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Inside Today

Article

Pakistan Misses Chance on Kashmir

Column: Between The
Lines

by Kuldip Nayar
Page 4

International



Thai Democratic Party leader talking to report- ers after Sunday's polls

Fresh fighting in Bos-
nia puts Geneva peace
talks at stake
Page 5

Business

Garments export to
Bonn fetches Taka 2.92
crore
Page 7

Feature

Health
A disease with incon-
ceivable impacts
Page 8

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



The Lure of the Snake
Charmers
Page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

Cement dealer's shop looted

By Staff Correspondent
 A cement dealer's shop at Demra was robbed of Taka 1,60,000 in cash Tuesday noon. About seven armed youths stormed into the United Brothers, a cement dealer's shop at Chadda under Demra Police Station in the city at around 12:15 pm yesterday and tied up all the workers there. The armed men snatched the key of the cash box at gun-point and decamped with Taka 1,60,000 immediately.

BCS (Education) cultural body

A five-member cultural committee of the BCS (Education) cadre foundation course trainees was formed at a meeting in Dhaka yesterday. AKM Nazrul Islam was made Secretary while Md Paizur Ali, Afroza Nargis, Ranjket Kumar Das and Atika Bannu members of the committee, reports UNB.

CU exam schedule

CHITTAGONG, Sept 15: The terminal examination of M A Final Year students of the Department of Philosophy, Chittagong University of 1989 will be held on September 28. M A preliminary examination of Philosophy for 1990 will be held on October 4 next, reports BSS.

UNB, ROMPRES sign accord

United News of Bangladesh (UNB) and Rumanian National News Agency (ROMPRES) have signed an agreement on cooperation and exchange of news between the two agencies. Director General of ROMPRES Neagu Udrio and UNB Managing Director & Chief Editor Enayeturrahman Khan signed the agreement on behalf of their respective organisations, reports UNB.

UN General Assembly session opens

EC nations move to deny Y'slav membership

UNITED NATIONS, Sept 15: European nations moved quickly on Tuesday to deny Serb-dominated Yugoslavia voting rights in the new General Assembly session as punishment for its military campaign in Bosnia-Herzegovina, reports AP.

The European Community nations, led by Britain, met Tuesday morning with Security Council members of the Non-Aligned Movement to discuss a council resolution denying the new Yugoslavia's right to participate in UN affairs, including the new 47th General Assembly, which opens Tuesday afternoon.

The move by the Europeans would make Yugoslavia—which now consists only of Serbia and Montenegro—an international pariah, in a class with South Africa, which also has had its voting rights suspended since

MOSCOW, Sept 15: Russia said on Tuesday it opposed excluding the Serb-dominated rump state of Yugoslavia from the United Nations, setting up a possible diplomatic confrontation with the West, reports Reuters.

1974 because of its apartheid policies.

The Security Council, after consultations among its members, could begin considering the Europeans' draft resolution later this week, said a senior

council diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity.

A member of the Non-Aligned Movement said privately that the whole council may begin consultations as soon as Thursday. The non-

aligned members on the council include Cape Verde, Ecuador, India, Morocco, Venezuela and Zimbabwe.

Yugoslav Premier Milan Panic, who is in Beijing seeking Chinese support for a

three-to-six month postponement of the suspension, said Monday that Chinese leaders told him they would not veto any UN decision to suspend Yugoslavia.

Muslim countries grouped together in the Organization of the Islamic Conference are also seeking the suspension of Yugoslavia for its attacks on Muslim-ruled Bosnia.

The British ambassador, Sir David Hannay, is expected to try to soothe the Muslim countries by assuring them that the council will deal swiftly with the Yugoslav membership question.

See Page 12 Col 5



Bangladesh Girls' Guide Association brought out a procession in the city in observance of International Peace Day yesterday.

— Star photo

Taka 13.25 cr Biman ticket money yet to be realised

By Nazmul Ashraf

The national flag-carrier Biman is yet to realise Tk 13.25 crore in outstanding dues on tickets issued on credit to a wide range of its institutional customers. Airline sources said.

