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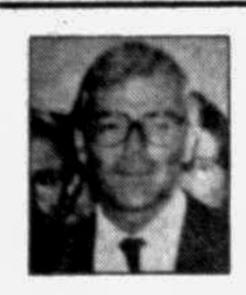
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NEWS BRIEFS

Nirad Chaudhuri made CBE

LONDON, Oct 19: Nirad Chaudhuri, and Indian journal ist and author, has been made an Honorary Commander of the British Empire, the government announced Monday. Chaudhuri, 94, settled in Britain two decades ago and now lives in Oxford. His books include "The Autobiography of an Unknown Indian," "A Passage to England", "Clive of and "Scholar Extraordinary: The Life of Max Muller, " reports AP.

Salam Talukder leaves for Tokyo

Cooperatives Minister and Secretary General Bangladesh Nationalist Party Abdus Salam Talukder will leave Dhaka today for Tokyo to attend the 30th congress of International Cooperative Union. The LGRD Minister will a four-member Bangladesh delegation at the congress which begins on October 21, reports BSS.

Salimullah gets UGC award

Bangladesh University Grants Commission (UGC) recently selected Dr Mohammad Salimuliah of Jahangirnagar University for "UGC" award 1988 as recognition to his research pursuit on physics Salimullah, who at present is the Chairman of the Department of Physics, received Dhaka University gold medal in 1981. Besides, Bangladesh Academy of Science and the Third World Science Academy jointly awarded him a gold medal in 1986, reports BSS.

81 more held on various charges

Police arrested 81 people from different parts of the city in last 24 hours on various charges. Of the arrested, two were wanted criminals, five for burglary, sixteen on charges of stealing, one accused in arms ease and another for kidnapping, reports UNB.

Treasury benchers dismiss allegation: Discussion resumes today | Nepali protesters shout at Rao

Opposition in JS holds govt Scrap unequal responsible for push in

Star Report

Speaker Shaikh Razzaque in the chair to discuss the is-Ali last night abruptly adsue for more than three hours journed the general discus-- two hours for the Opposition and minimum one hour but not sions on the so-called more than two hours for the Operation Push Back after about five hours of debate Treasury Bench — as agreed by both sides at the Business marked by strong Opposition Advisory Committee meeting attack on the Treasury Bench for "giving birth to the issue." earlier.

While the MPs across the

floor sounded identical in con-

demning the unilateral Indian

action, the Opposition mem-

bers identified a paragraph in

the joint communique issued

at the end of Prime Minister

Begum Khaleda Zia's May 26-

28 trip to India as being what

they said the seeds of the

at 4:55 pm with the Speaker

By Sabir Mustafa

discussion on India's

"Operation Push Back", which

has of late been renamed push-

in, push-out, push-around etc.

by various, got off to a rather

confused and ominous start

bench want to start it, I don't

know. Who will represent the

Treasury bench? I don't know

what formula you have worked

out," said Speaker Shaikh

Razzague Ali to Chief Whip

Khondker Delwar Hossain in

the absence (temporary) of

Deputy Leader of the House

Mostafizur Rahman then took

charge, and stood up to deliver

what turned out to be a 25-

minute rundown of the history

of migrations across the sub-

continent since British times.

The minister shouldn't

have had any trouble reading

out the prepared text, but his

difficulty with pronouncing

some Bengali words caused a

great deal of suppressed

See Page 12 Col 6

Foreign Minister A S M

Badruddoza Chowdhury.

"How does the Treasury

just before 5 pm yesterday.

An engale awatted seprent

The House began its session

KARTIK 5 1399 BS,

As the Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdus Samad Azad ended his speech at 9:55 pm, the Speaker announced the adjournment of the session until 4:30 this afternoon. Until then 35 MPs spoke.

"The 11th para in the communique is the point that provided India the rationale behind initiating the Operation Push Back just after three months of her visit," the

Mostafiz makes statement in JS

Bengali speaking people pushed

Opposition MPs screamed to shout down the Treasury

"By incorporating these lines the Prime Minister virtually admitted what Delhi calls illegal infiltration from Bangladesh into India," the MPs most of whom quoted the paragraph alleged.

