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Inside Today

Article

A Growing Movement towards Democracy Marks the time
Page 4

International

Turkey supports Pak stand on Kashmir

India's army asks for $333m additional funds
Page 5

Business

Japan, ASEAN urge trading nations to shun protectionism

Tk 5.42 crore for uplift of CHT
Pages 6, 7

Feature

Environment

Appropriate selection Criteria for a Sanitary Landfill Site
Page 8

National

25,000 children suffering from malnutrition in Manikganj District
Page 9

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day

Teaching them about style, shades and tones
Page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

Engineers call on Khaleda

A delegation of the Institution of Engineers led by its President Professor Jamilur Reza Chowdhury called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her office yesterday. The delegation members apprised her of various problems of the engineers and sought government help for their solution. Begum Zia assured them that their problems would be looked into, reports BSS.

BNPPP meets today

A meeting of the Parliamentary Party of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) will be held at the Sangsad Bhaban today at 4 pm. Prime Minister and Leader of the House Begum Khaleda Zia will preside over the meeting in which present political situation, businesses of the current session of parliament and other related issues will be discussed, reports BSS.

Shibir calls hartal in Ctg today

CHITTAGONG, Oct 25 : Islami Chhatra Shibir has called a half-day hartal in the port city tomorrow (Monday) to protest killing of one of their activist. The hartal has been called to protest killing of their worker Saiful Islam who was kidnapped and later murdered on Oct 22, allegedly by activists of BCL (M-I) in Hathazari thana, reports UNB.

JS approves BSB (Amend) Bill

Saifur vows stern action against loan defaulters

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday categorically said that public money will not be allowed to be misappropriated by defaulting entrepreneurs on the plea of sickness of their industrial units, reports UNB.

The tough warning against bank loan defaulters came while the Finance Minister was winding up a discussion in parliament on the Bangladesh Shilpa Bank (Amendment) Bill-1992 last night.

"Entrepreneurs or the market can be sick, but industries can't be sick", Rahman said refuting the plea of defaulting industrial owners' association.

The bill seeking to provide short-term advances and loans for the purpose of working capital to industrial units by the Bangladesh Shilpa Bank was passed in parliament through voice vote.

He quoted a comment from the World Bank which said, "(In Bangladesh) industries are sick but owners are rich." Rahman said this paradox can not exist. "We will take loan but will not return the money ...this can't be allowed."

The present government, Rahman said, has undertaken reform programmes to restore discipline in the banking and financial sectors. "I don't say that I've achieved a lot of progress but I will continue my efforts in this regard."

The Minister appreciated the sentiment vented by members from the opposition benches against the defaulting entrepreneurs who misappropriated crores of Taka in the name of setting up industries.

"If necessary, more tough steps will be taken to recover the overdue loans from a section of entrepreneurs", Rahman assured the House.

Defending the bill, he said the amendment was brought in line with the government's industrial policy to help salvage sick industries. He said it is true that many industries could not be put into production due to shortage of working capital.

More than 20 opposition members joined the discussion demanding circulation of the bill to elicit public opinion before it is adopted by the House.

The opposition MPs said that there should be certain restriction in giving industrial loans to the entrepreneurs. They also suggested that adequate loans be given for encouraging more small and cottage industries.

Most of the opposition members in the House criticised the Bangladesh Shilpa Bank (Amendment) Bill, 1992 and called for circulating it to elicit public opinion on it.

Earlier, the House saw introduction of two amendment bills by Deputy Minister for LGRD, Abdul Hai. They were: The Local Government (Union Parishads) (Second Amendment) Bill, 1992, and the Pourashabha (Second Amendment) Bill, 1992.

17 of the 25 kidnapped kids back home

By SY Bakht

The kidnapped Bangladeshi children rescued in Bombay have finally returned home.

A group of 17 out a total of 25 Bangladeshi kidnapped children rescued by police in India earlier this year arrived from Bombay at the Zia International Airport Sunday.

The children, all boys aged under five, looked to be in good spirit as they landed at around 11:10 am aboard a Biman flight accompanied by Faith Willard of Friends of Bangladesh, the US-based organisation awarded custody of the children at its orphanage in Khulna.

Bombay police rescued the 25 boys from an abandoned building in March this year and also arrested 10 adults, all identified as Bangladeshis and claiming to be the parents of the kids, charged with kidnaping.

Willard said that the remaining eight boys were being kept in Bombay to be used as 'exhibits' in the trial of the alleged kidnappers.

Saying that the court process could take some time, she added that two additional minor boys, one barely over a year old, were also staying in jail

See Page 12 Col 1

Faith Willard (centre) of the Friends of Bangladesh with 17 children brought from Bombay at the Zia International Airport yesterday. — Star photo by Enamul Huq

Sher-e-Bangla's birthday today

By Staff Correspondent

The 119th birth anniversary of Sher-e-Bangla A K Fazlul Haque will be observed today (Monday).

