

# Bangladesh to get full DV-1 quota of 3850

Star Report

The Bangladeshi winners of the diversified visa lottery programme are likely to fulfil the maximum country quota of 3850 visas, according to a United States embassy official yesterday.

The country quota for Bangladesh under the DV-1 programme is likely to be met as the number of applicants is quite high, said Kathleen Rochester, Information Officer at the United States Information Agency.

The number of confirmation letters issued to the DV-1 lottery winners in Bangladesh, she added, is expected to exceed the country quota as some winners may not avail the opportunity while some others may not fulfil the US visa eligibility requirements.

However, Rochester pointed out that the exact number of confirmation letters issued to Bangladeshi winners of DV-1 lottery is not available with the embassy at the moment.

Even the counsellor section (at the embassy) does not know exactly how many letters have been issued so far, because these were issued independently by the National Visa Centre in New Hampshire.

The US Embassy expects to receive a complete list of those who were issued confirmation letters by late December or early January next, she said.

Under the DV-1 programme, 55,000 US immigrant visas would be issued worldwide during the US fiscal year 1995. Applications were received between June 1-30 this year.

Meanwhile, the US Embassy in the capital has fixed special hours every week for DV-1 winner visa applicants. All such visa applicants have been requested to contact the embassy every Tuesday from 11 am to 12 noon and from 2 to 3 pm, Rochester said.



Communications Minister Oli Ahmed inaugurated the construction work of the 700-million US dollar Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge at Shyamshoil in Tangail yesterday by switching on a dredger (picture on left).

# Jamuna Bridge construction

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The World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and the Government of Japan will provide 200 million dollars each for the project while the rest will be provided by the Bangladesh government.

Oli Ahmed urged the foreign contractors and their local agents to complete the work within the stipulated time. "None found responsible for delaying the project will be spared," he said. People responsible for any malpractice concerning the project would be brought to task, he added.

The minister said that the project would need the acquisition of 5,680 acres of land on both sides, of which 3,806 acres have already been acquired. The affected persons were being given proper compensation under the existing law, he said.

Oli said the bridge would also help maintain ecological balance in the north-western region as forests were being destroyed in the absence of natural gas and adequate electricity which have been creating an adverse effect on environmental as well as decreasing agricultural production.

The Communications Minister said that railway track would be set up on the bridge.

Thousands of people greeted the Communications Minister when his motorcade reached the venue. The whole area wore a festive look on the occasion.

The one and a half-hour inaugural function was also addressed by, among others, State Minister for Establishment Aminul Haq, State Minister for Land Kabir Hossain, local parliament members Abdus Salam and Shajahan Straj, MP from Sirajganj Mirza Muraduzzaman.

Executive Director of the JMB Authority Mohammad Ali and Secretary, Roads and High Ways Division, Rezaul Hayet.

Executives of the construction firms concerned, diplomats, MPs and high officials attended the inaugural function.

Massive construction activities were visible in the project areas. The construction firms have earmarked certain areas and installed various equipment. Bulldozers were seen levelling the grounds and workers were stacking stones and boulders in neat piles.

Dutch firms Ham and Van Oord ACZ JV are jointly carrying out the 276-million dollar river training work. It is a major component of the project since the mighty Jamuna is an unpredictable river causing massive erosions. A JMB official said told The Daily Star if the training work is not completed on schedule, it may be difficult to control river erosion.

South Korean firm Hyundai Engineering and Construction JV will construct the main 47-span and four-lane bridge under a 247.4 million dollar contract. The first consignment of equipment from the company has already reached the Mongla Port. Detailed soil investigation and pile testing will start next month. An area of 20 hectares of land for the firm is to be handed over to the company on January 15 next. The river Dhaleshwari is to be closed to facilitate vehicular movement to the east end of the bridge on the same date.

Another Korean firm Samwhan, which won the \$5.7 million dollar contract to construct the approach road on both sides of the bridge, has already completed the groundwork in Elega union on the eastern side and Nalka union on the western side of the Jamuna. It starts the construction work in full swing next month.

# Condolence

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Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia said she had no language to express her grief for the victims. She condoled the deaths and conveyed her deep sympathies to the members of the bereaved families.

The Prime Minister also directed the local administration to gear up the rescue operation.

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina conveyed her heartfelt sympathy to the members of the bereaved families.

She also demanded a judicial enquiry into the incident.

# Two robbed of Tk 5.7 lakh in city

By Staff Correspondent

Muggers snatched over Tk 5.70 lakh after stabbing two employees of a travel agency in the city's Motijheel area yesterday.

Moniruzzaman and Anisur Rahman, cashier and his assistant respectively of Meredial Travel Agency at 165 DIT Extension Road, were waylaid and stabbed by muggers at 2 pm.

