

Nawaz Sharif's bank accounts frozen

ISLAMABAD, Oct 11: The bank accounts of Pakistani opposition leader Nawaz Sharif, a leading industrialist and former prime minister, have been frozen for non-payment of taxes, officials said today, reports AFP.



The Sharif-led Pakistan Muslim League (PML) party has mounted bitter political opposition to the government of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto since she rose to power in the October 1993 general election. The election was held after Sharif resigned as prime minister amid a power dispute with then president Ghulam Ishaq Khan, who was backed by Bhutto as opposition leader. The army intervened to end the political crisis. The PML has been accusing Bhutto of using the state machinery to victimise political opponents. Treason case was filed against Sharif in Punjab province, but it was withdrawn last month on the orders of the federal government following criticism of the move at home and abroad. The action also applies to other directors of Sharif family's Ittefaq Group, which owns industries in Punjab province. Among the directors are the opposition leader's father and other close relatives. An official spokesman said

Kamal for dialogue

From Page 1
The people of this nation are looking forward to see this crisis resolved immediately. A dialogue must be started without delay for the sake of safeguarding the hard-earned democracy," he said while addressing a public meeting at Purana Paltan. The public meeting was organised by the party to press upon both the government and the Opposition for a negotiated settlement of the political crisis and safeguard the democracy. The president of the Gano Forum said that democracy was earned through lot of struggle and it was a wealth of the nation. "You have no right to destroy it," he said. If today there is a referendum on this issue you will see that most people of this country want a solution to this stalemate." Dr Kamal warned that "time was running out" and actions should be taken immediately through whatever means possible. The Gano Forum leader urged the Prime Minister to issue her proposed letter to the Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina so that a meaningful dialogue could be started for the sake of democracy and the national economy. The Gano Forum meeting was also addressed by senior party officials including Vice President Maj. Gen. (ret'd) Khalilur Rahman, Secretary General Saifuddin Ahmed Manik, Pankaj Bhattacharya, Shamsuddoha and advocate Zahuril Islam. Dr Kamal Hossain, who mainly dwelt on the prevailing political crisis and terrorism, said that while the country was being pushed to a chaotic situation, the society was facing unprecedented scale of terrorism and violence. "There isn't a day that passes without bloody violence in all parts of the country. Now the people must unite to point out terrorism in the society so that it can be annihilated," he said. The Gano Forum leader asked as to why there were no cases for the murders of Dr Milan and Noor Hossain. "How can we expect justice from the people who themselves breed terrorism?" he blasted. He urged the government to be firm in tackling terrorism and called upon the people, irrespective of any affiliation, to launch a united national movement to save the nation from "this curse." "All people who are defaulters and who possess black money must be debarred from participating in the elections," Dr Kamal said.

Industrial sector

From Page 1
The Iranian president was inaugurating a seminar on "Bangladesh-Iran Trade Cooperation" in the city yesterday, organised by the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI). Rafsanjani said, "Our expectation from the two chambers is that both should explore all possible means for further widening of cooperation in the field of trade and commerce to the benefit of the two nations." Rafsanjani said that his country would provide Bangladesh necessary transit and others facilities for passage of goods to the emerging markets in Central Asia. Asked if Iran would help Bangladesh in securing membership of the ECO, the minister replied in the affirmative. Responding to a question on joint-ventures, he said, "We are ready to cooperate in the field of science and technological research, engineering and other areas." At the business session of the seminar, the Iranian side said that Bangladesh and Iran should set up an appropriate body to find out ways of utilising the opportunities in the Central and South Asian markets. "We should set up appropriate body charged with finding ways and means for exploring market potentials on the basis of the two countries' comparative advantages and complementarities after this visit," said Shams Arde Kani, Secretary, General of Iran Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Mining at the business session. FBCCI president Salman F Rahman said that besides possibilities of joint ventures in cement industries, there are also other areas — oil refinery petrochemicals, porcelainwares, leather products, banking and insurance — in which private sector businessmen in Bangladesh are studying for collaboration.



