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NEWS BRIEFS

Amnesty to tribals

From Our Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Oct 16: The government today decided to declare a general amnesty to tribal insurgents of the Chittagong Hill Tracts, according to an official source.

The amnesty will come into effect from October 21.

BAU exams suspended

From Our Correspondent

MYMENSINGH, Oct 16 : All residential halls of Agricultural University will remain closed and classes and examinations suspended from October 18 to 30, according to a Syndicate decision today.

Nov 7, Victory Day programme set

An inter-ministerial meeting was held at Bangladesh Secretariat Wednesday with Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury in the chair. The meeting chalked out elaborate programmes to observe the National Revolution and Solidarity Day on November 7 and Victory Day on December 16 throughout the country in a befitting manner, reports UNB.

No progress without participatory democracy, Khaleda tells Commonwealth summit

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing the Commonwealth summit in Harare during the opening ceremony on Wednesday. — AFP photo

Self-reliance vital for political freedom

HARARE, Oct 16: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today underlined the need for achieving self-reliance by each of the Commonwealth member-states for realising the goals of freedom from political oppression, vindicating human rights as well as attaining social and economic emancipation, reports BSS.

The Bangladesh Prime Minister was addressing the opening ceremony of the 11th Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Harare International Conference Centre as one of the five heads of government, specially invited to speak in response to the welcome address of the host President Robert G Mugabe.

The Prime Minister said people's prospect for economic and social progress could not flower without participatory democracy and without improved standard of living and vision for future to sustain democracy.

She said the myth that only "command regimes" could ensure progress had been exploded in Bangladesh as elsewhere. "It is now plain that without popular participation in decision making, without transparency and accountability, the basic values cannot be realised," she added.

Begum Zia said the Commonwealth with its core value to pursue human rights and democracy had an important role to play in promoting these perceptions and processes.

The Prime Minister said the 11th CHOGM was taking place at an important period of continuity and change, she said. "We are now faced with rare opportunity and challenges to make Commonwealth an enduring force for humanity — at a time when mankind was living through the most complex and rapid changes in world affairs". She said "We hope that the spirit that impels this Harare meeting will be translated into meaningful plans of action."

Four other heads of government who addressed in response to the welcome speech include Prime Minister John Major of the United Kingdom, President George Vassiliou of Cyprus, Prime Minister Michael Manley of Jamaica and President Sam Najoma of Namibia, the new member of the Commonwealth.

Earlier on arrival at the venue, Prime Minister Begum Zia was received by President Robert Mugabe and Secretary General, Chief Emeka Anyaoku.

Begum Zia said the Commonwealth priority must reflect an increasing emphasis on promoting "country-specific" economic development.

She stressed increasing attention on policy development through studies in areas like Uruguay Round, lesser reliance on community exports, debt restructuring, financial flows, comparative work in foreign investment policies and negotiation techniques with donors.

The Prime Minister described social aspects of policy improvement as important, especially concentration on those disadvantaged groups who were tended to be bypassed in pursuit of economic growth.

Dwelling on issues of global interdependence, the Prime Minister said long-term perspective was vital to tackle the threats to eco-system and the impact of natural disaster affecting survival of many countries. She mentioned the 'Langkawi Declaration' in 1989 which highlighted the Commonwealth concern on environment and sustainable development. She said: "Much more needs to be done in conservation efforts and participating in international agreement in this respect."

The Bangladesh Prime Minister said the role and status of women was crucial especially for sustainable development and population planning.

Begum Zia said the promotion of multilateralism always remained a fundamental commitment of Bangladesh in its quest for a new world order. She said in South Asia Bangladesh sought to enhance SAARC's socio-economic mandate and to promote confidence-building to reduce tension. "We support all measures to preserve the security of small states to strengthen the financial and institutional base of peace keeping, find new directions for preventive diplomacy and contain and respond to the impact of man-made and natural disasters," she said.

Begum Khaleda Zia said Bangladesh had contributed to peace keeping by sending contingents to police cease-

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Biswas lauds US role in post-cyclone rehabilitation

Admiral Charles R Larson, the Commander-in-Chief of the US Pacific Command, who was on a two-day goodwill visit to Bangladesh called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas Wednesday, reports BSS.

Admiral Larson left Dhaka yesterday afternoon.

Talking to the Admiral President Biswas expressed his thanks to the American government for providing the assistance and cooperation during last April's tidal surge that hit the coastal areas of the country.

Referring to the commendable role played by the US Army under "Operation Sea Angel", he said that they had contributed immensely in the post cyclone relief and reha-

See Page 12 Col. 1

Hasty reforms may be counter-productive, Saifur tells donors

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman has urged donors to consider the social and political cost of hasty reforms in developing nations like Bangladesh, reports UNB.

"We cannot be oblivious of the social and political tensions that the pace and nature of such reforms may generate..." he told the annual meeting of the World Bank and IMF board of governors' meeting in Bangkok Wednesday.

