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A Taliban religious militia truck carries Russian-made surface-to-air missile from Kabul's International Airport to safer location in Kabul yesterday. The airport was rocketed Monday morning by the ex-government troops positioned 20 Kilometres north of Kabul.

## Ceasefire fails to take place

# Heavy fighting near Kabul

KABUL, Oct 21: Heavy fighting raged north of Kabul today between the Taliban militia and forces loyal to the ousted Afghan government, despite ceasefire proposals, agencies quoting witnesses said.

Forces loyal to the former government's top commander, Ahmad Shah Masood, appeared to be trying to cut a Taliban force off from the Afghan capital, just north of the city, residents said.

Though the warring parties said today they were ready to accept a Pakistani-brokered ceasefire, both sides set conditions to any agreement and were still locked in battle.

On the ground, the two sides continued to fight for territory on the plains north of Kabul, with the Taliban saying they had pushed forces of the ousted Rabbani government out of the village of Kalakan, 25 km north of Kabul.

However, witnesses put the fighting five kilometres to the south, about where it was on Sunday.

"We are ready for the enforcement of a ceasefire. It depends on the readiness of the

other side, and our condition for a ceasefire is an exchange of prisoners, paying the way for further talks," said Amir Khan Mutaqi, Information Minister of the Taliban, which holds Kabul.

The ceasefire had been due to begin at midday (0730 GMT).

But a spokesman for Ahmad Shah Masood, whose Tajik forces hold territory to within half an hour's drive of the capital, said ceasefire negotiations in the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif had failed.

"They (faction leaders) have not agreed on a ceasefire," Masood's spokesman Dr Abdullah told reporters in Jalalabad. "They (Taliban militia) are still bombing, so the ceasefire that was proposed has not taken place."

Abdullah said two Taliban planes dropped bombs on Qarabagh village today. Reuters correspondent Chris Bird reported from Jalalabad, 70 km north of Kabul.

Reporters heard anti-aircraft fire as Masood's forces opened up on jets but there was no word on casualties.

## AB Bank: Nominations

From Page 1

Another candidate from the public quota, Humayun Kabir, has withdrawn his nomination, the sources added.

According to the sources, Salmaan, Kashem and Iqbal had applied to the BB for rescheduling of their loans in September this year. The matter is still awaiting the central bank's approval after the Board of the AB bank processed their applications. Meanwhile, the central bank has asked for some further information from the AB bank, a BB official said.

As per banking law, defaulters are barred from holding directorships of any bank.

Salmaan, Iqbal and Kashem, who are also directors of Beximco Investment Co Ltd, had given both corporate and personal guarantees for loans of about Tk 170 crore in 1993 taken for different companies during 1988-89 and had the loans rescheduled. But they had again defaulted, the sources said.

In 1995, the BB in its initiative to crack down on the loan defaulters had issued letter to the AB bank asking it to collect unpaid loans from directors.

Accordingly, the bank asked Salmaan, Iqbal and Kashem to repay the loans within two months. But they resigned in September 1995 before the deadline ended.

Later, the loans were rescheduled in 1995 with a payment period of upto 2004 which was later extended to 2012. But they again defaulted after making some repayments and before the June 12 parliamentary election, they had again applied for rescheduling as the election rules stipulated that defaulters must have to repay 10 per cent of their loans to contest the elections.

But they did not have to make the 10 per cent payment as the guarantors of loans were not covered by the law.

## Water issue

From Page 1

Bangladesh, merely saying 'we need lot of water.'

Quoting expert opinion and data, he told a questioner that as such the quantum of the Ganges water at Farakka remains same or more as it was in 1977.

Under the 1977 agreement, Bangladesh received 34,500 causes of water during the most lean period. The agreement also contained a guarantee clause providing 80 per cent of the available water of the Ganges to Bangladesh during the lean period.

Asked if Bangladesh would propose the revival of the 1977 agreement, the minister did not give any straight answer but said that it would depend on India's political will. "What we can say is that our expectation is much more."

In reply to a question about talks with West Bengal Chief Minister Jyoti Basu and his planned visit to Dhaka early next month, Razzak said Jyoti Basu is very sympathetic to solve this problem and about discussing the issue with the centre to arrive at a solution.

The Water Resources Minister again made it clear that the sharing of the Ganges water is not linked with any other conditions.

## Businessman

From Page 1

from a shop in the market and whisked away by a group of at least six people, said police quoting witnesses. The relatives, however, claimed that he was kidnapped at gun point.

The Gulshan Police claimed to have recovered one "Rocky" Jeep yesterday evening reportedly used in kidnapping Amir. Police said no FIR was registered with the thana till writing this report late last night.

## Dhaka city

From Page 1

the government and the people. Short, medium and long-term plans will be implemented to extend civic amenities to the city with the joint efforts of the LGED Ministry and the City Corporation, he informed the function.

