

Drug quality control facilities inadequate

By Sohel Manzur

A local pharmaceutical company has notified withdrawal of its substandard items from the market after about two years of their expiry dates. But the items were sold out by the retail shops before the notice was served.

Ironically, the Drug Administration completed standardisation test of the items just a few days before the company served the withdrawal notice through newspaper advertisements.

The City Chemical and Pharmaceutical Works Limited served the notice on August 12 through an advertisement addressing its agents and pharmaceutical shops to return its five items as those were declared substandard by the Drug Administration.

The substandard drugs are Citycid Suspension (batch no-871179), Citycid Tablet (batch no-871106), Omnatrium Suspension (batch no-871125), Omnatrium Tablet (batch no-871212) and Penacet Syrup (batch no-871021).

All these items were produced in 1987 and expiry dates of three of them were October '89, one September '89 and the other November '89.

The generic name of the items are Antacid Suspension, Antacid Tablet, Cotrimoxazol Suspension, Cotrimoxazol Tablet and Paracetamol Syrup. However, the salesmen of some of the drug shops in

Dhaka, while asked, told The Daily Star that all those were sold to the customers before the expiry date. They had no stock to return, they said.

The salesmen further alleged that they often receive such notice through the newspapers to withdraw medicines of particular batches, after all those are sold.

Colonel (Rtd) Mukhlisur Rahman, Director of Drug Administration, when asked about the matter, said it taken five to six months for testing a sample of a particular item, collected from the market. In the mean time the medicine is taken by patients without being sure about its quality, he added.

Explaining the situation the Director said, "we have only two laboratories, one in Dhaka and the other in Chittagong, for testing samples." The laboratory in Dhaka belongs to the Institute of Public Health (IPH), he said.

The manpower and physical facilities at the laboratories are inadequate while the number of samples was increasing each year, he pointed out.

He said the number of samples for testing in 1985, 1989 and 1990 were 1187, 2367 and 3555 respectively.

The director, however, said that a project to set up a new laboratory with the assistance of World Bank was included in the next five-year plan.



Awami League held a discussion meeting on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at 32, Dhanmondi Friday. — Star photo

Soviet army resents assault on Communist Party

MOSCOW, Aug 16 : The Soviet Armed Forces issued a strong warning today that the Communist Party was under "open assault" and appealed to party members in the military to close ranks for the defense of the country, reports AFP.

"A very important period in the life of the country has arrived, the army said in an appeal published in the Armed Forces daily Krasnaya Zvezda.

"Anti-communist forces are making an open assault on the Soviet Communist Party by trying to compromise it and to split it. There is also non-stop aggression against the army.

The article said the army opposed any moves toward decentralisation and the formation of individual republican armed units and asserted that the illusion that the country

was in complete security and that the army was not needed was being "imposed on society."

The article, published a day after the party announced it was expelling a former top adviser to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, called on party members in the Armed Forces to strengthen party unity and prevent a split in party ranks.

"Many things depend on us, the communists of the army — the destiny of the country and of the Armed Forces."

Our duty as communists and citizens is to be internationalist patriots and to reaffirm with all of our actions the ideas of Lenin on the defense of the socialist fatherland, the article stated.

It said the Armed Forces

must remain stable and unified and should provide a strong foundation for Gorbachev and the Supreme Soviet to rely on for the defense of the Soviet Union.

The Armed Forces remain the guarantor of the independence of our great power, it said.

The article appeared after a plenum of the army's Party Committee and the army's Party Control Commission held earlier this month.

The army said that party unity within its ranks must be made apparent during the current debate over the Soviet Communist Party programme ahead of a special party congress in the autumn.

"Without any doubt, very difficult ideological battles await us," it added.

Dismay over absence of radio, television programme on Mujib

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Betar-Television Shilpi Sangsad has expressed surprise and dismay at not putting up any special radio and TV programmes on August 15 on the occasion of death anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The Sangsad urged the authorities to free the radio and TV from narrowness and policy of appeasement and to guide these media with democratic values.

In a statement issued Friday, the Sangsad said, after the fall of autocracy through a long movement it was expected that the radio and TV would run as independent and neutral mass media according to the joint declaration of three alliances. The expectation was boosted by the victory of parliamentary democracy through unprecedented consensus and cooperation, the Sangsad added.

