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NEWS BRIEFS

KMP withdraws Section 144

From Our Correspondent
KHULNA, Oct 28: KMP Commissioner has withdrawn Section 144 with effect from 10 pm today. Section 144 was imposed on the city October 25 following the clash between the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and the Islami Chhatra Shibir activists that left two persons dead.

One killed in Sylhet accident

From Staff Correspondent
SYLHET, Oct 28: One person was killed and 15 others were injured when a minibus skidded off the Sylhet-Sunamganj road last night. The dead man was identified as Shahid Ali, 30, of village Mirergaon under Sylhet Sadar Thana. The body was sent to Sunamganj Sadar Hospital morgue.

Phensidyl seized

Some 300 bottles of banned India-made phensidyl syrup were recovered from a bus near Shibabaya thana in Manikganj district yesterday. A press release of the Narcotics Control Department said the Manikganj circle of the department with the help of local police made the haul from a Dhaka-bound bus from Rajshahi, reports UNB.

Egypt resumes flight to India today

CAIRO, Oct 28: Egypt's national carrier Egypt Air will resume flights to India on Saturday, exactly one month after it suspended its Cairo-Bombay service in the wake of a plague outbreak in India, airport officials said today Reuters.

Baghdad won't be allowed to repeat threat: Clinton

NORTHERN KUWAITI DESERT, Oct 28: US President Bill Clinton vowed here today before cheering troops in the Kuwaiti desert that Iraq would never again be allowed to threaten its neighbours, reports AFP.

"You came here in a very big hurry... and because of that Iraq got the message it's a very big hurry," the President said, referring to the crisis triggered by an Iraqi troop buildup near the border earlier this month.

"We will not allow Baghdad to threaten its neighbours... that is not our threat, that is our promise. Your presence here is the promise," Clinton

told several hundred US and allied troops posted near the Iraqi border.

The United States sent thousands of troops to the Gulf region, under Operation Vigilant Warrior, to prevent a replay of the 1990 Iraqi invasion.

Baghdad has since rolled back its deployment in southern Iraq.

"The international community will make sure that Iraq never threatens your nation again," he said, referring to the Kuwaiti people on the first ever visit to the Emirate by a US President.

"We will not allow Iraq to enhance its capability below the 32nd Parallel," in southern

Iraq, he pledged.

Clinton said that the suffering of the Iraqi people, under crippling UN sanctions since the invasion, was "the result of the path their leaders have chosen."

To loud cheers, Clinton also raised hopes that thousands would be home by Christmas. "Don't forget to do your Christmas shopping," he said.

Gen. J H Binford Peay III, commander of the US forces in Kuwait, echoed the expectations. He said two brigades - 6,000 to 9,000 troops - would leave before the year-end holidays as the Pentagon draws down its 28,000-strong contingent in the region.

Clinton received a grateful welcome at Kuwait International Airport as he stepped from Air Force One. He was greeted by the Emir, Jaber al-Sabah, and together, they reviewed an honour guard.

After a reception, Clinton flew by helicopter to a desert military base named Tactical Assembly Area Liberty.

He was accompanied on the helicopter by Crown Prince Abdullah al-Sabah.

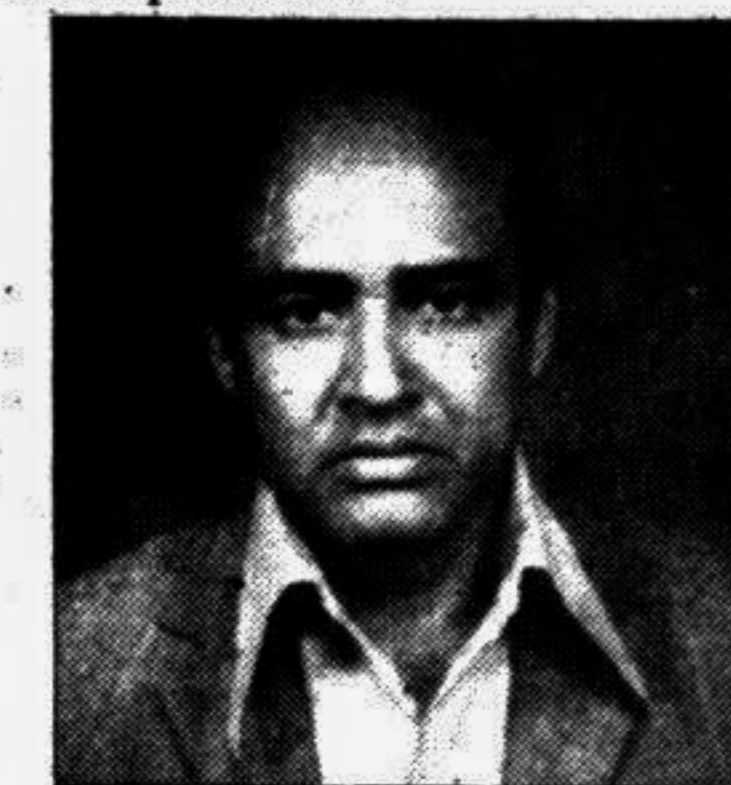
After the desert visit to the troops, Clinton was headed back to the capital for talks at Bayan Palace with the Emir, and to receive Kuwait's highest order, the 'Mubarak al-Ka-

