

# Health ministers admit weak management

By Staff Correspondent

The Health Ministers of the South and Southeast Asian countries, on the second day of their conference yesterday, admitted their weaknesses in the health management in most of the 11 countries of the WHO region, the meeting sources said.

"Optimal utilisation of even the available facilities is not being made because of certain constraints," one minister was quoted by a WHO regional office executive as saying.

The ministers agreed on the observation, the Delhi-based WHO official told The Daily Star.

The ministers were discussing the health management and development of human resources for health and AIDS and EPI-targeted diseases on the second day of their three-day conference.

The second business session of the conference was held at the BRAC Centre in Rajshahi. Before going into the business session, the ministers visited the Sreepur Thana Health Complex in Gazipur district, 82 km from here.

Health Ministers and Deputy Health Ministers from North Korea, India, Indonesia, the Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Bangladesh are attending the regional conference. Bhutan is being represented by senior officials.

The ministers said the health

management technique should be developed at all levels.

Dr Peter Piot, Associate Director of the Global Programme of AIDS, presented a grim picture on AIDS in the region.

In his paper, he said although HIV started spreading in South and South-east Asia only in the mid-1980s or even later, the progression of the pandemic in the region has been rapid.

An estimated 30,000 adults and children are believed to have been affected with the deadly disease so far but only 2002 cases have been reported.

India and Thailand account for the majority of reported infections, Dr Piot told the ministers.

As of July 1993, over 700,000 adult AIDS cases have been reported from 184 countries and there are very few countries which have not reported an AIDS case, he added.

But this is a tip of the iceberg for the South-east Asian region where the fatal disease may explode," Dr Piot was quoted by another WHO official attending the meeting.

The Expanded Programme for Immunization (EPI) is a success story for most of the countries, the ministers agreed.

The ministers will discuss the future action programme for old scourges — malaria, TB and leprosy — at the third business session today and adopt the recommendations of the 3-day conference.

# PM: Asian art show

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that in today's changed world there was no alternative to co-operation, conflicts, fighting and divisions would only push us towards backwardness.

The identity of a nation lies in its culture, which is an ingredient of socio-economic development, the Prime Minister said, adding that her government has taken up a number of programmes for the development of our own culture.

The Prime Minister said a modern art gallery would be set up in Dhaka and hoped this would play an important role in flourishing and spreading fine arts in Asia.

She also said: "This exhibition would help materialise our struggle, dreams and creativity."



Monsoor ul-Karim

Presided over by State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof Jahanara Begum, the inaugural function was also addressed by the visiting Cultural Minister of Bhutan Dago Shering, Secretary of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs Islamuddin Malik, chief coordinator of the organising committee of the Sixth Biennale Asian Art Exhibition and Director General of the Shilpakala Academy Mubarak Hossain Khan and member-secretary of the organising committee Subir Chowdhury.

Deputy Speaker Humayun Khan Panni, ministers, MPs, diplomats, artists and cultural activists attended the function.

The Bhutanese Cultural Minister said he had brought greetings of the Bhutanese King Jigme Singhe Wangchuk to the President, the Prime Minister and the people of Bangladesh.

Shering, who served as Bhutanese ambassador to Bangladesh in 1981, expressed his happiness that the festival had provided an opportunity to renew friendship among the countries of this region. He said this exhibition would give a great impetus to promote understanding and cooperation among the countries of the region.

Prof Jahanara Begum thanked the guests and artists participating in the festival.

She said, artists from 30 countries are participating in the exhibition, a true rendezvous for artists and art-lovers of Asia. The exhibition has now become a most prestigious event for Bangladesh.

### 3 win awards

The chairperson of the jury board of the Sixth Biennale, Ali Imam, a Pakistani national, presented the evaluation report at the function. He announced the names of the three best award winners and eight honourable mentions of the exhibition.

The three best artists were: Lee Yeul of South Korea, Monsoor ul Karim of Bangladesh

and Kazunori Sadahiro of Japan.

The Prime Minister distributed prizes among the award-winners.

Begum Zia also formally released a stamp issued on the occasion by the postal department.

She signed the inaugural plaque at the function. Later, the Prime Minister went round the exhibition and saw the paintings.

UNB adds: About 685 art works of 354 artists from as many as 25 countries, including 215 pieces of 151 local artists, have entered the show organised by the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

The honourable mentions were presented to Abdul Rahim Salim of UAE, M Muhraddin Adhim of Iraq, Mahmudul Huq of Bangladesh, Sittichai Prachayaratikun of Thailand, Meher Afroz of Pakistan, Goh Ee Choo of Singapore, Zhon Changliang of China and Felix Quiros Cachapero of the Philippines.

