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The Daily Star

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NEWS BRIEFS

Contraband worth Tk 3cr seized

CHITTAGONG, Oct 13: Smuggling through sea routes increased alarmingly and police seized contraband worth over half a crore taka in the last three days from Patenga. Squads of the Chittagong Metropolitan Police hauled up foreign cigarettes, beer and crockeries in raids in the coastal area. CMP sources said, reports UNB.

Crushing season begins tomorrow

BSFIC assures ample supply of sugar

By Special Correspondent

Bangladesh has been estimated at about three lakh tonnes. The official said that the retail price of sugar would come down with the availability of newly produced sugar in the market along with the imported ones.

Sugar is now being sold in the city markets at a retail price of Tk 32 to 33 per kg which is about 5 taka higher than the price prevailing a few months ago.

The authorities held the hoarders responsible for the recent price hike saying the government has not increased the price while the supply was also steady.

Meanwhile, the sugarcane crushing season begins tomorrow in the mills of the BSFIC with a target of producing 2,04,406 tonnes of sugar during the season which is likely to continue in phases until early next year.

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Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia offering munajat after laying the foundation stone of Biman Bangladesh Airlines' head office complex near the Zia International Airport yesterday. Also seen are State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan (extreme right) and Biman's Managing Director Abdul Mueyed Chowdhury. — PID photo.

Biman to have more aircraft: PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia laid the foundation stone of a new head office complex of the Biman Bangladesh Airlines near the Zia International Airport here yesterday morning, reports UNB.

Spread over an area of 9,758.36 square metres, the complex will include a six-storied administrative building to be constructed within 18 months at an estimated cost of Tk 12 crore 24 lakh and 37 thousand in the first phase.

Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister said steps have been taken to add more aircraft to the Biman's fleet to open new routes. She lauded the progress of Biman which started its operation 22 years ago.

Termining improvement of communication network as a pre-requisite for development, she said the government had taken initiatives to recast the communication system including railways, road, river and air routes to meet the present day need.

The project area has been leased out to Biman by the Civil Aviation Authorities.

A 10-storied building has also been planned as part of the head office complex to be constructed in the next phase. The present Biman headquarters in Motijheel commercial area will remain as an office of the national flag carrier after the inauguration of the new head office complex.

State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan, Secretary Afzalur Rahman and Managing Director of Biman Abdul Mueyed Chowdhury also addressed the function.

Referring to different programmes taken up by Biman to compete with other airlines, Begum Zia asked the Biman employees to render better service to the customers.

She expressed her happiness over the earning of profit by the national flag carrier in last two years for the first time since its inception.

Rao may visit Dhaka early next year

Indian Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao is likely to visit Dhaka sometime early next year.

Disclosing this to UNB yesterday a government source said both Bangladesh and India were working hard to prepare the ground for the Indian Prime Minister's visit.

Rao's visit will however largely depend on the outcome of the next month's elections in 5 Indian states and Delhi.

If Congress(I) succeeds in those elections, it would pave the way for Rao's visit to neighbouring countries including Bangladesh.

If Congress(I) fails the scenario will completely change, making it difficult for Rao to undertake any trip abroad.

The failure of Congress (I) will be considered a sort of no-confidence to the leadership of Rao. In that event he can not resist BJP's demand for mid-term poll.

Rao's visit to Dhaka, if it at all takes place, is expected to be a landmark in the history of Indo-Bangladesh relationship.

Slum eviction 50 injured in Cox's Bazar clash

From Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, Oct 13: Over 50 people including a magistrate and ten policemen were injured as police and villagers clashed over eviction of illegal houses along the coastal area here today.

Over 2000 villagers demonstrated when the Nirbahi Officer of Cox's Bazar Sadar Thana along with five magistrates and 30 policemen went for the eviction at Darbarpara at 11 am, reportedly under an order from the Prime Minister herself.

Police lobbed three teargas shells and resorted to baton-charge to disperse the mob who attacked the police with lethal weapons and brickbats.

Sec Page 12 Col 3

5 Ansars accused of supplying arms to Sarbaharamen

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Oct 13: Authorities have lodged cases against five members of the Ansar force for their alleged involvement in providing the outlawed Sarbahara party men with rifle bullets.

The accused include the District Collector-in-Charge of Ansar armory at Patuakhali Lutfar Rahman, Ansar Battalion-19 Commander Abdus Salam, Battalion Quarter Master Shahed Ali, Circle Adjutant Harzrat Ali and Habildar Musleh-uddin.

Deputy Director of Barisal Division Ansar filed the cases with Kolapara Police Station of Patuakhali for alleged cheating and theft under the BPC 416/380.

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Truly tragic!

