

## Flood-hit farmers to get new agri loans: PM

NAOGAON, Oct 5: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia took boat rides around the flooded district to see the plight of lakhs of people, reports UNB.

During her day-long trip on board a mechanised boat, she distributed relief goods among the flood victims and assured them that the government would provide all-out assistance to assuage their sufferings.

She told the affected people that the government would extend every support and new agricultural credit under the flood rehabilitation programme to help farmers make up their losses.

"The government will do everything possible so that people can start life anew," she said.

Begum Zia, now on a three-day visit to flood-hit northern districts, visited the worst-affected Narayanpur, Sreerampur, Deukuri, Namanurpur, Bilashbari, Sharnapur, Shukna-Narayanpur, Adamdurgapur in Naogaon sadar and Badalgachhi thanas from 11 am to 8 pm on the second day today.

Naogaon district headquarters is the worst-hit by the flood as the whole town is now in waist-deep water. The prime minister went

round the town by a vehicle. Army personnel have set up hundreds of tents and also are providing food and medical care to the affected people. Members of the Engineering Corps of Bangladesh Army have rescued about 10,000 people in the districts. The members of the Army Medical Corps have set up temporary hospitals and medical centres near the shelters and are providing emergency medicine.

During her boat trip to far-flung areas of Naogaon and also part of Bogra district, the prime minister halted at a number of places where people were living on machans (raised platforms) and rooftops of their submerged houses.

Begum Zia moved door to door and distributed relief materials among the affected people.

Begum Zia directed the local administrations to extend all assistance to the flood victims. She also asked the officials, elected representatives, BNP leaders and workers to work round the clock to mitigate their sufferings.

Earlier in the morning, Begum Zia first flew to Adamdighi thana in Bogra district and then rushed to the worst-affected remote areas.



The city Awami League brought out a torch procession in the city yesterday to drum up support for 32-hour hartal beginning tomorrow. — Star photo

## 32-hr hartal

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32-hour hartal.

Awami League General Secretary Zillur Rahman addressing the rally, said that all the opposition parties were now united on a single point, a caretaker government. They would continue the movement until their demand was met, he added.

The rally, presided over by City AL Vice President Rezauddin Ahmed, was also addressed by Mozaffar Hossain Paltu, Momtaz Hussain, Siddiqui Rouf Khan, Abdul Awai, Monir Hossain Khan, Mozaffar Hossain Chowdhury Maya and leaders of the front organisations of the party.

## 25 hurt in N'ganj bus accident

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Oct 5: At least 25 persons were injured, seven of them seriously, in a road accident on Dhaka-Chittagong highway at Malibagh under Bandar thana today. The seriously injured passengers were admitted to different hospitals and clinics in Dhaka and Narayanganj.

According to witnesses, the Companyganj bound passenger bus coming from Dhaka plunged into a nearby ditch and went under 15 feet water when it tried to give side to a bus coming from opposite direction.

Fire brigade personnel were trying to salvage the ill-fated bus till filling of this report. A case has been filed with the Bandar thana.

## BCL activist shot dead in Raozan

From Our Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Oct 5: An activist of pro-Awami League Chhatra League (BCL) was shot dead by some unidentified people last night at East Gujra village under Raozan thana, 25 miles off the city, police said.

Police recovered the body of Md Yusuf (22) from a land near his house this morning. Chhatra League blamed the activists of National Democratic Party (NDP) for kidnapping and killing Yusuf, but NDP denied the charge.

## 4 fire brigade men beaten up

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Oct 5: Angry people damaged a fire brigade vehicle and beaten up four firemen seriously at Maid Khan Para of the district for allegedly coming late to extinguish the fire that occurred due to burst of a transmitter in the area.

## Hartals affect economy: DCCI

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of the country has to be initiated," he told the conference, which was attended, among others, by DCCI Senior Vice President Hossain Akhter and Vice President Syed Toufique Ali.

In the UK, the total turnover of the businesses of non-resident Bangladeshis would stand at around 2 billion pound sterling and they showed keen interest to invest in industrial projects in Bangladesh, the DCCI chief said.

