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### Tea planters urge govt to ensure security

Tea planters of the country yesterday met with Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed and submitted a set of proposals for improving the law and order situation in the tea gardens, reports UNB.

The delegation of the Bangladesh Tea Planters' Association, the association of the tea planters, apprised the minister of the developments following the recent killing of a garden manager in Sreemangal area.

Led by Sangsad Chairman Aql Chowdhury, the delegation also included former chairman Laila Rahman Kabir, Ahmedul Kabir, A Roy Ahmed Shafi Chowdhury, M Wahidul Haq, Asgar Karim and NU Khan.

They drew the attention of the home minister to the fact that miscreants equipped with modern firearms intrude frequently from across the border — mainly from Kachar district and Tripura — and requested the government to take necessary steps to stop it.

They also urged the government to set up 10 more outposts in the tea gardens, deploy additional police force and equip them with modern vehicles and communication facilities.

Posting of two more police superiors in Habiganj and Moulvibazar districts only for the tea gardens, posting of a special magistrate to dispose of the cases in the areas and giving firearms licences according to the requirement of garden management were the other recommendations made by the delegation.

The minister communicated with the Home Minister and arranged a joint meeting at his chamber. The Home Secretary and the Inspector General of Police were also present in the meeting.

The planters appreciated the measures already taken and hoped that the government would take necessary steps to nab the culprits and create a secure environment in the tea garden areas.

It also called for providing telecommunications facilities to each garden and sanctioning frequency to use walkie-talkie for inter-garden communications and the police administration.

The Sangsad, the association of the tea garden owners, requested permission for deploying Ansars wherever necessary on government rate and keeping provision for nominating two members in the district council by the Cha Sangsad in the districts having tea gardens.



Rush of teenagers at a video game shop in the city. — Star photo

### Video games lure children out of homes, schools

By A S M Oliullah

Shumon is only eight years old. But he works like a man and behaves as responsibly as an adult. The street boy sells drinking water and earns Tk. 20 to 25 a day. He brings the money back to his family living on a pavement. The day he earns some takas extra he does not forget to bring some chocolates for his three sisters.

That was until recently. Nowadays, Shumon sells the water alright but he brings less money back home. His sisters do not get the chocolates.

His parents suspect something has gone wrong. Where does the money go? Is Shumon eating the money up?

The boy does not have any satisfactory answer.

So, one day the parents, followed their child after his work. They found Shumon in a sleazy shop in a lane in Mohammadpur area where he was playing video games.

"We finally were able to find out where the money was going," said Shumon's father Abdul Alim, who is a pushcart driver.

Shumon is not alone. His friend Maruf has got the same story. Thousands of street urchins in capital Dhaka have become addicted to video games, mushrooming in lanes and by-lanes.

Another minor boy, Kader, son of a rickshawpuller in Shahjampur area, said he plays

at least two games daily. "I feel uncomfortable if I can't go to the video shop. I enjoy it very much," he said.

When asked about the source of money, he smiled and said: "Sometimes I pick it up from my father's pocket. He of course beats me up whenever he knows about it."

The video games have become a centre of attraction not only to the poor boys. Children from middle class families who can't afford home videos are skipping schools and spending hours in playing video games. They spend their tiffin money and sometimes they don't hesitate to steal money from their parents.

News Network gathered that the city has got around 1000 video game shops, cashing in from thousands of school going children, mostly from the poor families. Interestingly, most of the shops are closer to slums.

"You will rarely find a lane or bylane in the city where the video game shops have not grown up. They are simply running the school going children," said an aggrieved mother in Pearabagh in Maghbazar.

Asif, a 12-year-old student of a Government Primary School at Maghbazar, entered a video game shop on his way home from the school with the school bag on his shoulder. Flanked by his school mates, Asif was playing games with absolute atten-

tion. He played his games and even when he was not playing he watched with rapt attention his friends. He forgot about his me back from school.

Asif told this correspondent that he collects money from his mother or picks it up from his father's pocket.

