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NEWS BRIEFS

Dhaka-Yangon talks Nov 23

The 11th round of senior officials meeting between Bangladesh and Myanmar will be held in Ngapali, Myanmar from November 23-25. The Bangladesh delegation will be led by Chittagong Divisional Commissioner Muhammad Omar Farooq, while the Myanmar side will be led by U Maung Aung, Director-General (IMP), reports BSS.

Malaysian envoy calls on Hasina

Malaysian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Ahmed Fuji called on Awami League President and Leader of the Opposition in the parliament Sheikh Hasina at her office at the Sangsad Bhaban yesterday. Party sources said that they had discussed social, economic and political situation in Bangladesh, reports UNB.

By-election holiday

The government has declared holiday on December 2 in areas of Bhola-4 constituency where by-election will be held on that day. The step has been taken to facilitate officials and employees of government, semi-government and autonomous bodies and industrial workers to cast their votes, reports UNB.

Madhuchhanda 9th issue banned

The government has proscribed and banned the sale, distribution and preservation of the 9th issue of the first year of monthly Madhuchhanda (October) for printing obscene pictures on its cover and on different pages and objectionable articles, reports BSS.

Hurricane approaching Bangladesh coast

By Staff Correspondent

A severe cyclonic storm with a core of hurricane winds was last night approaching the Bangladesh coast and was centred at about 690 kilometres south-west of Chittagong. A Storm Warning centre bulletin said last night that the cyclone may hit the coast Friday (today) morning.

It said that maximum sustained wind within 74 kilometres of the storm was 180 kilometres per hour (kph) rising to 195 kph in gusts and squalls. It also added that the cyclone was likely to intensify further and move in a north-north easterly direction to-

wards the coast at a speed of 20 km per hour. Meanwhile, thousands of volunteers were alerted in the coastal areas Thursday to start quick evacuation in the face of the impending cyclone that could prove as deadly as the one in April 29, 1991 in which over one lakh people were killed.

"We have kept more than 20,000 volunteers on alert along the coast line to start emergency evacuation if and when necessary," said Harun-ur-Rashid, Director, Red Crescent Society, Dhaka Thursday.

The Storm Warning centre bulletin earlier said that the

sea would remain "very high" during this period.

Maritime ports of Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and Mongla were advised to hoist Local Warning Signal Number 4.

River ports in the regions of Chittagong, Noakhali, Barisal, Patuakhali, Comilla and Khulna were advised to keep hoisted Riverine Signal Number 2.

All fishing boats and trawlers in the North Bay were advised to remain in safe shelters until the next forecast.

Meanwhile, the Chittagong Port authorities announced a special alert and asked all ships to move out to the outer anchorage for safety. There were at least eight

foodgrain carrying and four other ships in the Chittagong Port channel.

Naval ships were also asked to move to safer places.

In Chittagong, Control Rooms were set up for round-the-clock observation and information.

All the UNOs were given blank cheques to use for buying food if and when the cyclone struck.

WASA, T&T, Public Health and Engineering, PWD, Ctg Port Authority, Airport, Fire Brigade and Civil Surgeon's office were all alerted against any possible calamity, official sources said. Meanwhile, the sky over

Chittagong remained mainly overcast the whole day Thursday with drizzles in the evening.

A US Embassy official in Dhaka said that it had asked all US citizens working in the coastal regions to return to safety.

The Red Crescent volunteers and district officials in the coastal areas were holding emergency meetings to discuss ways to cope with the approaching cyclone.

In Patuakhali and Galachipa, the authorities kept some trawlers and boats ready to evacuate people.

Volunteers in Chittagong and Cox's Bazar were using

loudspeakers in the streets to warn people of the storm.

Our Correspondent in Cox's Bazar adds: The people living in the coastal areas of the district and on the St Martin, Kutubdia and Moheshkhali islands were moving to safe areas.

A meeting presided over by the DC of Cox's Bazar was held Thursday evening and it discussed preparatory measures to face the impending calamity.

Control Rooms were opened at the DC office and also at the thana headquarters. All thana administrations were advised to take precautionary measures.

PM asks Defence Ministry officials to work with honesty

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia met senior officials and heads of department under the Ministry of Defence in Dhaka yesterday, reports BSS. Begum Khaleda Zia who is also in-charge of the Ministry of Defence, in her brief address, asked the officials to discharge their duties with honesty, sincerity and devotion.

She stressed the need for well coordinated efforts by all concerned in the discharge of their responsibilities.

Earlier, Defence Secretary M A Malik assured the Prime Minister that the officials of the Ministry would perform their duties with utmost sincerity.

Secretary to the Prime Minister Dr Kamal Siddiqui was present.

Terrorism now philosophy of BNP: Hasina

Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the present "inefficient" government, failing to run the country, had resorted to repression on its political opponents to cling to power, reports UNB.

In a statement, she protested continued harassment, terrorism and filing "false cases" against Awami League leaders and workers in Dhaka and other districts of the country.

