

'CONTEMPTUOUS' COMMENTS

SCBA for legal action against 2 BNP high-ups

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) yesterday called for legal action against Health Minister Khandker Mosharraf Hossain and BNP Joint Secretary General Gayeshwar Chandra Roy for 'contemptuous' comments about the High Court verdict that declared illegal the fifth amendment to the constitution.

Terminating the silence of the chief justice 'unfortunate', the SCBA in a resolution of an adjourned general meeting said the chief justice has failed to protect the dignity of the judiciary even after incidents of 'committing arrogant conducts' by the administration towards the court.

The resolution said Mosharraf and Gayeshwar made 'unjust, indecent and contemptuous' statements on the HC judgement at a meeting on the occasion of BNP's 27th founding anniversary on September 1.

"In the meeting Health Minister Khandker Mosharraf Hossain commented that the High Court verdict on the fifth amendment is a small part of a large conspiracy," the resolution reads.

"Gayeshwar Chandra Roy SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

Govt to weigh up projects before including in ADP

Public expenditure management manual designed

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The government will set 'performance indicators' for a particular project and consider its risk factors, including political stability, market conditions and prices, before incorporating it in the annual development programme (ADP).

The government has worked out a public expenditure management manual (PEMM), detailing the requisite conditions for taking up a project and implementing it. The finance minister is expected to

launch the manual soon.

The PEMM has outlined and set timeline to the entire procedures starting from penning the national budget to its implementation to bring in discipline in the government expenditure.

It demands a logical framework analysis (LFA) of a project to help define the objectives and expected results of a project, identify stakeholders and potential beneficiaries as well as select performance indicators.

The performance indicators, which will be used to monitor the progress of a project, must provide a clearly defined unit of measurement along with a target detailing the quantity, quality and timing of expected results.

The manual presents an example delineating each stage of how a project should be approved, implemented and evaluated.

The PEMM has prepared a budget

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Woman brutally beaten by Khulna Shibir leader

Hair shaved, face painted with black ink

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A woman identified as Selina Akhter Shahhaj, 40, is fighting for life after being brutally beaten on Thursday afternoon by Islami Chhatra Shibir leader Shah Zubayer Nurullah, son of Jamaat leader Shah Muhammad Ruhul Quddus MP.

Eye witnesses said Shibir leader Zubayer beat the woman, the wife of businessman Nurul Islam and the mother of Chhatra Dal leader Shariful Islam Milon of Haji Ismail Road in Khulna. She was later

rescued by local people.

According to eye witnesses, the incident occurred when Shahhaj went to Arambagh area under Sonadanga thana to rent an apartment in the three-storey building owned by Fakhru Alam, a senior officer of the Khulna office of Bangladesh Shipping Corporation. Fakhru Alam is also the father-in-law of Shibir leader Zubayer.

Tandra Islam, Zubayer's mother-in-law, reportedly became annoyed when Shahhaj knocked on the door.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



Corpses of six alleged robbers lie on the ground after they were lynched by a mob in Patiya in Chittagong yesterday.

Case against Niko chairman dismissed

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday dismissed a criminal case filed against Niko chairman and two others for damaging public properties and dwelling houses of Chhatak gasfield area at Tengraia in Sunamganj district.

Metropolitan Magistrate AJM Abdullal Bahui passed the order saying that the place of occurrence is not under the court's territorial jurisdiction.

Bahadur Rahman Emteaz, a resident of Savar in Dhaka district, filed the case yesterday with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka, as a "conscious citizen of Bangladesh".

The accused were Edward S Samson, chairman of Niko Resources Ltd, William T Hornaday, chief operating officer of the organisation and Qasim Sharif, president of NIKO Resources Bangladesh Ltd.

The Niko continued the operation of Chhatak gasfield without taking any reasonable preventive and post-accidental measures, Emteaz mentioned in the case.

Due to their negligence or

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

One more held for attacking Ctg high official

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police yesterday held one of the four miscreants who confessed to his involvement in Thursday's attempt on Additional Divisional Commissioner (general) of Chittagong Golam Kuddus.

The arrested, identified as Arif, 22, of nearby Joy Nagar Area--confessed under Section 164 that he along with three others--Jamshed, Russel and Masud--broke into the house of Golam Kuddus. They stabbed him as he grabbed one of them and raised a cry for help. ABM

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

Clarification

Bangladesh Biman has sent a clarification of the news item run by The Daily Star under the headline 'Biman crashlands into losses'.

The part of the report that said a senior official of Biman had blamed a large number of trade unions for mismanagement in Biman is not correct, said the clarification.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Maoist rebels announce ceasefire in Nepal

REUTERS, Kathmandu

Nepal's Maoist rebels announced a three-month ceasefire yesterday, their chief said in a statement, in a move to win support of political parties after King Gyanendra seized power in February.