It's not only the money the children are squandering. They are picking up bad habits too. The games are mostly about fatal combats. They learn fighting with each other. In the process they use abusive language among themselves.

"Since there is no control on the video games, the children are picking up bad habits. They grow more aggressive. It is also an addiction as bad as the drug addiction," said Nurun Nahar Begum, a school teacher.

The shops are usually filthy, dark and devoid of ventilation. The children pass hours after hours in the dark that also affects their eyes in addition to creating other health hazards.

Owners of some video game shops said most of their customers were children of poor families. A shop earns, on an average, between Tk 400 and Tk 500 daily.

The business is not only confined within the capital city. It is spreading to mufassil towns or even to rural areas where there is electricity.

— News Network

### Round-table told Country needs an integrated local govt system

By Staff Correspondent

People from different professional groups yesterday expressed the view that the country needed an integrated four-tier local government system under which the elected representatives would formulate development policies and the government servants would implement them.

The views were expressed by different professionals on the second day of the four-day round-table conference organised by the Local Government Commission (LGC) to seek the opinions of a cross section of people on the possible composition, powers and functions of the local government bodies.

The participants, however, felt that the success of the local government would depend on an effective working relation between the peoples representatives and bureaucrats, according to conference sources.

Md Rahmat Ali, MP, chairman of the Local Government Commission, presided over the discussion in which State Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Syed Abul Hossain, commission member Faez Rabbi, MP, president, BCS Administrative Association Md Ataul Huq, National Professor Dr Nurul Islam, former secretary M Mahbubuzzaman, noted social organiser Begum Khusi Kabir, chairman of Sylhet Municipality Badruddin Kamran, chairman, Dinajpur Municipality Md Moshin and social worker Prof M Asaduzzaman took part.

Addressing the session LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman said there was no alternative to a strong and representative local government structure for intensifying economic activities of the people, expanding scope of employment and alleviating rural poverty.

### Ctg City Corpn to be expanded

CHITTAGONG, Oct 3: The Chittagong City Corporation will be expanded to 120 square miles soon from the existing 60 square miles with the inclusion of 17 unions of five adjacent thanas, reports BSS.

This was disclosed by Chittagong Mayor Alhaj A B M Mohiuddin Chowdhury while exchanging views with the chairman of the union parshads of Anwara, Patiya, Hathazari, Boalkhal and Sitakunda thanas at the corporation auditorium here today, a corporation press release said.

The mayor said to expand the city corporation area was one of his main election pledges as well as one of the 28-point demand for development of Chittagong city. He further said when proposed unions would be included in the corporation, the population of the city would also increase to about 60 lakh.

The mayor also declared that no new taxes would be imposed on the people in new areas until civic amenities were ensured, the press release added.

### BNP leaders

Former secretary general of the party Abudus Salam Talukder told The Daily Star last night, "no such discussions took place in the party forum that some members of Standing Committee are going to be dropped".

BNP leader and a former minister Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain said "reports carried by a section of the press that Standing Committee itself discussed about its reshuffling sounded silly to me". He explained that the party constitution the chairman himself is authorised to make any changes in the party Standing Committee. "She (Begum Khaleda Zia) does not necessarily needs to consult the Standing Committee about its reshaping".

When contacted, Majid-ul Huq said, "I am keenly observing the developments". He, however, declined to make any further comment at "this stage".

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### One held with revolver from DB office compound

A man, who identified himself as journalist, was arrested along with an illegal foreign-made revolver from the DMP Public Relations Department here yesterday, reports UNB.

On detection, police challenged F M Fayezullah at the office and recovered the .25 revolver loaded with five bullets, said a DMP press release.

It said Fayezullah came at the PR department, inside the compound of the DB office, at about 1 pm and hurled abuses at the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his family members, including Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

### College student

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ing to the college at around 11.15 am, police said. He died on the spot.

The angry students of the college and local people in protest set fire to the bus, damaged at least ten other vehicles and barricaded the busy Dhaka-Chittagong highway for about an-hour, police added.