The DCCI and the Bangladesh-British Chamber of Commerce have signed an agreement to promote direct investment in Bangladesh as well as to facilitate the non-resident Bangladeshis to participate in the capital market through a consortium.

In November, a trade delegation from UK would visit Bangladesh, Maksud Khan added.

The business community in the Netherlands expressed interest in investing in power generation and distribution.

In Germany, the Association for Small and Medium Enterprises (GTZ) assured the DCCI of full cooperation

## No polls without interim govt, says Hasina

From Our Correspondent

NATORE, Oct 5: Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina today said that the ruling BNP was ignoring the caretaker government issue because it wanted to go to power again through 'vote dacoity'.

Hasina said that no elections would be allowed under this 'corrupt, terrorist' government. Elections must be held under a neutral interim government headed by Chief Justice, she added.

She was addressing as the chief guest a meeting this evening in memory of late AL leader Babu Shankar Govind Chowdhury here. It was presided by Advocate Sajedur Rahman Khan and addressed by Mohammad Nasim, Tofael Ahmed, Suranjit Sen Gupta, Abu Sayed Chowdhury and Babu Shankar Chowdhury's wife Anima Chowdhury.

"If the Awami League is elected to power, we will remove illiteracy in 10 years and ensure the people's rights to food and vote," Hasina said.

"Prime Minister Khaleda Zia talks of *daal-bhat* (pulse and rice), while the people are compelled to buy rice at Tk 18 per kg and pulse at Tk 40 per kg," she pointed out.

The AL chief condemned the attack here on a procession of Hindu devotees and

## 11 held in city

By Staff Correspondent

The Detective Branch of police arrested 11 alleged terrorists from Rampura, New Eskaton and Cantonment areas of the city in separate raids during the last three days.

A special squad of the DB raided Helena Centre at New Eskaton under Ramna Thana Wednesday arrested eight persons for their alleged involvement in extortion and terrorism, police said.

The arrested were identified as Shawkat Hossain Nannu, 28, Kamrul Hasan alias Hannan, 11, Dabiruddin Bhasani, 25, Abdur Rahim Mollah, 22, Tomij Uddin, 25, M A Halim alias Joy, 25, Sohail Mahmud alias Babu, 22, and Azharuddin alias Liku, 25.

In another raid, the detective police arrested are Mohammad Ismail, 30, from Lala Sarai area under Cantonment Thana yesterday. On Tuesday a special team of the DB also arrested Khokon alias Tiger Khokon, 25, and his accomplice Shahid alias Al Amin, 24, from Rampura Bazar area.

## Over 5000 illegal Bangladeshis in South Korea

## Over 5000 illegal Bangladeshis in South Korea

A high-level inter-ministerial meeting was held yesterday in the Ministry of Labour and Manpower with the Minister for Labour and Manpower Mir Shawkat Ali in the chair, reports BSS.

The meeting reviewed the situation arising out of the recent steps taken by the government of South Korea in respect to illegal aliens.

The minister stated that according to a newspaper report there were over 5,000 illegal Bangladeshi workers in South Korea and the Ministry of Justice of the government of South Korea has issued directives requiring the illegal aliens of the various countries including Bangladesh to report to the immigration authorities by October 31 this year failing which they would be apprehended and deported.

Those reporting within the date line shall be remitted fine and will not be prohibited from reentry. He also mentioned that the South Korean government sought understanding and assistance of the embassies of the countries concerned in this regard. The meeting urged upon the Bangladesh ambassador in South Korea to keep the government informed about further development.

## 8 hurt as BNP, AL clash in Khulna

From Our Correspondent

KHULNA, Oct 5: Eight persons were injured, three of them severely, in an hour-long gunbattle between activists of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and the Awami League (AL) at Labonchore of the city this evening.

Five of the injured are supporters of ward commissioner Mukta of the AL, while the rest are supporters of BNP-backed labour leader Jalu Mia, police said.