The tripartite meeting among Bangladesh, Iran and Turkmenistan was held at State Guest House Padma yesterday. Bangladesh Commerce and Information Minister M Shamsul Islam, Iranian Minister for Commerce Ale Ishaque and Turkmenistan Minister for Economic Relations Orazov Meret Balamovice attended the meeting on behalf of their respective governments. —PID photo

JCD, BCL clash at Sirajganj: 20 injured

SIRAJGANJ, Oct 11: At least 20 students were injured, two seriously, in a violent clash between the activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Chhatra League (BCL) at Kazipur thana today, reports UNB. Among the injured, JCD leader Zahuril and Shaful were sent to Bogra Moham-mad Ali Hospital with severe splinter injuries. Police said the clash began at Kazipur Mansur Ali Government College at about 11 am following an altercation between two leaders of the JCD and the BCL.

10 hurt as BCL rivals clash

From Staff Correspondent
BARISAL, Oct 11: Injured ten students were in least two of them seriously during clashes between the activists of two rival groups of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) in the government Bakerganj college. They used lethal weapons and home-made bombs. Suman, 18, and Sanjay, 20, were admitted to Bakerganj thana health complex.

Tripartite talks to expand trade

Bangladesh, Iran and Turkmenistan yesterday held a tripartite discussion on ways and means for strengthening economic and trade relations, reports BSS. Held at the state guest house Padma, the meeting was attended by Commerce and Information Minister M Shamsul Islam and visiting Iranian Minister for Commerce Ale Ishaque and Turkmenistan Minister for Economic Relations Orazov Meret Balamovice. Bangladesh Commerce and Information Minister at the meeting stressed on identifying sectors for strengthening tripartite trade relations and said the path for enhancing commercial relations among the three countries could be opened up with the development of transit facilities through Iran. Shamsul Islam mentioned the prospect of Bangladesh exports of jute goods, garments, tea, leather and said that the government is considering with interest to expand business relations with Iran and Turkmenistan. In this context Shamsul Islam said that the tripartite economic and trade relations between the three countries could be bolstered by establishing close communications both at the government and private levels. The Iranian minister expressed the government's sincere interest for taking effective measures for expansion of trade with Bangladesh. He said by signing a memorandum of understanding favouring development of transit facilities will help us in attaining expansion of tripartite trade. The Turkmenistan Minister at the meeting described the developments of transit facilities for expansion of tripartite trade as an important step in the backdrop of present day international trade scenario. It is expected that a tripartite memorandum of understanding will be signed here today for development of transit facilities leading to expansion of trade and commerce among the three countries. Commerce Secretary M Asafuddaula and senior officials of the government of Iran and Turkmenistan were present at the meeting.

PM: High Time to help Bosnians

From Page 1
Prime Minister Begum Zia said, "It is now high time for the Islamic Ummah to take meaningful initiative to help our Bosnian brethren in their struggle to defend their sovereignty, independence and national integrity." "It is in this spirit that we recently proposed for convening an emergency summit meeting of the OIC with the aim of forging a common approach to help the government of Bosnia-Herzegovina," Begum Zia said. She expressed Bangladesh's sincerest thanks to President Rafsanjani for the prompt and principled support, the Islamic Republic of Iran extended to the emergency OIC summit proposal. Iranian foreign minister Dr Ali Akbar Velayati, Minister for Rural Development and Reconstruction Gholam Reza Foreuzesh, Commerce Minister Ale Ishaque, other members of the visiting delegation, Bangladesh cabinet ministers, diplomats, politicians, the city elite, senior civil and military officials were among the guests. President Rafsanjani said that the Islamic Republic of Iran always aware of different regional problems, felt its obligation in the resolution of various crises facing the Islamic Ummah and other oppressed nations. President Rafsanjani said, "We are deeply observing the Kashmir situation and side by side expressing our concern at the continuous insufferable condition of the people in that area. We support and call for stopping violence and finding out a political solution to the problem in the light of hopes and aspirations of the people of Kashmir." President Rafsanjani said that Iran welcomed cooperation between the Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO) and SAARC and at the same time believed that expansion of such regional cooperation would, under the umbrella of peace and stability, lend strength to the countries of the two regions. The two leaders called for the realisation of the full potential in bilateral cooperation between friendly Iran and Bangladesh in economic, trade, human resources and other sectors. They recalled the historic roots that contributed to the growth of ties between the two fraternal countries based on common faith and shared traditions and cultures. President Rafsanjani said that the realities of existing and potential opportunities, hard working human resources, an abundant source of wealth and common regional and international goals and interest provided a conducive atmosphere for all-out cooperation between Iran and Bangladesh. Prime Minister Begum Zia said that many complementary features in the economies of the two fraternal countries provided a vast and unlimited scope for bilateral cooperation among them. The potential goodwill between the two fraternal countries, Begum Zia said, should be translated into enhanced cooperation in trade, commerce, investment, finance, manpower and other areas.

