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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addressing members of the Mujibnagar and Freedom Fighters Officers-Employees Central Welfare Association at the International Conference Centre in city yesterday. - PID photo

sible to fulfil the hopes and as

piration of the people," she said

calling for active participation

of all in nation-building mis-

history, the Prime Minister

said the history of the Libera-

tion War had been distorted

during last 21 years. "The his-

tory of the Liberation War has

been destroyed in a planned

ever, said that "the anti-libera

tion forces could not have done

such massive harm to the na-

tion, if the freedom fighters

were united as they were in the

battle fields." The anti-libera-

tion and defeated forces suc-

ceeded in inflicting such a seri-

ous injury to the nation because

of the lack of unity and in-

tegrity among the freedom

Khandaker Asaduzzaman, Mo-

hammad Musa, MR Akhta

Mukul, Shamsul Huda Chowd

hury. Prof Abu Zafar. Milia Ali

and Nurul Huq also spoke on

Temporary move

From Page 1

immigration of Bangladeshi

workers with Malaysian

Deputy Minister for Home Af-

his recent visit to that country.

towards the wetlands of Ka-

malapur. Another Mosque sits

on the culvert behind the

Shilpakala Academy with

shops filling up the canal's

the canal at Bijoynagar, report-

edly growing up without autho-

risation from the City Corpora-

tion, whose officials said it has

already been put in the demoli-

RAJUK have already demol-

ished an under construction

market at Bijoynagar which

WASA employees had built to

beef up their welfare funds.

WASA sources said that they

would be able to overcome all

culvert would not start before

its pumps again yesterday to

flush out the water, claimed

that it took them less time to

clear the city streets yesterday

them on the previous occasion.

water by 3 pm, where policemen

had to abandon their boots and

fold trousers in violation of

regulations to attend duties

The Secretariat was freed of

Pvt firms

From Page 1

structures was taken in a meet-

ing of top RAJUK officials on

city would be divided into eight

zones to carry out the opera-

tion. And the firms would be

required to complete the survey

of such structures within one

month after they receive the

money has been set aside by

RAJUK for the operation, a RA-

JUK official replied that it was

seven-storied building col-

lapsed in the city's Kalabagan

area on September 16 killing

five labourers. The RAJUK

Chairman earlier said that over

90 per cent of city's buildings were built deviating from the

still being sorted out.

approved plans.

**Editor: Mahfuz Anam** 

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When asked how much

RAJUK's move comes after a

According to the official, the

But construction of the box-

The WASA, which deployed

The City Corporation and

tion list

obstacles soon.

the dry season.

September 19.

work order.

A bazar virtually squeezed

President of the association

fighters, she observed.

the occasion.

Recurring miseries

The Prime Minister, how-

Referring to 'distortion' of

### PM's call to freedom fighters

## 'Wage another war for economic freedom'

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called for waging another war to fight poverty to ensure economic freedom for the people and build the country in line with the spirit of Liberation War, report agencies.

She made the call in a meeting with officers and employees of Mujibnagar, the headquarters of the provisional government during the 1971 war of independence, and the Freedom Fighters Welfare Association at the International Conference Centre (ICC) in the morning.

"You fought in 1971 to liberate the country and now you have to fight again to free the country from poverty." Sheikh Hasina told them.

We'll build a self-reliant Baugladesh fighting against poverty and exploitation, we'll establish 'Sonar Bangla' to materialise the dream of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rah man," she said.

The Prime Minister said the dream of Bangabandhu would come true when the people of the country would get economic freedom and relief from all sorts of exploitation.

"Real respect to the 30 lakh martyrs of Liberation War and two lakh victimised mothers and sisters will best be shown if we can build a new society changing this moth-eaten one. she said.

Hasina said the people of this country fought in the Liberation War with an aim of achieving economic emancipation. "Without your active participation in the nation-building activities it will not be pos-

of the city and ministers' resi-

Meanwhile, the city's

guardians were engaged in a

bickering yesterday over who

would convene a meeting of the

coordination committee.

hastily formed a fortnight ago

after heavy showers disrupted

LGRD Minister Zillur Rahman

as Chairman and city Mayor

Mohammad Hanif as Joint

Convenor, under instruction by

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina

who had to reschedule her pro-

gramme in Motifheel Commer-

Mayor declined to sit on the

committee, which combines

different government and au-

tonomous utilities and the city

corporation to coordinate civic

services, after he complained

against the WASA and pleaded

for a 'metropolitan government

in its task to maintain a proper

alleged that its sewerage lines

were being used to clear garbage

gal tangles over an unfinished

drainage-culvert, replacing a

Mughal-excavated canal flow-

ing across central Dhaka, still

Thursday in lower courts to

quash an injunction, blocking

works on the box-culvert at Bi-

by a lady residing in the area

who alleged that WASA deliber-

ately diverted its box-culvert to

pass through her home, avoid-

ing influential who had grabbed

scores with the management of

a mosque at Fakererpool, en-

croaching upon the canal,

hampering the culverts

mosque straddles its journey

Further down, another

Besides, WASA is yet to settle

joynagar in public interest.

public land.

progress.

