PMO seeks report on Haikkar Khal filling

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) has issued a letter to the authorities concerned asking them to submit a detailed report about the Haikkar Khal filling-up project

The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) recently revived the unplanned filling-up project of the khal. Referring to the series of reports The Daily Star carried on this issue, the letter said it has attracted the attention of the PMO as it is a serious public interest

In the letter, the PMO directed the mayor of the DCC and the secretaries of the Ministry of Environment and Forest, and the Department of Local Government to submit a report of the project as soon as possible to the PMO.

The letter was issued following an initiative taken by the Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (BAPA), which sent the clippings of the reports to the PMO to take nec SEE PAGE 11 COL 8

SN Hall incident Case against 18 female students withdrawn

UNB, Dhaka

The case filed against 18 female students and the provost of Shamsunnahar Hall of Dhaka University was withdrawn vester-

Informed sources said withdrawal of the case was negotiated behind the scene. Jannatul Kanon, a JCD activist.

who had filed the case, informed the Ramna police in writing of her desire not to move ahead with the case and requested for the case to be with-

Accordingly, investigation officer submitted final report to the court that admitted the report

Mahbubur Rahman, OC of Ramna thana told UNB last night that "under the rules, the case is now withdrawn.

The case was filed following the incident in Shamsunnahar Hall last month that evoked sharp criticism of the police and the government. √ice-chancellor Prof Anwarullah Chowdhury and Proctor Prof Nazrul Islam resigned in the face of criticism.

Barisal incident 10 including ETV newsmen granted bail in case filed by JCD leader

UNB, Dhaka

Ten people, including cultural activists, accused of theft, ransacking and possession of explosives in Barisal were granted anticipatory bail by the High Court yesterday.

Local Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leader Shakhawat Hossain Noman filed the case with Kotwali police of Barisal on September 7 alleging that the accused demonstrated demanding resumption of ETV and indulged in violence.

Those accused include Mintu Bose, Golam Masud Babul, Dulal and ETV newsmen.

While granting anticipatory bail, the judges of the vacation bench issued rule upon the government to show cause why the petitioners should not be granted regular bail. The rule was made returnable in 3

Jubo Dal activist shot dead in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Jubo Dal activist was shot dead in Fatikchhari of the district yesterday morning.

The victim was identified as Momtaz Uddin, 32.

Sources said, a gang of armed miscreants reportedly belonging to 'Kashem Bahini' abducted Momtaz at gun-point in front of his house at

Chandan Bazar at around 9 am. The miscreants took Mamtaz to a nearby place and shot him point

blank. He died on the spot. Sources said that the murder was sequel to a previous enmity.

Non-students crowd new JCD body

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 18 of the 31 members of the newly formed central convening committee of Jativatabadi Chhatra Dal are non-students and 10 of them are married and are around 35

In the Dhaka University convening committee of the ruling BNP's student front, eight out of its 31 members are non-students and one of the eight are married.

Most of the members of the central convening committee are contractors by profession, and a number of them have criminal track records. Some of them were expelled from the student body earlier for involvement in criminal activities, sources in JCD said

The convening committees were announced on Monday after approval of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia who on several occasions earlier had said that nonstudents and persons with criminal records would have no place in JCD

Inclusion of a large number of non-students again has created a sharp reaction among the JCD rank and

file, the sources said Many mid-level leaders and workers expressed their

anger and frustration when asked to comment. "There is no need to make any comment while a large number of non-students and married persons have again been placed in the leadership despite repeated commitments by the BNP leadership", said one of them.

He regretted that persons who were responsible for much of the trouble in JCD have again been selected to run the organisation. "They are the problems for JCD", he said preferring anonymity.

Some of the JCD leaders this correspondent talked to expressed serious doubt whether its full-fledged central and DU committees could be formed by December with these persons in the leadership.

Shahbuddin Laltu, convenor of the central convening committee, is married and is no longer a student. He enrolled himself in M.Ed course at the Institution of Education and Research (IER) three years ago. But nobody could confirm whether he seldom visits the institution now.

