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VOL. VI NO. 274 REGD. NO. DA 781 KARTIK 10 1403 BS. DHAKA FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1996 JAMADI-US-SANI 11 1417 HIJRI 12 PAGES REGULAR PLUS MAGAZINE: PRICE TAKA 9.00

Today

It must have been the free flow of information, availability of all sorts of fashion magazines and access to a whole new world of cable TV culture that turn on the urge in many among the affluent section of the society to look beautiful as the models on the mini screens or on pages of the magazines. To cater to the need of the new breed of fitness freaks, fitness centres have sprouted up and continue to increase in number. This week's cover story has this new phenomenon of contemporary life on its focus. Read the in-depth story on slimming business in the country's numero uno magazine the Star Weekend Magazine today.

Inside Today

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Strengthening Local Govt in Bangladesh
by Mohammad Siddiqui Rahman

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Taliban fighters beat back offensive

Chirac, King Hussein concerned about faltering ME peace

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Business

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DSE MARKET

DSE price index	2190.80
Market capital Tk	15516.37 cr
Transactions in volume	91628
Transactions in value Tk	31.48 cr

CSE MARKET

CSE price index	936.05
Market capital Tk	9768.96 cr
Transactions in volume	41475
Transactions in value Tk	8.64 cr

Teens and Twenties

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Rising Stars

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NEWS BRIEFS

Khaleda returns today

BNP chairperson and leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia returns home from Saudi Arabia by a Saudi flight this morning. Begum Zia along with her family members went to Saudi Arabia on October 13 as royal guests at the invitation of Saudi King Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz. She performed Umrah at the holy city of Makkah and offered *fateha* at the Rawza Mobarak of Prophet Muhammad (SM) at Medina, reports UNB.

7500-line new phone exchange in Gulshan

A 7,500-line new digital telephone exchange was launched at Gulshan in the capital yesterday. Chairman of T&T Board MH Chowdhury inaugurated the exchange by making a telephone call to Post and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim at the other end. The analogue telephones with 61 group would be replaced by digital one phase-wise replacing 61 with 998. However, the other four digits of the analogue telephone would remain same, reports UNB.

Prime Minister addresses UNGA session

Dhaka places 12-pt agenda for peace, security & development

UNITED NATIONS (New York), Oct 24: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today called for enhanced partnership between developed and developing countries in trade matters and for better integration of the least developed countries into the global economy, reports UNB.

Placing a 12-point agenda for peace, security and development at the United Nations, she said: "We need urgent implementation of plans of action that have already been agreed upon to lift the poorest among the developing countries from the miasma of despondency."

"We need to convert the world from a military to a civil economy securing rights of individuals and sharing resources fairly and equitably," the Bangladesh Prime Minister said in her speech in the 51st

session of UN General Assembly today.

She also stressed the need for implementation of the 'global plan of action' for improvement of living conditions.

In her address, Sheikh Hasina said problems existing among the countries are to be solved through bilateral discussions. "We solicit just distribution of all common resources including waters with our neighbouring country in consonance with this guideline."

She reiterated the speech delivered by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman 20 years back stressing the need for marshaling the forces of reason to bring about a just international economic order.

She told the General Assembly of the world body that the pace of progress during the last

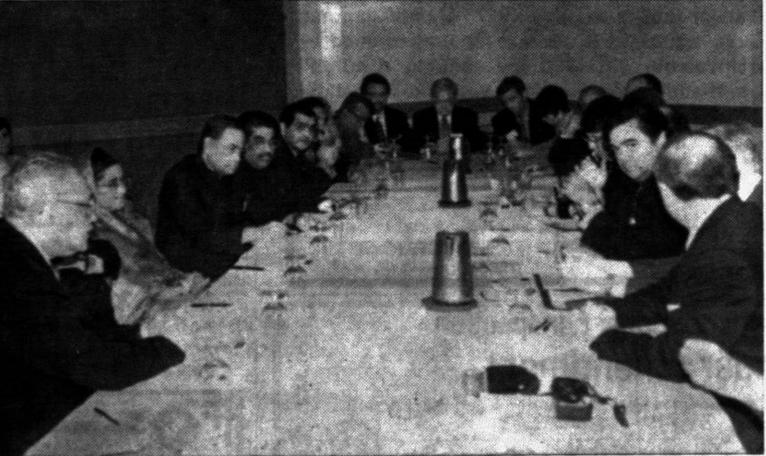
two decades, in Bangladesh, had been extremely slow because of political hurdle since the assassination of father of the nation in the August 15, 1975 military coup.