In observance of the day, Sher-e-Bangla Jatiya Smriti Sangsad, Bangladesh Jatiya Baktrita Gobeswana Kendra and Bangladesh Manabadhikar Sangathan have jointly organised a discussion meeting in the premises of Sher-e-Bangla's Mazar near Doyel crossing on the Dhaka University Campus at 9 am today.

Former Chief Justice Kemaluddin Hossain, Dr Kamal Hossain, former ministers M A Haque, A K Faijul Haque, Prof Odudur Rahman, Dr Mazharul Islam, Dr Ashraf Siddiqi and Dr K M Karim will address the meeting. Justice Ruhul Islam will preside.

Besides, Quran Khwani and Milad Mahfil will be held at the mazar of Sher-e-Bangla.

Anti-terrorism ordn

AL bracing itself for collision

By Nurul Kabir

The remaining days of the current session of parliament are likely to witness deterioration of relationship between the Treasury bench and the Opposition over the former's attempt to get the anti-terrorism bill passed and the latter's determination to resist it.

The current session is likely to be prorogued on Nov 2.

Awami League (AL) chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina yesterday evening asked her party colleagues in Parliament to go ahead with 'a hard line' against the ruling party bid for passage of the anti-terrorism bill.

Laid in the House as an ordinance on the opening day of the current session, the anti-terrorism bill might be intro-

See Page 12 Col 4

Seen from the Gallery

by Sabir Mustafa

Good news for those with a soft spot for the hard stuff. The government has no plans to close down the production of alcoholic beverages at Carew & Company which, incidentally, is a sugar factory.

Now some bad news for the same happy tipplers. The government has no plans to set up distilleries at other sugar fac-

See Page 12 Col 7

Implement accord on Azam, Hasina asks govt

Sheikh Hasina yesterday (Sunday) said the indemnity ordinance must be annulled to establish rule of law for giving democracy an institutional shape, reports UNB.

Addressing a group of party leaders from Fatullah thana unit at 29 Minto Road, the Awami League President deplored the ruling party's "negative attitude towards scrapping the inhuman ordinance".

Hasina, also Leader of the Opposition in parliament, demanded implementation of the June 29 government-opposition accord that promised to hold trial of Golam Azam and

See Page 12 Col 1

Develop human resources of Muslim world: PM

JOYDEVPUR, Oct 25: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday identified human resources as the basic component for economic and social progress and called for putting top priority on their development to ensure socio-economic emancipation of the Muslim ummah, reports UNB.

"Efforts of economic cooperation and prosperity will not be successful unless the enormous human resources of the Muslim world are developed into human capital", she said.

Begum Zia was addressing the Sixth Congregation for the Award of Degree, Diploma and Certificate of the Islamic Centre for Technical and Vocational Training and Research (ICTVTR) at Joydevpur this morning.

The ICTVTR, a subsidiary organ of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), was established in 1981 with the objectives of developing human resources of the Muslim countries by enhancing technical knowledge, skills, studies in Islamic values and sharing of experiences and innovations.

She pointed out that modern civilization, which is traced back to the days of European renaissance, owes a great deal to the Islamic civilization.

"Muslims have a glorious

See Page 12 Col 4

SAARC summit

Tariqul goes to Bhutan Thursday to invite King

Star Report

Social Welfare and Women's Affairs Minister Tariqul Islam goes to Bhutan Thursday (October 29) as a special envoy of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to deliver the formal letter of invitation to King Jigme Singhe Wangchuk for the SAARC summit.

However, Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman will be going to the other five countries to do the job.

The Foreign Minister, who was scheduled to begin his tour of four capitals in the first

See Page 12 Col 3

Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Alliance (JKDA) supporters marching towards the actual Line of Control Saturday. — Star TV photo

Pro-Kashmir activists abandon programme

Pak troops open fire on marchers, arrest leaders

NAILI (Pakistan), Oct 25: Pro-Kashmir activists called off one march to the heavily defended ceasefire line with India after Pakistani paramilitary forces shot into crowds of protesters and arrested their leaders today, reports Reuter.

At least 15 marchers were injured, including two with serious bullet wounds, ambulance officials said.

Troops accused the marchers of shooting first. Some marchers said security forces opened fire from behind.

"I saw one of the injured and there was hardly any sign of life," said Ishaq Zafir, a former assembly Speaker in Pakistan-ruled Azad (free) Kashmir.

A spokesman of the JKLF later said Azad Ali Khokhar, 22, died from bullet wounds in hospital.

Most people were hurt when paramilitary Punjab constabulary hurled stones at hundreds of marchers massing at barbed wire barricade across the narrow road. Dozens of people were slightly hurt in the stone-throwing.

The paramilitary said 10 of their men were hurt, some by gunfire from the crowd that forced them to retaliate.

Leaders announced they were calling off the march, but would not abandon efforts to show support for an uprising against Indian rule in the two-thirds of Kashmir controlled by Delhi.

"We will try again," said Raja Muzaffar, vice president of the pro-independence Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), who was, among those arrested, "our goal is the reunification of Kashmir".

"People want to decide about their future by themselves not by Islamabad or New Delhi" he said.

