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Inside Today

- Article
- ME peace talks : Israel indicates withdrawal
- Column : Spotlight on Middle East by Muslehuddin Ahmed Page 4
- International
- Israel wants to wreck ME peace talks, Arafat says Page 5
- Business
- LJC okays three \$19m projects for jute, kenaf Page 7
- Magazine

Producing Good Soldiers for Good Democracy at Staff College, Where the King's Men Lie Asleep, The Journey of Mr B, My World by SM Ali, Write to Mita and Book Review Pages 9, 10, 11

Metropolitan  
 Dhaka Day by Day  
 The Meeting Mania Page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

**Two SMCH docs suspended**  
 Deputy Minister for Health and Family Welfare Strajul Huq yesterday issued directive to the concerned authorities to suspend two physicians of Saitmullah Medical College Hospital temporarily for dereliction of their duties. The two suspended physicians are Dr Saifa Hossain and Dr Rashida Sadiya Begum of the Pathology department. During his surprise visit to the hospital, Strajul Huq found the two physicians absent without permission, reports BSS.

**JS Committee on Industries meets**

The 9th meeting of the parliamentary Standing Committee on Industries Ministry was held yesterday at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban with Industries Minister Shamsul Islam Khan in the chair. The meeting discussed matter relating to sale and distribution situation of fertilizer, raising the recovery rate of sugar from sugar cane and the ways and means to raise the sugar production of the country, reports BSS.

**10 more die of diarrhoea**

At least 10 people died of diarrhoea Thursday in 14 affected districts of the country, raising the toll to 625 since July. Health Control Room sources said they also recorded 2,291 people affected by the killer disease during the period, reports UNB.

**'Janma Data' censor certificate cancelled**

The censor certificate of the full length Bangla film, 'Janma Data' produced by Messers 'Soni Kotha Chitra' has been cancelled temporarily by Bangladesh Films Censor Board under the Censorship Act. The cancellation order will come into effect immediately, reports BSS.

## Clinton firm to keep US Number One despite defence cuts

LITTLE ROCK (Ark), Nov 12: President-elect Bill Clinton on Thursday said his first foreign policy priority will be to work on a multi-year programme to keep the United States as the world's strongest military power while cutting defence spending, reports AP.  
 At his first news conference since being elected, Clinton said other priorities will be to work with Russia for nuclear disarmament, curbing proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and "keeping the Middle East peace talks on track."  
 Clinton promised to pick a cabinet that "will look more like America than previous administrations." The pledge was taken to mean that he would appoint more women and members of ethnic minorities.  
 Clinton promised to name "the most qualified and diverse group available."

He said he would pick a secretary of state, a secretary of defense and a national security advisor who could work together on his foreign policy and national security priorities while keeping in mind the overall top goal of domestic economic regeneration.  
 Concentrating on domestic matters, Clinton promised both short-term and longer-duration steps to cure the ailing economy, but said the voters who elected him president last week "don't expect overnight miracles."  
 Clinton suggested he would propose a middle-class tax cut as he outlined in a campaign economic manifesto, but he did not directly promise to ask Congress for one.  
 Clinton said he was making several appointments to his transition team, a step he said would put the transition into "high gear."  
 Clinton also pledged to

change two Bush administration policies with which he disagreed during the campaign.  
 He said a so-called gag rule that restricts abortion counseling at federal funded family planning clinics, "should be repealed."  
 He also said he would no longer send Haitians fleeing their country back home without giving them some sort of hearing on their immigration status.  
 Asked about his policy for the Korean peninsula, Clinton said "I hope that someday the Korean people will be reunited in a democratic and free society."  
 He said the United States would continue to play a role in the security of South Korea and he hoped for success in the effort to keep North Korea from developing a nuclear capability.  
 See Page 12 Col 2