Expressing concern, the Sangsad further said that the policy of appeasement of the rulers by the radio and TV has not changed significantly.

"Though Shaheed Ziaur Rahman was rehabilitated in radio and TV, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman still remains exiled," said the Sangsad.

Referring to the press release issued from President's Secretariat Thursday, the statement said that it was understood that a decision for telecasting a discussion programme on Bangabandhu was taken with the permission of the Acting President.

Non-broadcast of Aug 15 programme resented

By Staff Correspondent

A rally organised by Awami League Friday afternoon strongly protested non-broadcast of any special programme on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on his death anniversary.

The speakers at the rally demanded trial of the killers of Bangabandhu and said that this is essential for establishing rule of law.

Held in the premises of the party's central office at Bangabandhu Avenue, the rally was presided over by Lutful Rahman, AL Presidium Member Zillur Rahman, General Secretary Sajeda Chowdhury, Publicity Secretary Md Nasim, Office Secretary Syed Fazlul Haque and other city leaders addressed the rally.

Zillur Rahman said that Bangabandhu's killers would have to face trial someday. Stressing on passage of Indemnity (Repeal) Bill, he said that there would be "serious consequences" if the bill was not passed.

Md Nasim said that those who would not support the Indemnity Bill, would be identified as associates in the killing of Bangabandhu. He pointed out that the ruling party would not be able to function without the opposition.

Begum Sajeda Chowdhury said that it was time to materialise Bangabandhu's dream of the second revolution.

City AL leader Mufazzal Hussain Maya bitterly criticised radio and TV authorities for their failure to put up special programme on August 15, the day Sheikh Mujib was assassinated.

Speakers at a discussion meeting held at Bangabandhu Bhavan Friday evening criticised BNP government for not putting up any special programme on Bangabandhu on his death anniversary.

The Midnight File

Boeing ordered to deactivate thrust reversers

WASHINGTON, Aug 16: The government on Friday ordered all U. S. airlines to deactivate engine thrust reversers on Boeing 767 planes following an investigation into the May crash of an airliner in Thailand. Some experts have said the in-flight deployment of a thrust reverser may have contributed to the May 26 crash of the Lauda Airlines flight. All 223 people aboard the flight were killed in the crash, reports AP.

Pretoria's amnesty for exiles

GENEVA, Aug 16: The South African government agreed with the United Nations today to grant a general amnesty to thousands of political exiles who fled apartheid rule. Reporters watched Douglas Stafford, Deputy United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), initial the agreement with South Africa's ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva, A. Leslie Manley. The UNHCR estimates 40,000 south Africans are in exile, reports Reuter.

Soviet plane in Cape Town

CAPE TOWN, Aug 16: A Soviet Ilyushin-76 heavy transport airplane arrived Friday on a mission to rescue 163 people trapped in the Antarctic. The long-range aircraft, designed to cope with extreme weather and land on short airstrips, will twice fly the 7,000-kilometer (4,200-mile) round-trip from Cape Town to a Soviet Antarctic research base. A ship carrying scientists and crew members became trapped in ice just short of its destination — Molodezhnaya, reports AP.

Hostage crisis solution in two weeks, hopes Perez

LISBORN, Aug 16 : UN

Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar said today he hoped the Middle East hostage crisis could be resolved within two weeks, reports Reuter.

"The negotiations will go on behind the scenes and I am hopeful of a solution within two weeks," the Portuguese news Agency LUSA quoted him as saying on arrival at Faro airport.

Perez de Cuellar told reporters that he would have a holiday with his daughter, who is married to a Portuguese doctor, at her beach villa in Sagres on Portugal's Algarve coast.

He said he planned to stay with her until August 25, but would interrupt his vacation if necessary to deal with any major development over the hostages.

He was greeted on arrival in Faro by Portuguese President Mario Soares and Prime Minister Anibal Cavaco Silva, who are also on holiday in the

Algarve.

Perez de Cuellar told reporters earlier in Switzerland he could not give an assurance that the hostage crisis would be solved quickly, but he was very, very hopeful it would be.

He has been trying to reach an agreement on the release of Arab prisoners in return for the freedom of Western hostages and Israeli servicemen missing in Lebanon.

"All sides are interested in a solution, he said on leaving his hotel in the Swiss town of Lucerne.

