



Ctg port sent to standstill

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Some 30,000 dockers enforced an indefinite strike since 7.30am yesterday at the Chittagong Port, leading to total suspension of all sorts of activities there.

The Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) held separate and joint meetings with the agitating workers and employees of the Stevedoring Staff Union, and the Bangladesh Master Stevedores Association (BMSA) several times in the afternoon to end the deadlock.

But the standoff remained unresolved till filing of this report at 9:00 last night.

The Chittagong Dock Bandar Sramik Karmachari Parishad -- an alliance of workers and employees working at Chittagong port -- called for the work abstention demanding withdrawal of a revised circular

issued by the CPA on Monday.

On the other hand, the Port Users Forum -- a platform of five port users organisations including BMSA said the revision of section 22 (B) of Shore-handling Agreement in the circular restored the owners' and employers' International Labour Organisation Convention-recognised right to 'hire and fire' to some extent and demanded its retention.

Meanwhile, Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) asked for immediate intervention into the matter by the prime minister. A letter this end was faxed to Prime Minister Khaleda Zia in New York yesterday afternoon.

Besides, the CCCI also termed the 'wildcat' work abstention without prior notice illegal and urged the

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Anniversary of Zia's death today

BSS, Dhaka

The 21st death anniversary of President Ziaur Rahman will be observed today across the country.

On this day in 1981, President Ziaur Rahman was assassinated at Chittagong Circuit House by a group of disgruntled army personnel.

President Prof. A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury, in a message on the occasion, paid tributes to the valiant freedom fighter and former President.

The contribution of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman in the liberation war and his role in establishing multiparty democracy in the country have finally determined the

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President urged to confirm appointment of 3 judges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A committee of senior lawyers of the Supreme Court met President A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday and requested him to confirm appointment of three judges of the High Court.

The three judges were recently refused confirmation of appointment although the chief justice recommended it.

The president told the committee comprising 13 senior lawyers that he would act according to the constitutional provisions.

Headed by President of the Supreme Court Bar Association M Ozair Faruque, the committee noted that if the head of the state's liking for a person determined who

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2 Bangladeshis shot dead by BSF in Sylhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two Bangladeshi nationals were shot dead by BSF personnel near Loharmohol border under Jakirganj upazila on Tuesday night.

Sources said, Kamaluddin, 30, son of Awlad Hossain and Atai, 24, son of Kudrat Ali of village Pashchim, Loharmohol, were fishing in the river Kushiyara at about 12.30 am.

Locals said BSF men fired shots targeting the two. They died on the spot.

The Indian Border Security Forces, however, took the bodies inside their territory.

BSF has asked BSF for return of the bodies.

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A 4-page supplement on the 21st death anniversary of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman'

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Sun Rises

Sun Sets

May 30

6-41pm

May 31

5-11 am

Prayer Timings

May 30

Azan

Jamaat

Fajr

4-15

4-45

Zohr

12-45

1-15

Asr

5-00

5-15

Maghrib

6-42

6-47

Esha

8-15

8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

Saving the future from hepatitis-B

New inoculation programme for infants from July

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lives of an estimated 22,000 children will be saved a year when the government introduces Hepatitis-B vaccination programme from July this year.

The inoculation programme will be introduced initially in six districts and one city corporation on the second week of July as a pilot project. But it would later be expanded nationwide and eventually incorporated into the National Immunisation Programme (NIP), official sources said yesterday.

The six districts are Jessore, Faridpur, Joypurhat, Feni,

Gunmen make death doubly sure

Sleeping Jubo Dal activist shot, then sprayed with bullets on way to hospital in city



Mizanur Rahman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gunmen sprayed bullets on a ruling BNP-backed Jubo Dal activist twice in a space of half an hour to make sure that he is dead at Rampura in the city yesterday morning.

Also injured were two others in the second attack.

Mizanur Rahman, 29, first came under attacks while he was sleeping on the ground floor of his rented house at east Rampura at about 5:45am. The same gang launched another attack on him within half an hour on the way to hospital.