Dhaka-Tehran official talks

From Page 1
Iranian President for undertaking the visit to Bangladesh and hoped that it would help consolidate further the relationship between the two fraternal countries. Reciprocating the sentiment of the Prime Minister, President Rafsanjani said, "We want to accelerate the process of cooperation in practical fields." He said there is a tremendous potential for utilisation of human resources of the two countries to mutual benefits, but it remains to be explored. While talking of bilateral cooperation, the Iranian President noted that the development of friendship between the two countries is more important. Discussing bilateral matters, the two leaders agreed to develop Dhaka-Tehran relationship in best possible ways. Prime Minister Khaleda Zia highlighted the excellent investment climate now prevailing in the country and invited the Iranian entrepreneurs to invest in Bangladesh. Rafsanjani emphasised the need for signing a long-term agreement on increasing the volume of trade between Iran and Bangladesh. Exchanging views on problems facing the Muslim Ummah, he said, "Iran and Bangladesh should take endeavour to help the Muslim countries who are in need of help and assistance." In this connection, the two leaders focussed on the Middle East problems, Bosnian issue, situation in Afghanistan and Somalia and Tazhikistan. The Bangladesh Prime Minister attached importance to the cooperation with Iran in both bilateral and international affairs, and renewed her call for a strong unity of the Muslim Ummah. Begum Zia explained the reasons for her proposal for an emergency OIC summit to work out a strategy to protect the territorial integrity and independence of Bosnia-Herzegovina in the face of the Serb aggression. She thanked the Iranian President for extending prompt support to her proposal. The meeting took up the stranded Pakistanis issue and Begum Zia sought the Iranian cooperation in resolving the 20-year-old problem. She hoped that Tehran would pursue Islamabad for quick repatriation of the stranded Pakistanis. Begum Zia referred to Bangladeshis working in Iran for many years, some of whom were yet to get work permits and hoped that their status would be legalised.

Two Americans share Nobel Physics Prize

STOCKHOLM, Oct 11: Americans Martin L Perl of Stanford University and Frederick Reines of the University of California-Irvine won the 1995 Nobel Prize in Physics Wednesday for discovering two subatomic particles, reports AP.

They were cited by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences for "pioneering experimental contributions to lepton physics," which deals with a class of subatomic particles. They have discovered two of nature's most remarkable subatomic particles," the citation said.

The citation said that Perl and his colleagues discovered a particle known as the tau lepton. Reines was cited for "the detection of the neutrino" with work that started in the 1950s. Perl was born in New York City in 1927. Reines was born in Paterson, NJ, in 1918.

Chemistry prize

Paul Crutzen of the Netherlands and Americans Mario Molina and F Sherwood Rowland won the 1995 Nobel chemistry prize Wednesday. They were cited for "their work in atmospheric chemistry, particularly concerning the formation and decomposition of ozone," read the citation from the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences. Crutzen works at the Max Planck Institute for Chemistry in Germany. Molina is a professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the United States. Rowland is at the University of California-Irvine.

Beijing NGO Forum preparatory body protests Yasmin's rape

By Staff Correspondent
The 10th national meeting of the Bangladesh National Preparatory Committee Towards the Beijing NGO Forum '95 was held yesterday registering a protest against the rape and killing of Yasmin and the activities of the fat-wabaz groups against women. Dr Nazma Chowdhury, chairperson of the committee, inaugurated the meeting at Baily Road in the city. She also described the 18-month preparation of the committee to join the Beijing Conference last month. The meeting, which was participated by some 100 representatives of different organisations, discussed as to how the Platform for Action adopted in the Beijing Conference could be implemented. The meeting resolved to go for relief work in flood-hit areas, arrange workshops to discuss outlines for the implementation of the Platform for Action in December and publish a brochure on the reports by the participants of Beijing Conference.

