

Autopsy report says Gen Asif was poisoned

ISLAMABAD, Oct 9: Preliminary autopsy reports by foreign experts suggest Army Chief General Asif Nawaz was poisoned to death in January, a lawyer representing Nawaz's widow said today, reports AFP.

Chemical analysis of specimens from Nawaz's body showed the presence of 67 percent arsenic in his body. Barrister Shehzad Jehangir was quoted by The Nation newspaper as

saying, "Normal arsenic levels in a body did not exceed 0.03 percent, Jehangir said."

Nawaz's body was intact at the time of exhumation because the arsenic stopped it decomposing, according to doctor John Clark, one of the foreign experts who conducted the autopsy, Jehangir said.

The final autopsy reports will be submitted to the Pakistani authorities by October 16, he said, and the names of those involved in the murder would be made public soon after.

The General's death, attributed officially to a heart attack, became a political issue when Nuzhat Nawaz, the General's widow, blamed members of former premier Nawaz Sharif's government for her husband's death.

Nuzhat Nawaz renewed the charge last month after a judicial commission, appointed by Nawaz Sharif, found the General died of a heart attack.

The commission issued its report under pressure, Jehangir said.



Gen Asif Nawaz — Ex-Pak Army Chief

Raushan not interested in JP politics

Begum Raushan Ershad is completely disenchanted with the prevailing politics in the country and not interested to get involved in Jatiya party politics.

Disclosing this, a competent JP source told UNB last night that she had declined the offer to take the mantle of ousted President Hossain Mohammad Ershad and lead the party in the forthcoming anti-government agitation next winter to press for the realisation of the opposition demand for early elections under an interim caretaker government.

In spite of a lot of reservations about Mizan Chowdhury and his brand of politics among the rank and file of the Jatiya Party, he will continue to exercise the delegated powers of the chairman because he is the senior-most among the vice-chairmen and members of the party presidium, the source said.

Mizan was the first Prime Minister after restoration of the

Constitution by Ershad. Next in the JP leadership hierarchy are Maudud Ahmed, Kazi Zafar Ahmed and Shah Moazzem Hossain.

But all three think they are contemporaries and equals and ready to work under the leadership of Ershad only. This triumvirate is not willing to accept each other as leader. That is the reason why Ershad delegated his powers to Mizan to carry on the burden of party work until his release, the source said.

Explaining the immediate objectives of the JP's politics the source said it is directed towards securing release of Ershad and putting pressure on the government to concede to the demand for an early election under an interim caretaker government, as in Pakistan.

The source said the JP would participate in the mainstream opposition movement to achieve these two objectives. He said the party would put all its weight behind the expected opposition agitation next winter.

Seven die in separate incidents

By Staff Correspondent

At least seven persons died in separate incidents in the city and its suburb yesterday.

Of the dead, three youngsters were killed in separate road mishaps in Narayanganj while four others were killed in the capital.

Our Narayanganj Correspondent reports: Two minor girls died on the spot and two others injured when a speeding truck rammed into a rickshaw near Jora Building, Mazdall at around 10:15 am yesterday.

Witnesses said, the truck, loaded with cement, hit the rickshaw carrying one Masuda, 35, and three of her children.

Sheema, 4, and Nasima, 9, died on the spot while their mother and the younger sister Masuma, 2, were rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) in a critical condition.

Sources said, Masuda was taking her children to her work place at a garments factory.

Another young girl Zaheda, 8, was crushed under the wheels of a Dhaka-bound bus on the Dhaka-Munshiganj

highway shortly after 9 am yesterday.

Meanwhile, in the city one Fayezuddin Sikder, 20, was run over by a microbus near the Malibagh crossing Saturday night. Critically injured Fayezuddin was rushed to the DMCH where he succumbed to his injuries yesterday evening, reports our DMCH correspondent.

At Kawranbazar in the capital one unidentified male, reportedly a burglar jumped off from the office building of BTMC when chased by security men Tuesday night. The victim allegedly sneaked into the office for committing burglary.

At Shegunbagicha, one Abdul Mannan was electrocuted when he came in touch with live wires while sweeping the floor.

A body, identified as Mosharrif Hossain, 28, was sent to the DMCH from Kancharpur yesterday. The victim reportedly died from food poisoning.

All the bodies were sent to the DMCH morgue for autopsy.

