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Security upped over release call for RU teachers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Security has been beefed up on Rajshahi University (RU) campus yesterday amid heightened tensions over the demand for release of four detained RU teachers.

An RU official requesting anonymity said, "Students have been boycotting classes, different groups of teachers are blaming each other for the fate of the detained teachers... We decided to watch the situation closely."

Meanwhile, the RU authorities in a press release condemned Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA) for demanding the removal of RU Vice Chancellor (VC) Altaf Hossain. It also said that the allegation, made by the DUTA, of attempt to dismiss the four convicted teachers by the RU VC is "baseless".

The press release, signed by Abu Bakar Siddik, administrator of RU public relations office, termed the DUTA demand "unexpected and beyond their jurisdiction" and asked DUTA to refrain from making

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Indian vessel with relief arrives in Ctg

UNB, Dhaka

An Indian navy ship arrived at Chittagong port with huge relief materials for cyclone Sitr victims.

The relief materials carried by 'INS Chitra' have already been handed over to the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management.

Two other Indian navy ships, 'INS Kumvi' and 'INS Mohish', are scheduled to reach Chittagong port with relief goods today and tomorrow, said an ISPR press release.

Another Indian ship, 'INS Ghoriya', is now on the way to Bangladesh.

CA thanks Karzai on release of Brac staff

UNB, New Delhi

Chief Adviser (CA) Fakhrudin Ahmed has deeply appreciated Afghan President Hamid Karzai for securing the release of abducted Brac employee Noor Islam in Afghanistan.

Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury conveyed the "deep appreciation" to Afghan Foreign Minister Rangin Spanta as they are in New Delhi to attend the Saarc Council of Ministers' Meeting.

"We even talked about it yesterday. I'm overjoyed to hear the good news. The Afghan government has helped enormously and deserves our gratitude," Iftekhar said, speaking to the media afterwards.

FBCCI Manzur Elahi takes over as administrator

UNB, Dhaka

Syed Manzur Elahi, former adviser to a caretaker government, yesterday took over the charge of administrator of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI).

The government on Thursday appointed Manzur Elahi as administrator of the FBCCI to run its day-to-day affairs and take necessary measures to hold the election to the executive committee of the apex trade body within 120 days.

Elahi met the executives and employees of the FBCCI secretariat and sought their cooperation in holding an acceptable election within the stipulated time.

The FBCCI staffs welcomed their new boss.

Prayer Timing		
December 9		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-15	5-50
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrib	5-19	5-22
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

MALAYSIAN MANPOWER FRAUD

Duped, tortured, jailed the tale of a dream job

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Manpower frauds confined a Bangladeshi job seeker to a secret place in Malaysia for one month and tortured him for payment.

Abdur Razzak, the victim, returned home on December 5 after languishing in a Malaysian detention camp for four months for immigration rules violation. His ordeal came to light at a news briefing organised by Rapid Action Battalion (Rab 3) at its Tikatuli office yesterday.

Following a complaint from Razzak's family, Rab 3 took Razzak in their custody. Rab 3 is currently investigating the allegations of fraud against manpower con man Abul Bashar and his cohorts.

In the meantime, Rab yesterday arrested Abul Bashar from Paltan area. During the arrest, Bashar claimed that he worked for Rana



Travels. However, the travel agency has denied the claim.

Although an employment visa is required for jobs overseas, Abul Bashar collected Tk 80,000 in advance from Abdur Razzak and sent him to Malaysia on July 29 on a one-month tourist visa with the condition that Razzak would pay

the remainder, Tk 1.2 lakh, to Bashar once he gets a job there.

Razzak told The Daily Star at the Rab 3 office that Bashar's brother Titu confined him to a house after he reached Malaysia and tortured him physically to make his family back in Bangladesh pay the remainder of the money to Bashar.

"Though they didn't get me a job there, Titu and his three associates pressurised me to ask my family pay them Tk 1.2 lakh saying that I've got a job," Razzak told the journalists at the news briefing.

"As I refused to comply with their demand, they often beat me up tying me to a chair," he said adding that the frauds also snatched his passport and other documents.

