

Jamuna bridge

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water would not go up over one to two feet in the rest of the flooded areas.
So, the need for increasing the length of the bridge from the originally planned length may not arise, he observed.
Regarding the question of any possible change in the direction of the Jamuna, Prof Chowdhury said the exact site of the bridge would be selected in the year of construction, that is, in September 1994, taking into consideration the matter of changing the direction. Moreover, the river would be trained properly before the construction of the main bridge. So the matter would not pose a problem, he said.

Prof Chowdhury said the Japanese team was convinced with the explanations to these and some other minor issues.
The only aspect on which there appeared some dis-

Aided men free US pilot, Nigerian peacekeeper

MOGADISHU, Oct 14: Gen Mohamed Farrah Aided's forces Thursday released a US helicopter pilot captured nearly two weeks ago during fierce fighting in Mogadishu. A Nigerian peacekeeper taken prisoner in September also was freed, reports AP.

The Army pilot, Michael Durant, had no comment as he was gingerly carried on a Red Cross stretcher from a compound in central Mogadishu. He appeared to be in pain and looked dazed. His legs were covered with a red-and-white sheet.

UN officials say Durant would need immediate medical attention for leg, arm and back injuries.

Mainul Hosen on Ittefaq crisis

By Staff Correspondent
The Chairman of the Editorial Board and Executive Director (I) of the Ittefaq Group of Publications Ltd Mainul Hosen yesterday said that although the Ittefaq management has no conflict with its employees yet the journalists and other unions are continuing with their current methods which have created a major crisis.

The various employees' unions of the Ittefaq, for some time now, have been agitating for a 'healthy environment' in the newspaper. As a mark of protest against the presence of 'undecorous and rowdy elements', journalists have been keeping blank a certain space on the first page of the widely-circulated daily everyday.

In a press statement, Mainul Hosen said there was no real labour-management problem in the Ittefaq and there were no 'muscle-men' to terrorise the employees either.

Mainul Hosen said that in a letter to the Press Council he had informed that the management was showing utmost compassion and goodness to its employees, which he felt, was perhaps being taken advantage of. He assured that he will offer his full cooperation to the enquiry being instituted by the Press Council.

PPP-PML power-sharing

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elections, must show her majority when the new National Assembly votes for a house leader on October 19.

Benzair tonight nominated Yusuf Raza Gillani as her party candidate for the office of Speaker to contest PML (N) nominee Gohar Ayub.
After a three-hour party meeting she also told newsmen that the Punjab would be given to her ally PML (J) group to form the provincial cabinet.

Party sources say Sharif has abandoned his battle for the national government and is focusing his attention on forming a government in the richest and most powerful province of Punjab.

The PPP and its main ally, with 92 seats in the 217-seat National Assembly, say they have support from several independents and smaller parties, raising their total to 110. They need 109 for a majority.

Sharif's PML is behind with 73 National Assembly members. The PPP spokesman said the party had 128 seats — including independents — in Punjab, to 112 for Sharif.

Aziz declined to give details of PML strength in Punjab.

agreement was not a technical issue. Explaining, he said the Japanese side was not satisfied with the resettlement plan for the bridge-affected people.

According to the practice in Japan, the government is supposed to acquire all the lands in between the two embankments of a river, since the people living in the area would be affected by floods every year. The Japanese team was insisting the Bangladesh government do the same in case of the Jamuna project, Prof Chowdhury said.

The Bangladesh side, however, informed the Japanese delegation that although such a provision is absent in the relevant laws of this country, there are provisions for mitigatory measures of allocating funds for the affected people.

A high official at the Economic Relations Division (ERD), speaking on condition of anonymity, said the three-day meeting with the Japanese delegation was a routine one which is held every year to discuss the general aid programmes of the country with Bangladesh. Discussion on as many as 40 projects were held in the three-day consultations, but the team was not authorised to commit any funds for the Jamuna Bridge project, although this was one of the main agenda of the meeting, he pointed out.

"In fact it was a diplomatic game. We played the game well and there are reasons to be hopeful about Japanese assistance for the project," the ERD official said.

UN sanctions against Haiti

UNITED NATIONS, Oct 14: The Security Council voted Wednesday to reimpose economic sanctions on Haiti next week unless its military rulers stop violating an agreement to restore the island nation's elected government, reports AP.