# SM Sultan denied entry for being late

By Staff Correspondent

A large number of guests, including the country's renowned painter S M Sultan, could not attend the inaugural session of the Sixth Asian Art Biennale held at the Osmany Auditorium yesterday morning as security guards prevented their entry.

A group of invited guests repeatedly requested the security personnel to allow at least S M Sultan in, but their pleas were ignored.

After the end of the inaugural session at around 12.30 pm, a number of people brought out a procession protesting the action of the security personnel against S M Sultan.

The guests, who arrived after 10.50 am, just 10 minutes before the scheduled beginning of the programme, were told by the security forces that the auditorium was already over-packed and that they were too late for entry.

The chief guest of the inaugural session Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia arrived at the venue at about 11.08 am, eight minutes behind schedule.

The security guards told the frustrated visitors at the gate that many invited guests, including ambassadors, could not get any seats. "Many foreign guests are witnessing the programme standing in the crowd," they said.

"The organisers did not calculate the sitting capacity of the Osmany Auditorium before inviting the guests," the security men said and suggested to the visitors that they should have had taken their seats before 10.40 am, as mentioned in the Shilpakala Academy's invitation card.

There were a number of tardy senior cultural personalities, a few foreign delegates and young artists who were not allowed to enter the Osmany Auditorium.

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Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina addressing a discussion on the Jail Killing Day at the Engineers' Institution in the city yesterday. Mazharul Islam, Professor Kabir Chowdhury and Barrister Ishtiaque Ahmed, among others, are sitting on her left. — Star photo

# PM asks doctors to supplement govt efforts

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia last night asked the private medical practitioners to supplement the government efforts in attaining the target of 'Health for All' by the year 2000, reports BSS.

She was exchanging views with the members of the Bangladesh Private Medical Practitioners' Association (BPMPA) when they called on her at the Sugandha office.

The Prime Minister said her government had laid emphasis on the private sector and asked the private medical practitioners to effectively contribute towards the improvement of the country's health care system.

Begum Zia also said a national health policy would be formulated in consultation with all concerned.

The members of the association had free and frank discussions with the Prime Minister about their professional problems and put forward some suggestions.

The doctors urged the Prime Minister to attend the installation ceremony of the association to be held soon.

The delegation members included president of the association Dr Mirza A Sobhan, secretary general Dr CM Delwar Rana and Treasurer Dr Moniruzzaman Bhuiyan.

# Hasina: Wage struggle

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ment would scrap the Indemnity Ordinance.

Hasina, also accused the government of 'inefficiency' in running the affairs of the state. She said that the inefficiency of the government was pushing the country towards a terrible situation.

"It is time for people to think whether the government has any right to stay in power," Sheikh Hasina observed.

Barrister Syed Ishtiaque Ahmed, Professor Kabir Chowdhury, Dr. Mazharul Islam, Prof Syed Badruddin Hossain, Syed Ahmed and Habibur Rahman Milon also spoke on the occasion.

Meanwhile, Awami League central working committee in a meeting yesterday condemned Monday's armed attack on the employees of Dhaka University by the "terrorists of ruling BNP and its student wing."

Awami League President and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina presided over the meeting held at 29 Minto Road yesterday evening.

In a resolution, the meeting called on patriotic citizens including teachers, students and intellectuals to voice protest against "terrorism of the governing party and state terrorism." "Illegal arms-holders of the Chhatra Dal get involved in in-

tra-party feuds on the campuses over occupation of halls and hostels, hijacking tender boxes and sharing toll that led to armed violence, killing and other heinous crimes," it said.

On Monday, three employees suffered bullet wounds when armed goons of the Chhatra Dal went on a rampage, firing at their rivals, a JCD leader was killed in the shooting.

The meeting criticised the police picket deployed on the campus for its inaction and "mysterious" silence during the bloody incident. It alleged that the ruling party was giving shelter to identified terrorists for political purposes on the one hand and misusing the Anti-Terrorism Act against opposition leaders and workers and filing false cases against them on the other.

# Indonesian trian collision kills 35

DEPOK (Indonesia), Nov 2: Two packed commuter trains collided in a cramped Indonesian village this morning and at least 35 people were reported killed, says Reuter.

Scores of people, some sitting on carriage tops, were injured in the head-on crash on a single track 13 miles (20 km) from the Indonesian capital of Jakarta.



The Dhaka University Employees' Association brought out a procession in the city yesterday, protesting Monday's shootings on the campus. — Star photo

# DU violence condemned

By Staff Correspondent

The Ganotantrik Chhatra Oikya (GCO), an alliance of the left-leaning students' organisations, has decided to go for a ten-day demonstration from today protesting Monday's killings at the Dhaka University campus.