His family finally had to make some payment to Bashar as he gave in to the torture at one point and

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Zillur demands Hasina's release by December 16

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Acting Awami League (AL) President Zillur Rahman yesterday demanded release of detained party chief Sheikh Hasina by December 16, the Victory Day.

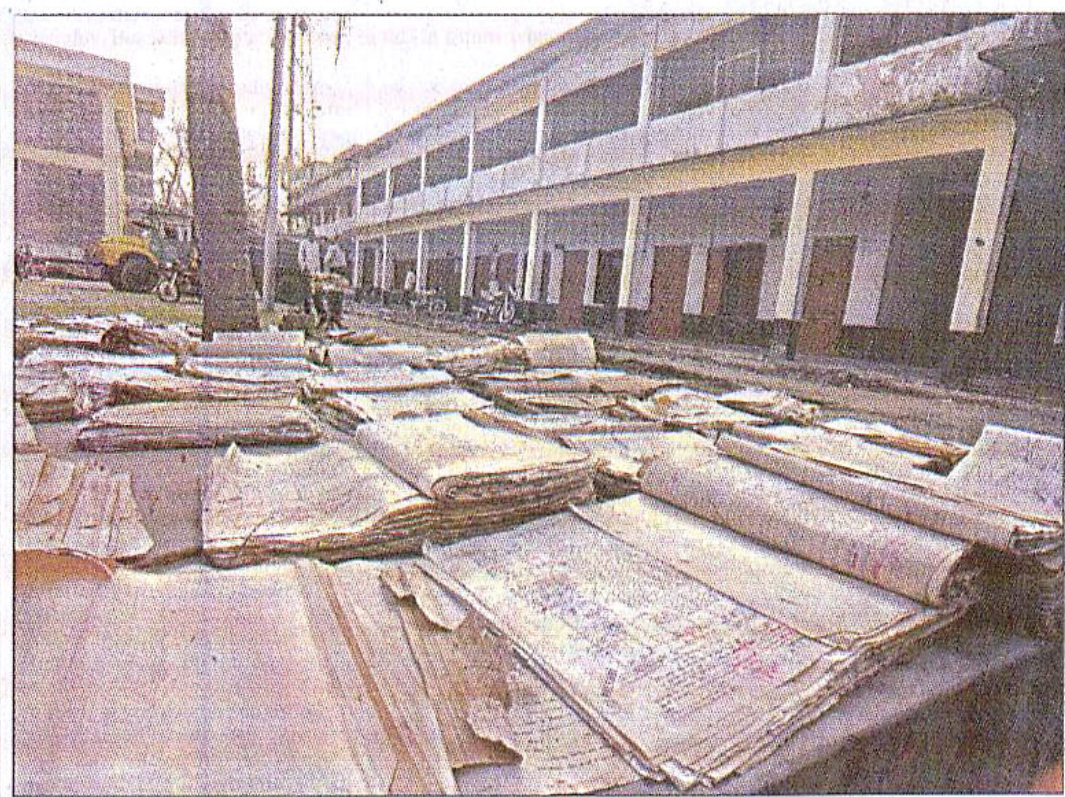
He urged the government to lift the state of emergency and allow indoor politics across the country.

"If it is not possible for the government to withdraw the state of emergency, it should at least allow indoor politics across the country," Zillur said while addressing a meeting at the Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium in the capital to pay tribute to late former state minister and Dinajpur district AL president Abdur Rouf Chowdhury.

Former speaker advocate Abdul Hamid, AL leaders Dr Hasan Mahmud, Nurul Islam Sujan, Zulfikur Ali and Mainuddin Ahmed, among others, spoke at the meeting organised by Abdur Rouf Chowdhury Smriti Sangsad.

Zillur paid tribute to Rouf

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Important documents of Morelganj UNO office in Bagerhat being dried out in the sun yesterday as those got wet in tidal waves caused by Sitr.

PHOTO: STAR

WEALTH REPORT

Khoka accuses ACC of exaggeration

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Alleging that the Anti-corruption Commission (ACC) publicised an exaggerated figure of his wealth, Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka said the commission is on a witch-hunt against him.

