

Delhi won't allow OIC mission to Kashmir

NEW DELHI, Feb 11: India Thursday rejected a request by the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) to send a fact-finding mission to disputed Kashmir to investigate alleged human rights violations against its Muslim residents, reports AP.

Foreign Minister Dinesh Singh said the government would not give visas to the delegation, United News of India reported.

The OIC asked to visit the Muslim-dominated province in the northern state of Jammu-Kashmir last week. India rejected a similar request in November 1991.

Pakistan, which is a member of the Islamic Conference, says India is repressing the Muslims of Kashmir. India accuses Pakistan of funding and training militants for terrorist operations in Kashmir.

PTI from Kohima says, the Union Defence Minister, Shri Arun Jaitley, today lashed out at Pakistan for aiding and abetting insurgent outfits in Jammu and Kashmir and some other parts of the country.

Addressing Assam rifles personnel at the Zakhama Cantonment, Pawar said that since Pakistan could not match India in defence capabilities, it was trying to destabilise the

291 more Rohingyas return home

COX'S BAZAR, Feb 11: Two hundred ninety-one Rohingyas refugees comprising 66 families voluntarily went back to their homes in Myanmar through two transit camps at Teknaf here today. Official sources told BSS here tonight that with this 26th batch of repatriation, the total number of repatriated persons now stands at 21,168.

Advice to foreign job seekers

Verify employment with Manpower Bureau

The government yesterday cautioned once again those trying to get jobs in foreign countries including Malaysia not to proceed without first verifying with the Bureau of Employment and Manpower Training at Kakrail in Dhaka whether the assured work really existed or not, reports BSS.

An official handout said that there exists legal opportunities to export manpower to Malaysia and that the Government of Bangladesh repeatedly cautioned the employment seekers not to be misled by the dishonest employment agencies.

Even then, the government said it came to the notice that some dishonest employment agencies were sending workers illegally and on false promises. Because of this, the handout said, on the one hand young people seeking jobs and their guardians being cheated and on the other the goodwill and image of Bangladesh were being impaired.

Young man stabbed to death

By DMCH Correspondent A 25-year-old man Lufur Rahman was stabbed to death at Hariampur, Mirpur, in the capital early Thursday morning.

A group of armed men held Lufur and stabbed him near his house, 71, Hariampur at around 5:30 am when he was returning home from Gabtali Bus Terminal by a rickshaw. The killers could not be identified immediately, said police.

Deputy Secy's house robbed

By Staff Correspondent The house of a Deputy Secretary of Establishment Ministry at Pallabi, Mirpur, was robbed of cash and gold ornaments worth about Taka 1.5 lakh early Thursday.

A band of armed dacoits wearing masks stormed into the house breaking open the grille-fence at around 3:30 am yesterday and looted Taka 15000 in cash, 15 tolas of gold ornaments and other belongings worth about Taka 1.5 lakh.

Zaki will meet the Prime Minister, P V Narasimha Rao, the Minister for External Affairs, Dinesh Singh, the Foreign Secretary, J N Dixit, besides others.

A former Deputy Foreign Minister of Maldives, Zaki has already met the leaders of Sri Lanka and Maldives, including Ranasinghe Premadasa President of Sri Lanka and current Chairman of the SAARC.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing a public meeting at Nagorpur Government College ground in Tangail yesterday. —PID photo

Bandung seminar adopts Dhaka's intra-OIC trade proposal

An OIC seminar held in Bandung has adopted a Bangladesh resolution calling for regional and sub-regional cooperation among the OIC member states to develop intra-OIC trade, reports UNB. Indonesian Minister for Science and Technology Dr Habibie inaugurated the seminar, also addressed by the IDB President, government officials and private sector representatives of OIC member states. A 5-member Bangladesh delegation was led by Bangladesh Ambassador to Indonesia A K M Farooq. The other members included representative of Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) Salahuddin Kasem Khan and Maj Gen (Retd) Amjad Khan Chowdhury of Economic Relations Division (ERD).

People may move for govt's ouster

From Page 1 Col 8 totally rejected the Jamaat in the just-held municipal polls and imbued the new generation with the spirit of the Liberation War and let it know the Jamaat's heinous role in the war. Calling upon her followers to push forward the on-going movement against all war criminals and communal forces, an optimistic Imam said, 'Trial of war criminals including Golam Azam, Matur Rahman Nizami, Abbas Ali Khan and Delwar Hossain Saidee must take place on this soil.'

