

# Hosokawa apologises to Koreans

**KYONSJU (South Korea), Nov 6:** The leaders of Japan and South Korea, meeting for the first time on Saturday expressed mounting concerns over North Korea's nuclear programme and sought to overcome their nations' bitter historical differences, reports AP.

Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, in the clearest such statement by a Japanese leader, apologised for the "unbearable sufferings" his nation inflicted on tens of thousands of Koreans during Japan's 1910-1945 colonial rule.

Hosokawa's apology was unlikely to satisfy many Koreans. But South Korean President Kim Young-sam called it "satisfying" and urged Koreans to put historical bitterness behind them.

"Now is the time to put the past behind us and move forward," said Kim. "Our two nations face a mountain of tasks that must be tackled jointly with the goal of advancing our common interests and world development in anticipation of the Asia-Pacific age."

## Gunshots in DU

At least three gunshots were fired on the Dhaka University campus yesterday at about 3:30 in the afternoon. The shots were fired reportedly from the north-western side of the campus, sources said.

# Tourism can change Bangladesh's image

Development of tourism can highlight the positive image of Bangladesh to the outside world which otherwise has a rather negative impression of the country because of recurrent natural calamities.

This was disclosed by the director of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Warner K Blanc at a seminar in the city yesterday attended by the Minister for Post and Telecommunication Tariqul Islam, UNDP representative Sophie de Cau, Secretary for Tourism and Civil Aviation Afzalur Rahman, Hadiuzzaman MP and others.

Organised by the Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation (BPC) in observance of the Tourism Month 1993, the keynote paper entitled "Importance of Hotel and Restaurant Services in the Development of Tourism in Bangladesh" was presented by Dr. Rashedul Hassan of the Dhaka University.

The ILO director also observed that tourism itself can help in shaping an infrastructure of the country if duly nurtured. This view was, however, contradicted by Dr Hassan who underlined infrastructural facilities as a pre-condition for the development of tourism.

## Benazir's letter to Ghali

UNITED NATIONS, Nov 6: Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali received a letter from Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto Friday about the long-standing Kashmir problem, Pakistani sources said, reports Reuter.



Late President (the then Deputy Chief Martial Law Administrator and Chief of Army Staff) Ziaur Rahman (extreme left) listening to the then President and CMLA Justice Abu Sadaat Mohammad Sayem (in suit) on November 8, 1975 at the Bangabhaban. — PID photo

# Nat'l Revolution Day today

From Page 1 Col 8 many of which will also be decorated on the occasion. President Abdur Rahman Biswas and Prime Minister Khaleida Zia, in separate messages, have urged the freedom-loving people to renew their pledge for protecting the national independence and sovereignty.

Bangladesh Television and Radio Bangladesh will broadcast special programmes while the national dailies will bring out supplements highlighting the day's significance.

The government has undertaken elaborate programmes to mark the day with due enthusiasm. The Ministry of Religious Affairs has urged all communities to offer special prayers and arrange milad mehfil and Qurankhwan.

Different political parties and socio-cultural organisations have arranged discussions, seminars and cultural functions. The ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) has taken up various programmes with a view to celebrating the day in a befitting manner.

The Party will hold a public meeting at the Democracy Square near the city's Fulbaria crossing at 3 in the afternoon. Prime Minister and BNP chief Khaleida Zia and other central leaders of the party are scheduled to address the gathering.

Other programmes of the party include hoisting of the national and the party flags atop the central and all branch offices across the country, placing wreaths and offering prayers at the mazar of late President Ziaur Rahman, and holding rallies and discussions by the party units all over the country.

## Raphel leaves for Pakistan

United States Assistant Secretary of State Robin L. Raphel left Dhaka yesterday for Pakistan ending a five-day visit, convinced that the people and the government in Bangladesh are making every effort to face the challenges in economic and other fields, reports BSS.

The visit has been very good — it is interesting, she told newsmen at the airport before departure.

Ms Raphel's visit to this country was the first hop in her current swing of some countries in the region.

The visit assumed significance since she took over some time ago the charge of the South Asia bureau in the State Department.

It also marked the first high level visit to this country from the State Department since the Clinton administration took over in the White House. "I am very impressed" said Ms Raphel, who during her stay here called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleida Zia and several ministers including Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman in addition to having extensive talks with the Bangladesh side led by Foreign Secretary Reaz Rahman.

She also met Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina. The United States official said she had talks here covering all areas of mutual interest.

Answering questions, Ms Raphel expressed the hope that Bangladesh and India would be serious to settle the water issue. The United States was available for any kind of help in reaching a settlement of the problem, she said.