"My government is determined to accelerate economic growth in order to eradicate poverty once and for all," she said, adding "Economic growth with equity and social justice remains our national goal."

Hasina pledged that the rights of women and children and of minorities would be upheld by the government as its sacred duty.

"Like most countries around the world we have opted for an open economy based on the free market and an outward-looking trade strategy," she said and hoped the macroeconomic stability that Bangladesh enjoys

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina presided over a meeting with a select group of CEOs headed by Congressman Bill Richardson at the Hotel Grand Hyatt in New York on Wednesday. —AFP/UNB photo

Weights and measures in most shops don't have BSTI hallmark

By Morshed Ali Khan

Most of the traders across the country are cheating customers by using unverified and unstandardized weights and measures which the Bangladesh Standards Testing Institute (BSTI) is too weak to check, according to sources in the BSTI.

As per law, every weight used in shops and businesses houses must bear BSTI hallmark on its back but not a single shop out of more than twenty visited by this correspondent in the city was found complying with the law.

BSTI officials claimed that they had only 14 inspectors countrywide including four in the Dhaka division to check the widespread anomalies. With this manpower, the problem is 'too big to handle,' they said.

"Every weight — small or large — after being manufactured must be verified by the BSTI. There has to be a hole on the back of the weight during manufacture. The department

uses lead to fill up the hole and puts a seal on top of the filler," said a BSTI official. "Without this seal and the filler, the weight is incorrect and illegal."

Moreover, many shops, particularly those of jewellery are using 'illegal' weights such as 'tola', 'bhori' and 'ana' instead of gram as required by the law.

"If you walk into a gold shop, the salesman will tell you the prices in terms of 'bhori' and weigh your gold with seeds and other unconventional weights," said a BSTI official.

Like other shops or businesses, jewellery shops must have their weights in gram, verified and stamped on the back by the BSTI inspectors, the official said.

"In Dhaka division after filling the back of the weight with lead we put a seal with a cork such as 'S 1' for weights upto 1 kg," said an official of the Metrology Wing of the BSTI. After inspection, BSTI inspec-

tors issue a certificate for a nominal fee of about Tk 30 for a set of weights. The certificate must be renewed every year after verification of the weights by the BSTI inspectors, the official added.

According to the Standards of Weights and Measures Ordinance 1982, anyone failing to produce a certificate could be fined up to Tk 1,000 with six months imprisonment. Anybody using weights other than in the metric system is liable to two years imprisonment with a fine of Tk 1,000. Using or marketing of weights without proper seal of the authorities is punishable with a fine of Tk 2,000.

To avoid detection by relevant officials, most jewellery shops keep two sets of weights — one in 'bhori' and the other in gram — and they maintain their records in gram," the BSTI officials said.

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Leaders on Sammita Nari Samaj addressing a press conference at the WVA auditorium in the city yesterday demanding stoppage of repression on women by police. —Star photo

Yasmin murder case Move to save culprits, alleges Nari Samaj

By Staff Correspondent

The transfer of Yasmin murder case from Dinajpur to Rangpur court has complicated the process of trial and has given rise to suspicion that there was a conspiracy to save the accused persons, the Sammita Nari Samaj (SNS) alleged yesterday.

The Nari Samaj at a press conference in the city also alleged that repression on women said by police had increased in the

country. But proper trial and exemplary punishment for the policemen involved in repression on women was not ensured, they alleged.

Citing examples of incidents of rape by policemen in the last six months, Advocate Sigma Huda alleged at the conference that the police administration did not file any specific case against the culprits. The police

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Procession in Rangpur, memo to DC

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, Oct 24: About 1000 men and women held a rally and paraded the streets of the town yesterday demanding punishment to killers Yasmin.

The processionists belonging to different non-government organisations (NGOs) came from far flung areas of Greater Rangpur zone.

Later they submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner urging the authorities to accept its six-point demand including publication of Yasmin murder enquiry report.

6-member reform committee

Report on banking sector in 4 months

The government has constituted a six-member "Bank Reform Committee" to evaluate the overall situation of the nationalised banking sector and make recommendations for raising efficiency and effectiveness of the nationalised commercial banks (NCBs), reports UNB.

An official announcement yesterday said the committee was formed Wednesday with former Adviser of the caretaker government Kazi Fazlur Rahman as its Chairman.

Other members of the committee are former adviser Dr Wahiduddin Mahmud, Prime Bank managing director Lutful Rahman Sarkar, former bank managing directors Solesman Chowdhury and Baharul Islam, and Deputy Attorney General Shahabuddin Ahmed.

