

JS body recommends ban on use of polythene

A joint parliamentary standing committee yesterday recommended a ban on the use of all kinds of artificial fabrics and polythene to encourage the use of jute in the country, reports UNB.

The recommendation was made at a meeting of the parliamentary standing committee on the Ministry of Commerce and the Ministry of Jute held in Sangsad Bhaban with Commerce Minister M Shamsul Islam in the chair.

The meeting discussed the increase in jute production, ensuring fair price to jute growers, increase in volume of exports of jute and jute products, diversification of use of jute and the condition of jute mills in the country.

It felt the need for creating world opinion against the use of polythene in the interest of preserving environment and popularising jute and jute goods abroad by exploring markets in foreign countries.

Jute Minister Hannan Shah explained various measures taken by his ministry to increase jute production and provide fair prices to jute farmers.

He told the meeting that 8,000 jute farmers will be imparted training and given seeds and fertilizer before the beginning of the next jute season.

Commerce Minister Shamsul Islam spelled out steps for the increase in the export of jute.

The meeting also discussed the holding of exhibitions on jute and jute goods at home and abroad. It stressed the need for coordinated efforts among the ministries of jute, agriculture, commerce and finance for boosting jute export.

Amir Khasru, Begum Farida Hasan, Adv Abul Kalam, Qamruddin Yahia Khan Majlis and Ansar Ali Siddique were present.

Besides, Adv Khairul Anam, A K M Fazul Haq of BNP, Mosharraf Hossain and Altaf Hossain Golondaz of Awami League and Mojibur Rahman of Jatiya Party were also present.



Bangladeshi United Nations officers being greeted by an unidentified Kuwaiti Officer (L) as they arrived November 28 to bolster Iraqi border patrols. Some 770 more troops are expected soon. — AFP photo

AL MP files writ

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League MP Sultan Kabir Chowdhury, whose membership has been stripped by an election tribunal, has filed a writ with the High Court Division challenging the verdict yesterday.

Gana Forum leader Barrister Amrul Islam moved the writ at the two-member bench comprising Justice Md Mozammel Haq and Justice M A Karim.

JP observes hartal in Khulna

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Nov 30: A half-day hartal called by the Jatiya Party (JP) in protest of police action on its activists recently was observed here today peacefully.

Shops and educational institutions were closed and all modes of vehicles were off the road during the hartal hours. The attendance in the government offices was thin. Mills and factories in Khalshpur, Rupsha, Daulatpur and Atra Industrial belt, however, functioned normally.

No untoward incident, except some explosion of crackers, were reported. However, police took precautionary measures deploying additional forces at different points of the city.

Front organisations of the JP brought out processions in the city protesting the police action and arrest of their activists.

Jatiyatabadi Muktijoddha Dal formed

Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Muktijoddha Dal has formed a 101-member central executive committee of the organisation with State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain and Dr Amrul Haque as its president and general secretary respectively, reports BSS.

A 12-member advisory committee was also formed with Minister for Communications Oli Ahmed, Bir Bikram, as the chief adviser.

The central convening committee of the Jatiyatabadi Muktijoddha Dal in a general meeting held at its central office here Monday unanimously formed the executive and the advisory committees.

The other members of the advisory committee are Wing Commander (Retd) M Hamidullah Khan, MP, Manzur Morshed Khan, Minister for Industry A M Zahruddin Khan, Whips of the Jatiya Sangsad Advocate Md Abdul Karim, and Mohammad Shahjahan Mia, Deputy Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Mohammad Abdul Hye, Abdur Rauf Chowdhury, MP, Prof Abdul Hafiz, MP, Mohammad Redwan Ahmed, MP, Resaul Karim, MP and State Minister for Land Mohammad Kabir Hossain.

Alleged killer of Badal held

Police acting on a tip arrested an alleged killer of Chhatra League leader Moniruzzaman Badal from a house at Jabbari in the early hours yesterday, reports UNB.

The arrested was identified as Nirmal Goswami, son of Nont Gopal Goswami of Gobindapur village under Matlab thana of Chandpur district.

Moniruzzaman Badal, central organising secretary of pro-Awami League Chhatra League, was gunned down on the Dhaka University campus on January 10 last year.

Khaleda

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grass-roots level to help the government implement the development programmes.

She said no indiscipline would be tolerated within the party and stern action would be taken against those who would break any discipline of the party.

During her visit, the Prime Minister was accompanied by State Minister for Finance Mojibur Rahman, Helaluddin Talukdar Lulu MP, Habibur Rahman MP, and Shahinara Huq MP.

SAARC activities for '94 finalised

The SAARC Programme Committee has finalised its recommendations on calendar of activities of the Integrated Programme of Action (IPA) of the association for 1994, reports UNB.

The recommendations will be submitted to the standing committee which begins a three-day deliberation today to adopt the agenda for the meeting of the SAARC Council of Ministers.