The six-day deliberations of the G Bretton Woods institutions ends today (Thursday).

According to a message received in Dhaka the Finance Minister said the socio-political tensions, if not recognised while formulating and reviewing policy packages, "may destabilise and disrupt the broad political consensus required to stabilise democratic process."

Rahman, who is leading a six-member Bangladesh delegation to the meeting, was ap-

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Frenchman wins Nobel Prize in Physics, Swiss takes Chemistry

STOCKHOLM, Oct 16: A French physicist who devised a theory explaining the behaviour of molecules in many different substances and a Swiss chemist who invented an important analytical instrument were awarded the Noble Prizes in their fields Wednesday, reports AP.

Pierre-Gilles de Gennes of France, 58, won for finding underlying similarities in the behaviour of molecules in wide range of solid materials, from superconductors to the liquid crystals used in calculator and wristwatch displays, the Royal Swedish Academy of

See Page 12 Col. 5

Jyoti Basu visits Tinbigha in Nov to ease tension

BJP, Forward Bloc oppose handing over of corridor

By Moinuddin Naser

West Bengal Chief Minister Jyoti Basu will visit the Tinbigha corridor on November 12 in a bid to ease tensions among the residents of Kuchlibari, protesting the handing over of the corridor to Bangladesh.

Although the central government of India and subsequently the West Bengal government agreed to hand over the Tinbigha corridor to Bangladesh as per an agreement in 1972, about 40,000 residents of Kuchlibari — another enclave on the bank of the river Teesta — are staging demonstrations against the implementation of the agreement.

Kuchlibari is a stronghold of Forward Bloc Leader Komal Guha who, emboldened with the support of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), is now trying to change the decision of the central government and the West Bengal government regarding leasing out of Tinbigha.

Kuchlibari residents are continuously staging demonstrations and even blocking the movement of relief materials to the flood victims of Dahagram and Angorpota enclaves through the Tinbigha corridor.

Kuchlibari residents are demanding a bridge over the corridor so that they can visit Mekhliganj, a part of India, on the other side of the 85-metre-wide corridor.

Following the Indian Supreme Court verdict that the leasing out of Tinbigha to Bangladesh was not against the constitutional provisions of India, there was no legal bar to handing over the corridor which would provide Bangladesh an entrance to Dahagram and Angorpota from the Bangladesh border area of

See Page 12 Col. 6

Explosion at Adamjee : one killed

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Oct 16: One person was killed when a series of explosions in a residence inside the Adamjee Jute Mills premises Wednesday morning.

Yakub Ali (30), a worker in the engineering section of mill No. 3, was seriously injured when the explosions took place in the house at Sumirpara area inside the mills premises at around 11 am. Yakub Ali later succumbed to his injuries.

The house is the residence of Abul Khair Khawza, a worker and labour leader at the mills.

Police suspected that crackers were made and stocked in the house and heat from some source may have caused them to explode.

Dhaka-Aricha road transport workers go on strike

Road link with 36 districts snapped

MANIKGANJ, Oct 16 : Road communications of 36 north, south, and southwestern districts with the capital snapped from 5 pm today as a transport union enforced an abrupt strike, reports UNB.

The Dhaka-Aricha Transport Workers Union called for the strike after a show-cause notice issued by the Dhaka 3rd Labour Court halted the trade union's election, scheduled for October 18.

The strike was called at a rally held at the Gabtali terminal this afternoon.

Leaders of Gabtali bus terminal committee of the union said four ousted labourers had filed a case with the Labour Court as they did not find their names on the voters' list.

They were expelled from the union for anti-organisational activities, the leaders added.

The court issued the show-cause notice on the election committee and the Registrar of Trade Unions on October 14, asking them to explain why the election schedule not be declared illegal.

The Dhaka-Aricha highway is the only passage for thousands of interdistrict buses travelling from Rajshahi and Khulna divisions through the Aricha-Nagarbari and Aricha-Daulatdia ferry routes.

Other vehicles, including trucks, are out of the purview of the strike.

Two killed

MUNSHIGANJ, Oct 16: Two persons died, 16 were injured and another 30 missing when a Munshiganj bound bus from Dhaka plunged into the Dhaleswari river at Muktarpur today while boarding the ferry.

ADB for foreign membership of Dhaka Stock Exchange

The Asian Development Bank has suggested that well-known foreign brokerage and security houses be allowed membership of the Dhaka Stock Exchange to give a fillip to country's depressed stock market, reports UNB.

Such move will also help DSE have 'much-needed' foreign expertise to develop the capital market, said an ADB study on the Bangladesh capital market.

The Asian Bank capital market experts have also recommended that DSE encourage its members to set up joint ventures with the foreign brokerages for the home side's increased capitalization.

Official sources said the study report containing the suggestions for revamping the sluggish DSE was submitted to the government early this month.

The study observed due to existing speculative practice, share price movements tend to be volatile on DSE, resulting in irritational prices and erosion of investors' confidence in the market.

