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Inside Today

Article



Interview with Ambassador William B Milam
"Bangladesh-US Relations are Excellent"
Page 4

Sport



US basketball star Michael Jordan retires
Page 8

International

Russia observes mourning day



The relative of a woman killed by a Serb mortar grenade weeps at the Kosevo Hospital in Sarajevo
Page 5

Business

US urges Japan to help cut huge trade imbalance

UN-Iraq talks on oil sale fail
Pages 6, 7

Weekend Magazine

Bangla Academy—An institution of distinction; For a complete Nazrul; Aging, retiring and pension; Star TV vs Star TV; English-Bangla Dictionary a must for mastering linguistic skills
Pages 9, 10 & 11

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



Key to a Better Life
Page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

One killed, 10 hurt in Feni road mishap

FENI, Oct 7: A teenaged girl was killed and 10 others were seriously injured in a head-on collision between a minibus and a truck here on the Feni bypass this morning. Police said the Dhaka bound minibus carrying a 30-man bridal party from Chittagong met with the accident near Lemua bridge, five miles off the town. Fatema Begum (17) of Halishahar, Chittagong died on the spot. Her body was sent to the Sadar Hospital morgue for post-mortem, reports UNB.

Door still open for Farakka talks, says Khaleda

By Special Correspondent

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia underscored the need for immediate discussion with India to bring about a permanent solution to the problem of sharing of the Ganges water.

"Bangladesh has not closed the door for negotiations on the issue", she told newsmen at the Zia International Airport on her return home yesterday noon ending a week-long visit to New York and London.

During her speech at the 48th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA), the Prime Minister raised the Farakka problem and described the adverse effects on Bangladesh due to the unilateral withdrawal of

Ganges water by India. Begum Zia said that Bangladesh had been stating every time that it attached the highest priority to resolve the bilateral problems with its neighbours through peaceful negotiations for promoting good neighbourliness.

Replying to questions, the Prime Minister said Bangladesh would think about alternative steps later if bilateral talks on the issue with India fail to yield any results.

She informed the newsmen that leaders of many member-states of the UN had expressed concern at the adverse effects of Farakka in Bangladesh. "They all supported our cause,"

she added. As regards raising the Farakka issue at the UN, Begum Zia categorically said that Bangladesh had the right and responsibility to place these informations before the international community as there had been no solution to the 'life and death' question for a vast population of the country.

"Bangladesh had been stressing the immediate need for reaching a permanent solution to the problem," she said, expressing the hope that meaningful discussions would begin on the issue.

Begum Zia pointed out that Bangladesh had to bear the brunt of the adverse conse-

quences resulting from the lack of efforts for a solution to the problem.

When asked if Bangladesh had received any communication from India on the Farakka issue before her departure for New York, the Prime Minister replied in the negative.

Begum Zia referred to the assurances given to her during her visit to India in May last year of all efforts to solve the problem by fair sharing of the Ganges water.

"Another lean season is nearing", she mentioned saying, "It has not been possible to reach any agreement until now."

See Page 12 Col 1

A rousing reception at ZIA

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday returned home to a tumultuous reception by her partymen and a motley crowd after attending the 48th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York.

Thousands of people thronged the Zia International Airport (ZIA) to greet the Prime Minister after her six-day visit to the US and Britain.

Speaking at a public reception near the VVIP terminal, the Prime Minister called upon all irrespective of political affiliation to demand a fair share of the Ganges water from India.

"We have to unitedly raise our voice to ensure our fair share of water by solving the

See Page 12 Col 1



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia was accorded a rousing reception yesterday at the Zia International Airport on her return from New York via London after attending the 48th session of the UNGA. —PID photo

World Bank team to review IWT-3 due October 15

Star Report

A World Bank mission is likely to arrive in Dhaka on October 15 to review the progress made in fulfilling the action plans imposed by the bank as a pre-condition to disbursement of funds for the Third Inland Water Transport Project (IWT-3).

According to sources, the fate of the project would entirely depend on the recommendations to be made by the mission.

Meanwhile, the government

is yet to take a final decision on the action plans. A decision in this regard is likely to be taken in the next meeting of the cabinet.

The Ministry of Shipping is still sticking to its earlier decision of not accepting all the conditionalities imposed by the World Bank. Letters were also issued to the WB requesting rationalisation of the conditionalities.

The World Bank, however, ruled out the possibility of mak-

ing any change in the action plans since it felt the actions were imperative for the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) to attain financial viability. Moreover, the government signed the Development Credit Agreement (DCA) agreeing with all the actions suggested by the WB.