The two-day meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the SAARC countries will begin here on Saturday to review the progress of the forum's activities and determine its future course of action.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, the current chairperson of the seven-nation SAARC, will inaugurate the meeting at the International Conference Centre (ICC).

The Programme Committee, which held two sessions here yesterday, also reviewed the progress of calendar of activities of the current year, a senior official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs told newsmen at a briefing.

Director General (SAARC) Ashfaqur Rahman, who presided over the meeting as the current chairman of the Programme Committee, said that the meeting had drafted a budget of nearly US dollar 700,000 for next year for the association.

The IPA covers the activities of the existing 12 technical committees of the SAARC which generally deal with seminars, workshops and academic discussions on the subjects concerned.

There are technical committees on agriculture, communications, education and culture, environment, health and population, meteorology, drug trafficking and drug abuse, rural development, science and technology, tourism, transport and women development.

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Earlier in the evening Opposition Chief Whip Mohammad Nasim demanded a day's discussion in the House on the grievances of workers and alarming increase of road accidents as this was discussed in the advisory committee meeting.

The Deputy Speaker Humayun Khan Panni said he would convey the message to the Speaker.

Ebdur Rahman Chowdhury (JP), rising on a point of order, wanted to know about the fate of the notices on adjournment motion submitted by eight Jatiya Party MPs for creating a new division in the greater Sylhet.

The Speaker, Shaikh Razzak Ali, adjourned the House at 9:34 pm till 4:00 pm today.

Widespread unrest in Gaza : 56 injured

KHAN YUNIS (Occupied Gaza Strip), Nov 30: Angered by Israeli army attacks on the PLO's Fatah Hawks, Palestinians blocked roads Tuesday and threw rocks at soldiers, who fired back and wounded 56 people in the worst unrest since the signing of the PLO-Israel peace accord, reports AP.

The simmering rebellion of young militants threatened to undercut PLO leader Yasser Arafat's control of the Gaza Strip and further imperiled peace negotiations that are reportedly at an impasse.

Fatah said in Tunis on Tuesday it would not order an end to violence in the Gaza Strip before five of its Hawks leaders arrested on Monday were freed.

The Hawks will not be committed to the order to stop unrest until five of their militants, including Hawks chief Taysir Bardin, are freed.

There will be no restraint (of violence) if Israel does not stop its measures, a spokesman for PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's Bureau for Gaza Strip Affairs told Reuters.

We call on the PLO leadership to immediately stop the talks with Israel, said a slogan in Rafah signed by the Fatah Hawks, military wing of Arafat's Fatah faction.

Street drama festival begins today

A week-long street drama festival on the War of Liberation begins today at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city.

Organised by Somo, a cultural organisation, the festival will be inaugurated by Jahannara Imam at 4 pm while poet Begum Sufia Kamal will be the chief guest.

Discussion meeting will be held on the occasion every day till December 7. Abdus Samed Azad, A K Khandker, Maj Gen (Retd) Shafulah, Bir Uttam, Maj (Retd) Raful Islam, Bir Uttam, Col (Retd) Kazi Nuruzzaman, Col (Retd) Abu Osman Chowdhury, Maj Gen (Retd) C R Dutt, Abdur Razzak MP, Kazi Aref Ahmed, Tofael Ahmed, Kader Siddiqui, Bir Uttam, and others will take part in the discussion.

Thirty drama groups including Somo, Nagarik Theatre, Dhaka Theatre, Arannayak and Dhaka Padatik will perform in the festival.

On the first day today, Somo, Meghdut and Dhaka Theatre will stage three plays: 'Ekhan Akhono', 'Tamasa', and 'Ekattorer Pala', respectively.

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JCD leader expelled from JU unit

By JU Correspondent

A Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leader of the Jahangirnagar University unit was expelled from the organisation yesterday for alleged terrorism and extortion.

Shamsul Tabriz Mithu — a third year student of the Statistics Department of the university who was expelled yesterday for alleged terrorism and extortion.

The Assistant General Secretary of the JU unit of the JCD, a student wing of the ruling BNP, was also a former general secretary of the Jahangirnagar University Central Students Union (JUCSU).

Central President and a senior Vice President of the JCD, Fazul Haque Milon and Moniruzzaman Monir respectively and the JU unit President of the organisation Masud Hassan Talukdar in a meeting held on the campus yesterday took the decision to expel Mithu.

The JCD leaders in the meeting brought 17 allegations including terrorism, extortion, intervention in the university administrative affairs against Mithu.

Patgram Govt College closed

LALMONIRHAT, Nov 30: Patgram Government Degree College was declared closed sine die following a clash between the activists of two rival student organisations on Monday which left 10 injured, reports UNB.

