

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, 723578 Khulna: 729004, Bogra: 6215

Truck driver flees with Tk 9 lakh cotton

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A truck driver and his helpers sped away with 120 bails of cotton worth about Tk 9 lakh in front of Meghna Oil on Airport Road in the city on Thursday night, leaving the consignee owner after beating him.

Fazlur Rahman, a businessman, had loaded the cotton on the truck (bearing number Comilla 5936) at Gazipur to bring the consignment to Dhaka.

When the truck reached in front of Meghna Oil at about 9:30 pm, the driver and helpers beat the owner, threw from the vehicle and sped away.

Rahman then went to the Cantonment police station and filed a case.

It may be mentioned that a mobile patrol car of cantonment police always remains stationed in the area where the incident took place.

Police could neither arrest the culprits nor seize the goods till last night.

When contacted, cantonment police last night said that an officer of the thana had gone to Gazipur to talk with the businessman.

Opposition's rally at Sylhet on April 30

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The BNP-led four-party alliance will hold a grand rally at Sylhet on April 30.

Leader of the Opposition Khaleida Zia is scheduled to address the rally as chief guest, party sources said.

BNP chairperson Khaleida Zia and other leaders of the alliance will reach Sylhet on April 29 by road and stay overnight at Sylhet Circuit House. They will address the grand rally at Mia Madrasah maidan at 2 pm the following day. The alliance leader will also visit the majars of Hajrat Shahjalal (RA) and Hajrat Shahporan (RA).

A preparatory meeting of the opposition alliance was held in Sylhet yesterday morning with district BNP President MA Haque in the chair.

Sammilito Parishad sweeps Bar Council polls

BSS, Dhaka

Sammilito Ainjibi Samannoy Parishad (SASP) won a landslide victory in the elections of Bangladesh Bar Council, the apex body of about 25,000 lawyers of the country.

According to official results, the SASP, led by the incumbent Vice-Chairman of Bangladesh Bar Council Barrister M Amir-ul Islam, bagged 13 out of 14 posts of the council's executive body.

Advocate Sigma Huda, who headed the Ainjibi Oikya Parishad, was elected alone from her panel in the general seat category.

Bar Council's Ex-officio Chairman and Attorney General Mahmudul Islam yesterday announced the results of the polls held on April 19 across the country.

Out of 24,363 voters, 14,109 lawyers cast their votes in 76 polling centres at different bar associations in the country.

The new members will take office on July 1 this year for a three-year term, Bar Council sources said.

According to the results, President of Supreme Court Lawyers Association, Advocate A Baset Majumder, got the highest 8727 votes in the general seat category, while Advocate Syed Ahmed bagged the highest 8773 votes from the group seat category.

Ctg journalists begin five-day agitation for arrest of Mamun

NURUL ALAM, Chittagong

Ward commissioner Mamunur Rashid Mamun, sued in a case under the Public Safety Act (PSA) for assaulting two senior journalists of daily Purbakone here, was yet to be nabbed as police was playing a 'hide-and-seek game' despite protests from journalists and residents of the port city.

Sources say although police know Mamun's whereabouts, they can't arrest him as he is protected by a local minister and some ruling party leaders.

Meanwhile, Chittagong journalists yesterday observed a two-hour token strike as part of their five-day agitation programme demanding arrest of Mamun and his accomplices.

Mamun enjoys the blessing of a local minister as he (Mamun) had backed the minister's son to grab the plots of Sujon residential area sev-

eral months ago, sources said.

When Mamun allegedly looted the posh 'Mimi super market' along with his accomplices the same minister reportedly favoured this terrorist, sources said.

Mamun had his start as top armed terrorist in the city when incumbent mayor Mohiuddin Chowdhury had a tussle with Aktaruzzaman Chowdhury Babu over control of city politics, sources said.

'Mamun Bahini' at that time fought in favour of Mohiuddin Chowdhury against the Aktaruzzaman Babu group which was led by another terrorist A Z M Nasir.

As Nasir deserted Babu, Mamun now set a link with the mayor to get protection, sources further said.

Mamun is now enjoying blessings of minister for labour and manpower M A Mannan, food minister Amir Hossain Amu, mayor

Mohiuddin Chowdhury and Aktaruzzaman Babu, sources said. But the comments of those party stalwarts in this regard were not available.

'Mamun Bahini' has taken control of a big area from WASA crossing to Sholoshahar. They force the schools and colleges authorities of the area for admission of students as per their lists, sources said.

On January this year, Mamun forced the authorities of a boys' school at Nasirabad for admission of 70 students in the school. His cadres played the same game in a girls' college located there.

By this admission business, Mamun and his cadres earned huge money from the guardians, sources said.

During holy Eid-ul-Azha, Mamun engaged his cadres to collect the hides of animals at the rate of only taka 50 per piece and outsiders were

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

Goods train derails at Pubail

UNB, Dhaka

A goods train derailed at Pubail, Tongi on Thursday night, disrupting rail communications on Dhaka-Chittagong and Dhaka-Sylhet routes for hours.

