

**Hasina condemns  
AJM closure  
without ensuring  
workers' jobs**

BSS, Dhaka

Awami League President and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina yesterday condemned the closure of Adamjee Jute Mills (AJM) without any arrangement of alternative employment for its workers.

In a statement, she alleged that the government has thrown hundreds of workers of the mills onto the street by not arranging alternative jobs for them before shutting down the mill.

She also expressed concern about the fate of the jute cultivators as "some 15 lakh tonnes of jute were used in the mill every year."

Sheikh Hasina demanded measures to ensure that jute growers get Taka 500 per mound of jute after the closure of the country's largest jute mill.

"During the Awami League regime, farmers got Taka 800 instead of Taka 500 per mound," she claimed.

The opposition leader asked the government to take measures to protect the family members of workers of different business centres and institutions that had developed in the mill area.

Referring to different steps taken by her government to make AJM profitable, she said, "we had taken alternative programmes to turn the loss-making unit into a profitable one."

**Murder  
inside  
school**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man was murdered inside the Tejgaon Government High School at Farmgate in the city yesterday morning.

The identity of the man in his early thirties could not be known immediately.

The victim, whose throat was slit, was wearing a purple shirt and a check lungi. Both his hands were tied and his eyes blindfolded.

Tejgaon Police recovered the body at about 9:00am. Police said the man might have been killed at about 8 in the morning.

The reason behind the murder could not be known immediately.

Police sent the body to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) for autopsy after doing the inquest.

A murder case was filed with Tejgaon Police Station in this regard.

**2 construction  
workers  
killed in city**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two persons were crushed to death when the container of a crane fell on them from the seventh floor of an under-construction building in the city's Siddheswari area yesterday.

The victims were identified as Abdul Halim, 45, a supplier of construction materials and Amir Ali, 24, a worker, sources said.

The crane was carrying building materials to the seventh floor of the building being constructed by Eastern Housing Limited.

Halim hailed from Gobindapur in Rajbari district and was living with his family in the city's Mirpur area. Amir Ali was from Sirajganj district.

Their bodies were sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

When contacted last night, the duty officer at Ramna Police Station said they came to know about the incident. But he could not give details.

**Bomb blast in  
Algerian  
market kills 30**

REUTERS, Algiers

A bomb explosion ripped through a market outside Algiers yesterday, killing at least 30 people and wounding many others, hospital and government security sources said.

It was the worst killing of civilians in one attack in civil strife-torn Algeria this year, they said.

The Algerian official news agency APS reported that the blast killed 29 people and wounded 37.

The bomb exploded at a market in the town of Larba, 25 km south of Algiers, early yesterday when markets are usually packed with shoppers, the sources said.

**Awami League plans  
shadow cabinet**

REAZ AHMAD

Opposition Awami League is planning to form a shadow cabinet to help consolidate parliamentary democracy in the country and make the government more accountable.

Party sources said the idea of a shadow cabinet was discussed at some recent high-level party meetings. If translated into reality, AL would be the first opposition party in the country to form a shadow cabinet.

Once finalised, AL president and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina will announce the shadow cabinet.

By introducing a shadow cabinet, AL wants to develop expertise for governance and "check and challenge the activities of different ministries", the sources said.

A party leader involved in the process told The Daily Star yesterday that members of the shadow cabinet will monitor and review day to day developments in "their respective ministries for which they will be responsible".

"If a minister makes a statement in parliament on any issue concerning the ministry, the member of the shadow cabinet responsible for monitoring that ministry will seek floor in the House and try to explain Opposition views on the issue. The member will also contest the minister's statement if it is not relevant or not based upon facts," the AL leader explained.

The AL is also contemplating making a proposal to the parliamentary standing body on rules of procedure for giving "a fair chance" to Opposition lawmakers to rebut any minister's statement in the House.

"For example, if a minister speaks on an issue for 10 minutes under Article 300, an Opposition deputy will get five minutes for rebuttal and then again the minister can speak for two and a half minutes for personal clarification, if need be," an AL lawmaker explained.

These ideas are not to criticise or embarrass the government all the time but to further consolidate parliamentary democracy in the country, he said.

During 1996-2001 AL rule, the then opposition BNP

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PHOTO: STAR

Dr Sanjeeda Khatun speaks at a programme to launch a fundraising campaign for the Chhayanaut Bhavan at BRAC Centre in the city Thursday.

**Chhayanaut to have  
its own complex**

Fundraising campaign launched

STAR REPORT

A campaign has been launched to raise Tk 4.80 crore to build a permanent complex for Chhayanaut, a four-decade-old cultural organisation.

Two leading newspapers -- The Daily Star and the Prothom Alo -- will help collect funds for the Chhayanaut Bhavan.

Executive Member of Chhayanaut Dr Sarwar Ali announced the campaign at a view-exchange programme of the well-wishers of the organisation at BRAC Centre on Thursday.

Dramatist Aly Zaker presented the plan of the complex and introduced its architect Bashirul Huq to the audience.

