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# The Daily Star

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## Bangladesh pursuing implementation of '77 agreement

# India withdrawing water unilaterally from Ganges

India has been withdrawing water from the Ganges unilaterally since the last agreement on sharing of water with Bangladesh expired in May 1988, the Jatiya Sangsad (Parliament) was told (Monday), reports UNB.

Replying to a question from Syed Abul Hossain of Awami League, Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Minister Majid-ul Haq said official-level talks between India and Bangladesh continued for a permanent sharing of the Ganges water between the two countries.

Bangladesh is pursuing for the implementation of minimum terms and conditions as envisaged in the "Ganges Water Agreement, 1977."

The agreement ensured the highest quantum of 58,500 cusecs of water and the minimum 34,500 cusecs to Bangladesh during the dry season. It also included a guarantee clause ensuring 80 per cent flow of water for Bangladesh for 10 days in the dry season.

In a written reply, the Irrigation Minister informed the House that at Present there is no agreement on the sharing of water since the last Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the two countries expired in May 1988.

He said the country's dry season requirement of water from the Ganges is 56,500 cusecs.

The minister said the first agreement between the two countries was signed in November 1977 for five years.

Under the agreement, Bangladesh received 58,500 cusecs of water from the Ganges in the first 10 days of January and 38,500 cusecs during the last 10 days of May.

Prior to the accord, Bangladesh received water ranging from 45,500 to 55,500 cusecs.

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## 75pc of targeted 'aman' to be procured from northern districts

By Moinuddin Naser

The government has estimated procurement of 75 per cent of the targeted 4.25 lakh tons of aman paddy from the northern districts of the country.

This was stated by the Secretary of the Food Ministry when asked about the government procurement of aman paddy this season in the northern region in the context of the food situation prevailing in some parts of the region.

He said that the Agricultural Ministry has been given the responsibility to combat the pest menace in the areas.

The secretary also told this correspondent that if everything went well the government would begin the procurement from mid November.

During a recent visit by this correspondent to the northern districts a cross section of people and political leaders in those areas emphasised the need for taking up some income generating projects including development of mineral resources and setting up of jute and textile mills to provide jobs for the local people.

Former minister Matiar Rahman and president member of the Awami League who hails from Pirganj told this correspondent that the people of this area generally lacked work for five to six months every year during the lean period. This time they need assistance from the government for their survival as there was no alternative arrangement for earning their livelihood, he said.

During this period the people of the area most of whom live from hand to mouth do not have the purchasing capacity. The most urgent thing to be done is the generation of pur-

## Zahir Shah stabbed in Rome

ROME, Nov 4: The former king of Afghanistan, Zahir Shah, was stabbed at his luxury villa here today by a Portuguese man who gained entry by posing as a journalist, police said, reports AFP.

They said the 77-year-old former monarch, who has lived in exile in Rome since 1973, had been taken to the villa San Pietro clinic with at least two stab wounds.

The injuries were not considered life threatening.

According to police, Zahir Shah, who was deposed in July 1973 and abdicated the following month, was stabbed once in the face and once in the stomach.

Police said a Portuguese national was arrested but did not release his name.

They said he had gained entry to the villa.

See Page 12 Col. 3

## Imelda returns home from exile

MANILA, Nov 4: Imelda Marcos returned from exile today to a tumultuous welcome in the country she and her disgraced late husband are accused of plundering and told crowds outside her luxury hotel she would fight poverty, reports Reuter.

"As long as there is one Filipino who is poor, Imelda's work will not be over," she told cheering well wishers waving balloons and placards reading "We love you, Imelda" outside the Philippine Plaza Hotel.

Imelda has booked the imperial suite at a cost of 2,000 dollars a day. Hotel staff said her entourage had occupied all 60 rooms on the 11th floor overlooking Manila Bay.

Marcos, forced into exile with her husband by a 1986 "People's Power" revolt led by now President Corazon Aquino, said she had no political agenda.

"But I will give my heart as the mother of the nation, I am appealing on bended knees for us to be united."

Imelda, 62, arrived from Hawaii by chartered jumbo jet to face charges that she helped steal five billion dollars from the impoverished nation during the Marcoses' 20 years in power.

President Corazon countered an opening gambit from Imelda today by ignoring her arch foe's triumphal return from exile in favour of a ceremony to honour the new women's world chess champion.

Corazon presented the image of business as usual, studiously refusing to be ruffled by the flamboyant arrival of the woman she helped to oust along with dictator Ferdinand Marcos in 1986.

