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 VOL. II NO. 254 REGD. NO. DA 781

The Daily Star

ASWIN 23, 1399 BS, DHAKA THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1992 RAB-UI-SANI 10 1413 HIJRI

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12 PAGES: PRICE TAKA 4.00

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NEWS BRIEFS

Housewife robbed of ornaments
 One housewife at Uttara model town was robbed of her gold ornaments, weighing about four and a half tola, near her residence last evening, family sources said. They said that Mumu Jhan Ahmed, a resident of Sector seven in Uttara while she was in her evening stroll near her house at around 7 pm a group of four young men suddenly blocked her way and snatched away her gold ornaments by brandishing knives, reports BSS.

Cancer Society thanks Khaleida
 American Cancer Society has congratulated Prime Minister Begum Khaleida Zia for declaring her office a no-smoking zone. In a letter to the Prime Minister on Monday, Chairman of the Board of the Society Stanley Shmishkiss expressed his happiness on her stance on the vital public health issue and assured of its support in her government's anti-smoking efforts, reports UNB.

4 die of diarrhoea in Rangpur
 RANGPUR, Oct 7: Diarrhoea claimed the lives of 4 children and attacked about 100 others at Mourasha of Gangachara thana of the district during the last two days. The victims were identified as Muzarrur (4), Ajit (3), Rokhana (2) and Momena Khatun (6), reports UNB.

We don't want flattery in newspapers: PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleida Zia yesterday underscored the need for honest and responsible journalism to uphold democratic values, reports UNB.

"Newspapers should be the mouth piece of truth and powerful voice of the people. There is no scope of compromise in this regard for the sake of democracy", she said.

Begum Zia was inaugurating a three-day seminar on the "Development of Newspapers and Journalism" organised by Bangladesh Press Council at a local hotel yesterday morning.

The Prime Minister said the newspapers have to be reliable, neutral and unbiased to maintain their credibility which she termed as the main capital of a newspaper.

"A newspaper may have its own stand on different issues, but rational and public interest has to be above all", she pointed out.

Termining the coming century as a century of democracy and development, Begum Zia said the politicians and journalists have equal and parallel responsibility to consolidate democracy. "We don't want flattery, we expect constructive criticism".

She called for creating national unity to consolidate democracy and accelerate the national development.

Describing newspapers as the mirror of the society, Begum Zia said the press is free like the society which reflects the democratic environment prevailing in the country.

"Newspapers no more run under a democratic system the

PM to review newsprint price hike problems

Prime Minister Begum Khaleida Zia said here yesterday that objective, responsible and constructive journalism was imperative for giving democracy an institutional shape, reports BSS.

"Newspapers and democracy are complementary to each other," Begum Zia said while exchanging views with Editors of the national and regional dailies and news agency at the International Conference Centre (ICC).

The Prime Minister said under a democratic system the

BDR foils attempt to push in 575 more

By Staff Correspondent:

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) foiled attempts of Indian Border Security Force (BSF) to push 575 people into Bangladesh through the border areas in Jessore and Satkhira district Wednesday.

According to reports reaching Dhaka last night, the situation in the border areas of Jessore, Satkhira and Jheridaha were tense as BSF had brought a large number of people across the border for pushing them into Bangladesh.

Our Satkhira correspondent reports: BSIF pushed 340 persons into Bangladesh through Bhadiat border of Satkhira district, but BDR sent them back.

According to witnesses, Bangla speaking Indian citizens were pushed into Bangladesh territory in different batches during Tuesday night and in the early hours of Wednesday. Later, BDR pushed back all these 340 persons to India. According to sources, Indian authorities brought

Muggers kill tannery worker at Hajaribagh

By Staff Correspondent

Muggers killed a tannery worker and snatched two wrist watches at Hajaribagh in the capital early Wednesday morning.

While snatching wrist watches from two workers Lokman and Khaleque of Laxco Tannery Limited, muggers stabbed Lokman, a machine operator, to death at Hajaribagh when they were returning home after night duty at around 5 am Wednesday.

As soon as the death news spread, hundreds of tannery



Prime Minister Begum Khaleida Zia inaugurating the seminar on 'Newspaper and Development of Journalism' organised by Bangladesh Press Council at Hotel Sonargaon yesterday. — PID photo

'Effective editorial institution essential'

By Staff Correspondent

Editorial institutions should be made more effective and the newspaper staff trained to raise the standard of journalism.

These observations came at a seminar on 'Raising the professional standard of newspapers and journalism,' organised by the Press Council of Bangladesh at the National Press Club Wednesday.

The time had arrived to decide whether the nation's newspapers would be headed by professional journalists or non-professional editors.

AL alternative to govt, says Hasina

Sheikh Hasina yesterday declared Awami League as alternative to the government which, she said, failed to run the country, reports UNB.

But the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament alleged that certain quarters were engaged in hatching conspiracy against her party in the wake of ruling BNP's failure.

