

The Daily Star

NIRMAN TILES
Broken Marble Tiles In More Shades Than The Rainbow
Tel: 605957, 861985

Notice
Today's issue of The Daily Star contains two supplements — on the National Founding Day of the Republic of Korea and The Day of German Unity.

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NEWS BRIEFS

President assents to 4 more bills

President Abdur Rahman Biswas has assented to four more bills passed by parliament in its autumn session prorogued on September 27. The bills are the Bangladesh Jute Corporation (Repeal) Bill 1993, The Acquisition and Requisition of Immovable Property (Amendment) Bill 1993, The Ministers, Ministers of State and Deputy Ministers (Remuneration and Privileges) (Amendment) Bill 1993 and The Financial Institutions Bill 1993, reports UNB.

Khaleda Zia addresses UN General Assembly

Opportunity exists for a brave, new world

NEW YORK, Oct 2: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has called for advancing world peace and stability in the face of violence, aggression, racialism, ethnic and religious conflicts and gaping social and economic disparities, reports BSS.

In her maiden address yesterday to the UN General Assembly, which in fact has turned into a world parliament since the end of the Cold War, Begum Zia said: "There is today a great confidence and conviction that a brave new world is truly within our reach despite many contradictions."

"We are faced with a rare opportunity to sustain the momentum to peacefully resolve conflicts, strengthen the rule of law and uplift the quality of life in greater freedom," she said.

Addressing the world body, representing 184 states, the Prime Minister emphasised the need for security and sovereignty of small states in the new world order following the end of the Cold War.

She said "In the new world order, that is taking shape with the end of the Cold War, mutual respect between large and small

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Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia met Secretary General Boutros Ghali at the UN headquarters in New York yesterday. — AFP photo

'It's a matter of life & death'

NEW YORK, Oct 2: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, in her speech to the 48th session of the United Nations General Assembly yesterday, highlighted the vexing Farakka problem mentioning the unilateral withdrawal of the Ganges water by India and the disastrous effects of the Farakka Barrage in Bangladesh, reports BSS.

"Our economic structure is faced with a disaster as a consequence of the Farakka Barrage," the Prime Minister said. "The unilateral withdrawal of the Ganges water by India has created unimaginable adverse effect on the economy and environment of Bangladesh."

Begum Zia drew the attention of the world community to the Farakka problem, which has become a life and death issue for Bangladesh, and called for signing a permanent agreement immediately

to ensure a fair sharing of the Ganges water.

She said the unilateral withdrawal of the interests of the people of Bangladesh, had pushed over 40 million people in the Ganges and the Padma basins to the brink of a catastrophic disaster.

The withdrawal of water during the dry season causes severe drought while the release of excess water during the rainy season creates floods in Bangladesh, the Prime Minister said.

The Indian Prime Minister, during the seventh SAARC Summit held in Dhaka in April last, had promised that he would sit with the Bangladesh Prime Minister soon with concrete proposals for short and long term solutions to the Ganges water sharing problem.

During discussions in May 1992 in the

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New law to stop illegal fishing

A bill for amending the Protection and Conservation of Fish Act, 1950 will be placed before the next session of the Jatiya Sangsad, expected sometime in November.

The draft of the proposed amendment, which has already been approved by the cabinet, seeks stricter measures for protecting the fish resources.

According to authoritative source in the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, the draft bill title 'The Protection and Conservation of Fish (Amendment) Act, 1993' is now at the Law Ministry for vetting.

The draft aims to prohibit the manufacture, import, mar-

keting, carrying and possession of current nets and any such harmful nets or traps that hinder the growth of fish resources.

A similar bill for amending the Act was placed before Parliament in 1991 but lapsed.

The Act was first amended in 1982 through an ordinance which was later found inadequate to deal with the problem of illegal fishing. There is no specific provision in the existing Act regarding disposal of seized nets and fishing equipment used illegally while the punishment for the offenders is also not severe enough.

