

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.

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.

Sakhat 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 Ali, 29, and 10 other party activists were injured during the attack.

Garments

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the CIS nations was mainly done through barter.

A press release issued by Amicobus Enterprises Private Limited, the contractor of the Russian wholesale trading company, Rostorgodezhdza, says, the garments produced by Messers Mascot Fashion Ltd and Dragon Sweater Bangladesh Ltd were exported under an agreement between the Sonali 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 Dena.

Two murdered

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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 to make any arrests.

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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 (RDRS).

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, reported UNB.

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.

Govt employees

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crats like the Secretaries, Additional Secretaries and Joint Secretaries had to work without their private secretaries, peons and other office staff.

Heavy police contingents were deployed in and around the Secretariat which wore a desolate look by mid-noon.

According to the action programme announced at the rally, Class Three and Class Four employees will observe work stoppage for five hours from November 12 to 14 and hold protest meetings in the government office premises after signing the attendance record.

They will abstain from duties for five hours on November 15 and bring out processions in support of their demands.

After two hours of work stoppage on November 16 and November 17, the employees will march out of their offices.

If their demands are not met by them, they will observe strikes on November 26 and November 27 and stage demonstrations after reporting for duty.

The non-stop strike would be enforced only as the last resort, leaders at the rally pointed out.

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

Opposition

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12 for submitting the resignation letters while others suggested that the Opposition issue a seven-day ultimatum on the ninth of this month for the government to accept the demand.

If the government ignores the deadline, the Opposition should resign on November 17, they said.

However, the Opposition leaders will meet again to discuss the issue, sources said.

Yesterday's meeting, lasting more than two hours, reviewed the latest political developments in the country and discussed ways of making Wednesday's rally a success.

Deputy opposition leader Abdus Samad Azad, Tofael Ahmed, Mohammad Nasim, Suranjit Sengupta, SS Halder and KM Jahangir of Awami League, Barrister Moudud Ahmed, Anwar Hossain Manju and Manirul Haq Chowdhury of Jatiya Party, Moulana Matiur Rahman Nizami and Sheikh Ansar Ali of Jamaat-e-Islami and Salauddin Quader Chowdhury of the NPD attended the meeting.

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 body headed by Comilla Divisional General Manager reported the misappropriation of Tk 14 crore.

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.

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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 Salauddin in Gopnir area of the town early today.

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

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

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