

FRIGATE SCAM CASE
Mintoo gets anticipatory bail

UNB, Dhaka

The High Court yesterday granted anticipatory bail for three months to Abdul Awal Mintoo, former FBCCI President, in frigate purchase scam case.

A division bench passed the order upon a writ filed on behalf of Mintoo, who joined the BNP before the October 1 election.

The court also issued rule upon the government to show cause why the petitioner should not be granted bail.

Bureau of Anti-corruption on August 7 filed a case with Tejgaon Police against Mintoo and four others including former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina accusing them of taking kickback in frigate purchase from South Korea.

BAC in its case said the accused were involved in buying a frigate from Daewoo Company at an abnormally high price, causing a loss of Tk 447 Crore to the public exchequer.

DUTA urges acting VC to reopen varsity

BSS, Dhaka

The Dhaka University Teachers Association (DUTA) has urged the DU authorities to restore congenial academic atmosphere on the campus and reopen the university as early as possible.

The DUTA made this appeal when a delegation of its executive committee paid a courtesy call on DU acting Vice-Chancellor Prof A F M Yusuf Haider at the Administrative Building yesterday afternoon.

President of DUTA Prof Abul Khair, General Secretary Sharifullah Bhuiyan and other office-bearers were present.

Govt mulls to keep cell phones off teenagers

BSS, Dhaka

Science and Information Communication Technology Minister Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan yesterday said the government is thinking about restricting use of mobile phones by teenagers on health grounds.

The government will review ways to enforce restrictions on using cellular phones by people below 18 to save them from exposure to radiation, he said while speaking at a discussion on Effect of Non-radioactive radiation and its Solution at CIRDAAP auditorium here.

He added that the government, if required, would frame a policy and enact laws to check non-radioactive radiation.

Scientist Mohammed Nuruzzaman of Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission presented the keynote paper at the discussion organised by Bangladesh Radiation Protection Association (BRPA).

Presided over by BRPA president and journalist Ferdous Ahmed Korshi, the function was addressed, among others, by Transmission Manager of T&T engineer Nurul Islam, Professor Shamima Karim Chowdhury of Physics Department of Dhaka University, Director of the Atomic Energy Commission Dr Abdul Jalil and Prof Nayeem Khan.

BRPA presented a five-point demand urging authorities to identify radiation as a national problem.

BUET reopens today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) reopens today after two months.

The BUET was closed following the June 8 killing of Sabequn Nahar Sony, a student of the university, in a gunfight between two factions of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, the ruling BNP's student wing.

Residential halls of the university were reopened on Friday.

Govt to sell rice in open market to bridle price

MONJUR MAHMUD

In a bid to stabilise prices of the essential commodities, the government has decided to allow counter-trade with Malaysia for palm oil and pulses imports and begin open market sales of rice.

Moreover, the home ministry has been asked for "some extra efforts" to control extortion at important points for positive impact on the market and communication ministry for "immediate measures" in case of communication disruption due to flood, an inter-ministerial meeting decided yesterday.

The commerce ministry held two separate meetings with representatives of trade bodies, agencies and departments concerned last month and requested them not to create an artificial crisis. However, the rise in prices of essentials continue, the meeting was told.

"Under counter-trade with Malaysia, private-sector importers will be able to import palm oil and pulses worth \$10 million in the first phase. Exporters will be able to export their products of equal worth against such import and if necessary, the ceiling will be raised to \$20 or \$30 million," Commerce Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud

Chowdhury told newsmen yesterday after the meeting.

He linked the continuing price hike to extortion at different points and said the home ministry would take extra measures to put an end to it. "Besides, I think some wholesalers are taking advantage of the present situation and playing active role in determining the prices."

The commerce ministry has recommended the ministry concerned to start open market sales as early as possible so that rice prices come down quickly, the commerce minister said.

A working paper, analysing the latest price situation, was presented at the meeting. Finance Secretary Zakir Ahmed Khan, Commerce Secretary Suhel Ahmed, Home Secretary Dr Sadaat Hossain, Communication Secretary Rezaul Hayat and National Board of Revenue Chairman Dr Shoeb Ahmed attended the meeting.

Prices of rice have gone up although there is a surplus production, the paper pointed out. Prices of coarse rice have increased by 29.17 per cent than that of last

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7



Transports strike in Ctg, Sylhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

All modes of mechanised public transport plying the 150 plus routes in the districts of Chittagong and Sylhet divisions stayed off the road yesterday in support of a 24-hour transport strike.

The strike was called by the Purbanchaliya Sarak Paribahan Malik-Sramik Oikya Parishad to press home its 11-point demand including withdrawal of increased road permit and licence fees as well as toll at different roads and highways.

Except for a few private motor vehicles, the only other public transports seen plying the city roads throughout the day were a large

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7



Dengue Prevention Day today

BSS, Dhaka

Rallies and special cleanliness drives would be carried out in different wards of the city to mark the Dengue Prevention Day today.

Mayor of Dhaka and Fisheries and Livestock Minister Sadeque Hossain Khoka will inaugurate the programmes on Dhaka Mahanagar Mahila College premises in the city at 10.30 am.

A rally will be held at Dhalpur Community Centre in Ward No 85 at 10.30 pm.