WASA lawyers argued on

The injunction was sought

remained to be sorted out.

He accused WASA of failing

But WASA denied this and

Apart from the bickering, le-

to run things efficiently.

and domestic effluents.

drainage system.

Sources concerned said the

The committee formed with

dences at Hare Road.

life on September 19.

cial Area on that day.

### World Habitat Day today

The World Habitat Day will be observed in the country as elsewhere round the globe today with a renewed pledge to improve the environment and standard of abode for mankind reports UNB.

Under the auspices of the United Nations the Day is observed across the world on the first Monday of October every year since 1986. This year's theme of the day is "Urbanisa tion Citizenship and Human Solidarity.

### Jute, textile workers call off today's strike

Jute and textile mill workers have called off their scheduled token strike for 24 hours today in the private sector jute, textile and spinning mills, reports UNB.

The strike was called off following a "fruitful" meeting yesterday between the leaders of jute and textile mill workers. and State Minister for Labour and Manpower M A Mannan and State Minister for Jute and Textiles A K Faezul Haq.

### DB may take up UNDP employee He however said that new

## murder case

with the death of a UNDI' em-

ployee in his house at Navatola

under Ramna thana Saturday

workers to Malaysia may be By Staff Correspondent allowed from early next year The Detective Branch (DB) of Abul Hasan Chowdhury police is likely to take up the mentioned that he had detailed murder case filed in connection discussions about Bangladeshi

reports.

fairs on September 24 during police sources said yesterday. Derek Pollack, 42, a radio telecommunications technician of UNDP's Dhaka office, was found dead in his residence Saturday morning, according to

> Police sources added that they were waiting for the au-

topsy report. Derek was residing in the Navatola residence alone and

he was unmarried, according to police. Derek's brother Andrew Pollack filed a murder case with

Ramna thana following the However, none was arrested in this connection till last

night, police said.

### BM College VP arrested

BARISAL, Oct 6: The Kotwali thana police today arrested Mahabubul Huq Nannu, vice president (VP) of Government BM University College Students' Union (BUCSU) on various charges.

The superintendent of police (SP) told BSS over phone that there were six specific cases against Nannu, a leader of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD).

The cases include torching the Sher-e-Bangla Medical Col lege Hostel, damaging the portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, possession of illegal arms and terrorism.

Nannu was produced before the court wherefrom he was sent to jail.

### Stabbed to death

From Page 1 the spot, when a group of five people stabbed him indiscriminately at about 9 pm, police said. His body was sent to the

Mitford Hospital for autopsy. The five who are reportedly transport workers called Badal out of his house near Darbar Sharif gate at Syadebad at about 8:30 pm Saturday and took him to a nearby tea stall on Borhanuddin road where they attacked him with sharp

weapons, police said. The reason behind the killing could not be known. However, it was alleged that Badal was killed following an internal conflict of a faction of the transport workers.

Meanwhile, police arrested two persons identified as Chhoto Billal and Biplob from the terminal area in connection with the killing. The arrested were taken on two-day police remand yesterday.

A murder case has been lodged with Demra thana.

Seminar in city told

## Transit to India would rather strengthen country's security

Academics and foreign relations experts yesterday dispelled apprehension of some political groups regarding the transit issue saying that the security of the country would rather be protected with the de-velopment of direct links with the international community by transit through India, reports BSS.

They observed that the neighbouring country, in its own interest, would also not want to destabilise the bilateral relations while Bangladesh may take advantage of resolv-ing the unsettled issues between the two countries through giving the transit

They expressed the opinion at a seminar on the "Politics of Transit and Bangladesh's Economic Future" organised by the Dhaka University based International Relations Students Forum.