Ms Raphel on Friday took time off from her busy itinerary and spent some time in seeing countryside beauty of rural Bangladesh, the lovely autumn season.

She was seen off at the airport by Additional Foreign Secretary Khairul Anam, Charge d'Affaires of the United States James Nach and political counsellor in the embassy Jeffrey J Lunstead.

## 11 Shibir workers get bail

JHENIDAH, Nov 6: Eleven Islami Chhatra Shibir workers, out of 17, who had been arrested on charges of putting barricades on Jhenidah-Kushtia highway were granted bail by the Thana Court today (Saturday), reports UNB.

Police had arrested the Shibir workers when they blocked the highway on November 3 demanding removal of Vice Chancellor of the Islamic University and Police Super of Kushtia.

## CMC

From Page 1 Col 8 on October 18 that left three people, including a doctor, killed and several injured.

Talking to this correspondent over telephone, Dr Nurjahan Bhuiyan said, "We have decided to reopen the medical college for the greater academic interests."

"But we have decided to impose a ban on all political activities inside the campus of the College to ensure a congenial academic atmosphere from the date of the reopening," she said.

Meanwhile, the college authorities have expelled five students for life and dissolved the college student union following the raid on the cafeteria.

# The Midnight File

## Georgian forces enter Zugdidi

MOSCOW, Nov 6: Georgian government forces today entered Zugdidi, the west Georgian stronghold of rebel leader Zviad Gamsakhurdia who has fled, the Georgian presidency told AFP.

## Yeltsin may not seek re-election

MOSCOW, Nov 6: President Boris Yeltsin announced today he would not seek re-election but stated that he should be allowed to complete his tenure set to expire in 1996, Yeltsin, speaking to a meeting of news editors, said he was against holding an early presidential election in June in a reversal of his previous pledge to call a vote for the country's top post six months after parliamentary elections set for December, reports AFP.

# IMF official for effective use of convertibility

Resident Representative of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Shafiqul Khatun yesterday called for undertaking reforms in the related areas for attaining the objectives of convertibility of Taka, reports BSS.

Khatun suggested necessary changes in the rules and regulations to ensure quick decisions at the Ministry of Commerce and related organisations for effective use of current convertibility of Taka under trade account.

The IMF representative was making his remarks at a one-day workshop on "Convertibility of Taka - Its understanding and likely effects" organised by the Independent University of Bangladesh (IUB).

He expressed his happiness to note that Taka would also be made convertible under capital accounts from the next fiscal year.

## Jamaat against mid-term polls

KHULNA, Nov 6: Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General Murtaza Rahman Nizami MP today said his party did not want any mid-term polls, reports UNB.

Addressing a news conference at the local Circuit House, the Jamaat leader said, "We want the democratically elected government to complete its term." But he added with regret that many activities of the BNP appeared to be undemocratic.

Nizami said Jamaat-e-Islami was pledge-bound to introduce interest-free loans and an Islamic economy. Talking on the Farakka issue, he said his party wanted the country's due share of water and a national consensus to solve the problem.

The press conference was also attended by the Party's Assistant Secretary General Qamruzzaman and Ruhul Quddus MP.

## WB VP

From Page 1 Col 7 achieving its full potential; that many government agencies are not able to utilise the foreign aid and increased local resources that have been provided to them; and that the public enterprises are losing money or earning only a very small profit on their investments.

"Faster financial sector reform is urgently needed to accelerate economic growth and create jobs for Bangladesh's rapidly growing labour force. Greater private investment depends on improving the returns on private investment by more far-reaching liberalisation of trade and industrial regulations," Wood emphasised in his letter and added that now was a particularly good time to liberalise because Bangladesh's forex reserves are plentiful.

Wood also underscored the need for a faster privatisation and corporatization of state-owned enterprises, saying privatisation and corporatization sends a clear signal that the government is committed to support the private sector and will ensure that consumers and businessmen can obtain badly needed services at reasonable prices.

In his correspondence with the PM, Wood also observed that with quicker reform, Bangladesh can achieve a much higher rate of economic growth and a substantial rise in employment and living standards for its people. But, the WB VP warned that if the reform effort is not accelerated, the opportunity to build on the recent improvements in Bangladesh's economic fortunes may be lost.

During his stay in the capital, the senior WB official is likely to discuss the country's long-term future, the fate of the Flood Action Plan and water resource management, the jute and gas projects, release of the second tranche of the public resource management credit and second industrial sector adjustment credit (ISAC II) and the Jamuna Bridge Project.