The Awami League President called for building a united resistance against what she called all-pervading excesses of the ruling party. Hasina charged the ruling party and its wings with resorting to violence and terror. See Page 12 Col 7

Two cultural programmes for SAARC summit guests

By Nazmul Ashraf

Two colourful shows depicting Bangladesh's cultural heritage have been planned to entertain the Seventh SAARC Summit VIPs.

The heads of state and government and the senior members of their delegations will witness a programme at the Bangabhaban, to be preceded by a banquet hosted by the President, on November 13 evening after a day-long retreat on board a VIP vessel Ostrich on the river Buriganga. The summittees are scheduled to sit for the opening session on December 12. See Page 12 Col 5

Armedmen snatch 3 persons from police van

By Staff Correspondent

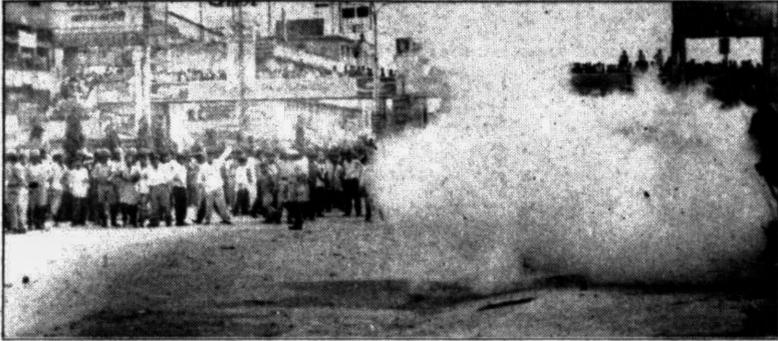
A group of armedmen snatched three accused persons from a police van firing gunshots and exploding crackers after one hour of their arrest at Kawran Bazar area in the city Wednesday.

Rana, Alam, and Shekul were arrested from Tejaon area Wednesday morning against warrants issued by Tejaon police earlier, said a. See Page 12 Col 4

Gunmen from inside Dhaka College fire on shopkeepers' procession

One killed, 11 receive bullets

By Staff Correspondent



Police firing tear gas shells to disperse mob near New Market (top) and entering Dhaka College premises in search of rowdy elements (above) yesterday. — Star photo

At least one person died on the spot and 11 others received injuries Thursday morning when armed terrorists from inside Dhaka College opened fires on a procession of New Market shopkeepers in front of the college.

The dead was identified as Anwar Hossain (20), a shopkeeper. He got bullet in the throat.

The incident occurred at 11 am.

Abul Kalam (24), Shamsuddin (20) and Shankar Chandra (20) were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). The injured also included three policemen.

The processionists were parading the streets protesting the physical harassment of some shopkeepers allegedly by some students of the Dhaka College.

Of the injured, Abul Kalam and Shamsuddin had bullet in the shoulder and in thigh respectively.

Police arrested a first-year student of the college from the spot. The arrested student's name is Ziaur Rahman.

Witnesses said that the gunmen fired at least a hundred rounds of bullets and blasted scores of crackers in front of the college.

Police lobbed some 35 tear gas shells to disperse the people.

According to the New Market shopkeepers, a Dhaka College student bought a pen Monday from the market's. See Page 12 Col 2

Govt wants all food aid monetized

By S Y Bakht

The government is seeking to monetize all food aid given to Bangladesh.

According to an authoritative source at the Food Ministry, the government has already approached different donor countries and international agencies informally, for monetizing all food aid donated to the country each year.

Most major donors responded positively to the government proposal. However, the World Food Programme (WFP) one of the largest donors, is reluctant to agree to the proposal.

The rationale behind the

government move, the source added, was that monetizing the food aid would allow better monitoring, ensure proper accountability and guarantee efficient use of the resources.

Resources from the monetized food aid can be ploughed back into the development plan and projects currently implemented with food aid can be included into the Annual Development Plan (ADP) of the country.

Furthermore, the source pointed out, monetization of the food aid would also help cut down on the system loss. See Page 12 Col 8

Bhuttos banned from entering NWFP

PESHAWAR (Pakistan), Nov 19: The Peshawar government today banned opposition leader Benazir Bhutto from entering the north-western province for thirty days, an official announcement said, reports AFP. Bhutto's mother, Nusrat, was also banned from entering the province for the same period, the announcement said.

Bhutto was to arrive here tomorrow to lead a procession as part of a current opposition campaign to press for elections.

The two opposition leaders have already been barred from entering the Pakistani capital of Islamabad and the adjoining. See Page 12 Col 1



Benazir Bhutto

Dhaka warned of sea level rise

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh should set up a separate authority under the Ministry of Environment to coordinate studies on the rise in global temperature, the possible sea-level change and other consequential effects on the country.

This was suggested in an 'Action plan for Bangladesh' prepared at a workshop of the inter-governmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) and the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) which ended here Thursday.

An IOC-UNEP task team in a report finalised at the workshop also called on the countries of the South Asian Seas (SAS) region to focus immediate attention on the expected

global climatic changes and the accompanying change in the sea level.