Another rally will be held at DCC's Lalbagh regional office at 10 pm under the leadership of local legislator Nasir Uddin Ahmed Pintu.

A similar programmes will be held at Maghbazar DCC commiss

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

Scrapping of Nat'l Mourning Day
Hasina accuses govt of sheltering 'killers'

UNB, Dhaka

Opposition Leader Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the government's cancellation of National Mourning Day programme on August 15 and restriction on hoisting national flag at half-mast are "manifestations of solidarity" with the killers of Bangabandhu.

"The government of Begum Khaleda Zia wants to protect the heinous killers," she said. "Now it's a big question to the people: What is the relation between the Prime Minister and the Bangabandhu's killers?"

On her return from the US after a 25-day private visit, Hasina told

reporters at the airport in the morning that when people last observed the August 15 as National Mourning Day, Khaleda Zia celebrated her "false birthday on that black day."

Replying to a query, the former prime minister outright rejected the allegation of corruption against her in the purchase of MIG-29 from Russia and a navy frigate from South Korea.

She said her government had saved US\$165 million while procuring eight Mig-29s and also saved money in buying the frigate.

"Now the present government is planning to sell the Mig-29s and buy some latest aircraft for taking kickbacks," Hasina said and accused

the previous BNP government (1991-96) of corruption while buying Airbus for Biman Bangladesh Airlines.

On a question about Awami League's cancellation of a scheduled meeting with Pakistan President General Pervez Musharaff, she said the formal meeting with a visiting President is a "courtesy."

The working committee, the highest policymaking body of Awami League, decided not to meet the General after reviewing the prevailing political situation in the country, she said. "It was the right decision by the working commit

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7



Residents of old Dhaka's Becharam Deuri area put black flags on display yesterday as a mark of protest against the killing of eight-year old Rubaiyet Ahmed Bappi who was killed on August 5.

Cable crisis cripples new BTTB exchanges

ABU SAEED KHAN

The Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board's (BTTB) installation of new telephone exchanges--ahead of schedule is unlikely to ease the crisis, as cables won't be in place anytime soon.

The BTTB has been installing equipment at exchanges in five divisional headquarters. But these exchanges would remain inoperative for a long time, as there is no cable to connect the subscribers. Moreover, bureaucratic tangles are feared to defer the cable installation works for an indefinite period.

The BTTB awarded Tk 84.25

crore contract to Nortel Networks of Canada for installing 116,000 lines in Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Sylhet and Khulna divisions.

In Dhaka, 73,100 new telephones will be installed -- 17,000 at Motijheel, 4,500 at Moghbazar, 4,000 lines at Khilgaon, 6,600 at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, 10,000 at Mirpur, 3,000 at Gulshan, 5,000 at Cantonment, 14,000 at Uttara and 3,000 at Tongi exchanges.

An additional 25,600 telephones will be installed in Chittagong (6,500), Khulna (7,300), Sylhet (7,300) and Rajshahi (4,500) divisions. Besides, 23,150 analogue phones will be made digital-- 9,500

at Moghbazar, 9,000 at Gulshan and 3,400 at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar of Dhaka and 1,250 at Agrabad, Chittagong.

But prospective subscribers of the new exchanges won't get connection despite commissioning.

The BTTB invited international bids to roll out copper cable networks on a turn-key basis. But before receiving the bids for this Tk 257.25 crore project, the authorities had contracted two state-owned enterprises (SOEs) for supplying all materials at higher prices.

The Bangladesh Cable Shilpa (BCS) and the Telephone Shilpa

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Muggers run riot at Shewrapara

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A gang of muggers stabbed three persons, looted five shops including a beauty parlour and snatched valuables from 10 people at West Shewrapara in the city's Mirpur in the evening of Friday.

The 10-member gang led by one Shajib, aged about 20 and a resident of the area, committed a number of crimes including dacoity and mugging in the last five days, creating panic in the area.

The armed miscreants stabbed one Monir Hossain (40) in front of his residence at West Shewrapara at about 7 pm when he refused to give them his cell phone.

They stabbed a factory worker, Aminul Islam (25), near the factory as he refused to give them his wrist watch. Besides, an unidentified person was stabbed by the gang as he failed to give them money or some valuables.

In the same evening, they broke all the streetlights at three lanes in the area and locked three shops - a grocery, a laundry and a pharmacy - so that the area plunges into darkness and they can mug people.

They usually start mugging in the

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Aug 11		6-35 pm
Aug 12	5-32 am	

Prayer Timings		
August 11		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-30	5-00
Zahr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-40	6-45
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

More protests against Bappi's killers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Demonstrations protesting the killing of Rubaiyet Ahmed Bappi continued for the fourth day in the old part of the city yesterday.

About two hundred students of the Armentola Govt. High School, their guardians and relatives of Bappi brought out a procession to protest the killing of the schoolboy and demand immediate punishment to the killers.

They carried banners, festoons and placards to denounce the murder. The procession later marched to the Dhaka Central Jail gate at 2:00pm, chanting slogans against the killers.

After demonstrating at the jail gate for about half an hour, they went to the Central Shaheed Minar and observed a token two-and-a-half hour hunger strike at 2:30pm.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3