Police arrested JKLF chairman Amanullah Khan, march leader Sultan Mahmood Chaudhury who heads a group wanting Kashmir to join

See Page 12 Col 7

Auranga's bail prayer rejected

Hemayetullah Auranga was sent to jail yesterday after his bail petition was rejected by the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, reports UNB.

The Awami League MP, arrested on Saturday, was produced before the CMM court yesterday.

He was picked up Saturday after noon from Hotel Purbani by a special squad of detective branch following a warrant, police said.

Detective police interrogated him on Saturday and Sunday.

Auranga, who was elected parliament member from Shariatpur, was wanted by police in a murder case of 1980 lodged with Ramna police station. There are also cases against him for illegal possession of firearms.

Advocate Khandaker Abdul

See Page 12 Col 1

Bush's dirty tricks forced me to withdraw in July : Perot

NEW YORK, Oct 25: Ross Perot blames Bush campaign dirty tricks for forcing him to withdraw from the presidential race in July, the Texas billionaire says in interviews with CBS "60 Minutes" and Sunday's Boston Herald, reports AP.

Bush campaign spokeswoman Torie Clarke called the allegations "total and complete nonsense."

Perot told both "60 Minutes" and the Herald that a well-connected Republican friend said the Republican party had used computer imaging to doctor a photo of his daughter, Carolyn. The Herald ran the story in its final editions Sunday, and the CBS interview was to be broadcast Sunday evening.

"They were going to smear her with a fake photograph that they had done with a computer where you put a head on another body and they were actually going to have people in the church to disrupt her wedding" on Aug 23, Perot told the Herald.

The doctored photograph was destined for publication in supermarket tabloids, Perot said. The Herald and CBS did not describe the photo or say what it was doctored to convey.

Perot also contends that the Bush campaign intended to wiretap his Dallas business office. He told the Herald that he has given FBI investigators a 20-minute videotape of a meeting in downtown Dallas between a senior member of the Bush campaign and an ex-CIA contract employee hired to do the wiring.

Perot provided no names to back up his allegations and would not say how he obtained the videotape. CBS says the head of the FBI's Dallas office found no evidence of wiretapping.

The Texas billionaire said he did not go public with the dirty tricks allegations when he withdrew from the race because he wanted to protect his daughter and didn't want to make it a campaign issue.

Orson Swindle, the executive director of the Perot campaign said in a television interview Sunday that Perot never mentioned the alleged dirty tricks campaign to him in July when he withdrew. He said Perot is "intensely personal" and reporters would have to ask him why he didn't tell his campaign about it or why he chose to withdraw rather than take other actions.

See Page 12 Col 8

Stock exhaustion ups sugar price, JS told

Industries Minister M. Shamsul Islam yesterday told the Sangsad that the price of sugar had slightly risen in the market due to near exhaustion of its stock for the 1991-92 season and strict government control on smuggling of sugar in the border areas , reports BSS.

Replying to a question from Shahdazzaman (Bogra-Jamaat), the Minister said Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation had taken measures to release all sugar in the market from stock through approved dealers with a view to containing the price.

Besides, he said, the sugar mills also have taken steps to begin production, between the last week of October and the second week of November, for the 1992-93 season.

Construction of Padma Bridge under study

Communications Minister Oli Ahmad yesterday told the Jatiya Sangsad that a plan for construction of the "Padma Bridge" across the river Padma on Dhaka-Khulna via Mawa Highway was under consideration of the government, reports BSS.

Replying to a call attention notice moved by Shahjahan Khan (AL-Madaripur), the Communications Minister said a feasibility study for the Padma bridge would be taken up with the availability of necessary funds for the purpose.

He said that arrangements for financing the Padma Bridge would be taken up after the actual start of the work on the Jamuna Bridge and completion of its financing.

Shahjahan Khan in his call attention notice mentioned the importance of construction of the Padma Bridge and said that it was indispensable for easing the communications between Dhaka and 20 districts of the country's southern region.

He said after completion of the construction of the Padma Bridge, the distance between Dhaka and those districts would be reduced by 100 kms to 125 kms.

A proposal from a multinational company for exporting liquefied gas is under consideration of the government, Energy Minister told parliament yesterday.

Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, however, ruled out the idea of exporting gas from the country.

The Minister told Manirul Haq Chowdhury (JP) that daily requirement of gas in the country is 570 million cft. The quantum of extraction is the same, he said.

Little progress in ATAB-govt talks

By Staff Correspondent

The strike by the travel agents enters the 8th day today (Monday) with little progress in negotiations started by the Civil Aviation Ministry, agency sources said Sunday.

The Association of the Travel Agents of Bangladesh (ATAB) submitted an application proposing Value Added Tax (VAT) collection from the passengers, the sources said. Until now the VAT is collected from the travel agents.

The sources said that a meeting might take place today (Monday) between the Finance Ministry, Civil Aviation Ministry and ATAB executives.

Meanwhile, the passengers load on airlines fell furthers affecting the national career Biman most, Biman sources said.

Passengers in the Dhaka-

See Page 12 Col 1