The four-day IOC-UNEP workshop was organised by the National Oceanographic and Maritime Institute (NOAMI) and was held at the Engineers Institution.

Delegates from Sri Lanka, India and Pakistan also participated in the workshop along with local experts.

The action plan also suggested that the government set up a permanent committee headed by the Secretary of the Ministry of Environment with representatives from the Space and Remote Sensing Organisation, the Department of Meteorology, the office of the Surveyor General, the

Geological Survey, BIWTA, Department of Marine Fisheries and NOAMI with the Director General of the Department of Environment as the member secretary.

The task team report on the SAS region, that included Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, was placed by the Team Coordinator Dr G S Quraishee at the concluding session on the day with the Vice Chancellor of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology Professor M Shahjahan in the chair.

The workshop was also attended by, among others, IOC representative Yihang Jiang, NOAMI chief advisor Rear. See Page 12 Col 7

Situation under control, says Press Note

One person was killed and eleven others, including three police constables, were injured in clashes between the students of Dhaka College and shopkeepers around New Market and Dhaka College here Thursday, reports BSS.

According to a Press Note issued by the Home Ministry, one person was arrested in this connection. The police are now patrolling the area, and the situation is under control, the Press Note added.

The Press Note said there was an altercation between the shopkeepers and some youths stated to be students of Dhaka College, when the latter had teased a woman buyer in front. See Page 12 Col 3

'BSEHR, not Hasina first gave power transfer formula'

Information Minister Nazmul Huda yesterday said it was Bangladesh Society for the Enforcement of Human Rights (BSEHR) which had first given a formula in 1989 for transfer of power through constitutional means from Ershad regime to an acceptable person, reports BSS.

Refuting Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina's claim in a news item published in a section of the press yesterday that she had first shown the way of transfer of power in 1980, the minister said the BSEHR formula had clearly indicated the pros and cons of the same a year earlier in 1989 at its meeting held at the National Press Club.

The Information Minister

was addressing the inaugural function of the seventh biennial conference of Bangladesh Public Relations Association (BPRA) at the National Press Club auditorium here.

With the association President Md Nurul Islam in the chair, the function was also addressed by acting Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University Dr Emajuddin Ahmad and the association General Secretary Obaidul Kabir Khan.

The inaugural session started with reading-out of a message from Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in which she called upon the members of the BPRA to carry out their responsibility with sincerity and dedication to help imple- See Page 12 Col 5

Russia to halt N-sub production

SEOUL, Nov 19: Russian President Boris Yeltsin announced today that Russia would halt production of nuclear submarines and drastically reduce its military presence in the Asia-Pacific region, reports AFP.

In a surprise move, Yeltsin also turned over to President Roh Tae-woo the "black boxes" of the Korean Airlines (KAL) jumbo jet shot down by a Soviet fighter in 1983. He expressed his condolences to the families of the 269 victims of the KAL downing during a speech in parliament.

He told the national assembly that Russia would stop producing nuclear submarines, adding that Moscow was removing tactical nuclear weapons from its warships and submarines in the far east.

He was moreover quoted by a top Seoul official as telling Roh that Russia would also halt

production of heavy strategic bombers.

Roh's national security advisor, Kim Chong-Whic, quoted Yeltsin as telling Roh during morning talks that he would urge China to accept a nuclear test freeze during his visit to Beijing next month.

During talks, the two presidents signed a basic treaty governing relations between their two countries, which only established diplomatic ties in 1990 after four decades of cold war rivalry.

Yeltsin also told Roh that Russia was willing to conclude an accord with the incoming US administration to formalize an agreed upon 60 per cent cut in strategic weapons, Kim told reporters.

Yeltsin told the national assembly that Russia wanted to be a "full member of the Asia-Pacific community" and had

stopped providing all military aid and nuclear-related technology to North Korea.

He also proposed multilateral talks in northeast Asia to discuss security issues and the creation of an international peacekeeping flotilla in the region to guarantee freedom of navigation.

Yeltsin's delivery of the black boxes came as a surprise because Yeltsin had been quoted on October 14 as saying they had been dismantled. South Korean officials later said they expected to receive either the boxes or their transcripts, but not necessarily during the visit.

"Russia had initially planned to deliver the black box to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), but as a token of friendship and apology towards South Korea, I have brought it myself Yeltsin was quoted by an

interpreter as telling Roh.

The two leaders were concluding their summit talks at the presidential blue house when Yeltsin suddenly produced an aluminium case containing two orange-coloured flight recorders.

"I thought black boxes were black, but they were orange," the Russian President quipped.

Kim told reporters that original tape analyses of the contents of the black boxes were also turned over to the South Korean side. Yeltsin on October 14 had handed over previously secret materials relating to the downing of KAL Flight 007 to separate South Korean and American delegations in Moscow, but the Seoul delegation had said the materials were incomplete and expurgated.

A GRAND DISPLAY MILITARY HARDWARE AT SHER-E-BANGLANAGAR (North-Western Part of the Old Airport Area)

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