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Inside Today
International



Senator Edward Kennedy pledges to reform his lifestyle
 Page 5

Article

Autonomy for the Electronic Media Column: Passing clouds by Zillur Rahman Siddiqui
 Page 4

Feature

Health
Ginseng: The Root of Life
 Page 8

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



Creations of Kalidas are the image of the crying soul
 More news on Page 8
 Page 3

Business

61,500 women may lose jobs as Rural Maintenance Programme faces closure
 Page 7

Sport

Mohammadans, white wash Pak Wapda 5-0 in Asian Club Cup qualifier
 Page 10

NEWS BRIEFS

Kushtia CBA leaders meet PM

The CBA leaders of Kushtia Sugar Mills met Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her 'Sugandha' office on Saturday night and discussed various issues related to the sugar mill, reports BSS.

AL PP meet today

A meeting of Awami League Parliamentary Party will be held at 3 pm today at the Conference Room of the Leader of the Opposition at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban, an Awami League press release said in Dhaka Saturday, reports BSS.

Transport strike called off

FENI, Oct 26: Road Communication between Chittagong and the capital resumed Saturday as transport workers called off their strike in the afternoon following mediation by the district administration, reports UNB.

Detainee dies in sub-jail

From Our Correspondent
 NARAYANGANJ, Oct 26: A detainee at the sub-jail here died this morning. Meher Ali (38) of village Shimulta under Mymensingh district was arrested under Section 54 eighteen months ago. His body has been sent to the General Hospital where post-mortem will be held tomorrow.

Boycotting AL and its allies may join JS session today

Heated debate on situation in N region, Indemnity Bill likely

By Staff Correspondent

The Awami League and five other smaller opposition parties are expected to join the session of Parliament today by ending their one-day boycott. The session resumes at 4-30 pm.

The atmosphere in the House, however, is likely to continue to be tense since the differences between the government and the opposition are yet to be resolved. A new spell of war of words is expected today when a general discussion on the situation in the northern districts of the country will be held.

MPs belonging to the AL and five other parties had walked out on October 23, protesting Speaker's rejection of an adjournment motion on the famine-like situation in Rangpur. They boycotted the session on the following day.

The five smaller parties are — NAP, CPB, Workers Party, NDP and Ganatantri Party.

Chief Whip of the Opposition however said the ALPP at its meeting at 3 pm at the Sangsad Bhaban would review the situation and take decision on joining the session.

However, the generation of even more heat is expected over the Indemnity Repeal Bill which is now being scrutinized by a Parliamentary Special Committee headed by Law Minister Mirza Golam Hafez.

The Indemnity Repeal Bill initiated by Mohammad Nasim, Chief Whip of the Opposition seeks to undo the Indemnity Ordinance of 1975 to pave the way for trial of the killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and others in the morning of August 15, 1975.

So far two meetings of the Special Committee on Indemnity Repeal Bill has been held. Next meeting of the committee is scheduled for October 29. Reliable sources say, during the second meeting of the committee on October 24 AL MPs submitted a copy of the original Indemnity Ordinance and the report of an inquiry committee on the August 15 incident conducted by Thomas Williams, a British national.

The government and the opposition are yet to reach an agreement as to whether the repeal of the Indemnity Ordinance would also call for an amendment to the Constitution itself, because all martial law proclamations and actions between 1975 and April 1979 have been validated by the Fifth Amendment of the

Constitution.

Neither side would tell anything at the moment about the outcome of the meeting at the Select Committee. But Awami League insiders believe that the government would not do anything for helping pass the Indemnity Repeal Bill if adequate pressure was not mounted on it.

Insiders in the government say they are in a delicate situation, and that they are not quite sure as to what shape the talks at the committee level would take. The BNP is not yet prepared to shoulder the political implications of undoing the Indemnity Repeal Bill.

Opposition Awami League has indicated that it is prepared to go to any length to increase the pressure on the

Further talks on KAFSCO today as differences persist

A cabinet sub-committee entrusted to review the KAFSCO (Karnaphuli Fertilizer Company) joint venture agreement had an inconclusive meeting on Saturday with the company authorities, reports UNB.

The meeting resumes today at the BCIC conference room.

Sources close to the meeting said that they had preliminary discussion mainly on two issues which have rendered the 475-million-dollar project uncertain.

One of the issues concerned letter of guarantee from Bangladesh Government against 228 million dollar foreign credit to the project. "We are ready to give guarantee to the extent of our own shares," said a member of the cabinet sub-committee.