This total debt includes a huge airfare bill of Taka 3.1 crore owed by the government on tickets purchased for the frequent foreign travels of former President Lt Gen Hussain Muhammad Ershad and his wife Raushan Ershad, the sources added.

According to Biman's accounts records, Taka 5.94 crore is currently owed by various government ministries and departments, foreign missions, aid agencies and others, of which, Taka 4.73 crore by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs alone.

The entire 5.94 crore taka debt has been on tickets purchased since the present government took office last year, the sources informed The Daily Star.

Of the total amount in credits, Biman is owed Taka 4.21 crores from its approved travel agencies. Of them Messers Aeroline's lone debt is Tk 1.27 crore.

According to Biman sources, the national airlines has, meantime, filed cases against 14 approved travel agencies defaulting in payments worth Tk 1.21 crore.

Filing of the cases followed Biman's recent decision to suspend selling tickets on credit from July 1 to clients, except the government, sources said, adding that Biman was yet to take legal action against the defaulting clients listed in a recently-prepared customer ledger.

Following Biman's drive to realise its dues, Taka three crore was collected from the Prime Minister Secretariat in July, source said adding that Biman was yet to realise the fare for the Prime Minister's recent state visit to Jakarta, Bahrain, New Delhi, New York and Pakistan.

A meeting of the Biman Board of Directors Sunday directed the concerned authorities to prepare the air-fare bills on these visits, said an official.

The meeting after reviewing the latest situation on the clients debts to Biman also decided to gear up steps to realise the dues and continue

the cases against 14 approved travel agencies, he added.

Biman's customer ledger listing 66 clients belonging to the government ministries and departments, foreign missions, aid agencies and travel agents shows that the Foreign Ministry is followed by the Prime Minister Secretariat — Tk 9.08 lakh, Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) — Tk 6.61 lakh, Planning Ministry — Tk 4.45 lakh, Bangladesh Table Tennis Federation — Tk 2.21 lakh, CARE International, Bangladesh — Tk 2.19 lakh, Finance Ministry — Tk 1.43 lakh, Bangladesh Cricket Control Board — Tk 1.27 lakh and President's Secretariat — Tk 1.03 lakh.

The ledger prepared last month (August) shows that Biman owes only Taka 1500 to the World Bank office in Dhaka and that the lowest amount of Taka 50 only is owed to Biman by the Royal Danish Embassy in Dhaka.

Other clients in the debt list included USAID, Australian

See Page 12 Col 6

International Peace Day observed

The International Day of Peace, coinciding with the opening of the United Nations General Assembly, was observed in Bangladesh yesterday as elsewhere in the world with a call to secure a world free from tensions and instability, reports BSS.

The United Nations Association of Bangladesh (UNAB) organised a seminar in the connection at the United Nations Information Centre where Foreign Secretary Reaz Rahman was the chief guest and acting Resident Representative of the UNDP Winston Temple was the guest speaker.

Professor Innas Ali, President of the UNAB, presided over the function while the speakers were Prof. Salauddin Ahmed, Dr. Nilima Ibrahim and Syed Ahmed Hossain, General Secretary of the UNAB.

Explaining the significance of the day, the Foreign Secretary said the opening of the UN General Assembly every year since 1981 is being observed as the International Day for Peace to highlight the need for peace and stability in a world ridden with many a problem.

He touched upon the positive developments like the end

See Page 12 Col 4

Hartal for TV station in Rajshahi

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Sept 15: People of Rajshahi metropolitan city demanding a full-fledged television station here and protesting the shifting of different divisional offices elsewhere began a 24-hour strike this morning.

The strongly enforced strike, called by the Rajshahi unit of the Sammilito Sangskritik Jote, began at 6 am today paralysing normal life in the city.

The strike will end today (Wednesday) at 6 am.

The hartal called by the Jote was supported by 27 organisations in the city.

Different political, social

and cultural organisations also extended their support to the strike.

