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# The Daily Star

KARTIK 5, 1400 BS, DHAKA WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1993 JAMADIUL-AWAL 3, 1414 HIJRI

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**NOTICE**  
Today's *The Daily Star* contains the October '93 issue of the Star Computer Special. This 5-page section is published on pages 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10.

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**NEWS BRIEFS**

**BFUJ, DUJ to condole S M Ali's death**

The Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and the Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) will hold a meeting to condole the death of S M Ali, the founder-editor of the Daily Star tomorrow at 4 pm at the Jatiya Press Club. BFUJ secretary general Amanullah Kabir has requested all the journalists to attend the condolence meeting, reports BSS.

**Foreign trawler seized: 21 held**

CHITTAGONG, Oct 19: Bangladesh Navy ship Meghna, during routine anti-smuggling, anti-piracy and fishery protection patrol, impounded a foreign fishing trawler and arrested all its 21 crew members today. The trawler was engaged in catching fish near the St. Martin's island, says a press release.

**2 women killed in Manikganj**

MANIKGANJ, Oct 19: Two women were killed by a group of villagers in Singtar thana Monday night following a dispute over repayment of loan. Police said Tarekjan, 60, and Parishker Bibi, 65, mother and aunt of one Abdus Salam of Borundi village, were killed as he failed to repay the loan to co-villager Rashed Ali, reports UNB.

**Hartal observed in Pabna**

PABNA, Oct 19: A dawn-to-dusk hartal at the call of the Jatiyatabadi Jubadal protesting the attack on its leader was observed here today. A local leader of the ruling BNP's youth wing, Afzal Hossain Botu, was shot and stabbed by unknown miscreants in the town on Monday while he was returning home from a party meeting. Jubadal leaders blamed a group of former Awami League led by Ikram within Jubadal for the attack, reports UNB.

**UN sanctions on Haiti take effect**

HAITI NATIONALS, Oct 19: A UN oil, arms and financial embargo against Haiti went into force today, with US warships steaming near the shores of the Caribbean nation to stop any violators, reports Reuters.

PPP nominee elected Punjab Assembly Speaker

## Benazir sworn in as Prime Minister

ISLAMABAD, Oct 19: Benazir Bhutto was sworn in as Prime Minister of Pakistan today after three years in the political wilderness and pledged to do her best in her second opportunity to lead the Muslim, male-dominated state, report Reuters, AFP.

very few people in Pakistan this opportunity, and I hope I will be able to redeem the pledge the people of Pakistan have placed in me," said a radiant Bhutto, restored to power three years ago.

Bhutto, dressed in royal blue tunic and trousers with her head covered in Islamic-style by a white veil, was watched by her young son and daughter — Bilawal and Bakhtawar — and by Pakistan's most powerful man, chief of army staff General Abdul Waheed.

Waheed forced the resignation of three, whose Pakistan

People's Party (PPP) emerged with the most National Assembly seats in the hung parliament elected in October 6 polls.

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Benazir Bhutto (R) co-chairperson of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), taking oath as the Prime Minister from interim President Wasim Sajjad in Islamabad yesterday. — AFP photo

## S M Ali laid to rest

By Staff Correspondent  
Syed Mohammad Ali — better known as S M Ali — was laid to eternal rest at the Banani graveyard yesterday evening.

S M Ali, 65, founding-editor of The Daily Star, died of kidney failure at a Bangkok hospital Sunday. He was also suffering from rheumatoid arthritis and lung cancer, which was diagnosed only late last month.

The largely-attended main *namaz-e-janaza* was held at the Baitul Mukarram National Mosque. President Abdur Rahman Biswas, State Minister for Civil Aviation Abdul Mannan, noted politicians, members of Parliament, diplomats, lawyers, friends of the deceased and high civil and military officials attended. Later, President Biswas stood near the body and prayed for the salvation of the departed soul.



President Abdur Rahman Biswas (R) offering *fataha* beside the coffin of S M Ali after the *namaz-e-janaza* at the Baitul Mukarram National Mosque yesterday. — Star photo

**Condolence Book**

The condolence book, which was opened at *The Daily Star* office after the death of our editor S M Ali, will close at ten tonight.

## Jamaat for dialogue with AL, BNP

By Asizzaman  
The Jamaat-e-Islami, Bangladesh has agreed to hold dialogue with the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and the major opposition party the Awami League (AL) in a bid to defuse the growing political tension and spate of violence across the country.

A two-day emergency meeting of the party's Central Working Council endorsed the plan yesterday, a senior party leader who attended the meeting said. He said the details of the plan would be finalised later on.

The meeting of the 24-member body was presided over by acting chief Abbas Ali Khan in the absence of party chief or Amir Golam Azam who recently underwent a surgical operation on his prostate gland. Surgeons at the Ibn Sina Clinic removed his enlarged prostate gland successfully on October 12 and he will be released from the clinic shortly, one party source said.

