



Cherie Blair, British attorney and former first lady, shakes hand with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Gono Bhaban in the city yesterday.

**BLASTS AT CPB RALLY  
10 years gone  
but attackers  
still untraced**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Investigators have yet not identified the criminals that led a bomb attack on a Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) rally at Paltan Maidan 10 years back, killing five people and injuring 50 others.

Criminals Investigation Department (CID) Inspector Mrinal Kanti Saha, the investigation officer of the case, yesterday told The Daily Star that they were still investigating the matter with major development.

CPB President Manjurul Ahsan Khan yesterday expressed concern and dissatisfaction over the progress in the investigation alleging insincerity of the government and investigators.

"How can we put confidence in the investigators as well as in the government while the case did not make any progress in arresting the criminals and those who worked behind the scene."

Khan said that after the blasts, the party provided all documents and evidences to the then prime minister who is now the incumbent prime minister and to the law enforcers and investigators.

CPB yesterday observed the 10 years of the blasts by paying homage to the deceased persons in the attack and holding a rally at Muktangan in the city. CPB's different wings and organisations took part in the rally attended by representatives from different other left-leaning parties and organisations.

**GIRL KILLED BY BSF**

**Foreign ministry issues revised press note**

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The foreign ministry on Tuesday (Jan 18) issued a revised press release with changing some words over the protest of brutal killing of a minor girl at Fulbari border in Kurigram on January 7.

Based on the Monday's (Jan 17) press release of the ministry, a report has been published in the Tuesday's issue of The Daily Star.

In the revised press release, the ministry said, "He (Indian High Commissioner) expressed the hope that both countries would be able to work out ways to prevent recurrence of such incidents in the future."

Summoned, Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka Rajeev Mitter went to the foreign ministry on Sunday (Jan 16) when acting Foreign Secretary Mostafa Kamal handed him a protest note on the brutal killing of the girl.

**BID TO SAVE DHANMONDI LAKE  
Legal notices served  
on ministries**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Environment Lawyers Association (Bela) yesterday served legal notices on two ministries and several other government offices demanding preservation of Dhanmondi Lake and keeping the environment of Dhanmondi residential areas free from pollutions.

Bela served the notices on the mayor of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC), secretaries of ministries of local government, environment and public works and top officials of the directorate of environment, Dhaka Wasa and Rajuk, says a press release.

The notices said the Dhanmondi Lake was dug up by the public works ministry in 1960 and later the DCC took the responsibility to maintain the wetland. Initially, rainwater came down into the lake and it was used for drainage management of the area but gradually the wetland becomes a spot for dumping wastes.

The lake is loosing its original shape gradually due to dumping the wastes, the notices said adding that unplanned establishments including educational institutions, hospitals, clinic, restaurants and shopping malls started to be built in the residential area after '90s putting extra pressure on the land polluting the environment.

Such pollution is greatly hampering the environment of Dhanmondi residential areas as well as the standard of living, it also said.

**Electricity cut off to  
National Press Club**

UNB, Dhaka

Electricity connection to National Press Club here was suddenly cut off yesterday by Dhaka Power Distribution Company Ltd (DPDC).

An official of the DPDC said that about Tk 1 crore electricity bills remained unpaid by the press club management despite serving repeated notices. As a result, the power supply was disconnected in the morning.

The press club management in a statement said the sudden disconnection of power supply plunged the members of the club into enormous sufferings.

The statement, signed by its general secretary Syed Abdal Ahmed, said the DPDC authority in a sudden move issued a letter on January 9 after a week of its election asking the club to pay its all outstanding bills of about Tk 1 crore within 10 days.

Of the bills, the principal amount was Tk 64 lakh and surcharge Tk 43 lakh.

**Experts for integrated  
pest management**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Experts at a seminar yesterday stressed the need for developing Integrated Pest Management (IPM) to ensure sustainable agriculture for safe crops.

IPM refers to replacement of chemical fertiliser by bio-pesticides, organic fertilisers and innovative pest tolerant agro crops that protect the crops from pests as well as keep the environment free from pollution, they said.