## 3 electrocuted

From Our Correspondent

NATORE, Oct 5: Three fishermen were electrocuted in Biaghat near Bablatola in Gurudaspur thana while they were fishing at around 10:30 pm yesterday.

Rafiq, 22, Amzad, 25, and Omar Ali, 25, came in contact with a live electric wire while they were fishing near Biaghat on a boat and died on the spot.

## Sarbahara men

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ered from a field near Ghana village, police said.

It is learnt that the Sarbahara men killed the three persons in retaliation of a death under police custody on September 15.

## Equipment

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The new SRO is now being framed to replace SRO 22 to exempt taxes and duties on all equipment exclusively used for hydrocarbon exploration by foreign companies.

According to the Customs Administrative Order, taxes on re-exportable items are waived but taxes would be imposed on items which are not re-exportable.

But the agreements between the government and these foreign companies say that all equipment used in the development and exploration of gas and oil will be exempted from import tax.

NBR sources said, the SRO 22 specifically waives import tax on equipment for exploration and development of hydrocarbon, if it were imported from and exported back to foreign countries. But it does not say whether there would be import tax on the equipment which would remain in Bangladesh permanently.

In order to remove all confusions, the Petrobangla initiated, in cooperation with the NBR, revision of the SRO 22 more than a month ago.

Cairn Plc and Holland Sea Search have applied for clearance and tax exemption for their 'temporarily' imported equipment more than a month ago, but could not obtain it as the new, revised SRO is still awaiting clearance of the Ministry of Law. These companies are paying demurrage of 36,000 US dollars daily since Monday as their equipment could not be released in time.

Occidental is scheduled to begin its seismic survey in 700 km area in the Sylhet-Netrakona region. Cairn and Holland joint venture was scheduled to begin survey in 450 km area in Semutang, Sitakund, Jaladi and Sandwip this week. The Cairn and Holland are also scheduled to begin a site survey and drilling of a well in the Bay of Bengal next month.

## The Midnight File

### Moscow to set up military tribunal in Chechnya soon

MOSCOW, Oct 5: Moscow will soon install a military tribunal in Chechnya to deal with crimes committed by Russian servicemen during the 10-month conflict there, interfax news agency said today. It quoted a spokesman for President Boris Yeltsin's envoy in the north Caucasus region as saying the tribunal would start working within a month, reports Reuter.

## Truce in Bosnia from Oct 10

WASHINGTON, Oct 5: The warring parties in Bosnia have agreed to a country-wide ceasefire from October 10 and will resume talks on October 25, US President Bill Clinton announced here today, report AFP AP.

"There is an agreement on a ceasefire for the whole of Bosnia," a Bosnian official

## Oil refinery

From Page 1

to provide financial and technical assistance for setting up a liquified petroleum gas (LPG) producing plant in Bangladesh.

Eastern Refinery produces about 15,000 tons of LPG annually as bi-product which is to meagre to meet the demand, he said adding that LPG is environment-friendly and cheap.

He said Eastern Refinery also produces about 70,000 tons of Bitumin as bi-product every year. Some 30,000 tons of Bitumin were imported from Iran through private sector to meet the demand.

This year's estimated demand for Bitumin in 2.40 lakh tons due to massive infrastructural development works, particularly construction of roads and highways, he said.

Bangladesh will import 70,000 tons of Bitumin from Iran during next six months (November-April), he said. This will be the first government level import from Iran after the Gulf War.

Iran, which earned 14 billion US dollars by exporting petroleum products against total export earnings of 18 billion dollars in the last fiscal year, has also expressed its eagerness to help oil and gas exploration in Bangladesh, he said.

Mosharraf said Iran will send an expert team to assess the financial viability of revamping the 30-year-old Eastern Refinery.

"Our visit to Iran was very important as the Iranian President is coming to Bangladesh for the first time on October 10," he said. A MOU in energy sector is expected to be signed between the two countries during his visit to Dhaka.

The Energy Minister, who visited a Bangladeshi stall in the International Trade Fair in Tehran, said it was highly acclaimed by Iranian officials and businessmen. The Iranian President also visited that stall, he added.

