



Prime Minister Khaleda Zia launches a website and a compact disc (CD) containing the digitised forms of Bangladesh government at her office in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

Bangladeshi shot dead by BSF

UNB, Benapole

Indian Border Security Forces (BSF) shot dead a Bangladeshi at

Manekshaw hospitalised

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, Delhi

Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw, the hero of India's 1971 war against Pakistan leading to liberation of Bangladesh, is suffering from acute pneumonia in an army hospital in the southern state of Tamil Nadu.

The 91-year-old Manekshaw is undergoing treatment at the Military Hospital in Wellington.

Born in Amritsar on April 3, 1914, Sam Homusji Framji Jamshedji Manekshaw served as the 8th Chief of the Army Staff between June 1969 and January 1973, capping nearly four decades of distinguished military career.

An astute war strategy planner, Manekshaw led India to victory in the 1971 war which ended with the surrender of over 90,000 Pakistani troops in Dhaka on December 16, 1971.

He was among the first batch of cadets to pass out of the Indian Military Academy in October 1934 and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Indian Army.

Decorated with the Military Cross for valour in Burma during World War II, Manekshaw was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 1968 for handling the insurgency in Nagaland as the Group Officer Commanding in Chief of the Eastern Command.

Manekshaw was conferred with the honorary rank of Field Marshal on January 1, 1973.

He retired from the army a fortnight later.

Benapole border on Friday.

BDR sources said BSF of Chhutia outpost fired at Shamsur Rahman, 35, killing him on the spot when he was crossing the border with cattle from the Indian side. Rahman hailed from Dhankhola village. BSF took away the body.

Smuggling of cattle is usually promoted by BSF as cow slaughter is banned in India, villagers said.

Eight Indians arrested

UNB, Sathkhira

Eight Indian nationals were arrested from Bhomra border in Sathkhira on Saturday for entering Bangladesh without valid papers.

The arrested, identified as Haripada Mondal, Ram Krishna Mondal, Ananta Naskar, Shymal Ghose, Basudev Nashkar, Krittika Mondal, Rita Ghose and Sulekha Goshe, hail from Bashurhat in North 24 Pargana district of West Bengal. They entered Bangladesh in a microbus.

Bhomra BDR camp in-charge Havilder Abdul Jalil said they nabbed the Indian nationals from Ashashuni upazila where they were scheduled to perform 'Kirtan' (religious song) on the day.

The Indians claimed that they are the members of a 'Kirtan group' and wanted to visit different Hindu-populated areas to perform religious songs. But they had no musical instruments with them, which aroused suspicion about their motive, Havilder Jalil said.

Jamaat hosts party for foreign diplomats

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Jamaat-e-Islami arranged a party for foreign diplomats on a large scale for the first time on Eid day to exchange Eid greetings.

Jamaat chief Matiur Rahman Nizami, who is also the industries minister, hosted the party at his official residence at Minto Road, which lasted for one hour from 11:00am.

Dean of the Diplomatic Corps Mohammad Shahta Zarab, British High Commissioner Anwar Choudhury and his spouse, US Charge d'Affaires Judith A Chammas and her spouse, Australian High Commissioner Lorraine Barker, Pakistani High Commissioner Alamgir Bashir Khan Babar, Sri Lankan High Commissioner Gamini Sarath Munasinghe, Japanese Ambassador Matsushiro Horiguchi, Vietnamese Ambassador Ngo Van Hoa, Turkish Ambassador Ferit Ergin, Iranian Ambassador Mohammad Beheshti Monfared, Philippines Ambassador Jose Lino B Guerrero, Moroccan Charge d'Affaires Abdulhamid Lakhkhait, Libyan Charge d'Affaires Solaiman B Belkhair and Councillor (political) at the Indian High Commission Gaddam Dharmendra attended the programme.

Ambassadors of the Vatican City, Switzerland, Norway, South Korea and North Korea and the charge d'affaires of China and their spouses were also present.

Jamaat chief Matiur Rahman Nizami, Senior Assistant Secretary General M Kamruzzaman and other leaders Abdul Kader Mollah, Barrister Abdur Razzak and Principal Mujibar Rahman Khan exchanged greetings with the diplomats while Shamsunnahar Nizami, chief of women's wing of the party and wife of Nizami, greeted the wives of the diplomats.

