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VOL II NO. 268 REGD. NO. DA 781

KARTIK 9 1399 BS,

DHAKA SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1992

RABIUS SANI 26 1413 HIJRI

12 PAGES: PRICE TAKA 4.00

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## NEWS BRIEFS

### ALPP meets tomorrow

A meeting of the Awami League Parliamentary Party (ALPP) will be held tomorrow at 3 pm at the conference room of the Leader of the Opposition at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban. Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina will preside over the meeting, reports BSS.

### 'Agantuk' enters to French grossers

NEW DELHI, Oct 23: Agantuk, the last film of Satyajit Ray which was released in the French capital Paris, has become the first Indian film to enter to ten grossers in the first week of its release. At the end of a five week run in five French cities, the film — released by one of France largest distributors — has already collected over 1.2 million francs at the box-office and remains amongst the top 25 grossers, ahead of blockbusters such as Peter Pan and Beethoven, according to a French embassy press release issued here today, reports PTI.

### Workshop on family planning today

A national IEC (Information, Education and Communication) strategy on family planning is likely to be formulated at a one-day workshop in the city today. Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal Hossain will inaugurate the workshop at 9 am at Hotel Abakash, Mahakhali, reports UNB.

## New move to stop 'infiltration'

# Delhi plans to lay mines along Indo-Bangla border

NEW DELHI, Oct 23: The Indian government is considering plans to lay mine fields in frontier areas to stop 'infiltration', a newspaper said Friday, reports AP.

The Statesman said in a front-page report the federal Home Ministry had suggested that the army string 2,000 kilometres (1,200 miles) of open border with mines in an operation which could be completed within 18 months.

The proposal was submitted to Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao's office two months ago for approval, the newspaper said, quoting unidentified sources.

Officials were not immedi-

ately available for comment on the report which came in the wake of move by New Delhi to expel, people described as Bangladeshis.

India expelled sizeable number of alleged Bangladeshis last month from New Delhi in an operation called 'Push Back' and plans to expel 2,30,000 by February.

Bangladesh denies Indian charges that hundreds of thousands of Bangladeshis have illegally settled in India. On Wednesday, Bangladesh Parliament adopted a resolution strongly protesting the 'Push Back' operation.

The Statesman said the Home Ministry had suggested

the army lay the mine fields on frontier areas in the Indian states of Assam, West Bengal and Mizoram which are difficult to police against infiltration.

The proposal would be soon discussed by the powerful cabinet committee on political affairs, it quoted the sources as saying and added that a 'great political will' was required to implement the plan.

India has already fenced off 896 kilometres (538 miles) of its border with Bangladesh.

Our Correspondent from Jessore adds: Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) foiled two attempts of the Indian Border Security Forces (BSF) to push

22 people into Bangladesh through different border villages of Jessore district Thursday night.

BSF pushed in four Bangladesh-speaking Indian nationals through Sadipur of Sharsha thana of Jessore district at 7-15 pm Thursday night but BDR men pushed them back.

Again BDR nabbed a group of 20 people from Lajani village of Jhikargacha thana in Jessore while they entered Bangladesh through the field lying between Raghunathpur and Sadipur at midnight following Thursday.

All the people were handed over to Jhikargacha police.

# BSF men intrude into Bangladesh territory, shoot two villagers

NETRAKONA, Oct 23: Two Bangladesh citizens were critically injured at Lakkhipur village under Durgapur thana as Indian Border Security Force (BSF) shot at them after entering into Bangladesh territory this evening, official sources said, reports BSS.

The injured persons were identified as Lord Bard Sangma and Abled Sangma. Both of them are tribals, they have been admitted to Durgapur Thana Health Complex.

The officials said, a group of BSF personnel illegally entered into about 200 yards inside

Bangladesh territory near Lakkhipur village of Durgapur thana in the evening, as they started looting the villagers raised resistance against them.

At one stage, the officials said, the BSF personnel, decamped the bordering village leaving one SLR and one SMG. The firearms were deposited with Baramari BDR camp by the villagers.

Later, a Company Commander level flag meeting was held between the BDR and the BSF at the Baramari camp premises where the Bangladesh side protested against the incident.

## UN Day today

By Staff Correspondent

The United Nations Day will be observed in Bangladesh as elsewhere in the world today.

The anniversary of the entry into force of the United Nations Charter — October 24, 1945 — has been celebrated as United Nations Day since 1948.

It has traditionally been marked throughout the globe by meetings, discussions and exhibits on the achievements and goals of the organisation.

In Bangladesh the United Nations system and various non-governmental organisations have chalked out elaborate programmes to observe the day.

