

Pro-Hekmatyar jets bomb Afghan city

KABUL, Oct 10: Two Afghan jets flown by pilots of the former Communist regime bombed today the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif, a senior airforce general reported, says AFP.

The two SU-22 Soviet-made jets, flown by pilots now loyal to the Hezb-i-Islami Mujahideen faction, flew to the eastern city of Jalalabad where they landed, he said.

Jalalabad is the home base of the peace delegation which helped to arrange the August ceasefire between the government and Hezb leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar.

The general said the plane bombed areas next to the airport at Mazar-i-Sharif, but reported no casualties.

Despite their landing at Jalalabad, some 60 kilometers (36 miles) west of the

Pakistani border, the two rebel jets are based at the Soviet-built airbase at Shindand, from which the Western Afghan city of Herat was recently bombed, the general said.

The forces at the Shindand air base joined sides with the Hezb-i-Islami faction after the April 1992 Mujahideen victory over the former communist government.

But only a handful of the original 85 aircraft are now operational. Most were destroyed by pilots who elected to join the new Kabul government in retaliation for rebel air-strikes against Herat and Mazar-i-Sharif.

Although Shindand has been subjected to more than 50 air strikes by government jets, rebel pilots are still able to take off from there.



Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman exchanging views on matters of national interest with the editors of dailies and news agencies at his office yesterday.

Operation Push Back an attack on sovereignty, says Nizami

Secretary General of Jamaat-e-Islami Mattur Rahman Nizami yesterday denounced the so-called "Operation Push Back" by India as an attack on independence and sovereignty of Bangladesh, reports UNB.

"It's a part of Indian conspiracy to eliminate Muslim entity from India... It's an example of communalism of India", he told a protest rally at the North gate of Battul Mokarram mosque yesterday afternoon.

Jamaat-e-Islami observed "protest day" yesterday through rallies and demonstrations across the country against the Indian design to send its citizens to Bangladesh.

Nizami, also leader of the Jamaat parliamentary party, said India is trying to destabilise the country and make its economy more vulnerable by pushing in one crore Bangla speaking Indian Muslim nationals.

City Jamaat Ameer ATM Azharul Islam presided over the meeting.

The rally was followed by a procession.

Jamaat will submit a memorandum to the Speaker on October 12 and hold a grand rally on October 14 at Dakin Bangla crossing protesting the "operation push back".

Opposition plans joint movement

By Staff Correspondent

Leaders of different political parties at a discussion meeting yesterday felt the need for launching a united movement with a view to resisting the 'undemocratic' activities of the government and to helping democracy get institutionalised.

The Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) organised the meeting at the party central office in the city in observance of the fifth death anniversary of Mohammad Farhad, the former General Secretary of CPB.

CPB President Saifuddin Ahmed Manik chaired the meeting addressed by Quamruzzaman of Awami League, Nirmal Sen of the 5-party, Aminul Islam of Ganatantri Party, Nurul Islam Nahid of CPB and Maolana Ahmedur Rahman Azmi of the National Awami Party (NAP).

Quamruzzaman said that Awami League had agreed on principle to launch a united movement but, he viewed, there existed gaps among the opposition parties. Zaman urged the opposition parties to narrow it down through holding dialogue.

The AL leader also proposed for forging movement on common issues by the democratic parties simultaneously in case of failure to sus-

Mostafiz, editors exchange views

Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman yesterday exchanged views with the editors of national dailies and news agencies on different issues related to national interest, reports BSS.

Reaz: Refugee

The meeting was held at the Foreign Office. The Foreign Secretary said "since the exodus began in November, 1991, Bangladesh has been hosting a staggering 2,65,000 refugees."

He informed the UN humanitarian body that the refugees were living in some 23 camps located in a narrow strip of hilly coastal land, heavily populated and devastated by last year's cyclone.

More than 48,000 refugees are still shelterless, he informed the UNHCR session.

The Foreign Secretary told the session that Bangladesh fought hard for a trilateral commission and tripartite agreement to resolve the issue before issuing Bangladesh-Myanmar joint statement in April. "Unfortunately, Myanmar was totally opposed to this," he added.

The Foreign Secretary said, "Bangladesh cannot but deeply appreciate the contribution, concern, dedication, role and mandate of the UNHCR."

Reaz referred to bilateral meetings at all levels where Bangladesh maintained insistent and consistent pressure on Myanmar to accept impartial presence of the UN, specially the UNHCR.

The Foreign Secretary also said that Dhaka sought to use good offices of many countries which have the influence on Myanmar to persuade them to accept the UNHCR in the repatriation of Rohingyas.

He emphasised the importance of the UN family and especially the UNHCR's continuing support in solving the problem.