The body was first taken to the Demra thana and later it was sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) morgue for autopsy.

Police arrested the driver, Mohammad Delwar Hossain, and seized the bus. A case has been registered with the Demra thana.

In another accident, a pedestrian was killed when a speeding truck ran over him at North Badda yesterday.

The victim identified as Lal Miah, 65, died on the spot.

### PM opens BATEXPO '96 in city

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made garment industry has created a conducive environment for investment in the country's textile sector and said both public and private sectors would have to take concerted efforts for the development of the textile sector.

The prime minister also announced that her government would provide necessary support to attract both local and foreign capital in this sector.

"From now on, the main responsibility of the diplomats will be to increase foreign investment in the country and create international markets for the country-made products," she said.

The private entrepreneurs, she added, will have to play the pioneering role for utilising appropriate technology, introducing efficient management, improving the quality of products and massive expansion of the export industry.

Pointing at the government measures to encourage exports, the prime minister said the tax at source for export was halved and various infrastructural facilities have been ensured.

She said the ceiling of import duty was reduced to 45 per cent from 50 per cent in line

with the global trend of trade liberalisation. In case of income tax, the limit of supplementary income was raised and of corporate tax reduced.

The government, she said, has also taken specific steps to ensure uninterrupted supply of power and other fuels, provide telecommunication and other infrastructural facilities, and develop the transport system.

Hasina said her government has also taken "toughest measures" to curb terrorism, extortion and other crimes to create a peaceful and secured atmosphere for rapid industrialisation and to increase investment.

About the readymade garment industry, she said the sector has been greatly contributing to creation of jobs, currently employing some 12 lakh people, of whom 90 per cent female.

Mentioning the remarkable success of the sector, Hasina said major portion of the country's export earning comes through this sector. The success of the sector, she hoped, would inspire other industries to increase production.

On problems of the readymade garment sector, the prime minister said the government is

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### Seminar on foreign policy at BISS Dhaka needs development strategy to utilise economic opportunities

By Staff Correspondent

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury has urged Bangladesh missions abroad to play an active role in changing the country's 'flood and cyclone-torn' image to boost economic growth and come out of the poverty trap.

"The government can not implement the task at home alone," the state minister said while inaugurating a day-long seminar on Bangladesh Foreign Policy, Challenges and Opportunities, held at the Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS) in the city yesterday.

He requested the country's envoys abroad to disseminate information on the investment opportunities at home to attract more foreign entrepreneurs.

The inaugural session was also addressed by among others Foreign Secretary Feroz Sobhan, Barrister A K H Morshed, Chairman of the Board of Governors of BISS, and Brig ZA Khan, Director General of the BISS.

The state minister said formation of a viable development strategy to utilise economic opportunities was a major challenge Bangladesh was now facing.

The Minister said the essence of the present govern-

ment's foreign policy will be economic diplomacy, according to UNB.

He said in the post-Cold War era, foreign policy was being increasingly used as a device of influencing the policies of other states to maximise economic benefits.

This dimension of diplomacy, he said, more often regarded as "economic diplomacy" is gaining more and more importance in attaining the broader economic goals of states at the global level.

Dwelling on the water resources, he said Bangladesh was 'unable to design, implement, manage and develop projects in this sector without active cooperation from India which controls the flows of the common rivers.

He, however, hoped the two countries might reach a resolution of the water sharing problem before the coming dry season.

Chowdhury pointed out that Bangladesh's march along the path of democracy was difficult as economic and political institutions in the society were still under-developed.

Feroz Sobhan said, economic diplomacy was one of the main components of Bangladesh's foreign policy which should be executed through changing the country's 'negative image' and developing professionalism among the diplomats working abroad.

Barrister A K H Morshed said the problem of water-sharing has to be addressed not merely in terms of mathematical formula but in terms of institutional safeguards that assures a degree of transparency.

UNDP  
From Page 1  
project in Kishoreganj was making a tremendous progress.

He also spoke of UNDP's Human Rights Institute project and parliament's role for the promotion of democracy in Bangladesh.