Campus sources said the trouble ensued when a female worker of the Chhatra League tore down a cartoon poster on Sheikh Hasina and Ershad posted by the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal.

Both the student groups chased each other with lethal weapons. Police rushed to the college campus and brought the situation under control.

Authorities closed the college for an indefinite period and asked the students to leave their hostel immediately after the violence.

Three of the injured — Ekramul and Hafiz of the JCD and Afzal Hossain of the BCL — were admitted to the local hospital.

Congress-I won from Bargi by a slender margin of 350 votes.

The Communist Party of India today announced that it would extend support to the SP-BSP combine in Uttar Pradesh.

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Cong leading

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The Leader of the Opposition promised, if AL went to power it would restructure the Local Government to make it more participatory.

"Elected members would run the Union, Thana and District Parishad Offices and the district administration will be run by an elected governor," she explained.

She added, by restructuring the Local Government, democracy would be institutionalised at the grassroots level in the country where all the people would be able to share power.

Hasina demanded repeal of the Indemnity and the Anti-Terrorism Bills, withdrawal of cases under the Anti-Terrorism Act against AL activists, stopping of labour retrenchments, controlling price hike, re-opening of the closed mills and industries and lowering the prices of agricultural inputs.

A procession, brought out from the GPO after the rally, ended at the Mouchak crossing. AL will hold a rally at the Panthapath on December 6.

The Midnight File

European security confce opens

ROME, Nov 30: Foreign Ministers of more than 50 countries opened a European Security Conference today expected to focus on Russia's bid to take on a peacekeeping role throughout the former Soviet Union. Diplomats said the other main theme of the two-day conference would be the nuclear legacy Ukraine has inherited from the Soviet era, which the international community wants Kiev to dismantle, reports Reuter.

Clinton defends meeting with Rushdie

WASHINGTON, Nov 30: President Clinton said Tuesday he meant no disrespect to Muslims by meeting British author Salman Rushdie at the White House, but said he thinks he "made the right decision". Clinton conceded that some of his advisers had recommended against such a meeting, but he said he wanted to underscore the importance of freedom of speech and other constitutional guarantees in this country. Clinton said his meeting with the controversial author — whose writings have been condemned in the Islamic world — demonstrated the importance he places on US constitutional freedoms of religion and speech, reports AP.

New US aid policy won't rid Pakistan of sanctions

WASHINGTON, Nov 30: Changes in US foreign aid policy will not mean a resumption of economic and military assistance to Pakistan, the State Department said Monday, reports AFP.

"Pakistan would continue to be subject to sanctions along the lines of the Pressler Amendment under the administration's new proposal" for foreign aid criteria, department spokeswoman Christine Shelley told reporters.

The United States suspended economic and military assistance to Pakistan in 1990 under the Pressler Amendment, which specifically outlawed aid to Pakistan because of its nuclear programme.

President Bill Clinton has said he wants to overhaul the entire system of US foreign aid.

Foreign secretaries

From Page 1 Col 8

airport that all members were looking forward to the meeting and added that Pakistan would contribute to make the ministers' meeting "successful".

Asked about SAPTA, Khan said all members agreed on this in the last summit and it was necessary to move on the issue step by step rather than making progress in haste.

Replying another question on nuclear issue, he said Pakistan was keen to make South Asia a nuclear-free zone.

Next to arrive was Bhutanese Foreign Secretary Dasho T J Rixin, who said SAARC progress was "smooth" and Dhaka meeting would serve as a step forward towards the strengthening of the SAARC brotherhood and cooperation.

Shri Lankan Foreign Secretary B P Tilakaratne told newsmen that it was a matter of gratification that the SAARC activities moving meaningfully to the benefits of the member states.

"We have covered a lot of ground by this time and we also witnessed some activities during the interregnum of the last summit and the coming meeting of the foreign ministers," he said.

Salah Shihab, who is the Deputy Foreign Minister of Maldives and acts as the Foreign Secretary, arrived in the afternoon.

The SAARC foreign ministerial meeting will give us the opportunity to review our activities," he told newsmen adding that the progress of the SAARC had been "reasonably good".

The Foreign Secretary of Nepal, Yadav Kant Silwal, said that the SAARC council of ministers' meeting has created optimism all over the region.

Talking to BSS at Zia International Airport on his arrival here to take part in the meeting, Silwal said that meetings held in Dhaka produced 'concrete achievements' and added, "especially the last summit produced positive achievements."

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Bangladesh has trade deficit with India, Pakistan and Bhutan

Bangladesh had trade deficit with India, Pakistan and Bhutan among the seven member countries of the SAARC in the last fiscal year, the Commerce Minister told Parliament yesterday, reports UNB.

Its trade gap with India was to the tune of Tk 1308.0 crore in 1992-93, said Shamsul Islam in reply to Shahjahan Chowdhury of the BNP and Sheikh Ansar Ali of the Jamaat.