BOMBAY, Oct 13: Forty women passengers were crushed to death by a train and 70 others injured when they leapt out of a running suburban local after they noticed smoke in a compartment between Kandivli and Borivli on the Western Railway section tonight, reports PTI.

Railway and police sources said as the smoke emanated from the rear portion of the ladies only Virar-bound train, home-bound passengers jumped out and were run over by another fast train coming from the opposite direction.

Police said the passengers were gripped by panic after a woman screamed 'Fire, fire' and jumped out of the train.

The train which left Churchgate Station during rush hour was nearing the Borivli Station when the bizarre accident occurred, leaving mangled bodies all over the tracks.

According to eyewitness accounts, it was a gruesome sight with bodies and personal belongings of the passengers lying scattered and blood splattered over the accident spot.

BNP may move to curb Bonapartism

The ruling BNP is considering an amendment to the Constitution seeking to block the way for capturing state power through unconstitutional means, such as by imposing Martial Law.

Party sources told PROBE News Agency that Prime Minister Khaleda Zia had discussed the issue with her close aides prior to her departure for New York to address the 48th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

"There is no alternative to prevention of Martial Law to safeguard democracy," said Workers' Party leader Rashed Khan Menon who brought a constitutional amendment bill in 1991, aimed at putting an end to the usurpation of power through Martial Law.

He stressed that it was essential for the government and opposition parties to pass the bill immediately to prevent anyone from taking direct or indirect advantage of the situation created by the 'Moududi group' (Jamaat-Shibir) and other terrorist groups. Describing the opposition MPs initiative as a 'good move' BNP leader Berrister Rafiqul Islam Miah regretted that since the period of erstwhile East Pakistan some politicians were conniving and helping to invite Martial Law rule in the country.

"One has to be careful of these politicians. The political Sec Page 12 Col 3

PML attempt to split Junejo group

ISLAMABAD, Oct 13: Pakistan's political crisis dragged into its fourth day Wednesday, with no resolution in sight in the battle between rival claimants to form a government, Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif, reports AFP.

With two days before the first sitting of the new federal parliament Friday, Bhutto, who emerged as front-runner in last week's national elections, still appeared likely to be able to muster enough support to emerge as Prime Minister.

But her position appeared to be complicated by rumours of a possible split in the Pakistan Muslim League-Junejo group (PML-J).

The PML-J, a breakaway group from Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League (PML) helped Bhutto perform unexpectedly well against Sharif in his electorally-vital home province of Punjab in the weekend provincial elections.

Reports from the Punjab capital of Lahore today said that in the ongoing tug-of-war between the two leaders, PML was attempting to split the PML-J, although there were no indications by late Wednesday afternoon as to its success.

PML-J chief, Hamid Nasir Chaittha, speaking from Lahore Tuesday, was quick to dispel the rumors, saying that the faction was united and that all members had been attending PML-J meetings.

AP adds: Bhutto wants better relations with the United States — but not if it costs her country's nuclear weapons programme.

"Our foreign policy priorities will be to improve our relations with the United States and reduce tensions with India," Ms Sec Page 12 Col 8

AL threatens tough action after Nov 10

A top leader of the Awami League yesterday warned that the party would announce tough action programmes from its November 10 sit-in demonstration outside the Secretariat if the ruling BNP failed to meet their demands.

The Awami League will go for stronger agitation, including the sieges and gheraos if the demands, split out by Sheikh Hasina on August 20 at the Manik Mia Avenue, were not met," Chief Whip of the Opposition in Parliament Mohammad Nasim told the United News of Bangladesh (UNB).

The demands include repeal of the Indemnity Ordinance and the Anti-Terrorism Act, removal of 'corrupt' ministers, trial of Golan Azam as a 'war criminal', a ban on communal politics, protecting the interests of the farmers, the industries and industrial workers, ridding the campuses of terrorism and solving unemployment.

Nasim, also the Organising Secretary of the Awami League, said despite its earlier commitment the ruling party has neither scrapped the Indemnity Ordinance nor taken any steps to try Golan Azam as per the four-point agreement signed in Parliament by the government and the Opposition. It has also not done anything to give autonomy to radio and television.

"We have no alternative to an all-out agitation since the Prime Minister and her cabinet colleagues continue to ignore the commitments made during the anti-Ershad struggle, as well as the promises made in the Joint Declaration of the three alliances", he said.

In reply to a question, Nasim said, "If our demands are not Sec Page 12 Col 3

English made compulsory at degree level

The government has decided to make English a compulsory subject at the degree level (graduation) from the 1994-95 academic session, reports UNB.

The decision has been taken with a view to raising the standard of English education in the country, said an official hand-out yesterday.

