

সাদা সিমেন্ট, মোজাইক, সিংক ও পাডল
আকর্ষণীয় ও কমমূল্যে
সাদা সিমেন্ট: জাপান, মালয়েশিয়া -
মার্বেল চিপস: পাকিস্তান, চায়না, ভারত -
কিচেন সিলিং সিংক: পেনন, সুইজারল্যান্ড -
মোসেম, পাডল: ইল্যান্ড -
মার্বেল ও ব্রোকেন মার্বেল: পাকিস্তান ও মালয়েশিয়া -
যাকবীর মোজাইক ও স্যানিটোরী সমগ্রীর একমাত্র বিক্রেতা পাকিস্তান
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US warship on way to the Adriatic

Bihac situation grave

SARAJEVO, Nov 26: Infantry and artillery battles raged Saturday near a key town in northwest Bosnia as a UN spokesman acknowledged peacekeepers had failed in their mission to protect the region's civilians, reports AP.

Serbs pressed on with their offensive on Bihac from the east and west, capturing the nearby village of Vedro Polje after fierce fighting. Gunbattles erupted near the UN-guarded hospital in the mainly Muslim town of 70,000.

A small contingent of Bangladeshi peacekeepers were sent to the hospital Saturday morning, but a few hours later, gunbattles erupted nearby. The hospital is just 500 metres southwest of the town of Bihac.

Infantry fighting also raged Saturday in the southwestern part of the Bihac safe haven near the hospital and headquarters of the government army's 5th Corps, Alexander Ivanko, a UN spokesman in Croatia, said.

As one of six UN safe havens, Bihac and the surrounding area are entitled to protection by the United Nations. But a UN spokesman acknowledged Saturday it had failed to provide safety.



A radio operator (R) speaks from the Bosnian capital Sarajevo to people in Bihac Friday. According to radio Bihac, the fighting continues in the Bosnian enclave despite an earlier agreed ceasefire. — AFP photo

"It's quite clear that we have failed to deter an attack on the safe area. And what we do about it now becomes the important question," Col Murphy said in Sarajevo. "We were supposed to deter attack on civilians and to protect the civilian population... Clearly all of us have failed up to this point."

His comments came after about 10 NATO warplanes aborted an airstrike against the Serbs around Bihac late Friday. NATO officials said the jets failed to find their targets before darkness.

Serbs fired three surface-to-air missiles at the planes. See Page 12 Col 1

Members of the Bangladesh contingent at Bihac have adequate food, clothing and other supplies as was informed to the Principal Staff Officer of the Prime Minister's office, Armed Forces Division Major General M S A Bhuiyan while he was talking over telephone to the Bangladesh contingent commander Colonel Salim Akhter yesterday afternoon, an ISPR press release said, reports BSS.

In reply to General Bhuiyan's queries Colonel Salim Akhter said that a UN convoy, carrying supply of ration, reached them and another convoy would be made available on November 28.

General Bhuiyan conveyed the Prime Minister's concern, saying that she enquired after their welfare. Colonel Salim expressed his gratitude to Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and said that they were "fine". He further said that there was nothing to worry about them. "Our troops morale is also high," he added.

Refuting recent press reports that there had been shortage of food and other supplies, Colonel Salim Akhter said, "None from the press had been to Bihac pocket. The press reports regarding shortage of food and other supplies were not based on facts".

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We're fine, says Bangladeshi commander

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BNP suspends Moni's membership

By Staff Correspondent

The ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) has temporarily suspended the primary membership of Nurul Islam, MP, for violating party discipline.

Former information minister Barrister Nazmul Huda and Maj (Retd) Akhteruzzaman, MP, were, however, absolved of similar charge.

All three were served notices by the party standing committee to explain their conduct following a series of newspaper interviews and statements earlier this month which embarrassed the party.

The three recalcitrant MPs were given personal hearings by the BNP standing committee, the highest policy-making organ, which later authorised party chairperson Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to take a final decision regarding the three.

Nurul Islam Moni, elected to the Fifth Parliament in 1991 on an independent ticket from the Barguna-2 constituency, joined the BNP on Oct 20, 1992.

Nazmul Huda, whose controversial interview to a Bengali daily regarding the contentious issue of a caretaker government discomfited the BNP, already paid a heavy price when he was dropped from Begum Zia's cabinet November 6.

The decisions were taken at a meeting of the standing committee with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in the chair at her Tejgaon office.

They were also given personal hearing by the committee to explain their position.

A letter signed by the party chairperson said "Your reply to the show cause notice and also

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Anniversary of Dr Milon's death today

By Staff Correspondent

Today is the fourth death anniversary of Dr Shamsul Alam Khan Milon, the most well known among those killed during the popular struggle against the autocratic Ershad regime. Four years ago this day, the assassination of Dr Milon, a joint secretary of the Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA), by hired mercenaries of Ershad sparked an unprecedented popular agitation that within a week rang the knell for the dictator's nine-year-old reign.

Milon's death at the height of the anti-Ershad agitation in 1990 hastened the downfall of the then Jatya Party government and the total disgrace of its soldier-turned president.