BNP MP killed in road accident

From Our Correspondent
MYMENSINGH, Oct 28: Dr Mohammad Sirajul Haq, a ruling party MP from Sherpur district, was killed in a road mishap on the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway today, police and witnesses said.

Dr Haq, 58, died on the spot when his car ramed a roadside tree as the driver tried to save a teenage boy near Churkhai Bazar, 6 km from the town, at around 12:15pm.

"I saw his body in a police van at around 1:15pm. He had multiple injuries in his head, chest and leg. His nostrils were soaked with blood", said Ahmedul Kabir, editor of the Daily Sangbad, who was crossing the spot on his way to Mymensingh.



Dr Sirajul Haq MP
Joyal, an attendant of Dr Haq, was also killed on the spot while his driver, Mintu, was rushed to the Mymensingh See Page 12 Col 2

Dialogue resumes today

By Staff Correspondent
After a day's break, the Commonwealth-mediated dialogue between the ruling BNP and the Opposition parties resumes at the State Guest House Meghna at 4:30 pm today (Saturday).

Deputy Leader of the House Prof. Badruddoza Chowdhury and Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abusamad Azad will lead their sides at the talks.

Sir Ninian Stephen, special envoy of the Commonwealth Secretary General, is likely to be present at the meeting aimed at finding a solution to the present political impasse.

After a sudden collapse of the first round talks Tuesday night, the process was put back See Page 12 Col 7



Guest birds, like every year begin to flock at the city's Mirpur Zoo signalling the advent of winter.
— Star photo by Enamul Huq

Police deployed around Jagannath Hall

By DU Correspondent
A large contingent of police was deployed in and around the Jagannath Hall of Dhaka University yesterday following the killing of a student there on Thursday.

The hall authorities met the Vice Chancellor yesterday and urged him to take immediate action for rooting out terrorists and outsiders from the residential halls, sources said.

Editorial on page 4
According to campus sources, some outsiders were involved in killing Gazi Zakir Hossain at the North House of the Jagannath hall.

Manik Das who was picked up by the police for interrogation has been released.

The Detective Branch was investigating the murder.

Meanwhile, some unidentified youths assaulted a pro-Award League Chhatra League (S-P) leader near the TSC road crossing yesterday afternoon.

The agitated youths attacked the BCL (S-P) former Vice President of the city unit, Shawkat Hossain Nannu when he went there on a motor bike at about 12:45 pm. But he managed to escape towards Madhu's canteen.

PM asks doctors to change attitude

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday called upon the doctors to dedicate themselves to the service of the distressed humanity, reports UNB.

"Dedicate yourself to your noble profession. You have to serve the people in distress," she said at a meeting with the elected student union leaders of five medical colleges.

Representatives of the students' unions of Dhaka, Sir Salmullah, Mymensingh, Rajshahi and Rangpur Medical Colleges met the Prime Minister at her Hare Road office.

Pointing to the inadequate number of doctors in the country, Begum Zia asked the physicians to change their attitude and serve the people in pursuance of their professional duty.

She said, her government laid emphasis on improving the health services to ensure 'Health for All by the year 2000'.

"Holding the people hostage to realise demands is not acceptable," she said referring to the recent strike of the doctors. She said the Bangladeshi doctors are working abroad abiding by all rules and regulations of the countries concerned.

The Prime Minister said the government is aware of the doctors' problems and those could be solved through discussion. The condition of the people, the poverty situation and resource constraints have to be taken into account while taking a step, she said.

Begum Zia said steps have been taken to improve the situation in the health sector and nearly 1,800 doctors have been appointed by the present government.