## Russian minister in India to revitalise ties

NEW DELHI, Oct 21: Russian Defence Minister Igor Rodionov arrives in India today for a three-day visit that is expected to revitalise a relationship disrupted by the break up of the Soviet Union, reports AP.

India and Russia, military allies for most of the Cold War years, are expected to sign a deal for the sale of 40 sophisticated fighter jets to the Indian Air Force, Press Trust of India news agency reported. India desperately needs the new Sukhoi-30 fighters to modernise and aging fleet.

Rodionov, on his first foreign tour since he was appointed by President Boris Yeltsin in July, is scheduled to meet senior military officials in New Delhi tomorrow and Wednesday.

During these talks, he is expected to discuss the possible sale of Russian ships, including an aircraft carrier, self-propelled artillery guns and other military hardware. Press Trust and defence industry sources said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

India pursued a nonaligned policy during the Cold War, cultivating friends among capitalists and communists. In the chaos that followed the collapse of the Soviet bloc, the country found suppliers there less able to cope with demand.

India sought other suppliers in the West to overcome an acute shortage of military spare parts, but Western equipment proved expensive and most was not compatible with Russian systems. Fighter aircraft were cannibalised to keep squadrons battle-worthy.

Almost all the Indian army's tanks and artillery were either made or designed in the former Soviet Union. The air force has French and British fighter jets, but depends on a huge fleet of MIG fighters and Antonov and Ilyushin transporters and Mi-series helicopters.

## One beaten to death in Barguna

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Oct 21: One person was beaten to death allegedly by his rivals at Uttar Karuna village under Betagi thana of Barguna district today.

Police and witnesses said, Abdul Aziz, 35, came out of his house at around 4 pm at the call of some villagers who later took him to the house of one Sekendar Ali. There, the villagers beat Abdul Aziz mercilessly as a result of which he died.

A case against 18 persons was filed with Betagi thana. Police later arrested Ayeazuddin and Gendru Mia.

## DMCH Enquiry out of contact!

Do you want to get any information from the enquiry department of the Dhaka Medical College Hospital? It is quite impossible for you, reports UNB.

The telephone set of the DMCH enquiry department is defunct for about a month.

When contacted, officials concerned said they do not know when the phone line will be restored, or whether it will be restored at all.

## LGC team visits India, Nepal this month

By Staff Correspondent

Some members of the Local Government Commission will visit India and Nepal soon to see the patterns of local government bodies in the two countries, LGC sources told The Daily Star last night.

The delegation, headed by LGC chairman Rahmat Ali MF, will leave the country sometime in the last week of this month, sources added.

The delegation will see the composition, powers and functions of the local government bodies in the two countries, the chairman said.

The 8-member Commission is scheduled to prepare a report on a four-tier local government system for the country by the first week of December this year.

The commission is also studying opinions and suggestions of different sections of people, experts and professional groups in the country about the possible structure, functions and powers of the local government system.

## Two die in Patuakhali

From Our Correspondent

BARISAL, Oct 21: Two persons died in separate incidents in Kalapara thana of Patuakhali district today.

One Dulal, 20, allegedly committed suicide by insecticide at Khajuria village. He was rushed to hospital where doctors declared him dead.

A family feud was reportedly the cause of the suicide.

In another incident, one Abdur Rashid, 26, died after falling from a tree at Chakamaia village.

## Portfolios

From Page 1

cultural affairs, religious affairs, housing and public works, jute and textile, labour and manpower, land and information are being run by the state ministers.

According to the notification the ministers with this additional charges are: Finance Minister SAMS Kibria - Planning Ministry, Education Minister ASHK Sadeque - Establishment Ministry and Public Service Commission Secretariat; Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak - Civil Aviation and Tourism Ministry; Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed - offices of the President and the Prime Minister and Cabinet Division; Power and Energy Minister Nuruddin Khan - Defence Ministry, Armed Forces Division and Special Affairs Division and Food, Agriculture, Disaster Management and Relief Minister Begum Matia Chowdhury - Environment and Forest Ministry.

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## 6 killed, 20 hurt in road mishap

NARSINGDI, Oct 21: Six people, including a woman, were killed and 20 others injured when a bus plunged into a roadside ditch at Patilodha in Belabha thana on Dhaka-Sylhet highway today, reports UNB.

The victims, who died on the spot, could not be identified immediately. The bodies were brought to Narsingdi Sadar Hospital morgue.

Police and witnesses said that the accident occurred at about 3:30 pm as the Bhairab-bound bus from Dhaka fell into the ditch after its driver lost control over its steering.

The injured passengers were rushed to Narsingdi Sadar Hospital and Bhairab health complex.

Police seized the bus but its driver fled the scene. A case was filed with Belabha police.