Bangladesh exported goods worth 40 million US dollars to Iran against import of only five million US dollars in the last fiscal year.

## ID cards

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preparing and distributing ID cards in 61 districts but contracts were yet to be signed for the work in three hilly districts — Khagrachhari, Rangamati and Bandarban.

He refuted any sort of irregularities in awarding works under the ID card project saying, "all records are open for inspection."

"With our utmost efforts, we are trying to go ahead with the task before us as there is a constitutional obligation of holding Parliament elections sometime between January 5 and April 4 next year," he said in reply to questions.

Answering a question, Additional Secretary of the EC Secretariat, S M Zakaria, said that the number of voters dropped by 61,65,567 or 9.92 per cent from that in 1991 as there were many phoney voters in the '91 elections.

The 18 plus population figure in the country was 5 crore 25 lakh while the number of registered voters was 6,21,81,743 in 1991, he said, adding "There were some 10,000 objections in 1991, whereas we received only 71 objections this time."

The EC Secretary said that to monitor all sorts of irregularities and violations of election rules and regulations, for the first time judicial committees would be formed at district levels.

Additional project directors of the voters ID card project Md Abdul Kader Mia and Md Azmal Chowdhury were also present at the press briefing.

said but gave no further details.

Assistant Secretary of State Richard Holbrooke forged the agreement.

Clinton called the agreement "an important moment in the painful history" of the former Yugoslavia. But he indicated the parties still must meet commitments made to Holbrooke and said five days of work remain to end the fighting.

The president announced that the warring parties will meet again on October 25 to fall down details of Bosnia's future.

## DCC drive

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chine. At places, on-the-spot fines were imposed on the owners of the premises.

"Yesterday we realised fines worth Tk 33,000 from the illegal users of the public places. We will continue this drive until all the pavements, roads and other public places are cleared of this nuisance," said the DCC official present during the operation.

The DCC drive is being held in conjunction with the ongoing "Clean Dhaka" campaign launched jointly by the Corporation, Bangladesh Scouts, the Youth Directorate and The Daily Star.

Some construction firm owners who were fined for violating the law, alleged that they had not been informed prior to this drive.

The Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers' Association (BELA) had recently sent a legal notice to the DCC Mayor and Chief Executive Officer, and the DMP Commissioner for taking legal steps to remove building materials from public places.

## Robbery

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police were seen in the vicinity, but they did not intervene, witnesses said. The police box at the Science Laboratory crossing is barely 25 metres from the spot.

A senior official of the garments said that the cash was kept inside two travel bags when the gang snatched it. There was no security guard with the officials who carried the money.

A case has been filed with Dhanmondi thana while detective police took into custody the persons who were inside the microbus for questioning.

## Bank rate

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spending during an election year.

When contacted for comments, Wahiduddin Mahmud, chairman of the Economics Department of Dhaka University told The Daily Star last night that the credit to the private sector increased rapidly by 25 per cent during the last fiscal but there has been little expansion of credit to the private sector since the beginning of current fiscal.

Most of the growth in domestic credit during the current fiscal has been due to very high rate of government borrowing from the banking system, Mahmud added.

In July 1995 alone government borrowing increased by 18 per cent. "Increasing the interest rate is not obviously an answer to the problem of credit expansion that is created by budgetary deficit," Mahmud said. "Although there has been an upturn in the inflation rate in recent months, both the inflation rate and rate of increase in money supply is still quite modest. Contractionary measures may be premature at this point."

Giving his instant reaction, Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) said last night that the economy has witnessed an increase in broad money supply, credit expansion and inflationary pressure during the last fiscal year. This came to some extent as a welcome relief in the context of the contractionary policies pursued since late 80s.

This sequential increase in the bank rate as well as devaluation of the currency is an attempt to put on the breaks on the expansionary phenomenon, Bhattacharya observed.

## One strangled to death in city

By Staff Correspondent

An unidentified young man aged about 22 was reportedly strangled to death in a house at South Mugdipara under Sabujbag thana in the city Wednesday evening.