General Secretary of Chhayanaut and singer Khairul Anam Shakil told the function that the proposed complex would give the organisation a permanent base.

Chairman of the Privatisation Commission Enam Ahmed Chowdhury spoke of the glorious role by Chhayanaut since the 1960s.

He suggested that organisers seek financial assistance from

individuals and organisations besides media-campaigned fundraising.

The Daily Star Editor Mahfuz Anam said Chhayanaut was the source of inspiration for the promotion and protection of Bengali culture in the 1960s and contributed greatly to inspiring the nation to prepare for the Liberation War.

Chhayanaut launched a cultural movement along with a political agitation against the conspiracy of destroying Bengali culture during the Pakistani autocratic regime, said Matiur Rahman, editor of the Prothom Alo.

Dr Hamida Hossain, Asaduzzaman Noor MP, Dr Iftekharuzzaman of the Freedom Foundation, Shamsul Bari, industrialist and popular presenter Anisul Huq also gave some important suggestions about fundraising.

Industrialist Abul Khair Litu promised a donation of Tk 10 lakh and holding of an exhibition on works of prominent artists Zainul Abedin and Qamrul Islam as a fundraiser.

Khairul Anam Shakil, Zinat Afza Tania and Biman Chandra Biswas sang three songs at the function.

**Criminal hurt  
in gunfight  
with rivals**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An alleged criminal was seriously injured in a gunfight between two rival criminal gangs in the city's Madartek under Sabujbagh Police Station yesterday afternoon.

The injured, identified as Amanatullah Shipon, 30, received four bullets in his abdomen and legs. He was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) in a critical condition.

Witnesses said the gunfight ensued soon after Shipon and his accomplices went to Madartek intersection by an auto-rickshaw at about 3:30pm.

At the DMCH, Amanatullah told this correspondent that he had hired the auto-rickshaw from Malibagh crossing to go to Madartek on personal business. "Some miscreants shot me when the vehicle stopped at Madartek intersection," he claimed.

But police said Shipon, a resident of Shantibagh under Motijheel Police Station, is a notorious criminal of the city. He was the second-in-command of a Madartek-based criminal gang called the Ripon group before he left the group to

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A S M NURUNNABI

Despite government orders to stop the filling of lakes and other water bodies in and around Dhaka City, past experiences show that such orders, by and large, do not go far enough to serve any practical purpose. Some leading real estate developers have filled up large areas of wetlands, thus damaging not only the serene environmental landscape but also exacerbating the drainage problem by blocking the outlets.

Town planners have said housing projects in such areas have thus adversely affected the physical characteristics of those areas. RAJUK was reportedly trying to prevent grabbing of the vast areas of the remaining water bodies as per the government directive. It has, however, remained a difficult task.

Dhaka continues to expand haphazardly as developers have increasingly claimed the wetlands in and around the Dhaka City and started building construction on them after filling them up. These activities driven by a myopic outlook

**DOWN TO EARTH**  
**Filling up of Ashuliya: A  
disaster in the making**

have heightened with the approach of the monsoons and have devastating implications for the areas near Ashuliya. If Ashuliya is filled up, millions of cubic metres of floodwater coming from the river Bangshi in the upstream will rush down the Buriganga and the Tongikhil towards the capital, as feared by water experts.

At least half a dozen small and large developers are engaged in filling up the vast low-lying land around Ashuliya during the wet season when large barges are able to carry huge amounts of earth and

unload them into the water.

Water experts at the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre warns that filling up of Ashuliya would entail an environmental disaster, endangering the entire ecosystem of the area. A sea of floodwater that would otherwise accumulate in the vast low-lying areas of Ashuliya before slowly draining down the Buriganga under the Mirpur Bridge also poses a threat of disaster in the absence of the natural outlet is filled up.

According to sources, the government had instructed relevant

authorities, particularly the RAJUK, not to allow any construction within five miles of the wetland. This greatly benefited people due to increased tourist activities. But it seems this benefit will likely be short-lived, because developers pay scant attention to the instruction of the authorities and can get away with it through numerous loopholes of the law. There is therefore cause for concern about the activities of the developers who are going ahead with their project at Ashuliya and the consequent effect

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**One rescued  
from abductors,  
4 arrested**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ramna Police yesterday arrested a gang of four abductors in the city and rescued the man they abducted and held for ransom about a month ago.

The four arrested kidnapers are Zillur Rahman, Mohammad Mosharraf Hossain, Ranjit Kumar Chandra alias Liton and Mustafizur.

Police said Mohammad Islam, who came to Dhaka from Chittagong on June 6, was abducted by these men at gunpoint from the Moghbazar area and taken to the fifth floor of House 145, D-block of Mahanagar Project in the city's Khilgaon area.

Afterwards, the abductors contacted the wife of Islam and demanded Tk 7 lakh for his release. Later, the amount was reduced to Tk 2 lakh.

Islam's wife Noor Jahan sold her properties to get the money and came to Dhaka to pay it to the kidnapers for her husband's release. Before that however, she contacted the officer-in-charge of Ramna Police Station on Thursday night and described the whole incident to him.

