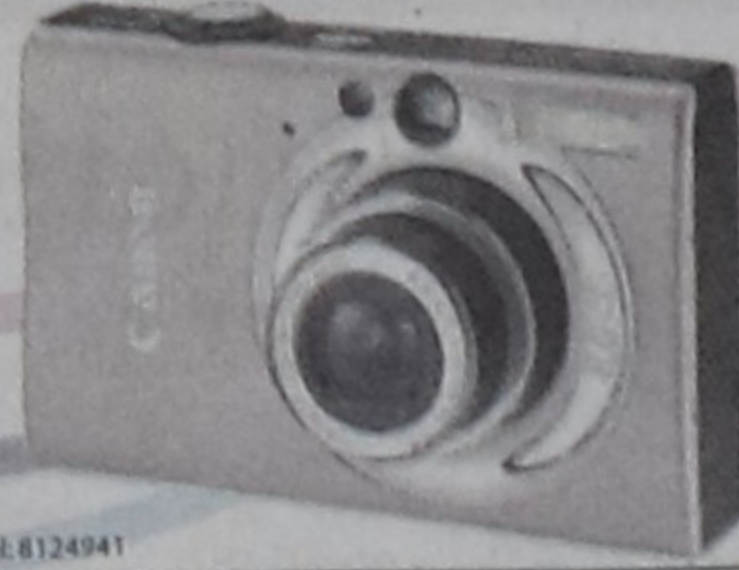


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50 vehicles vandalised demanding road safety!

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students of Dania University College in Jatrabari and a number of locals vandalised at least 50 vehicles on Dhaka-Chittagong Highway yesterday demanding speed bumps and zebra crossings in front of their institution to avert frequent accidents.

Witnesses said the students and locals armed with iron rods, sticks and bricks vandalised cars parked on the Dhaka-Chittagong Highway for about an hour from 4:30pm. As Jatrabari police tried to stop them, chases and counter chases took place between them and the police.

The incident caused tailbacks on the highway and streets nearby. Rapid Action Battalion personnel and police brought the traffic situation under control around 5:45pm.

Locals said the students went on a rampage around 3:00pm yesterday after holding a meeting on campus to protest the death of an A-level student in Dhanmondi on Thursday.

CPB launches campaign for trial of war criminals

DU CORRESPONDENT

The Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) yesterday launched a month-long mass-awareness campaign in the city, demanding trial of the war criminals, end of fundamentalism and reinstallation of the 1972 constitution.

Launching the programme at a rally at the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday afternoon, CPB leaders said awareness among people is essential to resist any ill-motivated attempts of the anti-liberation forces and fundamentalists against the culture, tradition, independence and sovereignty of the country.

The programmes include holding rallies, meetings, human chains, processions, cultural functions, photo exhibitions, mass oath-taking, painting competitions, giving reception to freedom fighters' families, and observing the Martyred Intellectuals' Day and the Victory Day.

The anti-liberation forces are

NDI team in city to see poll preparations

UNB, Dhaka

A delegation of the National Democratic Institute (NDI) arrived in Dhaka yesterday to assess preparations and observe election atmosphere ahead of the parliamentary polls.

The delegation, led by Sam Gejdenson, former US congressman and current NDI board member, will stay here until November 19, said a press release.

The other members of the team are Saumura Tioulong, member of the national assembly of Cambodia, Peter Manikas, senior associate and regional director for NDI's Asia programmes, and Jacqueline Corcoran, NDI/Bangladesh senior resident director.

They will be assisted by Dileepan Siva, NDI Washington DC programme manager, and Najia Hashemee, NDI/Bangladesh

TOXIC MILK POWDER

Test all brands again in uniform method

Govt urged to form a panel of chemists

PORIMOL PALMA

The government should form a panel of senior chemists to decide on a uniform, internationally recognised method for testing powdered milk again to remove existing confusions over the recent differing test results, said scientists and consumer rights activists.

Several samples of each brand have to be collected from various places and those have to be homogenised before testing to get an average result, they said, opposing letting laboratories conduct tests in their own ways, which they said has caused the confusion.

The recommendations come as the health ministry holds a meeting with chemists today to determine strategies to implement the High Court order for further testing of eight brands of powdered milk in the laboratories of Dhaka University chemistry department, Bangladesh Standards and Testing

Institution (BSTI) and Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC).

In earlier tests, DU chemistry department found high level of melamine in all the eight brands--Dano, Diploma, Red Cow, Anlene, Nido fortified instant, Yashili-1, Yashili-2 and Sweet Baby-2.

BAEC found the toxic element in seven brands while BSTI found it in just one. Another test at an ISO-recognised laboratory in Bangkok, however, found melamine in three Chinese brands--Yashili-1, Yashili-2 and Sweet Baby-2. The confusion among consumers and traders has since deepened further.

