



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia handing over the flag inscribed in Arabic with the Kalima-e-Taiyeba at a function marking the presentation of National Standards to the 13th and 14th Battalions of the East Bengal Regiment at Shaheed Lt. Col M R Chowdhury drill square of the East Bengal Regimental Centre in Chittagong Cantonment yesterday. —PID photo

PM : Opportunities

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country, facing various national crises and devoting themselves to nation building tasks.

The Prime Minister said the East Bengal Regiment is the mainstay of the Bangladesh Army. The contribution of the members of this regiment to the country's Independence War would be written in golden letters, she added.

She expressed happiness at the achievements of the East Bengal Regiment and said their contribution and achievements had brought for them the confidence and love of the people.

Begum Zia said that the East Bengal Regiment had a glorious tradition. Felicitating the members of the regiment on this occasion she said new success and pride were being added to the history of the East Bengal Regiment today.

The Prime Minister paid tributes to Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman, founder of the East Bengal Regiment M A Ghani, General M A G Osmani, General Khwaja Wassuddin and others associated with it.

She also recalled the supreme sacrifices of the members of this regiment, including Bir Shrestha Sepoy Mohammad Mustafa Kamal and Bir Shrestha Sepoy Hamidur Rahman in the country's Liberation War.

She said there was no alternative to training and discipline in a soldier's life.

The ceremony was attended, among others, by ministers, members of Parliament and high civil and military officials.

Earlier the Prime Minister reviewed the smartly turned out parade by the regiments and

Saifur unhappy with income tax officials

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday expressed his dissatisfaction at the performance of income tax officials and asked them to improve their efficiency, streamline the tax department and gear up the revenue collection drive, reports BSS.

Saifur was addressing the income tax officials here yesterday morning at the NEC committee room. Internal Resources Division Secretary and National Board of Revenue Chairman Dr Akbar Ali Khan was also present at this two-hour long stormy review meeting. The Finance Minister also expressed his dissatisfaction at the very poor collection of revenue from the income tax assesses.

Saifur, cited a number of cases where collection of income tax ranged from Taka 21 to less than Taka 1500 per annum per assessee in different parts of the country while the present government had already enacted laws not to collect income tax less than Taka 1500.

"Do not touch the files of those paying less than Taka 1500 as income tax," the Finance Minister instructed the tax officials and said, "For God's sake, please try to collect taxes honestly, efficiently and sincerely without harassing good taxpayers. But do chase the bad guys."

The Finance Minister said most of the income tax officials had resorted to corrupt practices and were either sleeping, playing golf or tennis instead of collecting taxes to help develop the country for a better and brighter future.

"The Income Tax Department people have created their own world where no one can bring them to book," he commented.

But Saifur asserted that his ministry would ensure accountability and transparency in the entire tax department and instructed the NBR Chairman to find out the income tax returns and assessments of the top tax officials themselves as a first step.

DU teachers, staff protest campus violence

By DU Correspondent

Hundreds of teachers, officers and employees of the Dhaka University jointly held a rally at the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday to protest the violence at the DU Registrar's building on November 1.

The protesters demanded arrest and trial of the persons involved in riotous activities on the campus.

A Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leader was gunned down and three employees of the university were seriously injured at the Registrar's building on November 1.

Teachers, officers and employees brought out a silent procession from the Registrar's building at about 10:30 yesterday morning and dispersed at the Central Shaheed Minar after marching through the campus.

The protesters also demanded a terrorism free campus.

Meanwhile, all the classes and examinations were held on schedule.

Earlier on Monday last, the university teachers of the country observed a seven-hour token hunger strike at the Central Shaheed Minar demanding an end to violence at the Dhaka, Rajshahi, Jahangirnagar and Islamic universities.

Yunus meets Clinton

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point Clinton turned to the Grameen Bank founder and said: "Send me a proposal on what we should do about the World Bank."

Last week, Yunus addressed the officials of the US State Department at a luncheon meeting in Washington.

Earlier in 1986, Yunus met Clinton and his wife, Hillary, in Little Rock at the invitation of the Governor of Arkansas. Motivated by his discussions with Yunus, Governor Clinton launched a loan programme, the Good Faith Fund, for the poor section of people in the state of Arkansas, based on the Grameen Bank model.

The Grameen Bank concept has been replicated in a number of countries around the world. In the United States at least eight programmes were launched under the Grameen format, including the Good Faith Fund in Arkansas; the Freedom From Hunger Foundation in California; the South Shore Fund in inner-city Chicago; the North Carolina Rural Economic Development Centre; the Dakota Fund in South Dakota; and the Full Circle Fund; Women's Self-employment Programme in Chicago.