In a message on the occasion, the UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali says: Despite the news of wars, hunger, homelessness and disease affecting millions, the world is moving toward a new, See Page 12 Col 1

# Indo-Pak forces step up vigil as JKDA vows to stage march



Indian troops patrolling border with Pakistan in Kashmir on the eve of the planned march by Kashmiris yesterday. — Star TV photo

NEW DELHI, Oct 23: Indian security forces have stepped up their vigil on the Line of Control, in Jammu and Kashmir to firmly deal with any attempts to cross the border, reports PTI.

Besides night curfew, night patrolling along the borders has been intensified, an official spokesman stated here today.

Security has been beefed up in view of the call given by the Pakistan-based Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Alliance for marching across the Line of Control, tomorrow.

Responding to questions from newsmen here, the spokesman said there were reports indicating that Pakistan had deployed additional troops on the borders to prevent any border crossing and also set up roadblocks.

An Islamabad reports says, the Pakistan government has decided to stop the Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Alliance (JKDA) and other opposition parties from marching across the Line of Control (LOC) tomorrow, the POK

premier, Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan said tonight.

Addressing a press conference at the Prime Minister's house in Muzaffarabad, Sardar Qayyum Khan said adequate security measures had been taken to prevent volunteers from violating the border. The army would be dealing with the situation, he added.

The marchers belonging to JKDA, the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) and other opposition parties would be allowed to go up to a certain limit but would have to face the consequences if they attempted to cross the LOC, he said.

He said that the tension on the border was mounting and any move to violate the LOC could lead to outbreak of a war. The POK police would look after the law and order and would be under the supervision of the defence forces, he said adding that the LOC would be monitored by the army.

AFP from Pak controlled border adds: Police launched a hectic search here today for

top leaders of a multi-party Kashmiri alliance in a last minute bid to stop a march by the activists.

Sardar Mohammed Ibrahim, chairman of the JKDA, has gone into hiding along with some other leaders to avoid detention, JKDA Vice President Sardar Abdul Razzaq said.

Razzaq was speaking to AFP at the home of Ibrahim which was surrounded by hundreds of policemen late Friday.

Senior police officials have searched the house and they are pressing us to disclose the whereabouts of JKDA chief, Razzaq said, vowing that we are ready to die and Saturday's march will go ahead.

AP from Muzaffarabad adds: The government vowed Friday to stop thousand of marchers who plan to storm across the border.

"Why should we let them commit suicide? We can't," said Interior Minister Shujaat Hussain. "We know India is determined to shoot anyone who See Page 12 Col 7

# Buddhist crusaders enter Bodh Gaya, vow to take issue to UN

BODH GAYA (India), Oct 23: A Japanese-born monk campaigning to liberate Buddhism's holiest shrine from Hindu control entered the complex here Thursday and vowed to take the thorny issue to the United Nations, reports AFP.

Hundreds of policemen ringing the temple made way as Nagarjun Shurai Sasat led some 250 of his close followers into Bodh Gaya, and entered the shrine in small groups, officials and witnesses said.

More than 850 other Buddhists campaign in this tiny town since Wednesday, defying a ban on the assembly of more than five people, also joined Sasat's march into the hallowed complex, district administration officials said.

"If need be this issue would be taken up at international forums such as the United Nations," the defiant crusader told a gathering, adding that he was firm in his resolve to

'liberate' the temple from Hindu control.

"The management of the shrine should be by Buddhists and no one else should interfere", Sasat said, reiterating his earlier demands, which he had presented to Indian President Shankar Dayal Sharma earlier this month in New Delhi.

Sasat is demanding an amendment to a 1949 legislation to end Hindu control on the shrine and establish a new autonomous Buddhist management, saying a coterie of Hindu controls its finances and tolerates no criticism.

Securitymen thronged the sprawling Buddhist complex fearing damage to a Hindu deity by followers of the Japanese-born monk who set out from the western city of Bombay September 27 to reach the Buddhist shrine in eastern India.

"There were fears that the monks would trample over the Shiva Linga", one officer

said, referring to the Hindu religious symbol installed by Hindu clergymen inside the complex.

Police ringed the revered Shiva Linga as the protesters walked past it and entered the sanctum sanctorum, the witnesses said.

Other followers of 58-year-old Sasat ignored steel chains and barricades put up around the ancient complex and entered the shrine without any resistance from the hundreds of armed policemen posted outside, witnesses said.

The Buddhist protesters, however, agreed to official requests and decided against forming a "human chain" around the shrine because of fears of communal trouble, police and civil administration officers said.

Lord Buddha is said to have attained enlightenment in the fifth century BC in Bodh Gaya, 120 kilometers (72 miles) from Patna, capital of the east- See Page 12 Col 6

# Babri Masjid issue Archaeologists disprove VHP claim

NEW DELHI, Oct 23: Four archaeologists and historians, who participated in the October 16 talks on the Ayodhya dispute, today said the findings of the former Director General of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), Prof B B Lal, at the disputed Ayodhya site disproved the VHP's claim that a temple was demolished in the 16th century and the Babri Masjid built on the spot, reports PTI.