Speaking at the award ceremony for the new women's world chess champion, Xie Jun of Beijing, she said the taxing 30-day chess championship in Manila "proved once more that we are united."

See Page 12 Col. 5

## Unscheduled discussion on jail killing in parliament

By Staff Correspondent

The Jatiya Sangsad (parliament) witnessed a long debate that generated some heat Monday night on the Dhaka Central Jail incident of 3 November, 1975, in which four national leaders — Tajuddin Ahmed, Syed Nazrul Islam, Mansur Ali and Kamruzzaman — were killed.

During the unscheduled discussion on the issue, that lasted nearly an hour and a half, opposition members demanded revival of the Judicial Enquiry Commission on the jail killing and publication of its report.

Treasury bench members said that the proceedings of the Parliament of 1979 and 1986, where the issue was discussed, should be looked into before taking any decision on it. Some members stopped short of opposing it, saying its revival would only create confusion and disunity.

Soon after the question-answer hour, opposition Chief Whip Mohammed Nasim took the floor and thanked the Speaker, the Deputy Leader of the House and other opposition members who termed the jail killing as inhuman and tragic incident during Sunday's sitting of the House.

Awami League MPs were absent in the House that day as they were attending party programmes on 'jail killing day' anniversary.

Mohammed Nasim requested the government to revive the commission and publish the report. "Nation wants to know about the killers," said Nasim.

AL MP Salauddin Yusuf drew

See Page 12 Col. 4

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See Page 12 Col. 5

## Campus terrorism must be curbed, Biswas tells principals

President Abdur Rahman Biswas Monday called upon the educated section and experts to identify the problems, faced by the country and resolve them permanently, reports BSS.

He said blaming others was in fact denying one's own responsibility which could hardly bear any fruitful result.

The President was exchanging views with a 12-member delegation of Bangladesh Principals Council, led by its chairman principal Mahmud Mokarram Hossain, when they

See Page 12 Col. 7

## Nov 7 a day of illegal power capture: Hasina

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina Monday again criticised declaration of November 7 as 'national revolution and solidarity day' saying it was a day of 'illegal capture of power' by the army.

"It was a day of illegal capture of power by a few ambitious army officers. It can be called a day of killing of army men," she said while addressing a memorial meeting on four of her party's top leaders killed on November 3 at the Dhaka Central Jail.

The jail killing ended a brief power struggle and brought Ziaur Rahman in power on November 7 who had declared the day as national revolution and solidarity day.

Hasina said, "this brought no good to the people. Neither the people nor the army were benefitted in the incidents that only deprived the people of their rights and made many women widows."

The people have not yet got back their rights although an

See Page 12 Col. 3

## BSC ship detained in Hong Kong

From Our Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Nov 4: Bangladesh Shipping Corporation (BSC), ship M V Banglar Doot has been detained at Hong Kong port since November 1 for outstanding dues, BSC sources said.

A charterer of Hong Kong has filed a case against the BSC liner claiming some arrears dues. On the other hand, BSC has also filed a counter claim against the charterer. Sources said BSC authorities are trying to release the ship.

Another BSC ship was detained a few weeks ago at a Belgium port two other ships were also detained in Singapore about a month back on similar charges.

## NEWS BRIEFS

**Mustafiz in Colombo**

COLOMBO, Nov 4: Foreign Minister ASM Mustafizur Rahman arrived here today to attend the tenth session of the SAARC council of ministers, reports BSS.

**Cabinet meet**

The regular weekly meeting of the cabinet was held Monday at Bangabhaban with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in the chair, reports BSS.

**DUTA meets today**

By DU Correspondent

Dhaka University Teachers Association (DUTA) has convened a general meeting today (Tuesday) at 10 am to take decision about exempting the examinations from its work stoppage programme that began from November 2.

## IDB chief proposes jt task force

The Islamic Development Bank President Dr Ahmed Mohammad Ali Monday assured total support to Bangladesh in her efforts to raise trade with IDB member countries, reports UNB.

"Trade is a very strong tool of cooperation. I suggest Bangladesh promote trade with other IDB members," Dr Ali told reporters at the airport prior to his departure at the end of a three-day visit to Bangladesh.

Referring to his meeting with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia Monday morning, Dr Ali said that he suggested to form a Bangladesh-IDB joint task force to work out specific programmes to strengthen trade.

