

Inside Today

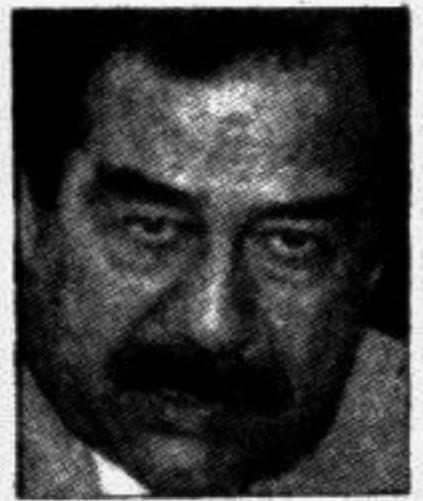
Article

International Trade and Environmental Hazards

by Abdul Bayes
Page 4

International

Christopher starts ME trip today



Iraqi opposition claims Saddam mobilises troops along Kuwaiti border
Page 5

Business

WB, IMF pledge to help 1b people living in poverty

Plague costs India \$6m per day
Pages 6, 7

Rising Stars

A Living Legend: A Writer Who Understands His Fans; The Pink Satin Surprise; Cruel Fate
Page 8

Teens and Twenties

Illusions of a Nightmare; Funny Memories; Fizix Sir is Absent; The Battle of Titles; What Induces Crowd to Cinema Halls; All About Them; Summer Lessons; Record Season Showed What Clicks Click
Page 9

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



Exploring History's Treasure Trove
Page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

4 JCD activists held in Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Oct 7: Four activists of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) were arrested by Kotwali police in early hours today, for their alleged involvement in a number of criminal cases.

Five beheaded in Riyadh

RIYADH, Oct 7: Five convicted drug smugglers — three Pakistanis and two Afghans — were beheaded Friday, the Interior Ministry announced. The Pakistanis were identified as Shaaban Ali Mohammed Ramzan, Shah Afzal Zurnan Nokai and Ahmed Munir Talkon Wadio, and the Afghans as Naebullah Abdul-Wahed and Khan Agha Haji Gholam Nabi, reports AP.

Seven killed in Lucknow blast

LUCKNOW, Oct 7: Seven rural labourers were killed when an explosion ripped through the truck in which they were travelling in Obra town in Mirzapur district late yesterday, according to official reports here today reports PTI.



Singers welcoming the Bengali season of Sharat (autumn) at a function organised at the Charukala Institute in the city yesterday.

— Star photo

Violent protest against TV newscast in Urdu

Four killed in Bangalore police firing

NEW DELHI, Oct 7: Four people were killed in the southern Indian city of Bangalore today when police opened fire to break up a violent protest against Urdu-language news bulletins on state-run television, AFP quoting PTI reported.

Police opened fire after the demonstrators engaged in violence, arson and looting, officials in Bangalore, capital of Karnataka state, told the news agency.

It said angry crowds demanding the scrapping of Urdu news on the Doordarshan television network set fire to vehicles and buses in the city's main business district. The demonstrators also ransacked shops and stoned policemen.

Police opened fire after failing

to control the crowd with baton charges and tear gas, PTI said.

AP adds: Puli Kodandaramiah, commissioner of police

BANGALORE, Oct 7: The police issued shoot at sight orders to contain escalated violence here. Dusk-to-dawn curfew has also been imposed on nine police station limits, reports PTI.

in Bangalore said at least seven people were killed and 83 injured.

The situation is under control, Kodandaramiah told the Associated Press.

The Press Trust of India news agency said several policemen were injured by the stone-throwers.

See Page 12 Col 8

Proposals for 7 banks to be placed before cabinet

Star Report

The proposals for setting up seven more banks in the private sector will be placed before the cabinet shortly for its consideration, according to sources concerned.

The cabinet committee on finance and economic affairs has selected seven out of nine applications seeking permission to set up banks.

The cabinet will now take a decision on the matter, the sources said.

As regards the two other proposed banks, the cabinet committee suggested some changes in their character and structure. The two are the Northern Bank and the BRAC Bank.