Meeting sources said that the Jamaat would send emissaries to both the BNP and the AL to start the dialogue. Depending on the success of

the parley with the two major parties, the Jamaat would go for talks with other parties who have representations in the Jatiya Sangsad, one source said.

But another source said the Jamaat will send emissaries to all the parties, large and small. In reply to a question whether the AL and the BNP would reject the proposal of the dialogues after their common stand against the religion-based

Violence leaves 12 hurt in Feni

FENI, Oct 12: About a dozen people were injured and 35 vehicles damaged when the supporters of a Feni pourashava chairman candidate went on a rampage in the town today beating a voter for not voting for their leader, reports UNB.

Police rushed to the scene and picked up two of the troublemakers — Rajesh Dewan and Nasrudin — from the scene. Witnesses said a group of supporters of Jahangir Alam, a JSD (Rab) candidate in the

party in Parliament, the Jamaat leader, speaking over telephone, said "That chapter is almost closed."

"But we will use their role against religion during our next election campaign," the source added, requesting anonymity.

The emergency meeting was convened immediately after the gruesome killings at the Chittagong Medical College Monday.

The Jamaat claimed two of the three slain persons were their supporters. Jamaat described the Chittagong incident as a "breakdown of the country's law and order situation" and urged other parties to forge a consensus to curb violence.

Meanwhile, Jamaat secretary general Maulana Matiar Rahman Nizami and publicity secretary Abdur Kader Mollah will address a meeting at the Chittagong Lalidighi Maidan today.

The working council meeting has also decided to contest the upcoming city corporation elections scheduled to be held in January next year.

## Thousands defy curfew to break siege of Hazratbal Mosque

SRINAGAR, Oct 19: Thousands of Kashmiri Muslims poured into the streets here Tuesday after Indian troops broke up an attempt by some 500 people to march on the besieged Hazratbal shrine, witnesses said, reports AFP.

The protesters strolled out of narrow alleys and streets and were marching on Lal Chowk (red square), defying a curfew slapped on the downtown district of this summer capital of Kashmir, they said.

"Break the siege, break the siege," shouted the marchers, some of whom were carrying Pakistani flags. The protests erupted in this city of 700,000 people after

border security force troops used smoke bombs and clubbed the 500 strong marchers after surrounding them on a bridge, 10 kms from Hazratbal.

Among those beaten up were two prominent Kashmiri leaders who were at the head of the procession called to protest the four day old army siege of the Hazratbal shrine overlooking Nagin Lake.

A number of marchers were dragged away by the paramilitary troops and placed in waiting buses. Many of the demonstrators were ruthlessly beaten in front of television cameras.

"Genghis Khan would have turned over his grave," said Abdul Ghani, a prominent

politician of the army action. The All-party Freedom Conference, and umbrella group of political and militant organisations opposed to Indian rule over Kashmir, had warned Monday that it would organise a march on the shrine if the siege was not lifted by 4:00 pm today.

The Hazratbal Mosque, the holiest Islamic shrine in Kashmir, has been surrounded by thousands of Indian troops since late Friday. They are demanding the surrender of an estimated 50 Muslim separatist guerrillas holed up in the Mosque.

India has said it will not withdraw the soldiers until the

## Bangladesh Bank declares Taka convertible

The Bangladesh Bank yesterday declared the Taka convertible with immediate effect for current account transactions except for defraying educational expenses up to the SSC level, including unapproved courses, and remittance of family maintenance expenses for the Bangladesh nationals abroad, reports BSS.

The Bank, in a press release last night, said in conformity with the government objective of sustainable and rapid economic growth through outward-looking and market-friendly policies, the Bangladesh Bank has been progressively liberalising the exchange restrictions for the last few months.

It has now been decided that prior permission of the Bangladesh Bank will no longer be required for remittance of profits of foreign banks, insurance companies and other financial institutions, the press release said.

## Hartals hinder investment, says Saifur

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday said non-economic factors like frequent hartals and strikes called by the political parties were hindering country's development process and discouraging investment, reports UNB.

"If the political parties intentionally call hartals, unleash terrorism and violate law and order, nobody will invest in the country," he said.

"It is the leaders of political parties, not the workers, who call hartal. Ninety per cent of hartals and strikes have been called for political purposes," the minister told a reception yesterday evening.

The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) accorded the reception to Finance Minister Saifur Rahman on his election as Chairman of the Board of Governors of the World Bank and IMF.

Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharrar Hossain, Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf, State Minister for Finance Mujibur Rahman and State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan were present at the reception held at a local hotel. FBCCI President Mahbubur Rahman also spoke at the function.

Stressing the need for removing unnecessary rules and regulations, Saifur Rahman said these were snags on way to development and industrialisation. See Page 12 Col 6

## Jamuna Bridge: Waiting for Japan's 'yes'

By A Special Correspondent

The draft of an action plan for resettlement of the persons dislocated by the Jamuna Bridge Project has been finalised. It will shortly be discussed with the World Bank.

Submission of the draft action plan for resettlement constitutes crossing of a critical milestone in the processing of the around 600 million dollar funding from the World Bank (WB), the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the government of Japan. This brings the joint appraisal of the project by the WB and ADB to an official conclusion.