Wagons containing about 18 containers slipped off the tracks after the Dhaka-bound goods train left Pubail station at about 8:30 pm.

Officials said railway traffic on the routes was "completely restored" at noon yesterday.

Railway authorities, however, kept the Dhaka-Chittagong trains running from the morning via Mymensingh.

Railway sources said the schedules of at least half a dozen trains were cancelled due to the accident.



A Dhaka bound goods train from Chittagong carrying containers derailed at Pubail near Tongi Thursday night, disrupting rail communication in Dhaka-Chittagong and Dhaka-Sylhet routes for hours.



Akram Khan of Bangladesh executes a forceful sweep shot on way to an inspired 44 against Zimbabwe on the second day of the second Test in Harare yesterday.

Khulna FFs complain to PM against S A Malek

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Leaders of Khulna district and city units of Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad have made an appeal to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to save valiant freedom fighters from the clutches of her political Advisor Dr. S.A. Malek.

Leaders of 14 thana commands of the district and city command alleged at a press conference yesterday that all governments in the past blackmailed the freedom fighters for political purposes and thus created crack in the unity.

Leaders of the district and city command of Muktiyoddha Sangsad said Dr. S. A. Malek is conspiring to isolate the prime minister from real freedom fighters by forming a parallel Muktiyoddha Front.

They further alleged Dr. S. A. Malek is not only exploiting the freedom fighters and raising unauthorised fund, but also dividing unity of the freedom fighters abusing power as prime minister's political advisor.

Murder of elderly man: None arrested yet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gulshan police are yet to arrest the culprits who killed an elderly man and injured two others near the Gulshan Staff Road rail crossing on Thursday.

Ali Akkas, 55, and his son Abdur Rahim, a returnee from Malaysia and his nephew Golam Mostafa were going to Jatrabari from Zia International Airport in an autorickshaw.

When they crossed the Staff Road rail crossing at about 2:30 am, some stones were thrown on their autorickshaw. They took it to be picketing during the ongoing hartal and stopped the vehicle to talk to the pickets.

But to their surprise, three muggers swooped on them and started snatching valuables. When Akkas tried to save his son's hard earned goods the muggers stabbed him in the abdomen and in the back and Rahim and Mostafa in their hands and took away Tk 60,000 in cash, gold and other valuables.

Police arrested a man named Mobarra, a cook, who was passing through the area after the incident.

Khulna JP dissolved, president and secy expelled

QUAZI AMANULLAH, Khulna

The district committee of Jatiya Party was dissolved on Thursday evening, expelling its president S M Babar Ali and general secretary Sheikh Akram Hossain on charge of creating a split in the party.

Primary membership of the two district-level leaders has also been cancelled in a unanimous decision taken in a joint meeting of both city and district committees of the party held on Thursday evening with Advocate Manzurul Alam, central organising secretary in the chair.

A coordination committee has been formed with former Education Minister Advocate Mominuddin Ahmed as chief coordinator, asking him to form a new convening committee by next Sunday.

Speakers of the meeting extended their full support to dissolution of the district committee and expulsion of Babar Ali and Akram Hossain from their primary membership for aspersion against the party chairman H M Ershad.

Meanwhile, Dr. Matin-Nazir faction of Jatiya party now being headed by former MP Babar Ali and former chairman of Phultala upazilla Akram Hossain will hold another meeting on Sunday in the party office which has already been occupied by activists loyal to H M Ershad.

BCL factions clash in Ctg: One shot dead

UNB, Cg

A BCL cadre was killed in a gunfight between the two factions of the organisation in Baluchhara area in Rauzan upazilla on Thursday night.

Police recovered the body and sent it to the hospital morgue. In another incident, an autorickshaw driver Shaheen, 26, who was stabbed by snatchers at Dewanhat in Double-Mooring thana yesterday, succumbed to his injuries at CMCH.

Separate cases were filed with the police.

Six held: 2 bombs recovered in city

BSS, Dhaka

Police arrested six people including an alleged terrorist and seized two bombs in three separate drives yesterday and the day before in the city, a Dhaka Metropolitan Police press release said here yesterday.

The Detective Branch (DB) of police in a drive on the night of April 26, arrested alleged terrorist Abdul Mannan, 46, from near Mirpur Section 10 roundabout in connection with the recovery of three hand-made bombs from the rooftop of Kawran Bazar Supermarket under Tejaon thana.

Young man shot dead in Chittagong

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cg

One young man was shot dead at Kattoli under Pahartoli thana in the city at midnight on Thursday.

The victim identified as Shaheen, 25, was shot by some miscreants following a dispute over bamboo cutting. He succumbed to bullet injury on way to hospital.

A case was filed in this connection. None was arrested till filing of this report at 6 pm yesterday.

Miscreants kill truck driver at Sutrapur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unidentified miscreants killed a truck driver at Raghudas Lane in the city's Sutrapur area in the early hours of yesterday.

The victim Monu Miah, 25, son of Ashraf Uddin was found dead at house number 5/1, Raghudas Lane yesterday morning.

Police said the miscreants hit the driver in his head with a sharp weapon. He might have been killed at around 3 am.