The HC in its ruling on November 10 lifted for 21 days the ban on sale and display of Dano, Diploma, Red Cow, Anlene and Nido. It also directed the government to conduct tests of other brands available locally soon.

The consumer rights activists and scientists have said the govern-

ment should be very careful in dealing with the melamine issue.

Talking to The Daily Star, BRAC University Vice-Chancellor Prof Jamilur Reza Chowdhury yesterday suggested that the panel of senior chemists review the test methods earlier followed in the three laboratories. It should check their equipment and suggest a method most suitable to detect melamine in milk.

"If a procedure of test and collection of samples is agreed by the panel, the test result should be similar," he said.

A professor of DU chemistry department also termed sample collection a very important factor. He said the ideal procedure of preparing samples is mixing products of as many batches of a brand as possible to homogenise for testing.

According to a BSTI official, only one batch of each brand was tested earlier.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Khaleda-Hasina talks irrelevant when polls near

Says Prof Wahiduddin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prominent economist Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud yesterday said the proposed talks between Awami League President Sheikh Hasina and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia is 'irrelevant' at a time when the general election is near at hand.

"Time is too short; the most important thing is to ensure participation of all parties in the national election for transition to a multi-party democracy," he said.

Prof Wahiduddin was talking to reporters after a South Asian conference on managing food-price inflation, jointly organised by the World Bank and local NGO Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC) at Radisson Water Garden Hotel in the city.

He said an elected government is necessary to handle the impact and reap the benefits of the global financial meltdown.

The much-hyped discussion between the top two leaders on improving the quality of parliamentary democracy, how parliament would function better and

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

G20 targets preventing new global crisis

Emergency summit begins in Washington

AFP, Washington

Leaders of the world's 20 largest economies yesterday thrashed out steps to reverse a looming global recession and prevent future upheaval despite differences over how to remedy the crisis.

President George W. Bush, the lame-duck US leader hosting the emergency talks of the Group of 20 nations, warned against a relapse into trade protectionism as Wall Street's financial hurricane blows far and wide.

Following what he called a "frank discussion" among the leaders over dinner Friday, Bush told reporters early yesterday: "One of the dangers during a crisis such as this is that people would start implementing protectionist policies."

"I am pleased that we're discussing a way forward to make sure that such a crisis is unlikely to occur again. And I am pleased that the leaders reaffirmed the principles behind open markets and free trade," he said.

"Obviously, you know, this crisis has not ended. There's some progress being made, but there's still a lot of more work to be done."

German Chancellor Angela Merkel, whose country has already slipped into recession, said: "The financial summit will adopt an action plan to demonstrate that the community of nations has the capacity to act."

"There exists here a major common willingness to reassure that such a crisis will not be repeated and to revive the world economy as quickly as possible," Merkel told reporters in her hotel before leaving for the summit.

French officials said the G20 leaders, whose countries represent 85 percent of the world economy, were to commit in a communique to three principles: stimulus efforts, reform of financial regulation and global governance changes.

Few specifics on the reforms were expected at this stage, a high-ranking official with French President Nicolas Sarkozy said, but

an action plan with deadlines would be agreed with work to culminate on March 31.

The G20, which includes the major industrialized nations as well as emerging giants Brazil, China, India and Russia, has been locked in debate about what caused the crisis let alone how to escape from it.

While Bush wants a limited tinkering with global financial rules, and no new trade barriers, Sarkozy has declared that "laissez-faire capitalism is over" as banks crippled by toxic mortgage assets are forced to turn to government aid.

"Our goal is that all players on the market, all products and all markets should be really regulated and monitored," Merkel said, predicting a 50-point package that would carry a deeper regulatory bite than envisaged by Bush.

But any such deal would have to be implemented by US president-elect Barack Obama, who takes office in January and is not at the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1



PHOTO SHAWKAT JAMIL

Chhinna Mukul Samajik Unnayan, a social welfare organisation, writes 3347 with lamps at the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday to commemorate the people who lose their lives in Cyclone Sidr.

'CRIMINALS' HIDING OVERSEAS Interpol initiative lost on extradition issue

KAILASH SARKAR

Bangladesh is not getting any help currently from the International Criminal Police Organisation (Interpol) in bringing back the fugitive criminals due to lack of extradition treaties with other member countries.

Although the Interpol website has showed a list of 86 Bangladeshi fugitive criminals, including three former lawmakers, 11 top terrorists and over 20 listed terrorists, they are not being arrested and sent back home by the international police.

Interpol Dhaka desk sources said around 600 more names of fugitive criminals are being verified for uploading on its website.