## Kennedy-Nehru style ties with Rao

LITTLE ROCK (Arkansas), Nov 12: President-elect Bill Clinton said here Wednesday that he hoped to establish a working relationship with Indian Premier PV Narasimha Rao similar to the one that existed between John F Kennedy and Pandit Nehru, reports AFP.  
 Clinton called Rao as part of talks with world leaders in the wake of his election victory over President George Bush on November 3.  
 Rao told Clinton he hoped they could work together in the fashion of Kennedy and Nehru in the early 1960s and the governor said he hoped so as well, spokesman George Stephanopoulos said.  
 Clinton said that he was aware of the support he had received in the election from the Asian Indian community in the United States.  
 He also told Rao that he appreciated what the Prime Minister had achieved in economic reform since the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi in 1991, Stephanopoulos said.  
 Clinton also noted that both he and Rao were 'Southerners' in their own country and that he looked forward to working with another Southerner.

## Royal Bengal tigers turn man-eaters

By Inam Ahmed  
 The famous Royal Bengal Tigers of the Sundarbans are increasingly becoming man-eaters.  
 Informed sources said that so far, this year, the tigers killed about 80 persons. Last year, the figure was about 60. During 1990, only about 20 persons fell prey to these predators.  
 The tigers have become much more aggressive over the past years. Khasru Chowdhury, an environmentalist working on the socio-biology of tigers said after a recent trip to the abode of the man-eaters.  
 Only in three areas of Chandpai, Judhara and Katakhal of the eastern Sundarbans, six persons were killed in the last two months, sources said.  
 Experts feel that decrease in games in the forest, grazing of cattle in the forest area and excessive trespassing in the

forest by wood-pullers are the main reasons behind the behavioural change of the tigers.  
 They said deer population especially in the eastern part of the forest has dropped swiftly in the past years as the villagers are using the grass lands of the forest for their cattle grazing. The predators bereft of their natural food have started feasting on these cattle.  
 Whenever, these tigers confront human beings along with cattle, they also kill them. As human being is an easy prey, the tigers have become used to man-eating. At present, illegal firewood collectors and wood-pullers are the main prey.  
 During the last four years, man-eaters have regularly intruded into the villages of Chandpai, Judhara, Katakhal and Morogmari. Even the dog



## Syed Altaf Hossain dead

Syed Altaf Hossain, a renowned political leader and founder-President of Ganatantri Party, died of cancer at his Gopibagh residence in city last night, family sources said. He was 69, reports BSS.  
 A freedom fighter and former member of parliament, Altaf Hossain left behind his wife only daughter and a large number of political colleagues and admirers to mourn his death.  
 His namaz-e-janaza will be held today after Jumma  
 See Page 12 Col 3



Bangladesh Hawkers Federation brought out a procession in city yesterday protesting terrorism and extortion. — Star photo

## Row over anti-smuggling drive BDR men, shopowners clash in Comilla

From Our Correspondent  
 COMILLA, Nov 12: Seven persons were injured in clashes between Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) men and members of the public this morning during an anti-smuggling drive in the town.  
 Following the clash, a hartal was observed from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm in the town.  
 The incident began at 9.30 am as an anti-smuggling task force led by Magistrate Mohiuddin, one Customs official, a 80-member BDR force

led by Captain Parvez and a 10-member police force had arrived at a market in Manoharpur in the town and had altercation with shop owners.  
 Following the row at 10.30 am the BDR men started using baton on shopowners and public. In the row, several persons including two Shopowners Association Federation leaders.  
 After the clashes, the shopowners' federation immediately

## World Bank chief due Nov 15

World Bank (WB) President Lewis T Preston arrives here November 15 on a three-day official visit to strengthen further the lending operations in Bangladesh, reports BSS.  
 The WB is the key-coordinating donor agency and arranges the Bangladesh aid group meeting at Paris.  
 Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman will receive the WB President at the 2nd International Airport.  
 During his three-day visit, Preston is expected to call on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda  
 See Page 12 Col 6