The paragraph reads: Taking into account problems being caused due to large-scale illegal movement of people across their borders, they (the prime ministers of Bangladesh and India) expressed their determination to stop illegal movement of people across the border by all possible means including the strengthening of existing arrangements and mu-

tual cooperation in this regard." However, the Treasury Bench stalwarts refuted the Opposition point saying the statement did not mean that there was illegal infiltration from Bangladesh.

The ruling party MPs insisted that it was all about the short-term two-way illegal infiltrations, a common phenomenon along the borders between the two neighbours

All the Opposition MPs who spoke demanded that the paragraph be annulled.

They all were critical of the government for not "taking the Opposition into confidence" on such an important national is-See Page 12 Col 1

treaties with Kathmandu

KATHMANDU, Oct 19: Nepalese police today arrested more than 50 anti-Indian communist demonstrators and three MPs for waving black flags and shouting slogans as Indian Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao arrived here, party sources said, reports

RABIUS SANI 22 1413 HIJRI

Police sources confirmed the arrests of only 15 people, but did not give their identi-

Pumpha Bhusal, an activist from the extreme left United People's Front (UPF) said "50 people from the four factions of the communist parties in-

cluding the United People's Front (UPF) and the Nepal Communist Party's Maoist, Marxist and Leninist" factions were arrested.

"Demonstrations were held at different street corners along the route from the airport to the hotel where the Indian Prime Minister is staying", she said, adding the "arrested parliamentarians were the UPF leader Lila Mani Pokharel, Khadga Bahadur Budha and Sindhu Nath Pvakurel"

Witnesses said the protesters shouted slogans See Page 12 Col 8

Cabinet approves proposals on local govt structure

The cabinet has approved in principle the proposals of Ministry of LGRD and Cooperative based on the report of the commission for review of local government structure, reports BSS.

The approval was given at the regular weekly meeting of the cabinet held at Bangabhaban yesterday with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in the chair.

The cabinet also approved the draft of the bill for amendment of some provisions of Industrial Relations Ordinance -1969.

Ministers and state ministers-in-charge of different

ministries and divisions attended the meeting. Cabinet Secretary, Principal

Secretary to the Prime Minister and secretaries of the concerned ministries and divisions were present.

Probe report Ershad getting Tk 209.97 food daily

Former president Hussain Muhammad Ershad is provided with various food items worth Taka 209.97 everyday in jail whereas a Division-1 prisoner is entitled to food worth Taka 53.11 per day, reports BSS.

This was the finding of the three-member commission which yesterday submitted its report before the High Court Division on the living condition of former president Ershad in the Dhaka Central Jail.

The commission was earlier appointed by the High Court Division to look into the allegation of the former president Ershad about "solitary confinement" in the central jail.

All the three members of the commission an their re ports said the former president had been provided with an attendant. There is a coprisoner with whom the petitioner (Ershad) can freely talks, the reports added.

Deputy Attorney General A Y Salehuzzaman, one of the members of the commission, in his report said that ingredients of solitary confinement were not found in the treatment of petitioner (Ershad) by the jail authorities.

But two other members, Nasiruddin Ahmed, District Judge, Dhaka and Advocate Md Mohsen Rashid, in their joint report refrained from making any comment on the issue of the solitary confinement.

Both Nasiruddin Ahmed and 'Advocate Md Mohsen Rashid in their report observed, "If after lock-up the former president Ershad has any problem requiring immediate, and emergency medical assistance and is unable to leave the bed and shout to draw attention. no assistance, no medical aid will be possible because his difficulty shall go unnoticed. The guard inside the courtyard and outside the red mark will not be able to notice anything due to the height of the room from the ground level."

Deputy Attorney General A Y Salehuzzaman in his report, however, held a different view on this matter. He said 'in such a situation the guard on duty whether he is outside or inside the red line can report the matter to the jail authorities for necessary action.'