8 feared drowned in Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, Oct 11: Eight people, including three minors, were feared drowned in a boat capsized in the river Fuljore at Aloakdia village in Raiganj thana on Tuesday night, reports UNB. Survivors said a country-made boat with about 35 passengers overturned in the midstream of the river as it was caught by a violent storm at about 11 pm. Rest of the passengers swam ashore. A rickshawpuller, Shamsul Huq, 28, who was beaten up by a local gang at Kashahtuli under Kotali thana a couple of days ago, succumbed to his injuries at the Mitford hospital early yesterday. Meanwhile, a garments worker, Amena Khatun, 25, died when a train ran over her at the Malibagh rail crossing yesterday afternoon. In another incident, one Zahid Hossain, 25, was electrocuted at Zigatola yesterday morning.

Road link

From Page 1
but it will take two to three days to restore the road link, our correspondent reported quoting Roads and Highways officials. Some 104 medical teams are working in Rajshahi district to tackle spread of post-flood diseases. Our Naogaon correspondent reported that about six lakh people have taken shelter in 697 relief centres in the district where 112 medical teams are working. At least 325 new tubewells have been sunk and 687 were repaired in the district to ensure pure drinking water.

NAM summit

From Page 1
meeting of foreign ministers of the 113 participating countries on October 16-17, and the actual summit on October 18-20. The bulletin stated that this reflects the universal principle of pluralism in all its manifestations as the Non-aligned Movement brings together such divergent tendencies as represented by Latin America, Asia, Africa and Europe. An estimated 2,500 people including technical personnel and journalists, will be authorised to enter the conference center during the summit.

The Midnight File

30000 Serbs arrive in Prijedor

GENEVA, Oct 11: Thirty thousand Serb civilians arrived today in the north Bosnian town of Prijedor after fighting in the nearby towns of Sanski Most and Mrkonjic Grad, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said here, reports AFP.

Truck kills teenager Mob damage 25 vehicles at Tongi

By DMCH Correspondent
At least 25 vehicles were damaged by angry people following the killing of a teenaged girl in a road accident at Tongi yesterday. Farzana, 14, a class nine student of Tongi Pilot High School, died on the spot as a truck ran over her when she was crossing the road at about 3pm. Traffic movement on the Dhaka-Tongi road was disrupted for about two hours as the protesters put up barricades. The local people soon after the accident, became violent and damaged the vehicles including buses, trucks and cars.

Villagers clash in Manikganj: 35 injured

From Our Correspondent
MANIKGANJ, Oct 11: At least 35 persons were injured, eight of them seriously, in a clash between two groups of villagers in Singair thana today. Eyewitness said, the clash started between the supporters of a group, led by Afzal Haque. Headmaster of Jamsha High School and another led by local JP leader Siddikur Rahman over the management of a Jatra and sharing of gambling money. Both the groups used firearms, bombs and sharp weapons in the clash. The seriously injured were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital and the Savar Health Complex. They are Mizanur Rahman, 25, Swapan Kumar Bhomik, 28, Hishab Ali, 25, Alamgir, 33, Siddikur Rahman, 29, Afzal Kari, 19, Abdur Rahman, 20 and Afzal Mollah, 45.

Money snatching 2 Beximco staff sent to jail

By Staff Correspondent
Two employees of Beximco arrested for their alleged involvement in snatching Tk 16.2 lakh from a company microbus near the Dhanmondi branch of the IFIC bank, were sent to jail yesterday, police sources said. Driver Badal and commercial assistant Ahmed Golam Ehsan were produced before the court after the end of a three-day remand yesterday.

Khulna city JP chief resigns

From Our Correspondent
KHULNA, Oct 11: S M A Rob, president of the Khulna city unit of the Jatiya Party and a member of the party's central committee resigned today on health grounds, says a press release.