To overcome the problem, ADB has strongly suggested DSE to introduce a new trading rule for temporarily halting trading in the event of an abnormal price fluctuation on any single trading day until the reasons for the price movement is brought to the notice of the public.

To boost members' trading capacity, ADB has prescribed that minimum net capital of a DSE member should be raised as high as Tk 250,000 from the present slab of Tk 25,000.

Trading of shares outside the stock exchange floor should be stopped immediately, ADB pleaded.

Its suggestions also include constitution of a separate and independent Advisory Committee to the DSE Board of Council with increased representations from the private sector.

The bank stressed introduction of new rules regulating the conduct of members, their ethical standard, surveillance procedure with provision of penalty for breaking rules.

Improvement of infrastructural facilities of DSE, including increased computerization of its operations and installation of microphones and electronic call boards, have also been suggested by ADB.

Govt making economy aid-dependent : Hasina

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina Wednesday alleged that the Government was making the country's economy more dependent on others by encouraging imports.

Addressing the CBA leaders of Bangladesh Machine Tools Factory at the Bangabandhu Bhaban she also alleged that profitable industrial units were being denationalised and government steps were discouraging growth of domestic industries. These go against achieving self reliance, she added.

Public sector industries are running at almost half their capacity due to mismanagement and anarchy created by using state power, she also alleged.

The CBA leaders called on her to draw sympathy for their demands. The AL Chief assured her support to their demands.

Hasina accused the government of its failure to take any pro-people step and said it was behaving like the past autocratics. She alleged government's inefficiency in running the administration and said people would not forgive if the hard-earned democracy failed due to its inefficiency.

Her party would always strive to consolidate democracy and protect the working people's rights, she said.

Among others, Amir Hossain Amu, Rahmat Ali MP, Safaruddin Khan, Matiya Chowdhury MP, Abdul Jalil and Ahsanullah Master were present on the occasion.

Serb, Croat Presidents sign truce accord

MOSCOW, Oct 16: Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic and Croatian President Franjo Tudjman signed a three-point memorandum of understanding here today for an immediate ceasefire in the Yugoslav civil war, reports AFP and AP.

The signature followed a face-to-face meeting between the leaders of the two warring Yugoslav republics presided over by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Soviet television said the memorandum provided for a ceasefire. It gave no other details.

Tass news agency said Milosevic and Tudjman had met Gorbachev over dinner and "searched for a compromise to settle the Yugoslav conflict."

They met Wednesday with Russian President Boris Yeltsin in their guest for an end to hostilities in Yugoslavia.

In separate meetings, Yeltsin told the two leaders he "fully approves" a statement issued after the meeting with Gorbachev appealing to the United States, Soviet Union and European Community to help conduct the talks that could lead to " a lasting peace," the Tass news agency reported.

The truce was the ninth since July. None of the earlier truces have stopped the hostilities in Croatia, where a June 25 independence declaration precipitated fighting that has killed more than 1,000 people.

The amicable Moscow meeting of Gorbachev, Milosevic and Tudjman and the surprise statement marked a meaningful step in the international effort to end the war.

It also showed Gorbachev's desire to find a solution to the war that could exacerbate similar ethnic conflicts boiling in the Soviet Union.

Concern has been expressed that the collapse of the Soviet Union could lead to a situation similar to that in Yugoslavia. Gorbachev raised such a warning in July.

"I think President Gorbachev understands this situation much better than others," Milosevic told a news briefing Wednesday. "Based on his experience here in the Soviet Union, he is very well informed on the situation in Yugoslavia," he said.

Milosevic also said that Yeltsin could play an important role in settling the crisis in Yugoslavia. "I am sure Yeltsin can also make a big contribution," he said. "He has a clear grasp of what is going on in Yugoslavia now."

Tudjman had also scheduled a news conference for Wednesday, but cancelled it without explanation.

The Moscow statement said the three leaders agreed on "the necessity to stop all armed conflicts immediately." It did not elaborate, although Tudjman later said no talks could be held without a firm truce.

During the next month "the highest representatives from Serbia and Croatia will being a negotiating process on all questions that are the subject of disputes and disagreements," it said.

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On distribution of Dividend

To facilitate the honourable clients it has been arranged to distribute hand to hand the ICB unit Fund Dividend of 1990-91 financial year from the head office and branches of Investment Corporation of Bangladesh and the Mutual Funds Dividend from the ICB head office only. Investors intending to receive their dividends hand to hand are requested to contact the head office of the corporation and other branches according to the following index with application in plain paper containing Name, Address, Unit Number, Register No./Folio No.. sample signature.

Distribution Index for Unit Certificate Dividend

Registration No.	Date of receiving application	Date of giving Dividend
1—5000	22-10-91	24-10-91
5001-10000	23-10-91	26-10-91
10001-15000	26-10-91	29-10-91
15001-23269	28-10-91	30-10-91

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