BCCI executives' trial begins

ABU DHABI, Oct 9: Top executives of the collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International on Saturday pleaded not guilty to charges of forgery, breach of trust and wasting depositors' and shareholders' funds, reports AP.

Eleven defendants indicted in one of the world's most serious banking scandals appeared before a single judge for the preliminary hearing. Two other defendants were formally charged in absentia.

The nonjury trial is being held in Abu Dhabi because that is where the bank's home office is located. The case opened after a two-year investigation by the government.

State prosecutor Mohammed Nakhrah al-Dhahri described the case as "the most serious economic case in the present time with an international impact."

At the end of the two-hour

public session, Judge Shihab Abdul-Rahman scheduled the next hearing for November 13 to allow defence lawyers to study the files of the complicated case.

The court was packed with lawyers and members of the defendants' families.

Those who did not attend Saturday's session were Agha Hassan Abedi, the founder of the banking empire, and the bank's former treasurer, Ziauddin Ali Akbar.

Abedi, who is in his late 70s, is an invalid and lives in his native Pakistan, with which the United Arab Emirates has no extradition treaty. Akbar is serving a six-year sentence after a London court-convicted him of fraud, on September 28.

Neither of them was represented by a lawyer.

The others are six men with dual Pakistani and British citizenships, a Canadian and four

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Miss International '93 Agnieszka Pachalko (C) of Poland receiving congratulations kisses from first runner-up Ilmira Shamaudina (R) of Russia and second runner-up Nataliya Romanenko of the Ukraine during the beauty pageant in Tokyo yesterday.

Professionals call to resist BCS (Admn) body leaders

By Staff Correspondent

Leaders of the Central Action Council of the Engineers-Agriculturists-Doctors and BS Associations yesterday called upon the people to resist the 'evil activities' of the leaders of the association of the Bangladesh Civil Service (Administration).

At a meeting, the leaders of the Action Council said the BCS Administration Association leaders in the name of opposing the struggle of the professionals, were contradicting the programmes and purpose of the present government which is giving democracy a footing in the country.

Presided over by the acting Chairman of the Action Council Dr Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, the meeting was attended, among others, by M Abu Hena, Dr A B Bhuiyan, Engineer M A K Azad, Engineer Ruhul Mattin, Engineer A N H Akhter Hossain, Dr Mustaq Ahmed, A K Khalil Ahmed, agriculturists Javed Iqal and Manirul Islam and Professor Abu Yusuf.

The meeting observed that the reactions of the BCS (Admn) Association was an expression of its unbalanced conduct. It said the members of the BCS (Admn) had opposed the installation of a representative democratic government in the country during the past 22 years.

The members of the administration cadre became the flag-bearers of Ayub Khan's 'basic democracy,' usurped power by changing the rules of business of the government and some of them were instrumental in the unseating of a democratic government in 1982, it observed.

The BCS Administration members were now engaged in a conspiracy to foil the on-going agitation of the doctors, engineers, agriculturists and other BCS officials demanding an overhaul of the administrative machinery as well as amendment to the rules of business, the meeting's resolution added.

Syndicate discusses JU re-opening

By JU Correspondent

The teachers of the Jahangirnagar University are drafting a code of conduct for students and considering special security measures as a condition for the re-opening of the university.

The JU syndicate, at its regular session yesterday, discussed the possible re-opening of the institution but took no positive decisions.

One teacher, on condition of anonymity, told The Daily Star that the teachers might resume work in the first week of next month after the Durga Puja vacation.

The situation has improved with the dismissal of charges brought against ten JU teachers by a student, and the arrests of six students in connection with the armed vandalism of July 29," the teacher, who is also a Syndicate member, said.

The Additional and Sessions Judge, Dhaka had given the 15 absconding students, against whom the JU authorities have lodged cases under the Anti-Terrorism Act until October 7 to surrender. So far six of the 21 accused have been arrested.

The court is now expected to proceed with the trial of the accused in absentia since none of them surrendered within the deadline.

The teachers' association of the JU (JUTA) will hold a meeting next Thursday to discuss the proposed code of conduct and the resumption of duties.

The university provosts' committee, that primarily drafted the code, has enumerated seven points.

According to the draft, students must bear their identity cards. The authorities will have the right to search the rooms of the dormitories and baggage of the students. Stay of students in the residential halls will also be regulated. The draft also suggested imposition of some stipulations regarding processions and rallies on the campus.

