

## Reagan suffering from Alzheimer's disease

LOS ANGELES, Nov 6: Former President Ronald Reagan, in a handwritten letter to "fellow Americans," disclosed on Saturday that he has Alzheimer's disease and has now begun "the journey that will lead me into the sunset of my life," reports AP.

Reagan, 83 and president from 1981 to 1989, wrote that he was feeling fine now, but he and wife, Nancy, had chosen to reveal the diagnosis in hope of promoting greater awareness of the incurable, mind-crippling disease.

"Unfortunately, as Alzheimer's Disease progresses, the family often bears a heavy burden," Reagan wrote. "I only wish there was some way I could spare Nancy from this painful experience. When the time comes I am confident that with your help she will face it with faith and courage."

The letter, released to The Associated Press by Reagan spokeswoman Catherine Busch, was accompanied by a statement from five of Reagan's doctors.

They said the diagnosis turned up in the course of routine yearly testing. Over the last year, the doctors said they began to notice possible symptoms of the disease in its early stages.

"Additional testing and an extensive observation over the past few weeks have led us to conclude that President Reagan is entering the early stages of this disease," the doctors wrote.

The doctors said that Reagan's health was otherwise good, but "it is expected that as the years go on it will begin to deteriorate."

Alzheimer's is an irreversible neurological disorder that destroys the brain's memory cells. In addition to memory loss, symptoms include impairment of judgment, disorientation and personality change.

Alzheimer's is the fourth leading cause of death among adults after heart disease,



Ronald Reagan

me on this Earth doing the things I have always done. I will continue to share life's journey with my beloved Nancy and my family. I plan to enjoy the great outdoors and stay in touch with my friends and supporters."

Reagan's spokeswoman said he was at an undisclosed location on Saturday with his wife. In Oakland, Calif., President Clinton interrupted a Democratic rally to talk about Reagan, a Republican.

"A few moments ago, President Reagan announced he was suffering from Alzheimer's disease. And when he said that, it touched my heart in a particular way," he told the hushed crowd.

Fellow Republican and actor Charlton Heston also offered his sympathies.

## Tk 6.4 cr British grant for drought-hit areas

The British High Commission has announced a grant of nearly 990,000 pounds (Tk 6.4 crore) to help alleviate the impact of drought in northern Bangladesh, reports UNB.

An Integrated Drought Response Project will be implemented in six of the worst affected districts — Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Nilphamari, Thakurgaon, Dinajpur and Panchagarh — over the next five months through the leading NGO, Rangpur Dinajpur Rural Service (DRRS).

The project will supplement the efforts of the government of Bangladesh and other agencies, said a British High Commission press release yesterday.

The project will directly benefit over one lakh poor families. Immediate cash assistance during the current lean season will go towards education in mitigating the effects of drought and towards earthwork construction.

Winter season agriculture and other income generating activities will also be promoted.

## Govt will collapse if opposition MPs resign: Mizan

Acting Chairman of the Jatiya Party Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury yesterday said the government will not be able to stay in power any longer if all the opposition MPs resign from Parliament at a time, reports UNB.

"Resignation letters of our MPs have already been collected and we will fix a date after discussing with other opposition parties to submit those together," the JP leader told a convention of the party's youth front in the afternoon.

The convention of the Dhaka District Jubo Sanghati, held at the Engineers' Institution, was also addressed by JP central leaders Maudud Ahmed, Kazi Zafar Ahmed, Shah Moazzem Hossain, Ahwar Hossain Manju, Abul Hasnat and Col (ret'd) Abdul Malek.

Jubo Sanghati leaders Saifur Rahman, Syed Abu Hossain Babla and Firoz Kabir also spoke at the function chaired by Hafizur Rahman Hafiz.

Mizan Chowdhury said the opposition parties were continuing the agitation to realise the demand for a caretaker government to ensure free and fair elections.

## BNP-Ninian

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Replying to question whether their meeting with Sir Ninian today would be a step forward towards resuming dialogue, Talukdar said, "We are trying."

He declined to comment on the Opposition's threats of resigning en masse from the Jatiya Sangsad.