Official sources said the government is quite concerned about increasing use of current nets — nylon nets of a very fine mesh — which are totally illegal according to the Fish Protection Rules of 1985 because they trap very small fries and fingerlings.

To curb such offences, the draft amendment proposes rigorous imprisonment of a minimum of three months and a maximum of six months for first offenders and a minimum of six months to a maximum of one year for subsequent offence.

In the existing law, no minimum punishment is prescribed. Besides rigorous imprisonment, fines ranging from Taka 1000 to 2000 have also been suggested.

Tremors hit China, Iran

BELJING, Oct 2: Two earthquakes registering 6 and 5.5 on the Richter Scale struck China's far western region of Xinjiang today, but there have been no reports of casualties or damage, the official Xinhua news agency said reports Reuter.

Regional officials have gone to the scene to investigate.

AP adds: An earthquake measuring 4.4 on the open-ended Richter Scale shook the Astara region in northwestern Iran today, the official IRNA news agency reported, says AFP.

There were no immediate reports of casualties or damage. The tremor occurred at 0922 GMT and its epicenter was some 400 kilometres northwest of Tehran, IRNA said.

Another quake likely to hit Maharashtra

NAGPUR, Oct 2: Another earthquake is likely to hit Maharashtra by coming December-January, according to Dr PG Adyalkar, former Director of Geological Survey of India (GSI) and Central Groundwater Board, reports PTI.

The tremor may affect areas east of western ghats as the area has hydraulic continuity with Koyna through lineaments and, in effect, the area of the September 29-30 earthquake was interlinked with the Koyna-Krishna region through a fabric of north-south and other directional lineaments. Lineaments in four

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Talks to end crisis resume Yeltsin's opponents up their demands

MOSCOW, Oct 2: Hard-line lawmakers upped their demands in peep talks with President Boris Yeltsin's government Saturday, while their supporters erected new barricades in the city centre after clashing with police, reports AP.

Several police and at least one protester were injured in the clashes about three blocks from the parliament building, where lawmakers maintained their standoff 12 days after Yeltsin tried to dissolve the parliament.

A burning barricade made of wood, tyres and metal fences

MOSCOW, Oct 2: Parliament Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov and Vice-President Alexander Rutskoi said today they were ready to meet President Boris Yeltsin, Commonwealth Television reported. No details were given and it was unclear whether the statement marked a shift in position, reports Reuter.

Some 5,000 troops and police ring the building, facing a few parliament supporters standing at their own barricades. Electricity to the building had been cut, but was restored Friday; spotlights played on the building's huge clock and the Russian flag on the roof.

The weary but dedicated parliament building overwhelmingly rejected on Friday a tentative peace deal worked out in earlier talks.

Yeltsin on Friday promised in a nationally televised speech not to use force.

torcade on the way to work Saturday morning to pep up riot police who have stood for days in cold and rain around the parliament.

"I think that common sense must prevail, and there should be an agreement today on the surrender of weapons," Yeltsin said.

The building was mostly quiet Saturday after a nighttime loudspeaker war, in which police blasted rock music at the lawmakers, who answered by blaring tapes of parliamentary speeches.

Ex-air chief Momtazuddin sent to jail

Former Air Chief Momtazuddin Ahmed, who is facing a corruption case, was taken into jail custody yesterday, reports UNB.

A tribunal yesterday concluded the trial of the case relating to submission of false and fabricated accounts of his property.

The court fixed October 16 for judgement.

According to the prosecution, the Bureau of Anti-Corruption served notice on the retired Air Vice Marshal on August 18 last year asking for proper accounts within 30 days of all movable and immovable property owned by him.

On enquiry, the bureau found Momtazuddin Ahmed possessed money and landed property highly disproportionate to his known sources of income.

Menon demands immediate ban on Jamaat-Shibir

By Staff Correspondent

Workers' Party General Secretary Rashed Khan Menon, MP Saturday demanded an immediate ban on the fundamentalist politics of the Jamaat-e-Islami through an executive order.