The action plans for the BIWTC, as demanded by the WB for disbursement of the credit, include, organisational

See Page 12 Col 7

Indo-Bangla talks on return of Chakmas begin

Bangladesh and India began talks on the repatriation of the Bangladeshi Chakma refugees in Dhaka yesterday afternoon, reports UNB.

"There has been progress in the talks held in a cordial atmosphere," said Home Secretary Azimuddin Ahmed who led the home side at the meeting at the state guest house, Meghna. He did not elaborate.

About 29,000 Bangladeshi Chakma tribals have been living in the Indian state of Tripura.

"We are continuing talks... we'll be meeting again on Saturday to conclude the de-

See Page 12 Col 8

All but Murtaza of Bhutto family elected

NAUDERO (Pakistan), Oct 7: Benazir Bhutto wasn't the only member of her politically prestigious family to score an election triumph in Pakistan, a country with a long tradition of family dynasties, reports AP.

Ms. Bhutto's husband, mother, and father-in-law also won parliamentary seats Thursday to help ensure victory for their liberal Pakistan People's Party.

Ms. Bhutto's brother, Murtaza Bhutto, a longtime exile who is her political rival, was defeated in his campaign for a parliamentary seat waged from several Middle Eastern coun-

tries. A few hundred families dominate politics and business in Pakistan, an impoverished nation of 120 million people. No family is more prominent than Ms. Bhutto's, which owns huge tracts of farmland in the south and has been a political force for decades.

Ms. Bhutto's father, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, was prime minister from 1971 to 1977, when he was overthrown by Gen. Mohammed Zia ul-Haq. Bhutto was hanged in 1979 on Zia's orders.

But the display of family

See Page 12 Col 8

Poll results at a glance

ISLAMABAD, Oct 7: The following is the final breakdown of results in 201 seats contested in the nationwide polls Wednesday, as declared by the Pakistan Election Commission, reports AFP.

Pakistan People's Party	86
Pakistan Muslim League(N)	72
PML(J) of Nasir Chaththa	6
Pakistan Islamic Front	3
Islami Jamhoori Mahaz	3
Pakhtoon Khawa Milli	3
Awami Party of Samed Achakzai	3
Awami National Party	3
Muttahida Deeni Mahaz	3
Jamhoori Watan Party	2
PKQP, BNM and BNM-H (One each)	3
National Democratic Alliance	1
National People's Party	1
Independent	15

Ministry decision creates problem at BRTA

By Nurul Kabir

Uncertainty looms over the fate of ten out of twenty-two assistant directors (ADs) of the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA).

These ten officers — all mechanical engineers appointed on an ad hoc basis — who have been in service for nearly 44 months now, face the axe following a recent decision of the Communications Ministry to go for fresh recruitment in the posts.

When the Communications Ministry suggested fresh recruitment through the Public Service Commission (PSC), the chief of the BRTA observed that the jobs of the engineers, who had already gathered good experience in their concerned

area, should be regularised for the benefit of the organisation.

The BRTA started operating all over the country in 1990. Its responsibilities include the country's road safety, road transport control and revenue collection in this sector.

The BRTA recruited these ten engineers, graduates from the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), as ADs under a Presidential Order in February 1990.

They were recruited following examinations organised by a selection committee comprising representatives from the PSC, the BRTA and the Communications Ministry.

See Page 12 Col 4

Written test for driving licence likely

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Oct 7: The Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) is planning to introduce a compulsory written test for people seeking driving licences of any type of vehicle.

If such a system is introduced, candidates will be required to face written as well as oral tests in addition to certification of their driving skills, BRTA sources said.

The BRTA headquarters in the capital has already invited a set of fifty questions each from all the heads of the country's 18 circle offices in order to frame the modalities and questionnaire for introducing the compulsory written test before issuing

See Page 12 Col 7

3 killed, 40 hurt in road mishap

From Our Correspondent

GAZIPUR, Oct 7: Three persons were killed and 40 others injured in a head-on collision between two minibuses on the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway near the KB Bazar at 12:30 pm today.

One of the dead was the driver of one of the minibuses Abdul Hal, 30, while two others, both male and aging between 30 and 35, could not be identified. Bodies of the two unidentified persons were taken to the Gazipur Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

Among the injured, 20 persons were admitted to the Pangu Hospital and the Dhaka Medical College Hospital in serious condition and three were admitted to the Tongi Hospital.

See Page 12 Col 7

American wins Nobel Literature Prize

STOCKHOLM, Sweden, Oct 7: American novelist and essayist Toni Morrison, cited for writing prose "with the luster of poetry," won the 1993 Nobel Prize in literature Thursday for her lyrical accounts of the black experience, reports AP.