Milon, in his thirties, was gunned down by hired goons near the Dhaka University's Teacher-Students Centre as he was passing by on a rickshaw.

Different socio-cultural organisations, professional groups and student bodies have taken up elaborate programmes to mark the day.

Shaheed Dr Milon Sangsad will lay wreaths at his grave on the Dhaka Medical College campus and at Dr Milon Memorial near the TSC of Dhaka.

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Govt fails to act as exports keep falling

News Analysis
By S Y Bakht

The much desired growth in exports has not been coming through. Rather, of late it has been slowing down at an alarming rate. But the government's alarm bells still do not appear to have been activated.

The robust double-digit export growth rate of around 20 per cent in 1992-93 abruptly declined to about six per cent over the last fiscal year.

And all available indications so far this fiscal provide a dismal picture and an early warning. Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) figures show that export earnings during July and August of the current fiscal declined by 5.77 compared with the corresponding period of 1993-94. The downward trend in exports has forced the government to contemplate lowering the projected earnings from 3.5 billion US dollar to 3.1 billion for 1994-95.

Economic analysts are alarmed by the declining trend in export earnings. They point out that the government appears to be unmoored by the downward trend and is yet to initiate any substantive measures to deal with the situation.

Matter of fact, the first warning shot about the falling export earnings did not even come from any government official, but from the new resident mission chief of the World Bank, Pierre Landel-Mills. In a meeting with economic reporters earlier this month he expressed concern at the recent slowdown in export earnings while noting that in the past six-month exports were running at a rate of only two per cent above those during 1993.

The private sector has also sounded cautionary warnings about the trend. The Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters' Association has even warned about an even steeper decline in the garments sector, which accounts for over 50 per cent of the total earnings.

The private sector is seeking a more effective forum for

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Opposition's padajatra in city today

By Staff Correspondent

The mainstream opposition parties have planned to organise padajatra or marches in the capital today to back their demand for the next parliamentary polls to be held under a non-party interim government.

The marches, to be held separately, are part of the Opposition's current phase of agitation launched last Friday and will culminate in a 48-hour nationwide hartal on December 7 and 8.

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina will lead her party's padajatra from the Jatrahari crossing at 3 in the afternoon. The march will terminate in front of the Jatya Press Club. Other central leaders of the party will also participate in the programme.

The Jatya Party is scheduled to begin its march from the Tongi Station Road at 12 noon and end it at the Mohakhali level-crossing. Acting chief of the party Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury will lead the march.

The Jamaat's padajatra will start from the Mahibagh railway

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The 4-day annual consultations on economic cooperation between Bangladesh and Japan began yesterday in the city. Additional Secretary of Economic Relations Division Dr Saadat Hussain and the leader of the Japanese delegation Masato Kitera led their respective governments. — PID photo

Shantibahini abducts 5 in Bandarban

CHITTAGONG, Nov 26: Outlawed Shantibahini men abducted five construction workers from Ruangchhari thana of Bandarban district on Friday and demanded a ransom of Tk three lakh, reports UNB.

Official sources said a group of outlaws kidnapped the labourers at gun-point when they were engaged in the construction work of the Nepal Para Government Primary School at about 5 am.

A few days back, the contractor of the work had turned down a demand for toll.

The kidnapped workers were identified as: Nasiruddin, Ledu Mia and Anwar Mia of Doshmina thana in Patuakhali district, and Jamaluddin and Munir Mistry of Satkania, Chittagong district.

Bangla-Japan talks to assess fresh loan begin

Officials of Bangladesh and Japan began a four-day talks yesterday to review ongoing projects funded by the Japanese government and assess fresh loan requirements for new projects, reports UNB.

A 15-member high-level Japanese delegation flew in Dhaka Friday for the Annual Consultations on Economic Cooperation between the two governments.

Economic Relations Division Secretary Muhammad Lutfulahil Majid and leader of the Japanese delegation Masato Kitera of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs addressed the inaugural session.

Japanese Ambassador in Bangladesh Shigeo Takenaka attended the opening session. Additional Secretary of ERD

Dr Saadat Hussain is leading a high-power host team in the annual exercise.

Japan is the largest bilateral donor providing around 300 million US dollar in financial assistance to Bangladesh annually.

In his opening address at the meeting being held at the ERD, Lutfulahil Majid explained Bangladesh's policy and strategy of aid management.

He emphasised the need for greater interaction between the government and the development partners, particularly Japanese government, in order to overcome the challenges of the transitional period that the economy of Bangladesh was facing.

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BCL activist killed in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Nov 26: An activist of the Awami League backed Chhatra League was killed today in an attack by his rivals in Rauzan thana, 25 miles from here, police said.

Md Shaif (28), son of Oli Ahmed member was chopped to death at around 2 pm by some rivals at Folgotoli bazar.

Shaif was attacked while he was standing in front of a shop. The killers fled immediately.

Police rushed to the spot and recovered the body but could not arrest anybody.

The identities of the killers were yet to be known, police said.

A case was filed with Rauzan PS in this connection.