The UN under secretary general sought cooperation of the BNP in the implementation of the UNDP-aided projects.

In reply, Begum Zia readily agreed to extend all-out cooperation and hoped that the UN agencies and world community would keep watch on "rampant violation of human rights" so that BNP workers are able to cooperate fully in nation-building activities and help promote stability in the country.

Rafeuddin Ahmed was accompanied by Acting Country Representative of the UNDP in Dhaka Michael Ceresbaste.

BNP standing committee member M Saifur Rahman MP, secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and advisor Rezaul Karim were present on the occasion.

### BNP trying to cover up failure: AL

By Staff Correspondent

BNP is now raising its voice against transit and power import to cover up its miserable failure in realising its share of the Ganges water from India and to conceal its reported initiatives to provide transit facility to India and import power from her.

### Nari Samaj rally blasts repression on women in Afghanistan

By Staff Correspondent

Sammilito Nari Samaj, an umbrella body of women organisations, staged demonstration here yesterday protesting the repressive measures on women in Afghanistan by the Taliban militia government, reports UNB.

Nari Samaj brought out a procession and held a rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club in the afternoon. It was addressed, among others, by Laila Arzumand Banu, Farida Akhter, Rokeya Kabir, Krishna Chanda and Shamsunnahar Joytana.

Addressing the rally, leaders of the organisation called for an immediate end to the repression on women and misuse of Islamic 'sharia' in Afghanistan. They also demanded trial of the killers of Yasmin.

Meanwhile, Naripakkha, a leading women organisation, in a statement yesterday condemned the violation of human rights and repression on women by the Taliban militia government in Afghanistan.

### Crude arsenic

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The ministry to sell it an auction," he said.

It was reported in The Daily Star on September 22, quoting scientists of the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission, that arsenic had long been used in the country indiscriminately. The scientists emphasised on taking accountability of all imported arsenic in the country and also testing samples for determining the causes of arsenic contamination of ground water. Hundreds of shallow tubewells have been sealed off across the country after arsenic contamination was reported.

### Appeal referred

From Page 1  
The appellant submitted in his petition that Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed is going to take oath as the President on October 8 and if the appeal is not disposed of before that date same will become infructuous.

Advocate Abu Baker Siddique filed the writ petition and the division bench of the HC, comprising Justice M M Huq and Justice Abdul Matin, initially issued a *rele nisi*, but on August 19 by a judgement discharged the same.

The HC also issued a certificate to the petitioner for which he had to file a petition for leave to appeal. But he filed the appeal on October 1.

Barrister Azmul Hossain and Advocate M A Wahab appeared for the appellant while Attorney General K S Nabi on behalf of the government and Advocate-on-Record Aftab Hossain for the Election Commission were present.

### Ershad

From Page 1  
lowances as a member of the fifth parliament. He was not allowed to attend its sessions.

The former president is serving sentences in two cases in which he was jailed for 13 years. However, his appeal is pending with the higher courts.

Recently, he was bailed by the High Court in a corruption case. The Attorney General did not oppose his bail prayer in that case arguing that he had served almost half of his sentence.

### Nobel Prize

From Page 1  
in the Polish city of Krakow.

"I am very happy. I am honoured but at the same time stunned and a little bit frightened with what awaits me," Szymborska told Poland's Radio Zet, in her first reaction, from the Polish mountain resort of Zakopane where she was vacationing.

"I'm afraid I will not have a quiet life for some time now. And this is what I prize the most," she said.

The Swedish Academy, in its official citation, said she has been described as the "Mozart of poetry" who also combines "something of the fury of Beethoven" in her work.

Szymborska is the fourth Pole to win a literature Nobel, following Henryk Sienkiewicz in 1905, Waladyislaw Reymont in 1924 and Czeslaw Milosz in 1980.

### Indemnity

From Page 1  
just transformed into a mere law like other martial law orders, regulations and ordinances under the fifth amendment, but was not made a part of the Constitution.

