



Survivors of the August 21 grenade attack called on Leader of the Opposition and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina at her Sudha Sadan residence in the city yesterday. Hasina extended financial assistance to each of the injured for their treatment.

One killed, 11 hurt in shootout with Rab in Cox's Bazar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg One person was killed, 11 others were nabbed and eight firearms seized following a shootout between a criminal outfit and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in the off-shore island of Maheshkhali in Cox's Bazar yesterday. On information, a 30-member team of Rab 7 from Chittagong raided the island at around 4:00am, sources said. As the Rab members approached Banjamirghona under Dalkata union of Maheshkhali on engine boats, criminals opened fire on them, prompting a several-hour-long shootout. After an exchange of several hundred bullets, the Rab picked up 11 criminals. The Rab also recovered the body of alleged criminal Md Nabir Hossain, 28, son of Zakir Hossain, with a bullet in his head. The elite force seized six SBBL guns, one .303 sawn-off rifle, one LG with 21 bullets and other ammunition. The Rab handed over the arrestees to Maheshkhali police.

'Mass Dialogue' launched

UNB, Dhaka Former president Badruddoza Chowdhury and ex-foreign minister Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday kicked off a dialogue with a cross-section of people in Dinajpur to draw up 'People's Manifesto' reflecting the aspirations of the electorate. "We want a peaceful and prosperous Bangladesh free from poverty, terrorism and corruption... we will continue our movement to form the future government envisaging people's opinion and expectation," they said at the 'Mass Dialogue' programme. B Chowdhury, now president of Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh, and Dr Kamal, president of Jatiya Oikya Mancha, formally opened the dialogue to work out the People's Manifesto in the next two months. The manifesto will incorporate recommendations for overcoming the pressing issues of terrorism and corruption and introducing a new political trend to get out of the rut. The two leaders told the people at Dinajpur Lok Bhaban auditorium: "We are optimistic that someday this People's Manifesto would bring about a change in the fate of the common people." Spelling out the qualifications of a parliamentarian, the former president said minimum educational qualification of an MP must be graduation and the prime minister and members of cabinet should not have any link with any business. "Police failed to check crimes because they were not allowed to function without political control. If the police could function neutrally, there would not have been the necessity of Rab, Cheetah or Cobra," said B Chowdhury, a renowned physician. The noted jurist said people have no confidence in today's politics and for that "we have taken the initiative to frame the People's Manifesto". The next anti-government movement will have to be built on the basis of this People's Manifesto, he told the gathering and urged all to rally round the alternative stream of politics. B Chowdhury said the country belongs to the people and demanded that MPs and persons holding the rank of secretaries submit their statements of account of property by December. "A list of those who accumulated huge wealth through illegal means will have to be prepared." Appearing critical of the three year-rule of the alliance government, the ex-president said the government could not fulfil any single election pledge. "Rather, crimes, corruption, repression and persecution have increased alarmingly". Khatibuddin Ahmed, convener of Dinajpur Oikya Mancha, presided over the programme.

PSC yet to reinstate Farida as ASP despite HC order

STAFF CORRESPONDENT The Public Service Commission (PSC) is yet to reinstate a candidate as assistant superintendent of police (ASP) despite a High Court order in November 2001. After giving the final approval, the PSC cancelled nomination of Farida Yasmin as ASP on the grounds that the candidate did not choose the police cadre in her application form. "But the fact is that there was no vacant position in the police cadre when the advertisement of the 20th BCS was published first," said the candidate, adding that the commission included positions for police cadre after 42 days through a fresh advertisement. "My only mistake was that I had written name of the post under co-operatives cadre in form no. 1 though I correctly put the code number against the police cadre in both forms," said Farida Yasmin. "And court also in its verdict termed it an unintentional mistake," she added. PSC Controller Sk Mohammad Alauddin said on Saturday that a recent meeting of the commission chaired by the chairman decided to reinstate the candidate as per the court direction. He said the candidate has not yet been notified about the decision. On the same day, however, when the candidate phoned the PSC controller about the fate of her job