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, the economic pointman of Begum Khaleida Zia will, along with his cabinet colleagues, brief the visiting World Bank executive on the progress achieved so far by the present government.



The women's unit of the Bangladesh AIDS Committee brought out a rally in the city yesterday. — Star photo

# Int'l workshop on river behaviour

## Cooperation among co-riparians urged

State Minister for Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control (IWFC) M H Shahjahan yesterday said that for any comprehensive and meaningful solution of the morphological problems of the country's rivers, their morphological behaviour should be correlated with that of the upstream, reports BSS.

Quoting Prime Minister Begum Khaleida Zia, he said the problem could only be solved through consensus of all the riparian countries — upper and lower — based on justice, equity and international norms.

He said, otherwise, no amount of planning, however meticulous, could effectively contain the erratic upstream morphological behaviour — manmade or otherwise. Shahjahan was speaking as the chief guest at the inaugural function of a three-day international workshop on "Morphological behaviour of the major rivers in Bangladesh" held at a hotel here.

Organised by the Ministry of IWFC with the sponsorship of the Commission of the European Communities (CEC), the inaugural function was also addressed by Secretary of the Ministry M Asafuddin, CEC Representative Charge d'Affaires A Goodwin, chief engineer of the Flood Plan Coordination Organisation (FPCO) M H Siddiqi, consultant of FAP-15 Dr Manowar Hossain, Director of Surface Water Simulation Modelling Programme Coordination (SWMC) ASMA Khaleque and Principal Scientific Officer of Sparrow A Gafour.

## Cooperatives Day observed

The 22nd National Cooperatives Day and Week '93 was observed throughout the country yesterday with the aim of promoting cooperative movement and encouraging the co-operators for capital formation, reports UNB.

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder inaugurated the day at Samabaya Sadan in the city by holding the national and cooperative flags.

He termed the cooperatives a "social movement" and remarked it unites the people of low income group in a democratic process for their economic development. Later, a big rally of cooperators and cooperative leaders was also brought out in the city. The rally, led by Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder, started from the Samabaya Sadan and ended at the National Press Club.

## 3 held in city

By Staff Correspondent Two people were arrested in the city yesterday for possessing knives and crude explosives, reportedly while planning a mugging raid.

Ramma police sources said, Hasan, 25, and Liton, 24, were arrested near the Dhaka Sheraton Hotel. Police recovered two cocktails and a knife from their possession. In another drive, Babul, 25, was caught red-handed from the Nilkhet while trying to snatch goods from a passer-by yesterday morning.

## Tutul killing: One arrested

From Staff Correspondent KHULNA, Nov 6: The Khulna sadar police arrested one Wasiqur Rahman this morning in connection with the killing of a local Jubo League activist Farhad Hussain Tutul.

Farhad Hussain, 22, was fatally injured during a gunfight and cocktail explosions in and around the local Awami League office yesterday evening and succumbed to his injuries on the way to hospital.

# Auranga sentenced

From Page 1 Col 7 District and Sessions Judge Nasiruddin Ahmed to hear the case. During the period Auranga was acquitted of a terrorism charge allegedly committed at Hotel Purbani while resisting arrest.

On May 8 the learned Judge Nasiruddin Ahmed felt embarrassed to conduct the case. The High Court then referred it to the court of Judge Zinat Ara. During the proceedings, the defence counsel opposed Golam Kibria Tipu as the prosecution witness alleging that he (Tipu) himself was facing several criminal charges. The High Court rejected the defence contention.

Tipu, owner of the motor workshop, claimed himself to be an eye-witness of the murder and recorded his statement before the judge. The learned judge did not read out all 38 pages of her verdict but just read the order convicting and sentencing Auranga.

Public Prosecutor Abdur Razzak conducted the case for the state. He was assisted by APP Habibur Rahman Mandal and Khorsheed Alam. Advocate Abdul Malek, Sirajul Haq, Sajwar Hossain and Mosharrif Hossain Kajal appeared for the defence.

## Murtaza

From Page 1 Col 3 on a commercial flight from Dubai.

He voiced surprise at being brought to the court, saying he had believed he was being taken from Karachi's Landhi Jail to take his oath as a member of the Provincial Assembly of the southern province of Sind. He was elected in his absence in polls on October 9.

His return is a source of intense embarrassment to Benazir Bhutto, who began her second term as Prime Minister last month. It has split the family, with their mother Nusrat Bhutto openly supporting him. Benazir has yet to comment on her brother's return. It was alleged he became involved in terrorist acts after their father's death.