"The ACC exaggerated the amount of my wealth and properties to the media," the DCC mayor said at a news briefing in his residence in the capital.

Khoka claimed that his current earnings are based on the wealth and properties he inherited from his parents.

He said the law will take its own course if he is found guilty of lying in his wealth statement submitted to the ACC.

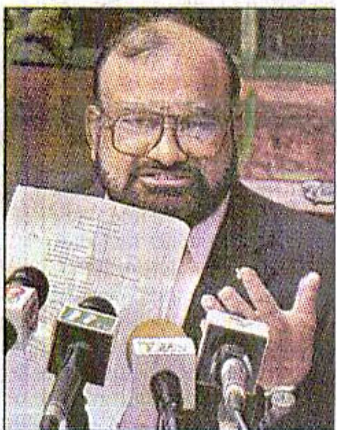
"The ACC's claim that I and my family own about 5.5 crore taka in cash, is not right," said the DCC mayor.

"I and my family have 40 lakh

taka in banks," added Khoka, also the president of Dhaka city unit BNP.

He however claimed that he and his family own moveable and immovable properties worth Tk 8.58 crore.

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Sadeque Hossain Khoka

Rab captures 2 top criminals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday arrested two criminals, one of whom is suspected to be the second-in-command of Joy, one of the top wanted criminals.

The two, Masud - also known as "Killer Masud" or sometimes, Irfan - and Mohammad Hafiz were arrested from the capital's Shewrapara and Malibagh areas.

Masud is suspected to be the second-in-command of Joy, a wanted criminal now detained in jail in India. Hafiz is an accused in nine criminal cases.

Shahidul Haq Bhuiyan, commander of Special Crime Prevention Company of Rab-3, told a press briefing that Masud is accused in a number of criminal cases, including murders. His name is also on top of Rab's wanted criminals' list under Paltan area.

Bhuiyan said a plainclothes team of Rab-3 arrested Masud from his rented residence at West Shewrapara following intelligence of his involvement in various criminal activities including murder,

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China, West squabble over targets in Bali

AP, Bali

Developing countries led by China squabbled with the West over mandatory emission cuts at the Bali climate change conference, as activists accused Canada on Saturday of undermining the negotiations by insisting on targets for poor nations.

China, which some believe has surpassed the US as the world's top emitter of carbon dioxide and other heat-trapping gases, questioned the fairness of binding cuts when its per capita emissions are about one-sixth of America's. It said, too, that it has only been pumping pollutants into the atmo-

sphere for a few decades, whereas the West has done so for hundreds of years.

"China is in the process of industrialization and there is a need for economic growth to meet the basic needs of the people and fight against poverty," said Su Wei, a top climate expert for the government and member of its delegation at the UN Climate Change Conference in Bali.