Talukdar said the BNP standing committee will hold a special meeting following parliamentary party meeting scheduled for November 9.

He hinted that some major decision may be taken by the standing committee to revamp the party and its activities.

"There must be a democratic atmosphere inside the party, but no one should act out of his or her turn so as to embarrass the party," he said.

Salam Talukdar said the BNP still believes the constitutional provisions should be upheld vis-a-vis the interim government, and believes something should be worked out under the ambit of those provisions.

Convenor of the committee Syed Mahjuddin Ahmed, Salahuddin Selim, Shah Alam, Kohinur Begum, Noni Gopal Das, Rezaul Karim, Rafiqullah Patwari, Sultan Ahmed and Harunur Rashid Khan spoke at the rally.

## Dacoity in N'ganj

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Nov 6: A group of muggers looted Tk 2 lakh 70 thousand in cash and gold ornaments worth about Tk 8 lakh from the house of Md Salahuddin in Gopner area of the town early today.

The muggers, equipped with fire arms, entered the house by breaking the grills of window.

Salahuddin is a national football player, who played for the Mohammedan Sporting Club in various tournaments last year.

## 8 BKB men

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Rahman, Regional Audit Officer, Shahed Hassan, Manager of BKB's Tea Board branch, Mir Kashem, Second Officer, Yusuf Hossain, Chief Officer, Sayedul Huq, Store Officer, Chandan Kumar Dev, Supervisor, Surat Ali, Lower Division Clerk and Mohammad Ibrahim, Assistant Cashier.

Besides the official action, cases were also filed against the Manager, the Second Officer and the Managing Director of Fish Home Ltd Anwarul Azim accusing them of misappropriating the money.

According to the press release, the Chief Regional Manager of the bank, while inspecting the branch in August, 1993, found anomalies in its accounts.

Later, a probe probe headed by Comilla Divisional General Manager reported the misappropriation of Tk 14 crore.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and other BNP leaders went to the CMH yesterday to see the body of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal Chittagong University unit leader Nurul Huda Musa who succumbed to serious head injuries suffered reportedly at the hands of the Jamaat-backed Chhatra Shibir activists who had kidnapped him in Chittagong October 27.

## 47 killed as floods hit Europe, N Africa

PARIS, Nov 6: Torrential rains swept southern Europe and North Africa over the weekend, cutting off villages, knocking out bridges and closing Nice's international airport. At least 47 people were believed killed and thousands left homeless, reports AP.

Italy's northern Piedmont region was among the hardest hit, with at least 27 people reported dead and the numbers expected to rise as rescuers reached isolated villages, the ANSA news agency reported. Heavy rains and flooding also hit southern Italy, centering on the Naples area.

Some 1,500 Italian firefighters worked with volunteers to clear the rubble of scores of collapsed houses and rescue victims trapped under the debris.

The town of Asti was under 3 meters of water. Two homes for the elderly were evacuated in Cuneo, south of Turin.



Outgoing Norwegian Ambassador in Bangladesh John A Gaarder paid a farewell call on Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina at her official residence at Minto Road yesterday.

## Jordanian parliament okays deal with Israel

AMMAN, Nov 6: Parliament ratified the peace treaty between Jordan and Israel on Sunday despite opposition from Muslim fundamentalists and leftists. The approval clears the way for full diplomatic relations, reports AP.

The vote in the 80-member Chamber of Deputies was 55 to 23 with one abstention. One lawmaker did not attend the session.

The treaty, signed by the prime ministers of Jordan and Israel on October 26, now goes to the 40-member Senate, appointed by King Hussein. The monarch also must sign it into law before its enactment.

Israel's knesset approved the treaty October 25 by a vote of 105 to 3, with six abstentions and six legislators absent. Egypt is the only other Arab country with which Israel has signed a treaty.

## Dacoity at Sylhet town

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Nov 6: A gang of dacoits looted valuables worth over two lakh Taka from a house at Mirabazar here early today.

The dacoits numbering about 10 to 12, armed with deadly weapons, entered the house of advocate Golam Kibria Chowdhury at about 3 am by breaking open the grills.

A case has been registered with the police but no arrest was made so far.