Bangladeshi man, 2 sons convicted of 'honour killing' in UK

UNB, Dhaka

A Bangladeshi-origin man and his two teenage sons have been found guilty in Britain of murdering his daughter's boyfriend in 2004, in yet another incident of 'honour killing'.

The incident once again highlights the reality of 'forced marriages', 'arranged marriages' and 'honour killings' prevalent among sections of the Asian community in Britain, according to an IANS report from London.

The conviction also brings out the cultural divide between parents from the Indian sub-continent and their British-born children.

In this case, the daughter, Manna Begum, 20, had been dating Arash Ghorbani-Zarin, 19, an Iranian-origin student of electronic engineering at Oxford Brookes University, and had become pregnant.

Begum was supposed to marry someone else through an 'arranged marriage' but had continued to date Arash.

This enraged Begum's father, Chomir Ali, 44, who apparently egged on his two sons, Mohammed Mujibar Rahman, 19, and Mamnoon Rahman, 16, to kill Arash.

Arash was found dead in his car in Rosehill, Oxford, with 46 stab wounds in November 2004.

A jury at the Oxford Crown Court took four-and-a-half days to reach a verdict of life imprisonment for Chomir Ali and his two sons.

Justice Gross said the Western-style relationship caused a "battle of wills" in Begum's family, as she refused to conform. The relationship "broke religious and family taboos".

The jury at Oxford crown court was told that Mamnoon's DNA was found on the butterfly knife used to kill him and that bloodstained clothing belonging to the brothers was found in a plastic bag.

Begum and Arash were described by friends as devoted to each other. They wanted to marry and did nothing to hide their affection, often holding hands. This, the jury was told, "brought shame on the family".

Mujibar was said to be furious at his sister's "blatant" defiance and slapped her three times when she refused to end the relationship.

In a police interview, he said: "She acted contrary to religion and tradition by dating Arash. Instead of dating, she should have waited to have an arranged marriage."

Prosecuting lawyer Julian Baughan said: "Their relationship brought shame and dishonour on the family. That drove the accused to murder Arash to vindicate the family's honour."

"It is inconceivable that a murder of this kind would have been organised by his 15- and 18-year-old sons (their ages at the time) on their own. It had all the hallmarks of a family killing with the father egging the boys on."

There were shouts of delight when the verdict was announced on Friday and later

the family of Arash issued a statement through police.

They said: "Our son was intelligent and loving and had a wonderful lifetime ahead of him. We miss him every second, every minute and every hour of every day. His death has crushed our family. This verdict gives us back some comfort that justice has been done but it does not bring him back."

Jomies Ali, 60, a member of Oxford's Bangladeshi community, told the media that the actions of Chomir Ali and his sons had been condemned.

"What he did is very bad, for his family and his community. This is the first time I have ever seen this. I have never known it in Bangladesh either."

Rejoinder

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cycle project.

The second bid for the project was cancelled as the Cell received a lone bid, and not because of any business lobby, the rejoinder said.

The rejoinder said it is not true that the modification of criteria was made to award the contract to some party under the directive of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). It was the committee which agreed to recommend some modifications for more competition and wider participation among the bidders to have a better tariff offer.

The rejoinder pointed out that the director (Technical) does not spearhead the project since the director general of the Cell is the convenor of the committee.

The new director (Technical) was not appointed under pressure. He was placed through open competition and by a formal interview board headed by the power division secretary. The indication given regarding the departure of former director general and director (Technical) is not true, it added.

Our Reply

The presence of 'business lobbies' in Power Cell's handling is visible in the unsolicited negotiations of the Meghnaghat 3. The Cell is finding it difficult to justify an unsolicited deal but is being compelled to negotiate due to pressure from higher authorities.

The bids for the 90MW Fenchuganj or the 150MW Fenchuganj projects, which require simpler bidding criteria, attracted one to three bidders -- none with international reputation. Industry insiders say the Sirajganj second bid similarly drew only one proposal due to the country's overall poor handling of large-scale projects in recent years, not because of the criteria.

Previously the Cell itself saw many quality bidders in its successful Haripur 360MW project which comparatively had harder criteria.