The nine other non-student and married persons in the central convening committee are joint convenor ABM Mosharraf Hossain, Asaduzzaman Asad, Forhad SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

Tributes paid to Sept 11 victims STAFF CORRESPONDENT Bangladesh yesterday joined nations around the world to remember and pay tribute to the victims of September 11 terror attacks in

Special programmes were held n the capital on the first anniversary of the attacks, with religious and memorial services to mourn the

3.034 people who died last year. The Bangladesh chapter of the World Trade Promotion Center, Inc. (WTPC) held a memorial service for the Bangladeshi and other victims of

the Twin Towers tragedy. Preachers of different religions attended the solemn event and prayed for global peace and har-

Moulana Abdur Rahim recited verses from the Qur'an, and Swami Sthiratananda chanted Vedic



Representatives of different religions stand in silence at a memorial service organised by the Bangladesh chapter of the World Trade Promotion Centre Inc, USA in the city yesterday to pay tributes to the Sept 11 victims.

DMP defers drive to discipline rickshaw

Distribution of leaflets on traffic rules from today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Traffic Department of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) yesterday suspended for the next five days a month-long drive to discipline rickshaws.

It has now decided to distribute from today three lakh leaflets among rickshaw-pullers as well as passengers to create awareness about traffic rules.

Taking advantage of the transport crisis due to the ban on 12,500 two-stroke auto-rickshaws from September 1 and absence of adequate alternative public transport, a large number of rickshaws are back on the city roads, leading to severe traffic congestion on a large number

of citv roads Sources said the Traffic Department was considering to launch a drive to seize illegal rickshaws to improve the city's traffic situation. But the move fell through, as the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) was averse to launching such drive, according to sources

Although 18 DMP teams were stationed at different city points, there was no improvement in the city's traffic situation. Sources in the Traffic Department said the rickshaw-pullers did not care to comply with the rules safe in the knowledge that their vehicles would not be seized.

According to an estimate, nearly 87,000 rickshaws are plying the city roads with genuine DCC licence, while another four lakh illegal are there without any licence. According to transport experts, the illiterate rickshaw pullers are responsible to a great extent for traffic congestion in the capital, as most of them do not abide by the traffic rules.

DC (Traffic) of the DMP Abu Musa Mohammad Fakrul Islam told The Daily Star, "As most of the rickshaw pullers were not aware of the drive we have decided to go for such campaign for five days. After the campaign we will take tough action against the rickshaws violat-

SC lawyers form human chain for separation of judiciary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Members of the Bangladesh Supreme Court Bar Association (BSCBA) yesterday formed a human chain at the BSCBA premises demanding the separation and independence of judiciary. repeal of all black laws and a stop to abuse of laws.

They also asked the government to meet their six-point demands including withdrawal of increased court fees and taxes on stamp paper, repeal of the Act 115 of civil procedure court and expansion of the iurisdiction of district judges and appointment of independent, efficient and honest judges sensitive to human rights

President of the association advocate Ozaer Faruq later at a rally said the six-point demands are related with the interest of the 30,000 lawyers and the clients. "The lawyers will continue their movement until the six-point demands are met," he added. He further said it was unfair on the part of the present government to increase the court **SEE PAGE 11 COL 8**

Bangladesh to head WHA for a year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh will head the World Health Assembly (WHA), the highest governing body of WHO, for one year from May next.

Health Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain made the announcement at a press conference yesterday.

"For the first time, Bangladesh has been chosen as the president to steer the 56th WHA. This was decided at the end of a two-day conference of health ministers of the Southeast Asian Regional Office (SEARO), held in Jakarta (Indonesia)," he said.

The main tasks of the WHA are to approve the WHO programmes, budget for the following biennium and decide major policy matters.

"I think we all should be proud of this achievement and this is a great honour for Bangladesh and its people," he happily noted. The health secretary and the director general of health were present, among others.

"We had competitors like India and Thailand but after discussions **SEE PAGE 11 COL 3**

Kamal Majumder shown arrested

Former Awami League lawmaker

Kamal Ahmed Majumder was shown arrested in Monir Hossain

Khondoker murder case on Monday Although the complainant of the

in murder case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Tricky one-day tourney starts in Colombo today

Cricketers, administrators and fans will heave a collective sigh of relief as the focus shifts from sponsorship controversy to cricket with the start of the Champions Trophy here today.