## Norwegian envoy makes farewell call on PM

There is an ample scope for further increasing bilateral cooperation in economic sectors between Norway and Bangladesh, said the outgoing Norwegian Ambassador during a farewell call on the Prime Minister yesterday, reports UNB.

Jon Atle Gaarder called on Begum Khaleda Zia at the Prime Minister's office and thanked her government for extending all-out cooperation in discharging his duties during four years of his tenure here.

The envoy observed that Bangladesh had been making progress in various socio-economic sectors in recent years.

The Ambassador hoped that Begum Zia would attend the forthcoming world summit on social development scheduled to be held in Copenhagen March 11-12 next year and play an important role in making it a success.

Appreciating Norway's assistance in different development activities in Bangladesh, the Prime Minister expressed the hope that the existing relations between the two countries would further strengthen. She expected further assistance of Norway in the development efforts of Bangladesh.

## JCD leader

From Page 1 Col 5

from 10 am to 2 pm. Besides, the JCD supporters brought out processions in the city protesting the killing of Musa.

The processionists paraded the main thoroughfares of the city demanding immediate action against the persons responsible for the killing.

The Namaz-e-Jana'at of Musa will be held on the university campus at 9 am tomorrow and at Laldighi Maidan at 11 am.

The JCD will hold a protest rally at the 'Dost Building Square at 2 pm.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today went to the CMH to see the body of JCD leader Nurul Huda Musa.

The Prime Minister prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul and expressed deep sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

At the CMH, Begum Zia consoled the parents of Musa and said steps would be taken to bring the culprits to book.

Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdullah Al Noman and DUCSU VP Amanullah Aman MP accompanied the Prime Minister.

— Star photo

## The Midnight File

### Raid on neo-Nazi meeting: 200 arrested

STUTTGART, Nov 6: Eight police were injured and nearly 200 people arrested in a raid on a meeting of neo-Nazis in Stuttgart, police said today. Baden-Wuerttemberg state interior ministry spokesman, Helmut Zorell, said the raid was carried out after the arrests of Friedrich Busse, the head of the radical rightist Free German Workers' Party (FAP), and Alois Hogg, a known neo-Nazi from the city of Tuebingen, reports AP.

### Hamas won't hold direct talks with Israel

AMMAN, Nov 6: The militant group Hamas will stop attacks on Israeli civilians if Israel stops killing Palestinians, a spokesman said today. Ibrahim Ghosheh, Jordan-based spokesman for the Islamic Resistance Movement, or Hamas, said his group will not hold direct talks with Israel, but was prepared to negotiate through the Red Cross or another third party, reports AP.

## Rural power company

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the REB and the PBSs in a 51:49 split. Provisions would also be kept to float RPC shares through the stock market, which would come from the REB's share of the equity, the Energy Ministry source added.

The five PBSs funding the project are: The Dhaka Palli Bidyut Samity; the Tangail Palli Bidyut Samity; the Narasingdi-1 Palli Bidyut Samity; the Maulvibazar Palli Bidyut Samity and the Comilla-1 Palli Bidyut Samity.

The power generated, to be sold directly to the Power Development Board, would be added to the national power grid.

There are 45 PBSs operating in the country while another eight are in the process of being formed.

The REB, a semi-autonomous organisation,

presently buys electricity from the PDB and uses about 200 mw out of the total production of around 1800 mw. It is involved in both transmission and distribution.

The proposal would now be sent to the Prime Minister's Office for approval to form the company while the project concept paper (PCP) would be placed before the ECNEC.

The officials are expecting a speedy approval and they hope the RPC could be registered by next month.

Once the government approval comes through, an ADB appraisal mission is expected, in the capital while the loan negotiations are likely to be completed by January. The physical work would begin in February next.

This will be treated as a pilot project and on its success will depend future replications.

The government move to launch the RPC comes in the backdrop of shrinking investments in the country's power sector following the World Bank's suspension of loan operations in 1989 because of the high system loss by the PDB and the Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (DESA).