Former foreign secretary Fakhruddin Ahmed chaired the seminar while renowned international relations expert Prof Syed Anwar Hossain and Prof Shahiduzzaman took part in discussions. Lecturer of the IR Department of the Dhaka University Mohammad Nuruzzaman presented the key-note

Prof Hossain said those who are opposing the transit are looking into the issue with a "backward political perspec-

We must not want to give up our sovereignty, but we have to look into it logically and keep pace with global advancement. he said.

Hossain said Bangladesh had initiated the formation of SAARC and signed the SAPTA agreement in 1994 agreeing to provide transit to the fellow member countries. "Now it would be self-con-

tradiction if Bangladesh refuses to give transit facilities to India or it must admit that it had committed a mistake by initiating the formation of the SAARC," Prof Hossain added. Prof Shahiduzzaman ob-

served that a qualitative change has taken place in the Indian politics as the states, which do not have the 'big brotherly' attitude towards the neighbours are now dominating over the centre strengthening the India's

He further observed that with the passage of time, it was now becoming clearer that the 'new Indian government is acquiring power while the moderates are making foreign policies which seems friendly to

federal structure.

neighbouring countries." Bangladesh should avail the changing Indian politics by changing its own typical atti-tude towards India," he said.

Fakhruddin Ahmed said the transit does not only involve the two countries alone, rather it is the medium of direct linkage with the international community including Central Asian countries and China. Instead of being endangered,

the security of the country would rather be strengthened as the prospective investors, who would use the route for business with Bangladesh, and even India itself, would not want unrest centring the transit route in their own interest, he said.

In his key-note paper. Nu-ruzzaman said at present only a little potential of the Chittagong Port is being used but if Bangladesh signs a transit agreement with India, the annual income of Bangladesh would increase by Tk 5,000

He said India has already been enjoying transit facilities in the riverine routes.

Therefore, it is not clear why the country's security would be endangered if land transit is provided to India,' he observed.

Nuruzzaman also refuted the apprehension that Bangladesh's market would be affected by giving transit to In-

Over the decades the Indian products have continued to capture Bangladeshi market due to Bangladesh's faulty economic policy and cross border smuggling, he said

Prof Ziaus Shams of the Geography Department said There is no denying the fact that we have several bilateral problems with India ... To resolve them we should adopt give and-take policy for which transit might be a weapon.

He also observed that Bangladesh can promote marketing many of its products taking the benefit of transit.

## CHT talks

From Page 1

Nikul Chandra Tripura. Matura Lal Chakma and Mohammad Shafi represented the Liaison Committee. Convenor of the Committee Hangsaw Dhaza Chakma did not attend the meeting as he was reportedly under treatment in India.

UNB adds: The Committee chairman told the meeting that the present democratically elected government has all the good intentions and cordiality in solving the CHT problem.

"We want to move forward with open mind for solving the problem through discussion with all irrespective of parties and opinions," he said.

Hasnat told the meeting that the present government would maintain the continuity of the negotiation conducted by the previous government.

The Liaison Committee members told the meeting that they do not want to see a bloody situation in the CHT any longer. They said the people of the region hope that the democratically elected government would be able to solve the problem quickly.

### 5 killed in road accidents

At least five people including a woman were killed and nine others injured, in two road accidents in Faridpur and Jhenidah vesterday, reports

Four in Faridpur were killed and eight others injured when a speeding truck hit a coach in Karimpur area on Faridpur-

Jessore highway. Police said the Jessorebound truck collided with the bus yesterday noon.

Four of the injured were admitted to Faridpur Medical College Hospital and four others to General Hospital. The dead could not be identified. The bodies were sent to the

hospitals for autopsy. Police seized the bus, but the driver fled the scene. In another accident, a young

woman was killed and a minor girl critically injured on Jhenidah-Kushtia highway at Chandpur village. Police said Sabirun Kha-

toon, 30, died on the spot and Reshma, 3, was wounded when a Kushtia-bound bus hit them at about 3:30 pm.

Reshma was rushed to Sadar Hospital in a critical condition

## Spot orders worth \$32m placed at BATEXPO

Foreign buyers and their representatives who visited the just-concluded Bangladesh Apparel and Textile Exposition placed spot orders worth 32 million US dollars with garments manufacturers, reports

And businesses worth about 200 million dollars are expected in next three months. said Redwan Ahmed, President of the Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), the organiser of the BATEXPO '96.

This year, 75 new buyers visited the fair from countries like Germany, Thailand, Canada, Switzerland, Spain, Hong Kong, the Netherlands. USA, Turkey, Belgium, India Sri Lanka, France, Austria Taiwan, Greece, England, Singapore and Sweden.