The prestigious tournament starts with Pakistan taking on Sri Lanka at the Premadasa Stadium. The Bangladesh Television and SET Max will cover the day-night match live from 2.30pm BST. The run-up to the 12-nation limited-overs tournament was marred by a

contract row between players and administrators that nearly led to the pullout of some of the world's best cricketers, especially from India. India took the longest to resolve the crisis, threatening to send a secondstring squad to Sri Lanka if the top players did not sign a sponsorship agree-

ment with the International Cricket Council (ICC). India named their best team barely three days before the tournament, the biggest to be hosted by Sri Lanka and considered a dress-rehearsal for next vear's World Cup in South Africa.

It is a tournament with a difference. The tournament will rely more on technology this time as on-field umpires have been given an option for the first time to consult the TV umpire before

The sport's world governing body, however, has said it is being done on a trial basis and will be discontinued if it is unsuccessful.

It is also a tournament with a deceptive format. The event will he held on a league-cum-knockout basis for the first time,

NGOs overplay small problems. says, Saifur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman has said nongovernment organisations (NGOs) are overplaying some of the small problems like arsenic contamination and HIV and doing brisk business in "People who project these as big

problems are really creating panic among the people and damaging the country's image, he said.

regetable and fresh fruit export, affecting the national economy, Saifur Rahman said. The finance minister was speak-

ing at a symposium on World Summit on Sustainable Development organised by the United Nations Association of Bangladesh (UNAB) and held at a city hotel yesterday.

He mentioned that a number of people died of dengue or diarrhoea in the past several weeks, but arsenic contamination or HIV was

Speaking at the symposium, economist Dr Wahiduddin Mahmud



Supreme Court lawyers form a human chain at the court premises yesterday, protesting the increase in court fees

Businessman shot in Daulatpur, hartal observed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Unidentified gunmen shot and severely wounded a businessman at his firm at Daulatpur at about 9:30pm on Tuesday.

Ghazi Sirajul Huq Siraj, 58, was shot in the chest, right hand and left thigh by three gunmen who left the spot in a motorbike immediately afterwards. Siraj was taken to the Khulna Surgical Clinic and operated upon. His condition remained critical till 5:00pm yesterday, attending doctors said.

A freedom fighter of the 1971 Liberation War and one of the pioneers of student movement during the mass upsurge in 1969, Siraj played an active role in founding BNP in Khulna. He is president of Khulna divisional unit of Petroleum Products Dealers and Owners' Association. He also deals in Jute products and is owner of two shrimp farms.

The attempt on Siraj's life has triggered violence at Daulatpur as angry mob protesting the incident damaged some cars and shops at 10:00pm on Tuesday, forcing shop-owners to close their shops. Later, a procession was

law minister REUTERS, Srinagar

Kashmir

Suspected separatist rebels killed Mushtag Ahmed Lone, the law minister of Indian Kashmir and three other people in an attack on his motorcade yesterday, police said. Militants hurled explosives and

Militants kill

sprayed the motorcade with automatic weapons fire as it drove through Kupwara, 90-km northwest of Srinagar, police said. Sixteen people were killed and

25 others injured in Kashmir, where Muslim revels have intensified their attacks ahead of next week's state elections, police said yesterday. **MORE ON PAGE-9**

case did not mention Kamal Majumder's name in the FIR, he was shown arrested in connection with the murder. In the case filed with Mirpur thana, it has been alleged that some criminals called Monir Hossain out of his shop in the city's Kazipara

he victim to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where doctors declared him dead. Victim's son Mohammad Sumon filed a murder case with Mirpur thana accusing nine people the

area at about 8:00 pm on May 24 this

year and shot him. Local people took

Meanwhile, Kamal Majumder arrested under Section 54 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC),

was granted bail on Monday. He was arrested on August 21 on charge of making provocative statements in the Awami League's public meetinas.

Later, he was given detention under the Special Powers Act 1974.

BMA elections **Pro-AL** panel alleges vote rigging

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Pro-Awami League panel in the BMA elections yesterday raised allegations of poll rigging and intimidation by the ruling party backed

BNP-backed Prof M A Hadi-Dr A Z M Zahid Hossain panel swept the September 5 elections defeating Dr Ruhul Hag-Dr Kamrul Hasan Khan panel supported by the Awami League

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Such campaign might harm

not at all dreadful in the country.