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by Md Asadullah Khan
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NEWS BRIEFS

Shikarpur College bans politics

From Staff Correspondent
BARISAL, Nov 3: All political activities have been banned in the Shikarpur Sher-e-Bangla Degree College. The decision was taken by the managing committee at a joint meeting of general students, student leaders, and guardians.

Minor boy killed in road accident

PIROJPUR, Nov 3: A minor boy was killed in a road-mishap near village Nodmulah in Bhandaria thana of the district today. The victim identified as Amtiv, 12, S/o Kiron Chandro Botragi of village Shikathi under Bhandaria thana, died on the spot after a passenger bus hit him from behind at 4 pm today when he was crossing the road, reports UNB.

Tiger hqs shifted to 'safe area'

COLOMBO, Nov 3: Tamil Tiger guerrillas today announced relocating their political headquarters in northern Sri Lanka to escape an ongoing military offensive in the region, reports AFP. The separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) said in a statement from its London office that its civil administration was moved from Jaffna's Walikamam area to the then Amara-chchi region where there was no fighting.

Decision on Kashmir polls

NEW DELHI, Nov 3: The Indian cabinet will meet tomorrow to decide on the holding of elections in December in the troubled state of Jammu and Kashmir, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said today, reports Reuter.

Hasina's second letter likely today

PM for talks on 'all problems' relating to next polls

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has called upon Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina to accept "all problems relating to the next general elections" as the agenda for her proposed dialogue.

The PM and Chairperson of the BNP, in her second letter to the AL chief sent on Thursday night, also invited her to come to the negotiation table with 'goodwill and sincerity' to reach a solution to the present political problem.

Without referring to Hasina's proposal to accept the concept of a neutral caretaker government before sitting for talks, Begum Zia said, "We'll have to realise that no discussion with pre-condition could be fruitful."

"We'll have to speak with confidence to each other and with an attitude of cooperation... we'll have to speak with open mind and listen to each other and have a liberal attitude to take decisions on the basis of the Constitution", says the letter.

Acting Secretary General of the ruling BNP Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, briefing newsmen on the contents of the letter at the party central office at Purana Palta in the city yesterday evening, said that no dialogue could be held with a pre-condition — accepting the concept of a caretaker government.

Copies of the letter were distributed among the newsmen.

This letter contained a specific agenda for the proposed dialogue. He said that

everything including the Opposition's caretaker government issue could be discussed at the dialogue. Quoting he said, "Everything relating to the current political crisis and the next general elections" could be on the agenda.

"We'll do our best to resolve the political impasse and in case of our failure, we'll have no option but to follow the Constitution", he said in reply to question.

Replying to another question — See Page 8 Col 3



Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina along with her party colleagues offering fatiha yesterday at the graves of four national leaders at the Banani graveyard. — Star photo

Ctg Stock Exchange formally opens today

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Nov 3: The stage is set for formal inauguration of the Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE) by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia tomorrow.

Finance Minister Saifur Rahman will be special guest at the function to be held at Hotel Agrabad.

The CSE, the second bourse of the country started floor trading from October 10 in a rented house at Kaspia Plaza with a 'cry-out' trading system.

Meanwhile, the number of companies listed with the CSE rose to 50. Some more companies are in the process of being listed, CSE sources said.

The market capital has now risen to Taka 21,05,76,73,957 with an increase of over Taka 1300 crore since beginning of the floor trading.

The CSE got its declara-

tion on February 12 this year and was incorporated on April 1, heralding a new era in the economic activities in the port city.

The cry-out system would be replaced by screen-based trading from July 1996 in the second phase. In the 3rd phase, scriptless central depository system will be introduced while in the fourth phase, satellite linkage will be established for global trading, CSE officials said.

The starting paid up capital of the CSE was Tk 209 crore 60 lakh 83 thousand and 590 which shot up to Tk 492 crore 91 lakh 93 thousand and 889 on November 2.

The index at the CSE increased by 50.28 in just 17 trading days. It was 379.65 on October 10 and 429.93 on November 2.

The bourse began its jour- See Page 8 Col 8

PM's second letter

Following is the Bangladesh Sangbad Songstha (BSS) translated version of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia's letter to Sheikh Hasina sent on November 2:

"I have received your letter dated October 31 which was sent in reply to my letter dated October 28.