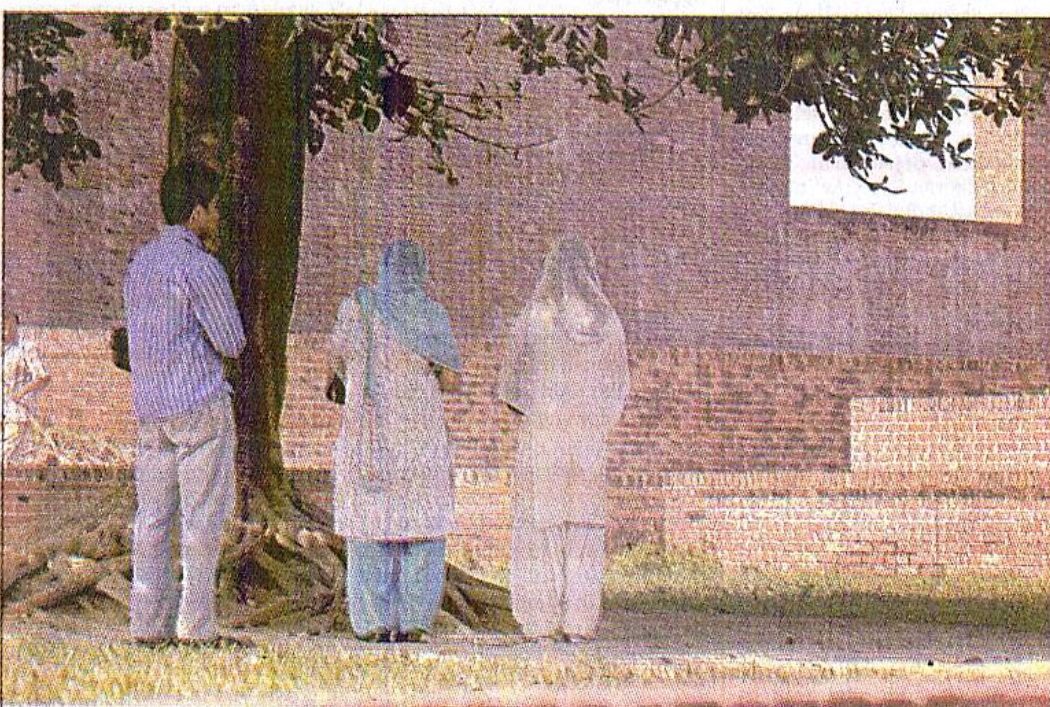
"I just wonder whether it's fair to ask developing countries like China to take on binding targets," Su said Friday. "I think there is much room for the United States to think whether it's possible to change (its) lifestyle and consump-

tion patterns in order to contribute to the protection of the global climate."

Delegates from nearly 190 nations are attending the Dec. 3-14 meeting in Bali and are likely to agree to launch negotiations that will lead to an international accord to succeed the 1997 Kyoto Protocol on global warming. They also are expected to set a deadline for completing negotiations and agree on some of the issues to be discussed.

The protocol, which was rejected by the United States, commits three dozen industrialised countries to cut their greenhouse gases an average of 5 percent

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Relatives of martyrs in the Liberation War offer prayers at Rayer Bazar Killing Field in the capital yesterday for salvation of the departed souls.

PHOTO: STAR

Tk 60cr more allocated for rebuilding in 2 districts

UNB, Dhaka

The government has allocated Tk 60 crore more for rebuilding houses in the cyclone-hit Bagerhat and Barguna districts.

An official announcement yesterday said the money, sanctioned from the Chief Adviser's Relief Fund, will be spent on construction and repair of the houses of the affected people as per the house-building policy of the food and disaster management ministry.

Earlier, the government had allocated an amount of Tk 60 crore for the cyclone-battered districts.

Of the fresh house-building grant, Bagerhat and Barguna, the two worst hit districts, will get Tk 30 crore each.

BSF kills 1

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) yesterday gunned down a Bangladeshi cattle trader and wounded another near Bazzruk border in Thakurgaon.

The deceased was identified as Rezaul Islam, 45, son of Momotaz Ali of Bagra village.

BDR sources said BSF members of 89 Korka camp in India fired on cattle traders Rezaul and Samirul Islam near Bazzruk border of Haripur upazila when they intruded into Indian territory.

Rezaul died on the spot while Samirul was seriously injured.

BSF took away the body. Samirul was rushed to Dinajpur Medical College Hospital.

Later, BDR held a flag meeting with BSF. They strongly protested the firing and urged BSF to return the body.

US troops kill 12 al-Qaeda militants in Iraq

AFP, AP, Baghdad

US air and ground assault teams killed 12 suspected al-Qaeda militants and detained 13 more in raids across Iraq yesterday, the American military said.

Ten suspected militants were killed near Yusifiyah south of Baghdad in an operation targeting al-Qaeda members, it said in a statement.

The raid was aimed at militants believed to be planning an attack on coalition forces, it added.

During the raid the ground troops called for air support and in the ensuing firefight 12 suspected militants were killed, the military said.

In two other separate raids two more suspected militants were killed and a large weapons cache was also found, it said, adding that the raids also led to detention of 13 other suspects.

Meanwhile, a suicide car

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