The military rulers would have until 0359 GMT Tuesday, and then arms and oil embargoes would be reimposed and their overseas assets would be frozen.

DU observes JN Hall disaster day today

By DU Correspondent
The Dhaka University will observe mourning day today to commemorate the disaster in which dozens of people were killed in the Jagannath Hall in 1985.

Thirty-nine people including students, guests and employees were killed when the roof of the old auditorium building of the Jagannath Hall collapsed on this day eight years ago.

A large number of students in the auditorium were enjoying a popular BTB serial, at the time of the collapse at about 8:30 pm.

The Dhaka University authorities has taken up different programmes to mark the day.

The programmes were drawn at a meeting of the October 15 Memorial Committee recently with the Vice Chancellor Professor Enajuddin Ahmed in the chair.

A mourning procession will be brought out at 6:30 am from the Aparajit Bangla at the Arts Faculty premises and disperse at the October Memorial Monument at the Jagannath Hall premises.

Indefinite curfew in Kashmir town

JAMMU, Oct 14: An indefinite curfew has been imposed on the Baderwah town of Doda district following communal tension and clashes yesterday between two groups of people, while 10 hours relaxation in curfew was given in the adjoining town of Kishtwar.

An official spokesman told PTI that the curfew in Baderwah town was imposed in the wake of mounting tension following a bandh call



Chairperson of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia waving to the crowd at a public meeting organised by the Sunamganj District BNP at the local stadium yesterday. — PID photo

Declarations of EPI signed

SUNAMGANJ, Oct 14: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia this afternoon signed the declarations of the EPI (Extended Programme for Immunization) related mid-decade targets here on the occasion of the National Immunization Week, reports BSS.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf, Deputy Minister for Health and Family Welfare Sirajul Huq, Secretary, Health and Family Welfare Ministry Syed Shamim Ahsan and acting director of the EPI Dr Neftisa Begum were present on the occasion.

Earlier, the National Immunization Week was inaugurated here in the morning by Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal, Ibne Yusuf.

The Prime Minister who was supposed to inaugurate the week did not attend the function due to inclement weather in the morning. She came here in the afternoon.

Deputy Minister for Health and Family Welfare Sirajul Huq read out a message of the Prime Minister at the function.

The Prime Minister said her government being encouraged by the present success in the Extended Programme for Immunization had revised EPI targets and decided to eliminate tetanus.

PM: Development

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district BNP president Shamsul Abedin, the meeting was addressed, among others, by Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf, Forests and Environment Minister Akbar Hossain, Khandaker Abdul Malek, MP, local BNP leader Advocate Fazul Huq Astia, and JCD leaders Musharraf Hossain Thakur and Abdul Qayyum Chowdhury.

The meeting was conducted by central BNP leader Haris Chowdhury.

The Prime Minister said Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman had removed Bangladesh's negative image of a 'bottomless basket' and now the BNP government was carrying out a number of socio-economic development programmes.

Referring to the reduction of the inflation rate, stable prices of essential commodities and increase of per capita income, Begum Zia said her government had rejuvenated a ravaged economy.

She said food production had increased despite the natural disasters. "What we need now is diversification of our crops to achieve self-sufficiency in other crop production."

The Prime Minister said the

image and honour of the country had increased both at home and abroad due to the welfare-oriented programmes of the present government.

She asked the people to identify their real friends and to oppose those who were out to obstruct development and progress.

About some local problems, the Prime Minister assured that the Mohanganj-Sunamganj road and the Hasanmara bridge would be constructed while the 50-bed Sunamganj Sadar Hospital would be turned into a 100-bed hospital. She said the work of the Taherpur limestone project would be accelerated.

Begum Zia said about one lakh people would be provided with jobs in different educational institutions.

Nazir Hossain MP joins BNP

SUNAMGANJ, Oct 14: Nazir Hossain, a CPB MP from Sunamganj, today joined the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) expressing his total support to the leadership of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and solidarity with the ideals and programmes of the BNP, reports BSS.

Hossain made the announcement of his formal joining to the ruling party BNP at a big public meeting here in presence of Begum Khaleda Zia

Dr Kamal

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ing into account all shades of opinion, instead of a single party opinion in order to resolve the international issues.