The sources hinted that the government may agree to issue the letter of guarantee provided the foreign shareholders

give a counter guarantee.

But the question of gas price and the mode of payment remained a big problem, the sources said.

"Our gas reserve is not abundant that we can supply at low price. Besides, so much gas cannot be given from Bakhrabad field as stipulated," the sources added.

A 13-member KAFSCO team comprising mostly of Japanese officials attended the meeting. They declined to make any comment on the outcome of Saturday meeting.

Bangladesh is to have 30 per cent shares in the joint venture project being constructed in Chittagong. Japanese investors have 30 per cent shares in the project and the rest goes to Denmark, Netherlands, UK, Italy and Romania.

The Japanese were believed

Biswas discusses BUET situation with teachers

A six-member delegation of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) led by Vice-Chancellor Prof M Shahjahan called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban Saturday, reports BSS.

The delegation members warmly felicitated the President on assuming the office of the presidency.

The Vice-Chancellor also apprised the President of the recent incidents in the BUET created by some outsiders and informed him that a peaceful academic atmosphere was now prevailing in the campus.

The delegation placed before the President some problems faced by them.

President Biswas told the delegation that pragmatic thinking by all could establish peaceful academic life.

He said maintenance of law and order was the prerequisite for development and added that favourable and conducive academic atmosphere was a must for rapid progress.

President Biswas said law should follow its own course



At least 30 families are affected as tornado swept over Maradia on the city outskirts on Friday. The local administration distributed food and money among the victims yesterday. — Star photo

Agitation for food, work in Rangpur

RANGPUR, Oct 26: About 10 thousand "hungry" people staged demonstration today outside the Deputy Commissioner's office demanding work and food, reports UNB.

A combined opposition of Awami League, CPB, Ganatantri Party, JSD (Inu), BSD (Mahbub) and United Communist League (UCL) organised the demonstration.

The demonstrators stayed about two hours from 1 pm, and left the place after the administration had assured them of supplying relief goods.

Earlier, they paraded different roads in a hunger procession chanting slogans in support of their demands.

JCD activists shot at, stabbed by rival group

By DU Correspondent

A Jattiyabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activist was shot at and another stabbed allegedly by fellow activists late Friday night in front of the Suryasen Hall of Dhaka University.

Syed Nure Tazammul Hossain Shahjada, whose left ankle was separated from the body by the gunshots was now under intensive care at the Pangu Hospital. Tarikul Islam Bony, who was beaten up by the butt of rifle, was admitted to a city clinic.

Both were also stabbed severely.

Campus sources said they were dragged out of Suryasen

Save hungry people of N region: Hasina

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, Oct 26: Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina today accused the government of ignoring the condition of the famine-stricken people of the northern districts.

She was addressing a big public meeting at the Shapla square in Kurigram town on the second day of her four-day North Bengal tour. She also addressed wayside meetings at Durgapur, Khanahat and Jorgash under Chilmari upazila and Shetrat, Ulipur, eidgah maidan, Kuniagasha and Rajpur under Lalmonirhat upazila.

She urged the Government to provide work, food and medicines on an emergency basis to save thousands of hungry people of the areas.

Sheikh Hasina alleged that people were dying for want of food but the Prime Minister and her cabinet colleagues were trying to conceal the truth without taking measures to save them.

She also alleged that the government had failed to reach relief for the needy and was

PM's weekly meet-the-people programme

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will meet the members of public every Thursday between 6 pm and 7.30 pm at her Sugandha office, reports BSS.

The people will neither require any passes nor any prior appointments for these meetings. However, they will have to enlist their names with the concerned officials at the gate of Sugandha on the same day between 10 am and 12 noon.

Begum Zia will meet them on first-come first-serve basis.

This will enable the Prime Minister to make person-to-person contact and know about their problems and grievances.

SAARC summit significant for Khaleda

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will attend the Sixth South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Summit to be held in the Sri Lankan capital Colombo, beginning November 7.

New method to increase deep tubewell command area

By Mostafa Kamal Majumder

A new method of water management for deep tubewell (DTW) irrigation, being tested by the Grameen Bank for some time, may help dramatically increase the area covered (command area) by each DTW in the country.

A grameen agricultural foundation, having a pledge for funds from the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) and the Netherlands government, set up at the initiative of the Grameen Bank to carry forward the new method is now awaiting approval of the government.