Begum Sofia Kamal while addressing the meeting as chief guest noted that it was because of the Samannaya Committee's movement that Golam Azam had been jailed. The committee's struggle won't conclude with the execution of Azam, it will continue until elimination of his (Azam's) followers who, she said, were spread over the nation and had been vitiating the society by their anti-humanity acts.

Sufia Kamal urged all especially the women and the young generation to rally round the Samannaya Committee movement with a view to protecting the country's independence and sovereignty and upholding the spirit of the Liberation War.

Among those who spoke on the occasion were the Awami League General Secretary Zillur Rahman, Abdur Razzak, MP of AL, Saifuddin Ahmed Manik and Nurul Islam Nahid of CPB, Kazi Aref Ahmed and Hasanul Haq Inu of JSD, Mohammad Afzal of Ganatantri Party, and committee leaders Prof Abdul Mannan Chowdhury, Shahrier Kabir, Lt Col (Retd) Abu Osman Choudhury, Col (Retd) Kazi Nuruzzaman, Badruddin Omar, Fayez Ahmed, Prof Panna Kaiser, Principal Ahd Choudhury, Syed Hasan Imam and Prof Kabir Choudhury.

Zillur Rahman in his speech accused late President Ziaur Rahman of destroying the spirit of the Liberation War by dropping all the four basic state principles from the Constitution and rehabilitating the Rajakars in the country's politics.

Late Zia brought home the leader of Rajakars and Al-Badars, Golam Azam and permitted him to do politics silently. Rahman alleged adding that his (Zia's) widow, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia had facilitated Azam's being declared Ameer of Jamaat violating the Constitution.

The BNP betrayed its commitment in the Joint Declaration to take over power and was patronising the anti-liberation forces to cling to power, he alleged.

The AL leader assured the Samannaya Committee of his party's continued support to the movement aimed at ensuring trial of all war criminals and establishing the spirit of the Liberation War in the country.

Abdur Razzak, MP pointed out that the main achievement of the Samannaya Committee's movement was that it enabled the younger generation to know the glorious history of their motherland and identify their friends and foes.



A DCC WHIM SENDING PEOPLE TO SPIN: A during-the-day repair work closed the road from Shahbag to Kataban intersection Thursday triggering off traffic jam in different parts of the city much to the disadvantage of the commuters in the peak hours. — Star photo

The Midnight File

Demonstrators demand Koirala's resignation

KATHIMANDU, Feb 11: Thousands of leftist demonstrators shouted slogans today demanding that Nepal's Prime Minister resign over a hydro-electric power deal with neighbouring India. Police in riot gear were deployed around the central secretariat, which houses the offices of Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala, as protesters waved placards saying, 'traitor Girija should resign' and 'scrap unequal treaties with India', reports Reuter.

Fresh rocket attack on Kabul: 24 killed

ISLAMABAD, Feb 11: At least 24 people were killed and more than 100 injured in renewed rocket attacks on Kabul today, the state-run radio Kabul reported. The broadcast monitored here claimed that forces of dissident leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar fired more than 150 rockets, causing heavy losses to life and property, reports AFP.

14 more killed in Kashmir violence

SRINAGAR, Feb 11: Nine militants were among 14 people killed in separate incidents while security forces arrested 14 subversives in Kashmir valley and Doda district of Jammu region since last night. Five bodies were recovered from Shadipora area in Ganderbal on the outskirts of Srinagar today, an official spokesman said. Four of the victims were hanged to death while another was shot dead, reports PTI.

Welcome Mahathirs

From Page 1 Col 7 Dr Mahathir, his wife and other members of his delegation will, in a ceremonial motorcade drive to Bangabhaban where he will be formally received by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.

The two prime ministers would have formal talks tomorrow morning when the whole gamut of bilateral relation between Bangladesh and Malaysia would come up for discussion.

The two leaders, at their scheduled 90-minute talks, would discuss ways for increased bilateral cooperation and also exchange views on regional and international issues of common interest.

According to official sources, the formal talks will deal with setting up of joint ventures in private sector, renewal of bilateral cultural agreement, employment of Bangladeshi manpower in Malaysia, cooperation in agriculture, amendment to the existing civil aviation agreement, assistance in the field of sports and other bilateral matters.

Dr Mahathir will lay wreaths tomorrow morning at the National Memorial at Savar and plant a sapling at the memorial complex.

Dr Mahathir and members of his delegation will fly to Chittagong Sunday morning where he will witness signing of the memorandum of understanding (MOU) on cooperation between Malaysian International Shipping Corporation (MISC) and Bangladesh Shipping Corporation (BSC).