The institution was closed

Pak polls

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longing to minorities contested 23(23) seats reserved for the minority Christian, Hindu, Buddhist, Parsee and Qadiani communities.

The Punjab assembly consists of 248 seats including 8 minorities, the Sindh — 109, including nine minorities, the NWFP — 83, including three minorities and Baluchistan — 43, including three minorities.

Ms Bhutto, whose party was edged out 52 seats to 47 in Punjab by Sharif's Muslim League during Wednesday's elections, appeared nervous, snapping at one party worker who told her things were going well: "You always say like this, but the results are always different."

In a sign of the importance Bhutto attaches to the Punjab, she abandoned today all plans of returning to vote in her home constituency in Sindh, electing to stay at a friend's house in Lahore.

At one point Bhutto and Sharif were at accident at the same polling station in northern Lahore's Nakhuda district, but journalists said the two long-time political rivals pointedly ignored one another before going their separate ways.

Witnesses described turnout as light to moderate, bolstered by candidates' vehicles ferrying party faithful to the polling stations. PPP vehicles were out in force, they said.

Much enthusiasm was marked in the port city of Karachi during the polling today following participation in the provincial elections by the Mohajir Qoumi Movement (MQM) which boycotted the National Assembly elections.

The ethnically based party representing Muslim immigrants from India won 27 seats in the 109-seat Sindh assembly in 1990 and was predicting 28 seats this time. The PPP won 55 last time.

150 held in Karachi
Meanwhile, security forces arrested 150 people in Karachi for allegedly trying to rig the polls.

It was the first incident of rigging in the army-supervised elections.

Those arrested have been charged with rigging elections and intimidating voters," a police officer said.

Officials declined to identify the political affiliation of those arrested but said they had presented false identity cards, which all voters must show, and had threatened voters.

Those arrested were workers of provincial candidate Irfanullah Khan Marwat, son-in-law of former President Ghulam Ishaq Khan who resigned with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif last July in an army-brokered deal, a PPP official said. A spokesman for Marwat denied the charges.

Samiran Dewan, 5 others hurt in road mishap

FENI, Oct 9: Six people including Khagrachhari Zila Parishad Chairman Samiran Dewan was seriously injured in a road accident here on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway today, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the accident occurred when a jeep carrying Samiran and five others overtook after a head-on collision with a truck at Jagannath Dighi at about 4 pm.

The injured were rushed to the Feni Sadar Hospital from where Samiran, Tushar Kant Chakma, 45, Headmaster of the Khagrachhari High School, Momin Mia, 27, driver of the jeep and Abul Boshor, 25, clerk of Khagrachhari TNO office were shifted to the Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH).

The Midnight File

Rao kicks off poll campaign, vows to rebuild Babri Mosque

NEW DELHI, Oct 9: Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao launched an election campaign Saturday with a vow to rebuild a Muslim shrine that was torn down by Hindu fanatics. The election next month in four of India's 25 states will be the first test of strength at the polls since the destruction of the mosque in the town of Ayodhya last December, an event that changed the agenda of Indian politics, reports AP.

Georgian troops launch offensive against rebels

MOSCOW, Oct 9: Government troops launched an offensive early today on the western of Potti, captured last month by rebel supporters of former president Zviad Gamsakhurdia, the Georgian Defence Minister said, reports AFP.

Euro-Parliament team lauds PM's speech at UN

The visiting delegation of the European parliament called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at the International Conference Centre here yesterday, reports BSS.

The delegation, which is for relations with the countries of South Asia and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), discussed the regional and international situation confronting the present day world.

The members of the delegation which is led by Ms Anita Jean Pollack expressed their happiness with the efforts being made for establishing and flourishing democracy in the country.

They appreciated the speech delivered by Begum Zia at the 48th session of the UNGA which they said had highlighted problems facing the current world as well as Bangladesh and focussed on the Farakka problem.

The Prime Minister said her government believed in the good relations with every nation, especially with the neighbouring countries. She said "we have best of relations with our neighbours though there are some irritants in our relations."

She mentioned the refugee problem with Myanmar and the water sharing dispute with

India. While discussing the irritants, the Prime Minister said the Farakka issue which was the most damaging problem for Bangladesh was causing economic hardship to the affected people and environmental degradation when the world opinion was strong in favour of ecological balance.