The GCO announced its programmes at a press conference held yesterday at the Madhu's canteen of the university.

The programmes include anti-terrorism rallies and processions at the residential halls from November 3 to 5, submission of memoranda to the Vice-Chancellor of the university on November 6, sit-in demonstrations in front of the VC's office on November 8 and a rally of teachers, students, employees and guardians of Dhaka University on November 13.

The press conference, addressed by Belal Chowdhury, said Monday's incident on the DU campus, in which one activist of the BNP-backed Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) was killed and three staff of the university injured, was the result of internal feuds within the JCD.

The ministers of the ruling party were patronising the 'mataan' groups within its student front in a bid to serve their vested interests, he alleged.

The Bangladesh Chhatra League, Suryasen Hall unit, in another statement, also condemned the incident.

# 30 hurt

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The Chhatra Parishad reportedly started picketing at Chotamoring, Kabakali and Baradon areas of Dhiginala thana from this morning, preventing the tribal people from attending the local bazar with non-tribal people, according to officials.

# Govt-Prokrichi talks

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crisis. The AL leader felt that the government must immediately talk to the leaders of the agitating officials and the Prokrichi.

On the question of the 17-point demands, the AL leader said: "We strongly support some of the demands which include appointment of the elected representatives as heads of local government bodies, separation of the judiciary from the executive and formulation of a rules of business making the ministers heads of their ministries." He urged the government to meet the rightful demands of the non-administrative cadres.

Acting chairman of the Jatiya Party (JP) Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury expressed his concern over what he said the government's indifference to a very serious problem.

The JP leader felt the government should come out immediately with a 'satisfactory solution to the crisis' before the matter took a serious turn jeopardising the whole administration.

The government would face serious difficulties in running the affairs of the state unless the conflict between the administrative and the non-administrative cadre services was resolved peacefully.

Sheikh Ansar Ali, MP of the Jamaat-e-Islami, Bangladesh told The Daily Star: "Unless resolved immediately, the conflict between the administrative and the non-administrative cadres would result in a total collapse of the whole administration." The government should play a constructive role in solving the present crisis through negotiations, the Jamaat leader observed. He also said the government should talk to the opposition parties

to reach a consensus on administrative reforms.

Ganotantri Party (GP) leader Suranjit Sengupta observed that administrative reforms were a must for the sake of the country's development and democracy.

On the question of the 17-point demands, the GP leaders said: "The present anomalies among the officials of different cadre services must go. But at the same time the administration cannot be allowed to be demoralised."

# Boarding bridges at ZIA from Feb

International passengers will enjoy boarding bridge facilities at Zia International Airport (ZIA) from next February, State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan said yesterday.

Laying the foundation stone for the four boarding bridges, the minister said, one or two of the four bridges would be completed by February while the whole project by June next year.

An American firm has won the international tender to install the four bridges at a cost of Tk 15.5 crore, including Tk 6.5 crore in foreign currency.

The Minister said that to increase the facilities for incoming and outgoing passengers, the terminal building at ZIA would be expanded at a cost of Tk 20 crore.

It will have a five-lakh square feet floor area, almost double the size of the existing terminal building. This project would be completed in two years.

He said, another 60-crore taka project has been taken up to repair and recarpet the runway.

# 'Hazratbal rebels softening'

SRINAGAR, Nov 2: Kashmiri Muslims angered by the Indian army blockade of their holiest mosque set fire to tires in the streets here today and staged demonstrations to demand and end to the siege, witnesses said, reports AFP.

A government spokesman said meanwhile that the 50 armed Muslim separatists who have been barricaded inside the Hazratbal Shrine for the past 18 days were showing some signs of flexibility.

Mehmood ul-Rehman, the additional Chief Secretary in charge of Home Affairs, told reporters that the attitude of the militants had changed from 'rigidity to showing signs of readiness to arrive at a settlement.'

He said the authorities would guarantee "humane treatment within the process of law" to the Kashmiri militants if they were to give themselves up.

# Jail Killing Day

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a cabinet colleague of the victims who was sworn in as President of the country a few hours after the killing of President Mujib.

However, Khandaker Mushtaque constituted a three-member judicial inquiry commission, comprising Justice Ahsanuddin Chowdhury, Justice K M Sobhan and Justice Syed Mohammad Hossain, on November 5, 1975 to investigate "into the circumstances under which four prominent persons were brutally murdered in the Dhaka Central Jail recently."