## China jails 4000 dissidents

BEIJING, Nov 12: About 4,000 Chinese are serving prison terms for counter-revolutionary or political crimes, the head of an Australian Human Rights delegation today quoted a government official as saying, reports AFP.  
 "As to the end of last year the total number of people convicted and serving sentences for so-called counter-revolutionary crimes totals 4,000," Australian Senator Chris Schacht told a news conference.  
 The Senator said an unnamed Public Security Bureau official revealed the figure to the delegation in talks here, but warned: "The official did indicate that he didn't want that figure taken in absolute terms."  
 "People will have to make judgements on the accuracy of that figure," Schacht added.  
 Western Human Rights activists charge that "counter-revolutionary crimes" are often arbitrary and used by China's communist leaders to persecute

political enemies, such as the leaders of the 1989 pro-democracy protests.  
 Schacht said he did not know how many of the 4,000 were convicted for taking part in the Tiananmen Square movement.  
 Apparently in response to its critics, China's supreme people's procuratorate is now considering dropping the crime of counter-revolution, the Senator said.  
 "They said that they were considering adopting a change in that crime to the crime of treason, which is, as they pointed out, a crime that is operating in all western countries," Schacht said.  
 "We would welcome that as a step forward," he said. Another member of the delegation said the number of Chinese political prisoners would be higher if people held without trial were counted.  
 "It was made clear to us that (the figure of 4,000) was people in prison and convicted," Australian Law Reform Commissioner Chris Sidoti

said.  
 "Clearly, that doesn't relate to those who are held under administrative detention. The Chinese authorities are not asking us to believe that there are only 4,000 people detained because of their political views," he said.  
 Chinese due process laws allow suspects to be detained for three months without charges, but the rule is widely broken with some people held for years without being indicted or brought to trial.  
 Amnesty International said in July that hundreds of thousands of people were being held without charge in China, including some political and religious dissidents, notably Catholics in North China and Buddhist monks in Tibet.  
 The number of political prisoners was in the thousands, including hundreds of prisoners of conscience, the London-based Human Rights Watchdog said.  
 Many were held without charge or trial and some were serving sentences imposed after unfair trials, it said.

## Nepal to get 850 cusec water from India a day

VALMIKINAGAR (Indo-Nepal border), Nov 12: India today agreed to give 850 cusec water to Nepal from the Don canal every day, reports PTI.  
 The agreement was reached at the end of a two-day meeting between the Irrigation Minister of Nepal, Laxman Prasad Ghimire and the Water Resources Minister of Bihar, Jagadanand Singh here.  
 Briefing newsmen after the meeting, the Engineer-in-Chief of the state Irrigation Department, Shaileendra Kumar Sinha, said that as per the agreement, the supply of 850 cusec water to Nepal everyday would start on January 10, 1993.  
 According to an agreement reached between the two countries in 1959, India was to give 850 cusec water to Nepal daily. But following damage to the canal in 1986-87, water could not be given for nearly four years. From 1991, Nepal was given 700 cusec of water after the canal was repaired.

## Plea to return toxic fertilizer to US

By Staff Correspondent  
 A local NGO and an American environmental organisation Thursday called for the return of the contaminated fertilizer, imported from the United States earlier this year, to the country of origin.  
 In a joint investigation, UBINIG and the US Greenpeace found that the zinc-oxysulphate fertilizer contaminated with hazardous waste is still available in the market although Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) the importers, asked the dealers to stop selling it in June.  
 "In spite of BADC's order to stop selling, our investigators purchased a bag of 25 kg of the fertilizer for Taka 220 in Dinajpur during the first week of this month, informed Anne Leonard of Greenpeace and Farida Akhter of UBINIG at a press conference at the National Press Club.  
 Earlier this year, about 3150 tons of the fertilizer manufactured by the Stoller

Chemical Company of US which, they said, was illegally mixed with 1000 tons of hazardous waste containing lead and cadmium was imported with Asian Development Bank funding.  
 Demanding that the remaining stock of the toxic fertilizer be centrally collected in Dhaka before being shipped back to the US, they noted that more than 1100 tons of the fertilizer were already sold and used by farmers in 12 areas in the northern and southern regions of the country.  
 Identifying the areas as Shambhuganj (Mymensingh), Chittagong, Melandaha (Jamalpur), Rangpur, Gaib-andha, Dinajpur, Panchagar, Shibirganj, Khulna, Barguna and Patuakhali, they said that they also identified some cropland in Dinajpur where it was still being used.  
 "Some of these farms have applied the fertilizer both for