"My sincere thanks to you for giving reply to my letter.

"You know that I and my colleagues for long time have been saying in the Jatiya Sangsad and different meetings and rallies that "Political problems have been created in the country." So it is not correct as you have referred to in your letter that I have made a delayed admission that there is a political problem in the country. In fact we have demonstrated our sincerity by calling every day for solution of the existing

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Noman on Ctg Mayor's allegations

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Nov 3: Minister for Fisheries and Livestock Abdullah Al Noman today claimed that the government has spent over Taka 7,464 crore in last five years for development of Chittagong.

Exchanging views with the elite of the city at the Circuit House, the minister said the expenditure for development works will reach Taka 8,000 crores if more allocations now under pipeline are received.

He refuted an "false and misleading" recent allegations made by Mayor A B M Mohiuddin that the government was showing "step-motherly" attitude towards Chittagong.

Mohiuddin, in a public meeting recently threatened of a movement including non-payment of taxes if his 26-point demand for devel- See Page 8 Col 8

AL tribute to 4 leaders Fresh vow to safeguard independence, democracy

By Staff Correspondent

The Awami League and various other political parties and socio-cultural organisations observed the 'jail killing day' yesterday with a renewed pledge to safeguard the country's independence and hard-earned democracy.

Through various programmes they paid rich tributes to the four national leaders who were killed in prison on this day 20 years ago.

On November 3 in 1975, the four national leaders and organizers of the Liberation War, Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmed, M Mansur Ali and A H M Quamruzzaman, were killed inside the Dhaka Central Jail, 79 days after the assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in a military putsch.

The Awami League and its front organizations organised discussion meetings and of-

fered fatiha at the graves of the four leaders. The AL programme also included hoisting of black flags, lowering of the national flag and the party flag, wearing of black badges, and placing of wreaths at the portrait of Bangabandhu.

Addressing a discussion meeting at the Bangabandhu

Editorial on page 4

Avenue some central leaders of Awami League said no trial of the killers was held even after two decades. Rather, the killers were awarded diplomatic jobs abroad, they said.

A discussion meeting was also held at the village home of Syed Nazrul Islam at Aghoshal in Kishoreganj yesterday.

Addressing the function, held at Kalikabari Sirajul Is- See Page 8 Col 7

Typhoon kills 117 in the Philippines

MANILA, Nov 3: The Philippines' main Luzon island groped in the dark today after super-Typhoon Angela's murderous rampage which left at least 117 people dead and affected more than 250,000 others, officials said, reports AFP.

Hurricane-force winds of up to 240 kilometers per hour lashed the country's eastern Bicol region overnight Thursday before scoring a direct hit on the capital, Manila.

The typhoon knocked down power and transmission lines and uprooted trees along its path.

The most powerful howler to hit the country in eight years also left 284,400 people, homeless and damaged crops and property, the military's Office of Civil Defense (OCD) said. At least 77 people were injured.

Nat'l workshop on problems, prospects of agri sector begins tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent

The problems and prospects of agriculture sector will be reviewed at a two-day national workshop beginning in the city tomorrow.

Organised jointly by the Ministry of Agriculture and the World Bank, the "Workshop on Bangladesh's Agriculture in the 21st Century" will be inaugurated by Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman at the auditorium of the Bangladesh College of Physicians and Surgeons at Mohakhali, Agriculture and Food Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan will be the special guest on the occasion.

The workshop will bring together senior government officials, eminent experts from home and abroad top See Page 8 Col 7



All modes of transport went off the Maghbazar-Tongi Diversion Road yesterday morning when two rival groups were locked in clashes in the area. — Star photo

Fresh gunfight over toll collection at Maghbazar

By Staff Correspondent

An hour-long clash between two rival groups of youths created panic in the city's Maghbazar-Tejgaon rail crossing area near the Tongi Diversion Road yesterday.

People ran for safety, shopkeepers downed shutters and the usually busy Maghbazar-Tejgaon road took a deserted look as the rival groups freely exchanged gunshots and blasted cocktails.

More than 100 cocktails were blasted in the clash for control over a slum and a fish market for toll collection, witnesses said.

A young man and minor girl were injured during the

clash, unconfirmed reports said.

Police later said they nabbed 18 people including one Ali, an alleged gang leader from the spot. Of them Ramna thana police arrested 14 people and Tejgaon thana 4.