The announcement of the inquiry commission came the next day from Justice Abu Sadat Mohammad Sayem who replaced Khandaker Mushtaque as President on November 6 following a coup-d'etat allegedly led by Major Gen Khaled Mosharraf on November 2.

However, the commission failed to come up with a report on the jail killings. Sources close to the commission members told The Daily Star that the political events taking place in Bangladesh during the time did not allow the committee to function. The committee did not even hold a single meeting.

Meanwhile, AL sources claimed that a general diary (GD) was registered by the Dhaka Central Jail authorities on the killings with the Lalbagh police on November 4, 1975 but a private investigator working on the jail killings failed to trace any documents relating to the said GD. An official of the Lalbagh Police Station, when contacted, told this correspondent that they were not aware of any such GD.

According to a report published by the London-based Amnesty International in 1977, a mission led by Irish Nobel Peace Prize winner Sean MacBride visited Bangladesh and met concerned authorities, including then President Ziaur Rahman, to discuss the fate of the trial of the jail killings. The report said, the authorities assured him that the law would be allowed to take its course on the issue.

Later, a London-based inquiry commission was constituted on September 18, 1980 following an appeal of Sheikh Hasina and others to probe into both the killings of Sheikh Mujib and that of the four leaders. The members of the committee were Sir Thomas Williams, QC, MP, Sean MacBride, Jeffery Thomas, MP and Aubrey Rose, a solicitor.

The first meeting of the commission was held at one of the committee rooms of the British House of Commons under the chairmanship of Sir Thomas Williams, MP and the committee resolved to visit Bangladesh in January, 1981.

Jeffery Thomas, MP applied to the Bangladesh Mission in London for a visa to visit Bangladesh on behalf of the committee but was reportedly refused permission to visit the country.

However, the Awami League is now demanding the trial of those responsible for the killings under the law of the land.

# Golam Azam

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The Appellate Division bench, comprising Justice Habibur Rahman, Justice A T M Afzal, Justice Mustafa Kamal and Justice Latifur Rahman, adjourned the hearing, for the third time, until after the winter vacation of the court on January 10.

Barrister A R Yusuf, counsel for Golam Azam, sought a firm date for resumption of the hearing.

Earlier, on August 23, the Appellate Division granted a prayer from the Attorney General's office seeking adjournment of the hearing until a week after the court returned from annual vacation. The court reopened on October 26.

Last April a single-bench of the High Court restored the citizenship of the Jamaat-e-Islami leader after a Division Bench had given a split-decision last year on a writ petition challenging the government order disqualifying him from becoming a citizen.

# The Midnight File

## SC order to provide food, water to Hazratbal hostages

SRINAGAR, Nov 2: India's Supreme Court ordered the Kashmir authorities today to provide food and water to 'innocent hostages' being held by armed Muslim militants in Srinagar's besieged Hazratbal Mosque. But the court, in a five-page judgement released in New Delhi late today ruled out giving food to the Kashmiri separatist guerrillas who have been holed up in the shrine for the last 18 days, reports AFP.

## Bosnian army chief, two other officers dismissed

SARAJEVO Nov 2: The Bosnian government army's chief of staff and two other senior officers, including one commanding a district hit by Muslim separatism, were dismissed today, Sarajevo radio said. The radio said General Sefir Halilovic, chief of staff and an ex-supreme commander of the Muslim-led army, and the commanders of the 4th corps and 5th corps based in the Mostar and Bihaq regions respectively were discharged 'at their own suggestion,' reports Reuter.

# Strike paralyses DU

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nine students belonging to the JCD — the student wing of the ruling party — were murdered in educational institutions in the capital because of internal feuds. Of them, six were killed on the Dhaka University campus alone.

The DU administrative building, the central library, departmental and hall offices were also closed due to the strike on the campus yesterday.

All the employees' unions, and the Dhaka University Officers' Association called a day-long strike as their instantaneous reaction to the incident. Later different students' organizations — the Chhatra Oikya Parishad, the Chhatra Oikya Forum and the Bangladesh Chhatra League — gave the call for a strike demanding punishment of the terrorists. They also held rallies and brought out processions.

Meanwhile, the Dhaka University Syndicate, at a meeting with Vice-Chancellor Professor Emazuddin Ahmed in the chair, called for arrest of the terrorists and their exemplary punishment.

The Syndicate also formed an eight-member enquiry committee, headed by Professor Anwar Ullah Chowdhury, Chairman of the Anthropology Department, to probe into Monday's incident. The other members of the probe are the Dean of Science Faculty Professor M Moshazzaman, Provost of the Muktiyoddha Ziaur Rahman Hall Professor Monirul Haque, Barrister Mainul Hossain, the proctor of the university and the presidents of the university teachers', officers' and employees' unions.