Addressing a meeting of the subject committee and councillors of the AL city committee at the party central office, the Awami League President asked her workers to remain alert for frustrating any more of the 'conspirators' in future.

Hasina recalled the repression her party leaders and workers suffered during the anti-autocracy movement and said other parties 'could not do what Awami League had done for the nation.'

"Although many became champions of the movement in black and white, came to power through subtle rigging in the election following the blueprint of Ershad, people's cherished victory was not achieved, people's aspiration not fulfilled."

The opposition leader said since return to power two years back, the BNP government

Riots kill 10 in Bihar

SITAMARHI (Bihar), Oct 7: Indefinite curfew was imposed and shoot-at-sight order issued after riots broke out in and around Sitamarhi last night, official sources said today, reports PTI.

Unconfirmed reports put the toll in the riots at ten — six in the town and rest at Riga, ten km away, though official confirmation was not available till 2:00 hours.

The district magistrate, Chandra Gupta Ashok Vardhan, told PTI that over hundred rounds of fire were opened by the security men to quell rioting mobs who torched over 50 shops and hurled bombs and brickbats.

Unconfirmed reports said that at least 50 people including policemen were injured in these incidents.

Judicial probe body report

Logang incident a backlash to avenge murder of Bangalee boy

The judicial inquiry commission report on the Logang incident has said 13 people were killed and 13 others injured on April 10 as "result of the planned objective of the insurgents", reports UNB.

The report of the one-man commission headed by Justice Sultan Hossain Khan was published yesterday. The commission was set up by the government in the wake of widespread allegation of plunder and killing of hundreds of people in village Logang of Khagrachhari district.

The incident was a backlash and act of revenge on the part of Bangalees to avenge the murder of a Bangalee boy by the Shantibahini, the report said.

The report of the "Logang Disturbances Enquiry Commission 1992" was based on interviews with 101 people including the affected ones, tribal and non-tribal leaders and members of Ansars, VDP, BDR and army officers deployed in the locality to combat insurgency.

It said Shanti Bahini attacked Bangalee boys in a field near Logang Bazar in Panchhari thana of Khagrachhari district, killing one of them and maiming two. The Bangalees retaliated attacking a Chakma village, burning about 550 huts of the tribals and killing 12 tribals.

The report said after the killing of Bangalee boy Shabir Hossain another group of insurgents came to the clustered village and fired from their positions. It is apparent that out of tension and panic resulting

Kuwait's cabinet resigns

KUWAIT, Oct 7: Kuwait's Prime Minister, Nasser Al-Sabah, accepted the resignation of the Prime Minister and the cabinet today, a copy of the Emir's decree obtained by Reuters said.

The resignation comes two days after Kuwait's first poll in six years for a fully-elected parliament.

The resignation of Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al-Abdulla Al-Sabah, the President of the Council of Ministers, and the Ministers is to be accepted, the decree said.

Each of them continues to attend to the urgent matters

AL Dhaka City unit

Sheikh Hasina yesterday made Mohammad Hanif Chowdhury Maya General Secretary of the city committee of Awami League, reports UNB.

Hasina announced the names of 16 out of 19 office-bearers of the 55-member working committee of her party's Dhaka City unit at its extended meeting at the central office in the afternoon.

Other office-bearers and members of the body will be named afterwards.

The declared office-bearers are: President: Mohammad Hanif Chowdhury; Vice-Presidents: Reazuddin Ahmed, M A Aziz, Awal Siddiqui, Fazlur Rahman Pantomus, Munir Hossain Khan, Ayesha Akhter and Alhaj Golam Kibria, General Secretary: Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, Joint-Secretaries: Akhtarul Alam and Advocate Qamrul Islam, Organising Secretary: Faizuddin Mia, Publicity Secretary: Mahmudunnabi, Labour and Manpower Secretary: Lutfor Rahman, Education and Cultural Secretary: Kamal Chowdhury, Relief and Social Welfare Secretary: Abdus Salam, Law Secretary: Advocate Mahub Alam, Women's Affairs Secretary: Begum Nasibun Ahmed, Treasurer: Nazibul Huq Sarder.

The city AL council held on September 18 authorised Hasina to constitute the new committee.

Abul Ehsan dead

Abul Ehsan, former civil servant-diplomat, died of a heart attack at the Shurawardy Hospital yesterday afternoon. He was 85, reports BSS.

He left behind one daughter and two sons. His wife died earlier.

The Namaz-e-Janaza of Abul Ehsan will be held after return of his one son and daughter who are leaving abroad. His body will be kept at 'BIRDEM' till then.

Abul Ehsan belonged to the first batch of the civil service of Pakistan in 1949.

He had served as Deputy Commissioner, Khulna, Divisional Commissioner, Khulna and Rajshahi Division, also held the position of Additional Chief

Serbs capture Bosnian city

SARAJEVO, Oct 7: Serbian forces who captured the strategic town of Bosanski Brod after hand-to-hand combat blew up a bridge across the Sava River Wednesday, destroying the last land link between Croatia and northern Bosnia, reports AP.