A joint mission could also visit the Islamic countries to survey market potentials of Bangladesh merchandise, the IDB chief said.

The Saudi born IDB President arrived Saturday to see the cyclone rehabilitation activities in coastal belt and to sign a five million US dollar assistance agreement with Bangladesh for construction of feeder roads.

Besides meeting with government leaders, Dr Ali visited coastal areas of Cox's Bazar and Chittagong.

IDB provided a grant of five million US dollars for construction of multipurpose cyclone shelters in the cyclone prone coastal areas.

Appraising the post cyclone rehabilitation works, Dr Ali highly appreciated the coastal people for their "determination and spirit" to set things right.

Bangladesh received 743 million US dollars from the IDB till October, of which 26.50 million as grant and the rest soft loan.

Major completed projects with IDB assistance include Zia International Airport, East-West Interconnector and Chittagong Fertilizer Project.

The Bank is also extending funds to some on-going projects including Teesta Barrage, Kurigram Flood Control and Irrigation and Security Paper Mills.

**Calls on PM**

BSS adds: earlier Dr. Ali called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and assured IDB's fullest support and assistance in overall development.

See Page 12 Col. 4

## DUCSU urges Hasina to oust terrorists from Chhatra League

DUCSU leaders Monday urged Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina to oust "branded terrorists" from her student organisation to maintain democratic atmosphere instead of suspending its activity, reports UNB.

In a statement, Dhaka University Central Students' Union VP Amanullah Aman and OS Khairul Kabir Khokon also demanded immediate arrest and trial of the killers of Dr Milon, Mahubub, Mirza Galib, Liton and Mizan.

They called for holding Masters and Honours examinations of Dhaka University which were postponed after the October 27 gunbattle on the campus.

"We believe in multiparty democracy. So, we do not want suspension of student politics... we want purge of the terrorists and effective steps for uprooting terrorism," the statement said.

They alleged by suspending political activities of Chhatra League on the DU campus, the Awami League chief had tried to hide the terrorists.

"Only because the campus activity of Chhatra League, plunged over head and ears in terrorism, became a heavy burden on Sheikh Hasina, she was compelled to suspend it like that of Ershad's Nutan Bangla Chhatra Samaj," the DUCSU leaders said.

They sought cooperation from all concerned including political parties and student groups in restoring peace on the campus.

## ME talks: US-USSR proposal for venue

MADRID, Nov 4: US Secretary of State James Baker said on Sunday the United States and the Soviet Union would present compromise proposals to resolve a dispute over the venue of direct Arab-Israeli peace talks, reports Reuter and AP.

"There have been and there will be obstacles to be overcome, but they have not deterred us up till now," Baker told a news conference.

Baker said the parties to the Middle East conflict had taken a critical step on Sunday by beginning face-to-face negotiations.

"Direct negotiations are the only way in which real peace can be achieved," Baker said.

He singled out for praise the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, who went ahead with their meeting with Israel when it was still far from clear whether the Syrians would join the process.

The Palestinian-Israeli meeting, he said, had been constructive in tone.

Baker said he had no time limit for ironing out the dispute over a permanent venue for the talks.

President Bush on Monday voiced optimism about the progress of Middle East peace talks but cautioned "we have a long way to go and interruptions will probably occur," his spokesman said.