"The Prime Minister of Bangladesh, as Chairperson of the SAARC, can easily raise all the bilateral problems which are hampering regional cooperation among the countries in the forum... It's a unique chance for the country."

Citing the Indo-Pak treaty on sharing of water of the river Indus, Dr Kamal said both the countries get a good result by diplomatic means. "We have lost valuable time, but now we have to take a positive approach towards resolving the problem."

Organised by the local unit of the Gano Forum, the meeting was also addressed by Barrister Amirul Islam, Shahjahan Straj MP, Pankaj Bhattacharya, Mostafa Mohsin Montu, Advocate Sajwar Hossain, Hashimuddin Haider Pahari and Advocate Mahub-e-Alam.

Munshiganj district unit Convenor Mohammad Hossain Babul presided over the meeting, held at the local stadium.

Speaking on terrorism in the educational institutions, Dr Kamal identified it as the major threat to the future of our younger generation.

"Terrorism and violence on the campus has been destroying the academic atmosphere. There is no room for the terrorists in the country," he said.

The Gano Forum president hinted that if needed, his party might wage a non-cooperation movement to uproot terrorism and violence from society.

Dr Kamal bitterly criticised the Jatiya Party and the Jamaat-e-Islami, saying the two parties were trying to rehabilitate their two 'hated leaders who are anti-people'.

"It is pride for the nation that it tried a top corrupt and miscreant like the deposed President Ershad," he said, adding "the leader of Jamaat-e-Islami, Golam Azam, collaborated with the Pakistani Army in the genocide during the Liberation War."

He also accused both the parties of unleashing terror on the campuses and using youths by providing black money to aggrandise their (parties) own interest.

Two Shibir men beaten at DU

Two Shibir workers were roughed up by a group of students near the TSC of Dhaka University yesterday, campus sources said, reports UNB.

Nuruzzaman Straj and Mahmudul Hasan, students of the Jagannath University College, were beaten up while pasting posters of a cultural organisation backed by Jamaat-Shibir, on the walls.



Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina talking to the Saudi Arabian Ambassador Ali Mohammed Abdul Wahab when he called on her at her 29 Minto Road residence yesterday. — Star photo

Saudi envoy calls on Hasina

Saudi Charge d'Affaires in Dhaka, Ali Ahmed Abdul Wahab yesterday called on Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina at her official residence, reports UNB.

During the meeting, they exchanged views on political, social and economic issues of both the countries and matter of mutual interests, said a press release.

International Affairs Secretary of the Awami League Abul Hasan Chowdhury MP was present during the meeting.

Injured AL activist dies in Lalmonirhat

LALMONIRHAT, Oct 14: An Awami League activist who was injured in a clash with police on Tuesday died early today at the Rangpur Medical College Hospital, reports UNB.

Anisur Rahman, 50, a farmer and activist of Kaliganj Thana Awami League, was rushed to the hospital in critical condition after the clash between police and AL supporters.

As the body of Anis reached Kaliganj, thousands of people thronged the thana headquarters to mourn his death.

Later, he was buried beside the grave of late Awami League Leader and former MP Alhaj Karimuddin instead of his village Jamirbari in the thana. About 10 thousand people joined the funeral.

A condolence rally was held after the burial. District Awami League President and former MP Abul Hossain, party leader Nashir Rahman and General Secretary Nuruzzaman Ahmed spoke on the occasion.

District Awami League announced mourning day tomorrow at Kaliganj thana at the death of Anis. Wearing black badges and milad mahfil will be in the day's programme. Central leaders will join the function.

Delicious hilsas

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As regards, the decline in hilsa availability in other rivers, particularly the Meghna, experts said this was due to overfishing and illegal catching of Jhatka (hilsa fingerlings) illegal catching of Jhatkas with fine-mesh current nets, which is officially banned, has been on the increase alarmingly, hindering hilsa production.

Some experts apprehend that the hilsa might face total extinction from Bangladesh rivers in another two decades if the overfishing, illegal catching and environmental degradation continues.

Hilsa is a salmon-like migratory fish that moves from the sea to the Gangetic delta to spawn, but due to overfishing in the estuaries during last one decade, the overall growth

Ugandan minister delivers special message to Biswas

The visiting State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Uganda Ally M Kirunda Kivejinja called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday and delivered to him a special message from his President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, reports UNB.