Besides, about 300 representatives of foreign buyers and buying houses visited the fair. which was graced by the presence of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Opposition Leader Begum Khaleda Zia on the opening and concluding session respectively.

Redwan told a news conference at a local hotel yesterday that 44 stalls were put up in the exhibition where a total of 64 items, including new ones like jacket, leather jacket, tent and luggage, were displayed. The Prime Minister gave her

government's commitment for ensuring environment for investment in the country and its continued support to ensure the apparel sector's onward march towards post-MFA trade regime, he said. On the other hand, he added,

the opposition leader assured

the investors that her party

would not launch any agitation,

without any valid reasons.

which might be detrimental to

the interest of the nation. "The assurance has been highly appreciated by the investors, especially by the foreign investors," the BGMEA chief said.

Redwan told reporters that he had informed the foreign buyers that the country's readymade garments units would be free from child workers by this month and urged them to buy child-labour-free garments with "free mind and conscience.

Replying to a question, he requested the government to privatise the public-sector textile mills and help set up new mills in private sector in order to meet the fabric requirement of the readymade garments in-

### FBCCI welcomes Khaleda's remarks The Federation of

Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) has welcomed the remarks of Leader of the Opposition and BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia at the closing ceremony of BATEXPO '96, reports

The FBCCI, in a press release yesterday, appreciated Begum Zia's remark that the BNP would not got for any agitational political activities which might harm the national economy and adversely affect the commonman.

"Furthermore, it is gratify-

ing to note that Begum Zia pledged her party's commitment to help the business community in trade and investment promotion."



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Members of Zia Shishu Kishore Sangathan met BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia at her Minto Road official residence yesterday in connection with the Child Rights Day. - Star photo

### Chiefs of three services call on Biswas

Chiefs of the three defence services paid a courtesy call on President Abdur Rahman Biswas separately at Bangabhaban yesterday, report agen

Chief of Army Staff Lt. General Mahbubur Rahman, Chief of Naval Staff Rear Admiral Muhammad Nurul Islam and Chief of Air Staff Air Vice Marshal Jamal Uddin Ahmed stayed with the outgoing President for some time and exchanged pleasantries with him

Meanwhile: President Biswas placed wreath at the Central Shahid Minar yester

day afternoon. Later, he went to Mirpur and placed a wreath at the martyred intellectuals memorial.

The President stood in solemn silence in both the places for some time and paid his tributes to the language martyrs and the martyred intellectuals.

President Biswas also went to the mazars of three national leaders - Sher-e-Bangla A K Fazlul Huq, H S Suhrawardy and Khwaja Najimuddin — and offered fateha.

### Water-logging situation in city reviewed

An emergency meeting of different city utility services was held at the Ministry of Local Government Rural Development (LGRD) and Cooperatives to discuss the fresh waterlogging in certain parts of Dhaka city caused by Saturday night's torrential rains, the quantum of which was recorded as the highest this year (125 milimetre), reports BSS.

State Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Alhaj Syed Abul Hossain presided over the meet

The meeting reviewed the situation arising out of stagnant rain water in some parts of Dhaka city and steps so far taken by the government to find a lasting solution to the problem, issues like removal of illegal construction and occupants from sewerage canal sites for the implementation of the drainage project, speedy construction of box culverts by recovering khas lands earmarked for the drainage canals and the progress of the pending cases in the court in this regard were also discussed.

The meeting discussed the feasibility of re-digging of Dhanmondi lake and digging of multi-purpose ponds in government khas lands to ease the problem of water-logging in the

### DSE index

From Pass istan," Imtiaz noted

The DSE Chairman however expressed concern over the "unexpected" rise in prices of some issues. "Prices of some issues have gone sky high without any logical ground which concern me," he added.

Meanwhile, the Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE) All Securities Price Index shot up by 67.06 points yesterday as most of the issues traded at the floor gained heavily, reports UNB. The key index reached to 837.43 points from Saturday's

770.37 points showing a rise of 8.7049 per cent, according to the CSE securities trading statement. A total of 50 issues were traded on the country's second bourse today. Of those, 44 issues

gained and four incurred loss. Some 291,395 securities valued at Tk 51,007,385.00 were traded on the day. Market capitalisation stood at Tk 84.41 billion. Bangladesh Friendship Bridge.