Reaz mentioned Dhaka's nine rounds of official level talks with Yangon where the Myanmar authorities have agreed to allow the Rohingyas to enjoy some privileges to create atmosphere congenial for safe and voluntary repatriation.

He said the Myanmar authorities had agreed to lift restrictions on the movement and religious practices of the Rohingyas, reinstate them in their jobs and issue citizen certificates for them.

Matin

From Page 1 Col 8 smugglers and arrest them irrespective of their party affiliation or social position.

Expressing dissatisfaction for alleged involvement of some officials in smuggling, he said the government is investigating the matter and it would not hesitate to take drastic actions against officials found guilty of corruption.

Home Secretary Manzoor Ul Karim, IG of Police ASM Shahjahan, convener of Central Task Forces and members of NBR GM Rahman, Divisional Commissioner, DCs and SPs of Dhaka division, Collectors of Customs and Excise and BDR sector commander were present at the meeting.

Computer course at high school level soon

Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC) has decided to introduce computer course at secondary school level, reports BSS.

The decision was taken at a meeting of BCC held in Dhaka yesterday with Education Minister Jamiruddin Sirar in the chair.

It was decided in the meeting that the teachers would be imparted training on computer course at different levels at the first phase of the project.

The meeting also decided to impart training on computer to 13,200 educated youths through setting up centres at district headquarters within five years at an estimated cost of Taka two crore.

New fertilizer factory: Tender in Nov likely

International tender is expected to be floated by November for constructing a new urea fertilizer factory at a cost of Tk 850 crore at Fenichuganj, reports UNB.

The new unit with an annual capacity of 3,30,000 metric tons will be set up on the site of Fenichuganj Natural Gas Fertilizer Factory in Sylhet to reduce the high cost of production incurred by the old one.

This was stated at a largely-represented meeting held Friday in Sylhet with the Deputy Commissioner in chair, said a BCIC press release in Dhaka yesterday.

Concerned officials told the meeting that using the present infrastructure, utility and off-site facilities was essential for the viability of the project.

If it is set up at the adjoining site, the project will involve an additional investment of Tk 200 crore, the meeting was told.

Push Back shelved

From Page 1 Col 4 Operation Push Back' and agreed to take steps to reduce tension there.

When contacted from Dhaka by telephone, the Sector Commander of Jessore BDR Lt Col Bazur Rahman confirmed the decisions taken at the flag meeting.

A Daily Star report published on September 30 said that India was likely to postpone 'Operation Push Back' following a rift in the ruling Congress high command on the issue and continued criticism in the Indian press on the manner and motivation of the operation.

BBC monitored in Dhaka October 4 said that the Indian government had decided to put off the Operation.

Foreign ministry officials in Dhaka on the following day said that they had not received any official announcement from the Indian government regarding postponement of the operation.

Meanwhile, another despatch from our correspondent in Jessore said that the BDR men had foiled five BSF attempts to push 88 people into Bangladesh through different bordering villages of the district, according to BDR sources.

They said that attempts were made from 7 pm Friday until 10 am Saturday, two-and-a-half hours before the scheduled flag meeting.

The sources said that the BSF personnel brought several groups of Bangla-speaking Indian nationals for deportation through Sadipur, Roghunathpur, Giva and Gattipur villages.

The BDR foiled the attempts and sent the people back, the sources added.

However, a UNB report says: Indian Border Security Force (BSF) Saturday pushed 75 people into Bangladesh territory in two trawlers crossing the Ichhamoti river in Satkhira.

The starving Bangla-speaking Muslims, gathered from different parts of India, were given food and drinks by BDR and the local people on arrival at Bhatshala.

In Bhoma border, BDR and local people foiled BSF attempt to push a large group of Indians into Bangladesh territory.

Local people along with BDR were patrolling the border against BSF attempt to

Present at the meeting were, among others, Khandaker Abdul Malek, MP, Farullah Shaha, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Industries, Zahurul Islam, Managing Director of Fenichuganj Fertilizer Factory, the SP of Sylhet, leaders of different political parties, CBA President and General Secretary of NGFF, representatives of Sylhet Chamber of Commerce, Directors of BCIC and Principal of the Fenichuganj Degree College.

To arrange equity money for the new factory, proposals have been sent to different Bangladesh embassies and also to local investors.

The Economic Relations Division has been requested through the Ministry of Industries for financing the project, the meeting was informed. Work on tender papers for the project is underway at the Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation.

Polytech

From Page 1 Col 8 at the office of the Director General of Technical Education on the same day.

The Association would also hold grand rally and march towards the Jatiya Sangsad to submit memoranda to the Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition and the Speaker in the last week of the month.

The press conference held Saturday morning at the National Press Club was addressed by Shahabuddin Mahmud, President and Shamsur Rahman, General Secretary of the Association.

