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Indo-Bangla ministerial level meet in late Oct

The next ministerial level meeting between Bangladesh and India will be held in New Delhi in late October to further discuss the contentious issue of the Ganges water sharing.

Bangladesh Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzaq will go to India in the last week of October to hold talks with his Indian counterpart Janeswar Misra.

Razzaq was learnt to have accepted an invitation extended to him by Indian External Affairs Minister I K Gujral to visit India in late October.

Sources told UNB that if everything goes smoothly, New Delhi and Dhaka are expected to sign an accord on the sharing of the Ganges water in December this year.

The agreement is expected to be signed by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Indian Premier Deve Gowda, the sources said.

There has not been any agreement on the Ganges water between the two countries since 1988 when Bangladesh received 34,500 cusecs of water.

Kashmir

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long distances to vote.

Meanwhile, Indian defence officials said, Indian and Pakistani troops exchanged fire in at least four places along their 830 km long Himalayan border.

Cross-border shooting is common but an Indian army spokesman said the firing was heavier than usual and in more places.

This is a quantum jump over routine border firing," he said.

The spokesman said Pakistani troops used heavy artillery, machine guns and small arms. Apart from Indian security positions, they also targeted communication networks and roads.

"They are just trying to harass the people. It is not worrisome," he said.

In the northern third of the state held by Pakistan, hundreds of angry Kashmiris burned effigies of Indian Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda.

But there was no large-scale violence today in the rest of the territory.

Salman Shah

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"We cannot say anything before getting the autopsy report," one source added.

Police kept vigilance on the persons who were in the flat at the time of the incident, the sources said. Salman's wife Samira Shariar, his private secretary Abul Hossain and two maids were in the flat when the popular film actor reportedly hanged himself.

Meanwhile, an office bearer of Bangladesh Film Artists Association, who is an acquaintance of Salman, told this correspondent last night that Salman was seen frustrated for the last couple of months.

Explaining, he said Salman had conflict with his wife as she did not want him to remain involved in film industry. Besides, the cine magazines often published reports alleging that he (Salman) had relationship with a popular film actress.

Meanwhile, Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzaq led Bangladesh delegation during a one-hour meeting with the Indian delegation headed by I K Gujral at the Ministry yesterday afternoon.

Talking to newsmen after the meeting, Razzaq said he was happy with the Indian attitude towards resolving the long-standing problem.

"The Indian side expressed their political will and determination to resolve the problem before the next dry season," he said.

Razzaq said Bangladesh sought "a permanent and immediate solution" of the water issue.

Referring to the quantum of water to be given to Bangladesh during the lean period, Razzaq said the matter will be examined at the expert level meeting.

The Joint Rivers Commission is expected to hold a meeting shortly. The exact time and venue of the meeting will be announced shortly.

The Indian delegation, led by I K Gujral, also held a meeting with Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed later in the afternoon.

Bangladesh side made a plea to have access to Indian market and remove the existing trade barrier. Gujral reportedly assured measures to increase Bangladesh's export to India.

Int'l Literacy Day today

The International Literacy Day will be observed today in Bangladesh and elsewhere in the world, reports UNB.

Some 32 government and non-government organisations related to literacy interventions have jointly organised various programmes to mark the occasion.

Besides, different socio-cultural, UN and voluntary organisations have taken programmes with the objective to create awareness among the people.

The day's programmes include discussion, rally and seminar. Newspapers will bring out special supplements while Bangladesh Betar and Television will put up programmes highlighting significance of the day.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas in a message on the occasion called upon all irrespective of their party affiliation to come forward unitedly to free the nation from the curse of illiteracy.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in her message said observance of the International Literacy Day will have a positive impact on eradicating illiteracy.

She renewed her government's commitment to establish one primary school in every village and remove illiteracy from the country within next 10 years.

In observance of the day, Combined Literacy Campaign will bring out a colourful procession from in front of the National Museum at 8:30 am.

Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE), an NGO, has chalked out a three-day programme, including staging of a Tagore's drama titled 'Tota Kahini' at the Shaheed Minar premises this morning.

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PHILIPS

Ershad's medical check-up at PG

By Staff Correspondent
Jailed Jatiya Party leader and former President H M Ershad was taken to the PG Hospital yesterday for medical check-up, according to official sources.

After a thorough investigation for few hours by a medical board chosen from amongst the leading specialists of the country, Ershad was sent back to the sub-jail at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, the sources said. He would be brought again to the hospital today for further check-up.

Ershad was shifted to the sub-jail from the Dhaka Central Jail on July 14, when the seventh Jatiya Sangsad went for its inaugural session. He was granted parole to attend the session.

Sheila Gujral, an Indian poet and wife of External Affairs Minister I K Gujral, has said she was impressed after listening to some poems of young Bangladeshi poets, said a press release of the Bangla Academy.

Sheila was speaking as the chief guest at a function in the seminar room of the Academy yesterday. The function was organised by some young poets of the country.

Sheila, in her speech said, "We are the common travellers on the way to peace and progress." She praised the young poets for their writings.

Earlier, Professor Mansur Musa, the Director General of the Academy delivered his address of welcome. Noted poet Shamsur Rahman presided over the function.

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Sheila Gujral praises young Bangladeshi poets

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Singaporean co

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of the suitability and effectivity of the proposed barge mounted gas-diesel generator power plant projects in Bangladesh on a build-operate-transfer (BOT) basis.

They informed the minister that from the signing of the BOT contract commercial operation of the plant might take eight months. All the equipment are to be installed into the barges, they said.

They also informed the minister that they had installed such type of plants in the Philippines, Indonesia and other countries of the world.

Mentioning power as the most important input for industrial development, the minister said, the government attached top priority to increase energy production and will welcome foreign investment in the power sector.

Referring to 0.5138 trillion cft of gas reserve in Bholia, the minister said, the government has decided to set-up a 210 MW power plant there. The government is ready to accept foreign investors for the Bholia power plant also, he added.

Elaborating the steps taken by the new government to accelerate the foreign investment in the country, the minister hoped that foreign investors would consider Bangladesh as the ideal place for their investment.

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addressing a reception accorded to some meritorious SSC students of six boards and Dhakhil students at the Osmany Memorial Hall in the city yesterday. — PID photo

PM tells DCCI team Expand industrial activities across the country

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged the business community to increase production, create job opportunities and expand volume of export to give a greater push to national economy, reports UNB.

Talking to a delegation of the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI), she also called for expanding industrial and commercial activities across the country instead of confining those in the capital and the big cities.

The delegation, led by DCCI president Ali Hossain Hasan, called on the Prime Minister at her office in the afternoon.

Referring to the previous government's economic policy, the prime minister said government is not a trading body, rather its objective and obligation are to serve the country and the nation.

"We do not believe in double standard, we mean what we say... we don't want to make any lofty promises," she said.

The prime minister said industrialisation cannot succeed without raising the purchasing capacity of the rural people.

Earlier, the DCCI delegation members lauded the dynamic outlook of the present government for developing the private sector entrepreneurship.

They stressed the need for improving law and order as well as pragmatic denationalisation, improvement of infrastructural facilities and removal of bottlenecks in the capital market.

BNP's rallies, processions today

By Staff Correspondent
The main opposition party BNP, plans to organise protest rallies and processions throughout the country today to press its demands for resignation of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and the re-election in Chittagong-1 and Laxmipur-2 seats of the Jatiya Sangsad.

A party press release said the programme also aims at protesting "vote rigging and terrorist activities" in the just-held election.

As part of the protest programme, the BNP will hold a rally at the Bangla Motor crossing in the city at 10 am on Tuesday. They also plan to gherao the office of the Election Commission.

A separate press release said, a joint meeting of the Dhaka city unit of BNP would be held at seven this evening at the Minto Road official residence of the Leader of the Opposition.

Shibir activist,

From Page 1
ing in the Eidgah area where police forces have been deployed at different points. Deputy Commissioner of the district Ali Inam Majumder has called an all-party meeting to restore peace at the college. Additional Deputy Commissioner Golam Qudus visited the spot.

Joyal was the son of Shajahan Chowdhury alias Lutu Mia, a former Upazila Chairman. The body has been sent to district sadar hospital for autopsy. The injured persons were treated at the hospital.

BNP

From Page 1
Kudrad-e-Elahi Liton, Mir Sarwar Ali Pintu, Borhanuzzaman Omar, Akam Ahmed, Mohammad Mohan, Abu M Mainuddin Mainu, Advocate Habibur Rahman Mondal, Sajjad Zahir, Nabuillah Nabi, Alamgir Hossain Patwari, M A Quaiyum, Khatibur Rahman Khokon, Abul Hasan Nani Talukdar, Golam Sarwar Mukta, Hasan Ali, SM Golam Kibria, Mojibur Rahman Tinnu, Tariqul Islam, pro-BNP commissioners of Dhaka city, presidents or convenors of the ward committees and presidents or convenors of the city committees of all front organisations of BNP.

Rice procurement

From Page 1
Chowdhury, "Our government's policy is to revive the agriculture sector."

The quantity to be procured during the new drive has not yet been fixed, but the decision in this regard is expected to be taken in Monday's cabinet meeting.

The current rice procurement drive to stock three lakh tons of rice which ended on August 31 has been extended upto September 15 and the target increased by one lakh tons as the programme could not fulfill target because of floods.

Meanwhile, an official announcement said the original target for rice procurement has been almost achieved and the government has re-fixed the new target in the interest of maintaining stability in the rice market and to assist the farmers. A specific announcement would be made soon in this regard, it added.

PM: Education

From Page 1
tury, she added.

Hasina said initiatives have been taken for inclusion of the "real and objective history of the Liberation War in the text books."

She added: "We hope, reading the objective history of the Liberation War, the new generation students will be imbued with patriotism and be respectful to the democratic process."

Emphasising on improvement and modernisation of the education system, she said her government is committed to create a national movement by involving all section of the population to free the country from illiteracy within the next 10 years.

The Prime Minister said the post-liberation government of Bangabandhu, in an epoch-making step, had nationalised primary education in the country.

Keeping the continuity, she said, the present government also attached top priority to education in national investment and development activities.

"At least one primary school will be set up in each village and steps will be taken to impart technical and vocational training in each thana."

Hasina said women should be involved in nation activities.

"The country's cherished goal for development can be reached only by alleviating poverty through the united efforts of educated men and women."