed over 300 BNP men since it took office in June 23, 1996 and is still killing and arresting opposition activists throughout the country. He said several thousand opposition leaders and activists were also arrested under false charges and most of the BNP leaders and grassroots activists have been implicated in 50 to 150 false cases each on an average. About the arrest of senior BNP leaders KM Obaidur Rahman and Nurul Islam Manjur, Bhuiyan said that the party wants trial in the Jail Killing Case, but the government arrested two top BNP leaders who were by no



Onlookers watch as Rajuk bulldozers rage to the ground unauthorised shops and business establishments in and around the stranded Pakistanis' camp, better known as Geneva camp, in the city's Mohammadpur area yesterday.

Unauthorised shops demolished at Mohammadpur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) yesterday demolished some shops illegally put up by stranded Pakistanis of the Geneva Camp on Mohammadpur's Gaznabi road. Witnesses said thousands of Biharis came out of the Camp and started protesting as DCC officials in presence of Mohammadpur police and a magistrate went to demolish as many as 80 unauthorised shops in the area. But DCC with the help of police started knocking down the shops at about 10 am. However, after destroying three shops, officials discontinued their drive in the face of mounting protests and gave the agitating Biharis three days to demolish their shops. SM Mushtakin, a shop owner and an influential person of the Geneva camp strongly protested DCC's action saying they were not informed in advance about the demolition. "We have been living in the camp

2 Pak warships due Thursday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Two Pakistani warships are scheduled to arrive at Chittagong port on Thursday on a three-day goodwill visit, port sources said. An oil tanker will also be with the warships to provide fuel for those. The warships a destroyer named Tipu Sultan and a submarine named Shushuk will anchor at Jetty No 2 and 3. The fleet will leave Chittagong port on April 22, the sources said.

Will journalist Tipu remain disabled? The Daily Star - প্রথম আলো. Tipu Treatment Fund. Donate generously to this Fund. Save Tipu from Disability. Send donations to: Savings Account No. 25002111 Dhaka Bank Ltd, Karwan Bazar Branch, Dhaka

Killing of Bangabandhu didn't take place under ML cover: AG

UNB, Dhaka

The killing of Bangabandhu on August 15, 1975 was not under the martial law proclamation that prohibits prosecution for action taken under the ML authority. Attorney General Mahmudul Islam yesterday submitted the argument to the court refuting defence counsel's plea that the August 15 incident was committed under the cover of Martial Law proclamation as it was given retrospective effect after being promulgated on August 20, 1975. He said the regulations or Indemnity Ordinance came into existence after the happenings. Referring to a case (Shariar Rashid Khan), he said the Supreme Court held that the incident had no nexus with "acts and things referred to non-revival of rights and privileges, which were not in existence at the time of withdrawal of Martial Law (para 3A and 18 of the 4th schedule of the constitution)". The Attorney General said Indemnity Ordinance did not exonerate the liability of the murder, but merely prohibited the remedy, that is, the prosecution. "And when this Ordinance is repealed, the bar is gone," He also cited a decision of a case in this regard. Mahmudul Islam, pointing to defence counsel's argument, said para 3(A) of the 4th schedule of the Constitution speaks of right and privilege and does not admit of the interpretation sought to be given. And it needs to be interpreted keep-

ing in view the basic feature of the rule of law. "Prosecution is not a matter of right or privilege. It rather pertains to duty," he said citing relevant sections of CrPc. He said rights and privileges taken away by Martial Law proclamation revived as soon as it was withdrawn. Refuting another argument of defence counsel, the Attorney General said the argument that FIR was lodged when the Indemnity Ordinance was in force was of no avail, as the ordinance did not deal with the lodging of FIR. Prosecution starts with the submission of chargesheet or cognizance taken by court, Islam said and further argued that the repeal act (Indemnity Ordinance) was given retrospective operation and the case would proceed as if the bar was never there. The Attorney General concluded his submissions refuting defence argument on a petition filed by condemned prisoner Lt Col (ret'd) Mohiuddin Ahmed (Artillery) challenging the legality of the trial of the Bangabandhu Murder Case. Adv Khan Saifur Rahman Sunday had told the court that the Indemnity Ordinance barred the trial of those involved in the August 15, 1975 changeover. The petition came up for hearing Sunday in the third-judge bench of Justice Mohammad Fazlul Karim, which is hearing the split judgement on the death reference of the Bangabandhu Murder Case, after the writ bench on February 20 referred it to this bench. The court will hear the argument of Special Public Prosecutor Adv Serajul Huq today.

Khulna Hardboard Mills closed sine die

QUAZI AMANULLAH, Khulna

Khulna Hardboard Mills (KHM) has been closed sine die due to shortage of running capital and non-supply of fuel by oil companies, said a reliable source in the mill. The mill was virtually shut from the very first day of this month. Hardboards worth Tk 3 crore are lying in the warehouse as imported hardboards have overtaken domestic markets. Because of low quality of the local product, buyers are now preferring hardboards being brought into the country both through authorised and unauthorised routes, sources said. An official of KHM said dealers have already stopped lifting their quotas. Besides, price of the imported hardboards is lower than that of Khulna hardboard. At present there are over 50 lakh square feet of unsold hardboards in the warehouse, he said.

A CBA leader alleged unbridled corruption by a section of officials. He also cited this as one of the main reasons for the present condition of the country's lone hardboard mill. Corrupt practices have largely contributed to financial crisis ultimately leading to closure of the mill which was once one of the few profitable concerns, he said. It is widely alleged that corrupt officials of the mill used to purchase sundari wood at higher price from local markets which led to rise in hardboard price. As per rules of BCIC, mill authorities have no right to purchase sundari wood from local shops. Sundari wood is the main raw material for producing hardboard. Payment of huge amount of money against overtime bills and other unnecessary expenditure are also among the reasons behind the financial crisis, said another CBA leader.

BCL factions clash in Gournadi: 15 hurt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

At least 15 people were injured as two rival factions of BCL clashed and exchanged gunfire in Gournadi upazila for the last three days ending on Sunday. Police personnel and their vehicles were attacked while a former BCL leader was snatched from police custody during the clashes. The clashes began when armed activists of BCL 'Farhad group' assaulted Saik Guha, brother of Saikat Guha, secretary of Gournadi BCL thana unit on Friday night, sources said. Following the incident, Saikat's men attacked BCL leader Mahibul and Jubo League leader Kamal of Farhad group with lethal weapons. They also set a motorbike afire. Farhad group then exploded a huge number of bombs and crackers in and around the Gournadi Bandar area. Gournadi police later raided the house of Poura Commissioner Siraj Matubbar belonging to Farhad

Death Anniversary. God has you in His keeping. We have you in our hearts 'Dear Papa, we remember you today with all our love and miss you so much even if 30 years have gone by. The Pakistani army took you away from us never to see you again. Papa we are proud of you as you sacrificed your life for your 'Golden Bangla' and the country has honoured you by naming the Engineers Centre in Nafore the 'Qadriabad Cantonment'. Rubina Qadir Mahmud, Nadeem Qadir, Naweed Qadir