Travel agents strike work to get exemption from VAT

By Staff Correspondent

More than 300 travel agents of the country yesterday shuttered their agencies for an indefinite period demanding withdrawal of value added tax (VAT) on their commission from the airlines. The strike is likely to cre-

ate a 'major breakdown' in the airlines business as more than 70 per cent of the total passengers book tickets through travel agencies, Dhaka based airlines sources said.

Some 30 airlines including Bangladesh Biman are operating in Bangladesh.

The decision to strike work was taken at a meeting of the Association of Travel Agents of Bangladesh (ATAB) at its Inner Circular Road office with association president Dr H B M Igbal in the chair.

Meanwhile, Biman Bangladesh Airlines has made necessary arrangement for selling See Page 12 Col 7

into Bangladesh are Indians Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman today said Second troops that the Bengali speaking people being forced into

> the "Push In" operation were Indian nationals, reports BSS. Making a statement at the Jatiya Sangsad, he said, these people are not Bangladesh nationals because they have been living in different places of India permanently and hence these people can not be called Bangladesh nationals,

Bangladesh from India under

Indian voters' list in addition to other evidences like having ration cards in their names in India. They had also cast their votes in more than one elections in that country, the Foreign Minister said.

Rahman said, the Bangladesh government does not accept the contention of India that a large number of so-called Bangladeshis were living in India illegally.

The Foreign Minister said that the Indian government had initiated plans to unilaterally despatch the Bengalispeaking so-called Bangladeshis from India without any kind of discussion with Bangladesh.

The identity of the people being pushed into Bangladesh was not verified earlier and all these steps are in contravention with the accepted international norms, Rahman said.

The Foreign Minister told the House that the manner in which the Indian authorities had embarked upon the programme to push these people

forcibly inside Bangladesh, violating fundamental human rights and without showing even scant respect to human values was not only unacceptable to Bangladesh but also to the international community.

He said, in the way people of a particular community are being rounded up for despatch to Bangladesh is potentially dangerous to disrupt commu nal harmony in the two countries leading to communal disturbances.

was proposed to the Palama said, is undestrable and is a threat to peace and harmony in the South Asian region.

"It is an established truth that families being pushed into Bangladesh are registered as Indian nationals and under no law Bangladesh can accept them," the Foreign Minister Giving a detailed account of

the scenario following the "Push In" operations, he said, the tense situation prevailing along the border, however, has now subsided to some extent due to the measures taken by the government of Bangladesh.

The Indian authorities have taken back the Bengali speaking Indian nationals inside India from the "zero line" of the border since these steps were taken, the Foreign Minister informed the House. Responding to the concerns

being expressed by different quarters in the country over the "Push In" operation, the Foreign Minister told the House that different govern-See Page 12 Col 3

Partial strike in US Presidential debate jute, textile mills

Crucial finale today

EAST LANSING (Mich), Oct 19: President Bush, Bill Clinton and Ross Perot close their debate tripleheader Monday night with the pressure squarely on Bush to chop Clinton's lead. But the president faces an accompanying risk that any strident attacks could backfire, reports AP.

The three candidates meet for 90 minutes at Michigan State University, their presidential debate finale and the tone-setter for the two-week dash to Election Day.

"I'm just going to answer the questions," a confident Clinton said Sunday before staging mock debates with advisers. "I believe if we make the changes that I'm advocating, it will really build this country enormously."

As the front-runner, Clinton's goal was little changed from the first two debates: press his case that Bush's economic approach has failed while trying to raise the comfort level of those who reluctantly are backing his candidacy.

The stakes were far higher for Bush as he tried to extend the Republican grip on the White House to 16 years. Trailing Clinton in national polls and in most of the big electoral battlegrounds, the president needs to mount a historic comeback if he is to

win a second term. "I don't think it is going to tion is very, very winnable."

Perot entered the final debate running a distant third in national polls, conducting his independent campaign through the debates and a series of

take a bombshell," Bush campaign manager Fred Malek said Sunday. "We think this elec-Aides promised Bush would be more aggressive than in the

first two debates, but they conceded that the president needed to walk a fine line between drawing contrasts with Clinton and appearing too eager to attack.

network television ad buys See Page 12 Col 6

in Tongi Industrial Area operated as usual. The Textile Workers-Employees Federation and the

(above).

