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10 BNP men charged with killing Kibria

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) yesterday pressed charges against 10 BNP leaders and workers for their alleged role in the grisly grenade attack on

an Awami League rally in Habiganj on January 27.

The accused are Habiganj district BNP Vice-president AKM Abdul Quaiyum, Ayat Ali, Kajal Mia, Selim Ahmed, Tajul Islam, Shahed Ali, Jainal Abedin Jalal, Jamir Ali, Jainal Abedin Mumin and Muhibur Rahman.

Police have arrested eight of them while the other two -- Kajal Mia and Muhibur Rahman -- are on the run.

Munshi Atiqur Rahman, CID assistant superintendent of police, submitted the chargesheet to the Court of First Class Magistrate (Cognizance-1) of Habiganj after investigating the case. The chargesheet identified

Quaiyum as the mastermind of the grenade attack that left former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria and four Awami League (AL) activists killed and 70 others injured.

A total of 19 people have been

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Asma rejects chargesheet

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Asma Kibria, wife of slain lawmaker SAMS Kibria, has rejected the chargesheet in the killing of the former finance minister.

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FBI team due this week

UNB, Dhaka

An FBI team is expected to arrive here this week to investigate the killing of former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria and four others in a

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PHOTO: STAR

Traders at Baitul Mukarram Market do business using candlelight in protest at a government prohibition on the use of the national grid electricity from 6pm to 9pm in the capital.

Tornado kills 20 in northwest

Over 500 injured, many still missing

BDNEWS, Gaibandha

At least 20 people were killed and more than 500 injured when a severe nor'wester lashed the northwestern districts of Rangpur and Gaibandha last night.

Of the dead, 18 were killed in Gaibandha and the rest two in Rangpur. The conditions of 15 injured people were stated to be critical. The tornado razed hundreds of thatched houses to the ground, uprooted trees and snapped electric supply in Sadullahpur and Sundarganj upazilas of Gaibandha and Mithapukur of Rangpur.

Hundreds of injured locals were rushed to different health complexes and hospitals.

The nor'wester struck at around 8:30pm, most savagely at Noldanga area in Sadullahpur and Dhopadanga in Sundarganj of Gaibandha, and Mithapukur, Pirganj, Mirzapur and Haripur of Rangpur.

Most of the people were killed being crushed under collapsed houses and trees.

Standing crops, including paddy, in the affected areas were severely damaged, according to preliminary reports. Rescue operations were launched at 10:00pm, with top officials of local administration and police rushing to the areas.

Our Gaibandha correspondent reports: The tornado followed by a hailstorm tore down over 500 houses and uprooted numerous trees and electric poles in three unions under Sadullahpur and Sundarganj upazilas in the district. The road communication between Sundarganj and Gaibandha was cut off by fallen trees.

Rescue operations, mainly by Gano Unnayan Kendro, a non-governmental organisation, fire brigade and police, in the devastated Naldanga, Khamar Dashalia

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PM reaches Singapore

UNB, Singapore

Prime Minister (PM) Khaleda Zia flew in here yesterday afternoon to a red-carpet reception to begin a 3-day official visit of Singapore aiming to boost bilateral trade, investment and commercial cooperation.

Minister of State for Finance and Transport Mrs Lim Hwee Hue received Khaleda Zia at the VIP complex of Changi International Airport, as per Singaporean custom.

After the Bangladesh flag-carrier Biman Bangladesh Airlines landed at the Airport at 6pm local time, the PM and her entourage were driven in a ceremonial motorcade to the Swissotel Stamford where she will be staying.

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Delhi trashes reports of Joy-Pranab meet

Police foil planned protests near BSS office

STAR REPORT

The Indian government yesterday dismissed as 'incorrect, baseless and mischievous' a report by Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) that Indian Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee recently had a meeting with main opposition Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina's son Sajib Wazed Joy in New Delhi.

"No such meeting has taken place and the news report is incorrect, baseless and mischievous", an

official release said, reports our correspondent in Delhi.

The official Indian denial came at a time when the official news agency BSS continued to stand by the news report despite repeated denials by Joy.

As the BSS and main opposition Awami League continued crossing swords over the issue, police yesterday foiled an opposition bid to stage demonstrations in front of the BSS office in Dhaka.

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Top 10 trade bodies for initiative to hold Saarc Summit

BSS, Dhaka

Leaders of the country's top 10 trade bodies have stressed the need for taking urgent initiatives for holding the Saarc summit immediately.

In a joint statement issued Saturday they said they hope that the political leadership of the seven states will soon understand the difficulties the member nations are faced with due to the 'current hung situation'.