The WB-ADB joint appraisal mission for the Jamuna Bridge Project visited Bangladesh from September 6 to 20. Japan's OECF sent a fact finding mission to Bangladesh at the same time. After completion of the appraisal the joint WB-ADB team and the OECF mission submitted separate reports to their respective managements.

In line with the WB procedure the joint WB-ADB appraisal mission recommended that the appraisal be considered incomplete until the Bangladesh government submits a satisfactory action plan for resettlement of persons displaced by the Jamuna project.

The Jamuna project will require relocation of about 17,000 persons to start with. This relocation will have to be completed

by the end of March 1994 so that the required 850 hectares of land can be made available to the contractors. To catch the next dry season contractors will have to begin work on April 1. Over the course of project implementation, which will extend up to mid-1998, about 80,000 persons will have to be resettled.

The plan for resettlement of displaced persons has been drawn under a very strict principle. The principle is that all displaced persons will be given a fair opportunity to settle into a life which is at least as good as the one they have been displaced from. To ensure that this principle is strictly observed the Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge Authority (JMBA) used the BRAC — a leading NGO in the country — to enumerate the persons displaced by the project. BRAC conducted a very detailed survey in the last quarter of 1992. The final draft of the resettlement plan has been prepared by consultants appointed by the JMBA. The draft will be finalised after discussion with the World Bank and other co-financiers.

Although submission of the draft action plan for resettlement is a major step in the government's journey towards the World Bank's negotiating table actual negotiation will hinge See Page 12 Col 8

## WB, govt deadlocked over IWT-3 project

By Inam Ahmed

The meeting between the World Bank (WB) and the government on the fate of the IWT-3 project ended last Saturday in a deadlock, according to Shipping Ministry sources.

Sources said the WB would now either cancel the credit or okay, the programme under rationalised conditionalities, as demanded by the government.

If the credit were to be cancelled, it would be the first instance that Bangladesh declined to accept a WB tied credit since independence in 1971.

Sources also felt that in case of cancellation the relationship between the WB and the government may become strained. During Saturday's meeting, the government side reiterated that the conditionalities of the 45 million US dollar IDA credit be rationalised for ensuring viability of the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC).

However, the WB side said the rationalisation proposal of the government may be consid-

ered during the review of the project after implementation.

But the WB did not agree to any changes in the agreement at this moment, sources said.

The WB team comprising two financial experts and a Finnish high official arrived in the capital on October 15 to discuss the IWT-3.

See Page 12 Col 7

## Pakistan expels 4 Indian diplomats

ISLAMABAD, Oct 19: Pakistan announced Tuesday that it had expelled four Indian diplomats in the latest round of tit-for-tat expulsions. A day earlier, India expelled four Pakistani diplomats, reports AP.

The announcement came as Benazir Bhutto returned to power, and the signs pointed to continued hostile relations between the traditional enemies.

"These are bad times in terms of our relationship with India," said Akbar Zeb, a spokesman for Pakistan's foreign ministry.

Once again, Muslim Pakistan and mostly Hindu India are at odds over the situation in the Himalayan state of Kashmir, a territory both countries claim. India controls most of it.

## Khaleda arrives in Cyprus

LIMASSOL, Oct 19: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia arrived here today on the island nation of Cyprus to attend the five-day Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) beginning October 21, reports BSS.

A special direct Biman flight carried the Prime Minister to the eastern Mediterranean island in eight hours' time and landed at the Larnaca international airport.

Begum Zia was received by high officials of the Communications Ministry of Cyprus at the airport and escorted to the VVIP lounge. They exchanged views with the See Page 12 Col 4

## BADC asked to clear equipment by year end

By Special Correspondent

The government has advised the Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC) to dispose of all its irrigation equipment by 31 December this year, under a revised schedule.

The stock of equipment, worth over 207 crore taka, shall have to be cleared by that deadline to fulfil the conditions of agreements signed by the government with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the World Bank (WB).

According to well-placed sources in the government, the deadline for clearing the equipment, which was extended several times, shall have to be maintained this time.

"The ADB and the WB won't provide grants or credits in the agricultural sector if the condition is not fulfilled within the stipulated time," said the source, adding that the donors' See Page 12 Col 8

## 3 arrested in connection with CMCH killings

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Oct 19: Police arrested three suspects in connection with Monday's attack by a group of gunmen on the doctors' cafeteria at the Chittagong Medical College Hospital that left three people including a

doctor killed and 30 others injured.

The arrested persons are Syed Rezaul Hossain, Petronalia Quiah and Abdul Jalil, according to the Panchlaha thana. Police arrested them last night from their residences for their alleged involvement in the raid.

The Disciplinary Council of the Chittagong Medical College, in a meeting held today, issued show-cause notices on four students of the college including its VP and GS asking them to reply within 24 hours as to why See Page 12 Col 6

**বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় যাদুঘর**

শাহাবাদ, ঢাকা-১০০০

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