English will be compulsory in the Pass and Honours courses in all general educational institutions and students seeking admission in the next session (1994-95) will be the first batch under the new curriculum.

The new curriculum has been introduced at the degree level against the backdrop of students lacking adequate knowledge in the English language, which is important for international communication, the handout said.

"It has been observed that the standard of English education has gone down at the primary and secondary levels also."

The new measure was adopted in the hope it would help students acquire more knowledge in the foreign language and help build an efficient manpower base in the country, the handout added.

Early launching of JMBP stressed

The three-day annual consultation meeting on economic cooperation between Japan and Bangladesh ended in Dhaka yesterday stressing the need for immediate launching of the Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge project, reports UNB.

The Bangladesh team appreciated the Japanese delegation about the importance of the bridge and its significance on the country's economy.

The Japanese delegation took note of hopes and earnest desire of the people of Bangladesh for early completion of the bridge and promised to convey the sentiment to the appropriate authority in Tokyo.

Dr Saadat Hussain, Additional Secretary, ERD led the Bangladesh team while Hideaki Ueda, Deputy Director-General Economic Co-operation Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan led the Japanese side.

Japanese Ambassador Shigeo Takenaka and ERD Secretary Muhammad Lutful Lahil Majid were present at the inaugural session.

Dr Saadat Hussain at the outset gave a resume of Bangladesh economy particularly the structural changes that the economy has undergone during the last couple of years.

There has been a lot of improvement in the major macro-economic parameters and the economy is now better prepared for absorption of foreign aid effectively, the Japanese delegation was told.

মূল্য হ্রাস বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ইস্টার্ন টিউবস লিমিটেড এর উৎপাদিত ফ্লোরেসেন্ট টিউব বাতির বিক্রয় মূল্য নিম্নোক্তভাবে হ্রাস করা হইয়াছে।

ভ্যাটসহ সর্বোচ্চ খুচরা বিক্রয় মূল্য :

	পূর্বের মূল্য	বর্তমান মূল্য
৬-৪০ ওয়াট	১১২.৯৫ টা:	৯৯.৯৫ টা:
৬-২০ ওয়াট	৯৭.৭৫ টা:	৮৭.০০ টা:

উপরোক্ত বিক্রয় মূল্য ২/১০/৯৩ইং হইতে কার্যকর করা হইয়াছে। সকল পাটিকল, বত্রকল, পৌরসভা এবং সরকারী ও আধা সরকারী সংস্থাসমূহ প্রয়োজন অনুযায়ী কারখানা হইতে সরাসরি টিউব বাতি সংগ্রহ করিতে পারেন।

এছাড়া সারাদেশে আমাদের ১৫০ এর অধিক ডিলার আপনাদের সেবার নিয়োজিত।

ইস্টার্ন টিউবস লিমিটেড

পাবনা-৩৩৩ ইলাক ও প্রকৌশল কর্পোরেশনের একটি প্রতিষ্ঠান।

৩৭৪, তেজগাঁও শিল্প এলাকা, ঢাকা-১২০৮

ফোন : ৩১০৪৪৫, ৩২৭০৩০, ৩১৫১৭৫, ৩১৫১৭৬

ADB project for rural training uncertain

By Sohel Manzur

Implementation of the ADB-assisted Rural Training Project has become uncertain because the Planning Commission did not approve the revised project concept paper (PCP), alleging some irregularities in the selection of the project areas.

According to sources, a tripartite meeting of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Ministry of Youth and Sports and the consultants of the project would be held today to decide the fate of the project.

The project, which was to be implemented by the Ministry of Youth, has already been delayed by about two and a half years because of the delay in recruiting the staff and in acquiring land for the training centres, the sources said.

Under the 19.35 million US dollar project, about 70 thousand people were targeted to be provided with training under four zonal centres to be set up in Dhaka, Rajshahi, Sylhet and Jessore.

Some 25 thanas of the country were also selected by the Ministry of Youth and Sports as target areas for the project.

But, according to the sources, when the ADB sug-

gested the ministry integrate it with another project, initiated by the government in 1987 targeting seven thanas (the then upazillas), major changes were brought in the revised PCP, incorporating the names of some new thanas in place of those selected earlier.

Incorporation of a number of new thanas in the revised PCP was not, however, done as per the agreed criteria, the sources said.

According to the sources, the ADB, after approval of the project in 1991, disbursed Tk 66 lakh for procurement of necessary equipment. But the fund is yet to be utilised, the sources added.

An official at the ADB, when contacted, told The Daily Star that the Bank had decided to finance the project after being convinced of the project's prospects, which the government initiated targeting seven thanas.

He said the bank is insisting the government start the project immediately and accelerate the process of implementation.

Regarding the allegation of irregularities in selecting the thanas, he said the ADB is

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