Nothing, that runs on wheels barring ambulances and newspaper vehicles moved in the city during the strike hours while the university, schools, colleges and other educational institutions remained closed.

Government and private offices, banks and other commercial and business houses did not operate.

Shops, bazars and markets except drug stores remained shuttered.

Witnesses said that motley

See Page 12 Col 6

'Give us 48 hrs to show alternatives'

No need for new law to combat terrorism : Kamal

By Staff Correspondent

Dr Kamal Hossain, who chaired the committee that framed the Bangladesh Constitution in 1972, yesterday launched a campaign against the proposed ordinance to curb "special types of offences," terming it a black law.

"It is a shameful act... I find no language to condemn it," Dr Hossain told the audience at a reception to honour members of the Haripur Petroleum Agreement Public Enquiry Commission yesterday. He had headed the commission.

The Bangladesh Jute Union that pioneered the formation of the commission in 1989

hosted the reception at Rendezvous Sundaram, a new restaurant in the city.

"There is no need of a new law... there are enough laws to combat terrorism and any kind of offences."

"Terrorism does not flourish because there is a dearth of law... nor because there are flaws in the existing laws... rather application of laws that matters," the eminent legal expert said calling upon the President to do away with the move.

"Mr Biswas, we believe you will send it back to the Cabinet," he said.

See Page 12 Col 1

Road Transport Workers Fed on verge of split

By Staff Correspondent

The Bangladesh Road Transport Workers Federation is on the verge of a split.

Two rival groups in the federation have called separate meetings in the first week of next month, a reliable federation source said Tuesday.

One group led by executive president Manjurul Ahsan Khan has convened a "special conference" of the federation October 3 at the Engineers' Institution while the other group led by general secretary Abdur Rashid holds an executive committee meeting at the JSD (Inu) office on the same day, the source added.

The present situation comes in the aftermath of the transport strike called last June by one group but opposed by the other.

The Khan group held a requisition meeting Tuesday at the Shahjahanpur Railway Community Centre with one-third of the 201-member executive committee and suspended Rashid temporarily for "tarnishing the image of the federation."

He was also asked to show cause why he would not be expelled from the federation.

Rashid was unavailable for comment.

The Khan group has consolidated its position in the fed-

eration and shifted the office unilaterally from Nayabazar to Toynbee Circular Road.

The former office was however occupied by the rival group, the source added.

Khan was reportedly to start a nationwide tour from Thursday to garner support from more than 150 unions, members of the federation.

The executive committee members of the unions and the federation executives will be the voters during the conference.

None of the executives of the rival groups was available for comment on Tuesday night but a source belonging to the Khan group told The Daily Star that Rashid may form separate committee with Belayet Hossain, once expelled from the Bangladesh Biplobi Sarak Paribahan Federation.

The Biplobi Federation later merged with the Bangladesh Road Transport Workers Federation.

Another source said that a new federation may be formed during the conference with the Truck Workers Unions, in the country.

The truck unions, now part of the federation, feel that their interests are not protected by the Federation as it is dominated by bus workers.

PM assures help to bring out Barta afresh

The members of the Trustee Board of the now defunct Dainik Barta of Rajshahi met Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her office Tuesday, reports BSS.

They had discussions relating to the resumption of publication of the daily with the Prime Minister.

Led by chairman of the board Emran Ali Sarker, the board members told the Prime Minister that the publication of the paper Dainik Barta would resume soon.

Prime Minister Begum Zia assured them that she would give her all out co-operation in bringing out the daily afresh.

Founded by shaheed President Ziaur Rahman, Barta, the only daily in north Bengal, was closed down by the autocratic Ershad government throwing the journalists and employees out of employment.

See Page 12 Col 3

ALWC reviews amendments to party constitution today

By Staff Correspondent

The Central Working Committee of Awami League (AL) yesterday discussed the proposed amendments to the party manifesto, and reviewed the preparations for the party's council sessions to be held on 19 and 20 this month.

The AL Working Committee meeting also took up the proposed amendments to the party's constitution.