The committee will submit its report to the government within next four months with necessary recommendations after reviewing the overall situa-

SEC for Central Depository System

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has taken the initiative to introduce Central Depository System in the country's capital market to avoid forgery scripts, reports BSS.

The capital market regulatory body has formed a six-member committee to find out the modalities and operational frame-work of the system.

The committee members are: Dr A K M Shahab Alam, member of SEC, Amin Laskar, member of FBCCI, Abdul Hafiz Chowdhury, member of MCCI, Abdul Huq Howladar, councillor of DSE, Rizwan-Bu-Farouq, Director of CSE and Ms Zeenat Iftikhar, Assistant General Manager of the Investment Corporation of Bangladesh (ICB).

Details on page 6

Cheney hosts dinner in PM's honour

NEW YORK, Oct 24: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina told the US investors that her government was working hard to accelerate growth rate through several economic reforms, reports UNB.

She was attending a dinner hosted in her honour by former US Defence Secretary and Chairman of Halliburton Company Dick Cheney Wednesday evening.

Hasina told the US businessmen that investment policy had been liberalised and legal steps taken to remove bottlenecks to attract private investment. She also mentioned the package incentives offered by the government.

The Prime Minister urged the investors to visit Bangladesh to observe the prevailing investment climate.

Earlier, Dick Cheney called on the Prime Minister at her hotel suite.

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Police cordon off residence of Col. Rashid in city

Star Report

Police last night cordoned off the Gulshan residence of Col (ret'd) Abdur Rashid in connection with the case for the killing of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Police claimed that they had warrant of arrest against Col (ret'd) Rashid and court order for attachment of his movable property.

The main entrance of the house was however, found locked from inside.

None was allowed by police to enter or move out of the house. Rashid's daughter was intercepted by them at the main gate of the house at around 9 pm and she left the place, witnesses said.

Police personnel alleged that Rashid's wife passed abusive remarks against them from inside the gate. They were not allowed entry inside as it was already night time.

Zobaida, wife of Rashid, claimed "this is for the fourth time our residence has been raided by police."

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AB Bank taking steps to recover defaulting loans

By Staff Correspondent

The Board of Directors of Arab-Bangladesh Bank yesterday assured the shareholders that steps were being taken in conjunction with the Bangladesh Bank and the Ministry of Finance to recover defaulting loans of about Tk 170 crore taken by the Beximco Group, according to competent sources.

The Board said this in the 14th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the bank held at a local hotel when some shareholders wanted to know what the management was doing about the huge defaulting loans of

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Daughter poisoned to death by mother

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Oct 24: A mother poisoned her 8 month old daughter to death at Hayko village under Fotikchhari thana today, police said.

Jarina Khatun herself later tried to commit suicide by taking poison but she survived as family members rushed her to the local health complex. Police said, Jarina took the desperate action because of family problems.

Directive to re-excavate city lakes, develop parks

An inter-ministerial meeting yesterday stressed the need for close coordination among concerned organisations to keep the capital city clean and tidy and preserve its environment, reports UNB.

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman presided over the meeting. City Mayor Muhammad Hanif, State Minister for LGRD Sayed Abul Hossain and secretaries of the ministries concerned attended the meeting.

The meeting, held at the conference room of the LGRD and Cooperatives Ministry, decided to develop and maintain the Lakes at Dhanmondi, Gulshan, Banani and Baridhara in the city.

It also directed the authorities concerned to take up programmes for planting trees on roadsides, develop parks, re-excavate the city lakes and ponds and bring those under pisciculture programme and maintain architectural installations.

The meeting also underlined the importance of carrying out

Traders confine 7 BDR men for 5-hr in Chuadanga

CHUADANGA, Oct 24: Seven BDR men were confined by a group of angry businessmen for about five hours at the local New Market after they allegedly ransacked an audio-cassette shop in the market today, reports UNB.

Witnesses said, Sheikh Moulia, Deputy Assistant Director of BDR 28 Battalion, had an altercation with the staff of an audio cassette shop over the price for a cassette at the market at about 12:30 pm.

Later, the BDR officer with seven BDR jawans allegedly attacked the shop and ransacked it.

Hearing the news, the fellow businessmen rushed the spot

See Page 12 Col 8

BNP activists demonstrate in front of UN HQ

NEW YORK, Oct 24: The USA unit of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) staged a demonstration in front of the UN headquarters hours before Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addressed the UNGA session today, reports UNB.

Some 100 members of BNP and its front organisations held meeting beside the UN Plaza, few yards from the UN headquarters. When the main opposition party activists were demonstrating at about 1 pm, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was in a meeting with UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

The expatriate BNP leaders criticising the government for what they said, perpetrating repression on their colleagues at home chanted slogans: "Down with killer Hasina," "We brought independence, we will protect it..." we brought democracy, we will protect it."

