

Stormy debate

FROM PAGE 12
The speaker-off-the-issue.
The affections have accepted a notice submitted by Opposition Chief Whip Abdul Shahid demanding discussion on the price spiral of essential commodities and the issue has been included on the day's agenda...

Aide of Jamal Uddin's abductor hospitalized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cg
Kala Mahubb, a close aide to the prime accused in the Jamal Uddin Ahmed Chowdhury abduction case, was admitted to Chittagong Medical College and Hospital (CMCH) in custody of the CID Tuesday night.

Khaleda

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Earlier, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia received Pakistani Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz on his arrival at Zia International Airport (Zia). He was given a red carpet reception.
The Pakistani leader flew in here from Dhaka accompanied by his wife and a 61-member delegation.

Bid to reintroduce

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change some 10 to 12 points of the regulations," Saifur told reporters after the meeting.
The Public Procurement Regulations were put into force in June last year, but following complaints from various ministries, the planning ministry asked them to let it know about the problems facing them. It also asked for their recommendations for changes to the regulations.

Tokai Mizan dies

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But, during a visit to the place yesterday morning, locals told The Daily Star they had heard a couple of gunshots in the early hours but did not see any one apart from the Rab members.
Mizan's body has been sent to Midford hospital for autopsy. AURCHIN TURNED KINGPIN
Mizan was accused in around two dozen criminal cases including eight for murders filed with the city's Ramna, Lalbagh and Dhanmondi police stations.

2 outlaws killed, mob lynches 1

AMANUR AMAN, Kushtia

Cadres of Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP-ML) slaughtered alleged father of an UP member allegedly belonging to PBCP-Janauddho on Tuesday night, while Janauddho cadres killed another UP member and injured four as retaliation in Alamdanga upazilla yesterday morning.
Angry mob lynched an alleged outlaw in Jhenidah early hours of yesterday.

A gang of PBCP-ML cadres stormed into the house of Farid Uddin, member of Khaskara union parishad in Alamdanga upazila at about 11pm Tuesday and looked for him, Chuadanga police said.
Not finding him, the cadres took Farid's father Safi Uddin, 55, to a nearby field and slaughtered him there.

Police recovered the body in the morning and sent to Chuadanga sadar hospital for autopsy.
A gang of Janauddho cadres went to Munshiganj in the same upazila and hurled three bombs, killing Baradi UP member Badsha Mia and seriously injuring Rakib Uddin, 45, saiful Islam, 33, Hasanur Rahman, 26, and Abdul Gan, 30, fellows of the slain.

Police sent the dead body to Sadar Hospital for autopsy.
They injured were taken to Chuadanga Sadar Hospital and later shifted to Kushtia General Hospital.

Later Janauddho claimed responsibility of the killing, terming it revenge for the killing of innocent aged person Safi Uddin.
Angry mob mercilessly beat Saidul Islam alias Saidu Kana, an alleged outlaw at village Loudia under Sadar Upazila in Jhenidah early hours of yesterday.

He died at about 4am at Jhenidah Sadar Hospital.
In Lalbagh, law enforcers clubbed and dispersed AL activists when they made an attempt to bring out a procession in the morning.
An AL press release claimed police charged baton on AL processions in Pallabi and Dhanmondi, injuring about 15 leaders and activists, and picked up seven.

Some senior leaders and workers stayed in front of the party central office on Bangabandhu Avenue during the hartals.
They brought out separate processions inside the barbed wire fences twice. AL presidium member Motiya Chowdhury, city AL General Secretary Mohajir Hossain Chowdhury Maya, Sraniak League President Abdul Matin Mastur and other leaders took part.
Police barred a procession led by former lawmaker Dr HBM Iqbal and picked up three in Farmgate at 10:00am.

AL Mahila League marched in procession from Purana Palana to Motijheel but was intercepted by police.
Some AL lawmakers brought out another procession from the Jatya Sangsad Bhaban at around 10:30am.

A magistrate who was assaulted for frisking a female SSC candidate in Kushtia in search of copies in 1999 filed the case against Prothom Alo Editor Motiur Rahman, Publisher Mahfuz Anam and Kushtia correspondent Tariqul Haq Tariq after the news was published in the Bangla daily.

Results to mark
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would continue if he (Bush) is still president.... Clearly you know, he is not the one to easily change his mind," said Thomas, referring to the policies carried out by the incumbent Bush administration.
But, he said a Kerry administration would not diverge from the current administration's commitment to a strong relationship with Bangladesh exemplified by high-level visits during the incumbent administration's rule, including by US Secretary of State Colin Powell and Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld.