## Khaleda tells Zia Kishore Sangathan Children should know

## country's true history Leader of the Opposition Be-

gum Khaleda Zia yesterday called upon all to work for building a bright and prosper ous future for children ensuring an environment for their sound upbringing, reports UNB. She was addressing as chief guest a meeting with Zia Shishu

Rishore Sangathan at the Leader of the Opposition's Minto Road official residence in the evening. The Leader of the Opposition said children should know the real history of the country, and its thousand year-old tradition

and culture. For this purpose, more books would have to be published, she added. "If they learn the real history patriotism will develop in

their mind," Begum Zia said. "Bangladesh is a poor country... Poverty is the biggest problem of the country ... for this reason most of our children cannot avail the opportunity of

education.

Keeping it in mind, the former Prime Minister said, her government had introduced Food for Education Programme for the poor children. With the introduction of this programme, the enrolment in primary schools increased a lot.

Begum Zia said during her regime, the Food for Education Programme was launched in two unions each of every thana. It should be expanded further. she suggested.

The BNP chairperson said repression on children and child-trafficking should be stopped. If necessary, strict laws might be formulated in this regard. She also emphasised expan-

sion of the EPI programme. Tasin Khan Tanni, a child,

### Surface water

From Page

the country having laboratory facilities to test arsenic contamination. He hoped that BC-SIR report on water test would be made available within a week.

According to sources concerned, ammonia content in the Buriganga waters increased greatly during the winter season. It is also feared that 220 leather factories in Hajaribagh area were posing a threat to purity of Buriganga water, as chromium content is on the rise. Chromium test of Buriganga water in Japan in 1992 found the level at 0.02 mg per litre. Dhaka WASA thinks that it might have gone up by now, but still remaining below the permissible level of 0.05 mg per litre, as determined by the World Health Organization.

SDM Quamrul Alam Chowdhury, Project Director of CWTP (BMRE) Project, said the Tk. 154 crore project with a Tk. 107 crore Japanese grant that began in March, 1995 is expected to be completed by March, 1998.

CWTP produces only 11,090 cubic metre of water per day that accounts for only 2 per cent of the WASA-supplied water in the capital. The rest 98 per cent comes from 209 deep tubewells extracting ground water, posing a threat to the existing eco-system of the city. By the time BMRE of CWTP is completed, it would produce 1,16,810 cubic metres of water. One cubic metre of water is equivalent to approximately 222 gallons, With the first phase of the

planned Sayedabad Water Treatment Plant completed by the year 2000, another 2,25,002 cubic metres the Shitalakhya waters could be treated, WASA sources said

Officials said, a PCP is under preparation for a water treat ment plant near China

also spoke on the occasion. Founder president of Zia Shishu Kishore Sangathan Sirajul Islam Selim presided over the meeting.

Later, Begum Zia witnessed a

cultural function presented by

the child artistes of the organi-

sation. She also gave auto-

graphs to a number of children. The function was attended by a large number of children. their guardians, and BNP leaders including Barrister Rafiqui Islam Miah, KM Obaidur Rahman and Mizanur Rahman

### Minu CU classes resume

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Oct 6: Classes at Chittagong University resumed today and attendance of students was thin on the first day of reopening, campus

sources said. The sources said that most of the resident students were yet to return to the halls.

However, no untoward incident was reported. Classes remained suspended

till October 5 following a student violence on the campus on September 17.

### Flood hits 10 Feni villages

FENI, Oct 6: At least ten villages in Parshuram thana of the district have been inundated by on rush of water from across the border, reports UNB.

control embankment at Rampur and Joypur, were also dam-Standing crops on a huge

Local people said, two flood

tract of land were also washed According to official sources the river Muhuri was flowing 52

### DU student

From Page 1

cm above its danger level.

Meanwhile. Vice Chancellor Prof Abul Kalam Azad Chowdhury visited the spot and assured the students that stern action would be taken against those responsible. Proctor Dr Nur-Un-Nabi and the Provost of the hall also visited the hall and Sarwar at the hospital.

The VC ordered the hall authorities to submit a report today for formation of an investigation committee, the Proctor told this correspondent. Some residents of the hall

alleged that the number of armed outsiders in the hall was

### Biswas

From Page 1 Justice, he said that he was interested to return to any post of the republic.

He also made similar statement after his election. "I was not minimum enthusiastic to be President again," said Sha-habuddin. On the day he talked to the press on various matters but categorically said it was not an official press conference.

#### KL may freeze From Page 1 labour.

It also is trying to establish whether the rapid increase in the number of babies found abandoned was due to casual relationships between Malaysian women and foreign labourers. With foreign workers num-

bering close to two million of the country's 8.05 million kforce, Malaysia has the highest ratio of foreign labour to local workforce in the region. officials said.

# Federal Express The World on Time