The meeting condoned the death of Jinnatul Islam and also decided to bear the expenses for treatment of the three employees wounded in Monday's terrorism.

According to doctors, all three wounded employees were out of danger yesterday. Abdus Sattar was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital while the two others were in the Pongu (Orthopaedic) Hospital.

The body of Jinnah was sent to his village home in Dewanganj of Jamalpur district early yesterday morning. The deceased's wife Nila, whom he married only on Oct 20, relatives and friends accompanied the body.

The Awami League-backed Chhatra League held a rally in front of the Aparajevo Bangla where its leaders blamed the government for 'inciting violence and patronising terrorists on the campus.'

The BCL rally was chaired by its president Moinuddin Hasan Chowdhury, while General Secretary Iqbalur Rahim Iqbal, K H M Liza and Pankaj Devnath addressed the gathering. They also brought out a procession on the campus demanding punishment of the terrorists.

The Ganotantrik Chhatra Oikya, at a rally presided over by Ragib Ahsan, urged the teachers, students and employees of the university to unitedly resist terrorism. They also demanded compensation and adequate treatment of the university staff injured Monday.

Sources said, Jinnah was a victim of a conflict between two rival factions of the JCD — one led by JCD central President Fazlul Haque Milon and the other, by its Joint Secretary Nazimuddin Alam.

The factions were divided over the respective group's sphere of influence on the campus, sharing of illegal 'toll money' and participation in the tenders floated by the university authorities.

The sources said, the Milon group is backed by the LGRD Minister Salam Talukder and the Nazimuddin group is backed by the Home Minister

Ms Raphael will hold official talks with Foreign Secretary Reaz Rahman on Thursday, covering all aspects of relation between the two countries.

# Japan: JMB

From Page 1 Col 7

tion of the bridge.

The government submitted the revised resettlement plan to the WB accordingly and the plan has reportedly been accepted by the bank. The World Bank opposed the previous resettlement plan considering the compensation proposed to be given too inadequate for rehabilitation of the affected people. About Tk 90 crore would be needed to implement the resettlement plan.

The Jamuna Bridge, which will connect the eastern and western parts of the country, should have a tremendous impact on the development of the western region.

The bridge will be between 4.8 and 5.2 kilometres long. It will also have provisions for a gas pipeline, electric interconnector and a metre-gauge railway.

The JCD sources said the meeting also warned of stern action against anyone who differs with the decision.

Abdul Matin Chowdhury. Organisations such as the Ganotantrik Chhatra Oikya openly accuse the later minister for inciting such violence.

The sources, quoting witnesses, told The Daily Star correspondent that "Freedom" Sohail, an accused of the Bahar murder case, led the armed group which killed Jinnah.

Jinnah, who belonged to the Milon group, was allegedly involved with terrorism and extortion. He, along with 'Booster' Manik and Lablu acted as the front-line men of the armed cadre of this group. Ratan and Syed Sohrab, along with Sohail, acted as the main musclemen of the Nazimuddin group.

The JCD's internecine conflicts have left many of its activists dead or injured over the years. In March last, one Pavel was brutally beaten to death with a hammer on the campus. In September 1992, Mamun and Mahmud, belonging to another faction of the JCD headed by Ilias Ali, were also killed.

Also, Wadud Halim and 'Pagla' Shaheed were killed on the DU campus while Shabuj was killed in the Agriculture University, Shakil and Sharif at the Dhaka Polytechnic and Janu at the Bangla College.

Some of those who were seriously injured in such conflicts over the last two years are: Mamtazur Rahman Rafiq, Shahzad, Khokan, Masud, Nadim and many others.

"Interestingly, none of these conflicts had any significant political reason; sharing of ill-gotten money raised as 'tolls' from the markets adjacent to the university campus is the root of all the violence," an observer said.

# 14 remain in Pak presidential race

ISLAMABAD, Nov 2: The Chief Election Commissioner rejected 13 nomination papers in the first scrutiny today, leaving 14 candidates mostly party leaders in the next week's presidential election in Pakistan, reports AFP.

A Commission spokesman said 27 people had signed up and the papers of none of the important aspirants for the country's top office had been declared invalid.

Thursday is the last date for withdrawal of nomination papers.

# US official

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she told a questioner.

When her attention was drawn to the Indian reaction on US stand on the Kashmir problem, Ms Raphael said, "It is our policy — Kashmir is a disputed area".

During her stay here, the US Assistant Secretary of State is expected to call on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.

Besides, she will meet with Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali and some ministers, including Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman and Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury.