

# Directive to dredge river routes

BSS, Dhaka

Shipping Minister Akbar Hossain yesterday directed the officials concerned for taking immediate measures to dredge the river routes affected by floods and repair all ferry ghats and adjacent roads from the maintenance fund.

He gave the directives at a meeting with the heads of all offices and corporations under the ministry at the ministry here, an official handout said.

He asked the officials to start the dredging operation for bailing out the sediments deposited on Doulatdia-Paturia, Mawa-Charjanajat and Kirtankhola routes because of floods and hire dredging equipment from outside to maintain the navigability of the channels if necessary.

# MOBILE PHONE CARD JS body decides to extend validity period

BSS, Dhaka

The parliamentary standing committee on the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications decided to extend the validity period of pre-paid mobile phone card from 21 days to 30 days.

The decision was taken at a meeting of No. 1 sub-committee of the parliamentary body on Sunday, with its convener Prof Kazi Golam Morshed in the chair. Members of

## Sit-in at Adamjee Court today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Adamjee Jute Mill Sangram Parishad and Shilpa-Sramik-Karmachari Rakkha Samannay Parishad will stage a sit-in on the Adamjee Court premises today to protest what they said was a government move to destroy all infrastructures of the Adamjee Jute Mills.

Leaders and activists of different labour and political organisations will join the programme, said a press release yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR

Security men run metal detectors on the ground at Muktangan in the city before the start of a protest rally of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) yesterday.

## Release of BAU leaders demanded

DU CORRESPONDENT

Progatishil Chhatra Jote (PCJ) yesterday demanded immediate release of its leaders and activists including the president of its Bangladesh Agriculture University (BAU) unit.

They were arrested on BAU campus on August 22 for protesting the deadly grenade attack on Awami League (AL) rally in the capital on August 21.

The jote made the demand at a press conference at the Dhaka University Journalists' Association office at the Teachers Students Centre.

The PCJ, a combine of the left-leaning student organisations, also demanded immediate withdrawal of all 'false cases' against their leaders and activists.

Meanwhile, 135 teachers of different universities, in a joint statement, have protested the role of BAU authorities and the JCD's attack on the PCJ procession.

## Qulkhwani



Qulkhwani of Rowshan Jabeen Mazumder, wife of late AZMB Mazumder, will be held at Gulshan Azad Mosque after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

Relatives and admirers have been requested to attend the qulkhwani to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

He also asked them to conduct a survey to see whether the navigability of the major river routes was narrowed by deposition of silt and submit report to the ministry.

The minister underlined the importance of retrieving the river-swallowed lands at Basila and other areas on the Buriganga by earth filling during the dredging of the river. He also advised them to reach a permanent solution through coordination with the Water Development Board.

Secretary of the ministry Ismail Zabiullah, Chairman of BIWTC Advocate Shamsur Rahman Shimul Biswas, Acting Chairman of BIWTA Sunil Kanti Bose and Chairman of Bangladesh Land Port Authority Amjad Hossain Sarkar were present.



PHOTO: STAR

Leaders and activists of Bangladesh Jubo Mahila League march in a pro-hartal procession at Dhanmondi in the city yesterday.

## Janatar Sanghati launched

A new political party styled as Janatar Sanghati (People's Solidarity) has been floated recently with Sk Md Haroon-ar-Rashid as its chairman, says a press release.

At a press conference in the city, he called for introducing presidential form of government.

He also underscored the need for reorganisation and decentralisation of administration.

Later, the chairman introduced some of the party leaders -- Advocate Mosharraf Hossain Patwary, Lion MA Rashid Miah, engineer Mostafizur Rahman, Dr Professor Rezaul Hoque, Zahid Hossain, Md Nazrul Islam, Safiq Rahman and Feroza Banu.

# Tk 4.6 cr Danish grant for export promotion

UNB, Dhaka

Denmark will provide Bangladesh Tk 4.6 crore in grants for training, technical assistance and hi-tech export promotion.

As part of Danida Private Sector Development (PSD) programme, Tom B Hansen, Danish Charge d' Affaires to Bangladesh, approved the assistance that will also support the establishment of a back-office for advertising services.

The back-office will be the first of its kind ever in Bangladesh within the sophisticated area of providing support services to an advertising agency in Europe using the local graphic artists trained in the use of advanced software and computers.

An announcement from the Danish embassy said the cooperation is expected to create a "demonstration effect" of convincing the foreign companies that Bangladesh is a viable alternative to destinations such as India.

Thus it will open the doors of entry

into the multi-billion-dollar industry of global business process outsourcing (BPO) in order to create opportunities of employment that were earlier not available to the educated youth.

The global market for the publishing BPO is currently estimated to be worth \$2.5 billion per annum and is expected go up to \$4.6 billion by 2007.

The back-office for advertising services will be established as a Joint Venture with equity investments from Adpeople A/5 and Adcomm Limited who are one of the leading full-service advertising agencies in Denmark and Bangladesh respectively.

Overall objective of the Danida PSD programme (www.psdbangladesh.com) is to contribute to the economic and social development of Bangladesh by attracting Danish technology and investment in the private sector of Bangladesh. PSD programme supports the establishment of profitable, long-term and mutually binding commercial ventures between Bangladesh and Danish companies.

# GRENADE ATTACK ON AL RALLY Expatriates concerned

DU CORRESPONDENT

Bangladeshi expatriates living in different countries have expressed their deep concern at the grenade attack on Awami League rally on August 21.

They demanded arrest and punishment of the culprits responsible for the attack through an impartial investigation.

They also called for a meeting between the chiefs of Awami League

and Bangladesh Nationalist Party to overcome the situation.

Around 110 Bangladeshis working and studying in the United States, Canada, Japan, Australia and Middle East made the demand through an online programme organised by Onirbaan in the city on Saturday.

Disclosing this at a press briefing, Onirbaan said eminent journalist and Editor of the weekly Ekhon Ataus Samad answered the questions.

An expatriate asked him why did the government not take any action against the culprits responsible for previous bomb attacks in different parts of the country? In reply, Samad said the government formed probe committee for every incident but the reports were not made public.

Editor of the daily Arthoniti Zahiduzzaman Farook also answered the questions.

Journalists Nazrul Islam Mithu, Madhusudan Mandol, Shishir Shil, Salauddin Bablu from home and Amanud Daula Aman and Akber Haider Khan Kiron from abroad asked the questions.

Later, the expatriates enjoyed a live concert by Ayub Bachchu.

## Buetta demands int'l probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology Teachers' Association (Buetta) yesterday held a rally on the campus in protest at the grenade attack on Awami League (AL) rally in the city on August 21.

Addressing the rally, Buetta President Prof Aminul Haque demanded a neutral international probe into the grenade attack.

He demanded compensation for the families of those killed and injured in the attack.

The Buetta also condoled the death of AL leader Ivy Rahman.

Earlier, the Buetta brought out a silent procession that ended at the Buet Shaheed Mian premises after parading throughout the campus.

# Gayoom briefs Khaleda about Maldives situation

## Expresses sympathy for flood victims

UNB, Dhaka

President of the Maldives Maumun Abdul Gayoom yesterday phoned Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and expressed sympathy for the food-hit people of Bangladesh.

He hoped that the government of Bangladesh would be able to successfully implement the second phase of post-flood rehabilitation programme to recoup the losses.

Gayoom lauded the "courage and fortitude" of the people of Bangladesh in facing the devastating floods.

President Gayoom briefed Khaleda Zia about the current situation in the Maldives.

Briefing newsmen, prime minister's press secretary said Gayoom thanked

Khaleda for cordially receiving his special envoy when he came to Bangladesh during the floods.

The prime minister informed the Maldives president that by the grace of Allah the country and the people had been able to successfully deal with the first phase of relief operation.

She said the process has started to assess the overall loss in the calamity. "The UN has approached the world community to assist Bangladesh in the post-flood rehabilitation programme," she added.