Jute Mills Workers-Employees Action Committee jointly called for the countrywide strike demanding implementation of two accords the government had signed with the See Page 12 Col 1

By Staff Correspondent

mills to press home the de-

mands of the employees and

mills across the country said

that a 24-hour strike was ob-

served at the jute-textile mills

in Khulna and a few in the

Chittagong, Narayanganj and

Narsingdi belts while the mills

Reports received from the

workers of the two sectors.

Two murdered in old city A partial strike was observed yesterday (Monday) at By Staff Correspondent the country's jute and textile

Within a span of one hour, a 60-year-old businessman was slaughtered and a college student was shot dead at Tantibazar and Armanitola under Kotwali Police Station in the city Monday night.

A sentry on duty in front of the Chand Textile Mills (top), while a few workers operating

Adamjee Jute Mills No-1 yesterday during the countrywide 24-hour strike yesterday

Namuna, 30, a niece of one of the victims was also severely stabbed and admitted to the Sir Salimullah Medical College Hospital (SSMCH) in critical condition.

stormed into the house of Haji Nasiruddin at 55, Proshnna Poddar Lane, Tantibazar at 8 slaughtered the house owner and severely stabbed his niece,

A woman, Jibonnessa alias

A group of armed men pm last night, shot at and

said the local people who witnessed the armed men escap-During the incident, only

- Star photo

the businessman, Nasiruddin and his niece Namuna were in the house, family sources said. Though the relatives of Nasiruddin termed it as a rob-

bery, they said that the armedmen did not loot anything from the house. Nasiruddin was a owner of a market at Panitola, Tantibazar,

and he had a wholesale shop of crockery at Chawkbazar in the The victim's relatives also

said that Nasiruddin's first wife See Page 12 Col 8

Riyadh has captured several border posts, charges Doha der dispute as soon as possi-RIYADH, Oct 19: Saudi Iraq's occupation of Kuwait. Bahrain and Kuwait. troops had occupied several ment of the situation which

Arabia today rejected Qatari claims it had seized several border posts and built a sand wall along their frontier, reports AFP.

The accusations were made Sunday by Qatar Foreign Minister Hamed Ibn Jassem Ibn Jabr al-Thani

A Saudi spokesman called on Qatar to refrain from 'uscless statements' which did not serve 'common interests.' Sheikh Hamad in an interview to AFP charged that Saudi

border posts in southern Qatar since September and had built a sand wall along the border in violation of a 1965 accord. Hamad's remarks broad-

ened initial allegations that Saudi Arabia had seized the border post at Al-Khaffous on September 30. Last week, Riyadh charged

that it was Doha which seized an area of Saudi territory that it named Al-Khaffous when world attention was focused on Shetkh Hamad called for an

urgent meeting of a joint commission provided for by the 1965 accord in order to discuss the dispute and the work of drawing the bound-Qatar will seek international

arbitration 'in case the meetings of the commission fail', the Foreign Minister said. "Until now we have only protested but we intend to work for the restitution of our

rights and the re-establish-

prevailed before Saudi military intervention on September 30," he said. He said that Qatar's partici-

pation in the future activities of the Gulf Cooperation Council would depend on the evolution of the situation and the degree of cooperation (from Saudi Arabia) to safeguard the proper functioning of the regional organization.

Besides Qatar and Saudi Arabia, the GCC groups Oman, the United Arab Emirates,

Informed Qatari sources

said that Doha would boycott the next annual GCC summit due to take place in Abu Dhabi in December - if no process is started to settle the border dispute.

Qatar, Sheikh Hamad said, has never ceased to repeat its attachment to the UN Charter which calls on states to settle their differences peacefully.

But the minister expressed doubt about Saudi Arabia's willingness to settle the bor-

"Considering the recent developments, can one say that

Saudi Arabia remains faithful to the 1965 accord?" he asked. Sheikh Hamad also said his government wanted to de-

velop ties with Iraq, although he reaffirmed support for UN resolutions against this coun-"In our foreign policy, we

are always concerned about strengthening inter-Arab rela-