In an interview with the mass-circulated magazine Rolling Stones in September last year, Clinton spoke very highly of the achievements of the Grameen Bank and about



Visiting World Bank Vice-President Joseph Wood called on Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman at his Sher-e-Bangla Nagar office yesterday. —PID photo

Bangladeshis submit memo to Indian envoy in UK

LONDON, Nov 9: A large number of Bangladeshis living in Britain staged a demonstration in front of the Indian High Commission in London demanding rightful share of the Ganges-Padma rivers' waters and protesting against India's delaying tactics to resolve the issue through discussions, reports BSS.

The marchers submitted a memorandum to the Indian High Commissioner pointing out plights of Bangladeshis during the dry season and the impact of India's unilateral withdrawal of the Ganges water at Farakka Barrage on the economy and environment of Bangladesh.

The Farakka Resistance Committee which organised the demonstration yesterday also staged a march near the residence of British Prime Minister John Major highlighting the woes of Bangladeshis due to the Farakka Barrage. They urged the British Prime Minister to use his good offices for a rightful solution of the Ganges water dispute between India and Bangladesh.

Sirajul Huq Siraj, leader of the Farakka Resistance Committee, led the demonstration.

Earlier, the Farakka Campaign Committee held a protest rally on Sunday in East London highlighting the problems of Bangladeshis due to the Farakka Barrage.

Speakers at the meeting, presided over by Mohidur Rahman, convenor of the Farakka Campaign Committee, appealed to the British government and world opinion to force India to accept the rightful demand of the Bangladeshis.

Strike in demand of Sylhet Division

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Nov 9: A strike was observed in all the educational institutions of the four districts of the Greater Sylhet region to press for an immediate formation of a separate Sylhet administrative Division.

As part of the month-long programme of the Sylhet Division Implementation and Greater Sylhet Development Action Council, a "Thana Gherao" was also observed in all the thana headquarters of Moulvibazar, Habiganj, Sunamganj and Sylhet districts.

Memoranda were handed over to the Thana Nirbahi Officers today after the gherao of the thana parishad offices.

In Sylhet town a big truck procession of students and people was brought out from the Shahid Minar. It paraded the main streets of the town and later gheraoed the TNO's office.

Wood-Saifur

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The Finance Minister told the WB not to disrupt the reform programmes by slowing down the aid disbursement.

At the meeting, Rahman also regretted that the WB's lending operations were not up to the expectations of Bangladesh.

He said the economy of the country was now moving on the right track.

Rahman said if the WB provided funds in various projects in the country then automatically private investment would pick up.

Wood last night also discussed various issues with some selected ambassadors at Baridhara.

The visiting WB executive today calls on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia. He will also discuss gas and electricity issues with Energy Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain.

He is also scheduled to discuss a wide range of issues with Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, Commerce Minister Shamsul Islam, Industry Minister A M Zahiruddin Khan and State Minister for Planning Dr Mo-yeen Khan today.

Vehicle owners requested to avoid some roads today

Owners and drivers of heavy vehicles have been advised to avoid certain roads in Dhaka city in view of the apprehension of the breach of peace in connection with the sit-in programmes and demonstration by certain political parties in front of the Bangladesh Secretariat here today, reports BSS.

The Deputy Commissioner of Police (traffic) in a press notification yesterday requested the owners and drivers of bus, truck and mini-bus to avoid using certain roads in the capital from 8 am to 7 pm today.

The roads to be avoided are: From the corner of the P G Hospital to the National Press Club via the Ramna Park star gate; the Foreign Ministry and the Kadamul crossing.

From the Doel circle of the Dhaka University to the old High Court crossing.

From western side of the Abdul Ghani Road to government employees' hospital (college road).

From Nightingale crossing point of the Bijoynagar Road to its police box at south.

From eastern side of the Topkhana Road adjoining secretariat to the Eidgah crossing.

From the Golapshah Mazar to the UBL crossing via the Zero point and the Muktangan.

From Gulistan to the Abdul Ghani Road via the GPO and the Zero Point and from the Dainik Bangla crossing to police box crossing at the Topkhana road.

JU reopens: Attendance thin on first day

By JU Correspondent

Attendance at the Jahangirnagar University was thin on the first day of the resumption of classes after a hundred days of closure. Students have started returning to their respective dormitories with extra police deployed on the campus.

The institution was closed since following an armed attack on teachers carried out by some unruly students on July 29. The JU authorities filed cases against 21 students — all belonging to the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) — with Savar police under the Anti-Terrorism Act.