Khaleda said she and the people of Bangladesh are "eagerly waiting" to receive the president of the Indian Ocean island-state during the 13th Saarc summit to be held in Dhaka January next.

# One gets death, six life for killing man Rapist jailed for life in Barisal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

The Speedy Trial Tribunal in Barisal yesterday sentenced one person to death and six others to life imprisonment for killing a driver while a Special Tribunal for Prevention of Women and Children Repression handed down life term to one person for raping a school-girl.

In another case, Second Additional District and Sessions Judge's Court sentenced a youth to 17 years' rigorous imprisonment for possessing illegal arms.

Speedy Trial Tribunal Judge MA Matin passed the death sentence on Abul Kalam Azad alias Kalam Mridha. The other convicts in the case are Liton Mia, Md Mawla, Mizanur, Shankar Driver, Md Roni and Md Zakir. Three of them -- Liton, Mawla and Mizan -- were tried in absentia.

Another six accused were acquitted of the charges.

According to the prosecution story, the convicts kidnapped Kamal, 28, a bus driver, from Marichbunia village under Sadar upazila, Patuakhali, on May 10, 1999 and tortured him. After tying up his hand and legs, they took him to Badura Bridge on Patuakhali-Amtali road in a minibus. Later, the minibus ran over him deliberately, leaving him dead.

In the rape case, Farhad Talukder was sentenced to life imprisonment while another accused Sohel Talukder was acquitted of charges.

Judge Md Zahangir Hossain also fined Farhad Tk one lakh. He will have to suffer one more year's imprisonment if he fails to pay.

## Injured security guard dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A security guard, who was injured during a picketing on Sunday, died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) yesterday.

Mohammad Momen, 35, of Ujala Match Factory fell on the road from a running bus which came under attack by the pickets at Jurain rail gate at 7:00pm.

As the pickets hurled a bomb at the bus, he along with other panicked passengers tried to rush out of the bus and received injuries in his head.

Locals rushed him to the DMCH where he died at 11:00am.

## DHAKA TODAY

### Condolence meeting

Sammilito Sangskritik Jote will hold a meeting to condole the death of those killed in a grenade attack on Awami League rally at Bangabandhu Avenue on August 21. Venue: Central Shaheed Minar. Time: 4.00pm.

### Protest rally

Sammilito Peshajibi Parishad organises a rally to protest the grenade attack on Awami League rally at Bangabandhu Avenue on August 21. Venue: National Press Club Auditorium. Time: 4.00pm.

### Protest meeting

Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Oikya Parishad will hold a meeting to protest the grenade attack on Awami League rally on August 21. Venue: South Hall of the Supreme Court Bar Association. Time: 1.00pm.

### Muldhara discussion

Weekly discussion of Muldhara, a forum of writers, journalists and artists, will be held. It will be followed by the screening of a documentary on its relief activities. Venue: House-15, Road-7, Dhanmondi. Time: 6.30pm.

### Rotary meeting

Weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Sonargon Dhaka will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club, Shahbagh. Time: 5.30pm.

### Lion meeting

Regular meeting of the board of

directors and members of the Lions Club of Dhaka Central will be held. Venue: Remco (Pvt) Ltd, 175 Syed Nazrul Islam Sarani, Bijoy nagar. Time: 7.00pm.

## DHAKA TOMORROW

### Painting exhibition

The opening ceremony of a solo painting exhibition by Nasreen Begum titled 'The Path Within' will be held. Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, House-275/F, Road-27 (Old), Dhanmondi. Time: 6.30pm. The exhibition will remain open from 12.00 noon to 8.00pm daily till September 15.

### Film show

Academy Film Society will screen an American film titled 'Come September' (1961). Venue: Society Auditorium, 21/C Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.

### Discussion

The World Peace Organisation will hold a discussion on 'Ever-lasting world peace'. It will be followed by a cultural function. Venue: Supreme Court Bar Association Auditorium. Time: 3.00pm.

### Inauguration

The inauguration of Bhuiyan International Kids School will be held. Venue: 13/B, Obhoydas Lane. Time: 5.00pm.