Thomas made the observations at a press briefing at the American Centre yesterday organised to take questions on the US elections.
The envoy also said there is no way to know of the changes in US plans to assist least-developed nations, such as Bangladesh, until the next fiscal budget is passed next year either under the Bush or Kerry administrations. He however added, "As the ambassador to Bangladesh I would like to see the aid increase."
Asked about the difference in strategies of Bush and Kerry for the "global" war on terror, Thomas said both Bush and Kerry are equally committed to the war on terrorism across the globe.
He also said the "deep wound" inflicted by the September 11, 2001 attacks were perhaps a reason for US voters to back President Bush strongly in this year's polls, when asked of the role of Bush's homeland security or the attack on Iraq in the elections.

Thomas also praised the participation of Bangladeshi-Americans in the election process and said US citizens vote as Americans, which transcends races and ethnicities.
ARMITAGE, TORTEL VISITS
The US ambassador yesterday did not rule out the possibility of a visit to Dhaka by US Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage during his eight-day South Asia and Middle East trip starting November 4.
"I am not ruling it out," said Thomas when asked if Armitage was making a stopover in Dhaka during the trip.
The ambassador confirmed, however, that US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia Torkel Patterson would visit Bangladesh on November 8. Patterson would leave on the November 12, he added.

Republicans tighten

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chamber since the dozen years that ended in January 1993.
"The American people have spoken tonight, and all indications are that they have hired a Republican House of Representatives for the sixth straight election," said DeLay, whose push for redistricting in Texas helped the GOP knock off four veteran Texas Democrats.
Republicans also gained seats in the Senate, keeping Congress under party control. But Democrats will retain enough votes there to make it hard for Republicans to push through their programs.
Nevertheless, Republican leaders sought to portray the results as an affirmation of their priorities in Congress. The vote is "an endorsement by the American people that you're moving in the right direction when it comes to security and safety and more -- on terror, prescription drugs and education," Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist of Tennessee told CNN.
By early yesterday, Republicans had won 228 seats and were leading in five other races, which could give them at least 233 seats. Democrats had won 199 seats and led in two other contests.
Republicans hold a 227-205

Hartal passes

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hartal hours.
Different government and private organisations and banks functioned normally and attendance was almost normal. But educational institutions across the country remained closed.
Police picked up 24 people, most of them reportedly innocent pedestrians, from different parts of the city during the shut down.
In Lalbagh, law enforcers clubbed and dispersed AL activists when they made an attempt to bring out a procession in the morning.
An AL press release claimed police charged baton on AL processions in Pallabi and Dhanmondi, injuring about 15 leaders and activists, and picked up seven.

PM opens

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flyover on November 7, but busy schedule of the prime minister and other ministers on that day, National Revolution and Solidarity Day, led them to fix today for its opening.
The 1.12km long and 17.9 meter wide flyover was designed to ease increasing traffic congestion in city's Mohakhali area. It rests upon 19 spans on 552 piles.
The construction of the flyover costing Tk 114 crore was financed by the World Bank.
First Multinational Construction Company of China constructed the flyover.

Lovers on a stroll

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Aklima and her boyfriend, Rubel (not his real name, too), were taking a stroll towards West Dhanmondi yesterday morning, merrily exchanging tête-à-têtes. "We were at Shukrabad bus stand when we heard some noise. Sensing some trouble or strife between police and political activists we were about to flee the place," Rubel narrated.
"Rubel said we, his [police] rushed towards us and hauled us up into the van paying no heed to our protests and assertions that we have nothing to do with any politics," he went on. The van took both of them to Dhanmondi Police Station.
Besides them, at least 16 others were arrested by police in the area at around 11:00am yesterday morning during the hartal enforced by the major opposition Awami League and taken to the police station.
Rubel said he and her girl friend would be in a number of troubles besides being socially stigmatised if any one comes to know about their being arrested by law enforcers. He implored, "Please don't publish our names or photographs in your paper, as only our mothers know about our affair."
"For the first time in my life, I came to a police station. You know, how I am feeling. I cannot say any thing more," Aklima broke into tears.
She was kept in a separate room along with Sabina Akter Tuhin, general secretary of Dhaka City North Unit of Jubo Mohila League, AL's young women's wing.
Others who were locked up in the