Grenade attack survivors meet Hasina

UNB, Dhaka Some came limping, some on crutches while some embraced opposition leader and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina at her Dhanmondi residence and wept. They were all survivors of the August 21 grenade attack. Hasina consoled them and assured them of taking steps for their treatment. This is for the first time after the mayhem that the injured party workers -- male and female -- came to meet her yesterday. The Awami League chief, who also survived the assassination bid, told them that their sacrifice would not go in vain. "Time is not far off when the dawn will come ending the dark era," she said. Hasina extended financial assistance to each of the injured for their treatment, AL sources said, adding that she is also personally looking after the victims. They said a total of 150 injured people were given financial assistance on Sunday and Monday. The Awami League chief will also hold an iftar party for the family members of the August 21 martyrs and the wounded people at her Dhanmondi office today.

Shishu Park to remain open on Oct 23

BSS, Dhaka The Shishu Park at Shahbag in the city will remain open for all from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm on October 23 on the occasion of Durga Puja of the Hindu community.

3 shot in crossfire as criminals trade fire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT Three people were shot in a crossfire between two criminal groups at Mohakhali while miscreants stabbed a youth at Ramna in the city yesterday. A gang of local goons exchanged bullets with a rival group at Karail slum at around 9:00am, said witnesses. Shopkeeper Nashu Miah, 50, a housewife aged around 40, and a pedestrian were injured during the half-an-hour shootout. Nashu was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) while the other two were undergoing treatment at Chest Disease Hospital at Mohakhali. And in Ramna, miscreants stabbed one Mohammad Fazlu in front of the Metropolitan Hotel when he was passing through the area at around 3:00pm. He was admitted to DMCH.

'Govt has lost people's confidence'

UNB, Dhaka Speakers at a discussion meeting yesterday said that the government has no right to stay in power as it has already lost the confidence of the people. They were speaking at a discussion meeting titled "Three years of the autocratic alliance government: National economic disaster and duty of the democratic force" at Shaheed Colonel Taher Auditorium. Jatiya Samaitantrik Dal (JSD) organised the discussion with its President Hasanul Huq Inu in the chair. JSD General Secretary Sayed Zafar Ahmed read out the key-note paper. In his keynote paper Zafar said that the government could not fulfill the expectation of the people although three years have passed since it came to power. He said that the government is now using the law enforcing agencies to oppress the opposition parties. "The 4-party alliance government has made the country a transit point for arms smuggling and different types of arms worth Taka thousands of crores are being smuggled through this country," he added. The government has failed to check the price hike of the essential commodities

Jute, textile workers begin 48-hr strike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna Jute and Textile Workers Action Committee began a 48-hour strike at eight state-owned jute mills of Khulna-Jessore industrial belt yesterday to press home eight-point demand. The demands include payment of weekly wages, arrears, dearness allowance bills, arrears of medical allowance bills, refunding of PF money and end to loadshedding. The action committee held gate meetings in front of the eight jute mills yesterday in support of their strike.

ALBAGH SEVEN MURDER

Hearing adjourned

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday adjourned the hearing on arguments of the Albagh Seven Murder case till October 28. Judge Mohammad Shamsul Alam Khan of the Third Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court adjourned the hearing following a time petition by the defence lawyers. Earlier, the court recorded statements of 30 prosecution witnesses and fixed October 18 for arguments. Seven people were shot dead by their political rivals on Nawabganj road in the city's Lalbagh area at around 10:00am on January 31, 1994 while they were marching in a victory procession to celebrate the election of ward commissioner Humayun Kabir. Humayun Kabir filed a murder case with Lalbagh Police Station accusing 19 people the same day. The investigation officer pressed charges against 20 people on May 14 the same year showing 42 people as prosecution witnesses. Fourteen accused are on bail while six others have been absconding since the incident.



Prime Minister Khaleda Zia offers munajat at an iftar party hosted in honour of diplomats, former presidents, former chiefs of caretaker governments and judges at Hare Road in the city yesterday.

ALCWC meets tomorrow

UNB, Dhaka An emergency meeting of Awami League Central Working Committee (ALCWC) will be held at Shudha Sadan at 3:00pm tomorrow.