Yesterday morning, while receiving money from Noor Jahan from room 212 of hotel Rose Garden at Moghbazar intersection, three of the gang members were arrested by a team of Ramna Police.

Following statement of the arrested, police rescued Islam from the house at Khilgaon. A fourth member of the gang was arrested from the house.

A case was filed with Ramna Police Station in this regard.

**Bank robbery  
attempt foiled**

BSS, Dhaka

Tejgaon Thana police yesterday foiled an attempt to rob a bank at Green Road area and arrested five persons including a bank guard for their alleged involvement in the attempt to commit robbery.

A team of Tejgaon police led by Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Tejgaon Mohammad Saud Ahsan, hearing the sound of the bank alarm, cordoned off the Green Road branch of Uttara Bank at about 4 am. Police entered into the bank and found five persons there including Mofizul Islam, a guard of the bank.

**Council opens today**  
**BCL leadership  
at DU may be  
changed**

ABUL KALAM AZAD

The leadership of Dhaka University unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) will be changed and its committee expanded at its council today to revamp the Awami League-backed organisation.

AL President Sheikh Hasina, senior party leaders and present and former leaders of BCL will be present at the council, to be held after a lapse of three years.

It will begin at the Institution of Engineers in the city at 10 am. Acting president of BCL's central unit Marufa Akhter Poppy will inaugurate it.

Sources close to AL policymakers said only regular students and devoted activists will be brought in the leadership and those having criminal records will be "sidelined".

If necessary, there will be election to the posts of president and

general secretary, they said. BCL sources said the new BCL unit at DU will have 81 members instead of 41 earlier.

The posts of vice-president will be increased to 12 from five, joint secretary to three from one, organising secretary to three from one and those of assistant secretary to 15 from five. Two new posts -- religious affairs secretary and science affairs secretary -- will be created.

The sources said the AL leadership is thinking of enlarging BCL's DU unit committee keeping in mind its future movement against the BNP-led coalition government.

BCL sources said there has been a serious leadership crisis in the DU unit of BCL due to non-holding of the council. The post of president remained vacant after M Sazzad Hossain left the country early last year for higher studies.

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**SP's death: UD  
case may  
turn into  
murder case**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The supervising officer in the SP Khairul Bashar suicide case yesterday said its inquiry depends on expert reports.

"It's a UD case and may turn into a murder case, based on the development of the inquiry," Additional Deputy Commissioner Ruhul Amin said.

Amin said he interrogated some. "Steps have been taken to look into the case."

Police have recovered the pistol the superintendent of police (SP) allegedly killed himself with. Also recovered was the spent bullet to confirm if it was used in firing.

Ballistic experts would be able to confirm if the bullet was fired by the SP himself or by others.

The police sent the pistol to the CID to examine fingerprints on it and will receive the report today, the officer said. The police are also waiting for the autopsy report.

Asked why the officials did not

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**Arafat's security shakeup  
eclipsed by LA shooting**

REUTERS, Jerusalem

Yasser Arafat staged an unprecedented shakeup of his inner circle but the Palestinian upheaval was eclipsed by a shooting spree at an Israeli airline ticketing desk in Los Angeles in which three people were killed.

Israel immediately said the assault by a lone gunman at Los Angeles airport on Thursday appeared to be a "terrorist attack" and vowed to hunt down those behind it, but US officials said they had no indication it was anything but an isolated incident.

Violence also flared in the Gaza Strip, where a car bomb killed two leading Palestinian militants in an attack their comrades called an

Israeli "assassination". Earlier on Thursday, Arafat under intense US pressure for reform reshuffled the hierarchy of his much-criticised security apparatus by formally dismissing his powerful West Bank security commander and the Palestinian police chief.

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A senior Palestinian official said Jibril Rajoub, powerful head of the Palestinian Preventive Service in the West Bank and once considered a potential successor to the 73-year-old Arafat, was served dismissal papers by the president.

Arafat shunted Rajoub to Jenin as governor of the northern West Bank city and appointed the incumbent

there, Zuhair Manasra, as the new West Bank security commander.

Palestinian officials said Arafat also ordered the replacement of police chief Ghazi al-Jabali. A senior security source had said he resigned and would challenge Arafat for the presidency in elections six months away.

The moves appeared unlikely to mollify US President George W Bush, who has called for the Palestinian president himself to be replaced with leaders "uncompromised by terror".

But upheaval in the Palestinian political ranks was quickly overshadowed by violence thousands of

kilometres away.

A gunman shot and killed two people and wounded three others before he was shot dead by El Al security agents at the Israeli airline's ticket counter in Los Angeles international airport.

The incident came amid heightened security around the United States as Americans, nervous after a string of government warnings about possible future acts of terror, celebrated their first Independence Day holiday since the September 11 attacks.

"We believe we are talking about a terrorist attack," Israel's Transport Minister Efraim Sneh said in Jerusalem.

"Organisations, primarily

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