Exchanging views with the State Minister, President Biswas expressed satisfaction over the excellent bilateral relations between the two countries and told him that Bangladesh had a large number of professionals like doctors, engineers, agricultural scientists and teachers who can render services to Uganda.

He stressed the need for mutually beneficial cooperation in the fields of trade, industry and exploration of mineral resources.

The Midnight File

German peacekeeper shot dead in Cambodia

BONN, Oct 14: A German soldier with the UN forces in Cambodia has been shot dead, a Defence Ministry spokesman here said today. The soldier belonged to a medical unit. He is believed to be the first German soldier to be killed while on a UN mission since the government here permitted such deployment, reports AFP.

113 killed in Afghan fighting

ISLAMABAD, Oct 14: Some 113 people have been killed in continued fighting in the eastern Afghan district of Sarobi, Kabul radio said Thursday. Dozens more were injured as rival groups exchanged rocket fire, the state-run radio said in a broadcast monitored here. Haji Munaj, leader of a tribal war party, said in Serobi Wednesday that his men were prevented from passing peacefully through Sarobi on their way to Jalalabad, causing the fighting, reports AFP.

Haiti's Justice Minister, three others assassinated

PORT AU PRINCE, Oct 14: Gunmen assassinated Haiti's Justice Minister, two bodyguards and a fourth person on Thursday, Haitian radio and UN officials said, reports Reuter.

C'wealth Summit

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raising it at other international fora was a matter of routine follow up," he said.

"We are forced to raise it at multi-lateral fora only to make New Delhi realise that it should honour its commitment to solve the issue on a bilateral basis," the minister said. He added, "We also want the Indian people to realise the extent and seriousness of the hardship."

A leading diplomat at the Indian High Commission in Dhaka, when asked about the Indian government's reaction to the water issue, said without elaborating: "We have conveyed all the reaction we wanted to."

Asked if Rao would be visiting Dhaka, as mentioned in some newspaper reports, the official said he had no special information. Possible dates for the Indian Prime Minister's visit and also those of their Finance, Commerce and External Affairs ministers, have been discussed from time to time but nothing specific was decided, he explained.

Foreign Ministry officials said, "There is no question of giving any official reaction to the Indian spokesman's comment. The Prime Minister has already explained the government position in her press conference after her return from New York."

However, a detailed picture of the Prime Minister's scheduled visit to the Cyprus conference and Bangladesh's stand on the water sharing issue is likely to be announced by the Foreign Secretary when he holds a press briefing on Sunday next.

Villagers gouge out eyes of two Sarbahara men

From Staff Correspondent
BARISAL, Oct 14: Villagers gouged out eyes of two young men at Gasua under Muladi union of the district today.

According to witnesses, Masud, 25 and Malek Mallik 23, were reportedly the members of the underground Sarbahara Party.

Police rescued them and recovered a shot gun from their possession.

The two men are presently undergoing treatment at Muladi Health Complex under police custody.

Govt's steps against Taslima Nasrin demanded

From Our Correspondent
SYLHET, Oct 14: A meeting of the Sahaba Sainik Parishad, a religion organisation, was held here today with Moulana Habibur Rahman, Convenor of the organisation in the chair.

The meeting expressed concern over the government's alleged silence in taking steps against the novelist Taslima Nasrin.

The meeting also decided to launch soon countrywide 'mass contact' for moulding public opinion.

The meeting was addressed, among others, by Moulana Nazmuddin, Moulana Nezamuddin, Moulana Rezaul Karim, Moulana Mujamill Hossain, Moulana Shah Momshad Hossain and Moulana Syed Aatur Rahman.

Nirmul body

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against the communal and the fundamental forces.

Col Nuruzzaman said the Prime Minister had promised implementation of the 1990 Joint Declaration of the three political alliances. But she had failed to keep the promise after being voted to power.

The chief coordinator congratulated the students for forming the 'Anti-Communal Students' Community' and warned those trying to delay the 'movement' in the name of investigation and trial of the 'war criminals'.

Nirmul Committee leaders Abul Hashem, RN Barua and Sadeq Ahmed Khan were present at the press conference.

Star Computer Special

(October Issue)

Next issue of Star Computer Special is going to be out on Monday, 18th October. In this issue we are expanding our focus to areas of IT revolution such as office automation, advanced communication and latest office equipment.

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