Presided over by the party chief Sheikh Hasina, the meeting began at 4 pm yesterday and was adjourned at 10.30 last night to resume at 4 this afternoon.

The ALWC meeting last night almost finalised review-

See Page 12 Col 4

Locals continue protest against new Rohingya camp

By Staff Correspondent

The protests against Rohingya refugees encamped in Cox's Bazar-Ukhia-Teknaf region continued for the fourth straight day on Tuesday with the local people firm against a plan to build a new camp at Jumnapara, sources reached by telephone said.

On Tuesday, about 15,000 people turned up at Ukhia Court Bazar bus station for a rally organised by Rohingya Repatriation Action Committee (RRAC), which is spearheading the movement to send the 265,000 refugees back home in Myanmar (Burma).

The demonstrators shouted

See Page 12 Col 7

Women urged to fight anti-liberation elements

By Staff Correspondent

Ghatak-Dalal Nirmul Committee chief Jahanara Imam yesterday urged the women of the country to stand by their male counterpart against the anti-liberation forces to realise all democratic rights.

She was speaking as the chief guest at a women's rally in front of the National Press Club yesterday (Tuesday). The rally was attended among others, by Sufia Kamal as special guest, Laila Siddiqui, Lt Col (Retd) Kazi Nuruzzaman, Rabeya Siraj, Hazera Sultana, Kabori Sarwar and others while it was presided over by

See Page 12 Col 3

Ilias Ali's bail prayer rejected

A bail petition of Ilias Ali, former General Secretary of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, was Tuesday rejected by the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, reports UNB.

Now in the central jail Ilias was picked up Thursday from his Shamoli residence and charged with two murders in the campus on September 4.

Upon a separate petition on behalf of the accused, the court issued show cause notice

See Page 12 Col 3

Penal Code of 1861 obsolete : Hafiz

Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Mirza Golam Hafiz yesterday underlined the urgency of enacting appropriate law to deal with modern-day criminal and terrorist activities, reports BSS.

The Penal Code of 1861 has become obsolete to deal with the terrorist activities we are now faced with," the Law Minister told a function of college students of Dr Malika Science Institute in Dhaka.

Hafiz said the members of law enforcing agencies carrying conventional weapons like Three not Three are no match to tackle the terrorist elements equipped with light, but sophisticated weaponry. The law has to be overhauled to meet the need of the hour, he added.

The Law Minister was the chief guest at the tenth founding anniversary of the in-

stitute held at its premises at Dhanmandi. Dr Malika al-Razi founder Principal of the institute and Dr Innas Ali, Chairman of the college governing body also spoke on the occasion.

Earlier the minister gave away prizes among the meritorious students of the college.

The Minister said mere enactment of law will not free the society of terrorist and criminal elements. All concerned including the opposition parties would have to come forward and extend co-operation to clean the society and wipe out these anti-social elements once for all, he added. He informed that the new law will be enacted soon.

Stressing the imperative need for peaceful and disciplined atmosphere in all fields of national life, Mirza Hafiz

said, the future of democracy, the continuity of the state and its stability cannot be thought of without peace in the society. The rule of law has to be established in each and every area—be it educational, trade or industrial.

The Law Minister said, unless educational arena is free from terrorism, the future of democracy and the country are bleak. He said, we must all act together before it is too late. Since the task is big and a bit complicated, the government alone cannot solve it, he said and sought support and co-operation of all in this regard.

Describing the terrorists as the "enemies of the country and its progress," the Law Minister said these elements themselves make a separate class. He said unless these elements are rooted out, the in-

dependence and sovereignty of the country would remain at stake.

Referring to government's policy on education, the Law Minister said besides making highest financial allocation, the government under Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has taken concrete steps to encourage women and adult education.

In his presidential address, Dr Innas Ali underlined the importance of making education "purposeful." The education must be aimed at acquiring skill and professional competence, he said.

Speaking about the spread of terrorism, the renowned scientist said an educated unemployed is the breeding ground of terrorist activities. After failing to find jobs, the youths acquiring highest degree turn terrorists, he added.