The Prime Minister said Bangladesh had given shelter to the more than two lakh people from Myanmar on Humanitarian grounds despite resource constraints of the country. The repatriation of the Myanmar refugees was taking place properly and UNHCR was satisfied with the process, the Prime Minister said.

European MPs meet Hasina

The visiting European Parliamentary delegation yesterday met with Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina and discussed socio-economic and political affairs of the country, reports UNB.

Flood problems, human rights violation, stranded Pakistanis, Rohingya refugees, the Indemnity Ordinance, women's condition and the Anti-terrorism Act came up for discussion,

Killari rocked again

KILLARI (India), Oct 9: A mild quake hit Killari and nearby areas Saturday and created panic among thousands of people rendered homeless by the earlier quake that killed up to 30,000 people, reports AP.

The quake registered 5.2 on the Richter scale and was the 14th aftershock since the September 30, quake, said SN Chatterjee, seismology director at the weather office in New Delhi.

The quake rumbled across the region in the western state

of Maharashtra at 2:15 am (20:25 GMT) and dozens of houses damaged by the earlier quake collapsed completely. Fissures in the land widened even more.

Meanwhile, the first consignment of American aid was distributed to 300 people in Killari, one of the hardest-hit village.

Maharashtra state's Finance Minister Ramarao Adik handed out bundles containing a tent, two blankets, a five-gallon plastic container, buckets and pots and pans to each survivor of the quake.

Most of the recipients were either serving soldiers whose houses had been razed by the quake or ex-servicemen.

Adik said disaster relief experts from around the world have praised the rescue operations that 10,000 goldiers are carrying out in the state.

PM: Hartal

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Begum Zia said the nine years of autocratic rule has destroyed everything which cannot be rebuilt overnight. She said her government had identified the priority sectors and was going ahead with necessary programmes aimed at overall development of the country.

"We have to solve the problems in phases," she said urging the students to integrate themselves with the development efforts of her government.

Referring to different development programmes of the government, particularly the programme of rapid industrialisation, she asked the graduates to set up small and cottage industries to create job opportunity. Government jobs cannot alone solve the huge unemployment problem, she added.

Education Minister Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar, State Minister for Textiles Maj (retd) M.A. Mannan, DUCSU VP Amanullah Aman MP, Barkatullah Bulu MP, Sajauddin Kamran MP, Joyal Abedin Faruk MP, DUCSU GS Khairul Kabir Khokon, AGS Nazimuddin Alam, JCD President Fazlul Huq Milon and student leaders of Noakhali district and Chhatkhal college also spoke.

Talks on Chakmas

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pointed observers here when a congenial atmosphere is prevailing in the Chittagong Hill Tracts for the tribals to return to their homeland with all preparations finalised to receive and rehabilitate them with full security, rights and dignity.

About 29,000 Bangladeshi tribesmen have crossed into the eastern Indian state of Tripura amidst armed insurgency by the Shantibahini.

The state was set for an official start of repatriation of the refugees on June 8, but it could not take off as the tribal Refugee Welfare Association put up new conditions at the eleventh hour.

Alija-Tudjman talks yield no results

VIENNA, Oct 9: Bosnian Muslim leader Alija Izetbegovic and Croatian President Franjo Tudjman held negotiations on Friday but made no apparent breakthrough to revive stalled Bosnian peace talks, reports Reuter.

Speaking after 90 minutes of talks in a Vienna hotel, the two leaders said they had discussed proposed changes to the peace-keeping force in Bosnia, but they made no mention of new moves to resolve major differences on a peace plan.

They issued a joint proposal calling on NATO to send peace-keeping forces to Bosnia and Croatia. It was not clear whether they intended NATO to supplement or replace the current United Nations peacekeeping mission.

As far as resolving the dispute over the borders of three ethnic states to be carved out of Bosnia, they said this could be entrusted to an arbitration commission also made up of members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

No Bosnian Serbs were at the talks.

Last month, all three parties endorsed a peace plan at a meeting on a British aircraft carrier in the Adriatic but this collapsed when the Muslim led parliament rejected its terms.

The Serbs, having previously granted territorial concessions to Muslims, and Croats, who offered them access to the sea, said they would revoke all concessions, bringing the talks to a halt.



Croatian President Franjo Tudjman (front) and Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic reacting to journalists' questions during a press conference in Vienna Friday after their bilateral meeting. Both the presidents demanded that the NATO showed install peacekeeping forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia to enforce the peace plan.