The cabinet committee said since the BRAC Bank's sponsor is an NGO (Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee) and its target group is the rural poor, the sponsor should seek permission to operate it as a

BGMEA allays fears of textiles manufacturers

Allaying the fears of the textile manufacturers, the Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) yesterday said there is no scope for leakage of imported fabrics in the local market, reports UNB.

As per the regulation of the customs bond, the quantity of fabrics imported by the garment manufacturers have to be accounted for and adjusted fully with the export of ready-made garments, said BGMEA president Redwan Ahmed, MP.

"So, in the process, there is no scope for leakage of imported fabrics in the local market which are recorded by the customs authority in the pass books of the individual units," he said in a press release.

The release came in response to statements of the president of the Bangladesh Specialised Textiles Mills

See Page 12 Col 1

Iraq massing troops along Kuwaiti border

Earlier story on Page 5

that mobilised; prior to the invasion of Kuwait (in 1990), the officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

There are some aspects of this that are other than routine training, the official said. ... it's not clear entirely what their purpose is.

Meanwhile Iraq has mounted a "significant" troops movement toward the Kuwaiti border but it is not the same size force used in the invasion

of Kuwait in 1990, a US official said today.

"It is a significant movement involving mechanized division but it does not represent the same size force as

that mobilised," prior to the invasion of Kuwait (in 1990), the officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

There are some aspects of this that are other than routine training, the official said. ... it's not clear entirely what their purpose is.

Asked about Iraq's so-called "charm offensive" to seek the lifting of post-Gulf War sancti-

See Page 12 Col 2

Myanmar stops repatriation fearing 'spread of plague'

From Abdul Monayem Khan

Refugee Relief and Repatriation. Raquibuddin Ahmed, when he wanted to discuss the latest situation with his Myanmar counterpart.

On his return to Cox's Bazar, he told reporters that Myanmar side informed him through the UNHCR and the Bangladesh Rifles that they would not allow anybody from Bangladesh to cross the border. But they did not specify how long would this restriction remain in force, he added.

An official of the UNHCR said that although there was no report of any plague case in Bangladesh, the authorities in Myanmar has taken the step as a precautionary measure.

Bangladesh officials said that of late the refugees are quite enthusiastic to return home but the sudden decision of the Myanmar side would slow down the repatriation process.

COX'S BAZAR, Oct 7: The process of repatriation of some 17,000 Rohingya refugees came to a halt yesterday as Myanmar refused entry to anyone from Bangladesh fearing 'plague contagion'.

The Myanmar authorities refused to receive 930 refugees who were to return to their homeland Thursday.

Earlier, Myanmar sealed off all the three entry points with Bangladesh on October 1 after the outbreak of plague in India.

Despite that, the Yangon authorities took back 3,009 refugees in three groups between October 3 and 5 till they decided to suspend the repatriation process.

Bangladesh officials dealing with the refugees, quoting Myanmar officials, said the suspension is temporary.

But they could not make it clear how long would the restriction on the entry from Bangladesh continue.

Some 81,292 Rohingyas have returned home since the repatriation began September 22, 1992.

A total of 16,958 refugees are still living in 18 camps in Teknaf.

The Myanmar authorities today refused entry to the Additional Commissioner for

one other death from plague-like symptoms in the western state of Maharashtra near its border with Gujarat, where Surat lies, but it had not yet been confirmed as a plague death.

Nearly 6,000 people have been rushed to hospital with plague-like symptoms since the outbreak began in Surat, but only 270 tested positive, the plague control centre said.

Although 54 positive cases have been identified in Delhi, where the disease was carried when 300,000 people fled Surat, there has been no death.

The centre said there was

tion remain in force, he added.

An official of the UNHCR said that although there was no report of any plague case in Bangladesh, the authorities in Myanmar has taken the step as a precautionary measure.

Bangladesh officials said that of late the refugees are quite enthusiastic to return home but the sudden decision of the Myanmar side would slow down the repatriation process.

Plague claims 3 more lives in Surat

NEW DELHI, Oct 7: India today reported three more plague deaths, raising to 55 the total nationwide of a three-week outbreak of the medieval scourge that sent tremors of panic around the world, reports Reuter.