They reiterated their allegations of government negligence towards technical education and explained the legitimacy of their demands.

Prabarana Purnima today

"Suva Prabarana Purnima," the main religious festival of the Buddhist community will be observed throughout the country today amid due religious fervour, report BSS.

Various Buddhist organisations including Bangladesh Bouddha Krishiti Prochar Sangha and Bangladesh Buddhist Federation have chalked out day-long programmes to observe the day.

The programme of the federation will be held at the international Bouddha Vihar at Merul Badda, Gulshan and that of Bouddha Krishiti Prochar Sangha will be observed at Dharmarajik Bouddha Vihar at Kamalapur.

Taka 4.5 lakh robbed in city

By Staff Correspondent A house at Lalmatia and a shop at Nawab Katara in the capital were robbed of cash and gold ornaments worth about Taka 4.5 lakh Saturday.

A group of bandits breaking open the grille of a house at Block-A, Lalmatia entered and decamped with cash and gold ornaments worth about Taka 3,82,000 early Saturday.

One Nasrin Kamal in a case with Mohammadpur police claimed that some bandits decamped with Taka 75,000 in cash and nearly 56 tolas of gold ornaments worth about 3,07,000 early Saturday, said police.

Our DMCH Correspondent reports: A group of armed men stormed into M/s Gafur Store at Nawab Katara at around noon Saturday, stabbed one Sanwar Hossain and fled with Taka 65,000 in cash.

The armed men ransacked the shop, damaged its articles and snatched the money from the cash box.

Khaleda's nephew

From Page 1 Col 8 at that house of road no 32 informed the petrol police of the incident who rushed to the spot and rescued Atanu and the driver from inside the house.

The miscreants also tore Atanu's shirt, police said. They were also detained in that house for more than one hour.

A case was filed at the Dhanmondi thana in this connection. Nobody was arrested so far.

Students observe Jihad Day Meet 10-pt demand, or face movement

Country's student community yesterday (Saturday) observed with due respect the second anniversary of death of democracy martyr Nazir Hossain Jihad, reports UNB.

On the day in 1990, Jihad, a degree student of Ullahpara College and President of the college unit of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, was shot dead in Motijheel area by unidentified gunmen during anti-Ershad agitation.

To mark the day, different student and socio-cultural organisations chalked out elaborate programmes, including discussion, rally, procession and placing of wreaths at the central Shaheed Minar.

Ganotantrik Chhatra Otkya, a platform of eight left-leaning student organisations, held a discussion at the TSC road island at Dhaka University.

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Ganotantrik Chhatra Otkya, a platform of eight left-leaning student organisations, held a discussion at the TSC road island at Dhaka University.

They also demanded of the government to implement the demands or face a vigorous movement they threatened to build.

Montu-backed Chhatra League organised a rally in front of the DUCSU Bhaban. Sentu Rahman, AK Fazlul Haq and Abu Taher spoke.

Earlier, the GCO, Chhatra League (AL) and Montu-Chhatra League separately placed wreaths at the central Shaheed Minar. They stood in one-minute silence to show respect to the departed soul of Jihad.

The Midnight File

Clinton ready for tonight's debate

KANSAS City, Oct 10: Bill Clinton joined a charity run for a boy with leukemia on Saturday, then plunged into final preparations for a Sunday night debate he said should be about the American people and their problems. President Bush was spending the day before the leadoff debate preparing at the White House, reports AP.

Bush condoles Brandt's death

WASHINGTON, Oct 10: President George Bush was deeply saddened to learn of the death of former West German Chancellor Willy Brandt, and a White House spokesman said Brandt would be remembered as a statesman and patriot. "Willy Brandt was a towering figure of the post-war era, a man of vision and courage," White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said in a statement on Friday, reports Reuter.

Bomb alert in Hague's US embassy

THE HAGUE, Oct 10: Army bomb-disposal experts were rushed to the US embassy in the Hague today after a bomb alert, police said. The police said a plastic bag was discovered hidden in a flower bed outside the embassy, located opposite the French Embassy, after an anonymous telephone call, reports AFP.

JS session today

From Page 1 Col 7 protested promulgation of the Ordinance it (AL-led opposition) would develop a sort of contact with the Jamaat to combat the government on the issue effectively.

Meanwhile, the Special Parliamentary Committee on the Indemnity Ordinance (Repeal) Bill is expected to seek a fresh time span of four weeks today to prepare a draft report on the issue.

According to sources, the Committee met yesterday afternoon to discuss the issue with the Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Mirza Golam Haifaz in the chair.

