

## Dhaka repeats call for N-free South Asia

Bangladesh on Thursday reiterated its call to establish nuclear free zones to supplement the global objective of a nuclear weapons free world, reports RSS.

Speaking at a UN meeting on international security and disarmament at the UN headquarters in New York, Bangladesh permanent representative to the UN, Ambassador Reaz Rahman said Bangladesh had been, for long, a cosponsor of resolutions calling for the establishment of nuclear weapons free zone in South Asia.

Bangladesh, he said, fully supports efforts aimed at eliminating other categories of mass destruction also.

"We hope, he said," that the chemical weapons convention can come into force during the next year and support the strengthening of the biological and toxic weapons elimination convention with an effective verification system.

Bangladesh, he said, is committed to the concept on and principle of nuclear weapons free zones and also zones of peace.

"It is our view," reiterated Rahman. "That nuclear weapons free zones can supplement global efforts towards this ultimate objective and we welcome in this connection the advances that have been made to establish such zones in Latin America, as well as in Africa," a message from New York said.

Bangladesh shares the view, he said, that the successful conclusion of a comprehensive test ban treaty and an agreement on missile material cut-off

## BNP will take to streets

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ers that there would be no retrenchment, rather more textile mills would be set up to create employment. "Our object is to increase employment, not to retrench the employed".

The Prime Minister said the politics of BNP government is to increase production and ensure development. "BNP is a party which is always devoted to the welfare of people and there is a deep and harmonious relationship between the people and the BNP".

The conference was also addressed by BNP Secretary General and LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Salam Talukder, Sramik Dal Vice President and Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdullah al Noman, State Minister for Textiles Abdul Mannan, Sramik Dal President Iskandar Ali, Vice President Mojibur Rahman, Sarwar MP, General Secretary Nazrul Islam Khan and Salauddin Sarkar. The inaugural function was chaired by Anwar Hossain.

Earlier, Begum Zia inaugurated the conference by putting her sign on the album of the conference.

The conference elected a 62-member national committee of the organisation with Anwar Hossain as President and Abdur Razzak General Secretary for the next two years.

## BSRS

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Sangstha remained engaged only in recovering its long outstanding loans and, in some cases, provided working capital to some of its projects.

In March, 1985, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), one of the major donors of the Sangstha, asked the BSRS to stop financing new projects because of its huge non-performing loans.

Later in September, 1990 the ADB, in response to a government request, offered some preconditions for the lifting of the embargo.

The conditions included privatisation of at least 51 per cent shares of the BSRS and starting commercial banking.

The government move to privatisate the Sangstha in April last year immediately after the passing of the BSRS (Amendment) Act, was, however, opposed by some entrepreneurs of the BSRS-financed projects in an appeal to the Parliamentary petition committee. The BSRS was to be handed over to the private buyers for Tk 83 crore, but the entrepreneurs claimed the value would be much more.

According to sources concerned the government has finally dropped the idea of privatising the BSRS. At the same time, it has, among other things, issued treasury bonds worth Tk 175 crore for generating funds for the Sangstha to help it overcome its present financial crisis.

The BSRS is expecting Tk 15 crore by July next year as bank deposits. It also expects a substantial amount of money from the issuance of debentures and from the recovery of overdues.

The number of non-performing projects of the BSRS is 109 of which 42 are now closed. The number of performing projects is 39 while the performance of 45 projects has been irregular.

The Sangstha has so far sold out 20 projects because of failure on the part of entrepreneurs to repay the loans.

## Dialogue tid-bits

By Staff Correspondent

Officials of the Parliament Secretariat fetched a doctor when opposition negotiator Suranjit Sengupta fell sick during the second-round of formal dialogue between the ruling party and the opposition in Parliament yesterday.

"He had a bad headache and took medicine," the doctor said after attending Suranjit at the cabinet room, the venue of the Commonwealth-brokered dialogue.

The doctor replied in the negative when asked if Gupta's blood pressure shot up.

Later, after the four-hour meeting, the Ganatantri Party leader who recently merged his faction with the Awami League told The Daily Star that he took paracetamol to relieve pain.

The doctor wanted to check his blood pressure but Suranjit reportedly told the doctor that he had no problem with his "pressure."

### 1.5 lakh new digital phones to be installed

A project for the installation of 1,50,000 new digital telephones is going to be implemented soon with the country's own resources and technical assistance from France, reports BSS.

The project, to be implemented by world renowned telecommunication firm "Alcatel" of France, include 10,000 telephones for Dhaka, 10,000 for Chittagong, 15,000 for Khulna, 10,000 for Rajshahi and 15,000 for Sylhet.

A formal exchange of views was held at Hotel Sonargaon yesterday evening. Information Secretary Dr Ekram Hossain, T and T Board Chairman Fazlur Rahman, French Ambassador in Bangladesh Jean Michel Lacombe and executives of the "Alcatel" and T and T board of officials took part in the discussion.

### 10 hurt as rival JCD groups clash

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Oct 22: At least ten persons were injured in a clash between two rival groups of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal at the thana headquarters of Kanaighat yesterday afternoon. Of them, two were admitted into the Thana Health Complex.

The two groups have occupied two parts of the bazar namely Dakhin Bazar and Purba Bazar. The Police have been deployed to prevent further clashes. Both the rival groups have declared they will hold a meeting on Tuesday afternoon at the same venue. The Thana Awami League, meanwhile, brought out a procession last night at the thana headquarters in protest against alleged acts of terrorism. A tense situation was prevailing there.

### JCD-BCL clash in Bogra : 15 hurt

BOGRA, Oct 22: Student groups of the ruling BNP and opposition Awami League clashed at Government Shahul College here today leaving at least 15 students injured, reports UNB.

