

Whip's APS threatens to kill Khulna journalist

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An assistant private secretary (APS) to a whip of parliament threatened Tuesday to kill a Khulna-based journalist of a Bangla-language daily.

Gouranga Nandi, a senior staff reporter of the Dainik Janakantha's Khulna bureau told The Daily Star

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KIBRIA KILLING

Hunger strike today for justice

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayangangaj

Leaders and workers of the 'Blue for Peace' programme initiated by Asma Kibria, wife of the slain former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria, will observe a token hunger strike today at Chasarahat Central Shaheed Minar in the city, demanding punishment of the real culprits behind Kibria's killing.

Asma Kibria and her family, as well as lawyers, cultural activists,

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Foreign ministry rejoinder, BDNEWS' reply

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday contradicted a news item published in The Daily Star on Tuesday and creed by BDNEWS.

The ministry said: "In your item on US Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia Ms. Christina Rocca's visit to Dhaka, it has been mentioned that during her short stay in New Delhi she discussed with MEA officials about Bangladesh issues along with Nepal."

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Mohiuddin seeks good ties with govt

Asks for approval of city government; says resolving water, power crises his priority

RAFIQ HASAN, Ctg

Newly elected Chittagong City Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury has sought good relations with the government for overall development of Chittagong, the commercial capital of the country.

"I need good relations with the government whichever party might be in power—Awami League or BNP," he said in an exclusive interview with The Daily Star at his Chashma Hill residence yesterday.

Mohiuddin, elected for a third term in office as a candidate of main opposition Awami League-backed Nagorik committee, asked the government not to worry about his demand for a city government.

"The government will only approve and declare the city government, I shall do the rest," he said.

"I have the capacity to build a city without government money," said Mohiuddin, who got the mandate of the inhabitants of the port city on Monday.

The mayor noted there is no reason for the city dwellers to suffer from water crisis. "If the operating authorities of power and water supplies are handed over to me, people would get relief from acute electricity and water crises very soon."

According to him, the main problem in city development is the lack of co-ordination among different government bodies. City government is the only solution to this

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Mohiuddin thanks PM for fair polls

UNB, Ctg

ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury yesterday congratulated Prime Minister Khaleda Zia on her government's holding a free, fair and impartial election to the Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) on May 9.

Gladly accepting the prime minister's felicitation, he said, "Your felicitation on my reelection as mayor of the CCC is a symbol of democratic tolerance. For this I am ever grateful to you."

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Nasir greets Mohiuddin

UNB, Dhaka

Taking his poll defeat with good grace, State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Mir Mohammad Nasir Uddin has congratulated ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury on his reelection as mayor of the Chittagong City Corporation (CCC).

Nasir, who was the main challenger of Mohiuddin in the May 9 mayoral election, in a statement yesterday said he hoped the role of

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Human chain for Faizee's removal

SCBA's sit-in on Sunday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) will stage a sit-in and black flag demonstration at chief justice's entryway to the Supreme Court on Sunday if Additional High Court Judge Faisal Mahmud Faizee sits in his bench on Saturday.

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PHOTO: STAR

Workers dig up Satish Sarkar Road in Gendaria in the capital yesterday to install sewer lines, making it difficult to even walk for the last two months since the excavation work started.

BNP, AL MEETINGS TODAY

Reforms, CCC polls results to top agenda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Top leaders of the ruling BNP and main opposition Awami League (AL) sit today in separate meetings to discuss some crucial issues including reforms of the caretaker government system and the Election Commission (EC).

AL central working committee will meet to finalise the draft reform proposals on the caretaker government and the EC while BNP parliamentary party will discuss the

party's strategy to face the opposition movement on the issues.

However, the results of just concluded Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) election would be discussed prominently in both the meetings, sources said.

The four-party coalition government has already rejected the opposition demand for reforms in the caretaker government system but the mainstream opposition parties are determined to realise their demand through movement.

BNP Chairperson and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia will attend her party's parliamentary party meeting today and is expected to give guidelines to party deputies to face the opposition politically, BNP lawmakers said.

On the other hand, AL chief Sheikh Hasina at the party's working committee meeting will discuss with her senior party colleagues the strategies to gear up organisational activities and ongoing movement.

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Free judiciary must for human security

CJ tells seminar; Moudud not sure when judiciary would be separated

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Strengthening of democratic institutions and an independent judiciary are must for a sustainable human development and safeguarding of human rights, Chief Justice Syed JR Mudassir Hussain told a city seminar as its chief guest yesterday.

But, special guest of the convention Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed said he could not say for sure when the judiciary would be separated.

"It's a huge task and cannot be

done overnight. We have lack of manpower and, so, taking some 600 magistrates away from the administration will surely take much time," the minister rationalised.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association (BNWLA) organised the meeting at the city's IDB Bhaban to mark the closure of the Campaign on Human Security in Bangladesh, a UNDP-funded project.

Addressing the gathering, the chief justice said, "In any civil soci-

ety, there must be an improved mechanism for the protection of life and property of all citizens and an effective system for dispensation of justice."

"Unfortunately, in our country the condition of human rights and security have not been improved so satisfactorily as required for lack of public awareness and effective judicial mechanism," he noted.

CJ Mudassir Hussain emphasised elimination of all forms of deprivation affecting people of all

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Blackout in Ctg as 3 power units trip

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chittagong City plunged into darkness yesterday evening after three units at the Raozan and Kaptai power plants tripped almost simultaneously in the morning.

Engineers of the Power Development Board (PDB) were working to restore generation in the three units when this report was filed at 8:00pm last night.

The two 210-megawatt (MW) capacity units at Raozan power plant and the lone 50 MW functional unit out of five at Kaptai hydroelectric project tripped at about 10:00am due to mechanical faults, PDB sources said.

The sudden collapse in power generation and supply in the port city came as a blow to trade and industry as well as to thousands of students preparing for the Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examinations starting today.

PDB Chief Engineer, Chittagong region, Kabindra Nath Sen said engineers were trying to detect and repair the faults. "Hopefully Raozan unit-1 and the Kaptai unit will

resume generation by 11:00pm," he told The Daily Star in the evening.

He said the city was receiving only 180 MW power from the national grid which was being supplied at very low-voltage to some key areas, such as the export processing zone and Chittagong Medical College and Hospital, to meet emergency needs.

Another PDB official, however, said the plants collapsed due to a sudden fall in voltage in the national grid line. "The line is too old to bear a load more than 140 MW during peak hours, although its normal capacity is around 200 MW," he said.

The official said it may take at least two days to restore full-fledged generation because Raozan unit-2, if tripped, normally needs 72 hours to get back into operation.

Power generation and supply in Chittagong have become a growing concern over the years because of frequent shutdowns of different power plants in the region.

A total of 630 MW power is generated by the plants in Chittagong when all the generation units at

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Grenade found at Bush rally

AP, Tbilisi, Georgia

Georgia's security chief said yesterday that an inactive grenade was found near the site where President Bush made a speech in Tbilisi.

Gela Bezhuashvili, secretary of the National Security Council, said the Soviet-era grenade was found 100 feet from the tribune where Bush spoke on Tuesday.

US Secret Service spokesman Jonathan Cherry said Tuesday that his agency had been informed that a

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Prayer Timing		
May 12		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-10	4-45
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-36	6-40
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation