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**Western 'Clean Cloth Campaign' in process**

## Garments sector heads for fresh setback

By Govinda Shil

The country's export-oriented garments sector is likely to face another round of international pressure, like the one over the child labour issue, as an international consumer group is launching a "Clean Cloth Campaign" (CCC) aimed against the garments producing Third World countries.

Two Dutch representatives of the CCC, a Netherlands-based non-government organisation, are now in Bangladesh to review the wage structure and the working environment of the garments workers and submit a report to the CCC headquarters, according to sources.

The export-oriented garments industry has an average

pay of Tk 800 per month for general workers in the textiles sector. Such a pay structure is among the lowest in the country, although the sector is the country's biggest foreign currency earner, according to statistics of the Ministry of Textiles.

The wage structure and working environment issues, termed by the garment manufacturers as non-tariff barrier, may pose a threat to export of RMG to the European countries, Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) sources said.

"They are requesting us to provide them with some information about the wage structure in our country's

garment factories," said Amirul Hoque Amin, General Secretary of Bangladesh National Garments Workers Federation (BNGWF).

He said that the European pressure group had already gathered some ideas about the working environment of garment factories from the buying houses based in Belgium, France, United Kingdom, Germany and the Netherlands. Amin said that the European consumers were ready to pay a higher price if the garments workers would be given the benefits.

The CCC, along with another research organisation — SOMO — (Centre for Research on Multinational Cor-

## PM's campaign by train on Nov 26

By Nazmul Ashraf

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will have a day-long train journey from Dhaka to Chittagong on November 26 to mobilise public opinion in favour of the ruling party's steps taken so far to resolve the political

## Raushan continues fast-unto-death

By Staff Correspondent

Raushan Ershad, wife of former president H M Ershad with three other members of her family continued hunger strike for the second day yesterday demanding immediate shifting of her husband from Dhaka Central Jail to hospital for treatment.

Ershad has been suffering from viral Hepatitis, commonly known as jaundice. His latest condition, however, could not be known till last night.

"I will continue hunger strike until Ershad is shifted to hospital outside the jail," Raushan told reporters at the Jatiya Party's Banani office.

## Seven killed, 30 hurt in road accidents

At least seven persons were killed and 30 others injured in three road accidents in Rangpur and Sirajganj yesterday, reports UNB.

Five people were killed and 30 others injured in an accident at Choto Mirzapur in Pirganj thana on the Rangpur-Bogra road yesterday.

Witnesses said the accident occurred when two buses collided head-on at about 5:00 pm. Five passengers died on the spot.

Another report adds: Two people were killed in separate road accidents on the Bogra-Nagarbari highway yesterday, police said.

Azmat Ali, 51, of village Chandaikona in Raiganj thana died on the spot when he was run over by a Dhaka-bound truck near Bogra bazar at Chandaikona in the morning.

Witnesses said, Azmat met the accident while he was crossing the road at about 9:00 am.

In another accident, Rustom Ali, 36, of village Baghabari in Shahjapur thana died after a tank lorry knocked his rickshaw van from behind at Baghabari at about 11:00 am.

## Fresh bid for attack: Four held from HC Mazar area

By Staff Correspondent

Police deployed to maintain law and order in the High Court Mazar premises foiled another attempt of attack on people there by some outsiders yesterday.

Ramna police said that they arrested four persons from the area for allegedly damaging property but did not give details.

Meanwhile, a three member probe body has been formed with Prof Syed Ahmed as convener to investigate Thursday night's incident at the mazar premises, said justice Abdur Rauf, Chairman of the Mazar Committee.

At least 50 people including some ansars and fire brigade personnel were injured and a number of makeshift shops were gutted in a series of clashes between some *fakirs* staying at the mazar and outsiders.

The outsiders came from the National Eidgah field nearby where the 5th international qirat competition was being held. The competition was postponed following the incident.

Najibul Basher, a member of the Mazar Committee and a former parliamentarian yesterday blamed the Jamaat-e-Islami-backed Islami Chhatra Shibir for the incident, saying "it was pre-planned."

## Flag meet at Tamabil today

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Nov 17: A flag meeting between the BDR and the BSF will be held tomorrow morning at Tamabil border.

Lt Col Nurul Islam, Sector Commander, Sylhet, will lead

## Senate passes stop-gap spending bill

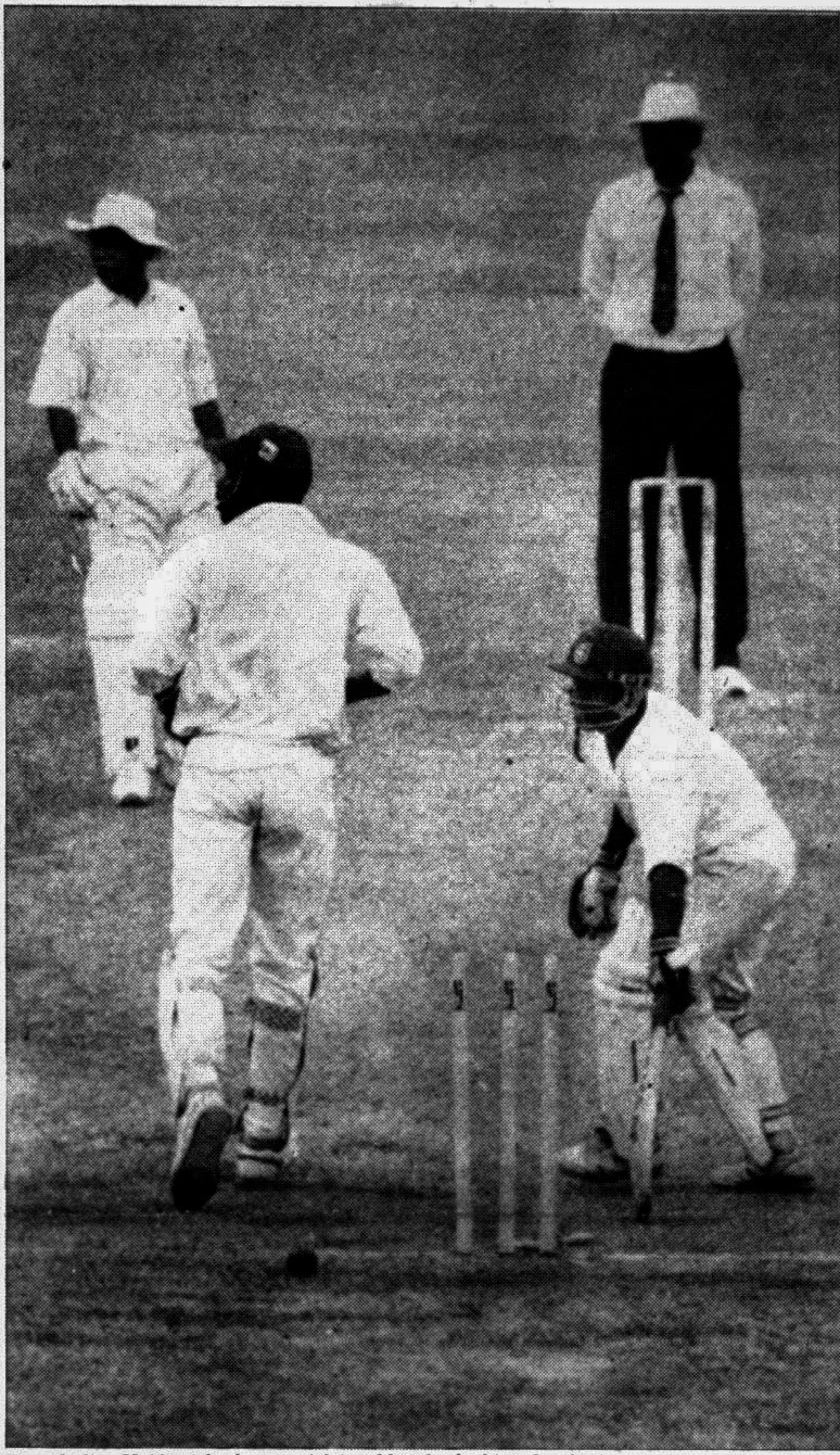
WASHINGTON, Nov 17: The Republican-led Senate on Thursday passed and sent to President Clinton a stop-gap spending bill that would provide funding needed to re-open the partially shut federal government until December 5, reports Reuter.

The Senate passed the bill by 60 to 37. The House approved the measure on Wednesday. Clinton has pledged to veto the bill.

Clinton says a provision attached to the spending measure, committing him to support a balanced budget in seven years, would require him to agree to a massive Republican budget plan making spending and tax cuts he finds unacceptable.

Passage sets the stage for further deadlock between the Congress and the White House for a fourth day today.

## Windies go home whitewashed



West Indies U-19 wicketkeeper Adrian Murphy looking for the leg umpire's verdict after he stumped Naimur Rahman Durjoy off a Mahendra Nagamootoo delivery in yesterday's one-day exhibition cricket match at the Dhaka Stadium. — Star photo by Anisur Rahman

By Hasan Masood

A brilliant allround performance by young sensation Naimur Rahman Durjoy and two patient innings from the bats of Al Shahriar Rokon and Khaled Mahmud Sujon propelled young Bangladeshi cricketers to yet another prestigious feat.

Playing under the banner of the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) Eleven, the local selection recorded a convincing four-wicket victory over the visiting West Indies under-19 cricket team at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

In front of a 20,000-strong local crowd Durjoy, who had earlier played a pivotal role in restricting the tourists to a chasable total of 181 for 9 in 50 overs bagging four important wickets and scooping up two spectacular catches at his usual position at mid-wicket, batted with composure and a great deal of purpose for his inning of 32 runs to guide the home boys to an emphatic win.

Rokon and Sujon also had equal contributions for the victory as they came up with two timely innings of 43 and 42 respectively.

On a lively one-day wicket at the picturesque big bowl, the local outfit suffered an initial set-back when they lost one of their openers Jahangir Alam in the very first ball of the innings. Jahangir, who is reputed in the stadium arena as being "consistently inconsistent" due to his apparent loss of appetite for runs, was flabbergasted by a beauty of a delivery from pacer Reon King as he lost his off-stump to a ball that he had elected to leave.

The situation turned even more tense for the hosts when the other opener Mehrab Hossain Opece (14) also lost his stumps to the other new-ball bowler Tyrone Greenaway leaving his side struggling at 24 for 2 in ten overs.

But it was plain sailing for the BCCB XI since then as Rokon and skipper Selim Shahed put together a much needed third wicket partnership of 50 runs in 14.2 overs to rescue the side from dire straits.

Rokon, who had earlier scored an eye-catching inning of 40 against the same

**NEWS BRIEFS**

**Dhaka elected ECOSOC member**

Bangladesh was elected a member of Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations by securing 121 votes in the election held Thursday. According to an official source here yesterday, Bangladesh contested for one of the four seats for the Asian countries for three-year term beginning January 1, 1996, reports BSS.

**France cancels summit with Italy**

PARIS, Nov 17: France has cancelled a summit with Italy next week after Rome voted for a United Nations resolution condemning Nuclear tests, President Jacques Chirac's office said today. The summit was due to take place in Naples on November 24, reports Reuter.

**Police constable commits suicide**

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Nov 17: A police constable allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself last night while he was on duty at the Chittagong City Corporation office, police said. He was identified as Taherul Islam, 26. The cause behind the suicide could not be known immediately.

**101 more Rohingyas go home**

From Our Correspondent COX'S BAZAR, Nov 17: One hundred and one more Rohingya refugees returned to Myanmar today. With this batch, a total of 1,98,685 refugees have been repatriated so far while 56,262 Rohingyas are awaiting repatriation in six camps in the district.

## Campus violence claims 21 lives in 10 months

Star Report

At least 21 people were killed and 934 injured in campus violence, while 22 institutions were closed *sine die* for varying periods from January to October this year, according to reports published in newspapers.

Female students were assaulted by male students on the campus in two incidents. A student was raped during a campus violence at Brojomohan College, Barisal, this year.

Some female students were assaulted by male students in another incident of violence at the Naranganjan Women's College.

Principal of Barisal Government College was man-handled by a student leader as he (principal) tried to resist toll collection from contractors.

At Jahangirnagar University, women students had kept the provost of their hostel locked in his office for some hours demanding change of some proctorial rules.

As many as 84 clashes took place during this period, of which 25 were intra-party and the rest were among different student organisations.

The clashes mainly took place among pro-BNP Jatityatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD).

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## Bhashani's death anniversary observed

The 19th death anniversary of Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani was observed throughout the country yesterday, reports BSS.

People from all walks of life as well as politicians and followers of the great leader assembled at his mazar at Santosh in the morning. They placed wreaths and offered *fateha* at the mazar.

Besides, various political and socio-cultural organisations observed the day through holding seminars, discussions, milad mahfil and other programmes at Santosh and Dhaka.

At a discussion on the life and political career of the Maulana held at the National Press Club, Minister for Law, Parliamentary Affairs and Justice Mirza Golam Hafiz described him a towering political leader and social reformer whose main aim was to improve the lot of the

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## Drama festival begins

By Staff Correspondent

The Dhaka Drama Festival '95 with the slogan "25 years of Liberation War" began in the city yesterday.

The festival will help to rekindle the spirit of the Liberation War amongst the people. Poet Shamsur Rahman said while inaugurating the month-long event at the Kachi-Kancha auditorium at Segun Bagicha in the city.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by freedom fighters and theatre personalities who were actively involved in the Liberation War.

Speaking on the occasion, freedom fighter Waresat Hossain Belal (Bir Pratik) remembered the real heroes of the War — the common people.

The true liberators of our country are the farmers. the

## Musclemen sell 'plots' on city flood protection embankment!

By Morshed Ali Khan

The Dhaka Flood Protection Embankment, otherwise a scenic promenade and a future highway around the city, is rapidly being encroached upon by slums and unauthorised businesses.

Investigation reveals that groups of musclemen are selling 'plots' on the embankment to hundreds of destitutes in the city who are making their makeshift houses and the number is growing at an alarming rate.

The embankment, stretching over miles around the city, has been divided into "territorial units" by the musclemen and the collections from the settlements are also shared by a section of law enforcing agency person-

nel and officials entrusted with looking after the structure, residents of the areas and sources concerned said.

To construct a 10x20 feet slum on the embankment, one has to pay up to Tk 5,000 to buy a plot. The money is payable in advance to the unit chief of the territory, usually marked by a red flag on top of a shack. In addition, the settlers are required to pay a monthly rent of up to Tk 500 per shack.

On the stretch of the embankment near Mohammadpur, where the foundation of a Shaheed Minar for the martyred intellectuals of the liberation war was laid, different kinds of illegal businesses have surfaced. Among those

are the chambers of quacks, pharmacies and grocery shops. Besides drug peddling, prostitution and child abuse are also rampant. The Daily Star investigation found.

On-the-spot checks reveal that the quacks usually have reserves of out-dated medicine, readily available for the slum dwellers. The most-selling items are the tablets for gastric troubles and fever.

During the time this correspondent was present at one of the 'chambers' of quacks, men, women and children came to seek medication from the 'doctor'. A bearded man in lungi and a tupti, came for various health related problems.

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**MILITARY HARDWARE DISPLAY**

**AT OLD AIRPORT, DHAKA**

DATE	TIME
21 NOV 95	2-30 PM TO 5 PM
22 NOV 95	
TO	
25 NOV 95	9 AM TO 5 PM

**OPEN TO ALL**

Prime Minister's Office, Armed Forces Division, Dhaka Cantonment

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