District Awami League office was set on fire as a sequel to the campus violence.

Witnesses said the clash started at about 11 am when processions of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and pro-Awami League Chhatra League (BCL) confronted each other on the college campus.

The processionists shouted provocative slogans, exchanged gunfire and blasted crackers. At least 10 rounds of gunfire were heard during the clash.

Five of the seriously injured students, all said to be JCD activists, were hospitalised. They were identified as: Titu, Anwar, Zahedur, Monwar and Nazmul Kadir.

Later, the JCD brought out a protest procession which attacked the district Awami League office at Satmatha crossing at about 3:30 pm, witnesses said.

The attackers damaged furniture of the AL office and set it ablaze. Fire brigade, however, extinguished the fire almost immediately.

### CHT council

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ing peace in the Chittagong Hill Tracts," said president of the Peace Council Saiful Islam Dildar and General Secretary Subinoy Chakma in a statement yesterday.

They said complications arising out of the document of land of the refugees could be sorted out through discussion. On the other hand, at present there is no reason for suspension of the activities of local government councils.

The Peace Council reiterated its demand for a judicial probe into the September 15 Khagrachhari killing and arrest of those responsible for it.

The Sangstha has so far sold out 20 projects because of failure on the part of entrepreneurs to repay the loans.



File picture dated April 17, 1961 showing US actor Burt Lancaster with actress Elizabeth Taylor while receiving the Oscar award for his lead role in "Elmer Gantry". Lancaster, who started his career as a circus acrobat, died in Los Angeles late October 20 at the age of 80. — AFP photo

## Hamas leader for truce with Israel guaranteed by US

JERUSALEM, Oct 22: A leader of the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas proposed today that the group and Israel reach a ceasefire agreement guaranteed by a third party such as the United States.

Sheikh Jamas Salim, who lives in the West Bank town of Nablus, said the purpose of an agreement would be to "halt attacks on civilians" by both sides.

This accord must be guaranteed by a third international party, such as the United States," he told Reuters.

But other influential Hamas leaders said his statement did not necessarily reflect the overall views of the group, which blew up a bus in Tel Aviv on Wednesday killing 21 people.

Several Hamas leaders in Ramallah, in the occupied West Bank, and Jerusalem said they were not aware of Sheikh Salim's initiative.

Senior Hamas figures have

### Elusive Suchitra Sen moves house

CALCUTTA, Oct 22: Suchitra Sen, the Greta Garbo of Indian cinema, shifted to an apartment with supreme unconcern that is becoming of her nature by leaving behind invaluable memorabilia in the bungalow where she had stayed away from the limelight for the last 20 years, reports PTI.

Her spacious bungalow on 19-kathas of land on Ballygunge Circular Road is being wiped out by promoters to make way for a multi-storeyed building.

And her admirers are having a bonanza time, busy burrowing into the rubble for her personal belongings and souvenirs, at a price that is almost nothing.

Fummaging among her scattered belongings, few lucky fans have bagged a pair of velvet shoes for Rs 50, a specimen of her embroidery for Rs 15 and an inconspicuous salt jar for the same price and floor tiles for Rs five.

Not to be left behind, a middle-aged persons from Tollygunge came in search of the imposing chandeliers which adorned her room.

Luck favoured two young men from Maldi who discovered a citation from among the litter and got it for a mere Rs 500. The citation was presented to the actress at the Moscow Film Festival in 1963. The new owners plan to preserve the citation encased in a

steel frame with flowers around it.

A desperate hunt is on among her things by her fans.

A calendar in which the actress used to encircle auspicious dates is now in the possession of one of her fans.

This is perhaps just a way of getting a little closer to the distant myth that is Suchitra Sen, who received accolades for her unforgettable performances with matinee idol, Uttam Kumar, in Bengali films like "Saptapadi," "Patho Holo Dori," "Sagarika," "Sabar Upare" "Uttar Phalgundi," "Griha Daha," "Sat Pake Bandha," and "Harano Sur" that would never get lost from cine goers' mind.

The thespian, meanwhile, had quietly moved into a flat in nearby Deodar Street and maintains her elusiveness, as zealously as before.

They urged the Opposition delegation not to assert anything beyond the provisions of the Constitution, meeting sources said.

Admitting the need for a

fool-proof electoral system, the BNP team called upon the Opposition side to have a reasonable view of the ruling party-sponsored bill seeking strengthening of the Election Commission (EC), the sources said.

The Parliament Secretariat

provided all the thirty participants in yesterday's dialogue with copies of the ruling party's bill and the Constitution.

The Opposition delegation is learnt to have asserted at the dialogue that the nature of the present crisis was political, rather than constitutional.

Barister Moudud Ahmed, who made the opening statement on behalf of the Opposition, is learnt to have said: "The problem the nation is now confronting is more a political one, than constitutional".

The entire Opposition does

not feel that the BNP government can hold elections freely and fairly, Moudud said.

The nation now needed a neutral administration for conducting the polls in a free and fair atmosphere," he

added.

People will not mind if you refuse to shake hands with conjunctivitis patients," the eye specialist quipped.

They also suggested reviewing the role of the urban families in these fast changing times.

"Judicious parental care is one sure way to secure social integration," commented Abdul Quayum, Deputy Commissioner of the Detective Branch.

"Look at these kids. Their parents probably did not have any inkling of what types of friends they were making or the company they were keeping or their habits and hobbies; nor did they have any idea of what their children really needed or hankered after," he said.

Rapid urbanisation and population growth have kicked off a competition or rat race which this society never experienced before, Prof Begum noted.

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