Dr Mahathir will have busy schedule during his visit which will also take him to Chittagong. The Malaysian Prime

RU teacher

From Page 1 Col 7 meeting, excluding Jamaat-Islami, held at the local office of Workers Party today through protest programmes against terrorism unleashed by Jamaat-Shibir.

They will hold a combined rally on February 14 at Saheb Bazar, a mass procession on February 16 and another rally at Binodpur, adjacent to the university campus, on February 18.

Presided over by local Workers Party Secretary Ferdous Kamal Masum, the meeting was attended by local BNP leader Advocate Enamul Haq and Salahuddin Babu, Fuzle Hossain Badsha of Workers Party, Awami League's Moniruzzaman and CPB leader Shaifur Rahman Badsha.

Awami League President and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina will visit Rajshahi tomorrow (Friday) to see the injured students at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital. She will address a workers' meeting of AL as chief guest in the evening and later exchange views with RU teachers.

Hasina will exchange views with local journalists on February 13.

Meanwhile, Rajshahi University Academic Forum, said to be a group of teachers without political affiliation, condemned the February 6 incident and criticised the role of police during the gunfight.

Forum President Prof Amirul Islam and General Secretary Dr Kamrul Islam in a statement today said the clash and casualties could be averted if the law enforcing agencies became active at the outset of the bloody gunbattle.

They also condemned the assault on the Vice-Chancellor, the Registrar and the RUTA President by some students.

They proposed two more appointments in the inquiry commission formed by the government to probe the February 6 incident's at the university.

Political parties cannot deny responsibility for the February 6 campus catastrophe which claimed five lives and left many injured.

PM: Hartal

From Page 1 Col 7 and local BNP leaders Mohammad Selim, Mahmud Hossain Khan, Ali Imam and Sharifuddin.

Referring to the benefit of the canal digging programme she said 1,200 canals were dug during late Zia's rule and that led to an additional production of 12 lakh tons of food grains.

The Prime Minister said Bangladesh had exported rice to Guinea, an African country, during Zia's time. She said the people has started reaping the benefit of canal digging programme and urged them to collectively participate in the programmes for boosting production.

The Prime Minister said the BNP government was contemplating to export rice again in view of the increased production. She underlined the need for going for the planned plantation on both sides of the canals to help maintain a good environment.

About the local problem she said electricity would be supplied to Nagarpur thana.

We believe in peace not war: PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday reiterated Bangladesh's policy of 'friendship with all and malice to none', underlining the principle of avoiding confrontation, reports UNB.

'We believe in peace, not war', the Prime Minister said addressing the graduation ceremony of 17th Army, 11th Naval and 13th Air Staff Course at Mirpur Defence Services Command and Staff College (DSCSC) in the morning.

Begum Zia said participation of foreign students in the staff courses here reflect the national policy of deep friendly and meaningful bilateral relations with all.

'We continue to uphold the pledge of collective efforts through the SAARC spirit in the region', she pointed out. 'This is the basis of our foreign policy.'

She expressed the hope to explore and develop new vistas of cooperation, peace and progress through SAARC.

Referring to the curse of poverty, disease, natural calamities, population boom, illiteracy and environment pollution faced by the developing countries, the Prime Minister said 'these problems are more dreadful to us than military threats.'

Earlier, the Prime Minister distributed certificates among the graduates. A total of 104 student-officers, including 20 overseas students from France, India, Kenya, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Qatar, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Thailand and Zambia, attended the courses.

Fish rot

From Page 1 Col 4 said that the demand of the cold storage owners to withdraw VAT from their products was illogical as the wholesalers had to pay the extra price for VAT and the manufacturers had nothing to lose.

Meanwhile, the exporters said the fish exports are being affected by the continuing strike. President of Bangladesh Fruit, Vegetable and Allied Products Exporters Association Fariduddin Ahmed talking to The Daily Star said, fish supply for export from the regions of Sylhet, Rajshahi and Chittagong has already declined by 70 per cent and it would totally stop within a few days if the strike continues.

About 100 exporters of the country send Ruhi, Aire, Boal, Kol, Shrimp, Lakka, Lattia etc to Japan, Middle East, Italy and London.

'We export about 100 tonnes of fish worth Tk 40 lakh a week to these countries,' Ahmed informed, the cold storage owners should consider this loss.

The exporters have already communicated their problems to the cold storage owners but the government is yet to take any move.