NBK Tripura, additional inspector general of police (administration), told The Daily Star that the absence of extradition treaties with other countries is the main bar to arrest and take the fugitives back to the country.

"The Interpol maintains communications among its member countries and, therefore, it displays the details of fugitive criminals to make the law enforcement agencies of different countries aware," Tripura said.

He said sometimes the Interpol

desks of different countries work together to detect locations of wanted criminals if any country makes a request to the organisation.

"Among its 192 member countries, Bangladesh has extradition treaty only with Bangkok and we do not get any help from the Interpol in getting back the fugitive criminals due to an absence of treaty with other countries," said Assistant Inspector General (AIG-Interpol-Dhaka Desk) Hasib Aziz.

The names of fugitive former Awami League lawmakers Joyal Hazari of Feni, Shamim Osman of Narayanganj, and former Jatiya Party MP Golam Faruque Ovi of Barisal are now being displayed on the Interpol website.

Seven of the fugitive criminals are wanted by the authorities of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), India and Canada. They are Masud Karim Master and AKM Enamul Haque, wanted by Abu Dhabi on forgery charges, Reshmat Ali, wanted by Dubai on theft charge, Kamruzzaman, Kamrul Alam Munnua of Khulna and Nazrul Islam of Feni, wanted by India on forgery charges, and Alim Uddin Khan of Moulvibazar, wanted by Canada on



Mohammad Al Faysal

Buet student loses battle with burn

MAHBUBA ZANNAT

Mohammad Al Faysal, 25, final year student of civil engineering at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet), and Kader, 52, yesterday succumbed to their injuries sustained in the head-on collision between a bus and an acid-laden truck in Comilla on November 6.

The accident left 10 people dead on the spot as they were burned in acid. Four of the 22 injured died, including these two, at different hospitals later on. Eight of the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Iraq car bomb kills 10

AFP, AP, Mosul

At least ten people were killed and more than two dozen wounded yesterday when a car bomb exploded near an auto dealership in the northern Iraqi town of Tal Afar, Iraqi police said.

A US military spokesman said in a statement that 10 people were killed and another 20 wounded in the bombing, which he said took place near a car market and targeted civilians.

The town is halfway between the Syrian border and the city of Mosul, which the US military considers the last remaining urban

bastion of al-Qaeda in Iraq. The latest attack highlighted the continuing threat to security in Iraq despite a sharp drop in violence since last year.

Iraq has seen dramatic improvements in security over the past year as US and Iraqi forces have teamed up with local tribes to drive out insurgents and militias, but attacks are still common in some parts of the country.

In Baghdad, 10 people were wounded, including seven civilians, in two separate bomb attacks, police said. One targeted a police patrol and another set alight a mostly empty oil tanker.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Cyclonic storm heads for Andhra coast

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cyclonic storm "Khali Muk" over west central Bay and adjoining southwest Bay moved slightly westwards and was likely to cross Andhra Coast near Machili Patnam in India last night, according to a Met Office bulletin yesterday evening.

The cyclone, formed two days ago, was centred about 1,325 kms southwest of Chittagong Port, 1,280 kms southwest of Cox's Bazar Port and 1,150 kms west of Mongla Port in the evening.

The Met office advised the maritime ports to hoist local cautionary signal number 3, said a special bulletin.

Stormy weather with high wind speed will remain over the North Bay. Maximum sustained wind speed within 54 kms of the cyclone centre is about 60 kph rising to 80 kph in gusts or squalls.

All fishing boats and trawlers over north Bay and deep sea have been advised to remain close to the coast and proceed with caution till

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Advertisement for 'Duniya' featuring a woman and text about a new size and price.

Students ransack RU folklore dept

Demand change of faculty

RU CORRESPONDENT

Students of Folklore Department of Rajshahi University (RU) ransacked the department and confined their teachers for one hour to the campus yesterday demanding immediate inclusion of the department under its Social Science Faculty from the Arts Faculty.

In the morning, about 200 students of the department staged the demonstration on the depart-

ment's premises and put gate of Islam Hossen Siraji Building under lock and key.

Later, the agitating students met chairman of the department Dr Shahidur Rahman at his office room and asked him to explain his stance over the demand.

At one stage, the students locked in an altercation with other teachers of their department over the issue and confined them in the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

Table with Prayer Timing for November 16, including Azan and Jamaat times for Fajr, Zohr, Asr, Maghrib, and Esha.

Source: Islamic Foundation

Advertisement for Nokia Tech 4 with details about a bidding amount and deadline.

ANNOUNCEMENT: The Daily Star in New Size. In compliance with NOAB decision The Daily Star will be published in new size from 18 November 2008. Accordingly, the new size of The Daily Star pages will be 20 1/2" (height) x 13" (width).