Khasru said although the fifth amendment was incorporated in the fourth schedule under Article 150 of the Constitution, every ordinance, martial law orders or regulations were not included or made part of the Constitution separately.

As a result, the Indemnity Ordinance, at best, got the status of general law and the plenary power of the Sangsad was not at all curtailed to repeal the ordinance, he said.

Khasru said that many laws including the Uparizila system which were promulgated by the martial law government through constitutional amendments were later repealed by simple majority in the Sangsad.

The state minister pointed out that different measures taken up during the War of Liberation only for the greater national interest were exempted under Article 46 of the Constitution. He said the Indemnity Ordinance of Khondker Mosh-taque was not included in Article 46 of the Constitution by amendment.

The state minister called upon the lawyers not to create unnecessary debates regarding the indemnity Ordinance which could be easily repealed by a simple majority vote in the Jatiya Sangsad.

Khasru said the main objective and spirit of Article 150 of the Constitution is to give legal coverage to all the activities undertaken by the Bangladesh government between March 26, 1971 and December 16, 1972.

In such circumstances, he said, not only the Indemnity Ordinance of Khondker Mosh-taque but any martial law orders by constitutional amendments thereafter, which were incorporated in the fourth schedule under Article 150, cannot be considered lawful.

### Illegal arms factory found

By Staff Correspondent  
The Detective police unearthed an illegal arms factory and arrested two persons from South Jatrabari under Demra thana Wednesday night.

Acting on a tip off, the police raided the house and arrested Alamgir Kabir and Roman Ahmed as they made arms and sold these to the terrorists, the police said.

According to the arrested persons, police then recovered from the house one .22 bore revolver, four rounds of bullets, two barrels of guns, two barrels of pipe guns, a drill machine used for making arms and a large number of spare parts.

### Yunus to receive Simon Bolivar Prize Oct 16

The Director-General of UNESCO Federico Mayor will award the 1996 International Simon Bolivar Prize to Muhammad Yunus, president of the Grameen Bank on October 16 in Paris, says a UNESCO press release.

The UNESCO awards the US\$25,000 prize every two years to persons who worked to promote "freedom, independence and dignity of peoples." Since 1983, laureates have included Nelson Mandela of South Africa, Vaclav Havel of the Czech Republic, Julius Nyerere of Tanzania and Mis Aung San Suu Kyi of Myanmar.

According to the press release, Yunus was selected for the award for his action to help eliminate poverty and improve the status of women in rural areas of Bangladesh. Founder of the Grameen Bank, Yunus invented the "micro-credit" system. By making micro-credit loans available without guarantee, especially to women, who are excluded from the traditional system of credit.

### 3 muggers held in Ctg: Arms recovered

CHITTAGONG, Oct 3: Panch-laish police arrested three muggers and recovered one lightgun and three cartridges from their possession at Sholashahar here today, reports BSS.

Police said, the muggers stopped two passersby at gun point and the passersby raised hue and cry which drew the attention of other pedestrians. The muggers were surrounded and severely beaten by the people.

### Kibria

From Page 1  
policy imperatives but also in providing additional resources, he said.

Kibria welcomed the initiative to make ESAF a continuing facility and informed the meeting that Bangladesh has decided to contribute 1.2 million US dollar to ESAF despite the country's resource constraint.

The minister, however, noted with concern the alarming signs of a continuous decrease in the flow of concessional resources to the developing countries as official development assistance (ODA) fell in real terms for six successive years.

Official assistance, he said, amounted to about 0.27 per cent of the developed countries' combined GNP, the lowest ratio since the United Nations adopted a target of 0.70 per cent in 1970.

As most developing countries failed to attract foreign private capital, they will have problem in the short to medium term to mobilize the resources necessary to build and maintain physical and social overhead required for sustainable development.

### Maghbazar phone exchange staff go on rampage

A group of employees of Maghbazar telephone exchange went on rampage yesterday and kept its main gate under lock and key for few hours, reports UNB.

A press release of the T&T Board said the employees, earlier sued following an incident on September 28, also prevented the officers from entering into office in the morning.