"I am referring to the Israelis, I am referring to the captors, I am referring to the Iranian government and to all other governments who are trying to help in the solution of the problem," Perez said.

Bye-elections

From Page 1 Col. 8

BNP tickets from the Chittagong-8 constituency, and former BNP MP Shahjahan is likely to get the BNP ticket at Bholia-2 constituency.

Sources say, Jatya Party considering the nomination of former Prime Minister, Muzanur Rahman Chowdhury and Begum Roushan Ershad from two of the four Rangpur constituencies vacated by former President H M Ershad.

A meeting of the BNP Standing Committee was held at the Sugandha office of Begum Khaleeda Zia last night, reportedly to finalise the nominations for the bye-elections.

A meeting of the Parliamentary Board of Awami League is scheduled to be held at the central office of the party this morning to select nominees of the party.

Bye-elections in 11 parliament constituencies have become due following vacation of four seats each by Prime Minister Begum Khaleeda Zia and former President H M Ershad, one seat each by Awami League MPs Abdur Razzak and Tofael Ahmed, and the death of an AL member Ilyas Ahmed Chowdhury.

DU VC

From Page 1 Col. 7

The DUEAC, however, warned that if the university authorities failed to announce the date of reopening the university on August 19 they would go for a greater action programme.

Vice-Chancellor Prof Moniruzzaman Miah assured the agitating student on August 14 that he would make an announcement on August 19 in this regard.

The DUEAC asked all resident students to gather at the 'Aparajay Bangla' to take part in the 'march towards halls'.

Presidential polls

From Page 1 Col. 7

Mirza Golam Hafiz has his performance in the Parliament, won respect and admiration from not only the rank and file of BNP but also from MPs belonging to other parties. Thus he would be the most acceptable person in the ceremonial post under a parliamentary system.

About the prospect of the candidature of Dr. Badruddoza Chowdhury, BNP insider say, his services might be considered necessary to deal with the opposition in Parliament. During the last session of Parliament Mirza Golam Hafiz appeared to be the most effective in tackling the opposition, but due to his old age it is difficult for him to remain vigilant all the time, they add.

Speaker Abdur Rahman Biswas is not unhappy with his present position. But he may not decline an offer to become a candidate in the presidential election, sources add.

Rajiv

From Page 1 Col. 5

Police escorting the convoy retaliated as the protestors damaged 20 cars and clashed with security officers near the town's airport, PTI reported, adding that 15 officers, and several demonstrators were hurt.

Chidambaram was a close aide of Gandhi who was slain May 21 by suspected Sri Lankan Tamil guerrillas in Tamil Nadu in the midst of elections which later brought his Congress (I) party to power.

Tamil Nadu is governed by the regional All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam party, which has called for protests against Chidambaram for not openly supporting the state's stand on the river water dispute.

CU : Ultimatum

From Page 1 Col. 6

would launch action programme including 'gherao' of the university.

Addressing a press conference at the Press Club here Friday evening CUCSU-VP Nazim Uddin, Monjur Alam Shahin and Anup Khastagir, President and General Secretary respectively of Chhatra League (A-A) and Nazmul Karim Dulal, General Secretary of Chhatra Union said, as the government was not taking any action against the terrorists on the campus, the situation had deteriorated much making it impossible for the university to function normally.

They said APSU was not connected with the recent terrorist activities on the campus.

The five other demands are: arrest of the terrorists responsible for crippling the University administration restoration of academic atmosphere in the campus, arrest those who kidnapped student leaders Sarwar Alam and Alamgir Jallil, arrest and punish the terrorists and outsiders staying in the residential halls, arrest those who attacked the APSU and CUCSU leaders from August 13 to 15 and their expulsion, and compensate those injured during

the August 13 incident.

Meanwhile, leaders of Chittagong University ex-Students' Association, Sir F Rahman Hall Students' Sangsad, university branch Islami Chhatra Shibir and Guardians' Association in separate statements demanded arrest of those who attacked and injured Shibir activists in the halls and on the trains on Wednesday last.

UNB adds: A meeting of proctor and provosts of the Chittagong University today called for active role by the law-enforcing agencies to restore peace and order in the campus.

The meeting held in the campus with Vice-Chancellor Prof Alamgir Mohammad Strajuddin in the chair expressed grave concern over the deadlock in the university.