Police arrested two women identified as Shahjadi Begum, 50, and Sufia Begum, 45, from the house at 1/27/Kha, South Mugdipara, in this connection the same night and sent them to jail yesterday, police said.

The motive behind the killing could not be known till last night.

A group of about seven young men kidnapped the victim from somewhere of the Sabujbag thana area and took him to the house at about 7 pm Wednesday. Later, they severely beat up him and at one stage strangled him with a rope to death, police said.

Acting on a tip-off police rushed to the spot.

## Irish poet

From Page 1

which exalt everyday miracles and the living past."

"As an Irish Catholic, he has concerned himself with analysis of the violence in Northern Ireland — with the express reservation that he wants to avoid the conventional terms," read the citation from the Swedish Academy.

"In his opinion, the fact that there has been unwillingness on both sides to speak out — even about manifest injustices — has been of great importance in the explosive development," it said. Faber and Faber, his London publishers, said Heaney was travelling in Greece and was out of touch.

Heaney, who writes in English and Irish, had frequently been mentioned in the past as a candidate. He will receive his award at a ceremony in Stockholm on December 10, along with the 1995 laureates for physics, chemistry, economics, medicine or physiology, and peace, to be announced next week.

The prize is worth more than 1 million dollar for the first time in its 94-year history, due largely to a weak US dollar and shrewd investing by the Nobel Foundation.

"I'm just ecstatic. About this time every year I'm thinking of him and hoping and praying," said Tom Paulin, Belfast-born poet, essayist and critic. "This is the best news I've heard for a very long time."

Heaney "represents a vision of nature and society where the two are put together... And he makes the language sing. He's expanded the language and pushed its frontiers," Paulin said.

Heaney, 56, is the son of a Roman Catholic farming family in Northern Ireland. A resident of Dublin, he was Professor of Poetry at Oxford University and is currently on a leave of absence from Harvard University, where he has been Boylston Professor of Rhetoric and Oratory since 1985.

## BNP-JSD clash over tender: 30 injured

KUSHTIA, Oct 5: A fierce gunbattle between the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and the Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD-Inu) activists in Bheramara thana today left at least 30 people injured, reports UNB.

Police said the fight between the rival groups erupted at about 4:30 pm in the town following a dispute over submission of tender schedule.

Both the groups used lethal weapons, traded at least 15 rounds of gunshot and exploded several hand-made bombs in three hour-long clash.

Police lobbed three rounds of tear gas shells to disperse the feuding groups, who also damaged about 15 shops in the area.

Three of the injured — Liakat, 25, Mahfuz, 19, and an unidentified youth aged about 21 — were rushed to Kushtia General Hospital with bullet injuries while rest were admitted to Bheramara Thana Health Complex and local clinics.

A case was filed with Bheramara thana.

## Flood

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persons have been attacked. There were reports that sufferings of people in the flood affected districts mounted due to price-hike of food grains and other essentials.

There has also been a sharp rise of the prices of LP Gas, petrol and diesel due to disruption of road-link between Dhaka and Northern districts caused by flood.

Our Rangpur Correspondent reports that foodgrains supplied for 10 lakh affected people is considered insufficient to mitigate the sufferings of the flood-affected people.

## Triple murder

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Kotwali; and Gopal Kar. The address of Gopal could not be known.

Mamun's body was handed over to his family yesterday morning. Besides, the bodies of the two others were kept in the Mitford Hospital morgue till last night, police said.

Meanwhile, Mamun's father Akand filed a case with Kotwali thana. Akand in the FIR said that his son went out of his house Wednesday morning and did not return at night.

Later, after being informed by the police yesterday morning, he went to Kotwali thana and identified the body at the morgue.

Police sources said that 23 rounds of gunfire and photo-copies of FIR of three recent killings in different parts of the city were found from the body of the deceased.

Police suspected that the persons killed were involved in terrorist activities in different parts of the city.

Detective police and senior police officials visited the spot yesterday.

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