According to witnesses, the muggers believed to be waiting on the road exploded huge crackers when the two men came nearer. They stabbed them, snatched two hand bags containing the money and fled the scene by an auto-rickshaw after the brief operation.

Moniruzzaman in his hospital bed said, "The mishap occurred when we were walking to our head office at 165 DIT Extension Road with the money from a nearby branch office."

Badly wounded, Anisur Rahman was operated upon at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). He was in the post-operative unit last night in a critical condition. Moniruzzaman was admitted to the same hospital with stab wounds in his hands.

# Non-gazetted employees' strike Oct 24-25

By Staff Correspondent

The non-gazetted government employees will observe a strike on October 24-25 to press home their 14-point demand.

This was said by convenor of the liaison committee of the Bangladesh Government Employees Coordination Council and Bangladesh Government Employees Solidarity Council Mohiuddin yesterday.

The liaison body will announce a greater action programme on November 6 if the demands were not accepted by then, he told newsmen at a city hotel yesterday.

Earlier, the Class III and IV government employees observed four-hour strikes from October 8 to 10.

Their demands include a 30 per cent dearness allowance, selection grade, regularisation of employees now working on contract basis, filling up one-third of the 747 posts of assistant secretary by promoting the non-gazetted employees and transfer of employees in the development sector to the revenue section.

# Police strength

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Said the magazine: "The easiest place to escape the long arm of the law is Bangladesh, the hardest is Kuwait." In Kuwait, there is a policeman for every 80 citizens.

The police-people ratio has much to do with a country's size, the magazine maintained. The best-patrolled places tend to be small island states.

An exception is Iraq, where the government likes to keep an eye on everyone, the magazine in its New World Order column said. There is only one policeman to look after 140 Iraqis.

Low-crime Japan has fewer policemen per thousand citizens than the United States where criminal violence is a big problem.

Globally, Pakistan ranks 90th with one policeman for 625 people while 728 Indians are looked after by one policeman placing the subcontinental giant 96th on the list.

Sri Lanka has one policeman for 860 people, ranking 97th. In Nepal, the ratio is one for every 1,000 people, putting it in the 100th position.

# New commissioners meet Hasina

By Staff Correspondent

Sheikh Hasina yesterday said next three national elections should be held under neutral caretaker government to institute a system of free and fair polls in the country, reports UNB.

"Voting right of the people has to be established by realising the demand of national election under a caretaker government," the Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition told the newly-elected woman commissioners of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) and their supporters at her Minto Road residence.

# Opposition for dialogue

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Opposition Chief Whip Mohammad Nasim said.

Briefing newsmen last night he said the main topic of the dialogue must be the constitutional guarantee to hold national elections under a neutral non-party caretaker government.

The proposed dialogue may be held at the Committee Room or Cabinet Room of Sangsad Bhaban, he said.

Nasim cautioned that the government will be responsible "if it tries to buy time in the name of dialogue".

He said that the Opposition had decided to join a meaningful dialogue with the government alongside their course of present movement to press for a caretaker government.

During the meetings with Commonwealth envoy Sir Ninian, Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina and other opposition group leaders clearly explained the necessity of constitutional provision for a caretaker government as well as the Opposition's sincerity with regard to a meaningful dialogue.

"We are committed to the

# UN projects

By Staff Correspondent

Dhaka's call for priority to local expertise

Bangladesh has called for sustained efforts to increasingly focus on the much-felt need to make the programmes under operational activities more responsive to national priorities, Bangladesh delegate to the current session of the United Nations General Assembly Justice T H Khan told a United Nations meeting on "Operational Activities for Development," reports BSS.

According to a message received in Dhaka he told the meeting last Friday that a great deal of attention has to be given to the need for enhancing national capacity for national execution of such programmes. (The United Nations system is in a unique position to help member countries by imparting training to its nationals in this crucial area, he added.)

The Bangladesh delegate emphasised that in the formulation and implementation of United Nations projects at the field level, priority should be given for maximum utilisation of local expertise. Decentralisation and delegation of authority to the field operations is very important and should take place in an environment of trust and confidence between the headquarters and the field officers, he said.

When asked for his com-

# Commonwealth emissary

From Page 1 Col 3

ments on his meeting with the Prime Minister, the 71-year-old former Governor General of Australia only said: "I am not going to answer any more questions."

The AL general secretary, however, told newsmen that they were 'happy' over the discussions.

Sir Ninian also had a 135-minute meeting with Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdus Samad Azad at the State Guest House Meghna yesterday afternoon. SAMS Kibria was present at the meeting that began at 3:00 pm.

According to Opposition sources, Samad Azad, while discussing the constitutional, legal and political issues, informed Sir Ninian that the Opposition wanted the official dialogue to begin 'as soon as possible.' The Deputy Leader of the Opposition is learnt to have proposed that the dialogue should begin October 19.