Islami Chhatra Shibir also called for a two-day strike from tomorrow demanding removal of the Vice-Chancellor and protesting August 13 incident.

Shibir called the strike at a rally held this afternoon at Anderkilla in the city. Shibir Chittagong City Unit President Mostafa Kamal Chowdhury presided. Shibir activists also held a rally in the campus today.

multifarious programmes for the development of the younger population. Bangabandhu wanted to ensure the right to education to all children and wanted to establish a happy society for all, she added.

Sheikh Hasina alleged that the younger generation are not allowed to know the proper history of independence and the War of Liberation. She further alleged that obstacles are being created for the development of children's faculty and that radio and television were propagating false and confusing information.

She accused the government of trying to politicising the state-owned Radio and Television. The consequences of all these "undemocratic actions" will not be good, Sajeda warned.

Yet in another meeting, BSS adds, the AL chief said that the Indemnity Act would have to be repealed in the interest of establishing rule of law, separation of judiciary and giving democracy an institutional shape.

She said by killing Bangabandhu, the hopes and aspiration of the nation were destroyed. Therefore, the killers of Bangabandhu must be tried, she said.

The Awami League chief was speaking at a function, held at Bangabandhu Dhaban to award prizes to the winners of essay competition on the life of the late leader. Amin Smriti Sangsad which organised the competition on the 16th anniversary of the killing of Bangabandhu handed over a souvenir brought out on the occasion, a press release said.

Addressing the children assembled there, Sheikh Hasina said after independence Bangabandhu took up

Law to keep Congress more informed on covert actions

KENNEBUNKPORT (Maine), Aug 16 : President George Bush on Thursday signed into law a bill that requires the White House to keep Congress more closely informed of US covert activities overseas — a move spurred by abuses stemming from the Iran-Contra scandal, reports Reuter.

Bush last year vetoed similar legislation, contained in the funding bill for America's intelligence operation, because he said it had imposed too many restrictions on Presidential authority.

"I am confident that this act will lay to rest disputes that in the past had arisen between some members of Congress and the Executive branch," Bush said in a statement.

16 killed as Tamil Tigers pound Elephant Pass again

COLOMBO, Aug 16 : Government troops and Tamil guerrillas exchanged gunfire today near the Elephant Pass army camp as 16 more were killed in fresh fighting in Sri Lanka's strife-torn areas, military sources here said, reports AFP.

The sources said Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) guerrillas pounded the army's forward defence line in the outskirts of the northern Sri Lanka camp, with rockets and small arms killing a soldier and wounding seven others.

The attack took place today at Iyakachchi, about one kilometre north of the camp. Our men retaliated and we estimate at least 12 Tigers were killed," a military source said.

The rebel attack came a day after a senior military official told reporters that LTTE attacks near the garrison had ceased and that troops were consolidating their positions on the camp's north-eastern and southern perimeters.

The fighting was the first confrontation between the two sides since troops drove out

guerrillas from positions north and south of the base during a major offensive last weekend in which some 250 rebels and 11 soldiers died.

The latest casualties took to 35 the number of soldiers killed in fighting that followed the lifting of a 25-day LTTE siege on the camp August 3.

Total army dead at Elephant Pass has been put at 186, with army officials saying the LTTE has suffered more than 2,000 deaths since July 10, when the guerrillas renewed their attempt to overrun the garrison.

Meanwhile, another soldier was killed when rebels fired at a forward defence line at the Kokkupadayam army camp in northern Mannar overnight Thursday, the military spokesman said.

Separately, security forces ambushed and killed two LTTE guerrillas in eastern Batticaloa, the spokesman said, adding that the rebels had also fired Thursday at the guard points of two mosques in Batticaloa.

The rebels used automatic weapons against points manned by armed policemen

in the Muslim-majority area but the attacks were repulsed, the spokesman said.

There were no casualties among the police and LTTE casualties were not known, the spokesman said.

Colombo provided a police guard at several mosques in the east after suspected LTTE guerrillas massacred more than 200 Muslim worshippers at mosques in Kathankudy and neighbouring Eravur in August 1990.

Muslims, like Tamils, form a separate ethnic minority group in Sri Lanka, whose 17 million population is more than 70 per cent Sinhalese. The LTTE has accused Muslims in the east of siding with security forces.

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