Teenaged girl 5 killed in city

By Staff Correspondent
Five persons, including a woman, were killed in separate incidents in the city yesterday. An unidentified woman, aged about 50, died after falling from the 8th floor of a PG hospital building in the city yesterday. It was not known how the woman fell from the verandah of the building at about 5:30 pm. Police, say, the doctors and others in the hospital could not confirm whether the woman was a patient or not. One Abdul Ghani, 20, who was stabbed by unidentified miscreants at Senpara, Parbatra under Mirpur thana late Tuesday, died on way to the Dhaka Medical College hospital, medical sources said. According to sources, an unidentified gang called Ghani from his house at Senpara at about 11:30 pm on Tuesday, took him to a narrow lane and stabbed him on his head. The reason for the killing was not known. A rickshawpuller, Shamsul Huq, 28, who was beaten up by a local gang at Kashahtuli under Kotali thana a couple of days ago, succumbed to his injuries at the Mitford hospital early yesterday. Meanwhile, a garments worker, Amena Khatun, 25, died when a train ran over her at the Malibagh rail crossing yesterday afternoon. In another incident, one Zahid Hossain, 25, was electrocuted at Zigatola yesterday morning.

Teenaged girl

From Page 1
A youngman, who was in the area, noticed the entire incident and immediately informed the people at the station. A large group of about 50 people then rushed to the spot and caught the culprits red-handed. They rescued Marzina, who was found in an unconscious state. She was sent to hospital. Hundreds of angry people brought out a procession soon after the news spread in the area, protesting the incident. They also gheraoed the residence of the Deputy Commissioner during the early hours of today, demanding punishment to the culprits. The DC later visited Marzina at the hospital. A large number of people, particularly women, have been thronging the hospital where a 'skeleton-like' Marzina was lying. Although the hospital authorities have asked for police help to stop the crowd, the local administration has not dared to put any policemen on duty there, witnesses said. A case was filed with Chuadanga thana in this connection. A tense situation is prevailing in the town as different political parties have taken up programmes to protest the incident.

Inflation

From Page 1
cent and that of non-food items slightly fell to 3.77 per cent totalling a general inflation rate of 1.83 per cent. But in a dramatic upswing, the food items' share rose to 7.81 per cent in 1994-95 while that of non-food items plummeted to 1.86 per cent resulting in a general inflation rate of 5.16 per cent. The trend continued, in July 1995-96, food items' contribution rose to 8.31 per cent and non-food items' share dropped to 1.65 per cent, according to latest figures available from the Bangladesh Bank. Moreover, the scene in the international grain market is also giving a disturbing signal as floods hit the rice-producing areas across Asia last week, according to an IIRI report. In Thailand, one of the world's top growers and rice exporters, as much as ten per cent of rice area is under threat. On the other hand, rice imports by a number of countries including China, Indonesia, Korea and some Middle East countries have increased. China's rice imports soared over 800 per cent in the first eight months of the year. In tune to this trend, international rice prices have also escalated, according to Food Ministry officials, from 275 US dollars per metric ton in January this year to 350 dollars recently in the Bangkok market. Prices in India also rose from 260 dollars per metric ton to 275 dollars in the same period.

Hasina

From Page 1
The Awami League president asked her partymen to help the members of the Armed forces in the distribution of relief. "The government has involved the Army in relief works but did not provide them with adequate relief materials for distribution among the affected people," she said. On the third day of her four-day trip to the flood-hit areas, Hasina visited different places of Dinajpur, Rangpur, Nilphamari and Gaibandha districts. She distributed cash money and rice among the flood-affected people at a number of places and enquired about their condition. The Awami League chief assured to give Tk 50,000 for a medical centre at Mithapukur. She also addressed a number of wayside meetings and gatherings at Bankkali, Ranbarazar, Kamarpukur, Badarganj, Mithapukur, Jagirhat, Shathibari, Peerganj, Palashbari and Gobindaganj. Hasina went to see the condition of the hapless people in some villages of Moksedpur in Badarganj thana where almost all the kutcha houses were washed away by the flood waters.