Speaking at a press conference at the party office in the capital, Menon called upon all religious people of the country as well as the clerics to resist the activities of the Jamaat and its student wing, the Islami Chhatra Shibir.

The Workers' Party leader accused the Shibir of unleashing violence across the country

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45.97 pc pass Comilla HSC examinations

By Staff Correspondent

More than half the students failed in this year's Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) Examinations under the Comilla Board.

According to the results published yesterday, only 45.97 per cent of the examinees came out successful.

A total of 78,256 candidates appeared at the examinations, held in June-July. Only 35,974 made it through the pre-university level test.

Of them, 2,926 were placed in the first division, 16,117 in the second division and 9,551 in the third division.

The Board, apparently in view of the low pass percentage, declared 7,380 students passed under special consideration, but without any division.

The percentage of successful students in the Science Group was 65.53 while only 39.57 per cent passed in the Humanities Group, 50.54 per cent in the Commerce Group and 45.97 per cent in the Agriculture Science Group.

Mohammad Abdul Mannan of Fajdarhat Cadet College topped the combined merit list in the Science and Agriculture Science Groups securing 942 marks with distinctions in four

subjects.

Bashir Uddin Mahmood of the same college stood second securing 927 marks, also with distinctions in four subjects.

Mohammad Arif of Sylhet Cadet College stood third securing 916 marks and letters in four subjects.

In the Humanities Group, Sonia Akhter of Chittagong College topped the merit list securing 799 marks and distinctions in three subjects.

Sonia Chowdhury of the same college stood second with 797 marks and distinctions in two subjects while Hasina Begum, also from Chittagong College, stood third securing 788 marks and letters in three subjects.

In the Commerce Group, Navidul Islam of the Government Commerce College in Chittagong topped the merit list securing 752 marks and one letter while Imrana Yasmin of the same college stood second with 750 marks and distinction in one subject.

Mohammad Hashmat Ali of the Government Haji Mohammad Mohsin College secured the third position in the Group with 748 marks and distinction in one subject.

Leather merchant shot dead in city

By Staff Correspondent

One hides and skin merchant was gunned down at Hazaribagh in the city yesterday afternoon in front of scores of witnesses.

The victim, Qayyum Sardar, 40, vice-president of the Dhanmondi unit of the BNP and organising secretary of city Ward 17, was attacked by some armed men near the Bengal Tannery at around 2:00 pm yesterday.

Witnesses said the assailants, numbering five to six, stormed into the leather shop where Qayyum was reportedly playing carrom. They shot him at close range and exploded three crackers while fleeing.

Depression over Bay likely

By Staff Correspondent

The meteorological department forecast a depression over the Bay of Bengal during the current month.

It did not specify the intensity of the depression but said that the monsoon is expected to be over by the first week of October.

Our heartiest felicitations on the occasion of National Day of Republic of Korea

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Rains halt rescue work: 12,000 bodies recovered

Quake toll on rise

NEW DELHI, Oct 2: The Death toll from the massive earthquake in western India has reached 30,000, state-run television announced here today, reports AFP.

It quoted official sources as saying that some 30,000 people had died in Thursday's disaster which struck the districts of Latur and Osmanabad in the coastal state of Maharashtra.

Police and rescue workers said they had collected about 12,000 corpses from under the rubble of thousands of destroyed houses.

Relief workers said at least 52 villages had been affected, and it was impossible to know how many had died.

Meanwhile, heavy rains halted rescue work today at the site of India's worst earthquake in more than 50 years, where police said the toll of dead and missing had risen to more than 30,000.

The downpours around Latur, near the epicentre of Thursday's killer earthquake, halted mass cremations of the dead and efforts to search for survivors in the rubble of ruined homes, residents and police said.

"We can't even burn the bodies," said Chandrakant Panchal, a resident of Latur.