They told a inaugural session of three-daylong 4th International Seminar on "Development of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in Asia and Africa" jointly organised by IPM Lab, Dept of Plant Pathology, Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) and Niigata University of Japan at the BAU, said a press release.

Speaking as the chief guest Prof MA Karim, dean of faculty of Agricultural of BAU, Prof. Dr K Okazaki of University of Niigata, BAU Research System Director Prof. Dr Ali Akbar, among others, were present.

200 scientists from different countries participated in the seminar.

**'Stop felling trees in city'**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nirapad Development Foundation (NDF), an environmental organisation, yesterday criticised felling of trees surrounding the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium at Mirpur in the name of beautification ahead of the World Cup Cricket.

At the same time, little trees have been fenced by cement in such a way that those trees will not be able to grow up any more, they said.

In a statement, the foundation activists alleged that some government officials are responsible for doing the 'irresponsible' job and demanded punishment.

**Six Hizb ut-Tahrir  
men held**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Six suspected members of banned militant outfit Hizb ut-Tahrir Bangladesh were arrested in the city's Jhigatola yesterday.

They are Sheikh Shah Newaz Sultan, 23, Ferdous Wahid, 23, Nawajis Azam, 22, Ashifur Rahman, 23, ASM Towhidul Islam, 18, and Al Amin, 20. All of them are students of Dhaka University (DU) from different departments.

A Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) 2 team held them while moving suspiciously at about 4:30am in Jhigatola bus stand and recovered 50 leaflets and 16 posters containing anti-state and anti-government slogans.

ASP Mohammad Shafiu Sarwar, also an operation officer of Rab 2, told The Daily Star that the arrestees admitted that they are Dhaka University students and members of Hizb ut-Tahrir.

**Nation pays  
homage to  
mass upsurge  
hero Asad**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hero of the 1969 mass upsurge, Shaheed Asad, was remembered by the nation with fervour yesterday.

Different political, student, and cultural organisations observed the 42nd death anniversary of the martyr (Shaheed Asad Day) in a befitting manner.

Revolutionary Workers Party (RWP) organised a rally in his memory near Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH).

Speakers there said Asad's martyrdom provided immense courage to people of Bangladesh, which eventually brought about the fall of dictator Ayub Khan.

RWP presidium member Nasiruddin Ahmed Nasu, Prof Akteruzzaman of Dhaka University, comrade Abdus Salam, and Bonhishikha Jamali also spoke.

Ganatantrik Baam Morcha held similar programme close to DMCH. The speakers said Asad's martyrdom strengthened Bangalees' spirit of liberation.

NAP Bhashani organised a discussion at Dhaka Reporters Unity, attended by Awami League presidium member Obaidul Quader.

He said the sentiment that worked as a driving force before liberation war has changed. Political leaders today are more interested in personal gain instead of sacrifice.

Bangladesh Communist League placed wreath at Asad's memorial in honour of the martyr. The party members observed a one-minute silence pledging to work for freedom of speech, democracy, and an oppression-free society.

Jatiya Ganatantrik League organised a discussion at its office at Kallyanpur in the capital.

**Stop border killings**

**Dipu Moni urges India**

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni yesterday asked the Indian authorities for taking immediate steps to exercise utmost restraint at the Bangladesh-India borders to stop killings of unarmed Bangladesh nationals.

She made the call when Indian Home Secretary GK Pillai met her at the foreign ministry yesterday. The Indian home secretary was in Dhaka to attend the two-day 11th Bangladesh-India Home Secretary-level meeting that concluded yesterday.

The foreign minister also underscored the need for early implementation of the decisions of the Joint Boundary Working Group (JBWG) meeting, which deals un-

demarcated boundary, enclaves and lands in adverse possesses and host of boundary related issues.

Bangladesh Home Secretary Abdus Sobhan Sikder, Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka Rajeev Mitter and other high officials of both the governments were present during the call on, said a foreign ministry release.

Both the home secretaries briefed the minister on the outcome of the home secretary level talks saying that they had a discussion in a free, frank and cordial atmosphere. The both sides reached good understanding on the issues at the discussion, they said.

The Foreign Minister Dipu Moni expressed satisfaction at the fruitful outcome of the meeting.

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