"We should try to ensure healthcare facilities so that the people don't go abroad for minor treatment," she stressed. She also urged the medical students to build themselves as worthy citizens to bring laurels for the country.

The Prime Minister told the medical students that a committee would be formed to solve their various problems, including inadequate number of teachers, non-availability of books, lack of transport facilities, funds and accommodation.

She advised the students to maintain peaceful academic environment in their respective institutions.

Health Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf, Fazlul Huq MP, Amanullah Aman MP, Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal leaders and VP and GS of the medical colleges also spoke on the occasion.

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abusalam Talukder was present.

Ninians enjoy river cruise

By Staff Correspondent
Sir Ninian Stephen and his wife spent a relaxed day yesterday after several days of hectic negotiations since their arrival in Dhaka on October 13.

They went on a four-hour river cruise on board the Parjatan's newly commissioned vessel ML Shalok. They were accompanied by the Director General of the European desk in the Foreign Ministry, who is coordinating Sir Ninian's visit, Rafiq Ahmed Khan and his wife. Dr Anafu and some officials of the Foreign Ministry also joined them.

Sources said Sir Ninian and Lady Ninian enjoyed the river cruise. They particularly watched with interest the river scenes and the plying of the country boats.

They had lunch on board the vessel and returned to the Meghna Guest House around 5 pm.

Srima fears violence during Dissanayake's funeral today

COLOMBO, Oct 28: The widow of the slain opposition leader appealed to thousands of mourners arriving in the Sri Lankan capital to maintain calm saying she suspected violent disruption of her husband's funeral tomorrow, reports AP, AFP.

Srima Dissanayake, the United National Party's candidate for president in place of her husband, appealed to the government for help "not to tarnish this solemn occasion."

Mrs Dissanayake in a statement today did not name anyone whom she suspected of attempting to disturb the funeral.

Tens of thousands of mourners stood solemnly in rain in a two-mile winding queue to pay their last respects to Gamini Dissanayake who was killed by a bomb past midnight on Sunday.

"I appeal to the public to remain calm and resist any action by mischievous elements to cause violence," said Mrs. Dissanayake.

Police reinforcements were being brought to Colombo to beef up security for today's cremation here while hundreds of soldiers armed with automatic rifles stepped up road blocks, a defence spokesman said.

"We will be deploying anti-riot squads and dozens of other units at the funeral as well as along the funeral route. In addition police stations will remain on red alert. Troops will also be on duty," the spokesman said.

The UNP, which today nominated former premier Ranil Wickremesinghe to replace Dissanayake as its parliamentary opposition leader, accused the government of Premier

Chandrika Kumaratunga of complicity in the killing.

Kumaratunga hit back Thursday and said she believed the devastating bomb blast at Dissanayake's presidential campaign rally here could be an inside job by the UNP for a short-term political gain.

She said the UNP had a record of 'starting, encouraging and continuing violence in politics and eliminating its own leaders and supporters over the past 17 years.'

Two months ago, Dissanayake narrowly won an internal vote to sideline Wickremesinghe, although the former Prime Minister was the logical successor for the key opposition post.

Wickremesinghe faced a serious challenge from former transport minister Wijayapala See Page 12 Col 8

Khulna BIT closed till Nov 4

From Our Correspondent
KHULNA, Oct 28: The Bangladesh Institute of Technology (BIT), here has been closed till November 4 from today in apprehension of outbreak of violence.

This decision has been taken as tension was prevailing on the campus for last few days following the Shibir-JCD clash.

Students have been asked to vacate hostels by 3 pm today.

Kiss-and-tell Major Hewitt sighted

LONDON, Oct 28: A manhunt for Britain's best known bouncer James Hewitt, who shocked the nation by claiming he slept with Princess Diana, has borne fruit with a sighting deep in the English countryside, reports Reuter.

The scandal-hungry Sun newspaper said today it 5,000 pound (7,500 US dollar) reward for a sighting of the kiss-and-tell former cavalry major had brought a tip-off enabling photographers to catch him See Page 12 Col 7

UN peacekeepers warn 'Serbs risk NATO attack if they take revenge'

SARAJEVO, Oct 28: UN peacekeepers warned Bosnian Serbs today they risked NATO air strikes if they took revenge on Muslim civilians for a military rout in northwest Bosnia, reports Reuter.