Eyewitnesses said an armed gang of about 15 led by Kala Palash, an alleged criminal, fired at will at the house breaking its windowpanes.

The gang based in Ulan Rampura and west Rampura went to the house, posing as early risers, toothbrushes and gamcha (towel) in their hands.

Kala Palash, a rival of Mizan, hid himself in a toilet after the first round of firing. Soon afterwards, Mizan opened the door of his living room thinking that the firing had been over. Unfortunately, he found himself shot in the chest by Palash.

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GLOBAL ESCAPE



PHOTO: AFP

GOLDEN BOOT BOUND? Italian ace marksman Christian Vieri does a sprint during the team's training session at the Sendai Stadium in South Korea yesterday. He is tipped to bag the highest number of goals in the finals.

Viva Vieri

INTERNET, Milan

With several days before the World Cup 2002 kick off, Inter FC manager Hector Cuper commented on the Italian national team and the participation of his side's players in the forthcoming major football event on Inter official website.

In fact, thirteen Inter players will participate in the World Cup, making the nerazzurri the most represented club side. The Italian side manager did not try to conceal his satisfaction: "It's the merit of a good championship contested by the team. I would like it to be everybody's World Cup."

When asked to share his opinion on the surprise player and revelation team of this World Cup, Cuper named Ronaldinho Gaúcho and Turkey, tipping Vieri to become top scorer at the World Cup. The former Valencia coach believes that a World Cup final between Italy and Brazil would be a great final.

The Inter coach also commented on his side's transfer policy and Moratti's statement that the left side was to be rebuilt: "We all know it, it's a place where we must reinforce the squad more urgently than in other parts. I don't know if Coco will arrive, but he is however in a list of interesting players for that role. If Inter redeem Corradi it means that he is a player that can have the same function as Vieri."

When asked which player he would like to work again with Kily Gonzalez or Vicente and for what different reasons, the manager stated: "I could like it

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D AND GRAB ONE YOURSE

Copies of The Daily Star World Cup 2002 Supplement are in the stalls already! Its 56 pages are full of all-colour World Cup splices, prospects of all 32 participating teams, special

RUSH TO...

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Moulvibazar and Pirojpur. The Chittagong City Corporation will also come under the pilot programme.

"Our staff have returned today after collecting data on how many vials of vaccines would be required for the areas to be covered. We will start a training programme shortly for managers and other staff engaged in the programme," said Mahabubur Rahman, programme manager of the Child Health, a programme under the Ministry of Health.

The Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI) has

committed to provide hepatitis-B vaccines worth approximately US\$40 million for five years for all children under one year of age to be given free of cost.

And the government has committed to continue the vaccination programme even after the GAVI support expires. An agreement in this regard has been signed in October last, official sources said.

The nation-wide vaccination programme would save an estimated 22,000 lives of children annually. Several studies in Bangladesh

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'Resist rising crime, save democracy'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

President of Gano Forum Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday urged the people to initiate a social and political movement to check rising incidents of crime to save democracy.

He asked them to stand up to arrest the fast deteriorating law and order, curb repression on women and children, killing, extortion and increasing intolerance in the political parties.

He was speaking at a public meeting organised by Gano Forum at the Paltan Maidan yesterday.

Both the government and opposition in the parliament have failed to serve the people, since they are unaware of the greater interest of the nation, he observed.

Even the child in its father's lap is unsafe since people have no secu

riety of life under the present government, he added.

Leaders from different political parties also spoke in the meeting. They criticised the government for its failure to keep the law and order under control. They expressed their concern over the attacks on the minority by the ruling BNP and Jamat-e-Islami-backed political activists.

The leaders alleged that government is misusing the law-enforcement agencies to harass their political opponents rather than control crime.

Following the meeting a declaration was adopted, which was read out by

Joint Secretary of the party

Maizul Islam.

The declaration urged the people

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