A DTW with a capacity to lift two cubic feet of water per second (cusec) is supposed to be adequate to help irrigate 80 to 120 acres of land. But about 24,000 DTW in operation in Bangladesh now have a command area of only 25 acres each.

Due to this underutilization of the DTWs the government is incurring huge losses every year. What's more is that the DTWs are also not maintained properly. Each of the DTWs costs about Taka six lakh in loan on an average.

The new methods of DTW management is somewhat a replication of the Grameen Bank's rural credit system under intensive supervision that keeps the repayment rate as high as 98 per cent. For deep tubewell management a new sharecropping system has been evolved by the Bank.

Under the new method the Grameen Bank supplies water, seed, fertilizer and pesticides as a package to farmers within the command area of a DTW in exchange of one-third of the produce. At places where only it can supply water the deal is one-fourth of the produce.

Each DTW is under the supervision of a Bank assistant who organizes the farmers, and on an average eight DTWs are under a unit office of the project which has ten regional offices in Rangpur-Dinajpur and Tangail.

Grameen agriculture project staff collect the Bank's share of the crop from the fields, thresh, dry and store those at store houses. This method has been worked out to ensure that the repayment levels remain high, and is in keeping with the Bank's record on loan recovery.

Started in 1987 with a few DTWs in Tangail the project has been expanded over the last three years, and this year about 600 DTWs are being operated in the Rangpur-Dinajpur, and Tangail regions. The DTWs which lay unutilized

Jute workers plan road barricade to protest disinvestment

By Staff Correspondent

Patkal Sramik Karmachari Sangram Parishad on Saturday protested the government plan to disinvest the jute mills and said that if the mills were operated through the workers co-operatives, they could make profits.

Addressing a press conference at the National Press Club, the Convener of the Parishad, Abul Bashir said that

China for coalition govt in Kabul

ISLAMABAD, Oct 26: Chinese President Yang Shangkun said today Afghanistan could find peace only through a political accord and called for a coalition government in Kabul, reports Reuter.

China supports a five-point United Nations plan under which the warring sides would agree a transitional government, end 13 years of hostilities and hold elections, he told a state banquet in Pakistan.

"It is the consistent position of the Chinese government that the various political forces should, through friendly consultations, form a broadly-based coalition government."

Yang said on the first day of a five-day state visit to Pakistan.

China has long backed Pakistan in supporting Afghan guerrilla forces in their fight to topple the Soviet-backed government in Kabul.

Efforts to find a peaceful settlement to the conflict have grown in recent weeks, with the Soviet Union and the United States agreeing to stop arming their protégés by January 1 and the UN working for a dialogue between all parties.

Pakistan President Ghulam Ishaq Khan called Afghan developments encouraging but said the weeks until the arms cutoff should be used to broker an interim administration.

Ishaq Khan reflected Pakistani and Chinese concerns about the United States' vision of a new world order by saying that real progress could only be made by all states abiding by the United Nations Charter.

"It would, indeed, be tragic if the end of the Cold War witnesses the birth of another era of international tension on account of hegemonic ambitions or intransigence of major regional powers," he said in an apparent reference to Pakistan's traditional foe India.

China and Pakistan have long had close ties, but defence cooperation has grown since US economic and mili-

tary aid was halted a year ago because of concerns that Islamabad had stepped up efforts to make nuclear weapons. Pakistan denies it is trying to become a nuclear power.

The two countries are jointly developing a main battle tank in Pakistan, and China earlier this year supplied M-11 surface-to-surface missiles despite protests from Washington.

Before leaving Beijing, Yang told Pakistan's official APP news agency that China supported a Pakistani proposal for the United States, China and the Soviet Union to join Pakistan and India in trying to make South Asia nuclear free.

বেসিকের নবম শাখা

আজ ২৭শে অক্টোবর রবিবার গুলবন্দন মার্কেট (২য় তলা), মৌলভী বাজার, ঢাকায় শুরু হচ্ছে বেসিকের ৯ম শাখার কার্যক্রম।

পপপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকারের মাননীয় শিল্প মন্ত্রী জনাব শামসুল ইসলাম ধান অনুষ্ঠানে প্রধান অতিথি হিসেবে উপস্থিত থেকে শাখা উদ্বোধন করতে সদয় সম্মতি প্রদান করবেন।

ব্যাংক অব স্মল ইন্ডাস্ট্রিজ এন্ড কমার্স বাংলাদেশ লিমিটেড

বাংলাদেশ সরকারের সাথে ঐক্য উন্মোচনে প্রতিষ্ঠিত একটি ব্যাংক

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