The four experts, who examined the excavation records of Prof Lal at the ASI office at Purana Qila here today, charged the VHP with 'continuously changing their stand on the status of the temple-from that of Ram to Vishnu to Shiva.'

Stating that they carefully examined the material made available to them on the 1975-76 excavation of trench number four around the disputed Ayodhya site, they categorically See Page 12-Col 5

# New JCD committee unlikely immediately

By Asiuzzaman

Reconstitution of now defunct central committee of the Jatiyatadabi Chhatra Dal (JCD) has become uncertain caught in a tug-of-war between two groups of BNP leaders favouring two types of leadership in the party's students wing, sources said.

One group likes to promote juniors in the leadership while the other group favours 'seasoned' leaders, the source said requesting anonymity.

The JCD central body was dissolved on September 6 in the wake of an internecine clash that two killed on Dhaka University campus late last August.

So far, no discussion has taken place to reconstitute the JCD body and no move is likely until after BNP Secretary General Abdus Islam Talukdar who is away in Japan returns.

Among the junior leaders, the names of Rafiqul Islam Jaglu, Shahiduddin Annie and

Shahajahan Hawlader Sujan are in the air.

Rezvi Ahmed, Nazimuddin Alam, Fazlul Huq Milon and Abul Khair Bhuiyan are the key figures from the senior leadership, the source said.

Rezvi Ahmed and Elias Ali were elected President and General Secretary respectively in the council session of JCD on June 16.

Elias Ali who reportedly led one faction, was charged with the involvement in the killing and was arrested mid-last month. He is now in Comilla jail.

"The BNP high command would take some time to form a new committee to be sure about discipline inside JCD," the source said.

It has barred the branded workers of two groups from coming to the new BNP office at Nayapalton to avoid any possible untoward incident.

# Three students nabbed under anti-terrorism ordinance

Police arrested three students — two of the Dhaka University and one of a city school — on charges of extorting tolls from a house at Maghbazar, Nayatola Friday noon, reports UNB.

The arrested charged under the anti-terrorism ordinance were identified as Tariqul Islam alias Leo (final year Marketing) and Abdur Razzak (3rd year Marketing) of Dhaka University, and Manjurul Alam alias Swadhin, a student of Mottijheel Post Office High School.

Both Leo and Razzak are residents of Zahurul Huq Hall of the university. All three were activists of Mantu group Chhatra League.

Ranna police said a group of 7 to 8 people, including one with firearms, went to house no 360 at Nayatola, Maghbazar at about 11.30 am and demanded taka one lakh as tolls from the landlord Khandaker Faruq.

When refused, the miscreants started taking away some valuable, including a VCR set from the house.

Responding to the alarm raised by Faruk, neighbours rushed to his help and grabbed three of the gang.

# Sugar import eased

Sugar can now be freely imported on payment of specified duties, it was officially announced Friday, reports UNB.

The Import Order 1991-93 has been revised excluding sugar from the list of restricted imports and hence sugar is open for import on payment of specified duties, said an official handout quoting a Commerce Ministry notification.

The notification was issued to remove any confusion and misunderstanding and to inform all concerned about the actual position concerning import of sugar, the handout added.

# Perot surging ahead with a cost of \$ 2m a day

WASHINGTON, Oct 23: Ross Perot may still be third in the polls but he's quickly surged to the front of the presidential spending race, bankrolling \$2 million a day since re-entering the fray this month, reports AP.

In fact, the Texas billionaire's spending in the first 14 days of October — \$26 million — outdid President Bush and Democrat Bill Clinton combined, reports filed with the government showed Thursday.

Should he maintain the pace — and his plans for heavy advertising through the final days suggest he will — Perot will likely exceed the \$65.5 million to which Clinton and Bush are limited by law.

Perot has no limit because he's using his own money. Bush and Clinton are bound by spending limits because they accepted full taxpayer financing.

"Perot is in their league and certainly spending at an incredible rate given it's all coming out of his pocket," said Christopher Arterton, dean of the Graduate School for Political Management.

"The question now is whether he'll begin spending in such a way that goes after winning the election, particularly by attacking Clinton," Arterton said.

If Perot charges hard in the final days and has success in some states, he could affect the way Bush and Clinton had

planned to spend their campaign funds, he said.

"But so far his strategy has almost in a way been directed at not winning the election but having an effect on the nation as a whole," Arterton said.

Perot's poll numbers have doubled in less than a week after widely applauded performances in the debates and a wave of network television advertising.

Meanwhile, AFP adds: The State Department will search allegations that officials who searched passport files on Bill Clinton also sought records on his mother, a spokesman said Thursday.

Acting Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger ordered See Page 12 Col 4



US presidential candidate Bill Clinton accusing Bush of conducting secret probe into Clinton's mother's passport. — Star TV photo