Bangladesh officials dealing with the refugees, quoting Myanmar officials, said the suspension is temporary.

But they could not make it clear how long would the restriction on the entry from Bangladesh continue.

Some 81,292 Rohingyas have returned home since the repatriation began September 22, 1992.

A total of 16,958 refugees are still living in 18 camps in Teknaf.

The Myanmar authorities today refused entry to the Additional Commissioner for

one other death from plague-like symptoms in the western state of Maharashtra near its border with Gujarat, where Surat lies, but it had not yet been confirmed as a plague death.

Nearly 6,000 people have been rushed to hospital with plague-like symptoms since the outbreak began in Surat, but only 270 tested positive, the plague control centre said.

Although 54 positive cases have been identified in Delhi, where the disease was carried when 300,000 people fled Surat, there has been no death.

The centre said there was

Madhyapara Rock

Project works begin Oct 20

Bangladesh will start the E-B project of the "Madhyapara Hard Rock Project under the technical and financial assistance from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea from October 20, the UN's Ambassador in Bangladesh Cho Sung Sik has said. He said a high-power delegation from his country will come to Dhaka for the purpose, reports BSS.

Sik in a statement described the Madhyapara project as a testimony of growing cooperation between the two countries and said this project is a reflection of friend ship between the two brotherly peoples. Economically he said both the countries are expanding cooperation in several fields and added that other projects are under discussions now.

The ambassador mentioned about the 49th foundation anniversary of the Korean

See Page 12 Col 3

7th grade scale of 14 BCS cadres upgraded

By Staff Correspondent

The seventh grade scale of 14 cadres of the Bangladesh Civil Services (BCS) have been promoted to the sixth grade scale yesterday, says a government handout.

Following the change, the basic pay scale will increase to Tk 4800 — Tk 7250 from Tk 4100 — Tk 5500.

The 14 cadres are Health, Agriculture, Forest, Roads and Highway Works, Public Health and Engineering, Telecom, Railway Engineering, Administration, Police, Livestock Information, Food and Ansar.

Twin murder

Autopsy shows use of similar weapons

By Staff Correspondent

The bodies of both Nilufar Chowdhury and her daughter Mahjabeen Chowdhury Shorna carried marks of severe wounds and lacerations by sharp weapons of similar nature, according to the autopsy reports sent to the investigating police by the Forensic Medicine experts of the Dhaka Medical College yesterday.

The reports also said Shorna's body carried wound signs of self-defence including bruises which seemingly were suffered during a scuffle with her assailants. However, there were no signs of rape or any attempted rape on the body, the reports added. The body of Nilufar did not carry such marks of self-defence.

According to the forensic experts, both the murders were committed almost at the same time. The girl, according to the report, seemed to have been murdered first.

The assailants slit a part of the neck of Shorna severing the veins and arteries which caused her death while the mother was brutally hacked almost all over the body.

Nilufar Chowdhury, 50, and her daughter Shorna, 20, were hacked to death allegedly by their maid Romena, 30, at their Lalmoni residence in the city Sunday last.

Romena also confessed to murdering both the mother and daughter with a bolo, a kitchen knife.

Vehicles damaged over death of 2 in Cox's Bazar

From Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, Oct 7: Agitated people damaged several vehicles here today after a bus ran over and killed a school boy and a worker.

The bus coming from Teknaf smashed a rickshaw carrying Ershadul Huq and Meher Ali at Tarabouli Chhara area of the town. Ershadul Huq, 13, was a student of Cox's Bazar Preparatory School.

The driver fled the spot. Soon after the accident, a group of people brought out a procession in the town demanding immediate arrest of the driver. At one stage, they damaged at least five buses. Three people were injured in the incident.

Traffic movement in the town came to a halt for about three hours.

Bus services between Cox's Bazar and Teknaf remained suspended till late tonight.



Sri Lankan Prime Minister Chandrika Kumaratunga (L), wearing garlands, is greeted by ministers of her cabinet yesterday shortly after she filed her nomination papers in Colombo to kick off the race for next month's presidential polls.