

"All chemical godowns in Old Dhaka must be removed, despite all the barriers."
HOME MINISTER ASADUZZAMAN KHAN KAMAL

"Her [Khaleda Zia's] blood tests have not been conducted yet. She is diabetic, but has not received any treatment."
BNP SECRETARY GENERAL MIRZA FAKHRUL ISLAM ALAMGIR (PAGE 3)

"They [North Korea] don't have any economic future if they have nuclear weapons."
US PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP (PAGE 8)

Graft plagues civil aviation

Finds ACC probe into the sector
MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN and RASHIDUL HASAN

Biman high-ups, including some of its board members, have been misappropriating huge money through irregularities in tender process. On the other hand, some officials of CAAB, the aviation regulator, accept bribes from contractors, who are "looting money" by building poor-quality towers and boarding bridges, the Anti-Corruption Commission has found.

Its enquiry report did not name anyone, but the probe detected corruption in eight sectors at the Biman and 11 sectors at the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB).

The separate enquiries, which began in March 2017, into the conducts of the national flag carrier and the aviation regulator are based on interviews of current and retired officials, analysis of annual and audit reports, statements of victims and media reports.

ACC Commissioner Mozammel Haque Khan handed over the enquiry reports to Mahbub Ali, state minister for civil aviation and tourism, at the latter's office yesterday, said ACC Public Relations Officer Pranab Kumar Bhattacharya.

In case of purchase and lease of aircraft, some intermediary firms work as liaison between the service providers and the Biman high-ups as well as its board members, the ACC has found.

"Spending huge money, these companies make officials fix the specification of [aircraft] procurement in a way so

Probe names no one, but identifies 8 corrupt sectors in Biman and 11 sectors in CAAB

In case of purchase and lease of aircraft, intermediary firms influence Biman high-ups, board members

In the CAAB, the biggest corruption takes place in construction and development work sector

Where is Akash?
Wife claims police picked up her husband; cops deny
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A woman yesterday claimed that her husband has been traceless since Saturday night, two days after he was taken to Thakurgaon Police Station.

Anju Pervin told a press conference at Thakurgaon Press Club that her husband Akash, 33, and his brother-in-law Hamidur Rahman, 25, went to Thakurgaon town to appear before a court for the hearing of a drugs case on Thursday.

Both of them were detained by police from different places in the town following the hearing, she said.

On Friday, Akash's younger brother Jahedul Islam met with both of them at Thakurgaon Police Station. Jahedul's friends Rafique and Ekramul were with him at the time, she said.

On Saturday, Anju's two children Atik and Alo went to the police station with their uncle Jahedul but couldn't find their father.

Police told them that they didn't know about Akash.

Hamidur informed Jahedul that police took



Traders engage in a spat with members of a government taskforce conducting a drive against chemical warehouses and factories in Old Dhaka yesterday, the third day of a month-long crackdown. The officials have been disconnecting the utility lines of buildings where chemicals are stored illegally.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Drive barred again

Chemical traders confine govt team for 2 hours, vandalise car; operation resumes on police intervention

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

For the second consecutive day, a section of Old Dhaka traders created obstacles to the drive against illegal chemical warehouses yesterday. They even confined the government team conducting

the drive to a house for around two hours and vandalised the car of an executive engineer of Dhaka Power Distribution Company.

However, the operation resumed following police intervention and the utility lines of a building at



Quader battles for life

AL gen secy at BSMMU CCU
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader is fighting for his life at the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University with blockages in three coronary arteries.

"His condition is critical," Prof Syed Ali Ahsan, chairman of cardiology of the hospital, told reporters around 5:45pm yesterday.

The 69-year-old road transport and bridges minister was admitted to the BSMMU around 7:30am after having breathing difficulties at daybreak. He has been kept at the Coronary Care Unit there.

BSMMU Vice Chancellor Prof Kanak Kanti Barua said Quader suffered a heart attack while undergoing treatment at the hospital.

Two specialists from Singapore's Mount Elizabeth Hospital



Bangladesh batsman Soumya Sarkar acknowledges the applause after reaching his maiden Test hundred -- the country's joint-fastest off 94 deliveries -- on the fourth day of the first Test against New Zealand in Hamilton yesterday. Bangladesh went on to lose the match by an innings and 52 runs.

PHOTO: AFP



Radio, TV join struggle for freedom

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As the non-cooperation movement launched by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was on full-swing, the state-run Radio Pakistan in Dhaka started broadcasting as Dhaka Betar Kendra on March 4, 1971.

The state-run Pakistan Television was also renamed as Dhaka Television while both radio

Some fight, but still defeated

SPORTS REPORTER

There was some of the fight, and a high-quality one at that, that supporters would have wanted to see from Bangladesh but it came too late to have any impact on the outcome in the first Test against New Zealand in Hamilton yesterday.

Stand-in skipper Mahmudullah Riyad and Soumya Sarkar hit centuries in a 235-run fifth wicket stand that raised hopes of wiping out the mammoth 481-run deficit, but after the latter's dismissal, the last five wickets fell for just 68 runs as the hosts wrapped up an innings-and-52-run win just after tea on the fourth day.

Bangladesh were all out for a respectable 429 runs in the second innings, but the match was really lost on the first day when, despite a brilliant Tamim Iqbal ton on a flat batting track, the tourists were all out for 234 and then let New Zealand run up their highest Test total of 715 for six over the next two days.

Soumya and Mahmudullah resumed the fourth day with Bangladesh on 174 for four and the stand already worth 48



KHALAF MURDER Condemned killer hanged

UNB, Gazipur

The condemned killer of Saudi embassy official Khalaf Al Ali was hanged at Kashimpur High Security Central Jail in Gazipur last night.

Saiful Islam Mamun was hanged at 10:01pm, said Shajahan Ahmed, jail superintendent.

Later, an ambulance carrying his body started for his village home in Bagerhat, he said.

Earlier, Mamun's relatives met him at the jail, the jail superintendent added.

On October 7 last year, the Supreme Court dismissed a review petition filed against its judgment that upheld Mamun's death penalty in the murder case.

JOURNEY OF EXCELLENCE

Young entrepreneur and eminent businessman Mr. Anisuzzaman Chowdhury has been elected as the Vice-Chairman of Bangladesh Association of Banks (BAB). He is the honourable Chairman of Executive Committee of United Commercial Bank Limited.

This is another triumph in his journey of excellence.

United Commercial Bank Limited