To another question from Abdus Sobhan of the Jamaat, the minister said Bangladesh exported tea, raw jute, fertilizer, jute goods, betel leaf, leather, farm and industrial products to Pakistan, and imported cotton, yarn cotton fabrics, knit fabrics, salt, stone, cement, synthetic yarn and clothes and chemical products from Pakistan last year.

Islam told Hamida Khanam of the BNP that the government had no plans to totally restrict import of powdered milk. He, however, said various steps were being taken by the government to attain self-sufficiency in milk.

In reply to Begum Rashida Khatun, the Commerce Minister said Tk 215 crore was spent for importing baby foods annually. The baby foods are imported from Denmark (Dano), Australia (Red Cow, Elders, Diplomat), New Zealand (Anchor, Nesle), Belgium (Cerecal), France (Celia), UK (Nespray) and Holland (Frishlana).

Clash over cricket match: 2 sustain bullet wounds

By DMCH Correspondent

Two school students suffered bullet wounds in a clash over a cricket match in the city's Goran area yesterday.

Javed Ahmed, an SSC examinee of Goran Ali Ahmed High School, and Monirul Islam Ullah, a student of class nine of the T & T High School, were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) with bullet injuries.

The students of All Ahmed High School arranged the cricket match between the SSC examinees and non-examinees yesterday morning.

An altercation between the two groups of players resulted in clashes by exploding crackers and firing gunshots.

Bosnian peace talks deadlocked

GENEVA, Nov 30: Peace talks on Bosnia-Herzegovina deadlocked Tuesday over the future of Sarajevo, the Bosnian capital besieged for 19 months by Serbs. Bosnia's UN ambassador warned the negotiations could collapse, reports AP.

Muhammed Sacirbey, Bosnia's ambassador to the United Nations, charged European Community mediator Lord Owen was endangering the peace process by deviating from a new mandate outlined by EC foreign ministers Monday.

That plan promised a gradual suspension of the UN economic sanctions against Serbia if it pushed Bosnian Serbs to return more land to the Muslim-led government. Serbia's economy has been devastated by the sanctions.

Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic met Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic and Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic as the Geneva talks reopened after a two-month break.

"We made no progress at all," a grim-faced Izetbegovic said after the meeting.

Home Minister tells JS Steps taken to prevent piracy in Padma, Jamuna

Home Minister Abul Matin Chowdhury yesterday informed parliament that necessary steps had been taken to prevent piracy and protect the interest of fishermen, reports UNB.

Responding to a call attention notice of Begum K J Hamida of BNP, the Home Minister said administrative orders had been issued to investigate allegations of piracy and snatching of fish from fishermen in river Jamuna and Padma.

Besides, police patrol in the rivers and vigilance of naval force in the sea have been geared up to stop looting of fish from fishermen and robbing passengers in different waterways.

The Home Minister said some 30 people including 9 dacoits were arrested alongwith 2 pipeguns and 9 bullets during a special operation in the riverine districts of Pabna, Sirajganj, Manikganj and Rajbari.

He, however, expressed his ignorance about the incidents of 8 dacoity in the Jamuna during July 21 to August, as claimed by Hamida Khanam in her notice. "No such case was registered with concerned police stations," he said.

Aman procurement target fixed at 3 lakh tonnes

The government has set the target of aman paddy procurement during the current season at three lakh metric tons equivalent to two lakh metric tons of rice, reports UNB.

Food Minister Mir Sawkat Ali told Parliament yesterday, in reply to a question from vice-principal Mohd Abdus Wahid of the Awami League, that the procurement price per quintal paddy has been fixed at Taka 535.84.

To another question from Mirza Azam of the Awami League, State Minister for Relief Harun-Al-Rashid said the government has allocated 83,595 metric tons of wheat from its own sources for "food for works" programme during the current financial year.

Besides, some 20,000 metric tons of wheat were given as special allocation for 33 districts, affected by flood this year.

101-member Muslim Oikya Front, convening body

Bangladesh Muslim Oikya Front (BMOF) yesterday announced a 101-member national convening committee with Syed Nazibul Bashar Matizbandari MP as its convenor, reports UNB.

The committee was declare at a press conference organised by the BMOF at the Jatiya Press Club. It also named five joint convenors and a 21-member advisory council.

The joint convenors are: Prof Shahjahan Mohammad Peera Al Kaderi, Shahjada Syed Golam Mousabir Hossaini Chisti, Pirjada Shahnuwa Bellal Sureshwar, Mohammad Yusuf MP and Rafiqul Anwar. Principal Hafiz Moulana Abul Jalil was name member secretary of the committee.

A written statement, read out by member secretary Moulana Abul Jalil, outlined a 13-point charter of demands, including ban on the politics of fanaticism and resolving of the Farakka issue immediately.

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