"The rains are so heavy that work has come to a standstill. Half-burned bodies are stinking all over the place."

More than 25,000 troops have been rushed to help rescue efforts in the area around the towns of Khillari near Latur, and Umbarga in India's Maharashtra state.

Local police said at least 30,000 people are dead or missing in 3 villages in the disaster area. The estimate was based on a survey of affected villages and the number of families in each, said Bipin Bihari, Superintendent of Police for the Latur district.

He estimated at least 15,000 people have died in the Latur region. An equal number of dead or missing were reported by police from neighbouring Umbarga.

The Daily Ekmat, a Latur newspaper, put the death toll at 44,000. It said the figures were

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গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
কাষ্টমস্, একসাইজ ও ভ্যাট
কালেক্টরেট, চট্টগ্রাম
বিশেষ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বিষয়ঃ মিষ্টান্ন ভান্ডার ও হোটেল-রেস্তোরাঁ থেকে সেবা গ্রহণের সময় ক্যাশ মেমো সংগ্রহ প্রসঙ্গে।

আপনারা নিশ্চয়ই অবগত আছেন যে, গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার ১৯৯১ খ্রিঃ থেকে চাইনিজ রেস্তোরাঁ ও মিষ্টান্ন ভান্ডার কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত সেবার উপর ১৫% হারে মূল্য সংযোজন কর (ভ্যাট) আরোপ করেছে। এ সময় বিভিন্ন মাসিক পত্রিকায় সেবার মূল্যের সঙ্গে ভ্যাট সাধারণের কাছ থেকে মূল্য সংযোজন কর আদায় করছেন। কিন্তু এ ধরনের অনেক ব্যবসায়ী বিভিন্ন প্রচলিত আইন বিধান লঙ্ঘন করে সলুইট মূল্য সংযোজন কর সরকারী কোষাগারে জমা না দিয়ে নিজেরাই আত্মসাৎ করেন। ফলে, সরকার বিপুল অর্থের রাজস্ব থেকে বঞ্চিত হন এবং দেশের উন্নয়ন কার্যক্রমে আপনাদের মূল্যবান অবদান/অর্থায়নের ফল মুঠমেয় কয়েকজন হোটেল/রেস্তোরাঁ ও মিষ্টান্ন ভান্ডারের মালিকগণ ভোগ করছেন। দেশ ও দেশের স্বার্থে এই অব্যাহতি পরিস্থিতির নিরসন হওয়া একান্তই জরুরী।

উল্লিখিত পরিস্থিতিতে চাইনিজ রেস্তোরাঁসহ সকল হোটেল-রেস্তোরাঁ এবং মিষ্টান্ন ভান্ডারের কাছ থেকে সেবা গ্রহণ ও পণ্য ক্রয়ের সময় মূল্য সংযোজন কর কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত প্রত্যাহিত চালান (ক্যাশ মেমো) গ্রহণ করার জন্য সম্মানিত কোষা সাধারণকে বিশেষভাবে অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে। উল্লেখ্য, মূল্য সংযোজন কর কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত প্রত্যাহিত চালান (ক্যাশ মেমো) গ্রহণ করা হলে সলুইট কর সরকারী কোষাগারে জমা হবে। যদি কোন মিষ্টান্ন ভান্ডার ও হোটেল-রেস্তোরাঁর ব্যবস্থাপক/মালিক মূল্য (ভ্যাট) কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত প্রত্যাহিত বিল/চালান নিতে অস্বীকার করেন তবে তা নির্যাহিতকরণের দিকে সন্ধানিত জনসাধারণকে বিনীত অনুরোধ করা হলে।

মেজর (অবঃ) রউফুল আলম
কালেক্টর
কাষ্টমস্, একসাইজ ও ভ্যাট
কালেক্টরেট, চট্টগ্রাম
ফোনঃ ৫০৪০০৬, ৫০৪০১৭

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