## AL decision on Dr Kamal soon

Awami League has planned a vigorous countrywide mass contact programme from next month to whip up public opinion against "undemocratic and anti-people steps" of the BNP government.  
 Party chief and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina will lead the two-month-long mass campaign December-January. AL Joint Secretary Abdul Jalil told UNB last night.  
 Issues like the anti-terrorism act, Golam Azam and Indemnity Ordinance are likely to be focal points of the planned campaign, besides price-spiralling, terrorism, politicisation, Indian "Operation Push Back" and the Rohingya refugee problem.  
 Hasina will address a series of public meetings and workers' rallies in district and thana headquarters during the drive.  
 When his attention was drawn to Dr Kamal Hossain's address at Wednesday's meeting of the Mantu-faction of Juba League, Jalil said Awami League central working committee would discuss the matter and take decision.  
 Dr Kamal is still a primary member of Awami League and, hence, a member, whoever he may be, is not above party discipline and constitution, he said.

## India likely testing ground for AIDS vaccines

NEW DELHI, Nov 12: Experts told a 40-nation AIDS Congress today India could be a possible testing venue for vaccines for the killer disease, as protests by homosexuals and a brawl marred the meeting's last session, reports AFP.  
 The Deputy Director of the US based National Institute of Health, Lewllys Barkar, told the second international congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific that seven other nations were being assessed as testing ground for vaccines against Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS).  
 "The pave-project aims at establishing the attack rates of AIDS infection in the community, Barkar said, adding that the tests would be a trial for emerging vaccines which could lead to a future AIDS antidote.  
 He did not name the seven other countries where the

project could be started, but New Delhi's health chief, SP Tripathy, said the planned project here "did not necessarily imply that vaccine trials will be conducted in India."  
 Experts have said AIDS could turn into the scourge of Asia and the Pacific unless checked through mass awareness programme and the policing of blood banks, drug addicts, homosexuals and prostitutes.  
 Witnesses, however, said the congress's concluding session was marred by brawls, protests by homosexuals and a group which called itself India's AIDS anti-discrimination movement.  
 They entered the venue saying homosexuals should not be hounded as carriers of AIDS and demanded Indians should not be used as "experimental rats" for any pilot vaccine.

"Why should Indians be treated as guinea pigs and rats for the tests," the protesters said in a news conference before entering the congress venue saying it was a "blatant discrimination" against people infected with the HIV virus that causes the deadly syndrome.  
 Later, the protesters stormed into the venue calling the event a "sham and a non-serious jamboree of pleasure-seekers" and said doctors refusing to treat AIDS patients should be barred from the medical profession.  
 Wearing black tee shirts, homosexual men and women marched around the crowded hall and picketed the podium as the congress's theme song "love is cure" played to bring down the curtains on the five-day event.



Demonstrators hold aloft posters during a rally yesterday which disrupted the second International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific being held in Delhi. The protesters maintain homosexuals should not be hounded as carriers of AIDS. — AFP photo

## Mostafiz leaves for India

Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman left Dhaka last night for Calcutta enroute to New Delhi on the second leg of his visit to south Asian capitals to extend formal invitations to SAARC leaders for their 7th summit in Dhaka next month, reports UNB.  
 His current tour as special emissary of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will also take the Foreign Minister to Islamabad and Kathmandu.  
 During the weeklong tour, he will deliver invitation letters to Prime Minister Narasimha Rao of India, Prime Minister Mian Nawaz Sharif of Pakistan and Prime Minister Girtija Prasad Koirala of Nepal.  
 After an overnight transit stopover at Calcutta, Mostafiz will be in New Delhi today. Foreign Secretary Reaz Rahman is accompanying the Minister during his visit to the  
 See Page 12 Col 6