New accreditation policy causes concern

Star Report

The re-formulation of the accreditation policy for journalists working in different news media is likely to restrict journalists' access to public information, particularly related to government bodies and institutions.

Based on a summary guideline prepared nearly three months ago, the Press Information Department has only recently written to editors of newspapers and news agencies informing most of them that they have to reduce the number of accredited correspondents working in their organisations. The new accreditation policy has also linked the quota of accredited journalists with the circulation of a newspaper.

Principal Information Officer Abdur Rahim, when contacted said the policy was re-formulated to improve upon the previous accreditation policy. He said that representatives of different bodies including the BFUJ and the Sangbadpatra Parishad were consulted.

However, it may be mentioned that the community is divided and it could not be ascertained which groups took part in the discussions.

Many editors expressed surprise about the new policy and said that the motive behind was unclear. They said, these policies were initiated by

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200 huts gutted at a city slum

By Staff Correspondent

A fire gutted some 200 huts at a slum in Shahjahanpur railway colony area in the city yesterday morning.

The fire broke out while a police team, in the presence of a magistrate, was evicting the slum dwellers at about 11 in the morning.

Motijheel police said some of the slum dwellers set fire to their houses to foil the eviction drive, an allegation denied by the victims. They, however, could not specifically state how the fire originated. The blaze was later put off by fire fighters.

According to police, the slum dwellers were earlier notified by the authorities concerned to leave the Railway land but they did not comply with. The railway authorities

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Post-GATT/MFA: Bangladesh to enjoy favourable tariff facility

EU allays fear of decline in garments exports

The European Union is considering withdrawing GSP on specific products reaching maturity that might allay growing concern in Dhaka about losing garments market in Europe after phasing out of quotas in post-GATT/MFA era.

The proposal for stripping sector or sectors of preferential entry into the EU market after attaining a certain level of maturity came in the revised GSP scheme being considered by the European council of ministers.

Other sectors of the beneficiary country however would continue to enjoy the no or low tariff facility under the proposed product-wise GSP withdrawal system.

The new provision would help the least developed countries enjoy a more effective preferential margin on the EU market, according to a draft of the revised GSP scheme made available to UNB by official sources.

The existing scheme does not consider any specific product but the country as a whole in taking decision to withdraw GSP facility.

GSP (Generalised System of Preference) is a tariff-concession scheme from the developed economies to promote exports of the developing countries.

Bangladesh is a major beneficiary of GSP in the EU market which allows duty-free access of its manufactures partly using local materials.

The new scheme, which would be of three-year term (1995-97) instead of existing one-year, is due to be finalised by the end of December for making it effective from next year. It does not exclude or include any of the countries now having GSP.

The revised GSP scheme has been circulated to the concerned ministries of the government and to the chambers for comments and suggestions.

Some local experts said Bangladesh, now scared about losing its clothing markets in the EU in post-GATT restrictive trade regime which would see phaseout of quota restrictions from next year.

But the proposed new provision, if it gets political endorsement, would continue to restrain the competing countries from driving out less-competitive countries like Bangladesh.

The product-wise GSP graduation, according to experts, might also open the way for foreign investment, particularly in textile and electronics sector.

They explained many competitive countries, now enjoying GSP in the EU, might tend to relocate their production in countries like Bangladesh to avoid GSP graduation and simultaneously to benefit from Bangladesh's GSP.

The revised scheme also proposed incorporation of environmental and social causes. Proposal has been made to give special tariff rebate to countries complying with key ILO conventions, including trade union rights, collective bargaining and child labour.

Injured airhostesses back to Singapore

By Staff Correspondent

Two airhostesses of Singapore Airlines, injured in a mid-air bump and under treatment at the Holy Family Hospital, left Dhaka yesterday for better treatment in Singapore, hospital sources said.

Two other injured passengers were, however, recovering from multiple fractures, the sources said.

A Dhaka bound French-made Airbus A310 jet landed at Chittagong Friday and fell several thousand feet down from a high altitude, causing injury to nearly two dozen passengers.

The ill-fated aircraft left Zia International Airport for Singapore at 7 pm the same day.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Venue of JCD rally shifted
The Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) will hold its grand rally at Motijheel Shapla Square instead of Panthapath on Monday at 2 pm, said a press release. BNP Chairperson Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia is expected to address the rally, reports UNB.

Quake shakes Cox's Bazar
COX'S BAZAR, Nov 26: An earthquake with medium intensity shook the district for a few seconds early today. Met office said. Residents of the town and its adjoining area rushed out of their houses onto the roads when the quake hit the district at 3 am. No casualty or damage of property was reported, reports UNB.

Pak minister in city
Pakistan's Population Welfare Minister Julius Salik arrived here yesterday to attend the Mother and Child conference beginning today. He was received at Zia International Airport by Pakistan's High Commissioner Anwar Kemal and Bangladesh government officials, reports UNB.

Strike observed at RU
From RU Correspondent
RAJSHAHI, Nov 26: A full day strike was observed at Rajshahi University today. The strike call was given by the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal to protest the killing of their three activists at Chittagong recently. No classes were held and the university buses did not ply. University offices and the bank were also closed.