Banned Islamist outfit calls press conference

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi
The commander of Rajshahi-based militant group Shahadat-e Al Hiqma has reorganised his group and called a press conference at a city community centre on November 6.
Sayed Kawwar Hussain Siddiki on Tuesday claimed himself as the general of Al Hiqma in a news release sent to the press club and different newspaper offices inviting reporters to the conference.
The outfit's motto was marked on the press release that read "a traditional republican political party of the world since 1996."
Siddiki, self-proclaimed commander of the country's only banned Islamist outfit, was bailed on July 14 in a sedition case. He was absconding since receiving bail in a fraud case filed in August 2002 and later surrendered to the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate.
The court granted bail as no-one on behalf of the state opposed the petition in absence of the court sub-inspector.
The home ministry banned the organisation the next day in the wake of countrywide criticism.

'Pirate' gang lord killed in 'crossfire'

UNB, Cox's Bazar
A gang leader was killed in 'crossfire' with the police and three other pirates were arrested Tuesday night, six days after the grisly murders of 14 fishermen allegedly by them on a trawler in the Bay.
Police said gang leader Kalu, 32, and his accomplices - Tazu, Shajahan and Abu Bakar - were arrested at Samitypara and Charpara in the town on Tuesday night.
They were rounded up following a confession statement of Nazrul, the driver of the trawler.
Police said they took Kalu to a village near the town to recover arms. When they reached the village, Kalu's accomplices opened fire. Police returned fire.
During the shootout, Kalu received bullet wounds and died instantly, police said.

Bid to push in 50 Indians foiled

UNB, Lalmonirhat
Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) personnel and villagers foiled a BSF (Border Security Force) bid to push 50 Indian nationals into Bangladesh through Panbari border of Patigram upazila on Tuesday night.
Villagers along with BDR have been guarding the 286-km border of the district after the incident.
Local BDR Commander Lt Col Helal said the BSF tried to push the Indian nationals into Bangladesh at midnight.

Faizee

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Sources said the Bar Council, lawyers' regulatory body that issues enrolment certificate for legal practice, will also discuss similar allegations against some other lawyers.
Chief Justice Syed JR Mudasir Husain withdrew Faizee from the bench on Sunday in the wake of the allegation and lawyers' threat to boycott his court. He also thrust full responsibility of the bench upon Justice Ali Asgar Khan, Faizee's senior judge in the bench, as Asgar declined to sit with him in the court.
Two major dailies reported that Justice Faizee, one of the 19 additional judges whose appointment on August 23 drew sharp criticism, had tampered with his marks-sheet of LLB degree obtained from Chittagong Law College in 1989. An enquiry committee of Chittagong University has unearthed the fraud.
President of Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) Rokonuddin Mahmud, meanwhile, protested Law Minister Moudud Ahmed's Tuesday's comment that questioned why Rokon did not notice the certificate tampering when Faizee was his junior.
A senior lawyer does not need to check the certificate when he appoints a junior lawyer, the SCBA leader explained.
"Did his (Moudud) senior lawyer check his certificate when he worked as a junior lawyer? Or did he check the certificate of his junior when he appointed them?" Rokonuddin asked.

Seized

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implementation officer of Mushiganj Sadar upazila, received the rickshaws on Thursday.
Sources said 400 rickshaws have been sent to the constituency of Agriculture Minister M K Anwar last month and 200 more will be sent there.
The rickshaws will be distributed among the people enlisted by union parishad chairmen and members, said Mohammad Sunon, who came to Agargaon on Thursday to receive the rickshaws allotted for Daudkandi upazila.
He said the rickshaws will be distributed among the poor almost free of cost. "Only Tk 300 will be taken as transport cost."
Asked, Deputy Commissioner (South) of DMP Anwar Uddin Khan Pathan denied the allegation of "quota" for ministers and ruling party leaders. He said the rickshaws are being sent following requests from the district administrations.