BSS adds, A road mishap in Manikganj claimed one person last night.

Yasin Ali, 20 of Sattaria Manikganj, received serious injury at Sattaria Bazar when he was hit by a speedy minibus last evening.

He was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital where he succumbed to his injury at dead of night.

## Docs in Rajshahi continue strike

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Oct 21: Doctors in Rajshahi district observed a strike for the second day today protesting the assault on Dr Taimur AK Mahmud. They did not attend patients in government and private hospitals and clinics. The emergency cases were, however, attended to.

Dr Taimur AK Mahmud, Asst. Professor of Medicine of Rajshahi Medical College Hospital was assaulted by some extortionists when he refused to give them money.

Police today arrested two youths - Shahid Hossain Bulu and Shaiful Islam in connection with the incident.

The Police Commissioner of Rajshahi, Aminul Islam, today met the leaders of the striking doctors and requested them to call off the strike. But the doctors said they would not withdraw their programme unless the persons responsible for the incident were arrested.

## Crackers seized in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Oct 21: Detective police recovered over 1000 crackers and Indian made chocolate bombs after raiding several places in the city today.

Earlier, Chittagong Metropolitan police banned the explosion of firecrackers around puja mandaps here.

## Gujral postpones Lanka visit

COLOMBO, Oct 21: India's External Affairs Minister Inder Kumar Gujral has indefinitely postponed a schedule visit to Sri Lanka due to a sudden illness, the Foreign Ministry here said today, reports AFP.

Gujral was to have co-chaired the third session of the Indo-Sri Lanka Joint Commission during a three day visit from Thursday.

## Protest in NY

Ravi Shanker for withdrawal of charges against MF Hussain

NEW YORK, Oct 21: Sitar maestro Pandit Ravi Shanker was among more than 30 Indian intellectuals and artists in a demonstration here demanding withdrawal of obscenity charges against renowned painter MF Hussain initiated by the Maharashtra Government, reports PTI.

The protesters strongly condemned what they called a "rightist communal campaign against Hussain and a deliberately distorted interpretation of his works."

They also asked the Gujarat government to take legal action against the Bajrang Dal hoodlums who destroyed the artist's work in Ahmedabad.

The Indian government, they said, must clearly condemn that act and declare that the forces who are charging up communal passions for political ends would not be tolerated.

The art world denies that right of any group or individual to dictate what we create, they added.

A demonstration held in Grey Art Gallery of the University of New York was also attended by Ustad Ashish Khan, Deepti Naval, Madhu Jaffrey and Zia Jaffrey.

### জাতীয় বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি জাদুঘর

আগারগাঁও, শেরেবালা নগর, ঢাকা

#### বিজ্ঞান ও বিশ্ব রহস্য : রসায়ন

#### জনপ্রিয় বিজ্ঞান বিষয়ক বক্তৃতামালা

স্থান : জাতীয় বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি জাদুঘর মিলনায়তন

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২৩ অক্টোবর, ১৯৯৬, বুধবার, বিকাল ৪-০০ ঘটিকা

খাদ্য, পুষ্টি ও স্বাস্থ্য

Food, Nutrition and Health

বক্তা : প্রফেসর হাক্কান কাদের মোহাম্মদ ইউসুফ

গ্রান রসায়ন বিভাগ, ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, ঢাকা

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গ্রান রসায়ন বিভাগ, ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, ঢাকা

০৬ নভেম্বর, ১৯৯৬, বুধবার, বিকাল ৪-০০ ঘটিকা

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রসায়ন বিভাগ, ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, ঢাকা

১৩ নভেম্বর, ১৯৯৬, বুধবার, বিকাল ৪-০০ ঘটিকা

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বক্তা : প্রফেসর হাক্কান কাদের মোহাম্মদ ইউসুফ

গ্রান রসায়ন বিভাগ, ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, ঢাকা

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০৮ জানুয়ারি, ১৯৯৭, বুধবার, বিকাল ৪-০০ ঘটিকা

আপনি আমন্ত্রিত

যদিও প্রত্যেকের মস্তিষ্কেই সুবোধ জ্ঞান সঞ্চিত রয়েছে।

বিশ্বের ১০০ টি ব্রহ্মাণ্ডে পানি, বায়ু, পাথর, গাছ, পলি, ধাতু, প্লাস্টিক, কাগজ, কাঁচ, লবণ, কয়লা, খনিজ, অক্সিজেন, হাইড্রোজেন ইত্যাদি রয়েছে।

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জাতীয় বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি জাদুঘর

বিজ্ঞানমন্ডল হাউস, বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তির চর্চা করুন

সমৃদ্ধ বাংলাদেশ গড়ে তুলুন

১৯৯৬-১৯৯৭-১৯৯৮