On receiving information, Sutrapur police went to the spot and recovered the body in the morning. They sent the body to Midford Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Police suspected that the truck driver was killed as a sequel to previous enmity.

Police arrested one Noor Mohammad in connection with the killing. Shamsuddin, uncle of the victim, filed a case with Sutrapur police station in this regard.

Crackdown: 1200 pro-democracy activists held in Sindh

AP, Karachi

A major crackdown on pro-democracy activists in Pakistan's southern Sindh province has resulted in the arrest of about 1,200 people, police and politicians said yesterday.

The military government launched the crackdown Thursday, sending police and paramilitary troops to homes and political party headquarters throughout Sindh province, of which Karachi is the capital.

The military regime that rules Pakistan launched the crackdown to prevent a pro-democracy rally planned for May 1 in Karachi.

Earlier story on page 5

Organized by the Alliance for the Restoration of Democracy, representing 15 political parties in Pakistan, the rally is to press the army to return the nation to democratic rule.

The military regime said it had detained about 500 people, all of whom will be released following the May 1 deadline. As well as the authorities said that the rally could be held if it is kept indoors.

The army took power in Pakistan in October 1999 throwing out the civilian government of Nawaz Sharif charging him with massive corruption, economic incompetence and mismanagement.

The army sent Sharif into exile in Saudi Arabia after he was found guilty in Pakistan of hijacking and terrorism and sentenced to life in jail.

Arms scam: Vajpayee rejects demand for parliamentary probe

AFF, New Delhi

Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee yesterday rejected an opposition demand for a parliamentary probe into an arms bribery scandal, sparking a walkout by opposition MPs.

"When we had earlier offered a joint parliamentary committee probe, it was not accepted and we then appointed a (judicial) commission of enquiry to look into the matter," he said.

"The commission of enquiry and joint parliamentary committee cannot proceed simultaneously," Vajpayee said.

The parliament was paralysed by the row over the arms bribery scandal for weeks, but the main opposition Congress Party briefly broke the deadlock to allow the passage of the national budget for 2001-02.

The Congress, however, had made its cooperation conditional on a government promise to keep an "open mind" on setting up the joint parliamentary committee investigation.

"We had said we had an open mind on the matter. But an open mind does not mean an empty mind," Vajpayee told parliament.

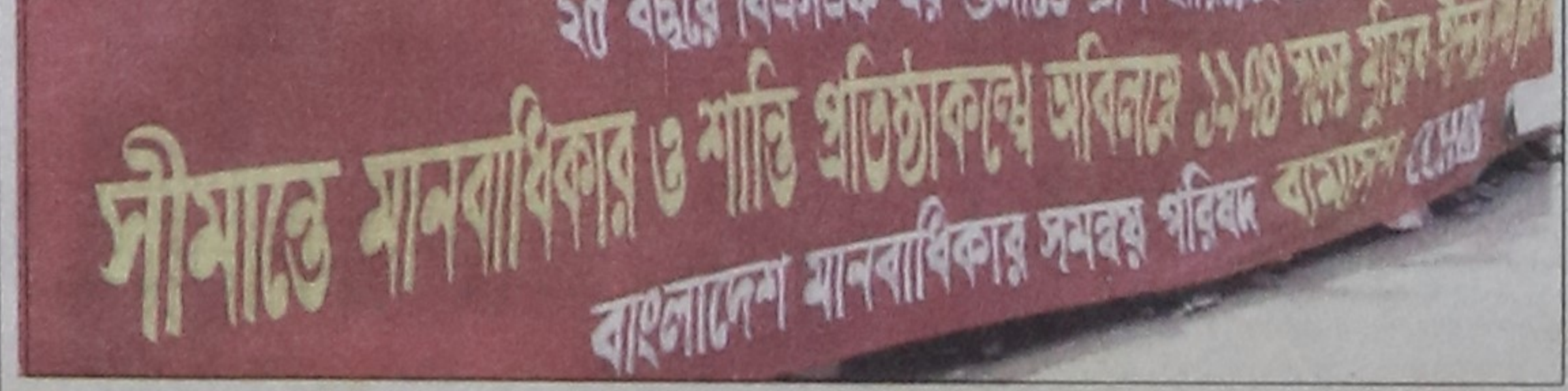
Congress MPs staged a noisy walk-out, accusing the government of backing down on its commitment.

The ongoing budget session was scheduled to end on May 11, but was curtailed by two weeks to allow campaigning ahead of elections in five states on May 10.

The government had ordered the judicial probe into the scandal last month under a retired Supreme Court judge, but the opposition insisted that a parliamentary probe would be more appropriate and effective.

With its demands for the government to resign and, more recently, for the parliamentary probe, the Congress Party had effectively prevented parliament from conducting any normal business.

Last week, the railway budget had to be passed by voice vote the first time a major financial bill has been passed without a debate.



Coordination Council for Human Rights in Bangladesh formed a human chain in front of the Jatiya Press Club demanding implementation of the 1974 Mujib-Indira Accord.

Will journalist Tipu remain disabled?



The Daily Star - প্রথম প্রাণে

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