Bush wins

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A Democratic source said Bush called Kerry a worthy, tough and honorable opponent. Kerry told Bush the country was too divided, the source said, and Bush agreed. "We really have to do something about it," Kerry said, according to the official.
White House spokesman Scott McClellan said Bush told Kerry, "I think you were an admirable, honorable opponent."
Advisers said the campaign just wanted one last look for uncounted ballots that might close the 136,000-vote advantage Bush held in Ohio.
An Associated Press survey of the state's 88 counties found there were about 150,000 uncounted provisional ballots and an unspecified number of absentee votes still to be counted.
In a dispute that evoked memories of the prolonged election recount in Florida in 2000, questions about provisional and absentee ballots in Ohio had delayed the final outcome of the presidential election for hours.
Ohio's 20 electoral votes had been the final hurdle to Bush winning an Electoral College majority of 270 votes after a divisive campaign that focused on the war in Iraq, the battle against global terrorism and the economy.
Republicans also celebrated expanded majorities in the House of Representatives and the Senate in results likely to build the president's mandate and ease Bush's conservative agenda in Congress.
Bush himself planned to declare victory before long. Republican Party Chairman Marc Racicot said the president put it off temporarily as a courtesy to Kerry, "to allow the opportunity to look at the situation in the cold hard light of day."
Bush, who watched the results in the White House with his family, including his father, former president George Bush, said early in the evening he was confident of victory. "We're very upbeat, thank you," Bush told reporters. "I believe I will win."
Kerry, watching the results in his hometown of Boston, did not make an appearance before reporters but sent out aides to predict a win.
Demonstrators were due to take to the streets of Columbus later on Wednesday, to protest against what they called voter disenfranchisement and a repeat of the botched election in Florida in 2000. The Florida race was ultimately decided by the US Supreme Court, which gave the election to Bush.

Mob lynches 4 robbers, ex-army man shot dead

UNB, Patuakhali
A mob yesterday lynched four alleged robbers after they shot a retired army person to death in Badarpur Bazar in the sadar upazila.
Police said the robbers gunned down sergeant (ret'd) Malek Talukder, 40, at 8:00pm when he was suspected them of being criminals.
Hearing gunshots, locals chased the assailants and caught the four. The robbers also stabbed two people -- Aziz and Shajahan -- in their desperate bid to flee from the spot.
Superintendent of Police Md Shaiful Islam visited the spot.

Quorum crisis

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there for sometime. At 3:25pm only 43 lawmakers were present.
The speaker withheld the process for passage of five bills at the request of Law Minister Moudud Ahmed and adjourned the session at 3:45pm.
The question-answer session was however held and call attention notices were placed. The law minister tabled the annual report of Bangladesh Energy Commission in the House.
State Minister for Cultural Affairs Selima Rahman introduced the Registration (Amendment) Bill 2004, which was sent to the standing committee concerned for scrutiny. The committee will submit a report on the bill in the next two months.
ALTA F SERIOUSLY SICK
Deputy Speaker Akhtar Hamid Siddiqui yesterday told the House that Commerce Minister Altaf Hossain Choudhury failed to respond to a call attention notice on Tuesday as he had suddenly fallen sick.
Replying to a question by Krishak Sraniak Janata League lawmaker Kader Siddiqui, the deputy speaker said the commerce minister informed the speaker about his sickness by telephone on the day.
"Quando the call attention notice was being read out in the House, the minister was in the lobby and as he felt unwell he left the parliament," he said.
Hamid agreed with Kader that it was an unprecedented incident in the parliament. "None of us has any hand in the sickness and we, including you, [may fall sick] anytime."
On Tuesday, Altaf failed to respond to a call attention notice either in person or by proxy that was brought by BNP lawmaker Manzur Quader. AL lawmakers made a noisy protest against it.

Ahmadiyyas ask govt

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press conference in Dhaka yesterday.
"We've already gone through a lot of torture, please stop it now," said the Ahmadiyya leader and alleged that two constituents of the ruling coalition are patronising and taking active part in the persecution of the Ahmadiyyas.
The AMJB leaders pointed out that they cannot refute the bigots' propaganda and false accusations against the Ahmadiyyas because of the ban on their publications.
International Khatme Nabuwat Movement, one of the several anti-Ahmadiyya groups, has announced to capture Ahmadiyya mosque in Tejgaon's Nakhalpara after the Juma prayers today.
Operatives of International Tahaffuz-e-Khatme Nabuwat Committee Bangladesh, who razed a mosque, vandalised houses of and injured 11 Ahmadiyyas at Bhadragar in Brahmanbaria last Friday, threatened to burn the Ahmadiyyas should they gather to say their prayers at the mosque tomorrow.
Fanatics of Khatme Nabuwat Committee Bangladesh and Aamra Dhakabashi, who failed to capture Narayananganj Mission para Ahmadiyya Mosque in the wake of strong police watch and civil society