The Swedish Academy awarded the prize to Morrison "who, in novels, characterised by visionary force and poetic import, gives life to an essential aspect of American reality."

She is the first black American to win the prize, worth US \$25,000 dollars and only the eighth woman to win since it first was awarded in 1901. The last woman winner was Nadine Gordimer of South

Africa, in 1991; the most recent American winner was Soviet-born Joseph Brodsky in 1987.

"I am unendurably happy," she said from Princeton, NJ, where she has been a professor of humanities at Princeton University since 1989. "I heard the news early this morning from a colleague here at Princeton, and I am of course profoundly honoured."

Morrison, 62, was born Chloe Anthony Wofford in the steel town of Lorain, Ohio, the second of four children of Alabama sharecroppers who migrated north.

She made her debut as a novelist in 1970 with 'The

See Page 12 Col 5

Bangladesh should go for rapid industrialisation

Star Report

Some US oil and gas companies are close to signing agreements with the Bangladesh government. This could ultimately lead to an inflow of more US investors.

Text of interview appears on Page 4

exclusive interview with The Daily Star yesterday. The envoy feels that although Bangladesh has made impressive improvements in aid utilisation, the future of the country hinges on rapid industrialisation with a strong em-

phasis on exports. "The government and people have to think and plan ahead for the next 20 years," he says and goes on to add: "I am concerned about the rise of any sort of 'ism' as a panacea for desperate people."

Milam, one of the longest serving US ambassadors to this country, departs Dhaka tomorrow following completion of his tenure. The US President is yet to announce a nominee to replace the outgoing diplomat who leaves behind some distinguishing marks in the minds of the Bangladesh people because of his remarkably high profile

See Page 12 Col 6

বাংলাদেশ হাউস বিল্ডিং ফাইন্যান্স কর্পোরেশন

ঋণ পরিশোধে বিশেষ সুযোগ

সরকারের অনুমোদনে কর্পোরেশন সকল খেলাপী ঋণগ্রহীতাদের পুনর্নির্ধারিত কিস্তিতে ঋণ পরিশোধে সুযোগ দিচ্ছে। সকল ঋণগ্রহীতাদের জন্য এই প্যাকেজে কিছু ইনসেন্টিভের ব্যবস্থা রয়েছে।

- কিস্তি পুনঃ নির্ধারণ (রিসিডিউল)করণ
- বকেয়া ঋণ পরিশোধের সুবিধার্থে যেসব খেলাপী ঋণগ্রহীতা ৪টি চলতি (অরিজিনাল) কিস্তির টাকা এককালীন জমা দিয়ে কিস্তি পুনঃনির্ধারণের জন্য সম্মতি জ্ঞাপন করবেন, তাদের বকেয়াসহ সমুদয় পাওনা অবশিষ্ট পরিশোধ মেয়াদে পুনঃনির্ধারণ করা হবে। পূর্বে যারা রেয়নত সুবিধা গ্রহণ করেছিলেন তারাও কিস্তি পুনঃনির্ধারণের সুবিধা গ্রহণ করতে পারেন।
- দণ্ড সুদ মওকুফ
- কিস্তি পুনঃনির্ধারণকালে এহীতার ৩০-৯-১৯৯৩ তারিখ পর্যন্ত অনাদায়ী দণ্ডসুদের ৭০-৯০% মওকুফ করার ব্যবস্থা রাখা হয়েছে।
- দণ্ড সুদ প্রথা রহিতকরণ
- ১-১০-১৯৯৩ তারিখ হতে দণ্ডসুদ প্রথা রহিত করা হলো।
- নিয়মিত কিস্তি পরিশোধের জন্য ইনসেন্টিভ
- নিয়মিত কিস্তি এবং এককালীন সমুদয় ঋণ পরিশোধের জন্য ইনসেন্টিভ হিসাবে নির্ধারিত হারে সুদ রিবেট এর ব্যবস্থা করা হয়েছে। ঋণ গ্রহণের পরেও কিস্তি পরিশোধে খেলাপী হবেন, তাদের অতিরিক্ত সুদ প্রদান করতে হবে।

কিস্তি পুনঃনির্ধারণের সুযোগ সাময়িক সময়ের জন্য বরাদ্দ থাকবে

••• যে সমস্ত খেলাপী ঋণগ্রহীতা কিস্তি পুনঃ নির্ধারণের সুযোগ গ্রহণে বাধ্য হবেন, তাদের বিরুদ্ধে পত্রিকায় তালিকা প্রকাশসহ কঠোর আইনানুগ ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে।

ঋণের কিস্তি সময়মত পরিশোধ করুন এবং অপরকে ঋণ গ্রহণের সুযোগ দিন