The trade leaders said the economic cooperation under the

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KUNMING INITIATIVE 4-nation forum unborn for Indian indifference

Chinese envoy says Dhaka-Kunming flight likely after Premier Jiabao's visit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chinese Ambassador Chai Xi yesterday said the Kunming initiative to form an economic forum of Bangladesh, China, India and Myanmar (BCIM) fell flat from lack of support from New Delhi.

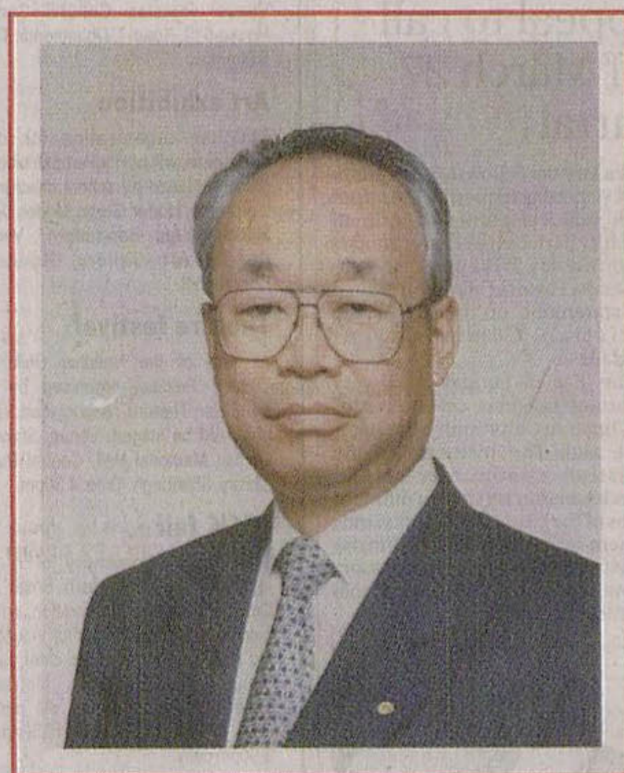
The initiative is named after Kunming, a Chinese city, where the first meeting towards this end was held in 1999. Though taken by non-governmental bodies, the Kunming

initiative was expected to result in an inter-governmental organisation.

"The Kunming initiative was supposed to emerge as a new economic forum named BCIM in the region. But, in the last meeting under the initiative, it was found that India didn't gear up itself accordingly," the Chinese envoy to Bangladesh said responding to a question at a roundtable in the city.

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Welcoming Mr. Yoshio Ishizaka



We heartily welcome Mr. Yoshio Ishizaka

Executive Vice President, Toyota Motor Corporation on his first ever visit to Bangladesh.

We are honoured to have him on the occasion of celebrating 40 years of association between Toyota and Navana.

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Dutch-Bangla Bank Foundation Scholarship for meritorious and needy students



Dutch-Bangla Bank Foundation has already awarded 500 scholarships under its scholarship program for full academic period to students studying at different levels. The Foundation is now inviting application from the students who have passed HSC in 2004 and fulfill the following minimum requirements:

Eligibility for the scholarship:

Academic Level	Minimum CGPA Science Group (without 4th Subject)		Minimum CGPA other than Science Group (without 4th Subject)	
	Students studying in City Corporation Areas	Students studying outside City Corporation Areas	Students studying in City Corporation Areas	Students studying outside City Corporation Areas
HSC	4.80	4.30	4.70	4.20

Amount and duration of scholarship:

Academic Level	Scholarship period	Monthly stipend	Annual grant for reading material
Bachelor	2 - 5 Years (Renewable)	TK 2,000.00	TK 5,000.00

Other criteria of the scholarship:

- The scholarship will be renewable from year to year basis for the entire duration of a particular course subject to satisfactory result/academic performance duly certified/recommended by the Principal/Institutional Head.
- Students availing scholarship from other sources will not qualify for Dutch-Bangla Bank Foundation (DBBF) scholarship. In case of opting for DBBF scholarship one has to surrender the scholarship now availing (if any) from other sources.
- A DBBF scholarship holder shall not apply for other scholarship. In case of availing other scholarship he/she will have to surrender the DBBF scholarship.
- 50% scholarship will be earmarked for rural students.
- 50% scholarship will be earmarked for female students in both the cases of awarding scholarship to the students of urban and rural areas.
- Prescribed application form will be available in all the branches of Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited. Where there is no branch of Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited, the applicant may apply in plain paper giving personal and academic details along with copies of certificates, mark sheets, income certificates of father/mother/guardian, 4 copies of recent passport size color photographs (duly attested by the institutional head) and recommendation from the Institutional Head/Departmental Head.

Application should reach Coordinator, Dutch-Bangla Bank Foundation, Sena Kalyan Bhaban, 195, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000 on or before May 15, 2005.



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