The emissary is expected to have further talks with BNP leader and Deputy Leader of Parliament Prof. Badruddoza Chowdhury sometime today.

Sir Ninian also had talks with senior Election Commission (EC) officials, including the secretary of the EC, Shamul Alam and Additional Secretary S M Zakaria, yesterday evening. According to EC sources, the Commonwealth emissary tried to understand the limitations, if any, of the present electoral rules to ensure free and fair elections

# Cloud over FBCCI polls

From Page 1 Col 6

portedly issued Saturday following hearing of the suit filed by Mizan, treasurer of the Association of Air Cargo Agents of Bangladesh.

The release quoted the court order as saying: "Until disposal of this suit both parties are ordered to maintain the status quo vis-a-vis the elections of 17-10-94."

Advocate Ashraf Ali, lawyer for the plaintiff, told The Daily Star last night that the suit was filed by Mizan after his name was allegedly dropped from the voters' list of the federation, although he was duly recommended by his association which is affiliated with the FBCCI.

Earlier, on September 15, he added, the same court had issued a show cause notice on the federation in this regard.

The court has now set October 24 as the date for submission of written statements by ten defendants, named in Mizan's suit, including the outgoing FBCCI president Mahbubur Rahman, the secretary and the chairman of the Election Board, Advocate Ashraf informed this corre-

# Jessore-3 by-polls

BNP invites applications

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) has invited applications from the intending candidates for BNP ticket for the forthcoming by-election to the Jessore-3 parliamentary constituency, reports BSS.

Applications will be received at BNP central office at 5 pm on October 18.

The interview of candidates will be held on October 19 at the central office of the party.

# UN lifts ban on Haiti

UNITED NATIONS, Oct 16:

All international sanctions imposed on Haiti were lifted today at 0401 GMT, under a decision of the UN Security Council, reports AFP.

The removal of the sanctions which were aimed at Haiti's former military junta, follows the return home Saturday of elected President Jean-Bertrand Aristide after a three-year exile.

Some candidates were learnt to have spent millions of taka in their campaigns that ranged from newspaper advertisements to grand projection meetings-cum-dinner at five-star hotels.

One candidate even employed a publicity firm for his campaign. Some have made lavish arrangements for food and accommodation of voters coming from outside the capital.

The committee to be elected will take over on October 24 from the existing committee headed by Mahbubur Rahman.

# Gang-raped girl dies in hospital

By Staff Correspondent

Moyna, a teenage girl, who took poison to commit suicide three days ago, died in a city hospital yesterday.

Moyna, 18, was gangraped Wednesday night at her village Tekerhat in Kamrangirchar - on the outskirts of the capital.

She was treated at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) the same night and later released. But she was brought to the hospital again in a critical condition the following day after she had taken copper sulphate to commit suicide, her relatives said.

Moyna died in the DMCH early yesterday.

Lalbagh police said they have so far arrested two suspect-rapists from the area. Both the suspects - Habib, 40, and Noor Islam, 27, were sent to the Dhaka Central jail yesterday.

Police said they were looking for several others involved in the incident.

Our DMCH Correspondent reports: Another rape victim, 18-year-old Laizu, was rescued by police from near the Mohsin Hall of Dhaka University early yesterday. Police sent Laizu to the DMCH.

Police said the miscreants fled leaving Laizu near the playground of the hall around 1 am yesterday.

Laizu, wife of one Shaheen at Matuail, Demra, was released from the hospital yesterday.

# Non-govt teachers' salary increased from 70 to 80 pc

The Government has decided to enhance its part of salary of the non-government teachers and employees from 70 per cent to 80 per cent with effect from January 1995, reports UNB.

This was disclosed at a meeting between Education Minister Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar and the leaders of the National Federation of Teachers' Association (NFTA) yesterday.

The government has also issued an order to increase medical allowance from Tk 100 to Tk 150, the meeting was told. Matters relating to retiring benefits and time-scale for the non-government teachers also came up in the meeting for discussion.

# Boat capsizes

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Local people helped recover the bodies of four persons.

Local people said the accident took place due to overloading. At best the boat could have carried only 70 people, they felt.

They also alleged that the boat had no name or licence. It was owned by a union parishad chairman who also has two other boats without licence. One of his boats sank on August 22, taking with it at least 40 lives. Yet the authorities did not take any legal action against the owner, the locals alleged.

# 7 die in Tangail road mishaps

TANGAIL, Oct 16:

Seven persons including two women were killed in two separate road accidents in the district today, reports BSS.

Six persons were killed and five others injured when a passenger bus and an auto-rickshaw collided head on this afternoon at Kuchuti on Tangail-Bhuapur road, about 12 miles from Tangail district town.

Earlier, in the morning a cycle rider was killed on the spot at Athpukur near Tangail town after he was knocked down by a passenger bus.