PHOTO: STAR

Non-government primary school teachers stage a sit-in at Muktangan in the city on Eid day demanding nationalisation of their jobs.

Huge alcohol seized from Bogra BNP leader's shop, house

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Police seized a huge quantity of alcohol from a shop and house owned by a leader of Sariyakandi upazila BNP in the district on the night of Eid-ul-Fitr.

Tipped off, police conducted a raid at the shop of Amirul Momin Pintu, former general secretary of Sariyakandi

BNP programmes to observe Nov 7

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) will observe the National Revolution and Solidarity Day today in a befitting manner.

The day-long programmes include hoisting of the national and party flags atop the BNP central office as well as in all party offices across the country in the morning.

Munajat will be offered at the Mazar of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman, who proclaimed the independence of the country, at 11:00am while a discussion will be held at Mohanagar Natyamonch at 3:00pm.

There will be party colourful posters highlighting the significance of the day. The district, thana and poura committees will also observe the auspicious occasion through various programmes.

BNP Secretary General and LGIRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan has asked the leaders and workers of the party and its front organisation to observe the day in a befitting manner.

He called upon people from all social strata to extend sincere cooperation in celebration of the occasion.

upazila BNP, and seized the alcohol.

Police also arrested shop employee Wasim.

Following his statement, police conducted another raid at Amirul's house and seized more alcohol from there, sources said.

Police said they seized around 90 litres alcohol from the house and shop but could not arrest Amirul.

Police filed a case against Amirul and Wasim in this connection.

Amirul alleged that his rival group had kept the alcohol at his shop and house and informed the police for harassing him.

Mir Nasir admitted to Singapore hospital

BDNEWS, Chittagong

The ailing State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin has been admitted to Mount Elizabeth Hospital at Singapore in the small hours of Sunday.

Mir Nasir during his visit to the port city on Eid holiday suffered severe headache and was admitted to city's Holy Crescent Hospital at around 4:00 pm on Saturday.

A medical board referred Mir Nasir for better treatment to Singapore.

He was rushed to Singapore by a Biman flight at 11:30pm on Saturday night. His wife Dalia Nasir and their eldest son Barrister Helal are accompanying him.

A doctor in the medical board said that he had been suffering from hypertension and diabetes.

BONUS, SALARY

Teachers demand punishment to bank officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The leaders of Jatiya Shikshak Samity Oikyajote, an alliance of teachers' associations, demanded exemplary punishment to the bank officials due to their failure to give bonus and salary to teachers of private schools and colleges before Eid-ul-Fitr.

In a joint statement they alleged that the banks received government granted cheque in due time but they could not manage to give the salary to the teachers and employees in many districts of the country.

They also said thousands of teachers and employees could not celebrate Eid for the negligence and irresponsibility of the some bank officials, which angered the teacher society.

Obituary

BSS, Dhaka

Siddique Mahmud, one of the founder members of Dhanmondi Club, passed away in Sweden on October 24 at the age of 64, family sources said.

His body will arrive in Dhaka from Sweden this morning.

He left behind his four brothers and one sister and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

Siddique, who hailed from Satkania of Chittagong, had been living in Sweden since 1969.

His namaz-e-janaza will be held at Baitul Aman Mosque at Dhanmondi, Road No 7 in the city after Zohr prayers today.

His Quikhwani will be held at 27 North Road Dhanmondi (near Bhutergoli Mosque) in the city on November 10.

Fulbanu



passed away due to cardiac complications at the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases on Thursday at the age of 80, says a press release.

He left behind her husband, five sons and three daughters.

Begum Najirunnesa



away due to old age complications on Friday at the age of 75, says a press release.

Her quikhwani will be held today at her residence at Tajmahal Road, Mohammadpur.



PHOTO: PID



PHOTO: STAR

(Clockwise from top left) Prime Minister Khaleda Zia exchanges Eid greetings with British High Commissioner Anwar Choudhury at a reception organised at the Prodhamontri Bhaban in the city on the occasion of Eid-ul-fitr on Friday. Awami League President Sheikh Hasina exchanges Eid greetings with Indian High Commissioner Veena Sikri at the party's Dhanmondi office on Eid day. Hundreds of people along with children throng the Shishu Park in the city yesterday. The Dhakabashi took out a colourful procession in the city to celebrate Eid on Saturday.