Obituary

Prof AFM Shamsuzzoha, vice-chancellor of the World University, former teacher of applied physics of Dhaka University and chairman of 3e Orbital company, died of a cardiac arrest in the city on October 17. He is survived by his wife Kazuyo Hosomi Zoha, founder of Bangladesh Ikebana Flower Club, and two daughters. A milad mahfil will be held at his residence at House # 11, Road # 6, Dhanmondi, after Asr prayers today.

Death anniversary of Zahurul Islam today

Today is the ninth death anniversary of Alhaj Zahurul Islam, founder-chairman of Islam Group, says a press release. Milad and doa mahfil will be held at the new mosque and farm and educational institutions established by him at his home village at Bhagalpur at 11:00am. Friends, relatives, well-wishers and all members of the Islam Group have been requested to attend the milad. All offices of the Islam Group will remain closed today to pay homage to the memory of the late chairman.

Chy Haur-ar Rashid

Today is the fourth death anniversary of Chowdhury Haur-ar Rashid, founder president of Bangladesh Trade Union Kendra, organiser of the Liberation War and a former lawmaker, says a press release. The labour leader died in Chittagong in 2000 at the age of 74. The Trade Union Kendra will hold a discussion at its central office at Topkhana at 3:30pm today.

Nurul Islam Chowdhury

Today is the 21st death anniversary of Advocate Nurul Islam Chowdhury, former president of Feni Press Club, says a press release. His eldest son Dr NAM Fayezul Mahi was killed by Al-Badr on December 14 in 1971 during the Liberation War. A milad mahfil will be held at the house of his youngest son in the city after Asr prayers.



Awami Jubo League stages a demonstration at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city yesterday protesting price spiral of essentials and police action on its activists.

Arms dealer arrested in Barisal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal The Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested an arms dealer and a notorious godfather of underworld in the city yesterday. Omar Ali, 45, was handed over to police after the arrest. Police said Rab members raided the Omar Stores and arrested Omar, the owner of the shop. A revolver was also seized from his possession. Omar is an accused in four murder and several other cases. Nobody dares to give witness against him. Rab also seized 400 grams of ganja from the den of a drug peddler Langra Saju at Rupaltali area of the city and arrested Kuddus, 20, and Sumon, 23. They were handed over to Kotwali police.

WEATHER TODAY No change in temperature likely UNB, Dhaka Weather is likely to remain mainly dry over the country with temporary partly cloudy sky till 6:00pm today. Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period, Met Office said. Highest temperature 33.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and lowest 19.8 degree Celsius at Dinajpur. The sun sets in the capital at 5:29pm today and rises at 5:58am tomorrow. Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were: City/Town Temperature in Celsius Humidity in percentage Morning Evening Dhaka 31.8 22.2 67 56 Chittagong 32.7 24.5 70 77 Rajshahi 30.5 20.8 76 79 Khulna 32.0 22.6 75 79 Barisal 31.5 22.8 80 93 Sylhet 33.2 22.6 75 78 Cox's Bazar 33.0 24.4 74 77

DHAKA TODAY Sharee exhibition The opening ceremony of an exhibition of sharees by Nahida Shormin will be held. Venue: Gallery Chitrag, House-21, Road-4, Dhanmondi. Time: 4.30pm. The exhibition will remain open till October 25 from 10.00am to 8.00pm daily. Music album titled 'Thai Jeno Pai Charane' by Bijon Chandra Mistri will be launched. Venue: Ramna Kail Mondir. Time: 6.15pm. Discussion Weekly discussion meeting of Muldhara, a forum of writers, journalists and artists, will be held. Venue: House-15, Road-7, Dhanmondi. Time: 6.30pm. Breast clinic The inauguration of a breast clinic will be held. Venue: Holy Family Red Crescent Medical College Hospital. Time: 12.00 noon. Meeting

DHAKA TOMORROW long Eid Fair titled 'Apsory' organised by Design Bangla, will be held. Venue: 16/B, Nadda, Baridhara North. 6x2

4x2