# The Midnight File

## 9 challenge convictions in Bush case

KUWAIT, Oct 16: Seven Iraqis and two Kuwaitis will appear in court Monday to challenge convictions last summer for plotting to kill former US President George Bush during a visit to Kuwait. Six were sentenced to death, the others to prison terms of up to 12 years. Judge Abdullah al-Rifai will preside over a five-judge panel of the Cassation Court that will examine the legality of the convictions and sentences handed down June 4 by a State Security Court, reports AP.

## Israel-PLO talks tomorrow

JERUSALEM, Oct 16: Israel and the PLO will resume peace talks in Cairo on Tuesday, a week after they were broken off over the kidnapping of an Israeli soldier by Muslim militants. The Prime Minister's office said today. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's office also said a closure clamped on the Palestinian-ruled Gaza Strip last Tuesday would end on Monday, reports Reuter.

## Road link with Sirajganj snapped

## 125 injured as transport union activists clash

SIRAJGANJ, Oct 16:

Road communication between Sirajganj and rest of the country snapped following violent clashes between rickshaw-pullers and motor-transport workers that left nearly 125 injured here today, reports UNB.

Ten policemen were among those wounded in the clash that occurred during a rickshaw strike in the town. Twenty of the injured were admitted to the Sirajganj General Hospital, Masjimpur Complex and Police Hospital.

Witnesses said trouble erupted when a militant procession of the Rickshaw Sramik Union (RSU) activists attacked the office of Tempo Sramik Union near New Market at 11:30 am. The RSU called strike today demanding stoppage of autorickshaw service in Sirajganj-Koalgai road.

Later, the rickshaw-pullers and the workers of District Motor and Truck Union fought each other at Sirajganj Bazar, New Dhaka Road and in front of Moushum cinema hall. Several cocktails were blasted during the clash that ended at about 1:30 pm, leaving nearly 100 people injured.

Police fired four tear-gas shells and lathcharged the belligerents to control the situation.

Ten rickshaws, two rickshaw-vans and two tempos were damaged in the melee.

The District Motor and Truck Sramik Union stopped plying motor vehicles from 2 pm in a wildcat protest.

Trouble again erupted in the evening when the rickshaw-pullers and motor workers clashed with police, leaving at least another 25 injured, one seriously.

The latest round of violence occurred after police halted a truck of the Motor Sramik Union at Sirajganj Bazar station at 6 pm when it was returning after making in the town in support of an indefinite transport strike from tomorrow.

## Malaria in Cox's Bazar spreads: 50 hospitalised

From Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, Oct 16: Malaria is spreading alarmingly in the Cox's Bazar region and more and more patients are coming to the Civil Surgeon's office.

At least 50 persons from Mehekshahi thana's Shapalpur and Khoanak unions, Garjanja and Kuniapalung unions of Ramu thana and some hills villages under Chokoria and Teknaf thana come to the Civil Surgeon's office here today with malarial symptoms.

The Civil Surgeon said, they were suffering from malaria but could not determine whether it was cerebral or typical malaria.

In Barachura village, 25 persons died in the past two weeks due to cerebral malaria.

## S M Ali

From Page 1 Col 8

suffering from rheumatic arthritis and lung cancer and was under treatment at the hospital for over two weeks.

A career journalist for over four decades during which he held important positions at home and abroad, S M Ali launched The Daily Star in January 1991 and was its editor and publisher until his death.

A milad mahfil will be held at The Daily Star office after Asr prayers today. All his colleagues, friends relatives and countless admirers have been requested to attend the milad and join prayers for the salvation of the departed soul.

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**এফবিসিসিআই নির্বাচন ১৯৯৪-৯৬**

আসন্ন নির্বাচনে ফেডারেশনের সভাপতি পদপ্রার্থী ফেডারেশনের রূপকার এবং সফল প্রাক্তন সভাপতি **জনাব এম. এ. কাসেমকে** আপনার মূল্যবান ভোট দিয়ে জয়যুক্ত করুন এবং ক্ষুদ্র শিল্প ও স্বল্প-পুঞ্জির ব্যবসায়ীসহ সকল স্তরের ব্যবসায়ীদের স্বার্থ রক্ষা করুন।

**জনাব এম. এ. কাসেম একজন**

- প্রগতিশীল, সং এবং নিষ্ঠাবান ব্যক্তিত্ব
- এসোসিয়েশনের যোগ্য প্রতিনিধি
- ক্ষুদ্র শিল্প এবং স্বল্প-পুঞ্জির ব্যবসায়ীদের স্বার্থরক্ষাকামী
- বাজার অর্থনীতির সাথে সঙ্গতিপূর্ণ কার্যকরী পদক্ষেপ গ্রহণে ইচ্ছুক ব্যক্তিত্ব

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