The BNP rally also criticised the government for its move to

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Directive to re-excavate city lakes, develop parks

cleanliness drive in every ward and *mahalla* to create awareness among the city dwellers. Keeping construction materials on the roads and dumping garbage here and there should be discouraged, it said.

Zillur said government, semi-government and autonomous organisations must work unitedly and in a planned way to ensure infrastructural facilities to the city dwellers and preserve natural beauty of the capital.

Attack on Ansars: Two arrested

By Staff Correspondent

Two persons were arrested yesterday in connection with the attack on Ansars in South Gopibagh, near Kamalapur railway station on Wednesday.

Following the incident, police from adjoining thanas including Sutrapur, Demra and Shahabjugh raided different

See Page 12 Col 3

Save Dhaka, Clean Dhaka campaign resumes today

By Staff Reporter

The Save Dhaka Clean Dhaka campaign, sponsored by The Daily Star in cooperation with the Bangladesh Scouts, Dhaka Metropolitan Scouts, Dhaka Regional Scouts and Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology resumes today.

Boy and Girl scouts will motivate the citizens door to door from 9 am to 11 am, urging them to dispose of their household garbage at the fixed places or in the dustbin between 6 pm to 10 pm every day.

The campaign began on October 4 and continued every weekend.

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First medical report Krishna Rani was raped

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Oct 24: Police say the preliminary medical report on Krishna Rani Nath, (15), indicates she was raped.

The girl was taken to the Chittagong Medical College Hospital for further examination today and the final report is expected on Saturday.

Krishna was gangraped by five terrorists after abduction on the night of Tuesday in Hat-hazari thana area, police said. She was kidnapped while returning home from a cinema hall accompanied by her maternal uncle.

However, the terrorists are yet to be nabbed.

11 policemen arrested for Murtuza killing

ISLAMABAD, Oct 24: Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's government today arrested 11 policemen in connection with last month's brutal slaying of her estranged brother, said the authorities, reports AFP.

The arrests were announced in a terse statement issued by the police department in southern Karachi.

"We have arrested 11 policemen, who have been charged with murder," said the statement. The most senior police officer to be arrested was a police inspector. The others were junior.

11 policemen arrested for Murtuza killing

Murtuza Bhutto died last September 20 in a hail of police bullets outside his home in the southern port city of Karachi. Seven of his supporters died along with him.

At the time a devastated, Ms. Bhutto said her younger brother's death was a "conspiracy" against the Bhutto family and her government.

The police officers were arrested on the eve of a memorial service for her brother, which is a tradition in Islam 40 days after the death.

The details of the arrests were not immediately available.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড
ঢাকা

একজন সং মানুষ একজন সং করদাতাও বটে

- রিটার্ন জমাদানের আর মাত্র দিন কয়েক বাকী।
- ১৯৯৬-৯৭ কর বৎসরের জন্য সাধারণ ও স্বনির্ধারিত উভয় প্রকার রিটার্ন জমা দেয়ার শেষ তারিখ ৩১ শে অক্টোবর।
- দেশের সকল জেলাসমূহের প্রধান ডাকঘরে আয়কর রিটার্ন ফরম পাওয়া যাবে।
- ফরম সংগ্রহ করে যথাসময়ে রিটার্ন জমা দিন।
- কর ফাঁকি রাখে গোয়েন্দা অধিদপ্তর সদা সচেষ্ট।
- কর ফাঁকি দেয়ার চেষ্টা থেকে বিবত থাকুন।
- কর ফাঁকির অপচেষ্টা আপনার জীবনে শুধু বিপত্তিই বয়ে আনবে।
- কর প্রদান সংক্রান্ত কোন জিজ্ঞাসা থাকলে কর পরামর্শ কেন্দ্র, বিসিএস (কর) একাডেমী, শান্তিনগর চৌরাস্তার পশ্চিমে ১৩৩/৩, নিউ বেইলী রোড, ঢাকা। (ফোনঃ ৪১৫৩৬৯) -এ যোগাযোগ করুন। একেবন্দে 'করদাতাদের জন্য জাতাব' শীর্ষক পুস্তিকাটি বিতরণ করা হয়।

*** নির্ধারিত সময়সীমার মধ্যে আপনার কর পরিশোধ করুন।**
*** সরকারী কর্মকাণ্ডে আপনার অংশীদারিত্ব নিশ্চিত করুন।**

ডিকেম্বর-২৪০৬-২৩/১০ সি-১৩২৫