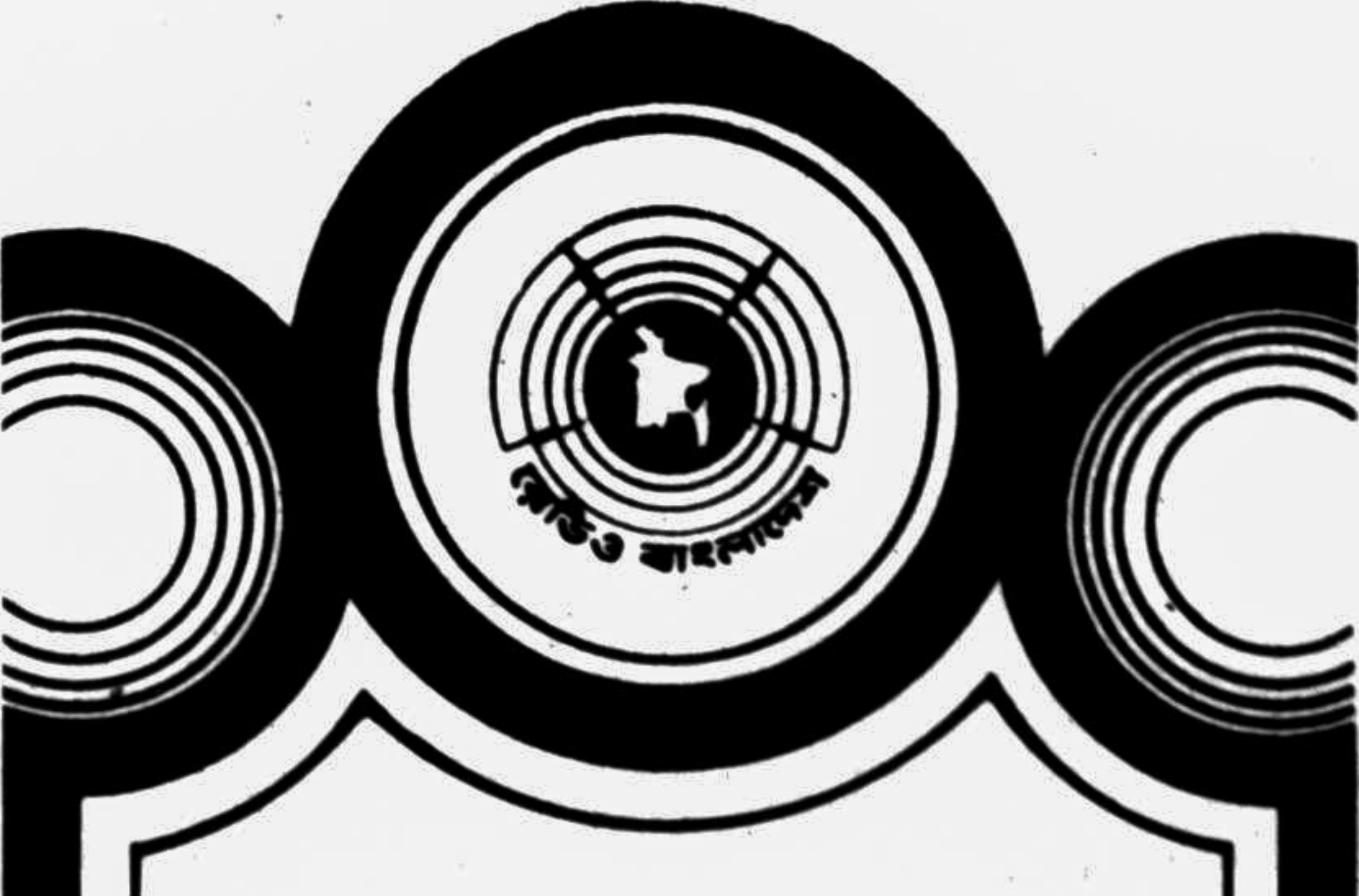
Spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said the President was guardedly upbeat about the talks after meeting on Air Force One with Baker.

Asked why Bush believed interruptions might occur, Fitzwater said: "They want to be prepared for any occurrence and not be overly optimistic. Everybody wants to be realistic in terms of the process and prospects, but also to make sure people don't get discouraged if something like that does happen."

Baker returned from Madrid early Monday. He later joined Bush on Air Force One for a flight to California, where they will attend the dedication of the Reagan presidential library near Los Angeles.

US will help bridge the gaps in Middle East peace discussions if negotiations hit a snag but it is up to the parties to lay their proposals on the table first, Baker said.

"I think one of the responsibilities of the United States and the Soviet Union as co-sponsors and as honest brokers is to be ready to submit bridging proposals when the time comes to do that," Baker said in an interview on NBC



আস্কিক ও গণগত মানের ব্যাপক উন্নয়নের পর সম্রাতি রেডিও বাংলাদেশ রাত ১০টায় ৪৫ মিনিট স্থায়ী বিশেষ সঙ্গীতানুষ্ঠান সম্রাচার শুরু করেছে। এই অনুষ্ঠানে সুনির্বাচিত রবীন্দ্র সঙ্গীত, নজরুল সঙ্গীত, পদ্যবিত্তি, ভক্তিমূলক গান অথবা পুরানো দিনের গান এককভাবে পরিবেশন করা হয়। রাত ১০টায় এই আকর্ষণীয় সঙ্গীতানুষ্ঠান উপভোগ করার জন্য শ্রোতা সাধারণকে আমন্ত্রণ জানানো যাচ্ছে।

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