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NEWS BRIEFS

Queen Elizabeth greets Shahabuddin
Queen Elizabeth of Britain and King Carl Gustaf of Sweden in separate messages congratulated Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed on his assumption of office of the President of Bangladesh. They expressed their best wishes for his health and happiness and for the well-being and prosperity of the people of Bangladesh, reports BBS.

BNP committee to observe Nov 7

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) has constituted a 67-member National Revolution and Solidarity Day Observations Committee 1996. Lt Gen (Retd) Mir Shawkat Ali has been made convener of the committee. The first meeting of the committee will be held tomorrow at 5 pm at BNP's central office, said a press release yesterday, reports UNB.

JCD calls off strike at DMC

The Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), Dhaka Medical College Unit, has called off its strike at the college scheduled for today. The decision was taken following the assurance given by the superintendent of Dr Faziye Rabbi hall to look into their various demands and mutual understanding between BCL and JCD. JCD called for the strike at a press conference on Thursday evening, reports UNB.

Policeman gunned down in Karachi

KARACHI, Oct 11: A policeman was gunned down and two others were wounded when gunmen opened fire on a police van in the trouble-torn city of Karachi. Police officials said today the van was attacked as it crossed congested streets in the eastern Malir district. The gunmen escaped, reports AFP.

2 OCs suspended

Police Headquarters yesterday issued suspension orders against the Officers-in-Charge of Shahjapur thana in Sirajganj and Sadar thana in Sherpur district, reports UNB. According to a Police Headquarters press release the two OCs were suspended for their failure to take immediate actions and negligence in two separate women repression incidents in their respective areas.

SAPTA paved way for transit: Hasina

Steps to link country with Asian Highway

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League President and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said yesterday that her government was taking initiatives to link Bangladesh with the rest of the world through the Asian Highway and Asian Railway. "We can't afford to remain disconnected with other countries in this modern world", said the Prime Minister. Sheikh Hasina was addressing the inaugural session of the extended meeting of Awami League Central Working Committee (ALWC) at a city hotel. "India is trying to divert the network of the Asian Highway through Assam, Shilliguri and Tripura. We can't allow our

country to be disconnected with rest of the world depriving her of connections through Asian Highway and Asian Railway. We will not mind going to that extent as it will be required for economic development of our country."

Turning to the "propaganda" against the government by a "special cell" of BNP, Sheikh Hasina said, "They (BNP) are speaking high against transit facility while the BNP had itself signed the SAPTA accord in 1993 paving the way for transit among SAARC countries". Emphasizing immediate need for more power generation to boost industrial investment,

the Prime Minister said her government has taken steps for power generation in private sector. "But side by side, in meeting the immediate requirement for speedy industrialisation, we have to buy power at cheapest possible cost, be it from India or any other country."

"We will take steps for the interest of the country and the people and for any hard decisions, we will not mind criticism. Criticism does not fit in the mouth of BNP, which had talked much of development but could not produce a single megawatt extra power during its five-year rule", said Prime Minister. See Page 12 Col 7

2 East Timorese bishops share Nobel Peace Prize

OSLO, Oct 11: The 1996 Nobel Peace Prize was awarded today to two prominent opponents of Indonesian rule on the island of East Timor, reports AFP. The two are the island's Roman Catholic Bishop Carlos Filipe Ximenes Belo and Jose Ramos Horta, spokesman for the pro-independence movements on East Timor, a former Portuguese colony annexed by Indonesia in 1976.

The Nobel Committee praised the contribution the two men had made towards peaceful settlement of conflict on the island, where hundreds of people have been killed by Indonesian troops.

The pair will receive the award, and a cheque worth 7.4 million Swedish kronor (1.12 million dollars), at a ceremony in Oslo on December 10, the 100th anniversary of the death of the Swedish inventor and creator of the prize, Alfred Nobel.

Indonesia says it currently has 3,000 troops stationed on East Timor. While most of the 195 million inhabitants of In-

donesia are Muslims, nine-tenths of the 800,000 Timorese are Catholics.

Belo, a shepherd who rose through the ranks of the Roman Catholic Church, has spoken out against arrests and violence by Indonesian military forces in East Timor. He has also opposed violent methods used by the pro-independence Pretilin movement.

He was born in Bacau, East Timor on February 3, 1948, and ordained as a priest in 1980.

Horta leads the National Council of East Timorese Resistance (CNRT). He left East Timor in 1975, just before it was invaded by Indonesian troops, and lobbies on behalf of the various independence movements to the European Union and the United Nations.

Belo began his career in 1982 as the Director of Fatumaca technical school in Dili, became the apostolic administrator of East Timor in May 1983, and was ordained as a Bishop on June 19, 1988. See Page 12 Col 1

ALCWC meets tonight

By Reaz Ahmad

The Central Working Committee of Awami League (ALWC) will meet tonight to fix the schedule of its national council session due in December, party sources said.

The meeting is a follow-up of ALWC's extended meet yesterday.

AL President Sheikh Hasina is scheduled to chair tonight's meeting at 7:30 pm at the Ganabhaban.