The unexpected capture of Bosanski Brod late Tuesday was a major victory for the Serbs. Control of the northern Bosnian town broadens a vital land corridor linking Serbia and Croatia with Serbian enclaves in western Bosnia and Croatia.

Sarajevo, meanwhile, experienced a fierce upsurge in fighting. The city's radio termed it "one of the most hellish mornings since the beginning of the war."

Before the Serbs destroyed the bridge linking Bosanski Brod with the Croatian town of Salavonski Brod early Wednesday, at least 5,000 refugees and Muslim-Croat forces used it to flee the Serbs' advance.

The bridge was cut in two near Slavonski Brod on the Croatian bank, but much of it still stands, said an AP photographer from the scene.

A spokesman for the Croatian army headquarters in Zagreb told The Associated Press Wednesday that Croat-Muslim defenders, under constant air and artillery attack for six days, were withdrawn to save human lives.

"We had to pull out the people from Bosanski Brod. That was imperative," said the official, who insisted on anonymity.

Slavonski Brod teamed Wednesday with Bosnian troops, including infantry and tank units. Some soldiers were withdrawn Tuesday night by a small ferry from a village just west of Bosanski Brod.

(Related story on Page 5)

Energy and Mineral Resources Ministry to be bifurcated into two divisions

The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources is going to be bifurcated into two separate divisions, reports UNB.

The two divisions will be named Power Division and Mineral Resources Division under a proposal awaiting approval of the cabinet.

Power Division will exclusively deal with electricity and the other with mineral resources, including oil and gas. The divisions will be under the charge of two full secretaries.

Power Development Board (PDB), Rural Electrification Board (REB) and Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (DESA) will come under the Power Division while Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC), Petrobangla and Geological Survey of Bangladesh under the Mineral Resources Division.

Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation
 BCIC Bhaban, 30-31, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh

Notice

In consonance with the New Industrial Policy, 1991, Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) has established a Joint Venture Cell (JVC) in order to provide exclusive services to the domestic and foreign entrepreneurs/ companies in setting up of large and medium size industries i.e. industries requiring investment of over Tk 30.00 crore in joint venture with private sector on the erstwhile EPIDC model.

Assistance in identification of potential projects in fertilizer, paper, glass, PVC, cement and such other sub-sectors, in conducting pre-feasibility study and participation in Equity investment etc. will be available at one single point: JVC, BCIC.

Interested local and foreign companies/entrepreneurs are cordially invited to contact the Director, Planning and Implementation, BCIC, BCIC Bhaban, 30-31 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000. Phones: 232204 or 251762 for further details.

Ganoshasthya gets alternative Nobel prize

STOCKHOLM, Oct 7: A Bangladesh health organization, a Guatemalan rights activist, an American researcher, a Ukrainian journalist, and a Finnish village network are winners of the 1992 Right Livelihood Awards, its was announced Wednesday, reports AP.

The 1 million kronor (dhs 185,000) award, often-called the alternative Nobel Prize, was founded in 1980 by Swedish-German writer Jakob von Uexkull to support practical work in solving problems in environment, social injustices and peace.

The cash prize is shared by the Bangladesh organization Ganoshasthya Kendra, Guatemalan human rights campaigner Helen Mack, US nuclear researcher John Gofman and Ukrainian journalist Alla Yaroshinskaya, who tried to expose the truth about the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

The Honorary Award, which carries no money, was given to the Finnish Village Action Movement, Ryhtolainta. The network shows that there is an alternative to "rural decline, centralization and popular disempowerment that is the norm in Europe today," said the awards committee.

The Right Livelihood Awards will be presented Dec 9 in the Swedish Parliament.

Gofman, 74, an expert on low-level radiation, is professor emeritus in molecular and cell biology at the University of California at Berkeley. He has long argued that the levels of permissible radiation should be higher, and has called for an independent watching authority to monitor the health effects of radiation.

Yaroshinskaya discovered at the end of 1986 that people who had been evacuated from contaminated areas near the Chernobyl reactor in her native Ukraine had been relocated to areas that were almost as badly contaminated.

Her expose was rejected by the editor of her local newspaper, by Pravda, Izvestia and other papers. So she distributed underground copies of her report.

Yaroshinskaya is now head of the department of mass media at the Russian Press Ministry and has written a book about the Chernobyl cover-up, which is to be published in Japan, France and elsewhere.

The organization Ganoshasthya Kendra, in Bangladesh, was cited for its "promotion of health and human development and in particular for its key role in the enactment of Bangladesh's outstandingly important drugs policy." Since 1981 the organization has manufactured high quality, low cost essential drugs.

The group also trains paramedics and is involved in development projects.

Guatemalan human rights campaigner Helen Mack, 39, was cited for her "courage and persistence in seeking to bring to justice the high-level murderers of her sister," the awards committee said.

Mack's sister was murdered

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