Bosnian Serb Army (BSA) generals threatened to shell Sarajevo and Bihac town, both under UN protection as Muslim safe havens, if Bosnian government forces did not halt an offensive against Serbs.

The United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) said the thrust by mainly-Muslim government forces from the Bihac enclave appeared in any case to have run out of steam after forcing a retreat by thousands of Serb civilians and troops.

BSA general Dragomir Milosevic told Reuters his troops would match Muslim attacks

round-for-round with shelling of "selected targets" in Muslim quarters of Sarajevo.

UNPROFOR's commander, General Sir Michael Rose, called the threat empty but added: "If they do shell Sarajevo, they know what they can expect."

UN spokesman Thanyt Myint-U said Bihac would also get air cover if the BSA used its artillery against the town and warned: "We would do everything we could to protect civilians and we would call on NATO (warplanes) if we felt it were needed."

Serb attacks on either town would test an agreement by the UN and NATO to hit them aggressively from the air when they challenge peacekeeping in Bosnia.

Rose has been reluctant to See Page 12 Col 8

Dhaka rejects Indian radio report on ULFA training

The government yesterday totally rejected the report on the training of any ULFA extremists in Bangladesh, an official handout said in the city last night, reports BSS.

It said attention of the government of Bangladesh has been drawn to a radio report by All India Radio yesterday to the effect that one of the ten ULFA extremists, who reportedly surrendered before Assam Chief Minister in Guwahati, was said to have been trained in Bangladesh.

The Government of Bangladesh totally rejects the report on said training of any ULFA extremist in Bangladesh, the handout said adding the government has never allowed its territory to be used for any subversive or terrorist activities by any individuals or groups against India, a neighbouring country and a fellow member of SAARC, or for that matter against any other country.

The government considers such baseless report by state-owned media not being conducive to furtherance of good neighbourly relations, it said.

The government once again invites the government of India to furnish to it concrete evidence, if any, of activities unfriendly to India allegedly taking place from Bangladesh.

4 killed in Pabna road mishaps

PABNA, Oct 28: Four people were killed and three others injured in two separate accidents today, police sources said, reports UNB.

Two rice traders - Asmat, 45, and Jomar Ali, 35 - and another unidentified man died on the spot when a Kushia-bound truck from Natore fell into a roadside ditch on Pabna-Iswardi road at 8 am today.

Three people, also said to be rice traders, were injured in the accident at Dashuria.

The injured were admitted to Iswardi Health Complex.

Police seized the truck but the driver remain absconding, in another accident, Abus Sattar, 60, was killed by a truck near Bonomali Institute in Pabna town at 9 am.

The truck, reportedly belonging to Indian Railway Construction Company, hit the old man.

The body was sent to Sadar hospital.

Taiwanese MPs trade punches in Parliament again

TAIPEI, Oct 28: Taiwan ruling party and opposition legislators traded punches in parliament today over a proposal to demilitarise two Taiwan-held offshore islands just off the mainland of China, reports Reuter.

Chen Ching-Pao, a deputy in the ruling Nationalist Party, clashed with a group of opposition lawmakers after he denounced the proposal by the main opposition Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) for Taiwan to offer China an olive branch and withdraw its military from Quemoy (Kinmen) and Matsu.

Chen, elected from Quemoy wearing a camouflage army uniform had demanded DPP chairman Shih Ming Teh

apologise to the whole country for making the 'preposterous' proposal.

The fighting broke out when DPP whip Peng Pai-Hsien called Chen 'shameless', state television said. No injuries were reported as the scuffle was soon broken up by other legislators.

Taiwan officials shrugged off the DPP proposal.

"Our armed forces cannot escape from its responsibility to protect the freedom and democracy of the 21 million people in Taiwan, Penghu (Pescadore), Quemoy and Matsu. President Lee Teng-Hui said during an address at an academy in the southern city of Kaohsiung today.

"Currently, the relationship

between the two sides of the (Taiwan) strait is still in the cold war stage. We have to be on alert and prepared for any challenge," Lee said.

Defence Minister Sun Chen said the military would not give up one inch of land there.

China has refused to rule out an invasion of Taiwan, which it has viewed as a renegade province since the nationalists lost the Chinese civil war and fled to the island in 1949.

The possibility that China may try to take Taiwan by force has become a hot topic of discussion on the island in recent months, after a book was published predicting that Beijing would invade in late 1995.



Binnas, a group of five young artists arranged a week-long exhibition at the Gallery Tone in the city yesterday
— Star photo