A member of ALCWC, who is also a minister, told The Daily Star last night that there was a possibility of forming a council session preparatory committee at tonight's meeting. Some party sources, however, said that the meeting would take up the problems and disputes in some district units of the party.

Some 30 district level leaders of the party spoke at the extending meeting yesterday and they informed the party chief of some problems at the local levels.

AL President and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina chaired the extending meeting, split. See Page 12 Col 4



President Shahabuddin Ahmed placing wreath at the mazar of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Tungipara yesterday. —PID photo

Police yet to find motive of Babul killing: One picked up

Police are yet to find the motive of killing businessman Obaidul Haq Babul, but suspects that professional killers may have carried out the assignment on payment, reports UNB.

Four teams of Detective Branch police raided several known joints in the city early yesterday, immediately after the killing of Babul, a cousin of Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed.

One of the DB teams picked up an alleged professional killer, Zillur, from Tallabagh area.

Zillur admitted that he was involved in four other killings, but denied any connection with the killing of Babul, DB sources said.

He was, however, kept under DB custody for his reported involvement in the killings — two in Jessore and two in the city that included the Malu murder in Pallabi last Ramadan. Farid, the driver of Babul, See Page 12 Col 2

President visits mazars of Mujib, Zia 'Shun acrimony, forge unity on nat'l issues'

From Our Correspondent

TUNGIPARA, Oct 11: President Shahabuddin, terming the post of president as the symbol of national unity, today pledged to work for unity of the government and the opposition to strengthen the process of democracy.

He told this to a spontaneous gathering after placing wreath at the mazar of the father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman here this morning.

He stood at mazar premises in solemn silence and offered *fateha*, seeking divine blessing for the departed soul. President Shahabuddin also offered prayer at the mazars of the parents of Bangabandhu. He then offered prayer at the graveyard of Sheikh Musharraf Hossain, an uncle of Bangabandhu.

Earlier, the President was received at the helipad by Lt Col (ret'd) Farooq Khan MP, Sheikh Helaluddin MP, the GOC of the 55th Infantry Division, Major General Fazul Kabir, General Secretary of the District Awami League Sheikh Abdulla, former MP Gazi Abdur Rashid, local political leaders and high civil and military officials including the Commissioner of Dhaka Division.

At the gathering, President Shahabuddin called upon the political leaders to shun acrimony and forge unity on pressing national issues for the good of the people and the country, according to BSS.

"Political activities should be directed towards achieving national goal of economic self-sufficiency," he said adding, "All political parties should refrain from taking any programme which may hinder smooth economic development."

The President reiterated that See Page 12 Col 6

Abdullah invites Kashmir militants for talks

SRINAGAR, (India) Oct 11: Kashmir's new Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah today invited Muslim separatist militants for talks with his government and announced the establishment of a human rights watchdog in the troubled Himalayan state, reports AFP.

"A committee will be constituted soon to look into cases of detained youths," Abdullah said in his first radio broadcast after taking power this week.

"It will be all-powerful and trustworthy and any agency or individual found guilty of violating human rights will be put behind bars," Abdullah said in an impassioned Urdu-Language address.

"Detained persons who are found to be innocent or having marginal charges will be set free," he added.

Human rights bodies, the media and Muslim groups in Kashmir alleged rampant rights abuses by Indian security forces in Kashmir. Indian authorities counter that many of the excesses are committed by militant rebel factions fighting among themselves.

Abdullah, whose National Conference Party swept to power in the first state elections in Kashmir in nine years, also urged Muslim separatists to shun violence and start talks with his administration.

He said Muslim insurgency, which has claimed more than 15,000 lives in Kashmir since 1989, had failed.

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JS may go into session between Oct 28-Nov 1

Star Report

The winter session of the seventh Jatiya Sangsad is likely to be summoned between October 28 and November 1, according to sources in the Parliament Secretariat.

The exact date and duration of the session is yet to be finalised, the sources said.

According to the Constitution the Jatiya Sangsad has to go into session within sixty days of the end of the preceding session.

The Jatiya Sangsad is summoned and prorogued by the President at the advice of the Prime Minister.

The first session of the seventh Jatiya Sangsad was summoned on July 14 and prorogued on September 2.

Bank dacoity in Rajbari: Tk 2.68 lakh, rifles looted

RAJBARI, Oct 11: Armed dacoits looted Tk 2.68 lakh and two rifles along with bullets from the Naroa branch of Janata Bank in Baliakandi thana early today, reports UNB.

Police said a gang of about 25 dacoits armed with firearms and other lethal weapons swooped on the bank at about 1 am and tried to enter into the bank by breaking the gate and the windows.

The on-duty guard, Serajul Islam, fired four rounds of gunshots from inside, but the dacoits injured him with spray bullets and finally stormed the bank. They tied the injured guard, and locked him in a latrine.

The gang then broke the bank's vault and looted Tk 2,68,243. They also took away two rifles along with 15 rounds of bullet.

Taher Thakur remanded again

Taheruddin Thakur was brought under Criminal Investigation Department (CID) custody once again yesterday on a four-day police remand, reports UNB.

He was produced before Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) Court yesterday after expiry of the first police remand for eight days.