Earlier last month the government decided to form a power cell to bring about overall reform in the power sector. The cell would prepare plans and guidelines for private sector investment, both local and foreign, in the power sector. The cell would be formed under a technical assistance project funded by the World Bank.

## Hasina

government is aimed at realising the people's right to elect a government of their choice through free and impartial voting.

She said new action programme will be announced if the government does not meet the Opposition demand by November 9. "Either meet the demand or step down... There is no middle road," she said.

The AL President said if the voting rights could be ensured, political stability and economic development would be achieved. "We want the people's right to voting while the BNP wants the right to rigging."

Hasina called for making the November 9 sit-in demonstration in front of the Prime Minister's secretariat a success. She urged her party workers to assemble at Bijoy Swami in procession to proceed towards the PM's Secretariat.

"This government is suffering from indecision and has become weak," she said, adding that demand for a caretaker government must be realised. "People's agitation does never go in vain."

## Bosnia

From Page 1 Col 3

Bangladesh, he stressed, always strongly supported the lifting of arms embargo against Bosnia and Herzegovina consistent with guarantees laid down for all states by Article 51 of the UN Charter.

In this regard he said, "We welcome the compromise offer of the republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina to seek 'de jure' lifting of the arms embargo with effective application deferred upto six months."

"It is our considered opinion that in the absence of sustained pressure on both the federal republic of Yugoslavia and the Bosnia Serbs, progress towards a peaceful settlement will remain a pious wish," he said.

"We strongly support the safeguarding and extension of the exclusion zones so that indeed the whole of Bosnia and Herzegovina can be declared a safe haven," he added.

Bangladesh, he said, welcomes the establishment of the international tribunal for the prosecution of war crimes committed in the territories of former Yugoslavia.

We also fully support the call of the federal republic of Yugoslavia in the wake of the order of the international court of justice to take all measures within its power to prevent the commission of the crime of genocide.

The Nazrul Institute has arranged a seminar and a cultural function at the Dhanmendi Kabi Bhawan at 4 pm.

Emirates operates five flights between Dhaka and Dubai every week.

## 18 hurt as Shibir, JCD activists clash

JESSORE, Nov 6: At least 18 people were injured in a clash between the activists of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Islami Chhatra Shibir at Keshabpur Bazar today, reports UNB.

Shibir activists Hafez Ashraf Ali, 25, Rezaul Islam, 18, Abdul Halim, 16, Abdul Awal, 20, and Abdul Halim, 22, were admitted to the Keshabpur thana health complex with stab and cracker wounds. Condition of Ashraf and Halim was stated to be critical.

The authorities closed the Keshabpur College for an indefinite period following the clash which occurred over the upcoming election of the college students' union.

Sakhawat Hossain MP of the Jamaat-e-Islami was allegedly manhandled by the JCD activists as a sequel to the clash. The Jamaat MP lodged a case in Keshabpur thana against some JCD activists.

The Jamaat sources here claimed that the JCD activists also attacked its office at Jhikargachha and set fire to a motor cycle and furniture in the office.

They said that thana Jamaat leader Ashraf Alam, 29, and 10 other party activists were injured during the attack.

## Garments

From Page 1 Col 8

the CIS nations was mainly done through barter.

A press release issued by Amcobud Enterprises Private Limited, the contractor of the Russian wholesale trading company, Rostorgodzezhda, says, the garments produced by Messers Mascot Fashion Ltd and Dragon Sweater Bangladesh Ltd were exported under an agreement between the Sonal Bank in Bangladesh and the SBER bank in Russia.

Similar shipments of ready-made garments and other commodities will leave Chittagong for Moscow from next week.

The other banks, through which the credit will be extended to the exporters are Agrani and Bkta.

## Two murdered

From Page 1 Col 5

Abdur Rob, 28, was reportedly severely stabbed for refusing to pay Tk 500 to his attackers.

Some members of a local extortionist gang called Rob from his house at Haji Nasiruddin Road, Dhania, at Demra, at 10:30 pm and demanded the money. When Rob refused, they stabbed him and fled, leaving him on the road.

Bleeding profusely, Rob was taken to the DMCH where he expired around midnight.

Gulshan and Demra Police are yet make any arrests.

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