Amid repeated demands for arrests of the criminals by the teachers and heated debate on the JU issue in parliament on September 17 the government assured the teachers of meeting out justice. So far six of the 21 accused students have been arrested, including the vice president of the recently dissolved JU Central Students' Union (JUCSU).

Meanwhile, infighting within the JCD came to the surface when students earlier ousted from the campus planned to force their way back in the absence of their opponents. These students, mainly from the Savar region, got a free hand during the closure of the institution

The Midnight File

10 killed as firecrackers blast in Andhra Pradesh

NEW DELHI, Nov 9: Crates of firecrackers stored for use during a Hindu festival exploded Tuesday and at least 10 people were killed, news agencies reported. The explosion wrecked the house in which the firecrackers were stored, police said. The blast occurred in Rapelle town of Andhra Pradesh state, about 1,800 kilometres south of New Delhi. The blast, which was heard several blocks away, flung bodies into neighbouring houses, the Press Trust of India said, reports AP.

Seven killed in mortar attacks on Sarajevo

SARAJEVO, Nov 9: Seven people were killed in mortar attacks on Sarajevo today, including three children and a teacher at a school, hospital doctors said. Some 40 people were wounded, six seriously in separate attacks on the Alipasno Polje district of Sarajevo in a day marked by increased sniper activity, reports AFP.

Resist autocracy

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government in the face of mass upheaval.

On the other hand the BNP is a political party that came to power with people's verdict, he said.

During the BNP rule the people have witnessed a fair and neutral role of the judiciary and the Election Commission and the voters have full trust in elections under this government, he said.

He also termed the demand for election under a caretaker government as a "unconstitutional and refused to accept it as a convention as demanded by some opposition leaders. A solitary example can not be a convention, he said.

Speaking on the occasion Rafiqul Islam Mia said the students had struggled for long nine years for the ouster of autocracy. Today with the introduction of democratic process in the country they have to play their role to carry ahead the process of development initiated by the democratic government, he said.

Rafiq said after its election to power the BNP had implemented the outline of the three alliances, ensured the freedom of judiciary and the press and initiated the process of infrastructural development of the country.

But the opposition parties particularly the Awami League is hindering the processes in their efforts to disturb the ruling party instead of offering creative criticism, he said.

Through the destructive role of the Awami League, the ousted autocracy has got the opportunity to become active in the country's political arena

again, Rafiq observed. Abbas said people had elected BNP to power and when they would withdraw their support to the party it would leave power. But the opposition through its destructive political programmes want to destabilise the government as well as the democratic process, he regretted.

Amanullah Aman said November 10 of 1987 was an historical day in the country's political history. Shaheed Nur Hossain along with many other martyrs, at the cost of their lives, paved the way for mass upheaval of '90 on this day.

But after the fall of autocracy when the people had the hope for a happy and prosperous Bangladesh, the opposition parties were trying to disrupt the development process through disturbing the elected government.

New US envoy

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When formally appointed, David Nathan Merrill will succeed William B Milam as the eighth US ambassador to Bangladesh.

David Merrill is now based in Washington, DC with the US-AID. A person with a wealth of experience in aid assistance and development, Merrill has worked in several Asian countries including Myanmar, Thailand, Indonesia and the Philippines.

When appointed, it will be Merrill's first posting as American envoy.

Following the departure of Ambassador Richard K Gate, Australia has named Kenneth William Aspin as its new High Commissioner to Bangladesh.

The new Australian envoy is also a development official, having worked with the Australian Bureau (AIDAS) for several years. Before his appointment, he was the acting Deputy Director General of Community and International Programmes at the Development Assistance Bureau of the Australian Foreign Ministry.

William Aspin arrives in Dhaka tomorrow, November 11 and is expected to present his credentials to the President on November 18.

Bhutan has designated its senior most Cabinet member, currently the country's Health Minister Lyonpo (Dr) Tashi Tobgyel as its new Ambassador to Bangladesh, according to a source in the Prime Minister's office.

Dr Tashi Tobgyel is expected to arrive in Dhaka on November 20 and present his credentials on November 28.

Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation
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**TALKING BIRD AND
AQUARIUM COMPETITION**

In observance of Tourism Month-Talking Bird and Aquarium Competition will be arranged at the Rent-a-car premises of the Corporation at the above address on Saturday 13, November '93 at 10.00 AM. Attractive prizes will be given to 1st, 2nd and 3rd winners in both the groups. No entry fee is required. Interested persons are requested to contact immediately at the following address, personally or on phone.

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