Some residents in the nearby area later talking to this correspondent alleged that the slum is known as a den of drug sellers.

There were clashes between rival groups of youths earlier also, the latest one taking place only two weeks ago.

Countervailing measures under GATT New laws to ensure protection of domestic industries needed

By Sharier Khan & RM Titumir

The country needs to change its existing Customs Act or make a 'comprehensive' law to ensure countervailing measures, as suggested by GATT, to protect domestic industries from 'possible injuries' by subsidised imported goods.

This was said in an on-going study by the Ministry of Commerce on Countervailing Measures and Strategy for Bangladesh. It suggested setting up of separate offices for a proper institutional mechanism to operate the laws, constantly updating those and disseminating information provided by the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures (ASCM) under the Uruguay Round.

The study, which is expected to be completed in six months, says that as many countries have started enacting new laws and amending older countervailing laws, Bangladeshi exporters are on the verge of facing countervailing litigation in other countries.

"One of the ways to mitigate the risk of such costly litigation is to develop litigation support scheme," a high official of the Commerce Ministry said, quoting the study.

Although Bangladesh has a specific legal obligation to ensure that its laws, regulations and administrative procedures are in conformity with the ASCM, the present laws and procedures are not compatible with it.

The study points out that the present laws of the country are inadequate to tackle the problem of imported subsidised goods which may injure domestic industry.

Part of the present Customs Act, 1969, was amended to introduce detailed countervailing laws and procedures. But this amendment was inadequate and therefore, required further amendment, the study said.

"Because of the trade liberalisation policy of Bangladesh, domestic industries receive less protective tariff, tax, duty and other non-tariff cover," Commerce Ministry official said. "Domestic products are facing serious competition from imported products," he added. See Page 8 Col 8

Ceramic, glass, bicycle, medicine, electrical toiletries products are being subsidised by countries like India, China, Japan, Australia and exported to Bangladesh causing 'distorted and unfair competition' for Bangladeshi products, the study notes. An effective countervailing procedure would ensure that Bangladeshi products do not face distorted and unfair competition from foreign products, it says.

The present countervailing regime in Bangladesh is extremely weak, inappropriate and cannot respond to global changes in trade which signalled that Bangladesh had an adverse environment for industry and investment," the official said quoting the study. Both the public and private organisations were not well informed about or were not competent to deal with subsidy issues, he said.

The objective of the ASCM is to ensure marketing of products at commercial price and the establishment of a transparent procedure of investigation with elements

Dhaka Edn Board chairman says Computer guarantees impartiality

By Mizan Ali

Computer system for checking answer scripts using code number guarantees impartiality in the process as the examiners can not identify the examinees said Prof Moyezuddin Ahmed, Chairman, Dhaka Education Board yesterday.

The recently introduced computer system for checking answer scripts came under severe criticism by students. Results of a large number of students who appeared at the HSC examination under Dhaka Board this year were withheld.

Expanding the system, Prof Ahmed said that the cover sheet of the answer script is passed through a scanner, which reads the code given in it and then the number is sent to the computer.

These imported cover sheets have a special code known as "litho code" and it cannot be manipulated, he said. The scanner "identifies the script through that number only," he added.

The scanner rejects the cover sheet which is tampered or have some fault. After removing the fault the cover sheet is passed once

again through the scanner. "We received complaints where the examinees tried to manipulate the litho code."

"If the examiner makes a fault in putting the correct number in the right place than the computer can not help," the chairman of the board said. The students can demand a re-scrutiny if they are not satisfied with the results, he pointed out adding "last time, it was done for quite a few cases."

Asked about any penalty for examiners making faults in checking the answer script, he said, "examinership of the teachers with poor grading are cancelled."

Last year, the computer centre of the BUET checked the answer scripts in which results two per cent examinees of Dhaka Board and roughly three per cent of other three boards were withheld.

This year, all the education boards established their own computer centres to check answer scripts. Dhaka Board has installed 9 scanning equipment which include 6 Scantron and 3 Obscan 21 scanners, a source said.

ANNOUNCEMENT
James Bond is in town today along with Tom & Jerry...
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Saturday to Thursday
Saturday, Monday, Wednesday
Garfield by Jim Davis
Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday
Ask your hawker for your copy