This was the committee's fifteenth meeting since its formation. Deputy Leader of the opposition in Parliament Abdus Samad Azad, Sajeda Chowdhury and Mohammad Nasim of the AL Suranjit Sengupta of the Gonotantri Party and Advocate Fazle Rabbi of the Jatiya Party represented the Opposition at the meeting while the Chief Whip of the House Khandaker Delwar Hossain represented the ruling party.

According to Committee sources, the leaders present at the meeting unanimously decided to seek a fresh deadline in the House today with a view to finalising the draft report—be it a unanimous or a disputations one—by the next four weeks. If granted, this would be the fifth time that the deadline has been extended.

Suranjit Sengupta while making his observations on the spirit of the leaders attending yesterday's meeting, told The Daily Star, "With to-

Hasina: Divulger secret

From Page 1 Col 7 alleged one Marium Begum in Rangpur sold her baby for want of food.

Hasina said the economy had been brought to a collapse, production hampered and foreign aid used in unproductive sector. Eighty per cent of the foreign aid remains unutilised owing to mismanagement.

The inaptitude, inefficiency and mismanagement of the government is destroying the economy, pushing the country towards a gloom.

She alleged that the government had resorted to repression on the opposition, throwing 27,000 activists into jail.

Referring to her party programme, Hasina said Awami League had announced a welfare-oriented economic policy for bringing about economic emancipation of the country.

She appealed to the people to vote for 'boat', which she called the symbol of independence and economic freedom, in the October 12 byelection in Rajbari-1 constituency.

The opposition leader asked the local administration to remain neutral for ensuring fair voting. Otherwise, she warned, the people would not spare them if found involved in rigging.

An earlier report from Goalanda adds: Sheikh Hasina today said the 18-month rule of BNP government had produced nothing good but breeding terrorism, corruption, unemployment and famine, reports UNB.

"After coming to power with the help of Jamaat-e-Islami, the BNP government gave the nation nothing but bluff and false commitment," she told a huge election rally at Goalanda Court Ground this Noon, in the run-up to parliamentary byelection to Rajbari-1.

Iraq frees Chad Hall

KUWAIT City, Oct 10: US munitions expert Chad Hall was set free by Iraq on Saturday two days after his abduction by Iraqi police inside Kuwait, a UN spokesman here said, reports AFP.

day's attitude of the Committee members unchanged, one can easily expect its unanimous recommendation for the passage of a constitutional bar on trying people involved in the killing of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in August 1975.

BSS adds: According to the agenda of the opening day, after recitation from the Holy Quran, a five-member panel of chairmen will be nominated and obituary references made for those who had died since after the budget session.

After the one-hour question-answer session, four ordinances, promulgated since the last session, will be tabled in the House.

The ordinances are: The Supreme Court Judges (Remuneration and Privileges) (Second Amendment) Ordinance, 1992, The Supreme Court Judges (Travelling Allowances) (Amendment) Ordinance, 1992, The Anti-Terrorism Ordinance, 1992 and The Excises and Salts (Amendment) Ordinance of 1992.

Besides, the Communications Minister Oli Ahmed is expected to introduce two bills on the opening day. The bills are: the Motor Vehicle (Amendment) Bill-1992 and the Motor Vehicle Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1992.

Speaker Shaikh Razaque Ali who led a four-member parliamentary delegation to the conference of the Commonwealth Inter-parliamentary Association in Nassau, Bahamas, is expected to return home today before the beginning of the session.

constituency scheduled for Monday.

"How long this politics of bluff should continue? The Awami League' President asked, saying "It's the character of BNP to bluff the people and stay in power."

Hasina said BNP had demonstrated incompetence and ineptitude in running the country.

The Awami League chief appealed to the people to vote for boat, the symbol of independence and economic emancipation, in the October 12 byelection.

Awami League nominee Keromoti Ali is contesting for the seat which fell vacant with the death of Advocate Abdul Wazed Chowdhury of the same party.

Hasina also asked all to remain alert against any attempt to rig the voting.

She was also welcomed at Aricha and Daulatdia ferry ghats on her way to the venue.

Indian riots

From Page 1 Col 5 phisticated riot gear including rubber bullets, stungunners and shock batons. It is controlled by the federal government.

Newspapers said six companies of the RAF were to be rushed from Allahabad, in northern India, to Sitamarhi after local police took time to crush the riots which first engulfed the town and then spread to about a dozen villages.

The BJP today criticised the centre for setting up the Rapid Action Force (RAF) for tackling communal violence saying that it was an encroachment on the rights of state governments and has been set up without seeking their support for it.

Stating this here, the BJP president Dr Murlidhar Manohar Joshi told newsman that the centre instead of setting up the RAF should stop its policy on appeasement and follow a firm policy on communal riots by taking immediate steps to check them by giving severe punishment to those involved in inciting violence.

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