CID sought remand for another seven days but the court allowed four days' remand. Thakur, said to be one of the masterminds of the assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, was arrested on October 3.

500 garment shops gutted in N'ganj

From Our Correspondent
NARAYANGANJ, Oct 11: At least 500 garment shops were gutted in a fire at Ukilpara in Narayanganj town tonight, fire brigade sources said.

The inferno that broke out at around 9:45 pm engulfed the whole market of hosiery shops within a very short time, witnesses said, adding that the shops were built by wood and tin. See Page 12 Col 3

Top model in coma during operation to remove fat

SAO PAULO (Brazil), Oct 11: A Brazilian actress and top model in Europe and the United States was in a coma Thursday caused by complications during an operation to remove fat from her abdomen, reports AP.

Claudia Liz, 27, was being anesthetized Wednesday at the Sante Clinic for a fat-removing process known as "liposuction" when she suffered cerebral hypoxia — a reduction of oxygen to the brain.

Liz started her career at 15 and has worked as a top model in Brazil, Italy, Spain, Paris, New York and Japan. In the 1990s she worked as an actress, appearing in TV ads and locally-produced soap operas and films.

The incident was not the first during liposuction surgery at the Sante Clinic. In 1994, Hellenita Pereyra, wife of former soccer player Dario Pereyra, died when her intestines were punctured during the operation.

In Rio de Janeiro in 1983, singer Clara Nunes fell into a coma as she was anesthetized for surgery to remove varicose veins. She died of heart failure 27 days later.

Arms surrender Rehabilitation plan raises legal issues

By Mizan Ali

The government is going ahead with its plan for rehabilitation of those who had surrendered illegal arms during the period of amnesty granted by it without clearly stating whether they could be tried for their previous crimes, according to official sources.

Amnesty granted for surrender of illegal arms covered only possession of weapons without lawful authority but not any other offence the same person, the sources pointed out.

A total of 658 firearms along with 977 ammunition and 374 explosives were surrendered in 64 districts and four metropolitan areas.

See Page 12 Col 6

Teenager stabbed to death

By Staff Correspondent

An 18-year old youth was stabbed to death by two persons in Narinda area under Sutrapur thana in the city yesterday morning, police sources said.

The victim, Darbesh Ali, son of one Shamser Ali of Lal-mohon Shah Street, was fatally injured when the two attacked him with screw drivers. He was standing in front of a shop at See Page 12 Col 8

Khaleda tells newcomers to party Country heading for '74-like famine

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday warned that the country was heading for famine like that of 1974 with its economy showing signs of stagnancy, reports UNB.

"The country will face another famine if the prevailing price-hike of essentials is not contained and adequate job opportunity not created," she said, while addressing the newcomers who joined the BNP at her Minto Road official residence in the evening.

Feni district JSD (Rab) president Khwaja Mainuddin and general secretary Prof Jinal Abedin along with their party colleagues joined the BNP, abolishing the district and six thana units of the party and its front organisations.

Speaking at the function, Begum Zia said prices of many essential commodities have already gone beyond the capacity of commonman. "People in large numbers are migrating from villages to urban areas everyday in search of jobs," she added.

The former prime minister said the strong economic base built up by her government was being destroyed by the present government, stalling all economic activities of the country. Farmers are not getting fair prices for their produce, she said.

She accused the present government of conducting propaganda through a section of newspapers and some intellectuals in favour of giving transit to and importing power from a neighbouring country. "This will be harmful for the nation," she said.

The BNP chairperson said See Page 12 Col 6

2 BNP leaders shot dead in Jhenidah

JHENIDAH, Oct 11: Unidentified assailants gunned down two local leaders of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) at Joradah Bazar in Harinakundu thana of the district today, police said, reports UNB.

Both died on the spot. The victims were: Harinakundu thana BNP vice-president and Bhaina union president Mujibur Rahman, better known as Majnu Khan, 55, and his cousin See Page 12 Col 3

Motivation campaign to keep city clean



Members of Shahjahanpur Railway District Scouts during a house-to-house motivation campaign yesterday under the 'Save Dhaka, Clean Dhaka' programme. —Star photo

By Staff Correspondent

Boy and girl scouts of 48 schools and other scout units conducted a house-to-house motivation campaign for cleaner neighbourhoods and streets in different parts of the city yesterday as part of the continuing "Save Dhaka, Clean Dhaka" campaign.

The campaign is jointly organised by The Daily Star in cooperation with the Bangladesh Scouts, Dhaka Metropolitan Scouts, Dhaka Regional Scouts and Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET).

Nine field commissioners of the Bangladesh Scouts supervised the two-hour campaign yesterday. The scouts visited different houses in their respective areas to motivate their neighbours to dispose of garbage at proper places between 6pm and 9 pm.

The schools which participated in yesterday's campaign under the supervision of Assistant Field Commissioner (AFC) of Regional Scouts Md Shamsul Haq were: Pegose School, Chittaranjan Avenue; Nababpur Govt High School, Kaptan Bazar; Dhaka Collegiate School, Sadarghat Road, Azizia See Page 12 Col 1

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