"During this period, our People's Liberation Army (PLA) will be in defensive positions," Prachanda said in a statement made available to Reuters.

"The PLA will not launch any offensive from its side."

"We believe our move will encourage all forces, within and outside Nepal, who want peace through a forward-moving political solution," the elusive Maoist chief said.

The Nepali army said it had heard about the rebel's truce but did not want to comment.

Nepal's mainstream political parties said in July they would hold talks with the rebels to discuss a plan to hold joint protests against Gyanendra's power grab, provided the Maoists stopped violence.

More than 12,500 people have been killed in the nine-year-old Maoist revolt aimed at toppling the world's only Hindu monarchy.

Gyanendra seized power by sacking the multi-party government and curbing civil rights. He justified his actions saying it was a vital step towards crushing the rebels.

Nepal's seven-party political alliance plans to hold pro-democracy protests later on Saturday.



Prime Minister Khaleda Zia formally opens an 80MW gas turbine power plant in Tongi in Gazipur yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

PM stresses energy saving measures

80 MW Tongi power plant opens

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Stressing the need for maximum utilisation of power in productive activities, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday said multiple 'energy saving measures' should be adopted in preventing waste and misuse of power.

"Uninterrupted, safe and adequate power supply is a prerequisite to the country's development... in this modern world, electricity plays a pivotal role in the socio-economic development of a country," she said and urged all to ensure the efficient use of the electricity.

The Prime Minister was addressing a function after inaugurating an 80-MW gas turbine power plant at Tongi.

"This power station will not only play an important role to meet the demand of electricity but also contribute significantly to reducing overloading of Tongi Grid Sub Station, low voltage problem of the adjacent areas, technical losses of

the system and will ensure quality power supply in the capital city," she added.

The project has been implemented at a cost of Tk 357.98 crore with a foreign exchange component of Tk 230.41 crore. Harbin Power Engineering Company of China executed the project.

Portraying a gloomy picture of power production and supply, Khaleda said currently the government is able to provide electricity to only 35 percent of the population, while the remaining 65 percent still remains out of this facility.

"Moreover, the demand of the electricity is increasing by eight to ten percent every year," she said, adding: "To overcome this capacity limitation of generation, transmission, and distribution sector, the government has taken different programmes."

Giving details of the government plan in overcoming the obstacles in the power sector, she also said the government has also a plan to

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

'Criminal, outlaw' killed in 'crossfire'

STAR REPORT

A listed criminal and a leader of an outlawed political outfit were killed in "crossfire" during shootouts between their accomplices and members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in Manikganj and Chuadanga yesterday.

Our correspondent from Manikganj reports: Hridoy alias Chakma Hridoy, 25, a close associate of Taj, second-in-command of top criminal Kala Jahangir, died in a shootout between his accomplices and members of Rab-4 in Manikganj early yesterday.

Earlier, a special team of Rab arrested him at Kafrul in the capital on Friday.

During interrogation, Hridoy confessed to having firearms hidden at the Western Housing Project at Dholla village in Singair upazila in the district. Following his statement, a team of Rab-4 took him to the village to retrieve the firearms.

As they reached the village around 5:00am, Hridoy's accomplices opened fire on them. Rab mem-

bers fired in return which resulted in a gunfight. Hridoy died on the spot when he was caught in the shootout, Rab sources said.

Rab members retrieved a one-shooter gun, two rounds of rifle bullets, two gun cartridges and 25 bottles of Phensidyl syrup from the spot.

Hridoy was accused in six cases including five for murder.

Our Kushtia correspondent adds: A top cadre of Janajuddho faction of the outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP-ML) was killed in "crossfire" during a shootout between his accomplices and members of Rab at village Toipur in Chuadanga Sadar upazila early yesterday.

According to a press release of Rab-6, they arrested Meraj Uddin, 30, a top cadre of the outfit, from a hideout at Toipur on Thursday morning.

During interrogation at Rab office in Chuadanga, the outlaw confessed to having firearms hidden in different areas of Toipur village.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

India's ONGC discovers gas in Bay

AFP, New Delhi

An offshore drilling operation by India's state-run oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has discovered natural gas in the Bay of Bengal, a company spokesman said yesterday.

"There is a gas find in the Krishna-Godavari basin," off the coast of southern Andhra Pradesh state, said company spokesman PK Dash. "We are not talking about the reserves or other figures at this point of time. We will require a few weeks for ascertaining that."

A company official who declined to be named said the find was "reasonably big".

The discovery is adjacent to a major natural gas field owned by India's biggest private firm, Reliance Industries, which found 11.9 trillion cubic feet of reserves three years ago.

Energy-hungry India has been scouting for oil and gas both at home and abroad to meet the needs of its fast-growing economy. India imports more than 70 percent of its oil requirements.

Table with Prayer Timing for September 4, including Azan and Jamaat times for Fajr, Zohr, Asr, Maghrib, and Esha.